



# Chesapeake Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Dear CBARRC Members,

It's hard to believe that the New Year is already well under way! The dogs are certainly happy spring is here and right behind it is the warmth of summer. We are all enjoying spending more time outside. 2011 has already brought some big changes, including the birth of our daughter, Kailey. Susan and I would like to thank everyone who helped us to welcome her...your friendship and support means so much to us!

We have a couple of exciting Ridgeback events coming up this spring. On April 30<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at Keepstone Farm in Berryville, VA for Herding Day. If you haven't tried this with your dogs before I encourage you to come out and see what it's all about. Many Ridgebacks show an amazing aptitude for herding, and the staff at the farm is patient and helpful when it comes to showing you what to do (for both the dogs and the humans!). Herding day will be from 10am – 2pm, and more details can be found in the events section of the web site.

Looking ahead towards to Fall, CBARRC will again be hosting a luncheon after the Old Dominion supported show in October. We are also planning a Fall Fun Day in November. Please stay tuned for more details.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in CBARRC we would love to hear from you. As always, we need volunteers to help out with the events. And if you would like to become even more involved it will be time again this year for our officer/board elections. Officer and board members serve for two calendar years. The next term to be served is: January 2012 through December 2013. We will be looking for candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as three Board Members. More information will follow but feel free to contact me with any questions.



**Obi-wan of Safarihunters**  
*Flying the warm weather in*  
 Owned by Agnes van der Aar

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

*Steve Hoffman*  
 President, CBARRC

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# Upcoming Events

**CBARRC Events**

**Herding Day!**

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm

Where: Keepstone Farm, Berryville, VA

Your Ridgeback can try for their Herding Instinct Certification!



**Old Dominion Supported Show and Luncheon!**

Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> all day

Where: Longbranch Farm, Millwood, Virginia (part of the Hunt Country Cluster All Breed Conformation Show)

Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes, Trophies and Luncheon on Site after Ridgebacks show



**Fall Fun Day**

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm

Patuxent River Park, Croom, (Upper Marlboro) Maryland

Lure Coursing, Lunch, Contests, Etc!

DOG SHOW	TYPE	CITY	SHOW	CLOSING
<b>Maryland</b>				
Oriole Dog Training Club	RLY	Baltimore	05/27	05/11
Oriole Dog Training Club	O	Baltimore	05/28-29	05/11
Talbot Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Eden	06/04	05/17
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	AG	Eden	06/05-06	05/17
Potomac Hound Club	LB/JSHW/SWPC	Bel Alton	06/30	06/15
Southern Maryland Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Bel Alton	07/01-02	06/15
Rock Creek Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Bel Alton	07/03-04	06/15
Catoctin Kennel Club	AB/JSHW	West Friendship	07/07	06/22
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW	West Friendship	07/08	06/22
Upper Marlboro Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/JSHW	West Friendship	07/09	06/22
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW	West Friendship	07/10	06/22
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	RLY/O	Salisbury	07/22-23	07/06
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	O	Salisbury	07/24	07/06
Hyattsville Dog Training Club	AG	Westminster	08/12-14	07/27
Oriole Dog Training Club	RLY/O	Baltimore	08/26-28	08/10
Oriole Dog Training Club	RLY/O	Baltimore	08/26-28	08/10
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	AG	Eden	08/26-28	08/03
Upper Marlboro Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/JSHW	West Friendship	11/27/2011	11/09
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW	West Friendship	11/28/2011	11/09

**Virginia**

Dog Owners Training Club Of Lynchburg, Inc.	AG	Lynchburg	05/01	04/06
Hampton Roads Obedience Training Club	O/RLY	Hampton	05/01	04/13
Rivanna River Earthdog Club	ED	Palmyra	05/01	05/01
Richmond Dog Obedience Club, Inc.	RLY/O	Stafford	05/06-08	04/16
Belroi Agility Club Of Virginia	AG	Toano	05/14-15	04/26
Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Fincastle	05/21 -22	05/03
Gloucester Kennel Club Of Virginia	AG	Toano	05/21-22	05/03
Mattaponi Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Manassas	05/21-22	05/04
Langley Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Hampton	05/27-28	05/11
Gloucester Kennel Club Of Virginia	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Hampton	05/29-30	05/11
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Fishersville	06/11-12	05/25
Mattaponi Kennel Club	AG	Fredericksburg	06/18-19	06/03
Dog Owners Training Club Of Lynchburg, Inc.	AG	Lynchburg	07/01-03	06/15
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	AG	Winchester	07/08-10	06/15
Shawnee Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Woodstock	07/16-17	06/29
Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Salem	8/05-06	07/20
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	RLY/O	Berryville	08/06	07/20
New River Valley Kennel Club	AB/JSHW	Salem	08/07	07/20
Coursing Hounds Association Of Mid-Potomac	LCTS/LCTR	The Plains	08/20	08/17
Dog Owners Training Club Of Lynchburg, Inc.	RLY/O	Lynchburg	09/17-18	08/31
James River Kennel Club, Inc.	RLY/O	Lynchburg	09/24-25	09/07
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	O	Roanoke	11/5-06	10/19

**West Virginia**

Beckley West Virginia Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Lewisburg	05/01	04/13
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**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

***Braggin' Rights***



**Hero** owned by Candace Gartland - Passed his Tracking Dog certificate. He is now: **Ch. Symetri Spring Into Action, TD, JC, CGC, TT, HIC.**

**Brody** Owned and Loved by Bobbie and Steve Christensen Got a BEST of Breed in his coursing. 16pt towards his ASFA. Get the Bunny's Boy!

Ancient Hill "**Lucy**" **In The Sky With Diamonds** received 2 - 3pt majors! We are so happy and pleased. She is on her way to be a Duel CH. Congratulations to Trent & Mary Margaret Prange Her Proud Parents. Thanks to all of you for your Love of your Special Family Member

## Profiled Member - Melloni Turpin-Harrell

### 1. What dogs are currently in your household?

I currently live with 3RR's, Rijali age 12, Wasii age 6, and Tsadania who is 3.

### 2. When did you get your first Ridgeback? In addition, what made you decide on one?

My family and I have shared our lives with Ridgebacks since 1998. Our first Rhodesian was purchased in Tyngsboro, MA; at Shadyridge Kennels by Ulla Britt Ekengren. My husband and I put a lot of thought into choosing the right breed for our family. Choosing a breed that we both agreed on was not easy,



however, knowing the characteristics that were important to us started the search and our key words narrowed it down to one breed, the Rhodesian Ridgeback. These are just a few of the traits we looked for in a family dog; loyalty, elegance, powerful, fearless, regal, athletic, sensitive, tolerant, clean, confident, protective but not aggressive.



