



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
Member of the American Kennel Club

July 2010

Volume CB18

Issue 7

SPECIALTY WINS

Centennial State MSC

June 4, 2010

Puppy Sweeps

Judge: Kate McMillan

Best In Sweeps...Tomar's Captain Morgan/Paisley
BOS In Sweeps...Tomar's on The Rocks Please/
Paisley

Regular Classes

Judge: Norman Patton

WD.... Passport's Seminole Wind / Donnelly /
Vaske / Alex

RWD... Laroh's Spanish Knight of T-Lan /
Hartshorn

WB/BOS ...Laroh's Wild Irish Rose / Hartshorn

RWB... Laroh's Sheer Elegance / Hartshorn

BOB...CH Belgar's Desert Sand / Lande / Harstad

BOS... CH Elete's Whistling Gypsy / Tousey/
Wrynski

SEL ... CH Lewis's Red Hot Chili Pepper / Lewis

SEL... CH K-Lyn's PB's Dancin Shadow / Hughes /
Wrynski

AM CH Gough's Frosty Classic Landmark/
Lande / Harstad

TROPHY DRIVE...

please don't forget
the trophy drive.

Terrie Houck
105 Fite's Creek Road
Mount Holly, NC 28120-1149

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AKC Adds New Titles in Conformation, Companion and Performance Events

New York, NY – Since the start of the year, each event type – conformation, companion and performance – now offers its exhibitors a brand new AKC title. The conformation and performance titles will appeal to the long-time exhibitor while the companion title will help bring along the novice handler or inexperienced dog.

Last month, Conformation added the Grand Champion title. Judges now have the opportunity of awarding Grand Championship points to their Best of Breed and Best of Opposite winners as well as to additional AKC Champions with the Select Dog and Select Bitch award. We believe this title gives breeders and owners a new way to showcase the quality of their breeding stock to judges and other breeders and exhibitors alike. We encourage you to take advantage of the enhanced conformation title.

We are proud to announce that we already have the first AKC Grand Champion in history - a 4-year old Weimaraner named GCH Monterra's Best Bet, MH – who finished his title in six consecutive shows. As an additional recognition for dogs that complete their Grand Champion title, they will also receive an invitation to the AKC / Eukanuba National Championship.

Starting this summer, Companion events will offer a new Beginner Novice obedience title. This title is an excellent competitive event for both the novice handler and dog. Most exercises, a blend from Rally and Companion Dog, are completed on-leash.

In the Performance area, Earthdog competitors now have the opportunity to earn a new title - the Endurance Earthdog - the first addition since the program's inception in 1993. This EE title provides a new challenge for dogs that have earned their Master Earthdog title by requiring them to earn five double qualifications in master and senior. A Border Terrier named "Rosemary" recently earned the first ever EE title.

As you know, Parent Clubs also have a variety of breed specific sports and events. The Board recently approved a program to allow the recording of parent club performance event titles if AKC does not provide a test for these breed-specific skills. The Bloodhound Club of America is the first to apply for acknowledgment of its titles with their "man-trailing event". If your parent club would like to participate in this new program please contact Performance Events AVP Doug Ljungren at DVL@akc.org.

As you can see, it's an exciting time for AKC exhibitors. Whether you want to compete further, add more titles or participate in parent club events, we hope these new AKC titles will inspire you to reach higher goals, remain longer on the competitive trail, and provide you with more ways to bond with your dog.

Sincerely,
Ron Menaker

FROM the Nominating Committee

...the following have been
nominated for election at the
October Board meeting

President: John Constantine

V. President: Carole Weinberger

Treasurer: Sharon Edwards

Secretary: Amy Gordon

Board of Directors: Penny Hirstein
Cindy Molieri
Patricia O'Brien
Brooke Walker

LOOK

Please let me know if you
make a change.

***DECALS & PINS.** You can get AMSC decal (\$1.00) and Replacement pins (\$7.50) from:

Mary Ann Shandor
2302 Cumberland Court, SW
Decatur, AL 35602
256-351-6942
tuckarry@aol.com

***LOCAL CLUBS...** please be sure to include *all* information when sending Specialty tear sheets for inclusion in AMSCOPE e.g. Judges, dates, entry, obedience.

*** LOCAL CLUBS...PLEASE send a copy of your newsletter to the following members of the Local Club Bulletin Committee:**

Stella Van Cleave (chair)
1155 Summit Loop
Grants Pass, OR 97527
vancleave@grantspass.com

Catherine DiFranco
664 Winding Woods Road
Loveland, OH 45140
Catherine@adeptfasteners.com

Barbara Donahue
203 Elmwood Lane
Coatesville, PA 19320
barbaramd_2000@yahoo.com

AND to: Carla Borrelli (cborr@aol.com)
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047

***E-MAIL...** If you would like to send your wins to AMSCOPE via E-MAIL, use the following address:

CBORR@AOL.COM

The deadline
for the
August issue
is July 20th.

Pet Pool Safety Keep Your Dog Safe This Summer

by Taryn Fiol

As tempting as cool pool water is on a hot day, it can be dangerous for your dog. An estimated one out of every 1,027 pets drowns in swimming pools each year. But there are things you can do to make sure you all have fun.

Evaluate Your Pooch. Most dog breeds have the ability to swim, but that doesn't mean yours can or will. Also, certain breeds such as bull-dogs can't swim at all, and other dogs have physical limitations that put them more at risk in the pool, so you may need to be extra careful.

"When you've got an older dog or a dog with a handicap, like a dog that can't see well, definitely get a fence around the pool when you can't watch them," Shannon A. South, D.V.M., of Briarcliff Animal Clinic in Atlanta, Ga. tells Paw Nation. Even if the dog isn't attracted to the pool, they could always fall in. So keep an eye out when you and your dog both are pool-side, and be wary of letting a non-swimmer in the yard near the pool without you.

Be Careful With "Protective" Gear While items such as pool covers do have their purposes, they may not be the best option for your dog. South points out that sometimes, covers actually can be riskier. If a dog jumps onto the pool cover, it may cause the entire cover to sink, possibly trapping the dog underwater.

Displacement alarms, which measure the water levels in your pool and can be set to sound an alarm when a pet or child falls in, may be a good way to prevent against accidental drowning as long as someone is around to hear it.

Consider the Chlorine. Even dogs who love the water may not love chlorine. "Pets can get upset stomachs from drinking too much pool water," South said. "Chlorine can irritate their eyes or their respiratory system. Remember, chlorine gives off vapors that will sometimes irritate their little lungs." Also be sure to periodically check your dog's ears and eyes for signs of irritation from the water.

If you're concerned about chemicals, there are more natural ways of keeping your pool water clean that are not only more pet-friendly, but more eco-friendly too. According to GreenYour, ionization, oxidation and sonic wave pool cleaners are all able to keep your pool water pure in different hi-tech ways, but these systems can be expensive and require expert upkeep. Converting your pool to a saltwater pool or using purifying plants in the water are both natural ways to keep your pool fresh.

