



# PAW PRINTS

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## HAPPY HOWL-OWEEN!

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### Inside this issue:

RAGE SYNDROME	2-3
CANINE MELENAOMA VACCINE LICENSED	3-4
WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT PT ABUSE	4-5
RUDY'S RESCUE	5
DID YOU KNOW?	6
CORPROPHAGIA IN DOGS	6-8
DOG BLOOD TYPE	8-9
HEALTH ALERT: BREAD DOUGH A NO NO!	9
HOME CARE FOR THE DOG WITH VOMITING AND DIARRHEA	9-11
WHAT HAPPENS DURING EUTHANASIA?	11-12
HYPOTHYROIDISM IN DOGS	12-14
TOP TEN CAUSES OF DOG POISONINGS	14-15
A DOGS SOUL	15
RECIPE OF THE DAY	15
ILRC SPECIALTY RESULTS	16
BRAGS AND LITTER ANNOUNCEMENT	17
ILRC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 10/02/10	18-19



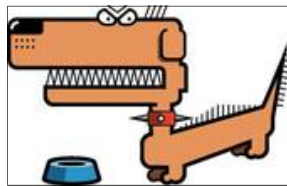
## Rage Syndrome

**Rage syndrome refers to sudden, unprovoked, unpredictable and uncontrollable violent aggression towards another animal, person or object.**

This problem has been reported in dogs as young as six months but more commonly between one and three years of age and most commonly seen in male dogs. However there is only a very small amount of suspected cases documented in scientific literature and UK and USA behaviour consultants suggest very few cases have been seen in clinics.

This behaviour is often mostly associated with English Cocker Spaniels with solid coat colour and is sometimes referred to as "Cocker Rage", it is suggested that approximately eight percent of this breed regularly showed aggression suddenly and without apparent reason. However it is thought that other breeds are also affected and these include Bull Terriers, Golden Retrievers, Lhaso Apso and Yorkshire Terriers. A Dutch questionnaire based study carried out on four hundred and four Bernese Mountain Dogs showed twenty percent had showed intermittent attacks towards their owners.

Little information is known about this form of aggression and in many cases a diagnosis of "rage syndrome" has been based purely on behavioural signs. With owners reporting from time to time their good natured healthy pet without any warning becomes violently aggressive usually towards the owner or a family member but in some cases towards another dog or an object. Attacks towards people seem to be provoked by seemingly inconsequential interactions for instance the owner bending over to stroke the dog or giving a command in a normal friendly manner.



In some instances owners have noticed just before an attack the dogs behaviour changes with the dog appearing to be in a trance, staring and growling at nothing in particular. In other cases the attacks happen soon after the dog has awoken. During the attacks the dogs eyes appear to be glazed with dilated pupils and in some cases it has been reported that the eyes appear red in colour. In addition some dogs during the attack may defecate, urinate drool or vomit. The attacks usually last up to five minutes with the dog appearing not to be aware of what has just happened and is usually left tied but after once again

awakening from a sleep following the incident appears normal and friendly again.

To fully diagnose this problem correctly a full medical, behavioural and neurological examination is required. Other illness may also cause aggressive out burst including brain tumours, head trauma and metabolic disorders such as low blood sugar.

There are a few theories as to what may cause these sudden outburst of aggression one of which being status related aggression. Complex Focal seizures can manifest themselves as behavioural change for example aggression with impaired consciousness, general signs in common with rage syndrome, however aggression during an epileptic seizure has not been frequently documented.

A recent study on Dalmatians and Poodles showed that the majority suffered complex focal seizures although none manifested themselves in the form of aggression. Also suggested is other types of brain dysfunction/disturbance which may appear epileptic in nature but thought to be caused by problems in the temporal lobe/limbic system area of the brain..

Based on pedigree analyses a genetic basis for primary (idiopathic) epilepsy is several breeds including the Beagle, Dachshund, Collie and German Shepard has been shown but as to whether complex focal

seizures manifesting as aggressive behaviour are heritable, they has not been enough studies conducted.

Very little is known about rage syndrome and to date the best clinical tool in finding evidence of behavioural seizures is an electroencephalogram (EEG) which records electrical activity of the brain, showing abnormalities which can indicate a variety of brain disorders including epilepsy.

Once the condition is diagnosed epileptic and none epileptic behavioural seizures can be treaded with anticonvulsant medications. Mood stabilising drugs may also be used in controlling none epileptic seizures. If specific triggers can be identified it may be possible to avoid them and if the problem is found to be status related a behaviour modification program may be implemented. (Poderscek)

*Podberscek, A, The APBC Book of Companion Animal Behaviour*

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**Merial granted full licensure for canine melanoma vaccine**

*Janet Tobiassen Crosby, DVM, Veterinary Medicine Guide*

Monday January 11, 2010

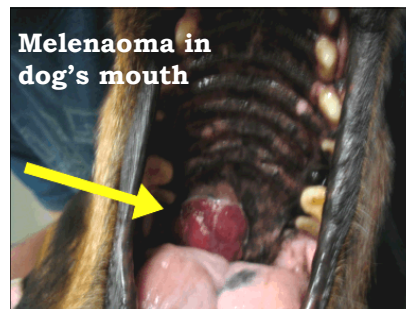
The canine melanoma vaccine, ONCEPT (tm), by Merial, was granted a conditional license approval by the USDA in March 2007. Today, CNNMoney reported that the USDA has granted full licensure for this anti-tumor vaccine.

**Canine Melanoma**

Cancer in dogs is unfortunately very common. Melanoma, a cancer of the cells that produce melanin pigment, is the most common *malignant* oral cancer of dogs. In addition to the mouth, melanoma can be seen in the eye, paw pads and nail beds and skin. Melanoma is highly malignant and can spread (metastasize) to the kidney, liver, lymph nodes and lungs very quickly.

