

President's Message from Alice Fix:



Nationals is over. We have said our good-byes and turned off the last light. The obedience equipment and the gates are back where they belong. It was lots of work as well as lots of fun. As a club we all worked very well together as a group. We appreciate everyone that took the time

to take on any of the projects for Nationals, and to everyone that gave their time in manning our T-shirt and raffle booths. It was through the cooperation of everyone that we were able to pull this off so successfully. There were many compliments about the planning and work that we did in advance of Nationals. I am not sure what our next project will be but at least we don't have to have another fund raiser for awhile.

As this decade closes and a new one begins, I would hope that the new one will be as successful as the last one or even better. Some of the things that we have been able to accomplish in the last decade are:

1. Establish better relationships with Denver Municipal so that we can get dogs out of there in a timely fashion, rather than at as last minute saves.
2. Padded our bank accounts for both the club and rescue so that we have a cushion if we need one.
3. Done many breed booths to educate the public.
4. Reestablished the newsletter.

(Continued on Page 3)

Index of Articles

An Avalanche of Bad News for Abused Dogs.....	Page 9-12
By Nathan Winograd	
An Obituary on Words.....	Page 25-27
By Cindy Cooke	
Barn Dog House.....	Page 7
Dog Facts.....	Page 21, 24, 27
Dogit Drinking Fountain.....	Page 5
Dog's Drinking from the Toilet.....	Page 3-4
Dr. Vidt's Corner-.....	Page 12-19
Updated Plan of Action for Amyloidosis	
Drinkwell Pet Fountain.....	Page 4
Elderly People and Pets.....	Page 22-24
By Pet Talk- Texas A & M University	
Fighting Between Family Dogs.....	Page 19-21
By Daniel Estep, Ph.D. and Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D.	
Flashing Dog Collars and Leashes.....	Page 8
Justice	
Nationals 2010.....	Page 7
New Pet Accessories	
News from AKC.....	Page 9
Officer's and Directors	
Pet Safety Light.....	Page 9
Pet Therapy: Recovering With Four-Legged Friends. Page 5	
Requires Less Pain Medication	
From Science Daily	
President's Message.....	Page 1-3
Ed Sayres	
Top Tag Pet ID.....	Page 8
Unlikely Best Buds.....	Page 6-7
Website.....	Page 28
What Will They Think of Next?.....	Page 7

Happy New Year to All! Wishing You a Great 2010.

5. Grown for a club with about 10 members to a club with an average membership of about 60-70 members.
6. Established a website to educate the public about our breed.
7. Gotten involved in local dog issues.
8. Started having guest speakers at some meetings to educate us.
9. Participated in collaboration with CSU in a research project on Shar-Pei fevers.
10. Participated in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Shar-Pei research project.
11. Sponsored a medical seminar for local vets on medical issues specific to the Chinese Shar-Pei.
12. Sponsored a medical seminar for Bel-Rea Animal Tech Institute.
13. Vetted and placed over 300 dogs through our rescue program.
14. Set up a petfinder account to advertise our rescue dogs.

This is a club that you can be proud to belong to. And a big thank you to all of your for your support of all of our efforts to make our community better.

Dogs Drinking from the Toilet: From Dog Crazy Newsletter



Recently a client asked me - (in a hushed whisper), "Why does my dog want to drink out of the toilet bowl?"

I will tell you that this is a pretty common behavior in dog ... (I think more dogs WOULD do it if ... (1.) They were allowed, and (2.) They could reach.

I recommend that you discourage all dogs from drinking from the toilets. They should ideally only drink from their water bowls. As for "why" - I don't know for sure. I think it is a source of fresh water to them and it can be fun. I've seen some dogs like to watch the water swirl when they can. In some homes, the toilet water may

actually be "fresher" than their water bowls. I've been to friends' homes and their water bowl is washed so infrequently that there is a layer of slime covering it when you touch it.

I think dogs drink from toilets because it is fun for them - probably a bit of survival instinct. For others, the water may actually be "fresher" than in their bowls.

Keep your toilet seats down. The water in the toilet may have bacteria and cleaning chemicals, which are NOT good for the dogs to ingest. Make sure you have of plenty of water bowls and clean them regularly.

Many dogs like pet fountains. Pet fountains provide filtered "running" water. They is great for multi-pet homes as well. Fountains encourage dogs to drink, which is a VERY good thing.

If you don't have a fountain, make sure you have plenty of fresh water. Ideally, give fresh water twice a day and wash (literally wash) the water bowl every couple of days (In the dishwasher is really ideal).

Dr. Jon @ petplace.com

<http://view.petplace.com/?j=fe6f15707567057e7611&m=feff1273766004&ls=fdf51077766c007970147173&jb=ffcf14>

Dog Water Fountains

If you are not familiar with dog water fountains, here are a couple of choices.