### 3. What is your profession and what do you enjoy doing outside of the "world of dogs"?

I am currently working at the Annapolis Animal Hospital and have done so for close to a decade. I began my career as a technician, which satisfied my love for animals. Now, I mainly run the front desk or help wherever I am needed. The knowledge that I have received over the years is forever rewarding and helpful in many situations as a pet owner. When I am not busy in my dog world, I enjoy attending my two sons sporting events (football, wrestling, and lacrosse) and spending time with my other love, which is my horse, Ms. Nikki.

### 4. Favorite activity with your dog(s)?

Things I enjoy with my pack are sharing the couch, neighborhood walks, trail rides with my horse and the hounds at the barn. Deer, goose, squirrel chasing, boat rides, dog shows, lure coursing, training classes, hikes, biking and sharing our bed. Their presence brings me happiness in every situation and I am thankful to have them every hour of every day of my life.



### 5. Any memorable or funny story about you and your dog(s) you would like to share?

One of the most memorable events I had was on a fall day I stopped at the grocery store after a day at the park. I cracked the windows about 5 inches and had forgotten I had the sunroof open. Rijali watched my boys and me go into the store and decided to come out of the Trooper, through the sunroof, over the hood, across the lot and through the automatic doors to find us. Boy, was I embarrassed yet amazed, shocked and relieved he was ok. Needless to say, Rijali wasn't welcomed back in the store. He was about 10 months of age and very clever.



### 6. Do you attend CBARRC events and what do you enjoy about CBARRC?

I am involved in the Kennel Club of Anne Arundel and The Chesapeake Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. I enjoy furthering my knowledge and sharing my thoughts with other breed enthusiasts who share in the same issues and pleasures as I do. Club support becomes a great way of receiving feedback from other members who are an excellent source of guidance to the unexpected challenges that may come along during your life with a Ridgeback as a family member.



## Nosework A New Dog Sport Quickly Gaining Popularity

By Cari Messick, CPDT-KA  
Photos by Kennedy Morgan

You may hear it referred to as nosework, K9 Nosework, scent work, nose games, scent games or canine nose work, whatever the name, it's a new dog sport that is catching on quickly! For purposes of this article, it will be referred to as "nosework". Nosework tests a dog's ability to use his keen sense of smell to locate a specific food and eventually an odor in a variety of different search areas. It teaches dogs to develop search ethic and is very mentally enriching for almost any dog.

### History of the Sport

The official sport, called K9 Nose Work®, was started on the west coast, in California, a few years ago. It was developed by a handful of trainers who also had experience-training dogs in narcotics and explosives detection. These founding trainers realized that pet dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds could benefit from the mental and physical stimulation that nosework offers. Although certified search and rescue and detection dogs have a very demanding job, fun nosework does not place the same physical demands on the dog or handler. While the sport borrows elements used when training a detection dog, fun nosework is *not* a foundation for search and rescue or professional detection work.

Today, classes and seminars are popping up all over the country and there are even official K9 Nose Work® competitions held by the National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC® are on the west coast. NACSW™ hopes to bring trials to the east coast and the greater DC area as early as this fall.

### Is Nosework for You and Your Dog?

The most attractive thing about this sport is that such a broad spectrum of dogs can participate. Basically, if your dog has a nose, he can participate! Nosework gives an outlet to dogs that couldn't otherwise participate in group classes or competitions: dogs that are aggressive or reactive to other dogs, shy or anxious dogs and even dogs that have physical limitations.



A German shepherd works a box drill

This sport requires a human team member who enjoys the simple pleasures of seeing his dog have a good time, without all the equipment and more complex training that is required in many of the other dog sports. The most strenuous part of the sport is moving/ running behind or along with your dog as he is working.



This Border collie locates a hide that is elevated

### What to Expect?

Although handlers take their dogs to group training classes to learn the game, only one dog is worked at a time. As a result, this is an ideal sport for dogs that are shy or reactive around people or dogs. It is also ideal for people looking for a sport that is less physically demanding on their dogs. The one requirement is that dogs are comfortable being crated nearby or left in the car in between runs.

At the beginning levels of training, dogs are encouraged to "find" their treat bag or toy in a box. Tons of praise, treats and/or toy reward the dog for his efforts. Later, the toy is hidden in a box among other empty boxes, other household items and around the room. The dog is rewarded for finding the box that conceals his treats/toy.



This Bull Mastiff locates a hide hidden up under a table

Once the dog gets hooked on the search, an essential oil such as birch, anise, or clove is introduced. A very small amount of one of these essential oils is placed on a small cotton swab and placed in a container. The dog is rewarded for sniffing the container to indicate his find. This essential oil is then placed in more and more difficult locations for the dog to find. As the dogs learn to play, the game and handlers learn how to closely observe their dogs so they know when their dog has found the scent. This "indication" behavior is an important part of the training process since handlers will use their individual dog's behavior

to start rewarding their dog for “indicating” their find. The difficulty of the game increases as the odors are hidden out in the real world in bushes and stairwells and, on building exteriors and outside of parked vehicles.

### Equipment and supplies

Very little is needed to start nosework. You will need a regular collar, a 6 ft leash and a long leash of 10-20 feet (non-retractable).

- Rewards- Both toys and smelly, highly palatable treats can be used. In the initial stages of training, dogs are encouraged to find a treat bag or favorite toy.
- Target odors- Small bottles of the target odors (essential oils), small cotton swabs, and containers into which the scented swabs are placed, are all that is required for higher levels of nosework classes. These materials can be purchased online from a variety of sources. Some training classes may include them.



Typical Odor Kit

### Classes

More and more trainers are offering nosework type classes. An average class meets for six - seven classes runs \$150 to \$200 depending on the location. It doesn't have to be an official NACSW™ class, but one should look for professional, well-informed trainers in your area who practice positive reinforcement training.

### Expenses

This is a very inexpensive sport. The costs mentioned above are for participation in a nose work class. Eventually there could be for trial fees should one progress to competition level and if the area offers the trials. Trial fees are currently about \$30 per trial and a one-time membership fee to NACSW™ will be required.

### Official NACSW™ Levels of competition

Currently, dogs as young as six months can compete, and there are three levels of competition.

- NW1 - Dogs earn points for each search for the target scent of birch in each of four locations with maximum time limits assigned to each location:
  1. Several cardboard boxes in a row (on- leash).
  2. A room in the interior of a building (on- or off-leash).
  3. A 1,000-sq. ft. exterior area (on-leash).
  4. In up to three vehicles (on-leash).

