



*Chesapeake Bay Area
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club*



Upcoming Events

DOG SHOW	TYPE	CITY	SHOW	CLOSING
Maryland				
Mattaponi Kennel Club	AG	Fredericksburg	10/20-21/2012	10/05
Langley Kennel Club	AG	Toano	10/26-28/2012	10/09
Middleburg Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW	Leesburg	10/27-28/2012	10/10
Tidewater Kennel Club Of Virginia, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Virginia Beach	11/02-03/2012	10/17
Central Virginia Agility Club	AG	Glen Allen	11/02-03/2012	10/16
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	RLY/O	Roanoke	11/03/2012	10/17
Virginia Beach Kennel Club	AB/JSHW	Virginia Beach	11/04-05/2012	10/17
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	O	Roanoke	11/04/2012	10/17
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	RLY	Winchester	11/16-17/2012	10/31
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	O	Winchester	11/17-18/2012	10/31
Danville Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Chatham	11/30/2012	11/13
Danville Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Chatham	12/01-02/2012	11/13
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	AG	Winchester	12/01-02/2012	11/14
Tidewater Tracking Club Of Virginia	TX	Yorktown	12/02/2012	11/22
Mattaponi Kennel Club	TR/TX	Leesburg	12/09/2012	11/20
Virginia				
Mattaponi Kennel Club	AG	Fredericksburg	10/20-21/2012	10/05
Langley Kennel Club	AG	Toano	10/26-28/2012	10/09
Middleburg Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW	Leesburg	10/27-28/2012	10/10
Tidewater Kennel Club Of Virginia, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Virginia Beach	11/02-03/2012	10/17
Central Virginia Agility Club	AG	Glen Allen	11/02-03/2012	10/16
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	RLY/O	Roanoke	11/03/2012	10/17
Virginia Beach Kennel Club	AB/JSHW	Virginia Beach	11/04-05/2012	10/17
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	O	Roanoke	11/04/2012	10/17
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	RLY	Winchester	11/16-17/2012	10/31
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	O	Winchester	11/17-18/2012	10/31
Danville Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Chatham	11/30/2012	11/13
Danville Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Chatham	12/01-02/2012	11/13
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	AG	Winchester	12/01-02/2012	11/14
Tidewater Tracking Club Of Virginia	TX	Yorktown	12/02/2012	11/22
Mattaponi Kennel Club	TR/TX	Leesburg	12/09/2012	11/20
West Virginia				
Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Morgantown	12/08-09/2012	11/21



Key Code for Events
 AG - Agility
 JSHW - Junior Showmanship
 TX - Tracking Excellent
 TR - Tracking
 RLY - Rally
 AB - All Breed
 O - Obedience
 VST - Variable Surface Tracking

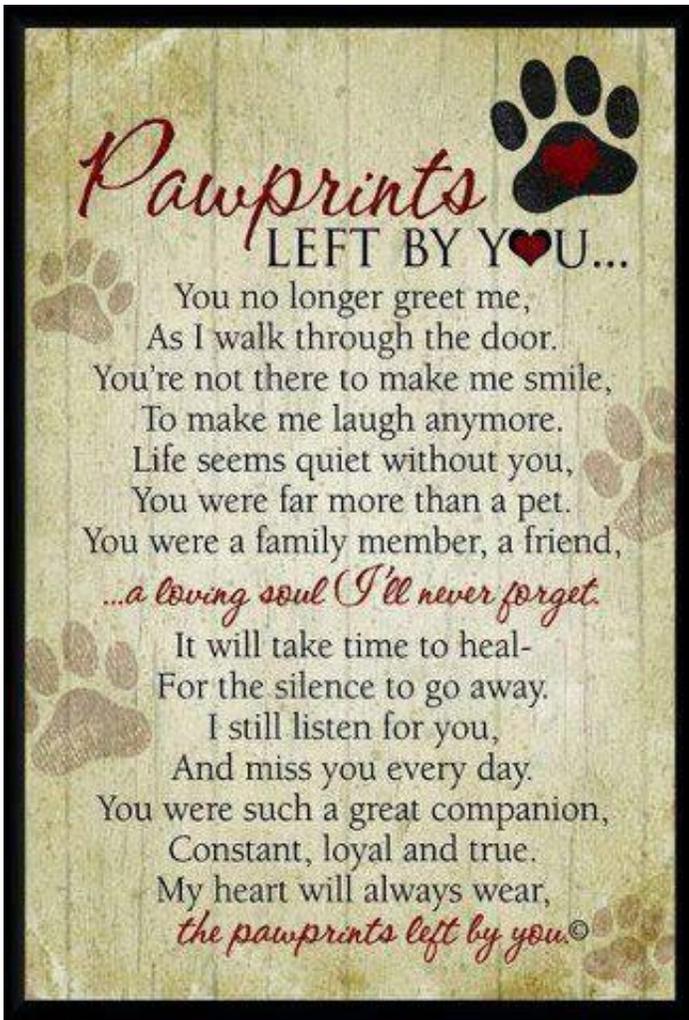
Braggs

On June 29, 2012 my 7 month old Rhodesian Ridgeback, Toroa's Devil with the Blue Dress, won a 4 point major. Owned by Candace Gartland

My 9 month old Rhodesian Ridgeback, Toroa's Devil with the Blue Dress, won WB, BOW, BOS, Puppy Group 1 at Chesapeake Va. Dog Fanciers show on September 22, 2012 under judge Nancy Bodine. Olivia is owned by Candace Gartland



In Memory



“Our Sweetheart”
Seminary’s Kali of Mt. Chance “Kali”
14 May 1999 – 14 Aug 2012
Nalena Klaas

Phoenix passed on April 30 , 2012
Keith and Debbie Merson



Joep by Agnes van der Aar



Anesthesia and your pet: what owners need to know

When a pet must be anesthetized for a medical procedure, it's normal for the owner to be nervous. In addition to concerns about the procedure itself, pet owners usually have many questions about anesthesia: What kind of anesthesia will be used? What are the side effects? How is it administered? Will my pet feel any pain at all? Can the procedure be done with a local anesthetic or does my pet have to be 'put under'? How will my pet be monitored during the procedure? What are the risks?

