



# PAW PRINTS

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## Anesthesia and Your Pet

*Columbia Animal Hospital, Columbia, MD.*

When a pet requires surgery, often the owner's first concern is the idea of anesthesia. We as veterinarians are very sensitive to your apprehensions and concerns. Although, anesthetic protocols have become considerably safer and much easier to both administer, we are very respectful of these medications. We now have at our fingertips ultra-short anesthetics, totally reversible anesthetics, and very safe and effective gas anesthetics which have dramatically decreased the risk to your pet. Along with the pre-anesthetic testing, anesthetic monitoring, and pain control, anesthetic accidents have been tremendously reduced.

When thinking about your pet and anesthesia, remember that they are not people. Obvious though this might be, it's important to separate the human experience of anesthesia from what an animal experiences. For instance, humans often awaken from general anesthesia feeling nauseous and with a thumping headache. Recovering pets, on the other hand, are rarely nauseous. And because veterinarians routinely administer pain medication (analgesia) as an important part of general-anesthetic protocol, they usually awake headache free.

Again, while anesthesia is not totally without risk, the risk is mitigated by two factors: today's exceptionally safe and easily adjusted dosing of the anesthetic drugs and veterinarians experienced in how to anesthetize their patients - from small kittens to feline senior citizens. Also, many of our pets now have pre-anesthetic testing. This also will minimize the risk involved.

While owners tend to think of all anesthesia as general anesthesia, veterinarians administer anesthetic drugs for other purposes, too. For instance, veterinarians routinely inject short-acting anesthetics to immobilize and relax a distressed patient. These may be administered intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or intravenously or by inhalation through a mask. There are now a variety of anesthetics

to choose from depending upon your pet's condition.

Your dog's doctor also relies on anesthesia as an integral part of more advanced diagnostic techniques. As in human medicine, it's now standard in animal medicine for a veterinarian to use less invasive, nonsurgical approaches to take a peek at what's going on inside a cat's body. Endoscopy and biopsy are examples of less invasive diagnostic procedures where anesthetics may assist in the detective work.

General anesthesia has a number of benefits. Some pertain to the patient; others to the doctor. Anesthesia brings about a loss of consciousness in the patient so the patient has no awareness of what is going on and, upon awakening, has no memory of what happened. Anesthesia also blocks any sensation of pain. In addition, anesthesia brings about muscle relaxation and suppression of reflex movement in the patient.

Anesthetic drugs are administered in one of two ways: they can be injected into a vein or muscle or inhaled as a gas. Scientists don't completely understand how anesthesia works. But they do know that once the drugs enter the bloodstream and travel to specific receptors in the brain, they induce a state of anesthesia. Moreover, once they're no longer needed, the drugs are quickly expelled from the cat's body. This speedy expulsion is critical because cats can have difficulty eliminating drugs from their bodies.

A fundamental goal of anesthesia is to use neither more or less anesthetic than necessary to get the job done. The depth of anesthesia required to keep a pet pain free, relaxed, and unconscious depends on the type of procedure and the individual patient. More painful procedures, such as abdominal surgery (spaying or ovariohysterectomy for females) and orthopedic surgery, require deep anesthesia. On the other hand, teeth cleaning requires only light anesthesia. The age and health of a pet also influence anesthetic depth.

It's very important to plan for general anesthesia. Planning includes a review by your pet's doctor of the patient's medical history as well as a physical examination. During this preliminary phase, you and your veterinarian (who is both the surgeon and anesthetist) work as a team. Your pet's doctor looks to you to provide as full a medical history as you can. (Make sure you mention any previous difficulties with anesthesia.) Depending on the age of your animal, your veterinarian should also recommend tests to check out your pet's liver, kidney, and heart functions. Knowing the health status enables you vet to put together the proper anesthetic protocol and be on the lookout for any unusual developments during anesthesia and recovery.

### The Stages of General Surgery:

- **Preparation:** During this initial stage, the anesthetist sedates the patient and inserts into a front or hind limb an intravenous catheter through which injectable anesthetics and other fluids can pass as needed. This catheter also acts as a gateway for emergency drugs if necessary. Your pet will receive pain medication at this stage to smooth its recovery from surgery.
- **Induction:** The anesthetist takes the patient into the unconscious state by administering injectable or inhalant anesthetics. For animals under 20 pounds, at our practice we use a gas anesthesia, isoflurane, to induce our patients. This procedure give us total control over the stages of anesthesia as well as rapid induction and recovery. Other recent developments are a new generation of injectable anesthetics . One drug allows rapid induction and as soon as the medication is discontinued, rapid recovery. Another injectable anesthetic is totally reversible by administering a follow up medication after your pet's procedure is performed. Maintenance:

Once the patient is unconscious, the anesthetist maintains optimal anesthetic depth. Although for certain shorter, more superficial procedures, injectable anesthetics are sufficient, inhalants offer the anesthetist the advantage of moment-to-moment control, which may be an important consideration for an older or sick pet. During maintenance, the patient inhales anesthetic gases either through a mask over its nose and mouth or via a tube inserted into its windpipe (intubation).

Intubation establishes an unobstructed airway that could be vital should complications arise. (Your veterinarian should consider intubating older or sick pets, and breeds that are subject to breathing difficulties - such as Persians or Pekinese).



To maintain a safe anesthetic state, the anesthetist monitors the depth of anesthesia; the rate and quality of the patient's pulse and heartbeat; the lungs; the body temperature (to prevent hypothermia); and the mucous membranes (for abnormal color). Many anesthetic monitors are now available

to our profession to also assist in monitoring of our patient. These sophisticated devices include heart monitors, instruments to measure your pet's oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, respiratory rate, and blood pressure. Most animals have a dedicated person whose sole job is to monitor the patient while we, the veterinarian, are treating your pets.

