



A Publication of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club, Inc.

Christmas Party Cover Photo Contest Winner

The winner of our January photo contest is "LeDous"- Asia's Eight Second Ride, Bob and Kay Rosenberger's new puppy To see the Runner-Up in the Photo Contest, go to page 2. You will find the instructions on how to enter photos of your dog for the next issue cover photo on that page. Runner-Up is on Page 27.



Index of Articles

Aflatoxins, Melamine, And Cyanuric Acid.....	Page 24-27
Found In US Made Pet Food by Suan Thixton	
Did You Know.....	Page 16
"Dog Breath" Is Actually Unhealthy.....	Page 22
Dogs Are Man's Best Friend, And Kids	Page 12-14
Deserve One by John Moore	
Dogs Know a Left-Sided Wag from a Right.....	Page 5-7
Energy-Saving Bulb Dangers.....	Page 14-16
Ever Wonder Why Dogs Spin In Circles Before.....	Page 3-4
Squatting? Here's The Fascinating Answer	
By Liz Klimas	
Homemade Peanut Butter & Bacon Dog Treats.....	Page 23-24
How To Find A Lost Dog.....	Page 11
No Two Dog Noses Are The Same.....	Page 10
Photo Contest Winner.....	Page 1 & 27
Pretty Cool Dog Houses.....	Page 17-18
Shar-Pei Have Been Identified as a Calm Dog Bree.....	Page 4-5
Shar-Pei Wrinkles Explained By Dog Geneticists.....	Page 20-22
By Jonathan Amos	
Ways to Say Goodbye to Your Pet.....	Page 7-10
By Kristin Lehrer	
World's Most Expensive Dog?.....	Page 18-20
By Tracy Miller	

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."

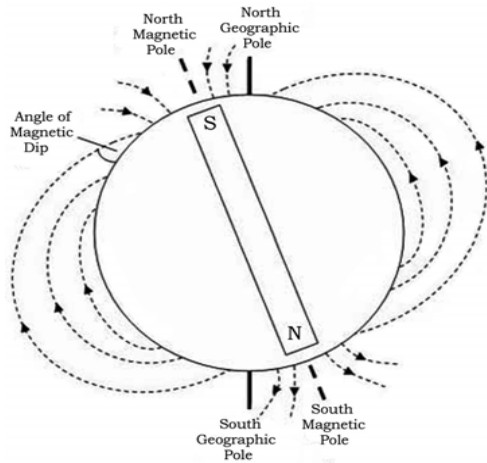
- Martin Luther King Jr.

Ever Wonder Why Dogs Spin In Circles Before Squatting? Here's The Fascinating Answer

By Liz Klimas

Have you ever noticed how many dogs seem to do a couple of circles, clearly on some sort of mission, before settling on a spot to squat?

Scientists think they may have found a reason: dogs prefer to align their bodies with Earth's magnetic field when they have to go.



Published in the *Frontiers of Zoology*, the observations made by Czech and German researchers believe this is the first time a magnetic sensitivity for dogs has been proven. Not only that, but they said it showed how small changes in a magnetic field poles could be “biologically meaningful.” The research could show how Earth’s magnetic field has an impact on behavior other than navigation. During times when Earth’s magnetic field was calm, which is only about 20 percent of daylight hours, the dogs would favor alignment.

“Since the MF is calm in only about 20 percent of the daylight period, our findings might provide an explanation why many magnetoreception experiments were hardly replicable and why directional values of records in diverse observations are frequently compromised by scatter,” the researchers said.

The researchers wrote that they are not sure what purpose dogs aligning themselves when going to the bathroom might serve, if any.

They’re also not sure if dogs do it consciously, as if they sensed the magnetic field and chose to orient themselves based on it, or unconsciously because it was more comfortable.

Based on analysis of their raw data though, the scientists believe it shows “that dogs not only prefer N-S direction, but at the same time they also avoid E-W direction.”

A sensitivity to Earth’s magnetic field is not unique to dogs. Other animals, including birds and fish, experience it as well.