Here's what you need to know.

The basics: anesthesia/analgesia/sedation

Anesthesia means the loss of sensation or awareness of pain.

General anesthesia is anesthesia accompanied by loss of consciousness.

Local anesthesia is loss of sensation or awareness of pain in a particular part or region of the body. When local anesthesia is administered, the animal remains conscious, though it may be given sedation.

Analgesia is the loss or reduction of the sense of pain without loss of consciousness. Aspirin and acetaminophen are examples of analgesics.

Sedation is a state of reduced anxiety, stress, or excitement brought about through the administration of a sedative agent or drug. Sedation is often used before a general anesthetic is administered in order to calm a pet.

When is anesthesia used?

Veterinarians use anesthesia in two broad cases:

When a procedure involves pain that is more than quick, minor discomfort, e.g., surgery -- whether planned or emergency -- and dental procedures, such as cleanings and extractions.

During procedures -- even painless ones -- that require the pet to remain motionless.

Unfortunately, you can't tell your pet to "keep still" and expect it to obey.

Common non-surgical procedures requiring the use of anesthesia include the following:

Imaging studies, such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRI. (Sometimes sedation alone -- without general anesthesia -- may be sufficient to calm the patient and keep it still.)

Endoscopy

Radiation treatments for cancer

Preparation for surgery

Unless your pet is having an emergency procedure, your veterinarian will conduct a thorough examination before the day of surgery. Depending on the age of the animal, its medical history, and its general state of health, other tests such as X-rays, ECG, cardiac ultrasound, and blood work may be performed. The results of that examination and any necessary tests may affect the veterinarian's choice of anesthetic agent, as well as alerting her/him to any potential risks of surgery.

General anesthesia: what actually happens?

Preparation



Before general anesthesia is administered, the patient is usually premedicated with a sedative so that it feels calm and relaxed. Use of a sedative in an excited or frightened animal may allow for less general anesthesia to be used and will usually make recovery from anesthesia a smoother process.

In most cases, an analgesic is also administered along with the sedation. This reduces post-operative pain and makes recovery less traumatic.

Induction

The process of producing unconsciousness through general anesthesia is called "induction." Induction is usually brought about by the use of a short-acting intravenous (IV) anesthetic agent. After induction has been achieved and the animal is unconscious, a soft plastic tube (endotracheal tube) is inserted into the windpipe (trachea) and is connected to a machine containing anesthetic gases and oxygen.

Although pet owners are often uncomfortable with the thought of a tube being inserted into their pet's trachea, it is important to remember that the pet is completely unconscious when this is done. In addition, having the tube in place is a key safety measure because it enables the surgical team to provide breathing assistance to the patient if that should become necessary during surgery.

The endotracheal tube also protects the patient from accidentally inhaling stomach contents into the airways during the procedure.

During the procedure

If your pet has received general anesthesia, its vital functions, including heart rate and respiratory rate, are carefully monitored throughout the duration of the surgical procedure. This close monitoring enables the surgeon to intervene quickly if there are any complications.

The general anesthetic drug is continuously administered during the procedure in an amount necessary to maintain the desired "depth" of anesthesia. What the correct depth is depends on the surgery being performed and the patient's particular response to the anesthetic being used.

The surgical team will evaluate such indicators as reflexes, muscle tone, and changes in vital signs during surgery and increase or decrease the dose of anesthesia as necessary in order to maintain the correct depth of anesthesia.

What are the risks?

Although no medical procedure or drug is without risk, modern methods of veterinary anesthesia are highly sophisticated and generally safe.

We sought the opinion of an expert in the field: Diane Wilson, DVM, MS, MRCVS, ACVA (Diplomate), a board-certified veterinary anesthesiologist with Med-Vet, a veterinary emergency practice in Worthington, OH. Wilson said: "The risks of anesthesia are much less than they used to be. There are more and more board-certified veterinary anesthesiologists and veterinary technicians with specialized training in administering anesthesia. In addition, new, safer anesthetic gases are in use, and our ability to monitor patients during surgery is much improved."

Questions to ask

Modern methods of veterinary anesthesia make surgery of all kinds safer for our pets than ever before.

If your pet will be undergoing surgery or some other procedure requiring the administration of anesthesia, don't hesitate to discuss your concerns with your veterinarian. In addition to any questions you may have, here are some others you might want to ask:

Who will be administering the anesthesia and monitoring my pet during the procedure?

How long will my pet have to remain in the hospital after surgery?

Does this veterinary facility have qualified overnight monitoring of post-surgical patients?

What will be done to keep my pet comfortable and free of pain in the post-surgical period?

Your veterinarian will be happy to address these and any other concerns you may have. While the risks of anesthesia can't be eliminated, you should not allow your concern over those risks to dissuade you from obtaining needed treatment for your pet.