- **Recovery:** A good recovery is an uneventful recovery.

So you see, anesthesia is actually a series of procedures rather than a single event. And certainly, time spent preparing is time well spent. Above all, remember that anesthesia is

your dog's ally in certain times of need.

### **How Anesthetic Gases Work**

1. Anesthetic gases travel to the lungs via a tube inserted into the dog's windpipe (intubation).
2. The anesthetic moves through the branching structure of the lungs until it can go no further, ending up in an alveolar sac.
3. The anesthetic gas transfers from the lungs to the bloodstream by crossing from an individual alveolus into a neighboring blood vessel (a pulmonary capillary). Once in the bloodstream, the anesthetic travels to special receptors in the brain where it does its "stuff."

### **The Young and Old**

With appropriate preanesthetic preparation, both the very young to the oldest seniors are acceptable candidates for anesthesia. As pets age, though, they process drugs differently from younger animals, and they especially dislike being away from home. So veterinarians monitor senior very carefully and try to get them home as quickly as possible.

### **Recovery**

Animals recover best from anesthesia when they're kept under observation in a warm, quiet, undisturbed environment.

## **Annual vaccinations come under scrutiny Are changes in the wind?**

### **Introduction**

For generations of pets, the annual booster vaccination has become a ritual - Fido goes to the clinic to get his inoculations and an exam that is considered a byproduct of the "shot visit" by many owners.

These days, for convenience and budgets, some owners forego the exam and take Fido or Fluffy to a pet supply store or a low-cost clinic for a jab of protection against rabies,

distemper, parvovirus, and other canine diseases.

But change is in the wind. Research shows that vaccines have a longer term of effectiveness against disease than previously thought, and some veterinary colleges have published alternative vaccination protocols that suggest three-year intervals after the initial shots and a 12-month booster.

Some veterinarians go further; they divide vaccinations into two groups according to the prevalence of the disease in their area and recommend skipping vaccinations altogether for older animals that seldom leave home and for pets with already-compromised immune systems.

The changes may be a welcome, but they can have hidden dangers if pet owners forego the annual exam as a result. Fido needs that checkup even if he is fully protected against disease by last year's vaccination.

### **Why the switch?**

An increase in knowledge about the canine immune system and more information about the length of time that immunity is conferred by particular vaccines have prompted veterinarians and researchers to question the yearly booster for adult dogs.

As a result, several universities have changed their vaccination recommendations and both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association have published changes in their vaccination guidelines.

"We are making this change after years of concern about the lack of scientific evidence to support the current practice of annual vaccination and the increasing documentation that over-vaccinating has been associated with harmful side effects," said the announcement of a new vaccination protocol at the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. "Boosters, the annual re-vaccination recommendation on the vaccine label is just

that - a recommendation - and is not a legal requirement except for rabies. This recommendation could just as well have been every leap year or full moon and is not, in most cases, based on duration of immunity studies."

According to the AVMA policy statement approved in 2001, the annual revaccination recommendation found on many vaccine labels is based on historical precedent and US Department of Agriculture regulation, not on scientific data, and in cases where data has been provided, there are still questions about the duration of immunity provided by the injection.

Furthermore, there is evidence that some vaccines provide immunity for more than one year and that annual boosters may subject the dog to events such as suppression of the immune system, development of autoimmune disorders, or vaccine-site infections.

The AAHA recommendations approved in 2003 echo the same concerns about too-frequent vaccination and encourage owners to work with their veterinarians to devise a health program that takes into account the diseases that are a problem in the pet's environment.

### **So why vaccinate?**

Although there is a growing concern over vaccine frequency, there is no doubt that vaccines control diseases that can kill puppies and dogs and protect individual dogs from illness and death.

According to an article in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1995, concerns about too-frequent vaccination center on the potential for vaccines to trigger autoimmune diseases in susceptible dogs. Data is scant, but suspicion is growing, according to Dr. Ronald D. Schultz of the University of Wisconsin Department of Pathobiological Sciences.

"I am a strong advocate of vaccine use," Dr. Schultz said in the JAVMA article. "We need

to strike a balance between those who feel that no vaccines should be given and those who are vaccinating every week. Annual vaccination has become a knee-jerk response that, for the most part, is unnecessary. We have come a long way in reducing disease through vaccination, but perhaps we have gone too far."

### **How vaccines work**

Vaccines stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies to the disease so that the dog is protected against various organisms in the environment. If the immunized dog is later exposed to the infectious agent, the antibodies react quickly to attack and destroy the disease. (See "Vaccination: Shield against canine diseases" at <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/vaccine.html>)

Initial shots are given to puppies to gradually phase-in immunity as the mother's milk protection wears off. Puppies are generally vaccinated against parvovirus, distemper, adenovirus (vaccine also protects against hepatitis), and parainfluenza in combined shots and against rabies in a single vaccination given at the age of three months. They may be inoculated against leptospirosis, Lyme disease, and corona virus if local conditions warrant or if the pet will be traveling in an area where these diseases are known to be a problem. (See "Puppy viruses: Distemper and Parvovirus can mean big trouble" at <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/pupvirus.html>)

Vaccines come in two types: killed virus or bacterin and modified live virus or bacterin. The killed vaccines are mixed with an adjuvant to boost the effectiveness, and various adjuvants are suspected of causing problems. Killed vaccines are more stable, but they require more injections to immunize the pet and are more likely to cause allergic reactions ranging from low-grade fever or muscle aches to hives, facial swelling, or even vomiting and diarrhea. In rare cases, a pet may collapse within a few minutes of the injection from a severe anaphylactic reaction, but most reactions take a day or more to manifest.