There are a total of 100 points possible; 90 points are required for an NW1 title.

- NW2 - At this level, dogs must show proficiency with searching for either birch or anise, distractions are added, and the locations become larger and more complex. There are a total of 100 points possible; 95 points are required for an NW2 title.

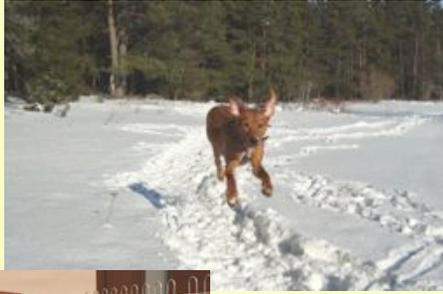
- NW3 - At this level, dogs must show proficiency with searching for birch, anise, and/or clove. There are multiple distractions at this level, and one of the rooms in the building can be without scent (a decoy so to speak), and the locations become larger and more complex. The vehicle search includes five vehicles. There are a total of 100 points possible; 100 points are required for an NW3 title.

For detailed information on trials, download the rulebook from the NACSW™ website:  
<http://www.funnosework.com>

Cari Messick  
 Vice President, CBARRC  
 Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA)  
 FitHound Puppy & Dog Training  
[www.fithound.com](http://www.fithound.com)  
 Professional Member,  
 Association of Pet Dog Trainers, #65945



*Ever wonder what goes on in your Rhodesian Ridgebacks mind?*



©Milada Krchnava

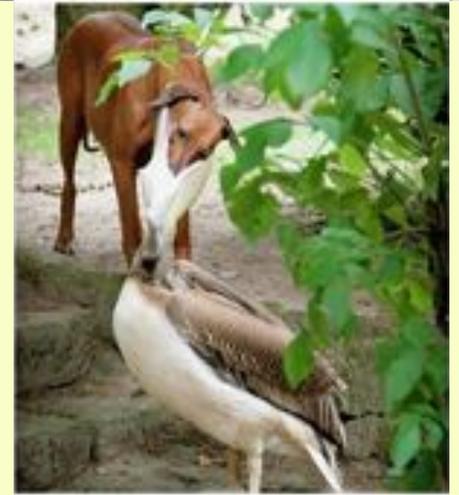


Photo courtesy of Paul and Liz Storey, Kiremi Rhodesian Ridgebacks UK

**Have a super SAFE summer, have fun and let the hounds free!**

Hemangiosarcoma is a malignant tumor of blood vessel cells. With the exception of the skin form (which can often be eliminated by surgery), **'a diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma is bad news'**. This tumor is associated with serious internal bleeding and rapid internal spread. Fortunately, it is not completely without therapeutic options and, as long as expectations are realistic, temporary remissions are possible. Hemangiosarcoma can theoretically arise from any tissue where there are blood vessels (which amounts to anywhere in the body) but there are three classical locations, which account for most presentations:

- Skin and Subcutaneous
- Spleen
- Heart Based

#### The Skin Form

The skin form of hemangiosarcoma is the best type to have, as it is the most easily removed surgically and thus has the greatest potential for complete cure.

The skin forms of hemangiosarcoma are classified as either **dermal** or **subcutaneous** (also called hypodermal.) The true skin form looks like a rosy red or even black growth on the skin. This form is associated with sun exposure and thus tends to form on non-haired or sparsely haired skin, such as on the abdomen, or on areas with white fur. Approximately 1/3 of cases will spread internally in the malignant way we usually associate with cancer so it is important to remove such growths promptly.



#### What to know when a skin growth biopsy comes back as hemangiosarcoma

The biopsy report will indicate whether or not the growth was completely excised. If the tissue completely surrounding the growth is normal, this indicates that the growth has been removed completely and that it should not grow back.

If one wants to be absolutely positive that no tumor spread has yet occurred, the following non-invasive (but not inexpensive) testing is necessary.

*Chest radiographs - hemangiosarcoma tends to spread to the lungs. Advanced tumor spread can be picked up with this simple test. (Spots of tumor spread must be 3cm in diameter to be large enough to be visible on a radiograph.)*

*Ultrasound of the belly - specifically the spleen. Even a small splenic hemangiosarcoma should be detectable with ultrasound.*

*Ultrasound of the heart - even a small heart-based hemangiosarcoma should be detectable with ultrasound.*

#### Subcutaneous or Hypodermal Hemangiosarcoma

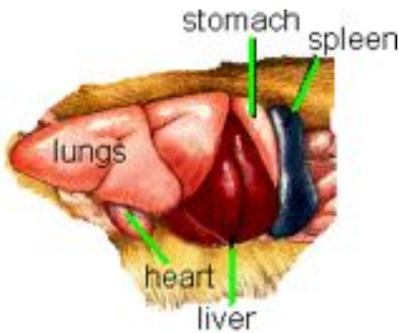
The overlying skin is often totally normal on top of a subcutaneous hemangiosarcoma and often the surgeon is surprised to find a dark red blood growth under the skin when the tumor is removed.

Since up to 60% of hypodermal hemangiosarcomas spread internally the above three tests to rule out tumor spread are more important.

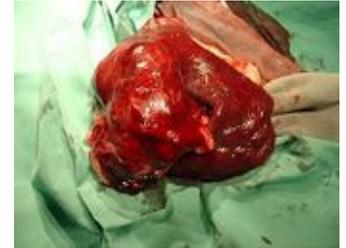
If no sign of tumor spread is found after chest radiographs have been taken and ultrasound of the heart and belly are clear, prognosis is substantially better than if secondary tumor is found; however, additional treatment with chemotherapy is recommended if cure is the goal.

Surgery alone has been associated with a 172-day (approximately 6 months) median survival time.

### Hemangiosarcoma of the Spleen



The spleen is a fairly deep-seated abdominal organ that tends to go unnoticed unless it develops a growth of unusual enlargement. Splenic growths have the unfortunate tendency to break open and bleed profusely regardless of whether they are benign or malignant. While a splenectomy (removal of the spleen) certainly ends the prospect of this type of life-threatening sudden bleed, splenic hemangiosarcoma is still a rapidly spreading malignancy.