Halloween Dog Training Tips

Start Training Early

Start working on dog training long before Halloween rolls around. You can't expect a dog to learn to stay quiet when the doorbell rings or remain calm around children if you only think of training on Halloween morning. The earlier you start training, the better off you and your dog will be by the time trick-or-treaters start ringing your doorbell.

Train the Quiet Command

If you live in an area where you get lots of trick-or-treaters and own a dog who barks every time the doorbell rings, Halloween can be one big headache. To alleviate this problem, start working on the quiet command at least a few weeks before Halloween.

Have someone help you with training sessions by standing outside and ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door. Stay calm, and don't react to the doorbell. Give your dog the command "quiet," and wait for his barking to stop. The minute it stops, give him praise and a treat. With practice, you should notice the time between you giving the command and the time your dog stops barking getting shorter and shorter until you are able to stop your dog's barking almost immediately.

Make Sure the Dog is Well-Socialized with Children

Only dogs who are calm and gentle with children should be allowed to approach children who come to the door to trick-or-treat. Halloween is not the time to find out whether or not your dog likes children. The socialization process should begin long before Halloween.

Start off by introducing the dog or puppy to children slowly. If you are unsure whether or not your dog is comfortable around kids, start off with your dog on a leash and a child or children standing a little distance away. As long as your dog remains calm, give him some treats and praise. If he seems comfortable, slowly move closer to the children and continue to praise him and give him treats. In this way, you can slowly work your way up to having your dog accepting pets and hugs from children. You should also introduce your dog to kids wearing costumes, and make sure he's comfortable around them.

Keep in mind that even a dog who is usually comfortable with children can get out of sorts on Halloween. There are usually a lot more children around then the dog is used to, and they are now in strange costumes that make them seem unfamiliar. If you have any concerns about how your dog will handle being around bunches of kids in costume, your best bet might be to keep him in a room away from the door.

Train the Leave It Command

One of the things most of us like best about Halloween is something that can be toxic to our dogs - chocolate. Just in case someone drops candy somewhere where your dog can get to it, it helps if your dog knows the "leave it" command. If he approaches or starts to pick up a piece of chocolate, you'll be able to give him the command to ensure that he won't eat it and become sick.

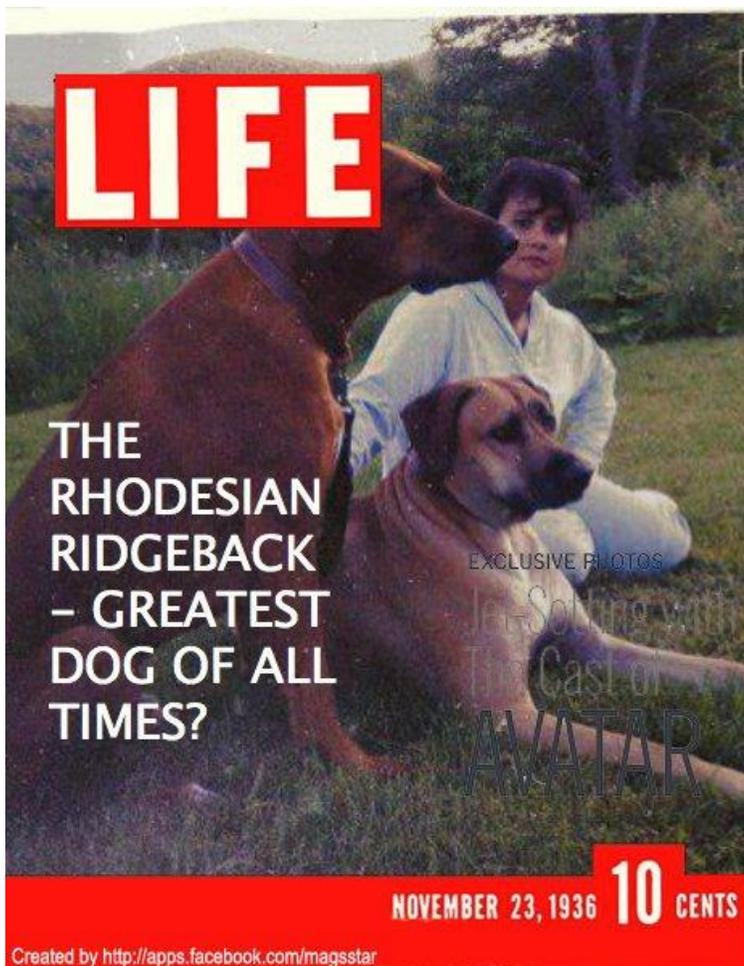
Start by holding a treat. Show it to your dog, and then close your hand over the treat so he can't get it. Tell him "leave it." Your dog may sniff, paw, or nibble your hand in an attempt to get the treat. Wait until he pulls back even a little, and then open your hand and allow him to have the treat. Keep

practicing and slowly work your way up to being able to leave a treat on the floor near your dog and have him leave it there on command. Once he's able to do this, you should be able to use this command to stop him from gobbling up a piece of dropped chocolate on Halloween.

Train the Stay Command

With so much excitement and the continuous opening and closing of doors on Halloween, it becomes more likely that your dog will bolt outside. This can be a problem for a number of reasons. Your dog may knock over trick-or-treaters. He also runs the risk of being hit by a car or becoming lost. To prevent any of these problems, train the dog the "stay" command.

Start by having your dog sit or lie down. Tell him "stay." Take a small step away and then immediately move back to him and give him a treat. Slowly work up to moving a further distance away, and then build up the amount of time your dog remains in the stay. Now you'll be able to tell your dog to stay when trick-or-treaters come to the door without fear of him bolting.