Work on Training. If your home layout increases

the potential of your dog taking an unsupervised dip in your pool, make sure it knows how to exit the pool safely. It may take time to train it to find the shallow end and navigate the steps, but your peace of mind is worth the trouble. Some pet owners have added special pet pool stairs to make exiting easier.



Finally, remember that your pet is like one of your kids; it may not know when it should take a break from the pool and the sun. Be sure to call a time-out so your pooch can recover from its summertime adventures. At the end of the pool party, don't forget to rinse the chlorine off your dog's coat and dry its ears to protect from infection.

SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

Effective March 6, 2009 Eligible Sponsors are defined as:

1. Any member in good standing approved into membership prior to June 20, 2008

OR

2. A Regular or Life Member in good standing having been a member for at least 3 years.

You can obtain the new application at the www.amsc.us under the membership tab or by emailing tuckarry@aol.com or at 256-351-6942.

Anyone who has changed address, email, phone information lately, please let us know so we can update the AMSC roster. Also, if you are listed on the AMSC website (<http://amsc.us>) in our Breeders List, Rescue pages or Local Clubs section, you should check those listings to make sure they are current.

The Best Dog in the World, and How to Make One

Mary Ann Rombold Zeigenfuss

Wouldn't it be great to be able to get or better yet, produce, the best dog in the world? It can be done, and it begins at birth. From the first day of a dog's life, we can offer certain elements to a dog's environment and make a difference on how that dog turns out. A dog's perception of the world is formed by her natural instincts and just as important, her experiences throughout her life. We are going to look at the different periods in a dog's life that contribute to the final outcome of what kind of dog we develop. By recognizing these periods and knowing what we should be doing during these periods, we will be able to make a better dog. This dog won't be held back, keeping her from her full potential. We can build a dream dog from birth, making not only a healthier dog but a smarter dog too. This well socialized dog will be able to handle dog sports and competitions and be a better family pet. So as a breeder, you can start with each new litter and make better dogs to enhance your breed. The different periods I refer to are called critical periods of development. A critical period is a specific time during a dog's life when something that seems insignificant, makes a difference on how a dog will behave later in life. Age can mark the start and end of the critical periods, but there are also physical changes that mark them as well. The critical periods of development are the same for all breeds; so don't worry if they fit into yours, because they do.

NEONATAL PERIOD

(0-13 days) (first two weeks of life)

The first period is called the Neonatal Period. It is the first 2 weeks of life or up to 13 days. As breeders you know that life for puppies at this time is all about two things: eating and staying warm. The puppies eat and sleep. They can't do anything for themselves. They need to be stimulated to urinate and defecate and they can't see or hear yet. But they can smell which helps them find mom so they can eat. They can make noise too, which helps mom find them. Even though they do little, they do react to touch and move in random circles. Their motor skills aren't quite developed yet.

What we need to be doing at this time, is offering the slightest amount of daily stress and stimulation to the puppies. This will help them to handle stress later in life. It is important to stimulate them in this way now, offering the enrichments to their development even at this early date.

Here is a list of things to do every day for the first two weeks of life:

- 1.) Hold each puppy in both hands, head higher than tail for only 3-5 seconds.
- 2.) Switch the puppy to the head lower than the tail for 3-5 seconds.
- 3.) Wet a towel, cool it in refrigerator, then place the puppy on the towel once it is removed from the fridge. The pup may squeal for just a second, so take it off again. Remember, we are offering slight amounts of stress for short intervals, just seconds, to introduce and build the ability to cope at this early age.
- 4.) Hold each puppy on its back and cradle it for a minute. Speak kindly and gently while you do this each day.
- 5.) Using a Q-tip, spread the pads of the feet and tickle the puppy between the toes.
- 6.) Place each pup on a cold scale once a day. You will be able to monitor the weight too, to make sure she is growing and keeping up with all the other puppies.

Remember to do this list every day for the most positive development during the neonatal period.

TRANSITION PERIOD

(14-20 days) (3rd week of life)

We see a tremendous amount of change during this time of life. That is why this critical period is called the Transitional Period, the third week. The eyes open and begin to react to light, but they still can't focus well. The puppies begin to actually crawl in a specific direction and even begin to walk but not gracefully. The teeth start to erupt near the end of this period and the puppies will begin to bite and chew on things. The most fun development at this point is that the tail will begin to wag. They can startle to noises as they begin to react to sounds, but their hearing is not yet developed enough to be able to find where the sound comes from. This period is called the transitional period because it is when the neonate transitions into a puppy with all the rapid physical changes.

The stimulations you need to do during this period are:

- 1.) Cut her toenails for the first time.
- 2.) Introduce her to strange objects, the crate for instance. Make it positive and fun, not a big deal. These objects are new and can be investigated in her own time frame.
- 3.) Take her to new areas in the house that have various flooring types, different visual stimulants, new rooms that she hasn't been

in yet. These rooms will have assorted furniture and therefore look different.

4.) Put on the table, bend and work her joints, do different exercise routines, like aerobics class.

5.) While on the table roll her onto her back and massage her all over. This is very good for her development and learning, to be touched all over while lying on her back.

Remember to do these things as often as possible during this third week of life, because you are creating the best new puppy in the world.

AWARENESS PERIOD

(21-28 days) (4th week of life)

This is the first week when the puppy is able to use all of her senses, including sight and hearing. Because the change in her sensory perceptions happens so abruptly, in only a 24-hour period, she needs a stable environment more now than during any other period. If puppies are weaned or moved to a new location at this time, it can psychologically scar them for life. Don't be tempted to do it. It is now that they are becoming active, so plan ahead, by moving them before now. Take into account, this new activity level, by moving them into a bigger spot before the 21st day.

During this awareness period, learning begins. Teach them fun, positive things; make it a joy to learn. Do this by doing the following:

- 1.) Introduce obstacle, toys, little jumps, and tunnels to the play area. Enrich their environment by stimulating their minds and muscles by giving them things to play on.
- 2.) It is very important to balance these new stress periods with rest periods. Give them time to rest and re-energize. A healthy mind and body needs both. Don't over stimulate the puppies; they need to know peace as well as excitement.

CANINE SOCIALIZATION PERIOD

(21-49 days) (3-7 weeks of age)

This is often considered the most important critical period. It is when the dog learns what it is to be a dog. To reach her genetic potential, the puppy must stay in the nest with her mother and littermates throughout this time.

During this period she will practice body postures, facial expressions and vocalizations with her littermates. She will learn what effects they have on her mates and which ones work best for different things. She will learn how it sounds to bark and to be barked at by the other pups. She will learn how to bite and the consequences of those bites, to be bitten in return.

She is learning what it is to be a dog:

- 1.) Chase games, similar to the chase that helped a pack of dogs to bring down prey for food



The Best Dog...Continued from p.3, column 3

- 2.) Greeting behaviors, teaching body postures of greeting
- 3.) Fight games teach her the use of other body postures and facial expressions to elicit various responses. She will learn that submissive body postures can turn off the aggressions of other littermates.