Hemangiosarcoma of the spleen in a dog

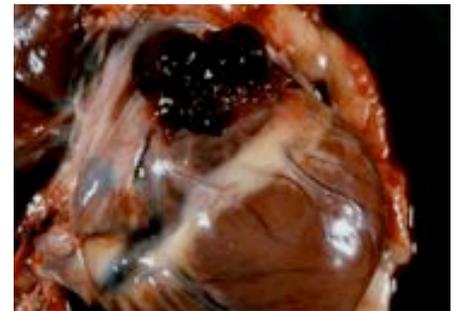
When a splenic mass is detected, it may not be possible to tell prior to splenectomy whether or not the mass is malignant or not (though certainly basic testing is performed in an attempt to determine this.)

25% of dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma also have a heart-based hemangiosarcoma. Survival time with surgery alone is 19 to 65 days for splenic hemangiosarcoma.

### Heart-Based Hemangiosarcoma



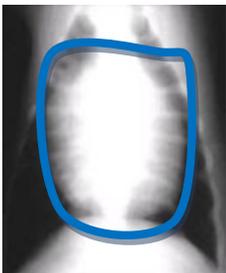
Like the splenic hemangiosarcoma, the heart-based hemangiosarcoma tends to exert its life-threatening effects by bleeding. Tumors are generally located around the right side of the heart base.



The heart is enclosed in a sac called the pericardium. When the hemangiosarcoma bleeds, the blood fills up the pericardium until it is so full that the heart inside is under so much pressure that it has no

room to fill with the blood it has to pump.

On chest radiographs, the heart is globoid (spherical). In fact, the actual heart is of normal shape but all that can be seen on the radiograph is the large round heart shadow of the pericardium filled to capacity with blood. Ultrasound is needed to truly see the effusion.



This condition, if allowed to progress, results in an emergency circulating collapse called a "pericardial tamponade" and can only be relieved by tapping the pericardium with a needle and withdrawing the excess fluid.

63% of heart-based hemangiosarcomas have evidence of tumor spread at the time of their discovery.

Survival time for surgery alone (removing the pericardium and snipping off the heart-based hemangiosarcoma) is approximately 1-3 months. In a study presented in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in February 2005, 23 dogs with this type of tumor were studied. Of the dogs that had surgery, approximately half of them had some sort of post-operative complication, though most complications were minor and 87% survived and were released to go home from the hospital. Median survival time for dogs that had surgery without chemotherapy was 43-118 days (depending if the tumor was in the right atrium or just in the auricle, which is the small ear-like area adjacent to the atrium).

Eight of the dogs that survived surgery went on to receive chemotherapy in addition to surgery and these individuals had much longer survival times (median survival of 175 days vs. 42 days for dogs who had surgery without chemotherapy).

Chemotherapy is necessary to create a substantial improvement in survival time. The most current protocols involve injectable Adriamycin (Doxorubicin) either alone or in combination with cyclophosphamide or vincristine. So far, none of these protocols seem to be clearly superior to the others.

### Chemotherapy of Canine Hemangiosarcoma with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide

J Vet Intern Med 7[6]:370-376 Nov/Dec '93 Clinical Study 29 Refs

Karin U. Sorenmo CMV, K. Ann Jeglum VMD, and Stuart C. Helfand DVM

Dept. of Clinical Studies, VHUP, 3850 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Sixteen dogs with a histologic diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma were treated with surgery and doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide. The patients' characteristics, i.e., age, size, and breed, were similar to those of previous studies. Historic controls for surgery alone were used to evaluate efficacy of the chemotherapy. The results show a trend of improved survival in dogs with localized disease (Stage I) receiving combination therapy. The median survival was 250 days, with a mean of 403 days. The survival times for dogs with stage I, II, and III disease was also improved with combination therapy, when compared to historical controls treated with surgery alone. The overall median survival was 202 days with a mean of 285 days. Toxicities included mild to moderate neutropenia (9 of 16) and clinical signs, such as lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (13 of 16). Three dogs had severe neutropenia requiring hospitalization and supportive care. One dog died from sepsis and related complications. Chemotherapy with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide appears to improve survival with acceptable morbidity in patients with early stage disease. (Author Abstract)

### What is the spleen for?

The spleen is an oblong organ (some would say it is tongue-shaped) seated just below the stomach. Its consistency is similar to that of the liver. While one can live perfectly well without a spleen, the spleen does provide some helpful services to the body.

The spleen contains lots of long winding narrow blood vessels full of hairpin turns for circulating red blood cells to make. This means that there are a lot of red blood cells working their way gradually through the spleen at any given time effectively making the spleen a storage area for blood. *If one has a severe hemorrhage and needs extra blood, the involuntary muscles of the spleen contract, squirting forth a fresh supply of blood. The spleen provides nature's blood transfusion, if you will.*



**Spleen Tumors-** Spontaneous internal bleeding can occur from a tumor or tumors on the spleen. These tumors can be as small as a grape, or as large as a basketball. They are often undiagnosed until sudden internal bleeding cause's weakness and shortness of breath. These patients often require a blood transfusion and immediate surgery.

Older red blood cells become more brittle than their younger counterparts do. As they attempt the tortuous route through the spleen, many older red cells do not make it out the other side. These cells rupture trying to make the tight turns and their iron is captured and recycled by the spleen. The spleen thus helps remove old red blood cells from the circulation, sort of a clean-up function. The spleen also performs a function called "pitting" where it is able to bite off sections of the red blood cells passing through. The sections to bite or "pit" are those marked by the immune system. In this way the spleen can remove red blood cell parasites from the circulating red blood cells, helping keep cells functioning that otherwise might become damaged if their infection is allowed to persist. Sometimes entire red cells are removed from the circulation in this way thus preventing the spread of the red cell parasite inside. This sounds like a good thing but it can get out of hand.

The above functions are part of what is called the "red pulp" of the spleen. The spleen also contains what is called "white pulp." The white pulp is essentially part of the lymphatic system, sort of like a lymph node. It serves the same functions as a lymph node but is connected through the circulatory system. Lymph nodes are centers of activity for the immune system, especially antibody producing lymphocytes. Material from the local area of the body drains to the lymph node via the lymph vessels and the lymphocytes may or may not become stimulated into reacting depending on what sort of material is present. A reactive lymph node enlarges (the obvious example is the submandibular nodes that swell when one has a sore throat). The white of the spleen sees material from the circulatory system rather than material from the local lymphatics.

Lymphocytes circulate through the splenic white pulp just as they do through the lymphatic vessels, carrying messages involved in the war against body invaders (bacteria, viruses etc.)

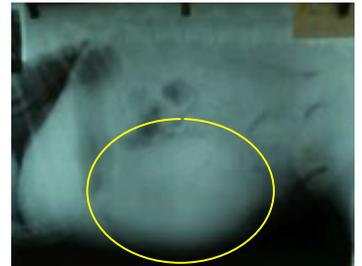
### Splenic masses – why are they bad?