Drinkwell 360 Pet Water Fountain

\$58.49

www.smarthome.com



Dogit Large Drinking Fountain

www.petsmart.com

Pet Therapy: Recovering With Four-Legged Friends Requires Less Pain Medication

ScienceDaily (Nov. 17, 2009) — Adults who use pet therapy while recovering from total joint-replacement surgery require 50 percent less pain medication than those who do not. These findings were presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the International Society of Anthrozoology and the First Human Animal Interaction Conference (HAI) in Kansas City, Mo.

"Evidence suggests that animal-assisted therapy (AAT) can have a positive effect on a patient's psychosocial, emotional and physical well being," said Julia Havey, RN, study presenter and senior systems analyst, Department of Medical Center Information Systems, Loyola University Health System (LUHS). "These data further support these benefits and build the case for expanding the use of pet therapy in recovery."

Animal lover Havey, and colleague Frances Vlasses, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, began raising puppies to become assistance dogs more than a decade ago through a program called Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). The non-profit organization provides highly trained assistance dogs to people with physical and developmental disabilities free of charge.

You can read the full article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091116131824.htm>

Unlikely Best Buds: A Puppy and a Cheetah

A puppy and a cheetah cub may seem like unlikely bedfellows, but at the Cincinnati Zoo they are brother and sister.

According to the Wilmington News Journal, the zoo adopted Cali, a mixed breed pup, to raise alongside Nia, their cheetah cub. Nia's other two siblings didn't survive and the zoo was looking for a similar animal to raise with Nia. The zoo needs to socialize Nia because she is being raised as an ambassador animal that will travel to schools to teach children about wildlife and conservation.



"Although a domestic dog and wild cat sound very different, they grow and learn the same. It is vital for all baby animals to play and rough house with others, that is how wild animals become successful adults," zoo trainer Kathy Watkins told Wilmington News Journal. "We needed a puppy that was similar in age to Nia and the puppies at the Clinton County Humane Society were perfect."

Nia and Cali are only two days apart in age. Watkins told the Wilmington News Journal that it was Cali who decided she should come home with her.

"She kept coming back to me to play with her and wanting to sit on my lap," Watkins said. "We knew she would be the best dog for me

long-term and perfect to be a playmate and best friend for Nia." Cali will live and play with Nia for a year before she goes to her permanent home with Watkins.

www.pawnation.com%2F2009%2F11%2F17%2Funlikely-best-buds-a-puppy-and-a-cheetah

Mark Your Calendars:

**2010 CSPCA National Specialty Show Lawrence, KS
Mon, October 11 thru Sat, October 16, 2010**

HOST HOTEL- Holiday Inn Lawrence Hotel - & Convention Center

What Will They Think of Next?

The Barn



Weight 97.00 lbs Price: \$367.97

This exciting house was conceived with the outdoor dog in mind, allowing them to enjoy both the comfort of an enclosed sleeping area and the freedom of a spacious outdoor porch. In addition to a raised base, this porch was designed with a roof, which offers complete coverage to your dog, keeping them dry and shaded from the elements. A window in the house allows for ventilation of the enclosed areas. There is also a easy access clear plastic flap in front of the door for extra protection from the elements.

<http://www.blingblingpuppy.com/the-barn-c-38-p-1-pr-149.html>

New Pet Accessories:

I found these on the internet and thought I would share them with you. They are kind of unique, and some people might really like them.



Top Tag Pet ID

\$ 29.99

Top Tag Pet ID protects pets by providing complete care information to friends, veterinarians, kennels, pet sitters, and rescuers who

may be responsible for your pet's welfare and special needs at some time in their lives. The simple to use ID lets owners input pet data in seven categories and 14 subcategories ranging from name and address to medical history and food preferences. You can even store photos in this large flash drive. Full one-year warranty is included. Easy to use customer service is also available through the manufacturer. No batteries needed.

<http://www.dogcatjewelry.com/product/0503TTF581>

Flashing Dog Collars and Leashes

\$4.99- \$7.99

<http://www.avdsman.com/product/1/508/Flashing-Dog-Collars-Sku-No-10765.html>

This collar makes your dog more visible after dark.



Pet Safety Light

Is your pet's world truly safe? **Pet Safety Lights** are designed for all pets with owners who care.

If you love your pet you will love the Pet Blinkie. Pet Blinkies are vibrant, multi-color lights that attach easily to a collar, leash or harness. Pet Blinkies are waterproof and visible up to 1/2 mile away. Available in 6 blinking, vibrant colors

These pet blinkies are perfect for your dog or cat. If your dog wanders off, you will be able to see exactly where he or she is at. When you don't need the light, you can turn it off or you can remove it from the collar.



\$ 7.99

www.tbotech.com/pet-safety-light.htm

News from AKC:

At a recent AKC Board meeting, it was decided to indefinitely postpone making any changes in the current AKC groups. This means that the option of the proposed new Northern group has been put on the back burner. This will not come up for discussion again for awhile.