Discipline is learned during the weaning process from her mother. When the pups bite the mom too hard during nursing, the discipline is swift, to the point and is over as quickly as it started. Inexperienced or first time breeders often misunderstand this learning process, and they will separate the mom from the puppies. This is extremely unfortunate since a lesson learned now, from the mother dog, is one that the puppy won't have to be taught later by a new owner. Discipline will be understood and the puppy will know and accept leadership from the leader of the pack. Believe me, this is a lesson you want the puppy to have. If you separate the litter from mom too early, she won't be able to set them up for this lesson. This is part of bite inhibition training. It is taught from mom and the puppies playing together. If you bite too hard, the consequence is that you will be bitten back.

If a dog can't stay with mom and the litter up through the 7th week, they can end up being nervous dogs. These dogs will be more apt to bite, bark excessively and won't accept discipline from its owner. A dog that leaves the litter too early can also end up being aggressive with other dogs. These dogs won't be able to reach their genetic potential as a dog or as a companion, all because it went to its new home before 49 days of life.

HUMAN SOCIALIZATION PERIOD (1-12 weeks)

Now is the best time to get a puppy or send one to her new home. It is also the best time to introduce her to those things that will play a role in her future life. If she is going to be a



show dog, take her to dog shows. You always want the first exposure to a situation to be a fun, positive experience, so don't go to win with her, go to socialize her. If she is going to be a firehouse dog, introduce her to sirens and big trucks and such things. If she is going to be a hunting dog, get some birds and shoot some

guns, now is the time for all of these experiences to be introduced to your new puppy. If she is going to be a family dog, give her to a family with lots of kids to meet and play with. She will need to be introduced to all sorts of people during this critical period. This is the time when your new dog needs to bond with people. The people the dog bonds with don't need to be the dog's ultimate owner. But each dog needs to learn that people are part of their pack, not just dogs. If you sell two dogs from the same litter to one family, it is extremely important that they spend time, daily, with each puppy alone, not both puppies together. Also, if the litter stays with the breeder during this time, it is just as important that the puppies have individual time with people, in the absence of the other dogs. If littermates are always together, they will simply imprint on each other and never fully imprint with people. This needs to be done before 12 weeks of age. Once this time is gone, it is gone forever, and people will never be able to be as important to this dog as they could or should be. We need to look at life as a long hallway, and when your dog walks down this hallway, windows of opportunity are open only at certain times. Once these windows are passed, they close. You cannot go back and open a window. Make sure you allow your dog to have all her windows open at the right times.

Learning at this age is permanent, too. This is the most rapid period of learning. Start now while small and young and no bad habits are formed yet. Training should be positive and fun. Make training sessions short and happy.

During the 4-12 weeks age, the brain is actually growing. It needs nourishment such as food and water, but it also needs environmental stimulation. As the brain is stimulated, neurons are fired and the brain is washed with chemicals such as Nor-epinephrine (which excites) and Serotonin (which is needed for rest.) Brain buds, or folds are increased in the brain when an animal is stimulated and nourished. This actually accounts for a heavier brain and for a greater capacity for learning. If the brain buds are not formed now, they won't develop later. This can also limit your dog's potential.

FEAR IMPACT PERIOD (8-11 weeks)

During the Human Socialization period the puppy will go through a fear period. Any frightening or painful experience can have a lasting impact on the puppy. It may not be traumatic in your opinion, but it is the dog's perception that matters. Be careful not to praise fear. As humans we tend to want to soothe a frightened puppy. Soothing words sound like praise to a dog. This will only confirm to the puppy that indeed this situation is frighten-



ing. You will be unintentionally teaching your dog to be afraid. This can happen on a trip to the veterinarian's, or during a thunderstorm. Instead of trying to calm the dog, play with it; distract it; train it. Be matter of fact to the seemingly frightened puppy, let it realize there is nothing wrong. You aren't worried, why should she be? Make life fun and positive and don't force or dwell on anything that may concern the dog.

SENIORITY CLASSIFICATION PERIOD (13-16 weeks)

This is when the testing begins for the puppy. She will want to see for herself who is in charge here? Who is the pack leader? If there is no clear top dog, she will decide to take over. Any attempt to bite is an attempt to dominate and should be dealt with as such. Formal obedience training needs to begin, if it hasn't already. You need to be giving a clear consistent picture of who is the leader and in case you aren't sure, it is you. Now is the time to do leadership exercises, ones that the dog can understand easily. Teaching your dog to down on command, walk on a leash and come when called are all part of leadership. If it were as simple as sitting down with your dog and discussing leadership, training would be so much easier. But with dogs, basic training simply works; sit; down; stay; heel. Why? Because "I" make the decisions and "I" say let's do this now. Make your training fun and do it in a positive manner, but be consistent and clear about you being the leader of the pack.

By being aware of these different critical periods and handling each one as you should, you can develop the top prize winning dog you may have always wanted. You can have that high flying obedience dog, the winning agility dog, the sought after field dog and produce the best pet in town. You want dogs you can be proud of no matter what they set out to achieve. You want a dog that can "Reach her full Potential." Remember a dog's perception of the world is formed by her natural instincts and just as important, her experiences throughout her life. Let us make those experiences Positive and Plentiful!!

MaryAnn Zeigenfuse is the author of Dog Tricks, Step-by-Step Macmillan Publishing. She is also a Volhard Staff Instructor of the Volhard Motivational Method. For more information about this topic and the Volhard Motivational Method, see Dog Training/or Dummies by Jack and Wendy Volhard, IDG Books

TROPHY DRIVE...

Times are tough for everyone, but we know how generous our members are and we are hopeful we will exceed our fundraising goal of \$5000.00 this year!

Please reach into your pockets and give as much as you can, so we can reward our winners in fine fashion.

For those who have given in the past, we hope we can count on you again this year. If you have never supported the trophy drive or it has been a while since you have, please consider doing so...no amount is too small! Help us carry on the tradition of providing quality trophies without affecting the AMSC general fund. We need to continue to stand on our own, however, supporting three National Specialties as well as various performance events becomes very expensive.

This past year we commissioned canine artist and miniature schnauzer exhibitor, Connie Krohn. Examples of her work can be viewed on her web page, <http://www.conniekrohn.com>. She provided customs works of art in several mediums from original oil paintings on stained glass to clay sculptures, which truly celebrate the spirit of our wonderful breed. We are pleased to announce Connie's willingness to accept this challenge on an on-going basis. Our giving tiers remain the same and are as follows:

Platinum Standard \$100.00 and over
 Gold Standard \$50.00 - \$99.99
 Silver Standard \$25.00 - \$49.99
 Pewter Standard Up to \$24.99

Miniature Schnauzers were hot at the CPE Nationals

and showed the other 12" breeds how it's done.