Quick Fix Tips for Halloween

If Halloween is approaching too quickly to train your dog to be on his best behavior, there are a few things you can do to manage your dog's behavior to keep everyone safe and happy on Halloween.

Have someone sit outside to distribute candy to trick-or-treaters. This eliminates the need for kids to knock on the door or ring the door bell, and chances are your dog will be much calmer.

Keep candy bowls and bags far out of reach of your dog.

Confine your dog to a room as far away from the front door as possible. Turn on the radio or television to block out the noise of trick-or-treaters, and give him some toys and chews to keep him busy.

Board him over night. If you're worried your dog may get too anxious or hard to handle during the Halloween celebration, you may want to consider boarding him for the night. He'll be safely away from the Halloween

festivities, and you'll be able to relax and enjoy the holiday.

Phoenix & Nash by the Merson Family



Dogs help the brain-injured By Maiken Scott



Philip Abrams and his service dog, Arye Oji. Arye is a Rhodesian Ridgeback. Please please don't be frightened when you see a service dog, have compassion, that's all I ask. -Philip Abrams

Dog trainer Michaela Greif with one of her trainees.

Imagine walking down the street toward a familiar destination. Suddenly, you have no idea where you are, or where you are going. A Cherry Hill resident who suffers terrifying sudden memory lapses has found a friend to help him cope. A friend with four legs.

His name is Arye Oji which means Lion and Gift. He is a beautiful caramel-colored Rhodesian Ridgeback, a dog breed to hunt lions in Southern Africa. Walking the streets of Philadelphia, Arye's keen senses are focused on his owner, Philip Abrams:

"He constantly looks at me," Abrams says. "He checks me out."

Abrams struggles with brain damage as a result of several severe concussions. One moment, he is fine, going about an errand - the next moment he could be utterly lost:

"Everything is a blank sheet," is how Abrams describes the sensation. "I don't remember anything, and then the panic sets in, the stress sets in, and it's just overwhelming, and I'll be going in circles."

This type of disorientation is common in people with so-called "mild" brain injuries like concussions, says Dr. Timothy Young. He is medical director for brain injuries at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia.

"One of the things that I see a lot at my clinic are folks that have difficulty with getting lost," he said. "If they don't follow a specific routine, they can get disoriented very easily so you try to develop strategies to address that."

Safety net is shaky

His patients use notebooks or smart phones to help them stay on track - but even that poses a problem, says Young. If you are completely lost and in a panic, you aren't likely to remember how to use your iPhone to get you out of a jam:

"You can create all kinds of safety nets, but at the end of the day, if someone forgets to use the safety nets, then you have an issue."

Philip Abrams decided that a service dog could help him. A dog lover, he rescued Arye from a shelter when he was a puppy, and trained the dog to respond to his unusual needs:

"He sees certain things that I would be doing that give him an indication, they just sense it. And then when he sees a certain kind of mannerism that's when he springs into action."

When Arye notices Abrams is in distress, he immediately pulls him toward a location that he knows, or approaches a person who knows them, perhaps a bus driver, store attendant, or police officer. Abrams tries to stay on predictable routes where Arye can recognize people and places. Philadelphia therapist and dog trainer Michaela Greif has seen this special bond develop countless times.

"They end up like a couple," she said. "That's what they are - and they end up tailoring a whole new vocabulary for themselves and they become very intuitive, the dog to the person, but also the person to the dog."

Society slow to adjust



Greif says the days when dogs were mostly used to help the blind are long gone. Service dogs now assist people with a wide range of disabilities, both physical and emotional, but public awareness of these new roles lags behind.

Philip Abrams says people often question why he should be allowed to bring his dog:

"Oh, you look normal, you're not blind, what's wrong with you?"

Just recently, Abrams was on his way to a job interview, and was flagged by a security guard in the building:

"He said, 'No dogs allowed' - and I said it's a medical service dog, would you like to see his license, and he said no, go sit in the corner for security reasons, and I felt like I was a child,

or a dog - go sit in the corner.'

Abrams left, momentarily defeated - but he's been making it his personal mission to spread the word about the many uses of service dogs:

"Please please don't be frightened when you see a service dog, have compassion, that's all I ask, and I'm really serious about it, because I had some nasty things said to me.'

When trained by an organization, service dogs are expensive - they can cost up to \$20,000. Dog trainer Michaela Greif says the dogs bring such independence and safety to people's lives, she predicts their use will grow, despite the price tag. Greif says beyond the help they offer, these animals bring another important benefit to owners:

"It's very empowering to take care of an animal, and to take care of an animal well, and often for folks who are battling a disability, they don't have a lot of empowerment in their life. I think it feels really good to take care of something, and to have it take care of you."

Dog's Weight Loss Inspires Owner To Drop 200 pounds



Lindsey and Millie today

Everyone is inspired to lose weight in different ways. For some an unflattering picture will spark a diet and exercise routine, others are motivated by an upcoming event -- and for Lindsey Evans, it was her dog Millie.

Millie had nearly starved to death when Lindsey rescued her, but the Rhodesian Ridgeback quickly put on weight thanks to her new mom's TLC -- and the junk food Lindsey shared with her. Soon Lindsey had ballooned to 350 pounds, while Millie tipped the scales at 126 -- nearly twice the weight considered "healthy" for her size.