Read the [full study](#) for more:

<http://www.frontiersinzoology.com/content/pdf/1742-9994-10-80.pdf>

(H/T: [Reddit](#))

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/01/02/ever-wonder-why-dogs-spin-in-circles-before-squatting-heres-the-fascinating-answer/>

Shar-Pei Have Been Identified as a Calm Dog Breed



Like everything else, each breed of dog was developed with a specific purpose in mind. Some were bred for hunting, some for companionship, some for guarding, some for racing, some were bred specifically to be designer dogs, etc.. Depending on the purpose, certain characteristics were focused upon during the development of all breeds. Some have an inherent mischievous streak and love getting into trouble, some are quiet, while others are buzzing with energy and

are always longing to be out and about, playing, swimming, trekking, etc. This Buzzle article concentrates specifically on those breeds which have a calm temperament.

Dogs with a calm temperament do not necessarily have to be small, or require less or no exercise. A calm temperament is inherent in the dog and to a great extent is independent of external circumstances. They can handle most situations and people without getting riled up, provided they have been given the right upbringing and training. Calm breeds are usually sought by families with very young kids or seniors, since they are easier to handle. Here is a list of a few of the calmest dog breeds for your perusal, given in no particular order.

Chinese Shar-Pei Description:

These dogs were originally bred as fighting dogs and guard dogs, so they are pretty reticent by nature and suspicious and wary of strangers. But with their family, there is a whole new side to them. They are very affectionate and devoted and of course, very protective. Like Bullmastiffs, they bark only at strangers or if it necessary, but are generally quiet. There are a few health concerns and socialization plays an important part in shaping their personality. Overall, they are very loyal companions who will protect you fearlessly, should the need arise.

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/calm-dog-breeds.html>

Dogs Know a Left-Sided Wag from a Right

Oct. 31, 2013 — You might think a wagging tail is a wagging tail, but for dogs there is more to it than that. Dogs recognize and respond differently when their fellow canines wag to the right than they do when they wag to the left. The findings reported in the Cell Press journal *Current Biology* on October 31 show that dogs, like humans, have asymmetrically organized brains, with the left and right sides playing different roles.

The discovery follows earlier work by the same Italian research team, which found that dogs wag to the right when they feel positive emotions (upon seeing their owners, for instance) and to the left when they feel negative emotions (upon seeing an unfriendly dog, for

example). That biased tail-wagging behavior reflects what is happening in the dogs' brains. Left-brain activation produces a wag to the right, and right-brain activation produces a wag to the left.

But does that tail-wagging difference mean something to other dogs? Yes it does, the new study shows.



While monitoring their reactions, the researchers showed dogs videos of other dogs with either left- or right-asymmetric tail wagging. When dogs saw another dog wagging to the left, their heart rates picked up and they began to look anxious. When dogs saw another dog wagging to the right, they stayed perfectly relaxed.

"The direction of tail wagging does in fact matter, and it matters in a way that matches hemispheric activation," says Giorgio Vallortigara of the Center for Mind/Brain Sciences of the University of Trento. "In other words, a dog looking to a dog wagging with a bias to the right side -- and thus showing left-hemisphere activation as if it was experiencing some sort of positive/approach response -- would also produce relaxed responses. In contrast, a dog looking to a dog wagging with a bias to the left -- and thus showing right-hemisphere activation as if it was experiencing some sort of negative/withdrawal response -- would also produce anxious and targeting responses as well as increased cardiac frequency. That is amazing, I think."

Vallortigara doesn't think that the dogs are necessarily intending to communicate those emotions to other dogs. Rather, he says, the bias in tail wagging is likely the automatic byproduct of differential activation of the left versus the right side of the brain. But that's not to

say that the bias in wagging and its response might not find practical uses; veterinarians and dog owners might do well to take note.

