

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WRINKLE

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President's Corner:

We have all done a great job in bringing new life into this club. And that is something that we should all be very proud of. But in my opinion, that is nothing compared to our opportunity to participate in the research project that is being undertaken at CSU. It is so vitality important to our breed!

I would like to thank everyone in advance for participating, if you are eligible to participate. It takes all of our dogs to try to find the test that they are looking to develop. If this project is successful, it could go a long way in improving the health of our breed. You can read more about the research project further in the newsletter.

I have sent out a copy of our club's newsletter to the CSPCA newsletter contest judges. This year the judges for the contest are: Bob Pardon, Peggy O'Hare, and Shirley Rafferty.

Soon we will start our Current fundraiser. This is one of the biggest fundraisers that we have each year, so be looking for that information.

Erin Codd has graciously volunteered to etch some glass trophies for the Veteran Obedience Showcase at Nationals this year. I have donated the trophies in our

club's name. We will get those safely to Nationals, because I feel that it is important to honor any of our veteran dogs, and especially the working dogs.

Alice Fix, President

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	Page 1-2
Dominance Exercises and Submission Training.....	Page 2-10
Nationals- 2005.....	Page 11
First Time at a Dog Show.....	Page 11-12
Heimlick for your Pet- Helping a Choking Dog.....	Page 13-14
Old Farmer's Advise.....	Page 14-15
Latest News on Dr. Avery's Research Project at CSU.....	Page 15-17
Irrestible Animal Babies Can be Covered In Germs.....	Page 18-20
Dr. Vidt's Corner- Odor in the Shar-Pei.....	Page 21-22
Cream of Wheat Dog Treats.....	Page 23
Common Virus 'kills cancer'.....	Page 24-25
Separation Anxiety in Dogs.....	Page 25-27

Dominance Exercises and Submission Training

By Alice Fix

I had wanted a Shar-Pei for several years, and finally got one in 1985. I thought she was just awesome. She seemed to have a nice temperament, and got along with the whole family. However when she was close to a year old, she began to dislike having to do anything that she didn't want to do. This was exhibited by biting anyone

that tried to make her do anything that she wasn't in agreement with. That just is not acceptable to me. As time when on, she only got worse.

I set out on a quest to find out what I could have done to prevent this from ever happening to another dog that I might get. My good friends, Jeff and Linda Vidt, sent me off to a Puppy Kindergarten class that had dominance exercises. My next puppy and I headed off with a lot to learn.

The basic principle is to let the dog know early on that you are the alpha, and there will never be a question about that. I will try to explain it for those that don't know. Dogs are pack animals, and there is always an alpha, or head dog. Since Shar-Pei naturally like that position, it is important that you establish yourself in that position very early. If you sit and just watch mother dogs with their puppies, this is exactly what they do. I had the best mother dog that I have ever personally seen. She could be sound asleep, and a puppy could be getting a little out of control. She could be up, and have that puppy rolled on it side, and held down with her foot, and all you would see was a black flash. She was just awesome. The puppies didn't even have to be hers. She helped to train them all. She always dropped her voice as low as it could go, and everyone knew that the low voice meant business, and the fooling around was over.

You begin by rolling your dog over on its side and make it lay flat on the floor. As you are rolling, you tell the dog "roll", so they can learn what you mean when you say that word. The head, butt, and all parts of the dog must be flat to the floor. You start out by

keeping a hand on the rear end of the dog, and the other hand by the neck. If the dog tries to get up, in a very stern voice, getting your voice as deep as possible, tell them "no". Make sure that you keep both hands on the dog so that they cannot get up. After the dog as settled down and accepted this position, you can let them up. Be sure to tell them "free" before you release them. That is your signal to them that the exercise is finished. But you must never, never let them up when they are fighting to get up. You have to let them know that you will always make the decision as to when it is time to get up.