Occasionally spleens grow masses. These are generally either benign tumors (hemangiomas) or malignant tumors (hemangiosarcomas grow from the red pulp, mast cell tumors and lymphosarcoma arise from the white pulp.) In dogs, most splenic masses are either hemangiomas or hemangiosarcomas. Both these tumors arise from the blood vessels of the red pulp and amount to a bunch of wildly proliferating abnormal blood vessels. Eventually the growth ruptures and the spleen bleeds. When a vascular organ like the spleen bleeds, a life-threatening blood loss can result.

- Usually the patient is suddenly weak.
- The patient may be obviously cold.
- If one looks at the color of the gums, the patient will be pale in color
- If the bleed stops on its own, the patient will be dramatically better the next day or even a few hours later.

Unfortunately, the splenic mass is certain to bleed again and if the spleen is not removed, eventually the patient will bleed to death.

If the splenic tumor is benign, removing the spleen is curative provided that the patient has not lost too much blood to survive the surgery. Ideally, the splenic mass is detected before it has ever bled and the spleen is removed at a time when the mass is not actively bleeding. Of course, if the splenic mass IS actively bleeding and cannot be stopped with pressure wraps, removing the spleen becomes an emergency surgery; it is not appropriate to try to wait until the bleeding has stopped.



If the splenic tumor is a malignant hemangiosarcoma, the spleen can still be removed to control the bleeding but the problem is that hemangiosarcoma is an aggressive cancer. With the removal of the spleen and primary tumor, the patient is probably spared death by bleeding to death only to eventually succumb to cancer.

### How do we detect splenic masses?

There are several ways a dog can be determined to have a splenic mass. The first way, is by physical examination. A large firm mass in the area of the spleen may be palpable during a routine physical examination. From there, radiographs are taken of the belly to see if the mass appears to be on the spleen and radiographs of the chest are taken to see if there is evidence of cancer spread there. Based on these findings (plus basic blood work) a decision for or against spleen removal can be made. Unfortunately, many large dogs are simply too well muscled for splenic masses to be detected in this way.

Another method of detecting a splenic tumor comes on the basic blood panel. An unexplained “responsive anemia” is discovered. A responsive anemia is one typical of bleeding (as opposed to an anemia of chronic disease where red blood cells simply are inadequately produced.) An older large breed dog with an unexplained bleed is highly suggestive of a splenic tumor. The next step would be radiographs to see if a mass is apparent followed by chest radiographs for tumor spread as above. These findings on the blood panel are especially suggestive of a splenic mass if there has been a history of sudden weakness or collapse typical of a recent bleed. Splenic tumors tend to bleed chronically and slowly (and usually insignificantly) prior to a large bleed, that produced obvious symptoms. These smaller bleeds are generally enough to alter the blood panel. If blood work is suggestive of a splenic mass, radiographs can be taken to confirm the presence of the mass.



**It can be difficult to determine from the radiograph if the mass is coming from the liver or from the spleen.**

**Hemangiosarcoma in the liver of a dog**

### Is it Benign or Malignant?

This is not always clear prior to surgery. If there is evidence of tumor spread on a chest radiographs then one can be quite sure that the tumor is malignant. In this case, it is likely too late to effect meaningful treatment though removing the spleen can at least prevent sudden bleeds.

If no evidence of tumor spread is present, the mass may be benign, or it may simply have produced tumor spread too small to see. In this case, one may simply proceed with splenectomy understanding that tumor spread may be obvious in the abdomen once the belly has been opened. Alternatively, one can have ultrasound performed on the belly to get a better idea of whether or not there is evidence of tumor spread.

If the spleen can be removed and minimal spread has occurred then chemotherapy is a reasonable treatment option for maximizing quality life span.

### Other Reasons to Remove the Spleen

We have already mentioned the splenic mass as well as excessive red blood cell removal by the spleen as reasons for splenectomy. There are some other situations where splenectomy may be needed:

#### **BLOAT (GASTRIC DILATATION AND VOLVULUS)**

*In this condition, the stomach bloats with gas and twists on its axis effectively cutting off its circulation. This is a huge emergency usually requiring surgery. The issue with the spleen is that the spleen rides just below the stomach so that when the stomach twists, the spleen twists along with it. Frequently the spleen must be removed or partly removed. (Read more about Bloat in one of the earlier issues of the newsletter).*

#### **Traumatic Rupture of the Spleen**

*If the patient suffers blunt trauma to the abdomen such as getting kicked by livestock or being hit by a car, the spleen may rupture and dangerously bleed. If a tear in the spleen is small, it may be repaired (sewn together) but if the rupture is severe, it may be easiest to simply remove the whole spleen.*

### Splenectomy



When a dog with a splenic mass is going to have its spleen removed ("splenectomy") there are some issues to understand. The spleen may begin bleeding at any time up until it is actually removed. If this occurs, blood transfusion is likely going to be needed (with either artificial blood or whole blood, depending on what is available). It is possible that multiple transfusions will be needed. A parameter called the "PCV" ("packed cell volume") will be monitored to make sure the amount of circulating red blood cells does not fall dangerously low. If one is lucky, the spleen will not be bleeding at any time during surgery. Some

patients must receive blood transfusions prior to splenectomy to insure they have a reserve of red blood cells in case of surgical bleeding.



It may not be known prior to surgery if the tumor is benign or malignant. There is a good chance this will become immediately obvious once the belly is opened. If the tumor is obviously malignant, will you want your dog euthanized at that point? Will you want the spleen removed so that you can consider chemotherapy? Will you want the incision simply closed and your dog awakened? These questions should be answered prior to surgery so that your veterinarian will know what to do should this situation arise. The spleen and its large blood clots are likely to weigh 5-10 lbs in a large dog.