Modified live vaccines work more quickly and for longer periods, are less expensive, and re-

quire only a single dose to be effective. However, they should not be used in sick animals and may cause suppression of the immune system in susceptible animals or abortions in pregnant bitches.

Vaccinations challenge the immune system in a complex manner, so it is not advisable to vaccinate a puppy or dog that is sick. Vaccines can fail if the animal has a fever or is taking steroids, or if they are given too close together or too far apart. They can also fail if the vaccine has been improperly handled or stored and may not protect a puppy that has lost immunity from mother's milk before the vaccine is administered.

Despite problems, vaccinations are still a pet owner's best line of defense against distemper and parvovirus that can kill puppies and young dogs, against rabies that will kill dogs - and people - of any age, and against other contagious diseases that can cause short term and long term health problems. Pet owners should work with their veterinarians to design a vaccination schedule for each pet based on age, health status, reproductive status, and environment.

Rotating vaccines so that they are not all given at once is one option, and titer tests for antibodies is another. However, titer tests are more expensive than vaccinations and not completely reliable, so many vets do not recommend them.

Adverse reactions to vaccines should be reported to the veterinarian and the US Pharmacopeia, a private organization that operates a reporting program in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association. USP can be reached at [www.usp.org](http://www.usp.org) on the world wide web or at (800) 822-8772. If veterinarians follow new protocols for vaccination intervals or owners and their veterinarians decide that particular pets don't need or should not receive annual vaccinations, the veterinarian should provide a statement to show at grooming shops, boarding kennels, or training schools. Those who plan to board pets or to take them to dog shows, dog parks,

or other gatherings should add Bordatella vaccine to their inoculation protocol to protect against kennel cough. (See "Canine coughs: A cough is not necessarily a cold" at <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/cough.html>) Initial Bordatella vaccine is administered through the nose; subsequent doses and boosters can be given as an injection.

### **Core and non-core vaccination**

AAHA and AVMA suggest two vaccination programs for their clients: a core vaccine protocol for triennial vaccination against the high-risk, contagious, and potentially fatal diseases of rabies, parvovirus, adenovirus-2 (hepatitis vaccine), and distemper and a non-core schedule for protection against additional diseases that may be extant in particular regions of the country.

The AVMA describes a non-core vaccine program as follows:

"Non-core vaccines are those that target diseases that are of limited risk in the region, and/or represent less severe threats to infected patients, and/or vaccine benefit: risk ratios are too low to warrant the use of these products in all circumstances, and/or scientific information is inadequate to evaluate these products. Veterinarians and owners/clients need to carefully consider the benefits and risks of using these vaccine products on an individual basis."

### **Annual exams**

"Annual boosters" for Fido and Fluffy is really shorthand for "yearly checkup."

The veterinarian does far more than inject the vaccine; he listens to heart and lungs, probes the belly, looks at teeth and gums, examines eyes and ears, checks for parasites and skin disorders, asks questions, watches the dog move. He discusses ideal weight and exercise if necessary, and listens to questions and concerns of the owner. Dogs that visit the veterinarian once a year live longer and are less likely to be surrendered to a shelter because the owner has an animal health professional to answer questions and to find potential problems before they become serious. Shot

clinics in pet supply stores or elsewhere do not provide these opportunities.

### **Homeopathic remedies - an alternative to vaccines?**

Herbal and homeopathic remedies and treatments such as acupuncture and chiropractic are gaining popularity as alternatives to modern medicine for people and pets, but it is highly unlikely that anything in this assortment of alternative remedies will replace vaccinations against canine and feline diseases. Homeopathic nosodes have been used as a vaccine substitute and credited with preventing these diseases, but there are no studies that support their use on a broad scale and no quality assurance in their production. Susan Gayle Wynn, DVM, said on the Alternative Veterinary Medicine website (<http://www.altvetmed.com/articles/vaccinations.html>) that ". . . unfortunately, there is no convincing evidence that nosodes do prevent disease. A few studies published in homeopathic journals suggest that nosodes may decrease the severity of active disease and possibly prevent the spread of epidemics, but these studies are not well-controlled." Wynn, a homeopathic veterinarian, continued: "The results of one well-controlled study suggest that parvovirus nosodes are completely ineffective in preventing parvoviral disease under experimental challenge conditions. Until well-designed studies are completed and thousands of pet owners make a concerted effort to help with potential retrospective studies, nosodes remain an unknown quantity and I do not recommend using them as a sole strategy for disease prevention." Dr. Wynn recommends puppy and kitten vaccinations followed by annual boosters for a year or two.

### **Nosodes**

Homeopathic nosodes have been touted as alternatives to vaccinations. Homeopathy was developed in the late 1700s by German physician Samuel Hahnemann, who proposed that small doses of a substance could prevent or cure diseases caused by large doses of the same substance. This is the same principle

behind the development of vaccines. Nosodes are produced according to Hahnemann's "law of infinitesimals," a technique that dilutes the original substance beyond recognition, leaving no recognizable traces of the original substance and no measurable protection in the animal's body. (See: "Homeopathic medicine: Herbalists, homeopaths gain ground in canine medicine" at <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/altern2.html>)

### **For more information**

**AAHA wraps up canine vaccine guidelines,**  
*DVM News Magazine,*

[www.dvmnewsmagazine.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=46546](http://www.dvmnewsmagazine.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=46546)

**Report of the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccine Task Force: 2003 Canine Vaccine Guidelines, Recommendations, and Supporting Literature,**

[www.aahanet.org/members\\_only/practice/canine%20vaccine%20full%20report.pdf](http://www.aahanet.org/members_only/practice/canine%20vaccine%20full%20report.pdf)  
AVMA Policy & Guidelines - Principles of Vaccination , [www.avma.org/noah/members/policy/polvaccination01.asp](http://www.avma.org/noah/members/policy/polvaccination01.asp)

[Dog Owner's Guide: Vaccination: Shield against canine diseases]

### **Norma Bennett Woolf**

[Dog Owner's Guide: Annual Vaccinations ([www.canismajor.com/dog/vacci01.html](http://www.canismajor.com/dog/vacci01.html))] is a part of the Dog Owner's Guide internet website and is copyright 2009 by Canis Major Publications.