One hand on the rear of the dog, and one hand on the neck area

While the dogs are down on their side, many of them will want to touch you with their feet or legs. But back your body away from them so they can't do that. That is their way of controlling a little bit, and you need to let them know that you are in total control.

Some dogs are hard to "roll". I have found that the best way to do this is to stand them up in front of you. You must be kneeling on the floor. Grab the legs that are on the far side of you. Be sure to go underneath the dog

with your hands on the outside of the legs to do this. Tell them “Roll”. And pull the legs toward you while you push them over with your chest. Watch your face when you do this, if you have a very aggressive puppy. Then put one hand on the dog’s neck, and the other on the dog’s rear to keep them down.

As the puppies become better trained about this, the final thing that you are training for is to take both hands off the puppy, and have him remain in that rolled position. You start by first taking the hand off the rear. If the puppy remains rolled, then you can very gently take the hand off the neck. But be ready to put either hand back on if you need to. Any movement at all, gets a “no”. And do not start taking your hands off the dog until you are certain that he has accepted the position. You might want to just “roll” them for a few days before you try to take your hands off of them. If they try to get up once you have taken your hands off, just grab them at the neck, say no and give them a scruff shake.



Take the hand off the rear first, but be prepared to put it back if the dog tried to get up. If the dog does try to get up, give them a stern no, and put your hand back on the rear end

Some dogs will readily accept this position, but many won't. If at any point the puppy tries to bite you, grab it by the scruff of the neck with a hand on either side of the neck. At the same time saying “no” very loudly. Grab them up off the floor by holding the scruff, and make sure that none of the feet can touch the floor. Hold them up there until they stop fighting. This is the hardest part. If you have never seen anyone do this, it looks as if you are hurting the dog, but I assure you that you are not. Under no circumstances, let the dog down until it surrenders, and hangs there limply. The limp posture tells you that you have won. When they are resisting this position, loudly and deeply tell them to cut it out, knock it off, or what ever else you might want to use. We call this “hanging” the dog. When you get the submission of the puppy, then quietly lower the dog to the floor, and very quietly tell it “ good job”. You do not want to go nuts praising a dog that you have to do this to. You must do it quietly.



This is where the scruff of the neck is. Grab the loose skin on either side of the neck. It doesn't hurt the dog. This is how mother dog's carry their puppies.

You must immediately “roll” the dog again. And hope that you get acceptance of this position. If the dog tries to fight this position again, you can tell him to “knock it off”, say “no”, and even give a scruff shake to the neck. But you must use a voice that has lots of authority to it, and make it as deep as possible. If he won’t submit to this position at all, then you have to “hang” him all over again.



This is the ultimate goal, to have the dog stay on its side with all hands off until you release it. This position is very useful for cleaning ears, doing nails, getting x-rays etc. Your vet will really appreciate a dog that is dominance trained.

I had a puppy once that had the idea that he was going to bite me when I tried to “roll” him. This was probably my 7th or 8th puppy that I had done this routine with, so I pretty much knew what we were both in for. I immediately “hung” the dog, and I honestly had to hold that puppy in the air by the scruff of his neck for 10 minutes. I was sure hoping that my arms didn’t give out before he did, because that would mean that I had lost that lesson. While I was “hanging” him, he pooped and pee’d because he was so mad! It was critical that I didn’t

let him down, even though he was doing all this nasty stuff. If I had let his feet even touch the floor, then he would have gotten the message, that maybe he could be the alpha, if he just geared it up some. I had a few hard lessons with him, but I never had another problem out of that dog, once he finally knew that I meant what I said. There was never again a question of temperament with that dog.

I start doing this with all of my puppies when they have their eyes open and can walk around the house. I would say around 3 weeks old. And we just pick different times of the day to “roll” them for an exercise. Of course I also use it on puppies that are getting too wild or aggressive with another dog. I tell them no, and if they don’t stop what they are doing, I get up and “roll” them. They quickly learn that when you say no, you absolutely mean it. You have to be very consistent with this to begin with, and I think you will find that Shar-Pei learn very quickly what is, and what isn’t acceptable. My whole family knows this technique, and even the kids will “roll” a puppy when they see bad behavior.