**Treatment for Melanoma**

- *Surgery* is the first step, and the surgeon takes margins around the mass as wide as possible. Because this tumor often shows up in small/difficult places such as the mouth, foot or eyelid, large margins are often difficult to obtain.
- *Chemotherapy* has been of little value with this type of tumor.
- *Radiation therapy* may extend survival times for earlier stages of this cancer.
- *Anti-tumor vaccine* for melanoma has just received full approval after many clinical trials to determine its efficacy. This is a DNA-based vaccine, using a protein found on melanoma cells that is similar to, but not exactly the same as, the canine melanoma protein. The protein is called *tyrosinase* and is found on normal and cancerous melanoma cells. DNA technology is used to insert a non-canine gene so that the dog's immune system will



cells.

recognize the altered tyrosinase protein as "foreign" and will work to find and destroy the cancerous melanoma

**Comparing Survival Times**

According to the Animal Medical Center in New York where clinical trials were performed:

*"These dogs [in the trials] had a median survival time of 389 days, a dramatic increase in survival (most dogs with advanced malignant melanoma have a median survival time of only 60-90 days with presently available therapies). There has been no toxicity noted in any dogs*

*receiving DNA melanoma vaccines to date."*

### Is this vaccine right for your pet?

If your pet has been diagnosed with melanoma and you would like to know if the melanoma vaccine treatment option is a viable one for your pet, please speak to your veterinarian or consult a veterinary oncologist. Visit the Veterinary Cancer Society to find a veterinary oncologist for consultation.

### What to Do if You Suspect Pet Abuse

*By: Alex Lieber  
PetPlace.com*



### Animal Cruelty

Animal cruelty happens every day. So often, in fact, that only the more sensationalistic stories about animal abuse make national headlines:

- In 1998, a Wisconsin man was convicted of killing five cats. Sentenced to 12 years in prison, he was recently denied parole following a vigorous letter-writing campaign to parole authorities.
- In 1997, two boys, 17 and 18, broke into an animal shelter and assaulted 32 cats, killing 18 of them.
- In 1995, Vickie Rene Kittles (also known as Susan Dietrich) was convicted on 42 counts of animal neglect in Oregon. Kittles is an "animal collector," someone who takes in more animals than they can properly care for, leading to inhumane conditions and often starvation for the animals.

Many people question whether they should get involved. Some people feel it is none of their business, or they may worry they are

misinterpreting the signs. They may also fear retribution, either physical or legal (being sued if the allegation is incorrect).

Unfortunately, the abuse will likely grow worse over time. The American Psychological Association has noted that animal cruelty is often a symptom of behavioral problem in children. As they grow older, these abusers often turn on people as well as continue their pattern of animal abuse.

In fact, animal abuse is an indicator of child abuse. Pets are abused in 88 percent of the families where children are abused, according to an article in Humane Education News. A separate study by Northeastern University tracked 153 animal abusers over 10 years, from 1986 to 1996. The study noted that 70 percent of these people went on to commit other crimes, many of them violent.

### What Are the Signs?

There is a difference between unintentional or intentional neglect and outright abuse. Unintentional neglect includes not being aware of how to take care of a pet:

- The owner is ignorant of the type and amount of food to feed the animal.
- The owner doesn't know that the pet needs to be regularly brushed and groomed.
- The owner may not understand the signs of disease or distress in their pet.
- The owner may not be aware that someone else, their child perhaps, is hurting the animal. The child may not even understand the consequence of his or her actions.

Intentional neglect is just that – the owner purposefully doesn't feed or water the animal; leaves the pet outside in harsh weather; and/or forces the pet to live in dangerous, unsanitary conditions.

Abuse is much easier to identify: choking, beating, kicking, forcing an animal's head under water, etc.

**What Should You Do**

1. First assess the situation. If the animal appears neglected, you may in fact not be seeing the times when the animal is fed, groomed and watered. The American Humane Association recommends that you observe the pet at different times of the day before taking the next step.

2. If you see outright abuse or neglect, resist the impulse to confront the owner. This is for your safety and in the pet's long-term interest. Call your local humane officer or police department.

3. If possible, videotape or photograph the neglect or abuse. In cases of neglect, many of the situations are caused by simple ignorance. Abused pets, however, may be taken away by the city or county for their own safety. The owner may try to get another pet – if this happens, contact the police or humane officer immediately.



- An equally strong desire for privacy on the part of the collector; they don't allow people in their homes.
- A very large number of animals around the house.
- Refusal to part with animals through adoption. Collectors often do not even part with dead animals.
- The regular arrival of new animals.
- Large piles of garbage, newspapers, or other material - animal collectors sometimes collect things other than just animals.

Again, you should contact your local humane officer or police department if you suspect abuse or neglect. To learn more about animal abuse, and what you can do, visit the Humane Society of the United States First Strike Web page at [www.hsus.org/firststrike](http://www.hsus.org/firststrike).

**Rudy's Rescue**

Please visit Rudy's Rescue web site, [www.rudysrescue.org](http://www.rudysrescue.org). There are many, many, abused and neglected Labrador Retrievers who need our help. Encourage others to consider adoption or helping Rudy's Rescue in some capacity: fostering, donations, crates & other supplies, transportation and many other things.

Both **Lexis** and **Pepper** pictured here are now being fostered in Rudy's Rescue. These two plus many others need and deserve forever and loving homes.

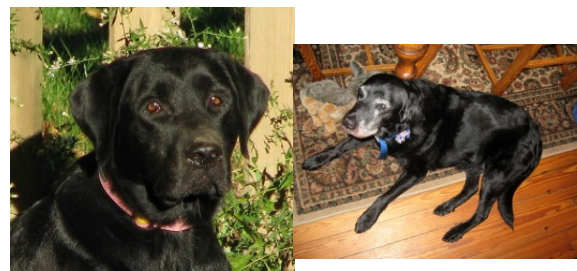
**The Problem of Animal Collectors**

Multiple-pet households brings up the problem of animal collectors. Many of these people appear to "love" animals; they often claim they are rescuing animals from euthanasia. But in fact they are addicted to collecting animals that they cannot properly feed, maintain or house.