May 21 - 23 2010 CPE Agility Nationals

Miniature Schnauzer Trophy Results:

High in Trial Enthusiast

Tiffany Miniature Schnauzer April Johnson-Robbins Ohio

Teams with Perfect Scores of 200 points

(only 2 out of 313 teams achieved this honor)

Tiffany Miniature Schnauzer April Johnson-Robbins Ohio Enthusiast 1296.0017 (best score)

High In Standard Awards:

12" Enthusiast

Level C Tiffany Miniature Schnauzer April Johnson-Robbins & Kenneth Robbins OH

12" Regular

Level 4 Sophie Miniature Schnauzer Willard & Sue Brown FL

High In Games Awards

12" Regular

1st Trudy Miniature Schnauzer April Johnson-Robbins & Kenneth Robbins OH

We know you are thinking to yourself, how do I give? Well, it is very simple. There are two very easy ways to make a donation.

1. You can make a check out to the AMSC for the amount you would like to contribute, and write Trophy Drive in the "for" section. Address the donation envelope to Sharon Edwards, AMSC Treasurer, 21301 Golf Estates Drive Laytonsville, MD, 20882-1935.

2. You can make a donation the quick and easy way, through Paypal. Go to www.paypal.com, log into your account, click on the "send money" tab at the top, type treasurer@amsc.us in the "to" box, type in the amount of your donation, click continue, type "trophy drive" in the subject line, and finally click "send money".

The names of all of the generous contributors will be acknowledged under the chosen "Standard" in the catalogs of the three AMSC Specialty Shows; Montgomery County Kennel Club - October 2010 in Blue Bell, PA, the AMSC Roving National - March 2011 in Louisville, KY, and the Great Western Terrier Association - June 2011 in Long Beach, CA. Don't forget to include the information on how you would like for your contribution to be listed. You can do this by including a note with your check or type the information into the "message" section of Paypal.

Thanks in advance for your support of this important effort, and best of luck at the shows!

12" Enthusiast

1st Tiffany Miniature Schnauzer April Johnson-Robbins & Kenneth Robbins OH

12" Specialist

1st Spooky Miniature Schnauzer Brenda Gilday OH

SPONSORED TROPHIES AWARDED BY FELLOW CPE MEMBERS & HOST CLUBS

HIT Ohio Team, Clermont County Dog Training Club, Ohio- Tiffany (Miniature Schnauzer), April Johnson-Robbins

HIT Midwest Team, Sponsored by Team Ohio, States included: ND / SD / NE / MN / IA / WI / IL / MI / OH / IN- Tiffany (Miniature Schnauzer)

HIT Human Cancer Survivor, All Dawgs Academy, New York- Sue Brown & Sophie (Miniature Schnauzer, FL)

Bouquets & Biscuits

* **Southcross Diamond Girl OA OAJ NF "Ritzzy"** bred by Sonny Lelle and loved and trained by Pat Heinzelman, MI. started her Agility career at the Cleveland Classic last December. As of last weekend she is now in Ex A Standard with one leg and Ex Jumpers, AND my friend talked me into entering FAST, which I have never done. Ritzzy pulled me through with two 1st places and one 2nd place at my club trials last weekend. She is an awesome Miniature Schnauzer.

* **Ch. Markworth Penny Whistle** (Ch. Markworth Whistle Jacket x Ch. Markworth Avenging Dawn) completed the requirements for her championship at the North Country Kennel Club show, April 3, 2010, going BOS over three bitch Specials for a 4-point major. "Penny" is bred, owned, and shown by Martin G. Marks.

* **Ch. Markworth Whistle Bait** (Ch. Markworth Whistle Jacket x Ch. Markworth Avenging Dawn) completed the requirements for her championship at the Spirit of the Heartland Kennel Club show, May 9, 2010, going BOB over two male Specials for a 5-point major. "Rip" is bred, owned, and shown by Martin G. Marks.

* **Nicknack Makin A Clean Sweep MX MXJ OAP OJP** Sweeper completed her Open Jumpers Preferred Title on Saturday May 22nd at the Cairn Terrier Club Trial. She placed 1st in all 3 runs. Her sire is CH Regency's Turncoat and she is out of CH Nicknack Ain't Miss Behaving. Bred by Carla Nickerson. Owned and Loved by Tom & Renae Bagwell. Handled by Renae Bagwell *

* **MACH Carbor Talk of the Town XF JE** (Can CH Carbor On The Road Again x Can CH Boxdema Memory of Carbor) earned his MACH at the Western Lakes agility trial on June 12, 2010. Spenser was bred by Carla Borrelli, is owned by Judy Russell and was handled by both Judy and John Russell through his agility career. He will continue competing at agility to earn yet more titles. He is truly my Spenser Super Dog and has changed my life in so many wonderful ways.

* **Ch Nite's Sin Wagon, OA, OAJ, NF** (Ch Sterling' Ugly From The Front x Ch Adamis Cock-A-Doodle-Do, CD,RN,NA,NAJ,AXP,AJP) finished the requirements for her Open Agility title on May 22nd, 2010 at the Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester, New York. The next day she earned her first Excellent standard leg as a move up with a 1st place. The following weekend Sin completed her Novice FAST agility title at the Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club trial on May 30th. "Sin" is owned and handled by Rebecca Dorn.

* **Nite's Naturally Like This, OA, AXJ, NAP, NJP** (Ch Sterling' Nite's Like This NAJ, NAP, OJP x Ch Adamis Nite's Btwn The Sheets) earned both her Preferred Novice Agility and Preferred Novice Agility titles on May 23 at the Dog Obedience Club of Rochester New York trial. "Natalie" is bred, owned and handled by Rebecca Dorn.

Montgomery Cty SPECIALTY ADVERTISING

RATES : Full Page \$70.00
Half Page \$40.00

Photos \$10.00 each
Please mark your name and
address on back of photo



AD NO.

Ad Deadline: August 13, 2010 (Any received after this date will be charged \$50 extra). No ads will be accepted after 9-1-10. There are certain guidelines for submitting advertising material to MB-F that must be followed. Please contact Bonnie Keyes at Maplewynd@stny.rr.com for these guidelines or any other questions regarding catalog advertising. Regional AMSC clubs are encouraged to advertise.

Mail ad copy to:

Bonnie Keyes
Advertising Chairman
P.O. Box 35
Wellsburg, NY 14894-0035

I will take a

Full page _____

Half page _____

Quarter page _____

Photo enclosed _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Make checks payable to
AMSC and send with your
ad to advertising chairman:

Bonnie Keyes
Advertising Chairman
P.O. Box 35
Wellsburg, NY 14894-0035

FLEECE VESTS

These high quality polar fleece vests have the new logo embroidered on the left side of the vest. They come in men's sizes in two colors-royal blue and light grey. The women's sizes come in two colors-raspberry and heather.

\$45.00, which includes shipping

also

White Polo Shirts with same logo

Unisex sizes S-XXL

\$35 includes shipping



new logo on floor mats and vests

AMSC FLOOR MATS

These striking logo mats are dye injected and are made of high quality nylon and are 100% launderable in cold water. They can be used indoors or outdoors, since they can be washed but will last longer if not subjected to extreme weather. They will be perfect for grooming room, offices, motor homes, condos, or to stack your puppies on. They measure 22" X 33". Cost of the mat is 65.00 plus 15.00 shipping and handling.