An Avalanche of Bad News for Abused Dogs

December 22, 2009 by [Nathan J. Winograd](#)



ASPCA kills again; Then allegedly returns neglected dog to home; Some rescued Colorado dogs may be destined for death.

Ed Sayres, the President of the ASPCA, killed Oreo & Max despite offers to save them. He once told USA Today that killing is the moral equivalent of not killing: "There is no room for No Kill as morally superior."

As much of the nation endures one of the worst winter storms in history, the past few days have also brought an avalanche of bad news for abused dogs, who face additional betrayal at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them.

Just a few short weeks ago, Ed Sayres, the beleaguered president of the ASPCA, ordered [the killing of the abused dog Oreo, despite the offer of a rescue group to save her life](#). The unnecessary killing of Oreo, who survived being thrown off of a sixth floor Brooklyn rooftop, but could not survive the "rescue" by the ASPCA, sparked national outrage and led to [the introduction of "Oreo's Law,"](#) pending New York State legislation which would make it illegal for shelters like the ASPCA to kill animals when bona fide rescue groups are willing to save their lives.

Some groups have questioned the need for Oreo's Law, but any debate as to the pressing need for such legislation should be put to rest once and for all because Sayres has done it again. [Mariah's Promise, a No Kill shelter and sanctuary in Colorado](#), offered to save Max, a Pit Bull-type dog the ASPCA was determined to kill. Like Oreo, the ASPCA deemed Max "aggressive." Mariah's Promise has rescued dogs like Max from shelters in New York City in the past. Last Thanksgiving, they saved a dog deemed vicious from animal control in the City. According to Toni Phillips, the director of Mariah's Promise, that dog is now a favorite at the sanctuary.

Ed Sayres was personally informed by the representative from Mariah's Promise that a space was available for Max in the Colorado sanctuary, and that transport of the dog to Colorado had already been arranged. The Behavior Department at the ASPCA was also informed of this fact. Despite this, the ASPCA killed Max anyway.

Mariah's Promise is a well known sanctuary in Colorado and has saved over 500 Pit Bull-type dogs at danger of being killed from places like Denver, where regressive bans result in mass killing of dogs deemed Pit Bulls, including healthy, friendly puppies. It is also currently caring for nine of the 100 "sled dogs" rescued from an abusive home in Colorado, a case that has [made national headlines](#).

While some of the Colorado dogs have gone to killing shelters, such as Pikes Peak Humane Society and Denver Dumb Friends League,

only Mariah's Promise has ensured that none of the dogs will be killed. Pikes Peak Humane Society has stated that only four of the 10 dogs it received "will likely make a full recovery" and "time will only tell for the rest." Given that Pikes Peak is a killing shelter (over 9,000 in 2008) and has dubbed itself a "no suffering" shelter, a euphemism for killing designed to respond to the public's demand for No Kill solutions, it is not clear what this means.

Mariah's Promise indicates that all nine of the dogs it received—though severely malnourished, including one blind dog—will be saved. "They need medical care which they will get, and all of them will be nursed back to health." These are the types of assurances the dogs deserve and animal lovers should expect from every agency who took in these abused dogs. If they refuse to save them, Mariah's Promise has also offered to take the others. It is not clear whether the other shelters will take them up on the offer, if they refuse to save the dogs themselves.

At the same time that Sayres killed both Oreo and Max, despite offers



to save them by No Kill sanctuaries, there are also [reports](#) being circulated that the ASPCA has returned a dog named "Justice" to his "owners" despite the fact that the dog clearly showed signs of neglect. Justice was "underweight, suffering from extreme mange and has bite marks on his neck." Justice is a chained dog, living outdoors, with little to no fur.

The weather in the area will dip into the teens this week. (I am still trying confirm specific facts about this case.)

Enough is enough. Not only is it time to stop Ed Sayres before he kills again, it is time for all groups who claim to speak on behalf of animals to support Oreo's Law. And we need these laws, not just in New York, but in Colorado and all over the country.

Learn more about Justice: <http://doggybytes.ca/justice-returned-owner/1854/>

You can make a donation to Mariah's Promise:

<http://www.mariahspromise.com/>

P.O. Box 1017, Divide, Colorado 80814

You can help pass Oreo's Law by clicking on this link:

http://www.nathanwinograd.com/?page_id=2243

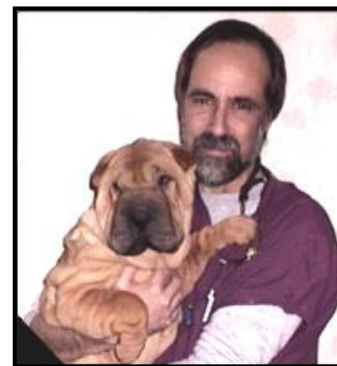
Legal Disclaimer-

The views expressed in this blog are solely those of the writer and no one else, nor any agency or organization. The author is an attorney and notes that the communications are protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Any attempt to infringe on that right, whether actual or threatened, will be considered a strategic lawsuit against public participation.