Because it is a symptom of a disorder, animal collectors are often unaware of the suffering they cause animals, and they deny reality; they will insist ill animals are healthy. Collectors often know how to elicit public sympathy – even to the point of getting public funds.

Here are some of the things to look out for:

- A strong urine or feces smell.



**Did You Know:**

I am guessing that the general public is not aware of how doomed black dogs are when they are brought to a pound because black dogs, particularly black labs or lab mixes, are euthanized at a horrifying rate at many pounds & shelters because people pass them up for lighter colored dogs. If you are thinking about adopting a dog please don't overlook black dogs because they are just as loving & wonderful as lighter colored dogs!

**Coprophagia in Dogs**

By: Dr. Nicholas Dodman  
www.PetPlace.com

*Along with several other factors, an unstimulating environment can contribute to the habit of coprophagia.*

**Overview**

Coprophagia is the practice of eating stool (feces). There's nothing more disgusting to a dog owner than seeing their dog eat its own or another dog's stool, and then to have the dog saunter up, tail wagging, looking for a kiss and a few kind words.

"Why on earth would dogs do such a repulsive thing?" an owner might ask. What on earth is the attraction in this behavior? We may never know for sure but we do have an inkling about what initiates the behavior and can surmise how and why it continues.

**The Facts About Coprophagia**

Coprophagia is not an abnormal behavior for canines in certain situations. Bitches naturally consume their own pup's feces – presumably, to keep the nest clean. This behavior provides a survival benefit as it prevents unhygienic conditions from developing in the nest; a state of affairs that could lead to disease. The biological drive to eat feces, which is implanted as a survival instinct, compels nursing bitches to ingest their pups' feces.

In addition, many puppies go through an oral stage in which they explore everything

with their mouths, sometimes ingesting a variety of non-food items, including feces.

As time goes by, the majority of pups eventually learn that food tastes better than feces and they swear off the stool-eating habit for the rest of their lives. Some older puppies may continue to eat feces for a few months, but most grow out of the habit after the first year.

Barring nursing bitches, the majority of "normal" adult dogs have absolutely no interest in eating feces.

**When Coprophagia is a Problem**

Slow learners, "oral retentives," and pups in which habits are easily ingrained may continue to engage in coprophagia well beyond the accepted "norm" and may engage in it to excess. Such hard-core coprophagics continue the behavior long after their peers have developed new interests. Dogs like this, that seem

addicted to the habit, may best be described as "compulsive."

Below is a list of possible contributing factors though more than one may be operating in any one case.



The opportunity to observe the dam eating stool

- High protein, low residue, puppy food
- Irregular feeding schedule
- Feeding inadequate amounts of food
- Under-stimulating environment
- Constant opportunity to ingest feces
- Inadequate attention/supervision

**Veterinary Care****Diagnosis**

Whether by nature, nurture, or a combination of factors, coprophagy rears its ugly head as a persistent and irritating habit that some long-suffering dog owners

seem fated to endure. There are several different forms of coprophagy but, whatever form it takes, there are probably similar drives and predilections operating. Variations on the theme include:

Dogs that are partial only to their own stool  
Dogs that eat only other dogs' stool  
Dogs that eat stool only in the winter if it is frozen solid ("poopsicles")  
Dogs that eat only the stool of various other species, often cats

### Therapy

**There are some "home" remedies that have been practiced, but they rarely work. Here are a few:**

Adding Adolph's Meat Tenderizer® or Forbid®, commercially available preparations of pancreatic enzymes, to the dog's food

Adding crushed breath mints to the diet

"Doctoring" each stool with Tabasco® in the hopes of discouraging the dog from the habit

The following strategies have met with more success, though it is important to note that results vary:

Picking up all available stools (i.e. denying access)

Escorting the dog into a "picked up" area and walking him back inside the house immediately after he has successfully passed a bowel movement and before he even has a chance to investigate the fruits of his labor

Some dogs try to circumvent their owner's control by eating the stool as it emerges and for these incorrigible few a muzzle may be necessary

Changing the dog's diet and feeding schedule so that high fiber rations are fed frequently and perhaps by free choice. Hill's r/d Prescription Diet®, a diet that

contains 10 percent fiber is a good option. It may work by allowing the dog to eat to satiation without gaining weight, or it may alter the texture of the dog's stool, making it less palatable. Dry food seems more effective than wet food in curtailing coprophagia

Lifestyle enrichment is also helpful. Make sure your dog has plenty of exercise and spends plenty of quality time with you each day. Some dogs respond when a "Get a job program" is implemented. Such a program is designed to encourage the dog to exercise his natural tendencies by means of activities like chasing, fetching, walking, pseudo-hunting, fly ball, agility training, etc.

### Teach the LEAVE IT command

Although some of the above measures have occasionally been found effective on their own, it best to apply a whole program of prevention for at least six months to nip the behavior in the bud. If during this time, if the dog gets access to stool and ingests it, some ground will be lost. Hopefully, though, progress will eventually be made, even if it's one step back for every two forward.

Despite all these modifications in environment and training, some dogs persist in the habit of coprophagia. For these dogs, the compulsive disorder diagnosis may be worth considering. Some obstinate cases respond to the judicious use of human anti-depressants.

Although controversial, the obsessive-compulsive disorder diagnosis seems to fill the bill, on occasion at least, and it meets a couple of the scientific criteria for diagnosis.

**Face validity:** The dog appears obsessed with eating stool and compelled to ingest it.

**Predictive validity:** Extreme, refractory, coprophagy should follow a genetic predilection, occurring more frequently in

anxious breeds of dog. The latter appears to be true, as the condition seems to be more common in certain breeds (e.g. retrievers). Also, the condition should, and often does, respond to therapy with anti-obsessional drugs.