Vets were shocked at Millie's girth when Lindsey brought her in for a leg operation and quickly put her on a crash diet. As Lindsey watched her pup shrink to healthy 70 pounds, the 39-year-old knew it was time to follow.

"I thought if my dog Millie can do it so can I," Lindsey told the Daily Mail. Earlier this year, she started a diet program and cut junk food from her life.

"I am quite severely disabled and I always just assumed that without exercise I could never lose weight, but Millie couldn't walk far either because she has bad legs, and once I saw her lose weight just through her diet I knew I could do it too," Lindsey explained. "So I completely changed my diet -- I virtually halved my food. I didn't eat crisps, chocolate or bread, no sugar and no fat."

Lindsey has now reached her goal weight of 140 pounds, while Millie has maintained her healthy weight. "I am really proud of what I have achieved," Lindsey reflected. "I have reached my target weight and I am determined to stay there."

She added, "Losing the weight has changed my life but i wouldn't have done it if Millie hadn't shown me the way."



Gay Men and their Pets: Creating the Perfect Family

Many people these days refer to their pets not as possessions, but as friends or family members. Pets happily take their place alongside their human companions, providing comfort, support and love in abundance. Dogs, in particular, are always ready to go for a walk, play in the park, or just accompany their owners for a marathon couch-potato-television-watching session.

Maybe that's why so many gay men have found joy in bringing dogs into their inner circles. Dogs possess the ability to love without judgment and without regard to sexual orientation. The devotion of a dog is unconditional. Sadly, that's not always what gay men experience when they go through the rocky process of 'coming out' to their families and friends.

Charles Busch, an acclaimed Broadway playwright, (<http://www.charlesbusch.com/Biography.htm>) credits his white German Shepherd, Wolfie, for enabling him to survive a difficult childhood "As a child, I felt alone, and different. Wolfie was my friend. He was the one who was with me the most, and all that other stuff didn't matter to him. He just loved me. He was there for me for whatever I needed."

Forty years later, Busch's memories of his stalwart childhood companion still bring tears to his eyes.

Surrogate children

Maybe because it's hard for gay men to create a family that includes children, they often form extremely strong bonds with their pets. Gay couples are notoriously devoted to spoiling their pets with love and attention. Single gay men with dogs live the lives of single parents, balancing work, social life, and dog care. Many gay men seem to have a gift for the special details of dog parenting.

Randy Allgaier of San Francisco found fulfillment through his career as a political activist for various gay causes. But when his HIV progressed to AIDs, it was his Beagle, Darwin, who stayed by his side, seeing him through terrible bouts of illness. "He has this look in his eyes," Randy said. "It's like he says, 'I'm here with you.'"

After providing company all day for Randy, Darwin would head out with his partner, Lee Hawn, when he got home from work, for a stress-relieving walk. "Darwin took care of both of us," Randy said.

Since they are always younger than their owners, dogs are like an eternal fountain of youth. They charm us with their puppyish enthusiasm, and then gracefully accept the infirmities of their older years. Some men tolerate wild excesses of their dogs' craziness and bad behavior. Maybe it reminds them of their own.

The animal-gay bond

Dr. Lynette Hart of the University of California/Davis School of Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.epi.ucdavis.edu/F-hartl.htm>) has extensively studied the human-animal bond. She refers to pets as "social lubricants." She added a dose of scientific reality to the idea that there is something magical about living with a pet. "Canine to human interactions are not phenomenally better than human to human interactions," she said. "But humans are complicated. They don't always make time for their partner. Pets do."

Cats are Dr. Hart's pet of choice. She is a consultant for the San Francisco organization Pets Are Wonderful Support, which provides assistance to men with AIDS who need help feeding, walking and caring for their pets when they are disabled with illness.

"It used to be that a person had to give up their dog when they were sick," said John Lipp, president of PAWS. "We're saying that's the wrong thing to do. A sick person needs their pet with them in order to get better."

Unconditional love

In his book "Paws and Reflect: A Special Bond Between Man and Dog," (<http://animal.discovery.com/fansites/backyard/about/about.html>) David Mizejewski, the host of Animal Planet's "Backyard Habitat," recounts how his dogs helped him endure the pain of breaking up after his first long-term relationship. "That's one of the amazing things about dogs," Mizejewski said. "They are there for you. They pick up on your emotions. There is this total unconditional love."

That unconditional love is particularly welcome to gay men. Dogs accept the idiosyncrasies of their human companions without argument or complaint. Many have a unique ability to

attune to their human's mood. They are ready to share in happiness or comfort when their human is in pain.

In the connection with their pets, gay men learn certain behaviors essential to a relationship: the ability to give and receive love, the capacity to tend to the needs of another, and openness to the presence of another being.

In return, their pets love them unreservedly. They don't talk back, they don't fight, and they don't criticize. They bring good company that is always silent. Gay men have discovered that the special magic of pets is the wholehearted way they enrich our lives. They offer the acceptance that gay men don't always find in the human world.

Is your new partner right for you...and your pet?



Your dog's body language around a new boyfriend or girlfriend can reveal a lot. When Pat Connor first met Jay, she knew they had a special connection. However, the true test of their relationship would come after he met Bailey, the beagle and golden retriever mix she'd rescued four months earlier.

"Because Bailey hadn't been with me very long before I met Jay, she wasn't as clear a boyfriend meter as the dogs I'd had previously," Pat said. "Still, I was eager to see how they'd react to each

other, especially since dogs are great judges of personality and character."