"It could be that left/right directions of approach could be effectively used by vets during visits of the animals or that dummies could be used to exploit asymmetries of emotional responses," Vallortigara says.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/10/131031124916.htm

Ways to Say Goodbye to Your Pet

By Kristin Lehrer | Fox News Magazine, October 08, 2012

The death of a pet isn't something we want to think about, let alone plan for. But sometimes, our companions pass abruptly or unexpectedly, and that's when it's important to know how to say goodbye properly. From handling the body to deciding on a burial option, here are the things you should consider:

My pet passed away at home. Now what?

If you haven't decided what to do with the the body, experts suggest placing it in a freezer. "If the animal is too big to fit, or you're just not comfortable doing that, you can wrap it securely in a plastic garbage bag overnight," says Sandra DeFeo, Executive Director of the New York Humane Society. "Just keep in mind, as soon as the animal dies, the body will start to decompose and eventually smell."

Senior Director of Counseling Services at the [ASPCA](http://www.aspca.org), Dr. Stephanie LaFarge agrees that "the best thing you can do is keep the body chilled. Keep it as cool as possible."

While the idea of having a dead pet in your home may be tough to stomach, LaFarge assures us that it's not a health hazard. "For the first twenty-four hours, even if you do nothing with the body, medically speaking, it won't hurt you."

The death of a pet at home can have an enormous impact on children who may be "terrified" by the image of their dead pet, LaFarge says. To help "soften" the transition from seeing a beloved animal pass from life to death, she suggests "arranging" the pet's body so they look comfortable. It can be as simple as placing a favorite toy next to

the body, or wrapping it in a blanket. "It's healthy for family members and other pets to have some experience of the body," she explains.



When it comes to your other pets, LaFarge explains that it's important to for them to become acquainted with the body. "It's essential for their adjustment to have a way of recognizing death as a permanent condition," she says. "They will do a lot less searching and wandering for the missing animal if they've seen the body."

Burial vs. cremation

Many of us with pets consider them members of the family, so it's no surprise that many of us opt for burial or cremation after they die.

The easiest route is often burying a pet in a backyard or nearby park, but DeFeo warns that "other animals can dig the body up. Also, some parks aren't zoned for pet burial." If you would like to bury your pet, DeFeo suggests seeking a pet cemetery.

In some cases, burying outside the boundaries of a pet cemetery or not on your own property is usually illegal, LaFarge warns. If you opt to bury your pet legally, "the rule of thumb is that you need to dig a grave at least four feet deep and then scatter the animals body with lime," to speed up the decomposition process.

According to According to Ed Martin, Jr., Director of the New York Hartsdale Pet Cemetery and Crematory, burying a pet very much "mimics a human situation." Things to consider include:

- **Location of burial.** Choosing and purchasing a plot to bury your pet can range anywhere between \$700 for a small plot to as much as \$2,500 for a larger plot.
- **Casket.** Casket prices vary greatly, depending on size and style. For example a small casket for a cat made out of plywood may cost about \$275, where as one made of oak could cost about \$600.
- **Interment Fee.** Fee charged for opening and closing grave. (Avg. cost: \$400 - \$600)
- **Maintenance Fee.** Upkeep of the cemetery (i.e.. grass-cutting, raking) that can cost an average of \$50 a month.

LaFarge says most people cremate their pets through their veterinarian, working with a crematorium or pet cemetery. According to Martin, the different cremation options include:

- **Communal cremation.** The least expensive option in which the pet's remains are cremated with other pets. No ashes are returned. (Avg. cost: \$125 — \$186)
- **Individual cremation.** The pet is cremated in a completely separate tray, apart from other animals. Ashes are returned to pet-owner in an urn. (Avg. cost: \$270 — \$318). **For an increased cost (between \$380 and \$430),** pet owners may be present to take the ashes home in a decorative tin on the same day.

Alternative endings

LaFarge says whatever you choose to do with your pet's remains depends on how much you're willing to spend and how creative you are willing to be with your efforts.

Here are some examples in which pet-owners have made saying "goodbye" to their pet more personal:

- **Taxidermy.** The skin of the animal is removed and shaped over a mold.
- **Freeze-dry.** The organs are removed and the body is completely dehydrated. (A process that can take many months.)
- **Jewelry.** Companies such as LifeGem.com create custom jewelry made from your pet's ashes or lock of hair. LaFarge

says "Some people do this so they can have the pet 'on their body' so to speak."

