

Rocky Mountain Wrinkle

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A publication of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club

President's Corner:

Summer is drawing to a close, and with it the show circuit is winding down. I wish everyone going to Nationals this year, good luck, and hope that we have some good wins to report when you get back.

Our spring show is mostly set now, we just have to get the obedience judge. This year we will be offering obedience, or we will risk losing our obedience approval from AKC. Many people in the past worked hard to get this approval, and we sure don't want to have to have to get recertified for obedience. If you have a dog that you think might could compete in obedience, get it ready for the show in April.

We now have our yahoo group set up, and working perfectly. If you are a club member, and have not received an invitation to join the group, let me know, so I can include you.

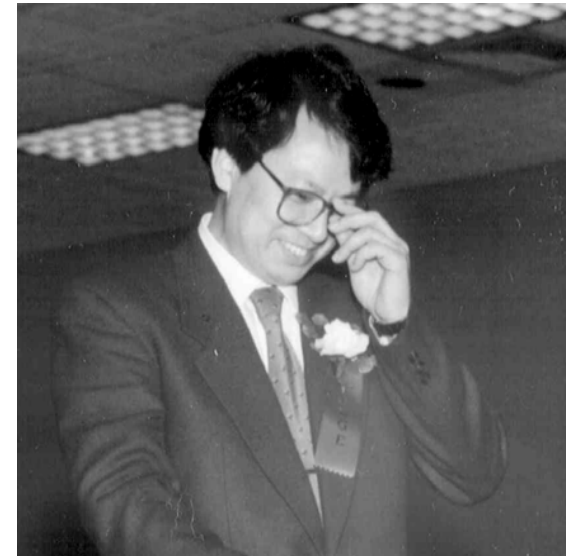
We had a breed booth at the Evergreen Kennel Club this August. And a big thank you to Jeanne Hill-Jurik for setting up the booth, and manning it by herself. We need more members to participate in our booths. All that is needed is to show up, and to be able to answer questions about our breed, and hand out the information.

At this writing, we have 4 membership applications waiting to be voted on at the next meeting. It is really great to see our club grow again.

Just as a reminder, there will be a white elephant gift exchange at our Christmas party in January. Anyone that wants to, can participate.

Be on the lookout in your house for something that might make a good "white elephant" gift. Anyone that missed out of this last year, really missed some good clean fun. I believe that we chose Jan. 8 this year for the party, so mark your calendars. There will be more information at the next meeting.

There are lots of new puppies in the area. That is so exciting. Susan Moran has a new puppy, Bob and Kay Rosenberger have a new puppy, I hear that Joan Franson has a new puppy, and I think Jeanne Hill-Jurik has a new one on the way. It is wonderful to have all these nice new puppies in our area. Alice Fix



Matgo Law- 1992 Detroit, Michigan

THOUGHTS FROM MATGO LAW

By Alice Fix

(For those of you that may not know who Matgo Law is, he is given credit for saving the Chinese Shar-Pei from extinction. When there were very few Shar-Pei left in China, he called on the people in the United States to help save the breed. He imported dogs to the people that responded to his request. Almost all Shar-Pei in the U.S. today are descendents from those original imports.)

I was recently copying a video tape for another club's Breed Booth. This particular tape was made in March of 1992 at the Detroit Specialty. The Detroit club had hired Matgo Law to come judge their show, and afterwards, Mr. Law gave a speech at a banquet.. There

were several things in particular that he commented on, and I would like to pass those along. I think his comments are as applicable today as they were 12 years ago.

He was happy with the general quality of the dogs here in the United States. He said that we Americans had done a much better job of improving the breed than any other country. However there were some things that concerned him, and that he would like to see some improvement on.

First of all, was the coat. He said the coat should be as short as possible. He thought that the brush coats were fine, but he was seeing too long of a coat on the brush coats. And a Shar-Pei is not supposed to have any undercoat. Many of the brush coats do have undercoat. The undercoat is the fluffy stuff that comes out when your dog is blowing coat. It is the stuff that piles up at your feet when you are brushing the loose stuff out.