You can read other blogs by Nathan Winograd at:

www.nathanwinograd.com

Dr. Vidt's Corner:



Plan of Action for Amyloidosis Updated

This article by Dr. Vidt presents a plan to monitor Shar-Pei with the goal of uncovering renal amyloidosis as early as possible and then instituting appropriate dietary and medical intervention. It does contain some technical terms which your veterinarian may be able to simplify for you.

The author urges you to discuss this article with veterinarian and then both of you can work together in dealing with this troubling disease.

Renal amyloidosis has hit the Shar-Pei fancy in recent years and left many of us feeling helpless as we watch young Shar-Pei sicken and die before our very eyes. We don't have to sit and take it, but can gather the facts and formulate a plan of action. What I propose in this

paper is based on the information available today about renal amyloidosis. Currently, there is no test available to help pinpoint Shar-Pei at risk for developing the condition and due to ethical considerations, information concerning pedigree analysis is not available to help determine those dogs who have the condition in their background. What we are left with is to try to uncover the condition in our dogs as early as possible and to institute steps to minimize the effects on our dogs and increase longevity. The following plan has no guarantees and certainly will change as new information becomes available, but it represents a starting point and a step to build on further.

Keeping a Watchful Eye for the Health of your Shar-Pei

As a Shar-Pei owner you can do the following simple steps:

1. Monitor weight - This involves weighing your dog at regular intervals using a scale. Do not rely on eyeball judgements. Too often I see dogs in an advanced state of weight loss which the owner has just noticed, but which has been going on for several weeks. Remember, we are trying to uncover this condition at its earliest point - minor weight loss can indicate early renal amyloidosis.
2. Monitor appetite - Daily fluctuations in appetite do occur, but a change in what is normal for your dog may indicate early kidney problems.
3. Monitor water consumption - A normal dog consumes approximately 1 oz. of water per pound of body weight per day. This varies with activity level, season of the year, type of food being fed (canned vs. dry), etc. I advise measuring water intake periodically by measuring how much water is put down in the morning and measuring it again at night. Obviously this will involve a little more ingenuity on the owner's part when multiple dogs are involved. Increased water consumption may indicate early kidney failure.

In addition to the above home monitoring program, I also advise having your veterinarian check a urine sample every three months on any Shar-Pei over two years of age. The main parameters I watch in the urine are the urine specific gravity and the urine protein reading. Urine specific gravity is a measure of the concentration of the urine. If the kidneys were not functioning at all this reading would be 1.008 -

1.012 (a dilute urine). Normal concentration should be above 1.025 and usually is greater than 1.045 (a concentrated urine). Ideally the urine sample should be a morning sample collected after the dog's water bowl has been removed overnight (remember to close the toilet lid!). By depriving the dog of water overnight we force the kidneys to concentrate the urine, if they are able to do so. Inability to concentrate urine indicates that approximately 75% of the kidneys are non-functional - this is still compatible with life, but treatment needs to be started quickly to preserve the remaining kidney function.

The other urine test I heavily rely on is the urine protein level. The stick test routinely run by veterinarians primarily measures urine albumin levels. An elevated urine albumin level means that protein is being lost in the urine and correlates with glomerular damage (the glomerulus is the filtration unit of the kidney and serves to filter out the waste products of the body). High levels of protein in the urine indicates significant kidney disease and additional testing needs to be done to obtain a diagnosis. A new more quantitative microalbuminuria test is now available for in-hospital use from Heska, the E.R.D.-Screen™ Urine Test. The "gold standard" for proteinuria is the **urine protein/creatinine ratio** (UPC) which is run by all the commercial veterinary laboratories.

It appears that there are three separate syndromes associated with renal amyloidosis in the Shar-Pei:

- A. Glomerular - If the amyloid deposits occur primarily in the glomerulus, we see increased protein levels in the urine.
- B. Tubular - If the amyloid deposits occur in the tubular part of the kidney we see loss of concentrating ability which manifests as a dilute urine.
- C. Combination - This occurs when amyloid is deposited in both the glomeruli and the kidney tubules and we see increased protein levels in the urine and dilute urine.

The clinical signs and the routine urine check constitute the **first level** of diagnostics. If the urine sample is abnormal and one or more clinical signs are present, then we immediately proceed to the **second level** of diagnostics. This level incorporates the following tests:

1. A complete blood count - This includes a packed cell volume, a white blood cell count, red blood cell count, platelet count, and a white blood cell differential count.
2. A health panel - This includes at least a BUN, creatinine, sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphorous, cholesterol, total protein, albumin, globulin and, glucose. It often includes liver tests and thyroid hormone levels.
3. An immune panel - This should consist of a direct Coomb's test, an anti-nuclear antibody test (ANA), a Rheumatoid arthritis factor test (RA), and an LE prep for systemic lupus.
4. A urine protein/creatinine ratio - A value above 1.0 is considered abnormal and indicates excessive urine protein loss.
5. Abdominal radiographs - Used to evaluate kidney size and shape.