I, to this day, still roll all of my dogs. Once I am sure that the training is stuck in their heads, I would guess that you need to do this on a daily basis for a month or so, and then you can do it less frequently. The very young puppies, I do it many times a day, and any time I see bad behavior. Right now I have an 8 year old male, and I still roll him on occasion. You just never know when you are going to need that behavior, so I like to be sure that they still remember it. All of my dogs get rolled, all of their life.

Once you have this training down pat, you can use it for trimming nails, cleaning ears, ultra sounds, x-rays etc. It saves you the risk of putting them out, and they behave perfectly for the vet. I recently needed an ultra sound on an older dog. I asked the vet about how long it would take. And he said it depended upon how much the dog resisted the position. I bet him that if my dog gave him any trouble, then I would bring them lunch, and if he was perfect, then I got a free UA. The dog was so good that I actually got 2 free UA's. So it can pay off in more than one way!



This is an example of how you would “hang” an adult dog. Hanging a puppy would be a little bit different. This would only be used for very serious corrections, like biting, etc. It doesn't hurt the dog, but it does let them know that you are the boss, and what they were doing is not ever allowed.

Whether you are having trouble with a puppy or not, it is just a good exercise to do. Some, you will find, take to it very easily, and others have to be “hung” on a regular

basis for awhile. It is very important to do this with puppies, because you can't physically “hang” a grown Shar-Pei. They are just too heavy. But if for some reason you find that you do need to “hang” an adult, about the best that you can do is grab them by the scruff of the neck with both hands, and raise their front feet off the ground. And give them a very stern “no”. I would mostly use that to correct dog aggression, or if they are too aggressive with people.

I was recently at an animal shelter to check on a Shar-Pei puppy they had there. The puppy was 7 weeks old, and turned out to be a mix breed. But I asked if I could take him out of the cage anyway. The shelter lady told me no. She said not under any circumstances to open that dog's door. When I asked why, she told me that he bites people. I asked her if I could take the puppy home for two weeks, and fix that problem. I do believe that you can fix it in that short amount to time. But she wouldn't allow it. It is a shame, because you just know that at some point in his life he is going to have to be put down. What a shame.

This does take work and dedication to do, but I think the results are well worth it. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind, that if I had known this for my first Shar-Pei, we could have fixed her problem with biting when she was little, and it wouldn't have been an issue. For that reason, I never have a puppy come through my house that doesn't get this training. And I have never had another serious aggressive behavior problem with any of my dogs. The time it takes to do this training is well worth it, and the pay off is tremendous.

National Specialty 2005



Tuesday - Saturday October 11-15, 2005

Red Lion Inn At The Quay...Vancouver, Washington

Watch your Barker for more information

First Time at a Dog Show

(with acknowledgements to the South Island Whippet Club)

Submitted by Marilyn Vinson

First time at a dog show, I'll tell you quite plain

I'll never, no never, go near one again.

The Breeder said "Show him" when I bought my dog,

I showed him alright, the whole place was agog.

They gave me a number, they gave me a pin

But I couldn't bear to stick the thing in,

So I rushed to the shop and bought some clear glue

Then I stuck the card onto his back in the loo.

We arrived at the ringside to find we were first

In the Puppy Class (this part is the worst).

We marched in together as fast as we were able
Arrived at the judge who said "Up on the table".

This really surprised me, my skirt was quite tight,
And I just couldn't make it, try hard as I might.
The Judge looked quite worried, he said "Listen here,
Put your dog on the table, not you, my dear".

By now I was trembling, I felt such a fool
But I said to myself..."Play it cool, play it cool".
"How old?" said the Judge, I heard it quite clear
Well really, I thought, and said "Thirty next year".

The Steward, poor fellow, threw a kind of fit.
He spluttered, he coughed, and his eyes ran a bit.
"I'd have that cough seen to" I said to him when
He'd finally stopped...then he started again.