### Home Care

In the majority of cases, coprophagy can be successfully treated at home by means of a combination of management changes (exercise, diet, and supervised outdoor excursions) and environmental measures, but be wary of the occasional medical condition that masquerades the same way (your vet can help rule out such conditions).

### Dog Blood Type

*"Dog blood type is different than the types found in people. There are 6 major blood types. 42% of dogs have the same type which is universal. Recipients need to be matched to the appropriate blood type."*

Blood is made up of a liquid called plasma and red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Oxyglobin is a synthetic blood substitute that is sometimes used to treat dogs that are anemic (too many red blood cells) or have lost blood. The red and white blood cells and platelets are made in the bone marrow and then released into the plasma to be circulated throughout the body.

There are 6 major dog blood types out of a possible 12, but 40-45 % of all dogs have a universal dog blood type. Sixty percent of Greyhounds have a universal blood type. Boxers, Irish Wolfhounds, German Shepherds, Dobermans, and Pit Bulls are often universal donors as well. This is important because only dogs with a universal dog blood type (DEA 1.1 negative) can be blood donors. Most dogs can receive the universal dog blood type, regardless of their own blood type. Tests are available to

ensure a good "cross match" between your dog and the blood donor.

In an emergency a dog can receive a transfusion from another dog that is of a different type since dog blood does not have antibodies. After the first transfusion antibodies develop which require that a good "major crossmatch" is achieved between compatible donors.

To ensure your pet's safety if a blood transfusion is ever needed, it's a good idea to know his blood type. A quick and simple blood test is all it takes for your veterinarian to type your dog's blood. It's recommended that all dogs have this procedure done as part of a well-visit to the vet and that owners know this information in case it is ever needed.

### Dog Blood Types and Compatible Donors

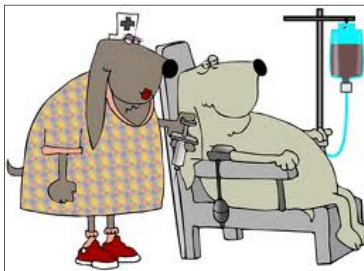
Only DEA 1.1 negative blood should be given to DEA 1.1 negative dogs. DEA 1.1 positive dogs may receive DEA 1.1 negative or positive blood.

Any dog that received a transfusion should be rechecked for type if greater than 4 days have passed.

### Dog Blood Banks

Some vets have their own dogs that they use as blood donors, while others use a blood bank. Some blood banks have their own dogs they use as donors, while others rely on "volunteers." As there are more and more advances in veterinary surgical procedures, and as people have more income to spend on medical care for companion animals, the need for blood donors increases. Some blood banks have "blood drives" to seek donations.

To volunteer as a donor, a dog must generally be between one and seven years of age, at least 50 pounds, in good health, not on any medication except for heartworm/tick prevention, and able to remain calm and well-behaved during the



donation procedure. The donor dog must be current on all vaccines. A potential donor will be tested for his blood type- only those with a universal dog blood type are accepted as donors. Donation takes between 15 and 25 minutes.

Blood that is donated should be checked for infectious diseases such as Babesiosis and Leishmaniasis that are known to be transmitted via blood transfusion.

When a dog donates blood, the blood is usually taken from the jugular vein, which is the large vein in the neck. A dog usually gives about 16 ounces of blood. Donating takes about ten to fifteen minutes. The procedure is not painful. Dogs are usually rewarded with treats afterward.

### Source

*College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Tennessee  
Current Canine and Feline Blood Typing Methods and Issues  
U. Giger  
Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Lab  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania  
Canine and Feline Blood Donor Screening for Infectious Disease  
K. Jane Wardrop, Nyssa Reine, Adam Birkenheuer, Anne Hale, Ann Hohenhaus, Cynda Crawford, and Michael R. Lappin*

### Health Alert: Bread Dough a No No!

#### Pet Health Tip for the Holidays

As the holidays descend upon us, there'll be many cooks in the kitchen--but don't spoil your pet by giving him bread dough. According to Jill A. Richardson, DVM, of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), when bread dough is ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in the stomach. As alcohol is produced during the rising process, the dough expands. Pets who've eaten bread dough may experience abdominal pain, bloat, vomiting, disorientation and depression. "We once had a case in which a Labrador retriever ate several rolls that the owner had placed on the oven to rise. The owner

didn't think much of this, and was just upset that the dog ate part of the holiday feast," Richardson recalls. "A few hours later, the owner noticed that the dog looked very lethargic. He was resistant to move, uncoordinated and was retching." As the symptoms increased, the owner brought him to an emergency clinic, which contacted the APCC.

Unfortunately, the dog's stomach was so severely distended that the only option at the time was to surgically remove the dough. He was also treated for alcohol toxicosis, caused by the fermentation of the dough. The Labrador was kept at the clinic for the weekend and recovered completely. Although he had ingested quite a bit of dough, an animal needs to eat only a small amount to cause a problem, because bread dough can rise many times its size. Please take care not to let your pet in the kitchen unsupervised when you're baking this holiday season--especially if you've got a professional chowhound who's always on the lookout for food.

If you suspect that your pet has eaten dough--or any potentially toxic substance--call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP for round-the-clock telephone assistance. For more information on poison prevention, visit <http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=apcc>

### Home Care for the Dog with Vomiting and Diarrhea

*By: Dr. Debra Primovic  
www.PetPlace.com*

#### Vomiting & Diarrhea

Vomiting and diarrhea are the most common symptoms seen in dogs. They can occur alone or together. It can be a very minor self-limiting problem or a very significant major problem.

Below are some common questions pet owners ask when their dog has vomiting and diarrhea. The focus of this article will

be on how you can care for these problems at home.

### **What is vomiting and diarrhea?**

Vomiting is the act of expelling contents from the stomach through the mouth. Diarrhea is the act of having abnormally loose or liquid stools. This can also be associated with an increased frequency of bowel movements. Some dogs will have a large amount of liquid or abnormally loose stools once and others will have semi-formed stools frequently with straining.