### **K-STATE VETERINARIAN DISCUSSES PAIN RELIEF OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR DOGS AND CATS; SAYS TO USE CAUTION IF RAIDING YOUR MEDICINE CABINET TO FIND RELIEF FOR YOUR PET**

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MANHATTAN -- A pain-free pet is a happy pet. "And when pets are happy, you're happy to be around them," said Dr. Butch KuKanich, a veterinary pharmacologist and assistant professor of anatomy and physiology at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

KuKanich said there have always been common procedures like spaying, neutering and knee surgeries that require pain relievers for dogs and cats. Now that dogs and cats are living longer, KuKanich said that veterinarians are seeing more ailments like arthritis, cancer and other painful geriatric diseases. This means veterinarians and pet owners are relying on pain relievers more and more. KuKanich said that millions of dogs have been administered non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, often called NSAIDs.

The newer veterinary NSAIDs are generally safe, with only about 1 percent of animals showing any major side effects. He said NSAIDs are probably the most consistent pain reliever, although they may not be fully effective for all animals. Most dogs and cats administered NSAIDs are young, healthy animals like those getting spayed or neutered, he said.

"Looking at older animals, we worry whether their kidneys and liver are working well," KuKanich said. "When they're not, there's a greater chance for side effects. That's when looking for alternative pain relief methods is necessary."

That includes transdermal patches, similar to the idea of nicotine patches that people use to help them quit smoking. Patches that transmit narcotics through the animal's skin are a viable option for some pet owners, KuKanich said. The patches work best when placed on a shaved spot on the side of the chest.

"A veterinarian can send the animals home with the patches, and you don't have to worry about giving your cat or dog a pill six times a day," he said.

However, KuKanich said the amount of pain relief is on how quickly the animal absorbs the narcotic.

"It's going to be different putting it on a dog or a cat than putting it on your shoulder," he said.

The patches also can fall off, he said, which poses a problem for households with young children who may be tempted to eat them. Another option is codeine, a pain reliever that KuKanich said has been around for a long time but doesn't produce reliable results. "We don't know exactly how it works," he said. "The same animal could be prescribed vastly different doses."

It's uncommon for veterinarians to give codeine to cats, KuKanich said, because it's easy to mistake straight codeine for Tylenol with codeine, and Tylenol, is toxic to cats. Tylenol is the brand name for acetaminophen. KuKanich said research for newer pain relief methods is ongoing. He is researching Ultram, a drug similar to codeine, to see what its analgesic effects are on dogs and how long they last.

He said results are showing that Ultram is being absorbed into the blood, but researchers need to find out how often veterinarians should recommend administering it. The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission is supporting this research, KuKanich said. To meet anti-doping regulations for racing dogs, track operators want to know how long the drug stays in the dog's system, he said.

KuKanich said his other research involves using anticonvulsants like Neurontin in dogs. Anticonvulsants usually are used to treat pain associated with nerves, including shingles in people, he said.

KuKanich said that dog and cat owners should ask their veterinarian about pain relief options and discuss what might be causing the pain if it is unknown. However, if pet owners are looking to their own medicine cabinet to offer some immediate comfort, KuKanich said to be cautious.

"Aspirin can be administered to dogs, but it can cause gastrointestinal problems," he said. "Dogs tend to be more sensitive to these problems from aspirin than people are. Aspirin is not as safe as the newer NSAIDs because up to 15 percent to 30 percent of dogs will experience major side effects."

In addition to acetaminophen, which is toxic to cats, there are other over-the-counter pain relievers that are toxic to both dogs and cats, KuKanich said. This includes ibuprofen products like Advil and naproxen products like Aleve.

"People sometimes don't understand the difference in the drugs -- they think they're all the same," he said. "Even though they're on the same shelf at the drug store, they're not."

### **Tumors in Hiding Beware: This Radiologist Will Find You Almost Anywhere**

*Author: Ashley Mitek*

Detecting liver cancer in an old dog is not an easy task. To begin, many old dogs have what is called nodular hyperplasia. Benign masses grow on their liver, rarely causing complications. However, these friendly masses cannot be differentiated from malignant tumors without a biopsy, an invasive procedure to remove cells from the body for further tests.

That's where Dr. Robert O'Brien comes in. He is a professor at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and is one of approximately 325 board certified veterinary radiologists in the country. He is pioneering a new way to diagnose liver tumors in dogs with the use of ultrasound and special contrast agents.

"We are one of about half a dozen places in the world that are using contrast-enhanced ultrasound to characterize liver lesions," says Dr. O'Brien. His breakthrough research over the past few years has proven that some malignant tumors can be identified in a matter of seconds using ultrasound. He explains that it's as simple as "injecting a contrast agent and watching the blood flow to the area."

The ability of doctors and veterinarians alike to use ultrasound to view structures within

the body has been around for nearly half a century. It is most commonly used to visualize a fetus in utero because it is extremely safe and radiation free.

By using ultrasonic sound, the machine generates waves that bounce off an object and return a signal to the transducer to produce an image. While an inexperienced eye may look at an ultrasound screen and see blobs of grey, white, and black, a radiologist sees organs, vessels, tendons, and perhaps a tumor in hiding.