- **Bullets.** Cremated ashes are placed in live bullets. According to MyHolySmoke.com, it's a way to "honor your deceased loved one by giving or sharing with him or her one more round of clay targets, one last bird hunt, or one last stalk hunt."
- **Commemorative Tattoo.** A small portion of the ashes are sterilized and incorporated with the tattoo ink.
- **Space Burial.** Celestis.com offers memorial space flights, in which your pet's ashes can be launched into orbit for a very generous fee.
- **Cloning.** There are services that will clone your pet. However it's very expensive and there are no guarantees the clone will look or act the same as the original animal.

<http://magazine.foxnews.com/at-home/ways-say-goodbye-your-pet>

No Two Dog Noses Are The Same



A dog's nose is the equivalent of a human fingerprint, with each having a unique pattern of ridges and creases. Just as no two humans have the same fingerprints, no two dogs have the same nose prints. Each adorable little bump and ridge is unique to your dog. While there are companies that will store your dog's nose print information in a database, the best way to identify your dog is still by using a microchip. Nose prints are not widely used to identify pets the same way that fingerprints are used to identify humans.

How To Find A Lost Dog

On Day 12 of searching for my dog in a heavily wooded area, distraught and hopeless, I ran into a couple of hunters. They said they lost the occasional dog on a hunt but always got them back. What they told me has helped many dogs and families be reunited.



The dog owner(s) should take an article of clothing that has been worn at least all day the longer the better, so the lost dog can pick up the scent. Bring the article of clothing to the location where the dog was last seen and leave it there. Also, if the dog has a crate & familiar toy, you can bring those too (unless location is undesirable for crate). You might want to leave a note requesting items not to be moved. Leave a bowl of water there too, as the dog probably hasn't had access to any. Do not bring food as this could attract other animals that the dog might avoid. Come back the next day, or check intermittently if possible. Hopefully the dog will be waiting there. I was skeptical and doubted my dog would be able to detect an article of clothing if he didn't hear me calling his name as loud as possible all day for 12 days. But I returned the next day and sure enough found him sitting there! I hope this helps someone out there who's missing a best friend. Good luck!

<http://www.reshareworthy.com/how-to-find-a-lost-dog/#83zFcP6pZvv63yut.01>

Dogs Are Man's Best Friend, And Kids Deserve One

Written by John Moore



Julian Castillo and J J

Photo by Melissa Castillo

Everyone should have a dog.

There's a reason that dogs are called man's best friend.

Unlike people, dogs give much more than they take. A dog only wants your love, attention, a pat on the head and something to eat.

A dog will love you no matter what.

If you don't believe that, lock your wife and your dog in the trunk of your car, come back in 30 minutes and see which one is happy to see you.

A man once said to me that he liked his dog better than he liked most people.

It sounded like something a recluse would say, but this man was anything but a recluse. However, he was about the age that I am now when he said it to me.



Lucy Hall playing dress-up with Sparkle Photo by Larry Harvey

Now that I'm there, I'm beginning to understand what he meant.

If we're honest with ourselves, we have very few best friends in our lives. But a dog will love you no matter what.

A dog brings joy during your worst day. A dog will defend you, even give his life for you.

Not many people like that.

About now, the cat lovers are chiming in.

For the record, I also have a cat, which I love very much. But cats own people. People don't own cats. That's a different discussion.

It's my opinion that every kid deserves a dog. Some places don't allow pets, and that's too bad.

But for the kids who live in a home where they can have a dog, I encourage the parents to let them have one. Some of my fondest memories as a child are with my dogs Sox and Ranger.

That was ages ago, and they're both long gone.

But they're really not, because for the relatively short lifespan that a dog is given, they make the most of it. I still remember both of them just as if they're still here.

Our dog Bert is now getting up in years. He showed up on a 102 degree June day in 2006 and never left. We know nothing of where he'd been or how he got there, but he showed up not long after we lost our dog Buddy.