"Once round the ring, dear, as fast as you can"
Said the Judge, so I did, I just ran and ran,
But when I arrived (out of breath, I'll admit)
The Judge said "Your dog, dear" I felt like a twit.

Off round once again, I kept my head bent.
Oh the shame, my pup crouched, he just went and went.
A lady came running with bucket and spade
With manure so spicy, has she got it made.

We came back to the Judge who said with a frown
"Stand your dog". I said "Please sir, he's not lying down".
"You can take First Place stand" he said. I said "Ta".
What a job I had getting that stand into the car!

Heimlick for Your Pet:

Helping a Choking Dog

Before administering any first aid, make absolutely certain your pet is actually choking. Many people confuse difficulty breathing with choking. If you witness your pet ingesting an item and then immediately begin pawing at the face, the throat, acting frantic, trying to cough and having difficulty breathing, only then should the Heimlich maneuver be considered. If your pet is not really choking, the Heimlich can cause serious injury.



The Heimlich maneuver can be practiced on mannequin dogs, and cats. Photo courtesy of fastresponse.org

After determining that your pet is choking, remove any item that may be constricting the neck. Examine inside the mouth and remove any foreign object you see. Do not blindly place your hand down your pet's throat and pull any object you feel. Dogs have small bones that support the base of their tongues. Owners probing the throat for a foreign object have mistaken these for chicken bones. Do not attempt to remove an object unless you can see and identify it.

If your pet is small and you cannot easily remove the object, lift and suspend him with the head pointed down. For larger animals, lift the rear legs so the head is tilted down. This can help dislodge an item stuck in the throat.

Another method is to administer a sharp blow with the

palm of your hand between the shoulder blades. This can sometimes dislodge an object. If this does not work, a modified Heimlich maneuver can be attempted.

- * Grasp the animal around the waist so that the rear is nearest to you, similar to a bear hug.
- * Place a fist just behind the ribs.
- * Compress the abdomen several times (usually 3-5 times) with quick pushes.
- * Check the mouth to see if the foreign object has been removed.
- * This maneuver can be repeated one to two times but if not successful on the first attempt, make arrangements to immediately take your pet to the nearest veterinary hospital.

Even if you are successful in removing a foreign object, veterinary examination is recommended. Internal injury could have occurred that you may not realize.

<http://petplace.netscape.com/articles/artShow.asp?artID=2524>



Old Farmer's Advice

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.
 Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
 A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
 Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
 Meanness don't jest happen overnight.
 Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
 Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
 It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
 You cannot unsay a cruel word.
 Every path has a few puddles.
 When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
 The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.



Latest News on Dr. Avery's Research Project at CSU

The research project is finally underway. I thought that I would collect several of the correspondences from Dr. Avery and put them all together so that everyone has a clear understanding of the project.

The project is estimated to take 2 years to complete. And these are the things that they will be looking at:

They propose to measure pro-inflammatory cytokines and acute phase proteins in Shar-Pei dogs with and without documented fever disorder with the goal of developing a diagnostic test that can be used in young animals, or animals in which the diagnosis is ambiguous. A better characterization of the cytokine cascade in these dogs may help to narrow the search for the relevant genes, and will facilitate understanding of disease pathogenesis when the genes are identified. We will also perform immune system testing of affected and unaffected Shar-Peis in order to determine if immunodeficiencies documented previously in this breed are associated with the Shar-Pei fever syndrome.

This study is going to be concurrent with the genetic study at the NIH to attempt to identify the underlying mutation(s) in their DNA causing disease.

Our club is providing the fresh blood samples because a few immunologic tests are best done on VERY fresh samples. They are collecting three vials of blood from each dog. One is for serum and one for white blood cells. They will be testing for markers of inflammation under various conditions. They really need normal Shar-Pei dogs, in addition to those with a fever history. When they wrote the grant they indicated that they would test affecteds and 40 unaffecteds -- as many as we can get them basically.