Unlike humans, dogs and cats can hear ultrasonic sound. Some animals, such as rodents and bats even make it. But diagnostic ultrasound machines works at a frequency 1,000 times above the threshold of our pets' hearing capabilities, so your pooch need not wear ear-plugs for the procedure.

The best part about Dr. O'Brien's ultrasound technique is, "it is a minimally invasive test with basically no morbidity associated with it," he notes. The contrast agents that he uses are the same that are used in human medicine and are extremely safe, even at high levels.

While it sounds much more high-tech, the contrast agents are really just microscopic bubbles. They are filled with gas and surrounded by an outer casing. When injected into an IV catheter they show up on the ultrasound screen and allow radiologists to differentiate tissue from blood vessels.

Although this procedure is most commonly used to classify liver masses, it also can detect disease in other organs such as the spleen, kidney, and pancreas. The benefits of contrast ultrasound aren't just for our four-legged friends either. It has been used in human medicine for characterizing several different types of cancers, including staging of breast cancer for the past decade.

Due to the novel use of contrast ultrasound in veterinary medicine, the procedure is currently only available in a few select veterinary

hospitals. However, the available research is very promising and in the near future it may become the preferred method of detecting certain tumors.

Source: Dr. Robert O'Brien

*This news release is a service of the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Releases on other topics can be found on the ACES News Web site <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/news>*

## Traveling With Your Dog

### Ready for Road Trips

*This article is taken from one printed in the August, 1997 issue of Your Dog newsletter.*

Ahh, the open road! If you're thinking of taking a vehicular vacation with Rover, be prepared to plan as much (if not more) for his trip as you will for yours.

First, honestly assess if your dog is "road ready" - that is, healthy, mellow, and well-behaved. Don't take along a dog that's ill, shy, nervous, or frail and elderly. Such pooches usually fare better at home with a pet sitter or at a well-managed boarding kennel. Before you embark on your journey, be sure your pooch is current on all its vaccinations.

Most states require dogs to be vaccinated against rabies, so bring your dog's rabies certificate and make sure it wears its rabies tag. Also, ask your veterinarian about "special needs," such as vaccination against tick-borne Lyme Disease if you're planning a trip to an endemic area. Also, bring along a copy of your dog's medical record; it can help an attending veterinarian treat your dog if health problems develop away from home. And don't forget to bring an adequate supply of all medication Rover takes on a regular basis and any necessary grooming supplies.



A set of trip-specific identification tags will reduce the chances of your dog getting lost. Buy separate tags that list the phone numbers for each of your vacation destinations or, if it's more practical, the phone number of a neighbor at home who knows your itinerary and will be able to reach you.

If your vacation plans include vigorous outdoor activity with Rover - hiking or long Frisbee sessions on the beach - be careful not to subject your dog to more exercise than it's accustomed to. "Precondition your dog before you leave or limit its exertion to customary levels while on vacation," cautions Dr. Robert Murtaugh, professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Hiking trails can pose "natural" hazards to curious canines, such as poisonous plants, snakes, and toads; porcupines; and skunks. The best way to prevent troublesome encounters is to keep your dog on a leash or at least

within sight and voice-command range.

Even if your vacation plans involve more sedentary pursuits, you need to be aware of the dangers of excessive heat and humidity. Always provide your dog with a cool, well-ventilated environment and make sure it has unlimited access to fresh water.

Curtail exercise on hot, humid days. And never leave your dog in the car in warm weather - even if you must substitute a drive-through meal for a leisurely sit-down

dinner. If, despite your preparations and vigilance, an accident or injury befalls your pet away from home, check the local phone directory to find the nearest veterinary facility. Better yet, obtain referrals to veterinary clinics along your route from your hometown veterinarian, or contact the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society at (210) 826-1488 for a listing of emergency veterinary facilities throughout the country.

Laying a little behavioral "groundwork" will

help your dog prepare for the social stresses of vacation travel. Since Rover will be meeting strangers (human and canine alike) along the way, he has to be well socialized. If he's led a sheltered life, start to increase his neighborhood walks and visits to the park a few months before your trip so he can meet new people and romp with other pooches. Acclimating your dog to riding in the car is another essential preparation step. If your pooch is not used to car outings, take several short excursions before your vacation, gradually lengthening Rover's on-the-road time until he becomes a seasoned passenger. Away from home, basic obedience is more important than ever. Be sure your dog responds reliably to commands like "sit," "stay," "down," and "come." If it's been a while since Rover graduated from obedience school, spend a little time prior to departure reinforcing the basic commands. At the very least, be sure your dog is well leash-trained. Even if your dog is trained to heel off leash and come on command, it may become scared or disoriented in a new place and, if untethered, could dash out into a busy street or parking lot.

Creatures of habit, dogs appreciate consistency, especially in unfamiliar surroundings. Reduce travel-related disruption by making your dog's traveling environment as homey as possible. For example, bring your dog's crate, bed or blanket, and favorite toys. And take more than enough of its regular dog food and treats for the length of the trip. Once you reach your destination, you can resume your dog's regular schedule of feeding and exercise. But on driving days, try an altered chow-time schedule so your dog is more comfortable. If you normally feed in the morning, be sure your dog eats an hour or two before you hit the road to reduce the chances of carsickness. Some experts advise feeding a traveling dog its main meal after the day's driving is done. Give Rover a chance to do his "business" before you start for the day, and, of course, make frequent "pit stops" so he can stretch and relieve himself.

With proper planning, you'll increase the chances of a safe and healthy vacation. But,

while making all those dog-related preparations, remember to plan for fun. After all, that's the whole point of taking Rover along for the ride!