Based on the results of the first and second level diagnostics the following steps are taken to manage the patient:

1. Diet - A low protein diet is initiated using Hill's Prescription Diet K/D® or its home-made counterpart. I'm also using the Iams Eukanuba Veterinary Kidney Diets – Early Stages® and Advanced Stages®. There are other kidney diets available as well by other pet food manufacturers.
2. Vitamin-mineral supplementation.
3. Ascriptin® – 1/4 tablet once a day or low dose aspirin(81mg) ½-1 tablet daily.
4. 1-2 cooked eggs per day - used in cases where albumin is being lost in the urine.
5. Additional medical therapy may be instituted using either colchicines tablets or DMSO via injection or orally. The effectiveness of both these drugs in the prevention and treatment of renal amyloidosis in the dog has yet to be substantiated, but their use is justified given the grave prognosis of this condition in the Shar-Pei. Colchicine is a human anti-gout medication whose mode of action is largely unknown. It appears to prevent the formation of amyloid in the laboratory, but whether this occurs in the living animal is not known. Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is another drug whose mode of action is unknown, but has demonstrated the property

of dissolving amyloid in the laboratory. Again, whether this action occurs in the living animal is unknown. The dosages are as follows:

- A. Colchicine - this dose can be obtained from Dr. Linda Tintle or myself (see the July/August 1992 issue of The Barker).
 - B. DMSO - numerous dosages are in the veterinary literature. Your veterinarian should refer to an excellent article on renal amyloidosis by Dr. DiBartola in Current Veterinary Therapy XI.
[IMPORTANT! - DMSO imparts an odor to the breath and skin of the patient.]
Again, the effectiveness of these drugs in the treatment of amyloidosis has not been proven in clinical studies and hence, they should be regarded as experimental drugs for this use. They should be used only under the supervision of your veterinarian.
6. Equally important is the avoidance of further kidney damage. -
 - A. Avoid dehydration- provide plenty of fresh water daily.
 - B. Avoid kidney-damaging drugs such as aminoglycoside antibiotics, methoxyflurane anesthesia, various chemotherapeutic agents, sulfonamide antibiotics, etc.
 - C. Avoid stress- boarding, traveling, showing, etc.

Third level diagnostics may be done depending on your veterinarian or the availability of specialists in your area. Test at the level may include:

1. Coagulation panel - Increased levels of fibrinogen may indicate impending thromboembolism (throwing of blood clots) associated with DIC (Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation) especially if associated with increased cholesterol and decreased albumin levels (nephrotic syndrome). This panel should include a platelet count and a measurement of FDP's (Fibrin Degradation Products).
2. Fractional clearances of various electrolytes (sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphorous).
3. 24-hour urine protein excretion.
4. Creatinine clearance testing to evaluate kidney function (glomerular filtration rate – GFR).
5. Kidney ultrasound.

6. Kidney biopsy.

The kidney biopsy is the **definitive** diagnosis of renal amyloidosis and the decision to biopsy should be made early in the course of the disease for a number of reasons:

1. Early on, the animal is a much better surgical candidate and many complications of renal amyloidosis such as bleeding tendencies and uremia are not present.
2. There is a real danger in the Shar-Pei to blame every kidney problem on renal amyloidosis and fail to pursue other causes of kidney disease such as kidney infection, heartworm disease, and immune-mediated diseases like systemic lupus and immune-mediated glomerulonephritis.
3. The information from an early kidney biopsy can guide the medical and dietary management of the case and provide valuable prognostic information.

Almost as important as the early diagnosis of renal amyloidosis is the continued monitoring of the patient while on therapy. This allows us not only to monitor and watch for the progression of the disease, but also to evaluate the various therapeutic modalities and determine which are effective and which are not. Monitoring at one to two week intervals initially and then at monthly intervals thereafter is recommended. I usually repeat a kidney panel and cholesterol level, a CBC, and a urinalysis including a urine protein/creatinine ratio.

Continued monitoring is also important in order to pick up the early signs of sequelae to renal amyloidosis such as:

1. Nephrotic syndrome - characterized by decreased serum albumin, increased serum cholesterol and increased protein loss in the urine. A serious complication of this syndrome is thromboembolism ("throwing blood clots"). Your veterinarian may do a blood fibrinogen level and coagulation panel to evaluate the blood clotting system. If the fibrinogen level is >300 mg/dl, aspirin therapy is strongly indicated. Another serious complication of this condition is the development of edema or fluid accumulation in the abdomen or chest and in the limbs. In this case, the use of diuretics such as Lasix may be necessary.