This is a summary of the project that Dr. Avery wrote:

Colorado State University is conducting a research project to study Shar-Pei fever syndrome. The goals of this project are;

- 1) to characterize inflammatory system in affected dogs so that we can better understand why some dogs progress to amyloidosis and some do not and
- 2) to determine if various markers of inflammation might be useful in identifying puppies that will develop the disease before their first fever episode.

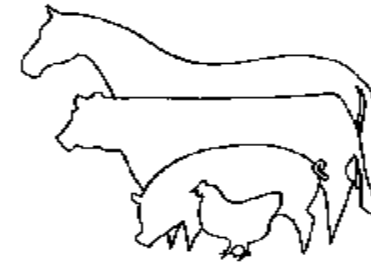
In addition to our studies, a group at the National Institutes of Health is working on identifying the gene(s) responsible for this disease, work which we hope will lead to a genetic test to identify carriers.

For our studies we are soliciting blood samples from both affected (dogs with a history of one or more fever episodes) and unaffected Shar-Pei dogs (it is very important that we have unaffected dogs as a control group). We need to draw approximately 15 – 20 mls of blood (2 to 3 tubes of blood) from each dog, and we will ask owners to fill out a questionnaire about their dog's medical and family history. It is not necessary to have knowledge of the family history of your dog for him/her to be useful in the study; however we do need to have as complete a medical history as possible, since the purpose of this part of the study is to test known affected and unaffected dogs.

We greatly appreciate the willingness that Shar-Pei owners have already shown in helping with this study, and hope that we can make a meaningful contribution to bettering the health of this breed.

Dr. Anne Avery

Irresistible Baby Animals Can Be Covered with Germs



Writer: *Linda Anderson, (979) 862-1460, lw-anderson@tamu.edu*
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COLLEGE STATION – Kittens, puppies, chicks, lambs, ducklings, calves ... baby animals are hard to resist. That's why petting areas at zoos and fairs are so popular.

These little animals "look cute and fuzzy and furry and nice," said Dr. Carol Rice, Texas Cooperative Extension health specialist. But that's not all they are, she warned. In some instances petting zoos, fairs and other places of human-animal contact have been linked to illness outbreaks.

"In a number of instances people – not just children – have gotten sick" after visiting petting zoos and exhibits, she said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists some of the disease outbreaks that have been attributed to human-animal contact. They include E. coli salmonella, tuberculosis and ringworm.

But visits to these baby animals don't have to be avoided – provided a few simple precautions are followed, Rice said. She advised parents to use common sense before

letting their children to visit areas where they will come in contact with animals.

"If the place doesn't look clean, it's probably not," Rice said. Don't go into those areas.

"Even if it looks clean, the animals may still carry germs," she said. "You can't always tell by looking."

That's why food, drink and anything associated with consumables – such as baby bottles or sippy cups – should never be taken into animal petting areas.

"Don't take anything that goes into the mouth into the petting area," Rice said. "If the child still sucks his or her thumb, wash their hands quickly (after petting the animals) or don't take them into the petting zoo."

In that instance, a good rule of thumb – so to speak – is to not allow children younger than age 5 into petting areas at all, she said. And that's especially true if chicks, ducklings or other baby poultry are involved. Young birds are likely to carry some kind of pathogen that children can easily get on their hands.

"Any time an animal or bird is penned up and (that animal is) not kept scrupulously clean, they could get contaminated," Rice said. Animals who are stressed are also more likely to be germ-spreaders, she said, and petting areas can be highly stressful for animals, especially young ones.

"If the animals look stressed or sick, do not touch them," Rice said. "They are more likely to pass off pathogens if they are stressed or sick."

Strollers shouldn't be taken into petting areas either, Rice said, especially if the floor isn't clean. Wheeling strollers across floors covered with animal fur, feathers and droppings means "there's a high probability you're taking some of those germs out with you," she said.