## RESTRAINTS FOR ROVER

Sudden stops and traffic accidents pose a real threat to canine car passengers. So where is the safest spot in the car for you dog? A sturdy, tied-down crate provides the best protection and also ensures that an overly affectionate canine can't obstruct your vision or steering ability. But acclimate Rover to the crate well ahead of the trip so he views it as a desirable hideaway, not a prison. If you have a large dog and no room in your vehicle for a suitably sized crate, you can try one of the commercially available doggie seatbelts. Or, if your dog is easygoing and settles down quickly in the car, position your companion on the back seat or the back floor. **(Recent concern about children and airbags is another good reason to keep your dog in the back while you travel.)** Also, do whatever you can to keep your dog's head inside the vehicle. When dogs "hang out," they risk serious injury to eyes, nose, and ears

## Summer nightmare A pet sitter horror story

I've heard so many canine horror stories and many of them were true. These tales give me worse nightmares than any tale Stephen King ever wrote! If someone should publish an anthology of canine horror stores, this one would definitely be included.

As the summer of '95 was winding down, some friends of mine made plans to take a week's vacation to New York to visit family. This couple usually rented a van or mini-van to drive on the trip to accommodate their child and six Shetland Sheepdogs. Mini-vans were very popular this summer for this purpose, so all my friends could find available to rent was a sedan. So, the decision was made to travel with two dogs. Being very responsible dog owners, they arranged for a pet sitter to come and care for the other four shelties who

were left in their crates in the basement.

### ***The pet sitter never showed up!***

Evidently there was a misunderstanding over which weekend the sitter was to come. When my friends returned home after being away for five days and nights, they spotted the instruction sheet for the pet sitter still neatly tacked to the garage door — their first clue that something was wrong. After they entered the house, they found the second instruction sheet still on the kitchen counter, untouched dog food, and an overwhelming smell.

Luckily, these friends have a lot to be thankful for. While the dogs had been confined in their crates without any food or water for five days, they were all alive. Their 14-year-old Sheltie did need to be rushed to the emergency clinic; but after a stay of a few days, he was back to normal. They did incur a lot of expense, and the mess was monstrous to clean up, but things could have been much worse.

These people live in a neighborhood where the neighbors are fairly close by. Surely someone heard the dogs barking, or noticed the mail and newspapers piling up?? My friends wish someone had called the police or humane society. Neighbors seem to have noticed nothing.

### **Prevention**

There are bad apples found in every profession, and even the best businesses make mistakes if communication is unclear or misinterpreted. The bottom line when choosing a pet sitter is, do your homework and go with your gut feelings about the individual. A seasoned professional pet sitter is used to being grilled and held up to scrutiny during the get-acquainted visit. Those who are reputable expect you to check them out thoroughly, so please do so.

Leslie Eufrazio who runs Pet Services by Leslie in Franklinton, North Carolina, sent the following suggestions for dog owners looking for a pet sitter:

1. **Get and check at least five refer-**

**ences.**

2. **Be sure the pet sitter has professional affiliations**, i.e.-PSI (Pet Sitters International) or NAPS (National Association of Pet Sitters). These organizations offer seminars and newsletters that help pet sitters provide knowledgeable and ever-improving care for pets. Memberships can be evidence that the business has some permanence in the community. Other memberships such as Chamber of Commerce are good too.
3. **Ask the sitter what he or she would do in the case of illness or inclement weather?**
4. **Choose a service that promises to spend a set minimum amount of time with your pet.**
5. **What pets does the sitter own?** (Leslie would only want "real dog people" caring for her Rottweilers.)
6. **Why did the sitter get into this business? What did they do before?** (In addition to being "animal people," the sitter should come from a background that promotes excellent judgment and communication skills.)
7. **Is the service bonded? Licensed (if required in your area)?**
8. **Is the sitter insured with a policy written specifically for pet sitters? Does it include "care, custody and control" of your pet and belongings; and re-keying of your locks if your key is lost or stolen?**
9. **How are the employees selected?** These people will be entering your home; is a criminal background check done annually on each one?
10. **Always insist on a get-acquainted visit with the sitter prior to your trip.** Schedule this well in advance; a

reputable, successful pet sitter does not squeeze you in to his or her schedule.

11. **At the get-acquainted visit, does the pet sitter ask to see shot records?**
12. **Does he ask good questions about your pet's feeding, exercise, and clean up requirements; and get detailed information regarding where you can be reached?**
13. **Does he get the number of a friend or relative, in case of emergency; as well as your veterinarian's number and the pet's medical history?**
14. **Learn up front what else is included in the fee.** Will they bring in mail, change lights, rotate blinds, or water plants?
15. **What are the extra costs?** Some services charge for the get-acquainted visit or charge an initial registration fee. Some charge extra for each pet over a certain number.

Pet sitting is a specialty service tailored to meet your pet's individual needs. If you have only a couple of pets, and are seeking to economize, a pet sitting service may not be your best option.

We'd add a couple of other questions:

- How long have you been in business?
- Can I have the names of a couple of clients who have used your services?

**Then, use the telephone.** I would call the day before you are leaving to confirm the pet sitter's schedule and make sure the emergency contacts are handy, and call again a couple of days into the trip, just to make sure everything is all right. I'd also call a relative or neighbor and ask him to drive by or walk over and check the house just to see if things look normal. On the few times that Rick and I have had to board our dogs at a boarding kennel, I always insist on calling the kennel mid-trip. Rick always accuses me of being paranoid,

and says the kennel manager is sure I am insane, but I do it anyway.