His second comment on the coat was the hair of the coat is supposed to stand up. And here in America the coat is laying down. He said that the coat is supposed to be standing straight up from the skin, and not lay flat to the skin.

He also made a comment on pigment. Some lines of dogs start losing their pigment as they get older. You will start to see pink spots inside their mouths as they age, particularly on their gums, roof, and sides of their mouth. You might also begin to see some pigment loss on their tongues. What was once a solid black tongue, may now have some pink spots on it. Through all of his studying of the Shar-Pei, he has found that you can improve this problem by breeding those lines of dogs to a true sable. True sables, in his opinion, carry better pigment. But it must be a true sable. His definition of a true sable is a dog that by the age of 10 months old, is a fawn colored dog, that has black tips

on all of the fawn colored hair. If the black tips are not uniformly all over the dog, then it is not a true sable.

Dilutes carry particular health problems. And he thought that you could lessen these problems by breeding at dilute to a non-dilute. If

you breed dilute to dilute to guarantee a dilute litter, then you are enhancing the health problems, and making them an even bigger concern. It was his opinion, that dilute to dilute breedings would be detrimental to the breed.

It is now 12 years later. You be the judge as to whether we have made these improvements to the breed or not.



Fanny's Story

(Told in Fanny's own words and translated by Alice Fix)

It was a nice cool summer day, but something weird was going on. My Mom and Dad were busy as bees, running around all over the apartment with boxes and papers. Something must be up, because I have never seen them doing this stuff before. It looked like they were packing everything up for some reason.

They were so busy that they didn't have time for me. They loaded all the stuff up and took it outside. They were gone for a really long

time. I was getting a little worried, because I needed to go outside, and there was no one there to let me out. I kept thinking that surely they would be back soon. I waited and waited. At least they left me so food and water. I waited all night, but they never came back. I waited some more. In fact, I waited the whole next day. Something was surely wrong. Something must have happened to my owners, but what could I do about it. I am getting really scared now. I have never been left this long alone all by myself.

The next day, the man that owned our apartment came it, and he seemed to be mad that I was there. He was shouting and hollering. I heard him make a phone call to some place called the shelter. Maybe that is where my owners live, and they are coming to come back and get me. Several hours later, some strange people came in and told me that I had to go with them. I really, really didn't want to go, because my owners might not be able to find me. Oh, I have it, they are going to take me to my owners! So off I went with them.

Something is really wrong here. Those people took me to a place that is filled with dog runs, and lots and lots of dogs barking all the time. What in the world has happened to me, and where are my owners? I can't live here. There is way too much noise here, and there is no one to come play with me. What is the world is going on?

Finally a nice lady comes and gets me out of the run. I don't know who this lady is, but she has good treats, and she is willing to play with me. She says that she is going to find me a new home. But what about my old home? I am sure that my owners must be looking all over for me. I am really, really scared now. So off I go with this new lady. She took me to a new place that wasn't so noisy, but I am still scared to death because I don't know what is going on.

A lady named Jeanne comes, and says she loves me. She is going to take me to her house to live. I am not sure about this, at all! We stop by a store on the way home, and she is buying me a bed and all kinds of things. She really seems to think that I am supposed to be her dog. *But I have some owners.* What can I do about all this? On the way back to the car, I see my chance. While she is loading the new stuff

in the car, I make a break for it. I will have to go find my owners all on my own.

I ran and ran, but I couldn't find my owners. Some mean dogs attacked me, but I still kept running trying to find my owners. I was so darn tired and hungry. I have been looking for over a week, and I just can't go anymore. When some people tried to catch me, I finally gave in. I was just too weak to go on any more. I was taken back to one of those loud noisy shelters, and a lady Louise came to get me. I have no idea who she is, but I am scared to death about what is going to happen to me. I wonder why my owners would let all this happen to me.