But children love to pet baby animals and keeping them out of petting areas might be too much to ask. Rice said parents can let their kids enjoy the animals and protect them from disease by keeping three words in mind: "Wash your hands."

"Wash your hands as soon as you leave the petting area," she said. Each person should wash his or her hands under running water and use some kind of liquid – not bar – soap. Lather "long enough to sing the 'Happy Birthday' song completely through. Parents need to wash younger kids' hands to make sure they are clean. Make sure to wash tops of hands and between fingers," she said.

"Baby wipes are not adequate but hand sanitizers are second-best to washing with soap and water," she said. "Baby wipes do not usually have a disinfectant." Check the labels, she said. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers should be labeled as germ-killers or disinfectant.

For more information on this and other health issues, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to Health. You also may visit the CDC site at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5404a1.htm>. <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/HEAL/Jun1705a.htm>



With a special interest in the medical problems of the Chinese Shar-Pei.

Odor in Shar-Pei

Odor in Shar-Pei can often be isolated to one of several areas:

1. **Mouth odor** -- usually due to dental problems, lip fold infections, chin infection, mouth tumors. Bad breath can also occur with kidney failure (uremic poisoning), dehydration, oral injuries, oral foreign objects or be diet related.
2. **Ear problems** -- yeast infections, bacterial infections, food and hay fever- type allergies.
3. **Eyes** -- associated with increased drainage due to entropion, mucopurulent discharge seen in keratoconjunctivitis sicca ("dry eye"), glaucoma, rubbing and itching the eyes related to allergic disease (hay fever, food) and increased tearing with prolapsed gland of the third eyelid ("cherry eye").
4. **Skin problems** -- bacterial pyoderma (infections) and/or Malassezia (yeast) dermatitis. These are usually secondary to endocrine skin disease such as hypothyroidism, hay fever-type allergies, food allergies, nutritional problems, parasitic dermatitis as occurs in demodectic/sarcoptic mange and with flea problems. Infected bite wounds can be another common cause of odor to the skin especially noticeable a few days after a dog fight. Odor with skin disease is usually caused by the dog's licking and chewing due to itching. Skin irritation due to any cause results in an increase in skin oil

production. When the excess oil is broken down by organisms such as bacteria and yeast a "ranchid" odor is produced.

5. **Feet** - often odor to the feet is secondary to the same problems as discussed under skin problems. The feet are a particular target for licking and chewing associated with allergic disease such as atopy (hay fever- type allergy) and food allergy.
6. **Perineum (anal area)** - certainly there are "normal" odors associated with flatulence or gas. Abnormal odors can be associated with diarrhea, colitis, tumors around the rear end and especially anal gland problems such as abscesses, infection and impaction.

Lastly, some Shar-Pei, especially of the horsecoat variety, have a normal "hound dog" odor to them.

Alice Fix

For

Director at Large

Just as a reminder the annual elections of the CSPCA are coming up. This year, they have decided that members will receive their mails separately in the mail. They will not be included in the Barker. So be sure to watch for your ballot during the month of August. Ballots must be received by the counters by September 30 in order to be counted.

Bob Rosenberger

For

Central Director

Cream of Wheat Dog Treats

3 jars baby food- meat or vegetable
 ½ cup Cream of Wheat

Mix that up and drop by teaspoon on wax paper covered Paper plate. Flatten with a fork. Cover with a second paper plate.

Microwave on high 4-5 minutes. Cool. Store in refrigerator, or freeze.

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 3 jars of baby food meat  
 1 jar of baby food sweet potatoes  
 ½ cup plus 3 Tablespoons Cream of Wheat

Mix it up. Spray a cookie sheet with Pam. Drop by teaspoon, on to cookie sheet, and flatten with a fork. Bake at 340° for about 15 minutes. Cool, and either refrigerate or freeze.