AFGHAN

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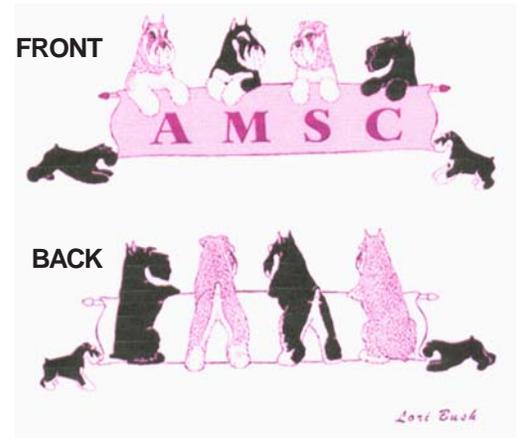
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Ask the AKC Animal Behaviorist - My Dog Lunges and Growls at Other Dogs

A class can help dogs better interact; Mary R. Burch, Ph.D.

Meet Mary Burch, American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Director and Paw Nation's new expert columnist addressing your questions on animal behavior. Dr. Burch has over 25 years of experience working with dogs and she is one of less than 50 Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists based in the United States. She is the author of ten books including the new official book on the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program, "Citizen Canine: 10 Essential Skills Every Well-Mannered Dog Should Know."

I hate to walk my dog because he always barks at the other dogs that pass by. Charlie's a very sweet, 6-year old, neutered corgi, but when other dogs come near, he starts pulling at his leash, snarling and barking. I yell "No!" and pull back on the leash, but that only mildly reins him in. He's never attacked another dog, but he does scare them and their owners. I don't know why he does this; he's nice to my friends' dogs when they come by. Do you have any advice to help make walk time less stressful?

There are a number of reasons a dog will lunge and bark at other dogs while on a leash. It sometimes happens if a dog is particularly aggressive, but this doesn't sound like your corgi, as you say that your dog is nice to your friends' dogs, suggesting that his problem is specifically with unfamiliar dogs. Other reasons a dog might behave this way could be fear, acting protective of its owner, wanting to play, or a lack of adequate socialization with other dogs.

You mention that you've tried an approach that involves corrections — yelling "No!" and pulling on the leash — and this hasn't worked for you. Don't worry, there really are ways to make walk time more fun. Below I've given several approaches to try to make life easier for you and Charlie.

1. Consider enrolling Charlie in a Canine Good Citizen class. Teaching your dog to react appropriately to other dogs is one of the core parts of this program and a class would give you and your corgi opportunities to practice and learn this skill with other dogs.

2. Another thing to try is to only move toward another dog if your dog is behaving acceptably. If he lunges and barks, turn around and go back in the opposite direction away from the other dog. When he settles down, you can turn him around and try again. I've had good success with this procedure.

3. I also recommend trying this "shaping" procedure for dogs who lunge on the leash. You start by walking your dog behind another dog. Can he do this? If so, move to the next step and try parallel walking. Will your dog walk side by side with another dog (with both dogs on a leash)? The last step is walking toward another dog. The two dogs should start about 20 feet apart, gradually moving closer. You can see from these suggestions that you'll need a structured practice session and some helpers with dogs to work on this. This is why we it often works best for you and your dog to enroll in a training class.

4. If he will sit and stay on command, you can also have your corgi "sit and watch" as another dog passes by. Give him treats for sitting quietly and watching. Later, you can graduate to stand-and-watch, then "heel" as you walk by another dog. This method involves your corgi knowing how to sit-stay and walk beside you on the leash when you give him the command.

Car safety for dogs

It's pretty much second nature for anyone who drives a car to do up their seatbelt. And no one would ever dream of putting a small child in a vehicle without a car seat. But surprisingly, few people take the safety of their dog into consideration.

Restraining your dog during car travel will not only protect your dog, it will also protect you and your passengers. Studies have shown that, in an accident, a 25-pound dog that is unsecured in a car travelling only 20 miles per hour, can become a projectile exerting over 500 pounds of force on itself and other occupants.

The best way to ensure your dog's safety while travelling is to use a travel crate. Aside from making sure you can fit the travel crate into your vehicle, it should also be large enough that your dog can fit into it comfortably.

On the road
If you have to make a stop but can't bring the dog with you, don't leave your dog in the car, especially in hot weather. Try and find a shady spot where you can tie your dog up while you do what you have to do. If you absolutely must leave your dog in the car, park in the shade and make sure there's a window open to provide fresh air.

Make sure you have a bottle of water and a bowl in case your dog needs a drink. You'll also want to ensure your dog has had a chance to relieve itself before the ride.

As much as your dog would probably love to ride with his head hanging out of the car window, it leaves him susceptible to getting particles of dirt in the eyes, ears or nose causing injury or infection. What's more, excessive amounts of cold air taken into the lungs can cause illness.

Coming home - one final tip
Keeping your dog safe outside of the vehicle is just as important as keeping him safe inside. If your vehicle is parked on the road, your dog should always get in from the pavement side. You should also have him leashed to prevent him from breaking away from you suddenly and running into traffic.

Coping With Car Sickness

We've all seen dogs that seem like they were born to go for drives with their family. As soon as they realize it's time to go for a drive, they jump in the car with energy and enthusiasm. It's as though they can't wait to start sniffing the passing landscape. Some dogs, however, are the exact opposite: they dread car rides because they are prone to carsickness—and they know what's coming when the doors close and the engine starts.

How common is carsickness in dogs?

If your dog gets carsick, you may find some measure of comfort in the adage, "Misery loves company." The fact is, more dogs than you may have suspected suffer from this condition. According to research conducted in Europe*:

- About 1 in 3 dogs that travel suffer from travel sickness.
- 75% of dogs experience travel sickness for the first time when they are puppies.
- 47% of dog owners would travel more with their pet if they did not suffer from travel sickness.

Know the symptoms

Dogs that are prone to carsickness usually aren't subtle about it. If you notice that your dog is hesitant—or downright anxious—about entering a car, that may be a signal that he doesn't find car rides a pleasant experience. Once you're on the road, you may find your dog displaying one or more of these symptoms: excessive drooling, obvious panting, trembling, heaving, and vomiting.

Helpful tips

Desensitization training: Some pet psychologists think the problems begin with a dog's first car ride, which is often the day when he leaves the security of his mother and littermates. An early trip in the car might also include a traumatic visit to the veterinarian. These first encounters leave a powerful impression on your pet. That's why he might be associating fear and stress with the car.

In those cases, desensitization training may help. Though this potential solution requires patience, it is often effective in reversing problems. The key is to reprogram your dog's attitude by replacing negative triggers with positive conditioning. First, put your dog in the car (in the place he will be sitting) and let him settle and relax for five minutes. Leave the doors open. Don't go anywhere. Don't even start the car. Praise and reward him with words, affection, and small treats.

Next, start the car—but don't drive. Observe your dog for signs of stress, which might include shaking, drooling, or drooping ears. If these are present, turn off the car until your dog calms down. Do not attempt to calm him, as soothing and attention as a result of his anxiety can actually reinforce the behavior. Eventually, when your dog is able to deal with the sound and vibration of the engine running, go for a short drive to a place he enjoys, like a park or dog run. Reward him with a toy, treat, or praise. You can continue this desensitization process until your dog is no longer queasy in the car. This generally takes several sessions.