Louise took me back to that lady named Jeanne's house, and said this is where I am going to live. I don't like it much because I have owners, if someone would just help me find them. Jeanne has a nice bed for me. I have never had a bed before. And you know what, she has some really good food too. Oh my, we have a big yard here, that is all fenced in, and I can go out there and play all I want to! How cool is that. Jeanne takes me on a walk every morning and evening. You know, Jeanne is pretty nice. I am not sure what happened here, but I like my new home now. And it is getting clear to me that she loves me more than my other owners. I really am not sure how all this came about, but I am beginning to see that it is a good thing! I hope that I get to live here forever!!!!

Denver Voted Pet Healthiest City in United States Purina Pet Institute Announces First-Ever Report of Pet Healthiest Cities



ST. LOUIS, Aug. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Senior citizens might choose Phoenix. Politicians might choose Washington, D.C. But where would your dog or cat live if he had the choice? According to the nation's leading pet experts, he might be a mile high. The Purina Pet Institute's Healthy Pets 21 Consortium, a think tank of leaders in the pet health and welfare community, today announced the first-ever list of the Pet Healthiest Cities in the U.S. These cities exemplify superior care, services and legislation for pets' health and well-being.

According to the Consortium, the top five Pet Healthiest Cities are:

- 1) Denver, CO
- 2) Minneapolis, MN
- 3) Columbus, OH
- 4) Philadelphia, PA
- 5) Seattle, WA

To determine the Pet Healthiest Cities, the Healthy Pets 21 Consortium developed an extensive list of 23 objective criteria in the areas of canine/feline health, legislation and services. Criteria was then weighted according to its importance in furthering pet health. The report was conducted in conjunction with demographic consultant Bert Sperling, who collects and analyzes the data for Money magazine's annual "Best Places to Live" feature. The Consortium worked with Sperling to collect, analyze and rank the data.

"This is the first comprehensive, qualitative and quantitative evaluation of factors that impact pet health," says Aine McCarthy, DVM, executive director of the Purina Pet Institute.

Pet Healthiest Cities criteria included:

- Health: Veterinarian-to-pet ratios, presence of affiliated staff at accredited veterinary hospitals, number of veterinary surgeons, access to emergency veterinary care, and environmental factors such as watershed and air quality.
- Services: Number of certified shelters, average annual pet-related expenditures, top-rated dog shows, and number of people working with their pets to help others through animal-assistance programs.
- Legislation: Presence of appropriate rabies vaccination requirements, presence of pet identification requirements, licensing fee reductions for spayed/neutered pets and presence of cruelty investigation programs.

"Through the Consortium members' knowledge and breadth of expertise, we identified a multitude of factors that contribute to pet health -- some obvious and some not so obvious," says Dr. McCarthy. "For instance, watershed quality may seem like a small point. But drinking water is the main source of hydration your pet receives, so if that quality is poor, it can affect a pet's health."

Mile High City - High on List

Denver rose to the top as the Pet Healthiest City because of its veterinarian-

to-pet ratio, with one veterinarian for every 1,200 pets, as well as its 47 American Animal Hospital Association accredited hospitals with 119 AAHA affiliated veterinary professionals -- more affiliated professionals than any other city in the report. The ranking for Denver is also boosted by its access to veterinary specialists and emergency clinics. Additionally, Denver boasts the lowest flea population of any city in the report and the watershed quality rates high.

"There are more than 141 million dogs and cats in the U.S. -- that's almost half the human population in the nation," says Dr. McCarthy. "We want to honor cities, such as Denver, that champion health and well-being for these animals as well as inspire individuals and city officials to work together to create better communities for their pets."

Pet enthusiasts can log on to <http://www.purina.com/institute> to find out more about the Pet Healthiest Cities.

The Consortium's charter members are the AKC Canine Health Foundation, American Animal Hospital Association, CENSHARE (Center to Study Human-Animal Relationships and Environments), Delta Society, Society of Animal Welfare Administrators, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and Ralston Purina.