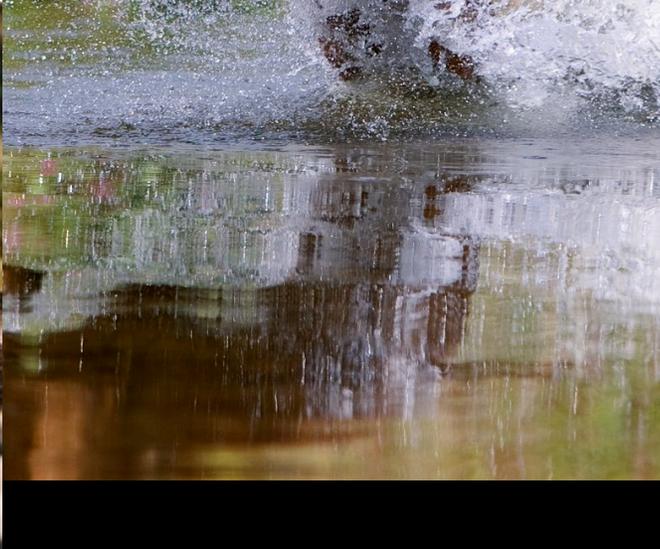
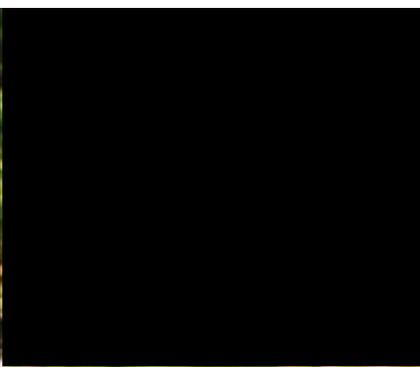
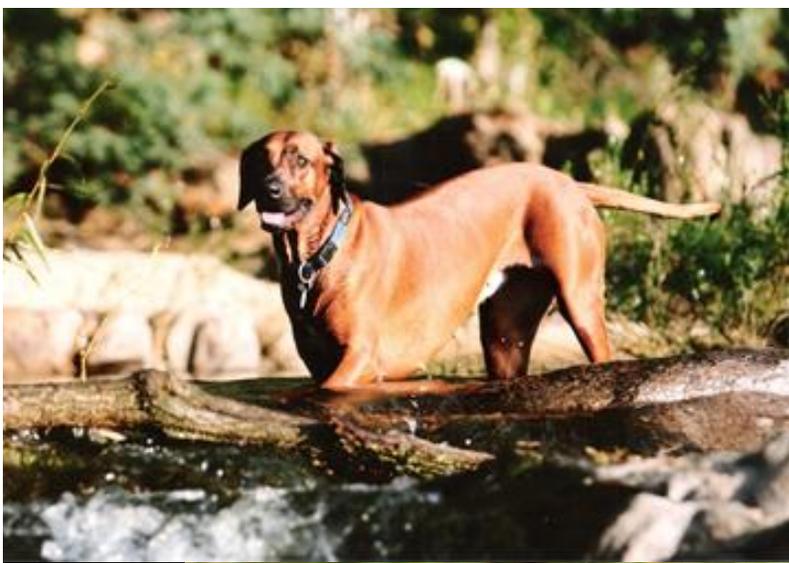
The dog having a splenectomy because of a splenic mass will appear substantially thinner after surgery. There will be a very long incision to accommodate this very large organ and perhaps a bandage to control any leaking of blood from the incision.

Most dogs go home a day or two after surgery. An iron supplement may be needed to help the body recover from any blood loss. Antibiotics will likely be prescribed as will some sort of analgesia (pain relief) for the recovery period.

#### **THE MOST COMMON COMPLICATION OF SPLENECTOMY IS HEMORRHAGE (BLEEDING).**

**The spleen is supplied by numerous blood vessels, which must be ligated or sealed in order for the spleen to be removed.**

Thanks to Dr. Louis Fiore (Hematology) for his explanation on how the spleen works, blood flows and how it all comes together. Thanks to my friends at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for the extra pictures. Reprinted with permission of Wendy Brooks, DVM, and the Veterinary Information Network.



## Before I Became a Dog Parent

Before I was a Dog Parent: I made and ate hot meals unmolested.  
I had unstained, unfurred clothes.  
I had quiet conversations on the phone, even if the doorbell rang.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I slept as late as I wanted  
And never worried about how late I got to bed  
or if I could get into my bed.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I cleaned my house every day.  
I never tripped over toys, stuffies, and chewies  
or invited the neighbor's dog over to play.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I didn't worry if my plants, cleansers, plastic bags,  
toilet paper, soap or deodorant were poisonous or dangerous.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I had never been peed on  
Pooped on  
Drooled on  
Chewed on  
Or pinched by puppy teeth.

### The Eyes Are the Window to the Soul by Stephanie Matulich



Inkzosana Sibongile "Ink" has beautiful eyes and we have much to be grateful for - She is my 2-year-old female Rhodesian.

Late last fall when running through the woods hurt herself. We stayed later in the woods than we usually did, enjoying the sunset, chasing the critters, trying to capture pictures of fall, when she gave out a LOUD painful scary yelp, unlike any I have ever heard come from my dogs.

Nduna Malaika was on his way back from chasing a herd of deer, so I knew it was something serious and not just extra roughhouse play. In a panic I ran to her like any totally crazed dog parent would. In the sunset, I noticed a stick, poking out of her right eye. I had to figure how to get them back to the car in one piece, because there was no way I could get her to the car which was more than 2 miles away and her pawing at her eye or be able to carry her 115 plus pounds body. I had to remove the stick to avoid [extra] any infection. Surprisingly, the stick came out with no difficulty and alone.

We walked back to the car stopping every few minutes to wipe her eye and make sure there was no blood and to check what was coming out - Blood or clear liquid and if the eyeball was intact or damaged. We got to the car and rushed to the vet. She was sedated and her eye cleaned out and inspected. The eyeball was not damaged. After what seemed like hours, the vet gave me the all clear and after a huge bill, we headed home.

The eye didn't heal as I hoped and it looked like infection set in, so after a few more vet visits I met with an animal ophthalmologist, Dr. Weigt. After we tried options unrelated to surgery, we decided exploratory surgery was best as there was still something inside the eye. I dropped Ink off and spent my first day alone with Nduna. It has always been the three of us, out and about, sightseeing, cleaning gutters, yard work, road trips, swimming, visiting, stopping for lunch along our exploration route. Now just Nduna and me; we were both terribly lost. My heart was heavy, my imagination running wild - picturing Inkzosana with an eye patch or worse still, no eye, how would she react.

About 3pm, Dr. Weigt called. Dr. Weigt asked me, "*Stephanie, are you sitting down.*" My heart dropped into my stomach and it seemed like all the earthly sounds, birds, wind, even the sunshine was waiting for her to speak. I said, "*Yes*". My legs couldn't hold me up even if I tried. Dr. Weigt spoke, "*Inkozosana is okay, her eye is saved, she will be fine, but we found a stick behind the eye, it was lodged very tightly inside. I probed and felt something which didn't fit the socket and when I pulled her whole head moved. We had to brace her head and very slowly pull; it was a very tight fit. The thing that we thought was small turned out to a stick, not a twig, but a stick. This is a record for me. You can pick her up at 5pm*".