### **What causes vomiting and diarrhea?**

Vomiting and diarrhea can be caused by a variety of problems including eating too fast, eating too much, eating something that is not digestible, changes in the dog's food, eating spoiled food or garbage, infectious agents (including bacterial, viruses or parasites), as well as systemic problems such as cancer, diabetes, pancreatitis, kidney disease or liver disease.

Vomiting and diarrhea can affect your dog by causing extreme fluid loss, which leads to dehydration, electrolyte disturbances and/or acid-base imbalances.

A common question that pet owners often ask is, "What can I do at home?"

### **Home treatment of vomiting and diarrhea**

Specific treatments of vomiting are dependent on the cause. Here is the general approach to treating vomiting and diarrhea:

- If your pet vomits once and/or has a small amount of diarrhea then eats normally with no further vomiting, has a normal bowel movement and is acting playful, then the problem may resolve on its own.
- If you discover any predisposing cause such as exposure to trash, change in diet or plants your dog may be eating, always eliminate that cause.
- If your dog vomits several times, has diarrhea and you cannot take your dog to your veterinarian (which is recommended), then you may try the following:
  - Do not give any medications without consulting your veterinarian. Some medications can be toxic.
  - Dealing with both vomiting and diarrhea can be difficult. Often with Vomiting we hold food for 2 to 4 hours – with Diarrhea sometimes is it longer – even 24 hours. These are general guidelines trying to treat both conditions. If your dog is acting sick, lethargic or the vomiting and/or diarrhea continues – PLEASE see your veterinarian.
  - Withhold food and water for four to six hours. Oftentimes, the stomach lining may be very irritated. Some dogs will want to eat and continue vomiting. Give the stomach "time to rest" for a few hours.
  - If your pet has not vomited by the end of this time, offer small amounts of water (a few tablespoons at a time). Continue to offer small amounts of water ever 20 minutes or so until your pet is hydrated. Don't allow your dog to over drink as this may lead to vomiting.
  - If there has been no vomiting after the small increments of water are offered, then you may gradually offer a bland diet.
  - Small frequent feedings of a bland digestible diet such as Hill's Prescription Diet i/d, Iams Recovery Diet, Provision EN or Waltham Low Fat, are usually recommended. You can make a homemade diet of boiled rice or potatoes (as the carbohydrate source) and lean hamburger, skinless chicken or low-fat cottage cheese (as the protein source), Feed small amounts at a time. Don't over feed as your dog may eat the entire bowl and vomit. Feed a meatball size portion and if there is no vomiting, offer a small amount more about 1 hour later. Give small amounts frequently – every 3 to 4 hours – for the

first day. You can gradually increase the amount and decrease the frequency as your dog tolerates.

- Many veterinarians recommend Pepcid AC® (generic name is Famotidine) to decrease stomach acid. This helps many pets. The dosage most commonly used is 0.25 to 0.5 mg per pound (0.5 to 1.0 mg/kg) every 12 to 24 hours. A 20-pound dog should get about 5 to 10 mg (total dose) once to twice daily. This is an oral medication, which can be found at most pharmacies in the antacid section. Pepcid (Famotidine) does not require a prescription. It is often used for 3 to 5 days.

- Some veterinarians recommend Pepto-Bismol or Kaopectate® (for dogs only!). The active ingredients are generally subsalicylate and Bismuth. Two tablespoons of Pepto-Bismol contain almost as much salicylate as one aspirin tablet (which is toxic to cats). Do NOT give cats Pepto-Bismol or Kaopectate! The subsalicylate, an aspirin-like compound, can decrease diarrhea caused by intestinal infections. The bismuth agent is a chalk-like compound designed to coat the lining of the stomach and intestines. This helps some pets with diarrhea. The typical daily dose administered to dogs amounts to approximately 2 teaspoons (10 ml total) per 10-pounds, ideally split between two to four doses. This be found at most pharmacies and does not require a prescription. It is often used for 1 to 2 days. DO NOT USE IN CATS.

- Feed a bland diet for 2 days.

- The return to regular dog food should be gradual over a period of one to two days. At first, mix in a little of your dog's food into the bland diet. Feed that for one meal. Then feed a 50/50 mix for one meal. Then feed ¾ dog food and ¼ bland diet for a meal – then feed your dog's regular food.

- Leash-walk your pet to allow observation of bowel movements, observe for normal urinations and note any additional

vomiting that may otherwise occur without your knowledge.

- Administer only prescribed medications.

### Vomiting & Diarrhea

□ **This is important!** If the vomiting and/or diarrhea continue or worsen, if you note blood in the vomit or feces, or if other symptoms appear, call your veterinarian promptly. If your pet is not eating, if he acts lethargic, if the vomiting continues or if any other physical abnormalities mentioned above begin, it is important to see your veterinarian. Your pet needs the professional care your veterinarian can provide. If your pet is having the clinical signs mentioned above expect your veterinarian to perform some diagnostic tests and to make treatment recommendations dependent upon the severity and the nature of the clinical signs.

### When are vomiting and diarrhea an emergency?

If the vomiting and/or diarrhea continue after your pet eats, if your pet doesn't want to eat or if your pet acts lethargic, medical attention is warranted. Please see your veterinarian.

If your dog is losing weight, if you see blood in the vomit or feces, or **if your dog has ineffective vomiting (he is retching but unable to product vomit), this is an important medical emergency. It can be caused by a life-threatening emergency called Bloat.**

### What Happens During Euthanasia?

*Paige Garnett, DVM*

When a pet owner has made the very difficult decision to help his or her pet die, many questions arise regarding the actual process of euthanasia. What exactly occurs when a pet is euthanatized? Is the animal aware of what is happening? Is he in pain during the euthanasia process? What does

the veterinarian use to help the pet die? The term euthanasia is derived from the Greek terms "eu" meaning good and "thanatos" meaning death. A "good death" would be one that occurs without pain or distress. Euthanasia is the act of producing a humane death in an animal. In order to produce a humane death, the techniques employed should result in rapid unconsciousness followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest. Also, the technique should minimize any stress and anxiety experienced by the animal prior to unconsciousness.