Reprinted from Goodnewsforpets.com

CSPCA National Specialty

October 12-16, 2004

Decatur, Illinois



Good luck to all our club members that have entered dogs in the show. We hope that you come home with some ribbons and some brags! The Centennial Club will be participating in the Affiliated Clubs Display at Nationals. So be sure that you stop by and see our club's exhibit some time during the week. Drive safely!

Danger - Poisonous Mushrooms



Poisonous Mushrooms

Many pet owners don't realize that some of the mushrooms that grow in their yard are toxic to their dogs and can even be fatal. Dogs who

like to "graze" will sometimes eat wild mushrooms along with lawn grasses, leading to mushroom poisoning. Dogs can sometimes become ill by just licking a poisonous mushroom. Some dogs, like some people, are allergic to even edible, normally safe mushrooms. Symptoms of mushroom poisoning can range from mild vomiting and diarrhea to severe digestive problems to complete liver failure.

If your dog has eaten poisonous mushrooms ----

- If you see your dog starting to eating poisonous mushrooms, remove any pieces from it's mouth.... Induce vomiting with 1 tablespoon of hydrogen peroxide, then call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (A \$45 consultation fee may be applied to a credit card.) The treatment can possibly be completely handled at home.
- If you think that your dog has eaten poisonous mushrooms and there is short delay in realizing what has happened, save specimens for identification. Call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately.
- If symptoms have already begun, call your veterinarian or take your dog to a nearby emergency veterinary hospital immediately.

Protect Your Pets.

Always watch for mushrooms in areas where you walk your dogs or where they run and play. Be especially cautious of parasol-shaped mushrooms and all small brown mushrooms. Check your yard each morning, especially in damp weather, for new growth before letting your dog outside. Remember that new mushrooms can appear overnight. Whenever you find mushrooms in your yard, dig them up. Smashing or kicking them spreads the spores and even more will grow.

It can be very difficult to tell the difference between poisonous and edible mushrooms, and even harder to describe them over the telephone.

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art9739.asp>



NEW!!! VACCINATION PROTOCOL by Dr. Jean Dodd

All of the 27 Vet Universities in the US have followed the immunization protocol as suggested by Dr. Dodd for years. All of these Hospitals will be changing their Vaccination Programs apparently. This is welcome news and you should print this out and take it with you to your Vet should you need reinforcement against over-vaccination.

VACCINATION NEWSFLASH

J DODDS
VACCINE PROTOCOL

I would like to make you aware that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats. Some of this information will present an ethical & economic challenge to Vets, and there will be skeptics. Some organizations have come up with a political compromise suggesting vaccinations every 3 years to appease those who fear loss of income vs. those concerned about potential side effects. Politics, traditions, or the doctors economic well-being should not be a factor in a medical decision.

NEW PRINCIPLES OF IMMUNOLOGY
Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a

modified live virus vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces immunity, which is good for the life of the pet (i.e.: canine distemper, parvo, feline distemper). If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect. The titer is not "boosted" nor are more memory cells induced. Not only are annual boosters for parvo and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated haemolytic anemia. There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines. Puppies receive antibodies through their mothers milk. This natural protection can last 8 - 14 weeks.

Puppies & kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 8 weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced. Vaccination at 6 weeks will, however, DELAY the timing of the first highly effective vaccine. Vaccinations given 2 weeks apart SUPPRESS rather than stimulate the immune system. A series of vaccinations is given starting at 8 weeks and given 3-4 weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4 mo) will provide LIFETIME IMMUNITY.

W. Jean Dodds, DVM
938 Stanford Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-828-4804; Fax 310-828-8251

Editor's Note: There is some research indicating that you should not get a puppy's rabies vaccination until the puppy is at least 6 months old, and to never give a rabies vaccination at the same time that you are giving other vaccinations. Rabies should be given 3-4 weeks away from any other shot. There is also some research that would indicate that giving dogs in the neck may not be the best place to be giving the shot. It has been suggested that giving the shots in the back legs may be a better choice. Please do your own research on these ideas, and speak to your vet about this information. There is a lot of information on the internet to indicate that we are over vaccinating our dogs to their detriment. If you would like to read more of Dr. Dodd's research, go to:

<http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/ImmuneSystem.htm>

We would like to say a big Thank you to **Ken and Debby Clark!** They are donating 5% of the profits from the sales of the dog beds that they sale at their booth at designated Dog Shows. Be sure to stop by the booth at local shows, and see what they have.