We said, "No more dogs," after Buddy died. But I think Bert was meant to find us. He needed a home, and our home needed him.

I've had dogs that were bought and dogs that were adopted. Maybe it's just my imagination, but I believe that adopted dogs know that someone took that extra step to take them in when they had no home.

I'm dreading the day when we have to say goodbye.

I know it's coming. But I also know that no matter how hard that day, and the weeks and months after will be, Bert will have given us so much more than we've given him.

John Moore is a longtime Tyler resident and master of terrible puns.

Reprinted from Tyler Morning Telegraph (Tyler, Texas)

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/TP-Focal+Point/198115/moore-thoughts-dogs-are-mans-best-friend-and-kids-deserve-one>

Energy-Saving Bulb Dangers

By Lt. James L. Jester

By now, we have all seen them. We probably all have some in our homes.

We most certainly have come into contact with them in the homes to which we respond. I am talking about energy-saving light bulbs.

They have many different names;

compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), compact fluorescent light, and compact

fluorescent tube, all describe a fluorescent lamp designed to replace an incandescent lamp. Compared to their incandescent brothers producing the same amount of visible light, CFLs consume less power (from 1/5 to 1/3) and have a longer service life (8 to 15 times).



But the news in our quest to be better stewards of our planet is not all good. These CFLs have a small electronic ballast in their base. There is a fire hazard associated with these ballasts, but that is a conversation for another day. Let's talk about another danger posed by these "green" lamps: mercury exposure and poisoning. Like all fluorescent lamps, CFLs contain mercury. This fact not only complicates their disposal under normal conditions, the problem is exacerbated when the lamp is broken and the mercury is allowed "out of its box." The symptoms of mercury poisoning typically include sensory impairment (vision, hearing, and speech), a lack of coordination, skin discoloration, tingling, itching, burning or pain, and desquamation (shedding of skin).

Mercury in lamps is typically present as either elemental mercury liquid, vapor, or both, since the liquid readily evaporates at room temperature. When broken indoors, lamps may emit sufficient mercury vapor to present health concerns. Breakage of multiple lamps presents a greater concern. Injection of mercury into the body through broken glass that is contaminated is of particular concern.

Here is the scenario:

You are dispatched to The Smith residence for a laceration to the foot. Routine run huh? Nope. What you were not told is that Mr. Smith uses CFL lamps in his home. One of those lamps burned-out, and Mr. Smith did not wait for the lamp to cool down before he stood on a chair and removed it. Because the lamp was hot to the touch, Mr. Smith dropped it. As the lamp hit the floor, it exploded. As Mr. Smith descended from the chair he stepped, barefooted, into the broken glass and exposed mercury.

(I have not included the photos that are in the article because they are grotesque. If you would like to see them, you can do so at the link provided at the end of the article).

At one stage it was feared that his foot would need to be amputated. Currently his foot is connected to a vacuum pump to remove continuously dead tissue.

The following are the recommended actions to take in the event of a broken CFL.

- Evacuate the room, taking care not to step on the broken glass littering the floor
- Ventilate the room for a MINIMUM of 15 minutes (EPA recommendation)
- DO NOT clean the debris of the broken lamp with a vacuum cleaner as this will spread toxic mercury droplets throughout the house either immediately or upon the future use of the vacuum
- Don protective gloves (I'll be the one in SCBA too!); use a broom or brush to sweep the debris into a dustpan; empty the contents of the dustpan into a plastic bag; seal the plastic bag
- DO NOT dispose of the plastic bag in to an ordinary refuse receptacle

The debris is lawfully a Hazardous Material and must be disposed of accordingly Depending on the severity of the spill, a more thorough clean-up regimen may need to be employed. Private companies exist that specialize in this type of operation.

Mercury is a toxin, and should be treated with the utmost of care and respect. A CFL may look benign, and make you feel good about "going green," but once the poison is "out of its box" and able to cause an exposure, it's a brand new deal. Stay Safe folks!