With five million smell receptors to our 220, it's true that dogs may do better than we do at sniffing out who's right for us. That's because they're non-verbal, says Deborah Wood, author of "The Dog Lover's Guide to Dating: Using Cold Noses to Find Warm Hearts" (Howell Book House, 2003).

"Dogs get beyond the surface things we can't help but look at because we're human," she says. "They don't look at clothing, economic success, or whether somebody's a smooth talker. They're more attuned to the gentleness and the soul of the person."

Read your dog's cues

To get to this information, you must first know how to read your dog's behavior for clues as to who you're dealing with. For example, Pat could tell that Bailey liked Jay since she'd sort of "dance around him."

“I could tell she wanted to go to him,” she says, “it just took her a while to overcome her shyness.” Eventually, however, she did. Moreover, her tail started to wag whenever she saw him -- a good sign, say experts.

If, however, unlike Bailey, your dog barks or growls every time your new beau approaches, there could be a problem. “If you have a dog that’s generally friendly but really doesn’t like this person, your dog could be trying to tell you something,” says Wood. “I’d pay attention.”

Use your dog as bait for new insights

Once you know where your dog stands on your love interest, where does your love interest stand on your dog? After all, if you’re like the 66 percent of dog owners recently surveyed by the American Kennel Club, you might not want to consider dating someone who doesn’t like your animal.

If the person not only likes dogs, but has one, Wood recommends noting the breed. “(It) can give you a lot of information about someone’s personality since they tend to share those traits with their dogs,” she said. For example, people with dachshunds tend to be quirky and fun while those with Rottweilers can be overly protective.

She also recommends watching how somebody treats their dog as an indication of how they’ll treat you. Take the case of Marilyn Cantwell and her former boyfriend Dick. He used to say that “anybody who didn’t understand the dog came first wouldn’t make it with him.” It’s a sentiment that not only raised a red flag for Marilyn but also caused her to end the relationship.

Here are a few others to look out for:

If somebody is too harsh or strict with the dog, yelling for no good reason

If they don’t take care of the dog -- or take better care of the dog than they do of

themselves

If your dinner conversation is constantly being interrupted by a begging dog (could indicate boundary issues)

If they’re threatened by the time and attention you spend with your dog

If they inappropriately put the pet before you

If they want you to get rid of your pet --

“Get rid of them instead,” Wood said, explaining that this type of request can be a precursor to domestic violence



Finally, it’s best to have your dog spend some time around somebody before you get too invested, Pat said. “Jay worked hard to win Bailey over and that meant a lot to me.” So much so, that she married him.

Halloween Safety for Dogs

Halloween can be a fun time of year for the whole family - even your dog. However, there are also many potential dangers and sources of stress for your dog. Just remember to keep your dog safe from these Halloween hazards.

Halloween Candy and Other Treats

Remember that human treats are not usually good for dogs! Candy - especially chocolate - can be extremely toxic to your dog. Artificially sweetened candy, gum and other goodies may also contain xylitol, a highly toxic substance. Dogs may also ingest food wrappers, causing a risk of choking, upset stomach or gastrointestinal blockage. Various party snacks can be too salty and may contain ingredients that can poison your dog. Alcoholic beverages and dogs do not mix - they pose a significant risk of severe illness or even death! Keep all of these "human goodies" far out of your dog's reach. If you are not positive that you can keep your dog away from these hazards, then consider confining your pet to another area of your home during the festivities. Keeping appropriate dog treats around for your dog can be a great idea, but remember not to overfeed. Sliced carrots or apples (hold the caramel) can be tasty and healthy snack alternatives for people and dogs alike!

Halloween Decorations

Your dog is bound to be curious about new objects around the house, and that includes Halloween decorations. Be sure decorations are not in areas where your dog could ingest them or bump into them. Power cords trip your dog or lead to electrical shock if chewed. Be careful with the placement of jack-o-lanterns - have you ever seen a dog eat a whole pumpkin? It is not pretty! Also, candles can be knocked over, potentially burning your dog and/or starting a fire. Other decorations can be eaten or broken, causing serious harm to your dog. Have fun and decorate - just think about your dog first!

Trick-or-Treaters and other Guests

Though many dogs love visitors, some can become fearful of strangers. Many dogs will even be afraid of people they know if those people are in costumes. Plus, constant ringing of the doorbell might get your dog over-excited or very stressed out. Think about your dog's typical reaction to visitors and take extra precautions for Halloween. Keep your dog at a distance when greeting trick-or-treaters by putting up a baby gate or confining her to another area of the home. When inviting guests into your home, introduce them to your dog in a positive manner. If your dog seems afraid of guests in costumes, remove her

from the situation calmly. During parties and loud gatherings, your dog might do best in another area of your home unless she is used to these types of events and has done well in the past.

Halloween Costumes for Dogs

Some dogs really enjoy getting dressed in costumes - they might ham it up and revel in the attention. Other dogs can become scared or uncomfortable in clothing of any type. If you want to dress your dog up, start simple and see how she handles it. If she does not like it, then don't push the issue. Try a Halloween bandanna or collar instead. If your dog does seem to enjoy getting dressed up, be certain you choose a costume that fits comfortably. If it is too tight, it could cut off circulation or cause sores to develop. Loose-fitting outfits can trip your dog or get caught on objects around the house. Because of these potential dangers, *never* leave your dog unattended in the costume. She could become injured or may ingest parts of the costume and choke, become sick, or develop gastrointestinal blockage.