Homemade Bug Repellant

It is a spray that is made out of essence oils.

Here is the list of what is in it. Ingredients are full strength oils:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Tea Tree Oil | Pine Needle Oil |
| Rosemary Oil | Citronella Oil |
| Sage Oil | Eucalyptus Oil |
| Cedarwood Oil | Sweet Orange Oil |
| Peppermint Oil | |

Shampoo:

Mix 4-6 drops each with 32 oz of any natural shampoo and you have a natural flea shampoo.

Repellant:

Mix 2-3 drops each with 16 oz of water in spray bottle - shake before each use and spray lightly over entire body.

Repels fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, flies and makes the van smell great. Can spray on blankets, beds, too. Just know that some dogs have problems with Eucalyptus Oil.

You can find these at Vitamin Shops or other stores like it. Some of them are expensive, but better they are not toxic to the animals.

Fido's Freezin': Winterizing Pets is Critical, Says Vet COLLEGE STATION -- You've winterized your car, your lawn and your house for chilly weather. But don't forget Fido -- he can get doggone cold. With just a little effort, you can easily prepare your pet for the frosty weather ahead.

Dr. Bill Childers, a veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, recommends pets have a routine check-up before cold weather sets in. "Your veterinarian will be able

to tell you if your pet has arthritis, respiratory problems or other conditions that are worsened by winter weather," says Childers.

"He or she can make sure your pet is appropriately vaccinated and make recommendations specific to your type and breed of pet for a healthy winter season."

For some pets, cold weather may be a welcome change of scenery. Dogs such as the Siberian Husky have thick coats of long fur that make them well suited for cold temperatures.

But small, shorthaired dogs may not be so tolerant. To keep a happy and healthy pet, find out ahead of time how well your animal will withstand cold weather, Childers notes. Even winter-loving pets may need some extra attention during the winter months.

"Dogs and cats that are used to spending their days and nights outdoors may be more adapted to weather changes, but it is always a good idea to make sure they have a place that will shield them from icy winds, rain and snow," adds Childers.

Doghouses should be placed in an area away from the north side of your home where winter winds are fiercest. Locating them in direct sunlight will help keep temperatures more comfortable, even on the coldest Texas winter days.

Childers also suggests insulating your dog's house. "Most doghouses have a false floor designed to keep the doghouse off of the ground where moisture can get in," Childers notes.

"Placing a thick sheet of styrofoam underneath this false floor will insulate it from the cold ground. It is also wise to provide soft, warm bedding material inside the doghouse, but be sure to clean it or replace it frequently."

Just because your furry friend wears a coat year round doesn't mean his feet are unaffected by the cold. Your dog's feet can easily become chapped, cut or even frostbitten during winter due to ice, snow and salt used for thawing sidewalks and streets.

Childers suggests providing boots specifically made for dogs to guard against extreme cold. At the very least, your dog's feet should be washed or wiped with a damp cloth to free his pads of any salt crystals or ice that may be embedded in his foot pads. This will also give you a chance to inspect his feet for cracks, cuts or chapping.

When it comes to deciding how cold is too cold for your pets, common sense prevails.

"Your pet will let you know when it is too cold for comfort. Some

clues may be uncontrolled shivering, coughing and/or runny nose or behavior that indicates he would rather be inside with you than outside in the cold," says Childers.

If this is the case, Childers recommends making a spot for your pet indoors and providing a heating pad or hot water bottle. Be careful to wrap hot water bottles or to use heating pads especially made for pets so your pet is not accidentally burned.

Winter's other dangers are the ones you can't see. When temperatures drop too low even for the fur-clad, they go in search of warm, but not always safe, places to sleep. Cats and dogs that curl up in the warm engine of a car or near a gas dryer or water heater may meet an untimely death. Banging on the hood of your vehicle or honking the horn before starting the engine will scare away any uninvited guests.