The stick went through her third eyelid, at an angle, and behind the eye, settling at the base of the eye. The piece I pulled out in the woods was extra and had broken off upon impact. She is out of the woods and is living a spoilt life.

To prevent future injuries, their goggles are on order and both of them will wear them when we running at full speed through the woods or during rough play.

During the entire procedure, the only sound Ink made was when she got hurt. When we went for her pre and post exploratory surgery, all you had to say was, "*Show me the eye*" and she would show her hurt eye to you. Ridgebacks can take a lot of pain, but this was something even Dr. Weigt said, was extraordinary, the location, how it missed severely damaging the eye, all in all was a miracle.



*How it happened, what she was doing, only she knows and she ain't telling me, neither is her brother.*

### ***Mum's the word!***

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I had complete control of my thoughts,  
My body and mind.  
I slept all night without sharing the covers or pillow.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I never looked into big, soulful eyes and cried.  
I never felt my heart break into a million pieces  
when I couldn't stop a hurt.  
I never knew something so furry and four-legged  
could affect my heart so deeply.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I had never held a sleeping puppy just because I couldn't put it  
down.  
I had never gotten up in the middle of the night  
every 10 minutes to make sure all was well.  
I didn't know how warm it feels inside to feed a hungry puppy.  
I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so  
important.

Before I was a Dog Parent:  
I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the heartache,  
the wonderment or the satisfaction of being

***'A DOG PARENT!'***

## The “Other” White Meat

### **Stuffed Rabbit Recipe for Dogs**

#### **Ingredients**

1 rabbit washed and cleaned	½ orange
Salt to taste	1 cup dry bread cubes
2 tablespoons chopped baby cabbage	2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 teaspoon dry sage	Half cup of shredded carrots
Half cup of zucchini	Half cup of shredded potatoes
3 tablespoons non salted butter, melted	

Wash the rabbit well and pat dry with a cloth. Rub the inside and outside with the orange half and sprinkle the inside with salt. Preheat oven to 175 C. Combine the bread, baby cabbage, carrots, zucchini, parsley, and sage, salt to taste in a mixing bowl and then add in 2 tablespoons of the melted butter. Put this mixture inside the rabbit and then sew up the hole. Put the stuffed rabbit inside a roasting pan and put the remaining melted butter over it. Roast uncovered for about 1 ½ hours. Rabbit is done when it is tender. Cut the meat off bone when serving and serve with stuffing.

### **A Basic Rabbit Meal for Dogs**

#### **Ingredients**

2 rabbits, approx. 4 lbs. each washed and cleaned	8 cups water
2 cups barley	1/2 cup wild rice
1/2 cup kale, chopped	1/2 cup asparagus, chopped
1/2 cup lima beans	1/2 cup carrots, chopped
1 potatoes, chopped	1/3 cup canola oil
1 cup plain yogurt	

#### **Directions**

1. Place rabbits in a large pot and add water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat.
2. Cover and simmer for about 30-45 minutes or until rabbit is cooked and falling from the bone.
3. Remove rabbit from the pot. Remove all meat from bones, making sure you get all the bones from the pot as well. Discard bones. Return rabbit meat to pot.
4. Return pot to a boil. Add barley, rice and vegetables. Reduce heat.
5. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until rice and barley are tender and most of the liquid is absorbed.
6. Remove from heat. Stir in canola oil.
7. Cool completely. Stir in yogurt.
8. Package meals in Ziploc bags or containers.
9. Refrigerate or freeze.

### **Simple Summer Treats**

A simple frozen banana, carrot, chunk of cheese, or weenie will delight your dog on hot days. Something as easy as plain old ice cubes or treat cubes with a strawberry or banana slice or a cheese chunk in the center will cool your pup when the heat is relentless. For larger dogs, add several different treats and freeze in disposable cups.

To make your pup feel extra special, try this recipe. Blend a couple of spoons of peanut butter with mashed banana, add a spoonful of honey and mix in about a half cup of water to make a better freezing consistency. For optional extra crunch, throw in a few unsalted peanuts.

If you want to be a bit creative, try mixing and matching various fruit juices with your dog's favorite fruit such as apple bits or canned peaches along with plain yogurt before freezing into cubes. You may even want to go all out and blend smoothies or slushes for your dog to lap up or crunch in frozen cubes. However, stick to fruit juices and water for liquid, as many dogs cannot easily digest milk. Creamy treats can be made by mixing half cottage cheese and half water and freezing into cubes.

For dogs that prefer meaty tastes, freeze chicken or beef broth, or even thin unsalted gravies into cubes. For an extra surprise, add a chunk of baby food meat, a piece of milk bone, or a cheese bit into each cube before freezing.

## Allergies

One of the key components in feeding an animal with allergies is giving him a protein he hasn't had before. Two common choices are Rabbit and Venison.

Rabbit organoleptic properties are tenderness, and juiciness. It is considered a white meat and it has been found to provide good health and prevent excess fat, heart diseases, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetics and cancer among those who eat it. It is an acquired food preference for certain dogs and owners to cook.

## Onion Toxicity in Dogs *by Joy Butler*

Feeding dogs meals or giving them table scraps with onion can cause Heinz body hemolytic anemia.

Most people know about the dangers of chocolate to dogs but many people have never heard of onion toxicity in pets. They've perhaps fed their dog foods containing onion such as leftover pizza, hamburger, or gravy and nothing happened. A small amount may not cause a problem since onion toxicity is dose dependent. However, onions in any form (raw, cooked, dehydrated or powdered in a seasoning) can create a life-threatening form of hemolytic anemia in dogs.

## What Happens in Onion Toxicity?

Red blood cells carry a protein, hemoglobin, which delivers oxygen to the tissues and organs. Onions contain a substance called thiosulphate which dogs lack the enzyme to properly digest. Thiosulphate causes oxidation of hemoglobin in canine red blood cells, which then forms clumps, weakening the cell membranes. These clumps, called Heinz bodies, protrude from the cell and eventually cause rupture, shortening the life span of the cell. When enough red cells are destroyed, anemia occurs and the body is starved for oxygen.

A significant decrease in red blood cells can cause many problems including heart failure. The number of cells destroyed usually depends on the amount of onion eaten. However, some dogs can develop severe reactions even after eating very little onion. Small amounts of onion fed over a period of time can create illness just as a one-time dose can, due to the gradual build-up of Heinz bodies. On the other hand, some minor cases of onion toxicity may go undetected due to damage of fewer red blood cells. Symptoms sometimes take several days to manifest.