Make sure your dog travels on an empty stomach: Many owners have discovered that an empty stomach is an effective way to prevent carsickness.

The security of a crate: It might also help to travel with your dog in his crate, if it can be securely fastened on the car's seat or floor. The crate generally comforts your dog and gives him a place to lie down, which can reduce motion sickness.

Make frequent rest stops: If your dog realizes that he's not going to be confined to a moving car for too long a period, he may enjoy the trip more. So take frequent rest stops for him to stretch his legs and relieve himself.

Open the windows for fresh air: If you've ever been carsick, you know how fresh air can help revive you. So open the windows a safe amount—not enough for your dog to escape or stick his head out—and let the air (and its distracting and ever-changing array of odors) refresh your dog.

Medication: If all else fails and you must travel with your dog, consult your veterinarian about possible medications that can be prescribed.

Ed.s Note: I have also found that giving the dog liquid Melatonin before the trip (and every hour) takes the edge off and helps the dog. I use this for thunder storms too.

Are Treats Making Your Pet Fat?

by [Daphne Sashin](#) ([Subscribe to Daphne Sashin's posts](#))

Mar 3rd 2010 @ 1:00PM Filed Under: [Pet Health](#), [Animal Nutrition](#) [Vandalizer](#).

We love giving our pets treats, whether to reward good behavior, keep them occupied or because we simply can't resist their plaintive stares or begging. But all those jerky treats, dental chews and milk bones are making our [domestic animals fat](#).

"If I could only point to one factor causing the modern-day pet obesity epidemic, it would have to be treats," says veterinarian Ernie Ward, founder of the [Association for Pet Obesity Prevention](#) and author of "[Chow Hounds: Why Our Dogs Are Getting Fatter – A Vet's Plan to Save Their Lives](#)."

Vets and animal-nutrition experts point the finger at fattening pet snacks: Packed with sugar and carbohydrates, even the tiniest packaged cheese or bacon snack becomes what Ward calls "calorie grenades."

"It's that seemingly innocent extra 50 calories a day in the form of a chew or cookie that adds up to a pound or two each year. By the time a dog or cat reaches mid-life, it's overweight and health risks begin to skyrocket," Ward says. Obesity is being blamed for [health problems](#) such as diabetes, joint pain and breathing problems in pets.

That doesn't mean the snacks have to stop, but experts say treats should make up no more than 10 percent of your pet's [daily calories](#). That's not much, considering a 10-pound cat needs less than 300 calories daily and a 40-pound dog should only get about 1,000 calories.

Making things trickier, manufacturers don't list calorie contents on their packages, and they don't have to.

Some of the worst offenders tend to be the newer "dental chews" for dogs, Ward says. One Purina [BusyBone Dental Bone \(Large\)](#) has a whopping 600 calories, while a [Pedigree Jumbone \(small\)](#) has 297 calories, nearly an entire day's calories for a small dog.

Other popular treats and their calorie counts, according to [Ward's research](#):
[Pup-Peroni](#): 24 calories
[Purina Beggin' Strips](#): 30 calories
[Milk-Bone Biscuit \(Medium\)](#): 40 calories

[Purina Chew-eez Beefhide Chew Strips](#): 60 calories
[Pedigree DentaBone \(Medium\)](#): 188 calories

Experts recommend replacing processed treats with crunchy veggies such as baby carrots (only two or three calories per carrot), cucumbers (one calorie per half-inch slice) and celery (around six calories per stalk). For owners desiring a commercial dog treat, Ward likes [Liver Biscotti](#), which deliver less than one calorie per piece.

No single treat is the culprit, however. The biggest problem is quantity, says animal nutritionist Susan Lauten, Ph.D., owner of [Pet Nutrition Consulting](#) in Knoxville.

"A family of four could be each giving the dog three treats a day and they don't know what the other person is doing," she says. She recommends that you measure out the amount of food that the dog or cat is going to receive per day, put it all in a freezer bag and only give treats out of that bag.

As for cats, the risk of [packing on pounds](#) is so high that Ward recommends avoiding treats altogether. If you must, give a pinch (3/4-inch flake) of salmon or tuna.



What You Can Do to Help Your Dog Lose Weight

1. Reduce the amount you're feeding gradually every week or two until your dog begins to lose weight
2. Weigh all food you feed to give more control over the dog's diet
3. Monitor your dog's weight regularly to be sure that your weight loss program is on track
4. Watch for calories from treats, chews, leftovers, and other extras you may not be counting
5. Increase exercise gradually as your dog becomes more fit.

New Research Reveals The Hidden Messages In A Dog Growl

by [Kirsten Taylor](#)

To humans, a growl is a growl. But to dogs, all growls are not created equal, it seems. [Those growling](#) sounds contain a wealth of important information to other canines, according to new research described in Discovery News.

For a recent study, Peter Pongracz, a behavioral biologist at Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary, recorded growls from 20 pet dogs in three different scenarios: watching a threatening stranger approach, playing tug-of-war with their owners and facing off with another dog for a bone.

Then he played the recordings to other dogs as they chewed on meaty calf bones (yum!). The dogs that heard tapes of the bone-guarding dogs backed away from their snacks in reaction to the threatening-get-away-from-my-bone growls. Most of the dogs that heard the other types of growls kept on chewing, New Scientist reports.

Pongracz and his team analyzed the growls with a computer and found that playful growls are typically shorter and higher pitched than threatening growls, Discovery News reports. But the difference between the two threatening growls wasn't evident to the human — or computer — ear.

Pongracz believes that dog growls contain more meaning than dog barks, New Scientist reports. After all, the dog's wild ancestor the wolf rarely barks. It is possible that domesticated dogs might have learned to bark to get humans attention, while growling is a more ancient method of communicating with other dogs, he suggests.

Someday, maybe we'll be able to understand every nuance of a dog growl—and understand what parts of the growl (pitch, volume, etc) other dogs are reacting to. Hey, it's not so far-fetched — after all, even babies are able to distinguish between hostile barks and happy ones!

How to Give the Heimlich Maneuver to Dogs

By Robin Hewitt,

If you've ever had a pet emergency, you know that time is of the essence the same as with a human. If your dog chokes, you should be aware of this lifesaving technique. The Heimlich Maneuver for dogs is fairly easy to apply as long as you remember the key steps.

Instructions:

Step 1

Verify that your dog is truly choking, and not having breathing difficulties. A choking dog will have bulging eyes, paw at their face and try to cough.

Step 2

Grasp your dog's lower jaw with one hand and its upper jaw with the other, leaving your forefinger free to reach the obstruction. Open your dog's mouth and try to see the object and pull it out with your finger. Remember that dogs have small bones in their throats; don't try to grab something that you can't see.

Step 3

Lie your dog on its side with the hindquarters higher than his head. A blanket or rolled up towel can be placed under her rear to lower the head if you can't lie it on a slanted surface.