Article provided by Stansbury Fire Department

http://www.drbuttar.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Salisbury_Fire_Dept_Training_Newsletter_-_April_2012.pdf

Did You Know?

Till death do us part Human attachment to dogs is evident when people choose to be buried with their pups after death. The earliest known human-dog burial was discovered at Einan (or Eynan or Ain Mallaha) in Israel, dated to about 12,000 years ago.

Pretty Cool Dog Houses

Dog House with a deck and pool-



This is a custom-made dog house built having in mind all the minimum details, including real materials, a wooden deck and a bone shaped pool.

Modern Dog House-



Inspired by Bauhaus architecture, the spacious Cubix dog house is a hand-built contemporary abode for man's best friend. The Cubix dog house is designed and manufactured by the German company Best Friend's Home, and is available in three sizes: small, medium and

large. The Cubix dog house sells for \$5,800-\$6,300 depending on size.

http://www.oddee.com/item_97267.aspx

Dog House With Sun Deck-



http://baklol.com/baks/funny/amazing_dog_houses_81/dog_house_with_sun_deck_1022

World's Most Expensive Dog? Tibetan mastiff puppy sells for \$2 million in China

By Tracy Miller

The ancient breed is a must-have pet for China's wealthy, with prices for the giant dogs reaching into the millions. The furry, bear-like dogs are mythologized as having 'lion's blood.'



Though just a puppy, the dog at left who fetched the record-breaking price is said to weigh nearly 200 pounds.

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES Good puppy! A unidentified man poses for a photo with two Tibetan mastiffs after they were sold at a 'luxury pet' fair in Hangzhou, in eastern China's Zhejiang province. One of the Tibetan mastiff puppies (l.) was sold for almost 2 million USD.

Don't you just want to hug one? You can - for \$2 million.

A Tibetan mastiff puppy in China fetched a record-breaking price in what may be the world's most expensive dog sale, according to local media reports.

The giant, furry canines were once used for hunting in Central Asia and Tibet, and are said to have "lion's blood." They weigh upwards of 100 pounds and are known for their loyalty and guardian instincts.

The 12 million yuan (\$1.9 million) dog, a golden-haired puppy measuring 31 inches tall and weighing nearly 200 pounds, was purchased by a 56-year-old property developer from Qingdao, according to the report in the Qianjiang Evening News.

The ultra-pricey pooches are a status symbol among China's wealthy.

"Pure Tibetan mastiffs are very rare, just like our nationally treasured

pandas, so the prices are so high," said the dog's breeder Zhang Gengyun, according to AFP.

One red mastiff named "Big Splash" reportedly sold for 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million) in 2011, the most expensive dog sale then recorded.

But an industry insider said the sky-high prices often result from breeders "hyping each other up," and sometimes no money changes hands.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/world-expensive-dog-tibetan-mastiff-sells-2-million-article-1.1726647#ixzz30UB8kM4I>

Shar-Pei Wrinkles Explained By Dog Geneticists

By Jonathan Amos

Science correspondent, BBC News



Just how did the Shar-Pei get its famous wrinkled appearance?

Scientists who have analysed the genetics of 10 pedigree dog breeds believe they now have the answer.

Their research identifies 155 distinct locations in the animals' genetic code that could play a role in giving breeds their distinctive appearances.

In the Shar-Pei, the team found differences in a gene known as HAS2 which makes an enzyme known to be important in the production of skin.

"There was probably a mutation that arose in that gene that led to a really wrinkly puppy and a breeder said, 'hey, that looks interesting, I'm going to try to selectively breed this trait and make more of these dogs,'" explained Joshua Akey from the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, US.

Small differences

The pedigree dog has become a fascination - and a remarkably useful research tool - for geneticists.

The domestication of the grey wolf more than 10,000 years ago, and the selective breeding that followed, has resulted in more than 400 breeds - each with a distinctive physique, coat colour and temperament.

These discrete populations give scientists the opportunity to compare and contrast the genetics of the different groups, making it easier to find the causes of specific traits.