### **Ozzie Foreman**

*[Dog Owner's Guide: Summer nightmare (www.canismajor.com/dog/petsitm.html)] is a part of the Dog Owner's Guide internet website and is copyright 2009 by Canis Major Publications.*

### **GEMINI May 22-June 21**

**"Gemini pets are intelligent, entertaining, and quick to learn tricks."**

Your Gemini dog can never settle. They get bored so quickly that they require constant attention. They thrive in new environments and will



love it if you ask a friend to have them for a few days. If you can overcome their impatience you'll soon be able to teach them tricks from playing dead to somersaulting through flaming hoops. They love to show off. With fleet footed mercury as their ruling planet Gemini greyhounds are some of the fastest runners of them all. But keep an eye on your Gemini dog for they are unfaithful and may run away forever!

### **CANCER June 22-July 23**

**"Your over sensitive Cancerian pet thinks it's one of the children."**

Don't bark commands at your Cancerian dog or he's liable to burst into tears. Cancerian dogs are the most sensitive of all the zodiac signs and are likely to be very moody. They need to know that you need them and consequently require constant patting and reassurance. You'll be saying 'good boy' until



your throat is sore. They make wonderful parents so you should allow them to have a litter if possible. They are also good with children and think that they are one of them. Your dog should have been born with flippers not paws for the Cancerian dog will jump into water at every opportunity.

### Homemade Dog Treat Recipe Carob Covered Crunchies

2 1/4 cup whole wheat flour  
1 egg  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 cup applesauce  
1 buillion cube (beef or chicken) dissolved in  
1/2 cup HOT water  
1 tbsp. honey  
1 tsp. molasses  
Carob chips (about 1 cup)

Mix all ingredients together until well blended. Knead dough two minutes on a lightly floured surface. Roll to 1/4" thickness. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 30 minutes in a 300 degree oven. Cool. Melt carob chips in microwave or saucepan. Dip cool biscuits in carob or lay on a flat surface and brush carob over the biscuits with a pastry brush. Let cool.



### Dogs in Our Lives

*Paul Fersen*

We aren't house-proud. If we were, we wouldn't abide the scratches on the door frame, the holes in the screen, the darkened shine of worn spots on the chair. We would wince at the mottled carpet and fret at the hair clinging to our clothes.

We don't. If anything, we lovers of dogs are a tolerant lot, finding greater value in the unabashed affection of our friend than immaculate sofas. Shoes can be replaced, but heroic Retrievers are timeless.

Without dogs, our houses are cold receptacles for things. Dogs make a fire warmer with their curled presence. They wake us, greet us, protect us, and ultimately carve a place in our hearts and our history. On reflection, our lives are often referenced in parts defined by the all-too-short lives of our dogs.

### Cocoa



I want to thank the ILRC on behalf of my husband and myself for the lovely card and expression of sympathy for our loss of Cocoa. She was a wonderful part of our family for 15 years but it just doesn't seem long enough. She took us on journeys we never dreamed of and her sweetness and presence are sadly missed each and every day.

It helps to know that others understand and care. Again, we thank you.

*Phyllis & Howard Beemer*

**Minutes for May 3, 2009 Board Meeting**

*Attendance:* **Kim Falker, Larry and Pauline Nehring, Leslie Kayser, Barb Corbelli, Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Becky Underwood, Ellen Shearer, Jim Styn, Sandra Corrie-Styn, Terri Fink, Lisa Jenkins**

*Guest:* **Cindy Page**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by Barb Corbelli

- **President's report:** none
- **Secretary report:** by **Leslie Kayser**
  - Received a thank you from Byron Fire Dept for **June Chapell**
  - AKC specialty letter received and given to Pauline
- **Treasurer report:** by **Barb Corbelli for Becky Underwood**
  - We will be doing a 1<sup>st</sup> read for Cindy Page today
- **Specialty September 26: Terry Miller** 2009 chairperson, report by **Pauline Nehring**

*General:*

- paper work in to AKC events
- supported entry for Friday

*Hospitality:*

- Ann will be accepting donations again for hospitality
- Leslie will do judges' corner

*Trophies:*

- Pauline and Mary Ellen will inventory toys

*Raffle:*

- be thinking of items/collecting to donate for our Specialty on Saturday

*Judges:*

- Kim Falker is contacting judges for 2010
- Pauline will do paper work; she needs prizes list
- gifts: **Deb Lewis** and the Lanctot's will receive slate, Pat will receive a set of 6 ILRC glasses, Ann a set of 4 wine glasses and a note from Pauline

- **Hunt Test June 13 and 14:** report by chairperson **Barb Corbelli**

*General:*

- TRP (Temporary Revocable Permit) received
- water and pop inventory is needed; send to Leslie ASAP
- Do we need to reregister trailer? Barb will check on this
- Port potties cost will be \$108
- Entry Express is open for entries until 6/4/09 at 11:59PM; early entries are cheaper
- Haven't volunteered yet ~ contact Barb

- Please bring extra newspaper and bags for birds
- If club members want to purchase ducks contact Barb ASAP

Hospitality:

- Leslie Kayser**, with a member of FL, will do judges dinner on Friday
- Saturday dinner at a restaurant is being planned by FL
- breakfast coffee, bagels, and juice; let Leslie know if you are bringing something
- Saturday lunch for workers will be ordered from **Nice and Easy**

Raffle:

- Larry Nehring** has purchased a black Benelli Nova with case
- Kim is accepting items for the other raffle

Judges:

- Pauline will get 5 gift cards and thank you notes

Ribbons:

- Carol Pyne** will inventory and order if necessary

WC/WCI:

- we need 7-9 workers
- run water first and request no puppy pond

- **Old business:**

- send litter news to Kim
- Sunshine chairman sent a rosebush to Michelle Pauline was notified
- e-mail brags to Phyllis
- Carol needs to e-mail by-laws to Sandra Corrie-Styn
- Barb will touch base with Tammy and Mary about Pheasant farm donation