If the animal appears anxious or distressed when presented for euthanasia, most veterinarians will administer a tranquilizer or sedative prior to the actual euthanasia injection. This ensures that the animal is restful and peaceful prior to the euthanasia. The tranquilizer may be given with a needle under the skin or in the muscle, or with pills which are taken orally. Generally it takes approximately 15 minutes for a tranquilizer to help the pet relax.



Most veterinarians use an injectable drug, most commonly pentobarbital, which is given in a vein. This barbiturate depresses the central nervous system beginning with the cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that determines awareness. The pet will lapse into unconsciousness, and then progress to anesthesia (the absence of pain). With an overdose of pentobarbital, deep anesthesia is followed by the stopping of breathing and then by cardiac arrest. The advantages of using a barbiturate are the speed of action and the very minimal discomfort to the animal (the only pain being associated with the needle puncture). To inject the euthanasia solution, a vein is first prepared by painlessly clipping away the hair. A needle may be inserted directly into the vein and the euthanasia solution slowly injected, or a catheter (a small plastic tube) may be inserted in the vein and the injection given through it.

Most animals die quickly, within ten seconds. Their eyes remain open and some animals urinate and defecate following death. Some animals gasp after they have died and may even twitch. These normal, mechanical responses can be very disconcerting to pet owners who stay with their pets during euthanasia if the owners are not prepared in advance.

The decision for euthanasia is a difficult one, but the actual process is painless and very quick, granting our beloved pets a peaceful ending to their lives. Pet owners should feel free to discuss all questions concerning the euthanasia process with their veterinarians, so that they may be as comfortable as possible with their decisions.

*This article is courtesy of the Pet Loss Support Group of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society.*

## **Hypothyroidism in Dogs**

*Ron Hines DVM PhD*

### **What Is Hypothyroidism?**

A sluggish thyroid gland or hypothyroidism is the most common hormone deficiency in dogs. Pets that get this problem, usually start showing signs when they are 4 - 6 years old. Male and female dogs are equally affected but I have noticed that I see it more in neutered pets. This could be because these days, more people own neutered dogs than un-neutered dogs. The thyroid gland consists of two small lobes located near the base of your pet's neck. This gland produces thyroxine, a hormone that regulates the body's metabolic rate - that is the rate at which it burns calories. Think of it like gasoline supply to your car engine. When you press down on the accelerator, the car goes faster. When the thyroid gland releases

more thyroxine, the body works faster.

### **What Happens If My Pet's Thyroid Gland Doesn't Produce Enough Thyroxine?**

It is common for pets with hypothyroidism to gain weight while only eating moderately. These dogs have been described as “easy keepers” because they gain weight so easily.

That does not mean that most overweight dogs have thyroid disease – they are just eating too much, eating too rich a diet and get too little exercise. Many owners are oblivious to weight gain in their pets. But when an animal's backs become flattened instead of curved and they huff and puff with every exertion some owners bring them in for a check up.

When owners bring me these pets, I run thyroid tests on all of them. The most important test is the pet's Free T-4 level - the level of active thyroxine in their blood.

### **How Did My Dog Become Hypothyroid?**

Most cases of hypothyroidism are caused by the dog's own immune system attacking its own thyroid gland tissue. This condition is called autoimmune thyroiditis. This type of hypothyroidism is further broken down into two types, lymphocytic thyroiditis and idiopathic thyroid atrophy. In both cases, the gland fails to produce enough of the hormone, thyroxine. It really doesn't matter which one your pet has because the signs and treatment are the same. We know that genetics plays an important role in this disease. That is why hypothyroid dogs and close relatives of hypothyroid dogs should not be bred.

### **What Breeds Are Commonly Affected?**

I see Hypothyroidism most commonly in **Labrador** and Golden Retrievers, Dachshunds, Cocker Spaniels, Boxers Doberman Pinchers and Greyhounds - in that order of frequency. I rarely encounter this disease in terriers or other toy breeds but they do occasionally develop the problem.

### **Changes You Might See In Your Pet's Skin And Hair**

Dogs need an adequate level of thyroid hormone to maintain normal skin and hair. When hormone levels are low, hair growth very slowly - particularly over the lumbar area equally on both sides. The back of the rear legs is also commonly balding. The pet's hair coat is often scurfy, flaky and dull. The coat often lacks finer body hairs and undercoat. Your pet's tail may become as bald as a rat's tail. An important clue pointing to thyroid deficiency is that this hair loss is not itchy as it would be if the pet had fleas, allergic skin or infectious skin disease.

Hypothyroid dogs commonly have excess black pigment in the skin of their groin. This pigment results in a condition called acanthosis nigricans. Sometimes this pigment is present over much of the body and the skin becomes oily and thickened. Broken toenails and toenail infections are common in hypothyroidism. Your pet's hair coat color may change.

### **What About Reproductive Problems and Infertility?**

Yes, Female dogs with hypothyroidism often cycle erratically and fail to get pregnant, have small litters or miscarry. It also affects male fertility. Hypothyroid male dogs may have low sperm levels and decreased libido. Pseudopregnancy or false pregnancy with milk flow and abdominal distension is common in these dogs (especially dachshunds). Hypothyroidism should never be corrected for the purpose of breeding these dogs.

### **Are There Other Signs Of Hypothyroidism I Might Recognize?**

Yes, your pet might not act as bright as it once did. Hypothyroidism affects mental alertness and the ability to learn. You might also notice that your pet is more sensitive to cold and chilly weather. A slow heart rate, constipation, anemia,

muscle weakness and atrophy, nerve disturbances, edema, stunted growth, and slowed clotting of the blood can also be signs of hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroid dogs have more than their fair share of joint pain and swelling and ear and skin infections. Lazy behavior – such as increased sleeping, less play activity and easy fatigue can also indicate thyroid disease. It has also been reported that hypothyroid dogs have more “dry eye” disease (keratoconjunctivitis sicca).