2. Uremia - or the accumulation of body waste products which are normally filtered by the kidneys into the urine. The build-up of these wastes causes clinical signs such as appetite loss, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, depression and lethargy. More serious effects include anemia (decreased red blood cell production) and gastrointestinal ulceration. Treatment here may include intravenous fluid therapy, dietary therapy such as Hill's Science Diet U/D®, Iams Eukanuba Veterinary Kidney Diet – Advanced Stages®, phosphate binders such as Amphojel®, ulcer medication such as Carafate® and other therapy as deemed necessary by your veterinarian. Eventually, uremia will progress and lead to the death of the animal. As an aside, current nutritional research indicates that there is no advantage to instituting dietary protein restriction prior to the onset of kidney failure. **This means that feeding protein-restricted diets prior to developing laboratory or clinical signs of kidney failure will not prevent kidney failure.**
3. Hypertension - The kidneys are very important in the regulation of blood pressure. It is speculated that up to 80% of the dogs in kidney failure have significant hypertension as a consequence. The use of indirect blood pressure monitoring in animals has recently become available to the veterinarian and hopefully will lead to more advances in this area. Your veterinarian may wish to institute therapy using vasodilators and/ or diuretic medication.
4. 4. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)– The body's coagulation system is in a fine state of balance between forming blood clots and dissolving them. When this balance is disrupted coagulation factors are used up before they can be replaced and out of control bleeding is the result. This condition is associated with high mortality and is a poor prognostic factor. Treatment is not very effective.
5. Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) –This is an unusual complication which results in areas of skin death leading to skin sloughing almost like a burn. The condition seems to be caused by toxins produced by *Streptococcus canis* and is rapidly fatal sometimes in spite of treatment.

It should be mentioned here that DIC and STSS are also complications following episodes of Familial Shar-Pei Fever (FSF). FSF appears to be a potential trigger for the Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) which can stimulate the development of DIC and STSS. Ultimately, these end up in the development of Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome (MODS) if early and aggressive treatment is not initiated. The bottom line is that no episode of FSF should be treated lightly. I recommend that my clients call me with each FSF attack and certainly bring the dog in if the episode is not responding to aspirin, is lasting longer than usual, they notice any usual symptoms or the fever is very elevated.

To what extent early diagnosis and monitoring contributes to the longevity and quality of life of renal amyloidosis patients is hard to quantify at this time. My feeling is that it is possible to slow the progression of the condition and improve the short-term prognosis for these patients. We can probably add several months to their life span. It's expensive and requires diligence and hard work on the part of both the owner and their veterinarian, but the reward is some extra time with a close friend.

Chronic Renal Failure Treatment will be in our next issue of the newsletter.

Fighting Between Family Dogs

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

www.AnimalBehaviorAssociates.com

Copyright ABA, Inc.



Holmes and Bain have just returned from the veterinarian. Both have stitches and puncture wounds from fighting with each other. After living together peaceably for a little over a year, Holmes attacked Bain in the backyard. The dogs still seem tense with each other, although they can be together without fighting. The dogs owners' are now worried that Holmes and Bain cannot now be trusted around children.

Fighting among dogs in the same family is a relatively common problem. Traditional wisdom holds that these problems stem from one dog trying to be 'alpha' or dominate the other. While instability in the dogs' social hierarchy is sometimes a cause for fighting, more often dominance is not the issue.

A social hierarchy serves to regulate which dog can have priority access to resources such as toys, food, favorite resting places and attention from the owner. The subordinate dog in the relationship tends to acquiesce to the other, and uses social signals such as looking away or avoiding the other dog in order to appear non-threatening. In many relationships however, there is not a 'dominant' dog and a 'subordinate' dog. Roles can change based on the context and the individuals involved. One dog may be able to control the tennis ball, but the other always comes through the door first.

In many of our consulting cases, one dog is clearly giving into the other dog but is still being attacked. The attacking dog almost seems to be 'bullying' the other by following her around and instigating a fight even there is no direct competition between the dogs.

In other cases, fights seem to happen in high arousal situations such as greetings, although a stable hierarchy seems to exist. Sometimes rough and tumble play can escalate into a fight.

Occasionally problems are triggered when one dog returns to the home after an absence, such as a trip to the groomer or veterinarian. In a few cases, the aggressor dog seems to be using the other as a scapegoat, and will attack whenever he is frustrated about something. In most cases, the injuries, if any, are minor; but infrequently one or both dogs are injured, sometimes severely.

Fighting dog cases can be resolved more often than not. But because the dynamics of the problems are so varied, there is no one-size fits all solution. These problems do not mean that the dogs are becoming generally aggressive and will now be a threat to people. Many dogs who fight with each other are very friendly toward people and remain so, despite their behavior toward each other.