The study compared the genetics of 10 pure-bred dog groups

"Man's best friend" is helping scientists locate the faulty genes that cause disease in both dogs *and* humans, as well giving a useful insight into how evolution works at a molecular level.

Dr Akey and colleagues studied 32 wrinkled and 18 smooth-coated Shar-Peis and compared a specific stretch of their DNA with that of other breeds.

The team found four small, but significant, differences in the genetics of the two skin types of the Shar-Pei versus the other breeds. These single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), as they are called, were located in the HAS2 gene.

New targets

"HAS2 makes hyaluronic acid synthase 2, and it's an enzyme that makes hyaluronic acid, and that's one of the principal constituents of the skin," explained Dr Akey.

"There are rare human cases where there are mutations that lead to really severe wrinkling in humans, too.

"So, that suggested it was a good candidate to look at; and sure enough, when we sequenced it we saw that that gene explained wrinkling in Shar-Peis," he told BBC News.

As well as giving insights into the Shar-pei, the research has also identified a raft of other locations in the dog genome that can now be investigated further to understand better why pedigree animals look the way they do.

"The thing that excites me most about our study is that in the last five years, five genes have been identified that contribute to this vast diversity in dog breeds," said Dr Akey.

"So our study found all five of those genes and then we found 150 new targets to explore. It's a powerful approach to look at the genetic legacy of selective breeding."

Dr Akey and colleagues report their findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8453794.stm>

"Dog Breath" Is Actually Unhealthy



You might expect your dog's mouth to smell like, well, dog, but persistent bad breath can actually be a sign of dental disease or other health problems. If you don't already, have your dog's teeth examined by a veterinarian every year.

Homemade Peanut Butter & Bacon Dog Treats



H © Sally's Baking Addiction

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (255g) natural creamy peanut butter
- 3/4 cup (180ml) nonfat milk
- 1 large egg (or 1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce)
- 2 cups (244g) whole wheat flour*
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup (30g) oats (either whole-rolled or quick oats are fine)
- 2-3 strips bacon, chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325F degrees. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.

In a large bowl, gently mix the peanut butter, milk, and egg together with a large spoon or spatula. Switch to a whisk to make sure no lumps remain. Add the flour and baking powder. You may need to turn the dough out onto the counter and use your hands to work in the

flour. Mix in the oats and chopped bacon. The dough is extremely thick and heavy.

Using a rolling pin, roll the dough out into 1/4" thickness. Cut into shapes using cookie cutters or a knife. Arrange on the baking sheets. Bake for 18-20 minutes, or until very lightly browned on the bottom. Remove from the oven, and flip the treats to bake the other side for 10-12 more minutes.

Allow to cool completely before serving to your pup. Store at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. Treats freeze well, up to 2 months.

**Unbleached all-purpose flour is safe for dogs, but whole wheat was more highly recommended by our vet because of its added health benefits. Again, please consult with your vet about any allergies your dog may have.*

Adapted from *Pet Guide*

<http://sallysbakingaddiction.com/2013/10/23/homemade-peanut-butter-dog-treats/>

Aflatoxins, Melamine, And Cyanuric Acid Found In US Made Pet Food

A Hong Kong based consumer association tested numerous brands of kibble (dry) pet foods and found 3 U.S. made pet foods to contain aflatoxins, two U.S. made pet foods contained melamine, and another U.S. made pet food contained cyanuric acid.

The **Consumer Council of Hong Kong** just published findings of testing performed on 39 different dry/kibble pet foods; 20 dog foods and 19 cat foods. Their testing found *“the presence of the carcinogen aflatoxin B1, and the contaminants melamine and cyanuric acid in some of the samples.”*

All levels of aflatoxins found in the Consumer Council testing were below established limits of the European Union Commission, and below established limits of FDA. However as the Hong Kong consumer group pointed out low levels of aflatoxins over time remain

a serious risk to pets. Veterinarians they consulted stated *“since aflatoxin B1 is a known carcinogen, it should best be avoided; long-term exposure to aflatoxin B1 could increase the risk of liver impairment, tumors in liver, and suppressed immune system.”*