### **What Test Can Be Run On My Pet To Diagnose Hypothyroidism?**

Laboratories that all vets use offer a **Thyroid Profile**. Some veterinarians include portions of this test on their yearly blood screens.

In dogs with this disease, blood entering the syringe is often creamy whitish in color due to the presence of large amounts of fats (triglycerides and cholesterol).

**The Thyroid Panel includes tests to determine the level of three forms of thyroid hormone (T-4, free T-4 and T-3). I will occasionally also run at thyroglobin auto-antibody test to determine if autoimmune thyroid disease is present.**

It is important to understand that other health problems in your pet can cause the test results to be low. So before treatment is begun, the pet's general health needs to be completely examined.

Blood levels of T-4 are normally about 1.0-4.0 micrograms/deciliter. Normal levels of T-3 are 45-150 nanograms/deciliter and normal levels of Free T-4 are 11-43 picomols/leter. I become suspicious of hypothyroidism when the numbers for T-4 hover at about one unit and T-3 and Free T-4 levels are low-normal - even if the lab reports the case as normal. Falsely low thyroid hormone levels can be due to administration of steroids (cortisone) or concurrent systemic disease. A TSH stimulation test can be run if the diagnosis

is in doubt. In borderline cases, sometimes, the best approach is to provide the pet with a small thyroid supplement for 30 days and just see if it improves. However, there are risks in this approach. If thyroxine levels become too high, other body organs can be damaged. So this approach needs frequent monitoring of your pet's blood thyroxine level.

### **What Medications Are Available To Help My Pet?**

Fortunately, thyroid hormone is available in inexpensive tablet form. I generally prescribe the T-4 form of the hormone, l-thyroxine (levothyroxine sodium). All dogs need their dose individually tailored to their needs. Signs that the initial dose may be too high are agitation, excessive thirst, and diarrhea. When these occur the dose needs to be lowered. Thirty days after beginning treatment, I assay a second blood sample for Free T-4. If levels are still not adequate the dose is increased. I then retest the dog every six months. Once a dog is placed on medication, it should be given for the rest of the pet's life. Each veterinarian will have their own opinion as to dose and treatment plan, based on what has worked best for them in the past. When the disease is diagnosed early and treated faithfully, you can expect your pet to live a long and happy life.

### **Top Ten Causes of Dog Poisonings**

Following is a ranking of the nearly 20,000 pet poisoning claims VPI (Veterinary Pet Insurance Co.) received between 2005 and 2009:

Accidental Ingestion of Medications (pet or human drugs) 5,131

Rodenticide (mouse & rat poison) 4,028

Methylxanthine Toxicity (chocolate, caffeine) 3,661

Plant Poisoning 2,808

Household Chemicals 1,669  
 Metaldehyde (snail, slug poison) 396  
 Insecticide 323  
 Heavy Metal Toxicity (lead, zinc) 288  
 Toad Poisoning 270  
 Antifreeze Poisoning 213  
 Walnut Poisoning 100  
 Alcohol Toxicity 75  
 Strychnine 28

**Homemade Dog Treat Recipe  
 Apple Cinnamon Drops**

1 large apple  
 1/4 cup honey  
 1/2 cup of water  
 1/2 teaspoon  
 cinnamon 1 cup  
 oatmeal  
 1 1/2 cups whole  
 wheat flour  
 1/8 cup whole  
 wheat flour



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 ° F (180 ° C).  
 Core, slice and mince the apple (use a food processor if you have one). In a large bowl, combine the minced apple bits, honey, water, cinnamon, and oatmeal. Gradually blend in the wheat flour, adding enough to form a stiff dough.

In a small bowl, add 1/8 cup wheat flour. Spoon the dough by rounded teaspoon onto ungreased baking sheets, spacing about 2 inches (5cm) apart. Using the bottom of a glass dipped in the wheat flour (to prevent sticking), flatten each spoonful of dough into a circle. Adjust the size of the drops based on how big a treat you like to feed your dog.

Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and flip each cookie to brown evenly on both sides. Reduce oven temperature to 325 ° F (180 °C). Return to oven and bake for an additional 30 minutes. Let cool overnight.

Makes about 3 dozen crunchy cookies, depending on how big you make them.

**A Dogs Soul**

*Every dog must have a soul,  
 somewhere deep inside  
 Where all his hurts and grievances  
 are buried with his pride.  
 Where he decides the good and bad,  
 the wrong way from the right,  
 And where his judgment carefully is  
 hidden from our sight.  
 A dog must have a secret place,  
 where every thought abides,  
 A sort of close acquaintance that he  
 trusts in and confides.  
 And when accused unjustly for  
 himself, He cannot speak,  
 Rebuked, He finds within his soul,  
 the comfort he must seek.  
 He'll love, tho'he is unloved, and he'll  
 serve tho'badly used,  
 And one kind word will wipe away  
 the times when he's abused.  
 Altho' his heart may break in two,  
 his love will still be whole,  
 Because God gave to every dog an  
 understanding Soul!*

**Unknown**



**Yum!**

**Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club  
10<sup>th</sup> Designated Specialty Show  
Wine Country Circuit  
Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY  
October 2, 2010**