- **New business:**

- Carol Pyne** was being honored by the Republican Party on May 3
- Pauline was notified that **Sharon Hershberger** passed away
- e-mail brags for awards for summer picnic to Carol; Leslie will pick them up
- concern about up-dating by-laws was discussed; a motion was made by **Dr. Sandra Corrie-Styn** and seconded by **Barb Corbelli**, that meeting cancellations be determined by the Board and notification sent out ~ this passed unanimously
- the picnic will be on July 25 at the Nehrings: bring your dogs and come @ 10:00 to train at the pond, Board meeting at 11:30 followed by a general meeting at 12:00, bring a dish to pass and the fun begins
- the September 6 meeting will be at the Akron Animal Hospital; Board meeting at 10:00 followed by a general meeting at 12:00, bring your dogs for agility fun and a dish to pass
- the November 1 meeting will be at the Bittenger home; more information to follow
- due to the cost of printing and sending Paw Prints, it was decided that we will only send it to those who pay \$10.00 a year to cover the cost; Leslie will notify everyone currently receiving a copy

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 by a motion from **Terri Fink and seconded by Larry Nehring**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Kayser, Secretary

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**Brag**

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**Kim Falker, Adventure Labradors:**

Some brags from Potomac!!

Adventure's Ferget Me Not, "Fergie" was 3rd in the open black bitch class out of 36 entries!!

Adventure's Turbo, "Turbo" was 2nd in his sweeps class!

CH. Adventure's Pull The Trigger, "Trigger" made the cut in Breed!

**Rebekah Loveless:**

Piper took Winner's Bitch on Saturday, 5/16/2009 in Alexander, NY under Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, with Paul handling. This was her first point!

**Ellen Shearer, Tableau Labradors:**

I have brags from this weekend at the Alexander, NY shows. Wes took WD, BOW and BOS under Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine. Wes went WD and BOS under Mr.P. Levi Marsman. You'll be hearing from another member or two about their wins from Alexander. Congrats to them!

Wes also did some winning at Alexander 2 weeks ago. He got WD, BOW and BOS the first day and the second day went WD and BOS. He's up to 10pts. with a major and so far I've gotten all his pts. myself. It's taken 5 years, but he's finally showing some maturity.

P.S. Congrats to Becka and hubby on their girl's WB win the first day!

**Wes & Ellen**

**Pauline Nehring, Wayfield Labradors:**

Maya, Tabatha's Hampton Cinco De Mayo received her Canadian Championship at the Guelph & district Kennel Club show. She went Best of Winners and Best of Opposite sex at there April show.

**Lynne & Jeff Worsfold:**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Duncan had a 3-point major win at the Plainfield Kennel Club Show, Freehold NJ. He ended up with Best of Winners Ribbon!

Our Bellburns Duncan just earned his Championship today, Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>!



**Litter Box****Pauline Nehring, Wayfield Laradors:**

I have a litter of blacks and yellows (12) out of Broadway Babe at Wayfield and Hanova Labrodors Iragorri Master Blend (Guinness) born on May 9th.

**Older Lab for sale:**

BrenLorr Labradors has a 4 year yellow neutered male for sale. He is from my first litter. His name is Jack. He is a very well tempered boy, loves kids, people and thinks he still is a big lap dog. He needs to go to a very loving family or older couple.

If interested please call 570-966-4511.  
Brenda Stidfole

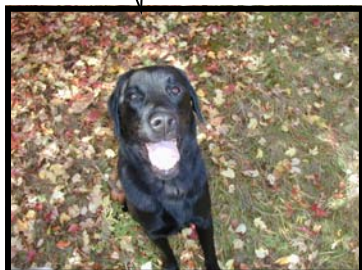


**Don't forget!!!**

**ILRC Hunt Test & Working Certificate Tests!**

**ILRC Annual Hunt Test****Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area****Baldwinsville, NY****Saturday, June 13, 2009****Senior Test Judges:** Diane Sanfilippo / Tom Sanfilippo**Junior Test Judges:** Carol Lewis / Dan Lewis**Chairperson:** Barb Corbelli - [pcorbell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pcorbell@rochester.rr.com)**Hunt Test Secretary:** Mary Kobis - [augustuslabs@yahoo.com](mailto:augustuslabs@yahoo.com)**ILRC Working Certificate Tests****WC - WCI - WCX****Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area****Baldwinsville, NY****Sunday, June 14, 2009****Judge:** Beth Eckels**Chairpersons:** Becky Underwood - [sweetbriarlabs@frontiernet.net](mailto:sweetbriarlabs@frontiernet.net)and Beth Eckels - [beckels@gmail.com](mailto:beckels@gmail.com)

**Tape this to  
your  
refrigerator!!**



**2009 ILRC Meeting Calendar**

*(all dates are Sundays except when noted)*

January 9, 2009.  
Hamburg Eye Clinic

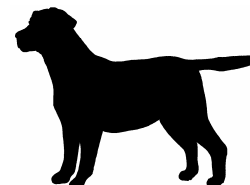
March 8, 2009 11:00 A.M.  
Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia, NY

**May 3, 2009. 11:00 A.M.**  
**Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia, NY**

**July 25, 2009.**  
Home of Larry & Pauline Nehring  
10:00 Bring dogs to train in the pond  
11:30 Board Meeting  
12:00 General Meeting  
Bring a dish to pass for picnic

**September 6, 2009. 12:00**  
Corrie-Styn home

**November 1, 2009**  
Bittlinger home. More info TBA



**PAWPRINTS**

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**FIRST CLASS**

**PLEASE FORWARD**