The U.S. manufactured pet foods the Consumer Council found to contain **aflatoxin B1** are:

- Purina One Smart Blend Chicken & Rice Formula Adult Dog Food
- Hill’s Science Diet Adult Optimal Care Cat Food
- AvoDerm Natural Chicken & Herring Meal Formula Adult Cat Food

Purina told the **South China Morning Post** the carcinogen was an *“unavoidable natural contaminant”* found in grains such as corn, barley and rice. AvoDerm, stated *“it had since replaced the corn in its formula that was believed to be the source of the carcinogen.”*

And then the bad news continues. The Consumer Council reported their testing found **melamine** in:

- Solid Gold Adult Dog Food
- Iams Chicken Cat Food

And **cyanuric acid** was found in:

- Purina Pro Plan Salmon Cat Food

Melamine and cyanuric acid were found to be the deadly cause of the largest pet food recall in history in 2007.

A single comment posted on the South China Morning Post article stated...

“What else would you expect? especially from USA, a nation where the average resident consumes tons of adulterated meat and other unhealthy foods. Their meat is full of growth enhancing chemicals and drugs.

In Las Vegas for instance, the food slops left over at casino breakfast buffets is cooked into a thick soup and fed to the pigs being raised on nearby farms. The same recycled food is then supplied as bacon or pork fillet to the casinos from whence it was collected as waste a few months earlier.

American pet food producers will probably blame being caught out on China. Everything wrong in the world these days is China’s or Russia’s fault.”

And I have to say – this comment has some valid points.

The food/feed that is allowed to be fed to our animals (pets and livestock) in the U.S. is unforgivable. Poultry litter (yes, poultry poop) is an allowed ingredient in cattle feed. Almost any type of food waste – contaminated with anything from pesticides to rodent filth – is welcome to be included into all pet foods and animal feeds in the U.S. While China certainly must own their responsibility of melamine laced vegetable proteins pet food ingredients and illegal drug residues in jerky treats – here in the U.S. our animal food/feed system is a horrendous mess.

I’ve been told by regulatory authorities at both a state and federal level that their budget is often the challenge – specifically lacking a budget to do any type of proper testing for pet food contaminants. State governments provide very little funding to their pet food regulatory divisions, and the FDA is financially strapped by Congress.

But here we (consumers) are...trying our best to safely feed our pets (and ourselves). We just paid our taxes – which becomes the salaries of those regulatory authorities. Aren’t we due some regulatory protection with our pet foods and treats? I’m not sure what the fix is. But low levels of aflatoxins and melamine/cyanuric acid found in pet foods is not it. Instead, it is history repeating itself...again and again and again. How sick do our pets and us have to become until someone of authority realizes that the food system needs a major overhaul?

To learn more about the dangers of aflatoxins/mycotoxins – even at low levels – in pet food, you can read a very interesting paper published on this topic: <http://truthaboutpetfood.com/AflatoxinsPets.pdf>

To learn more about the dangers of melamine and cyanuric acid, talk to one of the thousands of pet food consumers who watched their pets die in 2007.

Wishing you and your pet(s) the best,

Susan Thixton

Pet Food Safety Advocate

Author Buyer Beware, Co-Author Dinner PAWsible

TruthaboutPetFood.com

Association for Truth in Pet Food

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First Runner-Up in Cover Photo Contest



Charlie and Lucy Mease- Photo by Anna Mease

If you would like the chance to get your dog on the cover of our newsletter, send your entries to Alice Fix at alleydoll3@comcast.net. Photos must be high resolution scans(300 dpi or higher), or mail it to Alice and she will scan it for you. Alice Fix, 1668 S. Kingston St., Aurora, CO 80012.

Officers of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club

President- Alice Fix **Vice President-** Jeanne Hill- Jurik

Secretary- Marchelle Heslep **Treasurer-** Louise Watson

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Public Education/Breed Booths: Jeanne Hill-Jurik

Rescue: Louise Watson

Show Chairman: Kay Rosenberger

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 CSPA Newsletter-2005, 2008, 2009

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

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

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