A pet door, which allows cats and dogs to decide for themselves how long to stay in or out, can provide added safety. While traditional pet doors still do the job, you may want to opt for a newer model that comes with a pet collar designed to electronically unlock the door for only the pet that wears it. These hi-tech doors not only keep out unwanted animals, but they usually provide better insulation from the cold than older models.

When coughing, sinus problems, damaged feet, or other symptoms occur in your pet, a trip to the veterinarian may be necessary. By treating symptoms early, you can help protect your pet's health throughout the winter season, Childers adds.

Contact: Diane Oswald at (979) 845-9102. Aggie Daily - Office of University Relations - Texas A&M University

Dr. Vidt's Corner:

From Dr. Jeff Vidt's August 2003 Newsletter

West Nile Virus

There's a lot of talk this summer about West Nile Virus in dogs. Fortunately dogs seem to be pretty resistant to the virus. There was 1 confirmed dog case in Illinois last summer in which the dog died of neurologic signs. Heartworm disease is still the number one mosquito borne disease of dogs in our area. I've also been asked about mosquito control. Bayer has come out with a new product called K9 Advantix™ (you may have seen the commercials on TV). It kills and controls fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. It is a spot-on product applied to the skin

on a monthly basis. This product is for dogs only **NOT CATS**. I've also recommended Avon's Skin-So-Soft™ in a 1:20 dilution sprayed on the dog or cat as needed. Another product we have and I've used is Pet-Guard™ insecticide gel which can be used on dogs, cats and horses. It repels flies, mosquitoes and gnats. It is applied on the coat. Kiltix™ is a Bayer spot-on product which was introduced last year for tick control but also repels mosquitoes. Since there are excellent veterinary products for mosquito control I don't recommend the use of human mosquito control products on dogs and certainly not on cats. Cats are very sensitive to insecticides and I would not use them on cats unless the label specifically states that it can be used on cats.

Common sense is also useful in mosquito control. Avoid leaving pets outside during times of high mosquito activity which usually coincides with the cooler times of the day — in the evening and early morning hours. I would not leave animals outside overnight without some sort of mosquito repellent on them.

I'm often asked if dogs can get West Nile Virus from ingesting carcasses of bird or other animals that may have died from West Nile. It appears that the tissues of dead animals are not a source of the virus — the mosquito is a necessary vector from transmission.

Certainly humans need to follow the recommendations of health officials regarding the prevention of human exposure. *You can visit Dr. Vidt's website at: www.drjwv.com*

The Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club would like to thank Troy Cashman and Mantayo Kennels for helping us house our rescue dogs until we can find them a home. Rescue would be much harder without their help.

Mantayo Kennels
1220 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Lakewood, CO
303-985-4011

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Alert Veterinary

Products Sweetened With Xylitol Can Be Toxic to Dogs
(NEW YORK, NY) July 29, 2004 -- The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center cautions animal owners that **xylitol**, a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gums, candies and other products can potentially cause serious and even life-threatening problems for pets.

According to Dr. Eric Dunayer, Consulting Veterinarian in Clinical Toxicology for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, dogs ingesting significant amounts of gum or candies solely or largely sweetened with xylitol may develop a fairly sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. "These signs can develop quite rapidly, at times less than 30 minutes after ingestion of the product. Therefore, it is important that pet owners seek veterinary treatment immediately." Dr. Dunayer also stated that some data appears to point to a possible link between xylitol ingestions and the development of liver failure in dogs. However, he cautions "as there is not yet enough solid information pertaining to the relationship between xylitol and liver failure, it would not be appropriate at this point to draw any firm conclusions."

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center advises pet owners avoid offering their animals food meant for human consumption, and to be especially diligent in keeping candy, gum or other foods containing xylitol out of the reach of pets. "Typically the main concerns are with products that contain xylitol as one of the first ingredients," advises Dr. Dunayer. As with any potentially toxic substance, should accidental exposures occur, it is important to contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for Immediate assistance. <http://www.asPCA.org>

DEMYSTIFYING MYTHS ABOUT PROTEIN

by Dottie LaFlamme, Ph.D.