Best in Puppy Sweeps Best of Opposite Puppy Sweeps	Zinfidels Cirque Du Soleil Crosslot's Prussian Blue	Gerardo & Joan Saldana Marci Sale
Best Veteran Sweeps Best of Opposite Vet. Sweeps	CH Willcare's Godiva JH CH. Lochiel's Miracle's Happen	Susan Willumsen Linda Forsyth & Cindy Hummel
Winner s Dog Reserve Winners Dog	Venetian's Copy That Visages Photo Finnish	Robert & Abigail Crosby Debi, Michael, & Brian Pierce
Winners Bitch Reserve Winners Bitch	Glenerie's Broadway Girl Danbridge Rumor Has It RN	Cynthia & Edward Noll, Jr Marilyn Meewes
Best of Winners Best of Opposite Best of Breed	Venetian's Copy That Ch Belquest Sugar Magnolia at Lobuff GCH Danbridge Henry J	Robert & Abigail Crosby Linda Berkeley & Lisa Weiss Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes
SEL	Ch Waifin's Fly Cabot to Torncat	Jill Ickowski & Margaret Miller
SEL	Ch Beechcroft Diva's Midnight Rose	Mary/Michael Wiest;F. Negron
JAM JAM	Ch Puckett's Super Charged Glenerie's Broadway Girl	Jennifer Harmon Cynthia & Edward Noll, Jr

**Thank You!!!**

Many thanks to the judges Jean-Louis Blais and  
Madeleine Charest for sharing the day with us and  
braving the mud and cold.

**Brag, Wonderful Brags!**

**Linda Witkowski:**

Stryker earned his NJP agility title at Wine Country in the mud with a first place, perfect score of 100 and 18 seconds under time.

**Jim Smith:**

Our boy Cooper had a pretty big Wine Country weekend. He won the Open Black Dog class three of the four days, including the Specialty on Saturday, and went Best of Winners for his first major on Friday.

**Sweetbriar's Cool Dark Knight WC**



**Litter Announcement:**

**Carol Pyne, Campbell Yard Labrador Retrievers:**

Born Sept 12, 2010

Two black boys and two chocolate girls

Dam: Campbell Yard's Unexpected Pleasure (Pica)

OFA/excellent hips, elbows clear, eyes CERF'd annually

Sire: Can Ch. Venetian's Copy That (Copy)

OFA/excellent hips, elbows clear, eyes CERF'd annually

Optigen normal, EIC normal, Heart Doppler clear

Copy was awarded Winner's Dog at our Specialty this year!

**ILRC General Meeting Minutes October 02, 2010**

Specialty Attendance: **Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Erin Bogulski, Barb Corbelli, Pete Corbelli, Dr. Sandy Corrie-Styn, Fil Craver, Gina Craver, Ann Dunham, Kim Falker, Terri Fink, Jennifer Harmon, Leslie Kayser, Mary Kobis, Kim Mach, Larry Nehring, Pauline Nehring, Cynthia Page, Carol Pyne, Gail Rathbun, Mike Rathbun, Ellen Shearer, Jim Smith, Brenda Stidfole, Becky Underwood, Linda Witkowski, Jeff Worsfold, Lynne Worsfold, Linda WyattdeGroot**

**Guests: Lee Anne Kiefer**

The meeting was called to order at 6.05 by **Carol Pyne**.

President report: by **Carol Pyne**

Welcome and thanks to all the members for their delicious food donations, fantastic raffle items, and volunteering to help make this Specialty a huge success.

A special thanks to our Specialty Chair **Gina Craver**, our raffle chair **Jen Harmon**, our food chair **Ann Dunham**, our trophy chair **Pauline Nehring**, and **Cynthia Page** for her generator

Secretary report: by **Leslie Kayser**

changes in e-mail please let Leslie know ASAP

AKC mailings:

1. January 29 and 30 Seminar for Judges, future Judges and Exhibitors in Westfield, Mass

Membership report: by **Carol Pyne**

2nd read for **Mary Bagley**; passed unanimously by voice vote

Treasurer report: by **Becky Underwood**

the treasures report with income and expenses was shared and the current balance as of September 25 is available at meetings for anyone to see.

**Old Business:**

Sunshine will send **Linda Quinn** flowers following her surgery

**New Business:**

The next club meeting location will be announced after the October 17 BOD meeting; it was suggested after a discussion that we check into having the meeting at the Rochester Gander Mountain meeting room.

**Carol Pyne** introduced the 2011 slate:

**President Carol Pyne**

**Vice President Fil Craver**

**Treasurer Becky Underwood**

**Secretary Leslie Kayser**

**Directors: Kim Falker, Mary Kobis, Terry Miller, Cynthia Page, Ellen Shearer**

**Carol Pyne** asked for nominations from the floor: as there were none **Mike Rathbun** made a motion to accept the slate which was seconded by **Brenda Stidfole**; the motion passed unanimously by voice vote

**Leslie Kayser** will notify all members of the slate by October 15 and the election will be held at the November meeting

Awards: **Carol Pyne**

twenty-four bars and numerous plaques for 2009 and 2010 were presented at the Awards Ceremony; among them OM1, OM2, OTCH, JH, SH, American Championship, Canadian Championship, Best in Specialty Show, CGC, and our Over Achiever's Award (RN, CD, RA, CGC, TDI, WC, CDX, RE, JH, NA, NAJ, NAC).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 following a motion by **Kim Falker** and seconded by **Becky Underwood**: it was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by **Leslie Kayser**, secretary.

## 2010 ILRC Meeting Calendar

January 9

Carol Pyne's home. A speaker to present a program. Directions will be sent to all.

March

Date and details to be sent to everyone

Mary Kobis's house after Syracuse show

May 2

Becky Underwood's home. Outdoor activities for all Labs and their people. Details will be sent via e-mail.

July 10 Pauline Nehring's home. Awards picnic & outdoor activities. See previous page for details.

September 4 or 5 Specialty tent; slate of officers to be announced

### **November 14**

Mary Ellen Bittlinger's house

10217 Harlow Rd.

Darien Center

### **Board Meeting 10:00**

**General meeting 11:00** followed by lunch and fun in the fields with our dogs!

Please bring a dish to pass and possibly a lawn chair.

## **PAW PRINTS**

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www.ilrc2.org*

*Phyllis Beemer, Editor*