Step 4

Grasp your hands under the lowest ribs and press in three to five times in a thrusting motion. Be careful of the ribcage; you need to be below the ribs to expel any air that's in his lungs.

Step 5

Remove the object from the dog's mouth immediately after it is expelled from the Heimlich Maneuver procedure, so your pet doesn't inadvertently swallow it again.

Step 6

Contact your veterinarian as soon as the crisis is over, in case your dog has suffered internal injuries that are not immediately obvious.

Door Darting

Five things to do when your dog ... dashes out the door!

BY PAT MILLER

Ooops (expletive deleted), there he goes again!" Sounds like the frustrated human companion of a canine door-darter -a dog who slips out the tiniest crack of an open door every chance he gets. Frustrating for the human, dangerous for the dog, who likely romps around the neighborhood just out of his owner's reach. Here are five things to do if your dog dashes out the door:

1 Catch him. Easier said than done, you may say. An accomplished door darter is often an accomplished keepaway player as well. Don't chase; you'll just be playing his game. Play a different game instead -something else fun. Does he love squeaky toys? Grab one, take it outside and squeak it. When he looks, run away, still squeaking. If he chases after you, let him grab one end of the toy. Play a little tug, trade him for a treat, then squeak it and play tug some more. Let him follow you, playing tug-the-squeaky, into your fenced yard, and close the gate behind you. Play more squeaky with him. If he loves car rides, run to your car and say, "Wanna go for a ride?!" Open the car door and invite him in. When he jumps in, take him for a ride! Playing tug? Chasing tennis balls or flying discs? Fetching sticks? Walkies? Whatever he loves, provide it.

2 Reward, don't punish. You've managed to get hold of your cavorting canine. No matter how upset you are, don't yell at him! Don't even reprimand him calmly. He'll associate the punishment with returning to you, not with darting out the door. Don't even take him back inside immediately -that's punishment, too. I promise, if you punish him when you finally get your hands on him, it'll be even harder to catch him the next time. Instead, happily and genuinely reinforce him with whatever he loves best -tug, fetch, a car ride, or high value treats.

3 Create "airlocks" for your doors. Even if you can't fence in your yard, you can put up a woven wire barrier around the door(s) he darts out of -a small area with a self-closing gate, so if he darts out the door he's still contained. Use baby gates or exercise pens to set up a barrier inside, to block his access to the door. Insist everyone makes sure he's behind the barrier before going out the door, or greeting a visitor.

4 Teach him to wait at doors. Implement a "Say please" program, where "sit" makes all good things happen, including doors. Teach him to "sit-and-wait" at doors until he's given the release cue. The more consistent everyone is at sit-and-wait, the more reliable your dog will be at waiting, and the less likely he'll dart out that door.

5 Increase his exercise. If you keep your canine pal busy and tired, he'll be less inclined to look for opportunities to dash through doors. A tired dog is a well-behaved dog. ~

Pat Miller, CPDT, is WDJ's Training Editor. Miller lives in Hagerstown, Maryland, site of her Peaceable Paws training center. Pat is also author of several books on positive training.

Missing the Mark

Five things to do when your dog ... "marks" in the house.

BY PAT MILLER

Marking is not the same behavior as "my bladder is full and I have to pee." Housetraining is just a matter of teaching your dog when and where to relieve himself. In contrast, marking is primarily a stress-or anxiety-related behavior, far more complex and challenging than housetraining. An occasional female will mark, but the culprits here are primarily male dogs. Here are five suggestions for dealing with marking behavior:

1 Manage your dog's behavior with closed doors, baby gates, leashes, crates, and exercise pens so he doesn't have the opportunity to mark in another room undetected. If you catch him "in the act," interrupt him with a cheerful "Oops!" and take him outside. While marking is not the same as housetraining, you can still send him the message that he's allowed to mark outdoors, but not indoors.

2 Reduce his stress levels. Identify and remove as many stressors as possible. This includes eliminating the use of aversives in training or behavior modification and removing known stressors from his environment, as well as counterconditioning and desensitization to stimuli that trigger fear, anxiety, arousal, or aggression responses in your dog. Hence the importance of not using verbal or physical punishment or trying to frighten him if you catch him in the act; you'll be adding stress, and could actually increase the marking behavior as a result. Other useful tools for stress reduction include calming massage; aromatherapy; Comfort Zone (OAP, a synthetic substance that mimics the calming pheromones emitted by a mother dog when she's nursing puppies); and Through a Dog's Ear—a CD of classical music specifically selected for its calming effects on dogs.

3 Thoroughly clean any soiled spots with an enzymatic product designed to clean up animal waste. Use a black light to find untreated spots. This will help you find undetected soiled spots from your own dog as well as dogs who may have lived in your home before you and your dog moved in—a common trigger for marking. Do not use ammonia-based products to clean! Urine contains ammonia and the ammonia in the cleaning products may actually inspire your dog to urinate on the spot where the ammonia-based product was used.

4 Get him neutered. While this doesn't always reduce or eliminate marking, it can help, especially if done sooner rather than later. Testosterone can be a significant stressor, particularly if there are females in season and/or other male dogs in the neighborhood.

5 Use a belly band. This is a soft band of cloth with a Velcro fastener, which you can wrap around your dog's abdomen. For some dogs, the band inhibits marking behavior entirely. Others will happily soil the belly band, (you can attach a self-adhesive absorbent feminine pad to the inside the band to absorb the urine) but at least it protects your home environment from urine stains and odors. Change the pad as needed.

Note: Veterinary behaviorist Dr. Nick Dodman of Tufts University suggests that well-practiced marking behaviors can often only be resolved with the use of behavior modification drugs. If you are not successful in your efforts to modify and manage your dog's marking, make an appointment with a behavior-savvy veterinarian to discuss the possibility of using anti-anxiety medication.

Your vet can also consult with a veterinary behaviorist elsewhere in the country by phone. You can find contact information for veterinary behaviorists at dacvb.org or avsabonline.org.

~
Pat Miller, CPDT; is WDJ's Training Editor and author of many books on positive dog training

*I can't wait until
Christmas when I
have my own tree
in the house!*



When Good Teeth Go Bad

From the pages of the FEBRUARY 2007 AKC GAZETTE

By Jeff Grognet, DVM

When was the last time you had a good look in your dog's mouth? If he's over 3 years old, there is a 75 percent chance that he has dental disease—plaque, tartar, and inflamed gums. Besides causing bad breath and tooth loss, infection in the oral cavity can spread to vital internal organs. Oral disease can shorten your dog's life.

Small-breed dogs are prone to tartar accumulation when very young, which results in the loss of many teeth by the time they're 10 years old. The problem begins with the formation of a thin, soft film of food and bacteria—plaque—on the teeth. If left undisturbed, plaque eventually mineralizes and hardens to form tartar.