Examining the protein needs of the older dog

Despite scientific advances that have increased the nutritional knowledge about the importance of protein in a dog's diet, there still

are myths that feeding too much protein or the wrong kind of protein can be harmful.

Among breeders' key concerns about protein are: Does too much protein cause kidney failure in older dogs? Is it true that feeding large-breed puppies too much protein causes developmental bone problems? Can soy protein cause bloat, a potentially fatal illness, when fed to dogs?

The answers to these questions are no. In fact, research shows there is more reason to be concerned about feeding healthy dogs an inadequate amount of dietary protein.

Here, we present facts about protein to help you determine the best amount to include in your dog's diet for a healthy and long life.

The Geriatric Dog Nutritional research has shown that healthy older dogs need more protein than young adult dogs - as much as 50 percent more. The additional protein is required to maintain a geriatric dog's protein reserves and support protein turnover, which are important in helping the dog's immune system function at its full capacity. Dogs that do not receive adequate protein are more susceptible to stress, such as injury or infection.

Dottie Laflamme, D.V.M., Ph.D., a Ralston Research Fellow, says, "It is important to provide older dogs with enough protein to help them fight the stress of aging, including injury and infection. Dogs fed inadequate amounts of protein may appear healthy, but may be less able to resist infection or fight off other diseases."

Despite this research, there has been a longstanding concern that excessive protein in diets for older dogs may cause kidney damage. The link is traced to clinical signs in dogs with kidney failure that relate to a buildup of byproducts from protein metabolism. However, research conducted during the past decade has shown that protein does not harm the kidneys. Research first supporting the link between excessive protein and kidney disease was conducted in the 1920s, showing that male rodents exhibited progressive renal disease when fed a high-protein diet. Another study on rodents, conducted in 1982

by B.M. Brenner, also showed that excess dietary protein caused kidney damage. Though these studies were correct in rats, the results unfortunately were extrapolated to other species.

In contrast, research over the past 10 years or so has shown that protein does not harm the kidney of dogs. In studies conducted at the University of Georgia in the early 1990s, both in dogs with chronic kidney failure and in older dogs with only one kidney, protein levels as high as 34 percent caused no ill effects.

Delmar R. Finco, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia, says, "Our work was directed at learning whether a high-protein diet damages the kidney. After four years' studying geriatric dogs and two years' studying dogs with chronic renal failure, we found no indication that a high-protein diet was injurious to the kidney. However, the data did raise the question whether low-protein diets in geriatric dogs could be considered injurious.

In other studies, David S. Kronfeld, Ph.D., indicated that compared with high- or low-protein diets, moderate-protein diets, those with up to 34 percent protein, had no ill effects in dogs with chronic renal failure and were associated with general improvement. The report confirmed that unless a dog has clinical evidence of kidney disease or other problems for which protein restriction may be beneficial, there is no reason to recommend a change to a low-protein diet.

Research on dogs at other universities and at the Purina Pet Care Center has generated similar results. Julie Churchill, D.V.M., assistant clinical specialist in companion animal nutrition at the University of Minnesota, was an investigator in studies to learn whether altering the amounts of dietary protein and fat could protect the kidney in aging dogs.

"We found there is no benefit in restricting protein in geriatric dogs," Churchill says. "We observed no changes in morbidity or mortality. So, the question is, 'Why restrict protein if there is no benefit?'"

Similarly, preliminary findings from the Purina Pet Care Center indicate that healthy geriatric dogs fed 45 percent dietary protein have

maintained health and body condition, with no evidence of increased kidney damage due to protein intake. The evidence supports other recent research that protein at any level consistent with complete and balanced nutrition has no adverse effect on the kidneys of normal, healthy dogs.