## **CSPCA is added to the list of National Dog Clubs that oppose the PAWS legislation!**

This makes the number of groups and clubs that are in opposition to PAWS well over 100. To see the full list, go to <http://saova.org/1139opponents.html>

~~~~~  
"We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made." -----M.Facklam (Submitted by Marilyn Vinson)

Common virus 'kills cancer'

WASHINGTON -- A common virus that is harmless to people can destroy cancerous cells in the body and might be developed into a new cancer therapy, US researchers said.

The virus, called adeno-associated virus type 2, or AAV-2, infects an estimated 80 percent of the population.

"Our results suggest that adeno-associated virus type 2, which infects the majority of the population but has no known ill effects, kills multiple types of cancer cells yet has no effect on healthy cells," said Craig Meyers, a professor of microbiology and immunology at the Penn State College of Medicine in Pennsylvania.

"We believe that AAV-2 recognizes that the cancer cells are abnormal and destroys them. This suggests that AAV-2 has great potential to be developed as an anti-cancer agent," Meyers said in a statement.

He said at a meeting of the American Society for Virology that studies have shown women infected with AAV-2 who are also infected with a cancer-causing wart virus called HPV develop cervical cancer less frequently than uninfected women do.

AAV-2 is a small virus that cannot replicate itself without the help of another virus.

But with the help of a second virus it kills cells. For their study, Meyers and colleagues first infected a batch of human cells with HPV, some strains of which cause cervical cancer. They then infected these cells and normal cells with AAV-2.

After six days, all the HPV-infected cells died. The same thing happened with cervical, breast, prostate and squamous cell tumor cells.

All are cancers of the epithelial cells, which include skin cells and other cells that line the insides and outsides of organs.

"One of the most compelling findings is that AAV-2 appears to have no pathologic effects on healthy cells," Meyers said.

"So many cancer therapies are as poisonous to healthy cells as they are to cancer cells. A therapy that is able to distinguish between healthy and cancer cells could be less difficult to endure for those with cancer."

AAV-2 is being studied intensively as a gene therapy vector -- a virus modified to carry disease-correcting genes into the body.

Gene therapy researchers favor it because it does not seem to cause disease or immune system reaction on its own.

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/06/22/cancer.virus>

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Daniel Estep, Ph.D. and Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D.

www.AnimalBehaviorAssociates.com

Recently we have read some articles in local newspapers (NOT this one, by the way) and in other publications that indicate that there is some confusion about separation anxiety – what it is, how it is expressed and how it can be treated. We thought we would address the topic today to help clear up some of the confusion.

- Separation anxiety is a behavior problem characterized by fear, anxiety and distress that occurs when a dog is separated from a person, or another animal to which she has a strong positive relationship or attachment.

- The reasons why some dogs develop the problem and others do not are not known. It is known that dogs from shelters and those that have had multiple homes tend to be more prone to it.
- The most common signs of separation anxiety are excessive barking and howling, destructive behavior, escape from confinement and inappropriate elimination. More rarely, it can be expressed with aggression, anorexia, excessive inactivity or even hyperactivity. Separation anxiety is not the only reasons for these signs and this is why the help of a knowledgeable professional is often necessary to identify the precise cause for the problem behaviors.
- Among some of the other causes for these signs are medical conditions, boredom, fears, play, reactions to exciting or threatening things, reactions to other dogs, break downs in housetraing and scent marking.
- Confining the dog to a crate or some other small area, tying her up, using electronic anti-bark collars, training collars or boundary systems or otherwise punishing the behavior are unlikely to correct separation anxiety problems and may actually make them worse. Worse still, these things may lead to injury to the dog.
- Vigorously exercising the dog, putting the dog with another dog, giving the dog plenty of chew toys or ignoring the dog won't help with separation anxiety problems.
- Separation anxiety is very often treatable. Treatment involves using carefully designed behavior modification techniques and sometimes, the use of medications prescribed by a

veterinarian.

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http://www.animalbehaviorassociates.com/pdf/RMN_dogs_separation_anxiety.pdf

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A note from the Editor:

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

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