Meanwhile, bacteria in the mouth cause gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and recession of the gum-tooth attachment. The natural depression in the gum next to the tooth is called the sulcus, and a healthy sulcus is, at most, a few millimeters deep. But in dogs with severe gingivitis, gum attachments can break down to depths as great as 15 millimeters. As the gum recedes, there is a corresponding breakdown of supporting bone. The tooth becomes abscessed and falls out.

An abscessed small incisor, with just one root, is lost very quickly because it has so little holding it in place. In contrast, a large carnassial tooth, such as the upper fourth premolar (fourth tooth behind the upper canine tooth), has three roots and takes much longer to fall out. Each of the roots must become loose before the tooth is released from its socket.

Larger breeds, such as German Shepherd Dogs, don't collect as much tartar on their teeth so they are not as prone to gum recession. Though they can have problems with gingivitis and tartar, they are much more likely to experience tooth fracture. The tooth most commonly damaged is the upper fourth premolar (PM4). When the outer surface of PM4 is cleaved off, the pulp cavity is exposed. Ultimately, bacteria invade and travel up to the end of each root, creating an abscess. This pus pocket causes significant pain.

Whether a dog has an abscessed fractured tooth or tartar and gum disease, the bacteria in his mouth can penetrate his gums and migrate via the bloodstream throughout his body—the heart, kidneys, and liver are particularly susceptible to invasion by oral bacteria.

In the heart, bacteria readily settle on the delicate valves, causing scarring that leads to valvular leakage. Eventually, dogs with leaky valves develop congestive heart failure—an inability of the heart to pump enough blood forward.

When bacteria land in the kidneys, they stimulate the formation of tiny abscesses that cause deterioration of kidney function. Over time, these changes result in chronic renal failure.

Many dogs with dental disease have elevated liver enzymes. In this case, the bacteria have migrated to the liver, causing infection and tissue damage. I have

How can you help your canine friend live a longer life? Look in his mouth regularly. If his gums are cherry red, he has gingivitis. If you smell foul breath, he has a bacterial infection—it might just be from plaque, but it could be from an abscessed tooth. Remember that it's difficult to assess your dog for oral pain. In rare circumstances, you may notice that he refuses a hard treat or that he chews on only one side. But in most cases it isn't until a problem tooth is removed and the dog exhibits increased vitality that an owner recognizes the agony the dog has been in.

When you detect a problem in your dog's mouth, have him examined by your veterinarian. If he has minimal gum recession, a proper cleaning both above and below the gum line can help the gum reattach. If you wait too long, the pockets become deeper (more than three millimeters), the roots become exposed, and tooth loss becomes an inevitable fact.

Veterinarians see the consequences of mouth infections daily—abscessed teeth, gingivitis, as well as weak hearts, failing kidneys, and stressed livers. Don't ignore bad breath, discolored teeth, or red gums in your canine friend. Your dog needs diligent oral care from both you and your veterinarian to live a full and healthy life.

Jeff Grognet is a veterinarian with a practice in British Columbia, Canada.

Springtime Dangers for Pets - What Cat and Dog Owners Should Know

by Daphne Sashin

April showers bring flowers for sniffing, long walks in the neighborhood and afternoon naps on the lawns. But before you let your pet leap into spring, make sure you're keeping your dogs and cats safe from these seasonal health hazards:

1. Watch Out for Poisonous Flowers
Tulip, hyacinth and daffodil bulbs can damage a dog's mouth and esophagus, causing drooling, vomiting, severe diarrhea or even abnormal heart rhythms, depending on the amount consumed. So be sure to keep bulbs out of reach before planting says Justine Lee, an emergency critical care veterinary specialist and Associate Director of Veterinary Services at the Minneapolis-based [Pet Poison Helpline](#).

When planting, place the bulbs in deeply, surround them with plenty of mulch and then supervise your dog when it's outside to make sure it's not digging them up, Lee advises. Once the flowers are out and have bloomed, they generally don't pose a threat, as it's the bulb that's the most poisonous.

Also be very careful with lilies. Just a couple of leaves from certain lilies, like the day, Asiatic and Japanese varieties, can cause severe kidney failure.

2. Be Careful With Common Fertilizers
How you treat your yard is very important, as even organic supplements can be toxic to your pet.

Blood and bone meal are popular organic fertilizers, and dogs love the taste of these meat-based products. But ingesting blood meal can cause vomiting, diarrhea and severe pancreatic inflammation, while bone meal can create a cement-like ball in the dog's stomach, potentially forming an obstruction in the gastrointestinal tract and requiring surgery to remove.

Another known hazard are rose fertilizers containing disulfoton or other types of organophosphates which can be deadly to a dog. While most dogs wouldn't eat the granules just for fun, gardeners often mix the fertilizer with bone or blood meal, creating a tasty invitation. "The pet will ingest a larger amount of that chemical because it tastes so good, resulting in the ingestion of potentially two toxicities," Lee says. Consider fencing off roses with plastic or chicken wire so dogs can't get into them, says Lee. It might not be pretty, but "it helps protect your pets," she says.

3. Assess Pest Control Around the House and on Your Pet

Spring means ants. What you may not know is that many ant baits use peanut butter, practically luring dogs to nibble on them. In fact, the chemicals inside the baits are relatively innocuous, due to the low concentration of insecticide and small size of the bait, experts say. The biggest risk is a gastrointestinal obstruction from swallowing the plastic. To be safe, keep traps off the floor, placing them instead in areas such as on the counter or in a window sill.

Another big risk for your animals is misuse of flea and tick products. "Dog flea and tick medications can never be used on a cat because they have a different metabolism," Lee says. "They should never apply it without consulting a vet."

You should also learn more about the kind of flea and tick prevention you are using as recently there has been a lot of concerns about the [toxicity of certain products](#). Depending on where you live and what your risks are you may consider some of the natural options for flea and tick control. (The National Resources Defense Council gives suggestions on [chemical-free ways to keep pet pest free](#).) Discuss your concerns with your vet so that you can come to the best solution together.

Spring is a great time to let your animals roam and if you take the right steps to keep them safe, everyone will be happy.



GWTA ACCOMMODATIONS

Block rates are available at the following hotels under Great Western Terrier Association:

1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA (562) 432-6964 Special Rate: \$109 per night + a one time non-refundable pet fee of \$50. Due to the popularity of this hotel, the busy travel season and the overwhelming demand for hotel rooms on board The Queen Mary, an early cancellation policy will be in effect for The Queen Mary. If for some reason you are not able to keep any part of your hotel reservation, please keep in mind you MUST make all CANCELLATIONS by 5 PM local time Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

HOTEL CURRENT (formerly The Guesthouse) 5325 East Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, CA (562) 597-1341 or (800) 990-9991 SPECIAL RATE: \$79 Per Night, No Pet Deposit Reservation Deadline: June 1, 2010

MAKE RESERVATIONS DIRECT WITH HOTELS

The following area motels and hotels also allow dogs. Some require a non-refundable pet cleaning deposit:

The Marriott Long Beach Airport: 4700 Airport Plaza Dr., Long Beach, CA (562) 425-5210
Holiday Inn, Long Beach Airport: 2640 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, CA (562) 597-4401
Residence Inn By Marriott: 4111 E. Willow