It is known that, as dogs age, they become less efficient in metabolizing protein than young dogs so that older dogs require more protein than young adult dogs to fully replenish their protein reserves and maintain protein turnover. The specific amount of protein needed, as a percent of diet, depends on several factors.

"Geriatric dogs should be treated individually," Churchill says. "I think it's important to conduct a good health examination and blood biochemical profile by the time a dog is 7 years old in order to evaluate organ functioning and determine the best diet for that individual dog."

Similar to how the nutritional needs of dogs change with their age and lifestyle, their energy requirements tend to decrease with age. However, not all geriatric animals are less active or overweight. In fact, a greater proportion of older dogs are underweight than any other age group.

Many inactive older dogs need fewer calories, so it is important that they consume less food or a lower calorie food than they ate when they were younger. For this reason, many foods for older dogs are formulated to contain fewer calories, but it is important that they receive adequate intake of protein and other nutrients while reducing calorie intake.

The quality of the protein in dog food also is important. It must contain the right balance of amino acids and be digestible. This usually is accomplished by using two or more complementary proteins to achieve an optimum balance. For example, soybean meal and corn protein complement each other because the amino acids that are deficient in one are present in the other. Protein digestibility is achieved by the selection of ingredients and the processing. Processing that becomes too hot can destroy the amino acid content and lessens

digestibility.

Article Deadline Notice

The deadline for articles to be included in the January newsletter, is December 1, 2004. If you have any articles to include, please pass them along. If you have any suggestions for articles that you would like to see included in the newsletter, that would be of particular interest to you, please let us know.

We would like to congratulate Mike Barker on winning his election as a director at large of the CSPCA. Mike was one of the founding members of this club, and we wish him well in his new position.

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Speaking of founders of our club, did you know that the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club, Inc. was formed in 1984? This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club. Hopefully soon we will have an article about the early begin of our club.



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Reminders for the Holidays
Please watch out for these things with your pets



Holiday Paraphernalia - Electric cords, tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, spray on-snow (some are non-toxic-read the label), ribbons, plastic or foil wrapping, etc. can be dangerous to your pet. Cover up or hide electric cords, never let your pet chew on them. Do not tie ribbons around pet's necks or limbs. Watch out for rubber bands too.

Poisonous Plants - Although dogs and cats have a good sense what they can and cannot ingest, accidents do happen. Many plants, including Christmas rose, holly, mistletoe, philodendron, dieffenbachia (see [poisonous plant](#) list) are toxic to your pet. Always try to keep them out of your pets reach. The smaller the pet, the more risk of toxicity if she ingests a poisonous plant. Some signs of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, nervousness, difficulty

breathing, and change in pupil size. Your pet may even stumble, go into convulsions, or become unconscious.

Holiday Foods - Alcoholic beverages, candy, chocolate, turkey and fixings, pork, fish, chicken bones, just to name a few hazards. Be careful when giving bones. They can splinter when chewed and eventually puncture the intestinal tract. Bones purchased in grocery and pet stores are a safe substitute. **Never give your pet chocolate.** It is highly toxic to animals -- causing stomach cramps, constipation or diarrhea. It's best to keep your pet on its regular diet

Officers and Directors on The Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club

President- Alice Fix

Vice President- Jeanne Hill Jurik
Secretary- Kay Rosenberger
Treasurer- Louise Watson
Board of Directors-
Kristin Reynolds
Bob Rosenberger

Committees:

Breeder Referral: Kristin Reynolds
Public Education: Jeanne Hill-Jurik
Rescue: Louise Watson
Show Chairman: Kay Rosenberger
Show Secretary: Jeanne Hill-Jurik

A note from the Editors:

We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute an article to this newsletter.

The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle is a club publication, and as such requires the participation of club members through out the year. Your participation will help to make this publication meaningful and worthwhile for the membership of the club. All contributions and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Please forward your input for inclusion to the Publisher at the address listed below.

The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle

Alice Fix
1668 S. Kingston St.
Aurora, CO 80012
Alleydoll3@aol.com

Publisher: Alice E. Fix
Editors: Kristin Reynolds
Jeanne Hill-Jurik