Outdoor Dangers

I personally feel that unsupervised dogs are best kept indoors year-round, though some dogs will do fine living outdoors alone. However, the rules are different during the Halloween season! It is **extremely crucial** that you keep your dog indoors unless directly supervised. Sadly, there are cruel people who have twisted ideas of fun this time of year - and your dog can be the victim. Though it is more widely known that black cats are targeted during Halloween, any household pet can be at risk and **MUST** be kept indoors!



Your dog can be part of Halloween fun if you play it safe. As always, follow common dog safety rules: be certain that your dog wears current identification at all times, keep your dog on a leash when outdoors, and keep her safe from potentially dangerous situations. Have fun, be safe and have a happy Halloween!

Nash by the Merson Family



Joep by Agnes van der Aar





Ink's Illness

Sharing stories about my fur kids and researching articles for the clubs newsletter doesn't even come close to how one deals with a disease or sickness that one has researched.

My dogs eat very healthy, nothing is processed, everything is cooked at home where most or all fat is removed from their food. When I cook their meats, their meats are cooled and the fat removed - all that white glob that accumulates at the top of the food is

taken and disposed of. Chicken skin tossed. I only feed them high quality dry food (if I have to travel, they have something that they can be fed other than the mom's food), I do not feed them store bought biscuits, treats made in countries that are in the news to be the responsible for thousands of dogs deaths. Every Sunday, I make them their breakfast biscuits with vegetables and low fat meats, eggs if I could only use organic I would. For teeth cleaning I use natural products, as I will not submit them to anesthesia to have their teeth cleaned. I do everything the way it was handed down generation after generation in my family.

However, sometimes things can go horribly wrong. Friday we received a call whilst at work. "Inkozosana is sick, she is vomiting, has severe diarrhea, panting up a storm, and looks like she is in pain". The mom in me, panicked. My first thought and fear was **BLOAT!**

After several hours of mental torture, Inkozosana was diagnosed with severe Pancreatitis. How? What? Why?

PANCREATITIS - I know I have covered this but it is a reminder with fall and pies and Thanksgiving coming up.

Pancreatitis is inflammation and swelling of the pancreas. It can occur in a mild or severe form. The cause of spontaneous pancreatitis in dogs is not well understood. Dogs taking corticosteroids are at increased risk. There is a higher incidence of pancreatitis in dogs with Cushing's syndrome, diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, and idiopathic hyperlipemia (a disease of Miniature Schnauzers). These diseases are associated with high serum lipid levels. Pancreatitis is also more prevalent in overweight spayed females and dogs on high-fat diets. An attack may be triggered by eating table scraps or a fatty meal. Acute pancreatitis is characterized by the abrupt onset of vomiting and severe pain in the abdomen. The dog may have a tucked-up belly and assume a prayer position. Abdominal pain is caused by the release of digestive enzymes into the pancreas and surrounding tissue. Diarrhea, dehydration, weakness, and shock may ensue.

The diagnosis can be suspected based on a physical examination. It is confirmed by blood tests showing elevated amylase and/or lipase levels, along with a new serum test called canine pancreatitis lipase immuninol reactivity and TAP (trypsinogen activation peptide). Abdominal ultrasonography may reveal an enlarged and swollen pancreas.

Mild pancreatitis produces loss of appetite, depression, intermittent vomiting, and diarrhea and weight loss.

Fulminant necrotizing pancreatitis is an acute, extremely severe, usually fatal form of pancreatitis. In hours, your dog will go into shock. Dogs may vomit or simply show signs of severe abdominal pain. If you suspect this problem, get your dog to the veterinarian immediately!

Following an attack of pancreatitis, the pancreas may be permanently damaged. When it is, the dog may develop diabetes mellitus if the islet cells have been destroyed or may develop exocrine pancreatic insufficiency if the acinar cells have been destroyed.

Treatment: Dogs with acute pancreatitis require hospitalization to treat shock and dehydration. The most important step in treating pancreatitis is to rest the gland completely. This is accomplished by giving the dog nothing by mouth for several days and maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance with intravenous saline solutions. Antibiotics are used to prevent secondary bacterial infections. Pain is controlled with narcotics. Cardiac arrhythmias, if present, are treated with anti-arrhythmic drugs. Dogs who do not respond to medical treatment may require surgery to drain an infected pancreas. The prognosis for dogs with shock and spreading peritonitis is poor.

Dogs who recover from pancreatitis are susceptible to recurrent attacks, which can be mild or severe. These episodes can be prevented, in part, by eliminating predisposing factors. For example, place overweight dogs on a weight-loss program. Feed the total daily ration in two or three small servings to avoid over stimulating the pancreas. Do not feed table scraps. Dogs with high serum lipid levels (determined by your veterinarian) should be placed on a fat-restricted diet. If scarring has damaged the acinar or islet cells, your dog may need supplemental treatment such as enzymes or insulin. Throughout the weekend, I checked her temperature and medicated her per the vets instructions. Saturday evening her temperature rose to 103.5. She had a fever. (Unlike humans, dogs have a hotter body temperature. Human body temperatures are considered normal under 99 degree Fahrenheit but the normal range for dogs is considered to be at 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

This can cause confusion if you are not aware of the fact that **dogs have higher body temperatures than humans** because you may think that your dog has a fever even though they are in the normal range.