If your dogs are fighting you must first manage their environment to prevent the fights. This may mean keeping them separated some, or all of the time, until you can seek professional help. Muzzling them and letting them ‘fight it out’ is dangerous and should not be done. Do not try to pull the dogs apart by their collars, as this usually results in more injuries to the dogs and also to you. We recommend **Direct Stop**, a citronella spray as a safe way to stop a fight, and contacting a certified behaviorist to help you.

Edited version first published in the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, CO. Any use of this article must cite the authors and the Rocky Mountain News

<http://www.animalbehaviorassociates.com/newsletter.htm>

Most dogs don't like to be left alone so they howl. Leave the radio or television on to keep your dog company when you are away.

Elderly People and Pets

Pet Talk from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Contact can lessen loneliness. Contact can lessen depression. Contact can bring a smile. And that point of contact can be a pet. An elderly person paired with an appropriate pet can be a winning combination.

“Humans and animals need love, companionship and activity,” explained Ms. Kit Darling, MS, infection control coordinator at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and Aggieland Pets With A Purpose (APWAP) volunteer.

“The elderly who are in assisted living and long term care facilities enjoy visits from pets. Animal assisted therapy organizations such as APWAP provide visits. It is a very rewarding experience to see a person smile and enjoy time with Dexter and Daschle, my pet dachshunds. Their presence causes residents to talk about pets they once had. One lady gets so excited when Dexter visits; she will invite him to “sit on Grandma’s lap,”” notes Darling.



Just as elderly in assisted living desire the companionship of animals, seniors living independently can benefit from a daily routine that includes a pet.

Darling explained that pets provide companionship, decrease loneliness, accept you as you are and provide a sense of being needed. Pets can give the elderly a different outlook because they live in the moment and help seniors do likewise. They can bring laughter into one's life and increase socialization. When walking the dog you meet other people in the neighborhood and this encourages conversation. Additionally, recent studies have indicated that positive interaction with pets helps seniors overcome depression and lowers blood pressure/cholesterol levels.



“Pets keep seniors active both physically and mentally. Walking the dog or going outside with the dog will increase one's activity,” notes Darling. “Fresh air and sunshine are good for both. Stroking or brushing the animal is good exercise for the hands and arms. Pets may motivate the elderly to do activities they might not do otherwise.”

“An animal such as a cat or small dog that can set in a person's lap may be better for the elderly,” explains Darling. “Large dogs may be

more difficult to control. Cats require less care than a dog and an adult animal may be easier to manage than a young one.”

“Food, grooming and veterinary expenses are some of the costs associated with having a pet. These may be difficult for someone on a limited income,” notes Darling. “A smaller animal may help to decrease some of these costs.”

Another consideration is lifestyle. If you are a senior who loves to travel, you will need to go to destinations where your pet can go; otherwise board your pet or hire a pet sitter. Darling says advanced planning is a must.

“Animals can carry disease,” explains Darling. “Good hygiene and keeping your animal healthy will minimize the risk of disease transmission. The elderly who are frail or have weak immune systems may be more susceptible to disease and should seek their physician's advice.”

Darling emphasizes that the decision to be a pet caregiver is a personal one. Senior citizens must evaluate the advantages and disadvantages a pet will bring to their life and lifestyle. Only you can decide if you can care for a pet both physically and financially.

“The human-animal bond can be great and pets may be considered a part of the family,” notes Darling. “As one ages, their children grow up, their spouse and friends may die and the pet is very important to them. You must decide if a pet will enhance your life and is right for your lifestyle.”

People and pets can be a winning combination. The right companion animal may help seniors and the elderly lead happier, healthier lives.

ABOUT PET TALK

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at <http://tanunews.tamu.edu/>.

Dogs that chase cars have learned that cars run away. This behavior is reinforced each time he chases one away.

An Obituary for Words

by Cindy Cooke, Legislative Specialist

You can't really ban a word. In fact, an attempt to ban something often backfires, particularly in the United States, where we don't like people censoring our speech. So I'm not going to tell you not to say "puppy mill". I'm going to give you some very good reasons for not using that phrase.

I speak to a lot of dog clubs and frequently hear dog breeders supporting so-called "anti-puppy-mill" laws. When I ask these people to define "puppy mill," invariably the definitions given include:

- * People who "overbreed" their dogs;
- * People who don't take care of their dogs;
- * People who have too many dogs;
- * People who breed dogs "just for money"; and
- * People who don't take health issues into account when breeding their dogs.

Let's look at these definitions in turn. What is "overbreeding"? In the wild, most canids can only reproduce once a year. Most domestic dogs can have two litters a year. When I first became a dog breeder, it was almost a religious belief that no female dog should be bred more than once a year. We were told that it was important to "rest" the uterus between litters. Today, however, thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, we know that a uterus is actually damaged by the elevated progesterone levels that occur in each heat cycle, whether the dog is pregnant or not. Veterinary reproduction specialists recommend that dogs be bred on their second or third heat cycle, that we do more back-to-back breedings, and that we spay the dogs at around age six.