Dogs will normally **have warmer temperatures because of their thick fur and their ability to withstand the cold much better than humans**. So if you decide to take your dog's temperature and it is anywhere between 101 - 102 degrees you will have nothing to worry about since this is the normal range for dogs. If your dog has a temperature greater than 103 degrees Fahrenheit, you should call your veterinarian. Dogs with high fevers above 106 degrees Fahrenheit are emergencies that must be treated promptly. If your dog has a temperature above 105 degrees Fahrenheit, you can help bring his body temperature down by applying cool water to his fur,

especially around the ears and feet. Using a fan on the damp fur will help lower the temperature. Be sure to monitor your dog's rectal temperature as you do this, and stop the cooling procedure once it reaches 103 degrees Fahrenheit.

If your dog has a fever, try to see that he drinks small amounts of water on a regular basis to stay hydrated, but don't force it. And never give your dog any human medicines intended to lower fever, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), as they can be poisonous to dogs and cause severe injury or death.)

I had to bring her temperature down. I iced some clothes, (Put ice blocks in side, and put it in the freezer). When it was "frozen", I wiped her body, her paws, her stomach, her underarms, face and her ears. I checked her temperature ever half hour to see if it was rising and was ready to rush her to the emergency room. Her temperature stabilized at 103.5. After several hours of 103.5, her temperature began to retreat. By 10pm, her temperature reached 103, I was relieved.



I stopped the ice wipes and let her rest. When she woke the next morning; I was all goggled eyed, her temperature had come down to 101.7.

She was able to hold down water. She slept like a saint and didn't barge until about noon, refused food, but wanted her water. No large amounts of food, as the pancreas has to heal. Lots of rest is going to be needed over the next few days. She is on the couch, covered in my night gown smelling like her mom. I am a dog mom.



One week later the doctor ruled out pancreatitis. What made Inkie so sick, I hope one day to find out, however all said and done, this was a scare for everyone. From Bloat to Pancreatitis to whatever it is/was.



Toxic homes: Are our pets becoming polluted?

The danger posed by toxic chemicals in the environment has been a widely recognized and extensively studied public health issue for decades. But only recently have the possible effects of these chemicals on pet health been seriously studied.

A new report raises new concerns

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a Washington, D.C.-based not-for-profit research organization,

recently issued the results of what it describes as "the most comprehensive investigation of the chemical body burden of companion animals conducted to date." In the study, 23 dogs and 37 cats were tested for the presence of 70 industrial chemicals. The report provides important information on the extent of potentially dangerous chemical exposure in pets.

These were some of its findings:

The animals tested showed contamination with 48 of the 70 chemicals tested.

Forty-three of the chemicals were found "at levels higher than those typically found in people."

Blood and urine samples taken from the dogs studied were found to be contaminated with 35 chemicals, including 11 carcinogens, 31 chemicals toxic to the reproductive system, and 24 neurotoxins.

Samples from the cats contained 46 chemicals altogether, including 9 carcinogens, 40 chemicals toxic to the reproductive system, 34 neurotoxins, and 15 chemicals toxic to the endocrine system.

Chemicals? What chemicals?

Most pet owners are diligent when it comes to monitoring their pets' diets and general health. So, it may come as a surprise to learn that there are literally scores of chemicals -- some of them known to be toxic or potentially carcinogenic -- to which our pets are exposed on a regular basis. The list reads like the index of a chemistry textbook, and includes: polybrominated biphenyl ethers (PBDEs), phthalates, oxytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), ethoxyquin, propylene glycol, bisphenol A (BPA), and perfluorochemicals (PFCs).

Where do they come from?

According to the EWG report, the sources of industrial chemicals found in the pet environment are many, and include substances widely used in consumer and pet products: PBDEs are fire retardants commonly used in foam furniture and bedding manufactured before 2005.

Phthalates are a group of chemicals commonly used as softeners in many plastic items, including pet chew toys.

PFCs are found in food bag coatings, house dust, stain-proof furniture, cat beds, carpets, as well as non-stick cooking utensils.

Mercury compounds, from a variety of industrial sources.

Garden insecticides and herbicides, such as the commonly used 2,4-D.

How serious is the danger?

The EWG report points out that because pets age more rapidly than humans, they develop health problems from toxic chemical exposure much more rapidly. That is of particular concern where the carcinogenic -- cancer causing -- chemicals are concerned. According to the EWG report, between 20 and 25 percent of dogs die of cancer.

In the case of cats, the report cites endocrine (hormone) system toxins (PBDEs) as being of particular concern. These are associated with thyroid disease, a leading cause of illness in older cats. The report also cites studies that suggest a link between hyperthyroidism in cats and exposure to the plastics chemical BPA, which is found in the linings of pop-top cat food cans.

Not the last word

Although the EWG study is an important milestone in pet environmental safety, some researchers have expressed doubts concerning the conclusions of the study. In a recent May 2 article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nancy Szabo, PhD., an analytical toxicologist at the University of Florida, was quoted as saying that more research is needed and that chemicals are less of a threat to pet health than not keeping them vaccinated and out of the street.

How can I protect my pet?

Although not the final word on the subject, the EWG findings suggest that some sensible precautions by pet owners are appropriate. The EWG suggests a number of steps that will reduce the level of pets' chemical exposure:



Don't use chemical pesticides and herbicides on your lawn.

Select pet foods that are free of preservatives and dyes.

Replace foam pet beds and furniture with ones using natural materials.

Avoid flea and tick collars, which deliver a constant dose of pesticide to your pet; consult your veterinarian for alternative flea and tick treatments.

Avoid optional stain-proofing treatments on furniture, carpets, and auto upholstery.

Use filtered tap water in your pet's water bowl.

Use metal food and water bowls, rather than those made of plastic.

Joep & Saar by Agnes van der Aar



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