The "overbreeding" argument also treats reproduction as something that female dogs wouldn't do if they had a choice. Dogs aren't people - female dogs actually want to be bred when they're in heat and, with few exceptions, enjoy raising their puppies. It's not an unwelcome event for dogs.

People who don't take care of their dogs are already guilty of a crime in all 50 states. There is nowhere in the United States where it is legal to neglect or abuse dogs. Sadly, a small minority of all dog breeders -

commercial, home and hobby - commit neglect and abuse. Some of these do so out of ignorance, some out of laziness, and some out of meanness. All are already breaking the law. It just needs to be enforced.

One of our biggest problems now is that animal radicals insist that every dog be raised like a hothouse flower. One bill proposed this year would have required every kennel to be air conditioned. Many owners of working dogs prefer that their dogs be acclimated to hot weather so that they can work when the temperature goes up. Likewise, sled dogs in the north often sleep outdoors in the snow. Dogs can live and thrive in a wide range of environments. The Arctic Circle, the jungles of Africa, and the deserts of Arabia have all produced breeds of dogs that can live happily in conditions that might not suit all dogs. It is important that we not let activists redefine the needs of dogs to the extent that we are forced to provide a brass bed and a down pillow for every animal in the kennel!

What is "too many" dogs? Most of our breeds were developed by wealthy people who kept large numbers of dogs. Hound breeders traditionally kept good-sized packs, and early show breeders did as well. Now that our sport includes more mainstream people - people with jobs or people who need jobs - it's hard for many of us to keep large numbers of dogs. There is no inherent link between numbers of dogs and neglect. People who have the resources to keep big kennels provide a service for all of us, particularly if they maintain a good number of useful stud dogs.

Breeding dogs is expensive, and getting more so daily. It's just plain silly to pretend that none of us needs the money generated by puppy sales and stud services. Without that income, the vast majority of middle class breeders could not afford this sport. When our sport was solely in the hands of rich people, it was the norm to sneer at people in "trade", and part of that attitude was handed down to us with the culture of our sport. Today, however, the majority of us in the sport are "in trade", in the sense that we have to work to support ourselves. Our dogs must, at least in part, support themselves or most of us would have to get out of the game.

We have among us a small but vociferous group of people who think that breeders only care about producing great hunting or show dogs,

and nothing about health. In fact, I've never met a breeder who wasn't concerned about the health of his dogs and the health of his breed. Most health problems in dogs don't have simple solutions, so it is only natural that breeders are often going to disagree about how to address health problems. When there's no right answer to a question, then breeders who follow a different path than you might choose are not necessarily wrong or unconcerned. I know that many believe that commercial breeders don't care about health, but the fact is that their professional organizations provide some of the most sophisticated health seminars in the country for their breeders.

Twenty years ago, animal activists created the phrase "puppy mill". Back then, it was only applied to commercial breeders, and then only to those who were breaking the law by neglecting their dogs. In a futile attempt to placate activists, many hobby breeders adopted the term "puppy mill" and used it to separate "them" from "us". It was a mistake then, and it's rapidly becoming fatal today. Every one of these so-called "anti-puppy-mill bills" has a definition that could easily include breeders of hunting and show dogs. Every time you use that phrase, you're contributing to the idea that dog breeders need to be regulated out of existence.

The message we need to send to America is that purebred dogs are good, not just because they have pedigrees, but because of their predictability, and that people should shop at least as carefully for a puppy as they do for a car. We don't need to help the animal radicals spread their message by using their favorite term: puppy mill.

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/Articles/LegislativeUpdate06012009>

-A male dog urinates with one leg up to better mark his territory. The scent can tell him many things, including size and health. The size is judged by the height of the stain. Male dogs although, do not actually need to lift their leg.

-The average dog has 42 permanent teeth.

Officers of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club

President- Alice Fix

Vice President- Jeanne Hill- Jurik

Secretary- Bob Rosenberger

Treasurer- Louise Watson

Board of Directors- Kristin Reynolds '09 Marchelle Heslep '08

Committees:

Breeder Referral: Louise Watson

Fund Raising: Kristin Reynolds

Legislative Liaison: Alice Fix & Laura Brown

Public Education: Jeanne Hill-Jurik

Rescue: Louise Watson

Show Chairman: Alice Fix & Jeanne Hill-Jurik

Webmaster- Laura Brown

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

Awarded Best CSPCA Newsletter-2005, 2008, 2009

Awarded 1st Runner- Up CSPCA Newsletter- 2006, 2007

Awarded Best CSPCA Club Website-2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

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

Publisher & Editor: Alice E. Fix

<http://www.centennialsharpeiclub.org/>