## QUIZ

Five dogs recently competed for best in show in the local kennel club. Each dog belonged to a different AKC group, preferred a different kind of treat, and wore a different color lead. Can you determine each dog's group, lead color, favorite treat, and the place he or she took in the show?

-  The dog with the red lead finished before the dog who liked chicken bites, but after the dog that belonged to the herding group (who is not Sadie).
-  The dog that placed third was not Rusty (who is a working dog).
-  The sporting dog placed just ahead of the one with a pink lead, and somewhere behind Charlie (who didn't like rawhide treats).
-  The hound did not like the beef or liver treats.
-  Rusty did not wear the blue lead.
-  Wags, who hated Scooby snacks, was a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and his handler hated the color green, so she would never let him wear a green lead.
-  Neither Pharaoh nor Sadie liked Scooby snacks or wore green.
-  The herding dog, who hated beef biscuits, had a blue lead for good luck, but did not take first place.
-  The 3rd place dog did not wear a red lead.
-  Pharaoh is not a sporting dog.
-  The five dogs in order of rank, from 1st to 5th, were: The one who ate Scooby snacks, Charlie, the one who loved beef biscuits, the sporting dog, and the one with the pink lead.

**To my Mum and Dad, by Kumba Anderson – What love is!**

I remember the day you brought me home. I had spent some time on an aeroplane and was so scared about where I was going. I was playing with my brothers and sisters and one by one they kept disappearing, Marco--- Polo and then there was only two, my sister and me.



Who would take me, where was I going, will they love me? As I sat in the cargo hold, I was wondering these things. I missed my family, remembering the fun we had. Would whoever was getting me love me the way they did? All these questions running through my head. I was scared. I cried. But no one heard me. I was alone. My sister was

in the same area of the plane I was but she was quiet and we could not see each other. Was she thinking the same things I was?



When the people took me off the plane and I sat there waiting. I wondered what am I waiting for? Why are they not letting me out? I did not understand. For what seemed like a long time, I waited and then I heard this voice. The voice said, "Oh my precious wee man, you don't have to cry. Your mum is here". I was taken out of what they called a crate and was held in my new mum's arms. She held me and kissed me and I snuggled into her and knew from that day on I would be loved. It was a very cold day but she didn't mind to have me have her coat to keep me warm while the

paperwork was being done.

Mum, Dad - you are very loving parents and I am very happy to have you as mine. You love me like I am your whole world. You feed me, take me places, even give me rides in the car when you run errands. You get me all the treats and food I like and I love



when you hug and smooch me. You take me for walks and runs and make sure I am warm when it is cold. You give me your jacket to keep me warm when you shiver because you are cold. You don't scold me even when I eat the beds you buy. You know I get anxious when you are gone and you understand.



I am there when you are sad and then you say to me - "oh my boy, I am so glad you are here. You are our boy and we love you". Mum and Dad - You make me smile. My heart grows big when I hear these words. You are the best parents in the world. You treat me like family. I wish

every dog had the same feeling as I do.

I love you Mum and Dad, thank you for being there for me and loving me,

**Your dog**



## Gun-Shy Dogs *by Sylvia Dickens*

Most people have heard of gun-shy dogs. It's really a misnomer, because they aren't afraid of guns as such. They're afraid of any loud noises that resemble a gun being shot. This includes vehicles backfiring, fireworks, thunderstorms and, of course, gunfire. Many gun-shy dogs have been seriously injured and even killed when fireworks displays have scared them. Their first instinct is to run and, unfortunately, that often means running into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Dog owners with gun-shy dogs have to be watchful, especially in summer, when there often are loud noises that seem to come out of the blue. Apart from running into harm's way, gun-shy dogs can be extremely destructive. They climb on and destroy furniture, they scratch in corners, at walls and doors. They dig under fences in a desperate attempt to escape. Some dogs have severely injured themselves jumping through glass windows in fear. Dog owners who inadvertently leave a door or gate open will soon discover that their beloved dogs have disappeared. If you're lucky, your dog will return when the fear and the perceived danger has stopped.

Here are six safety tips you can use to protect your gun-shy dog.

### **Dog Safety Tip #1. Travel safety**

If your gun-shy dog travels with you, be aware of areas where there might be loud noises, such as while driving past road construction. The workers often use dynamite and heavy machinery that can scare your dog. Keep your car windows rolled up.

### **Dog Safety Tip #2. Keep an ID on your dog**

A gun-shy dog should always wear a secure collar with an ID tag attached that contains the dog's name and dog owner's phone number, and a current rabies tag.

Be sure to include any special information that finders might need to know. For instance, if he requires medication (i.e.: diabetes, thyroid, epilepsy), just in case you don't get him back before his next dose. If he does go into a health situation, the finder won't have to worry that he might have rabies or other dangerous disease. Besides, the person will know to get treatment for your dog.

### **Dog Safety Tip #3. Find a safe place for your gun-shy dog**

Dogs will seek shelter where they can hide, often somewhere tight and dark such as under a table or in a cave. You can ease his distress by making a spot for him in a closet or under the bed where he can head when he becomes afraid. Get him used to that area prior to such an emergency. Put a familiar blanket on the floor and include a favorite toy to help distract him from the noise. A radio will help.

### **Dog Safety Tip #4. Seek medical advice**

Some gun-shy dogs are absolutely terrified and anxious during fireworks displays and thunder storms. Ask your vet if he can prescribe a sedative you can keep on hand for such events.

### **Dog Safety Tip #5.**

Get training for your gun-shy dog. Dog trainers can advise you on how to desensitize your pet to those alarming loud noises. It will take some time, but it can be done.

### **Dog Safety Tip #6: Watch your own reaction**

The first instinct of many dog owners is to hold their trembling dog and talk sweetly to try to calm him. This is one of the worst things you can do because it confirms his beliefs that something is wrong.

The best approach is to talk normally to your dog, reassure him by telling him "it's okay, relax", and pet him normally. Don't make a big fuss. Laughing is a good response because it's the opposite of what he's experiencing and sends the message that there really is nothing to fear. Distraction is extremely effective. Call his name when he's listening intently to the noise. Offer his squeaky toy. Play with him while constantly talking to keep his ears busy. With these six dog safety tips, dog owners can alleviate their pet's fears and keep them safe from harm. Preparation is important. Have a leash handy for when things get too noisy. Have sedatives on hand. Make sure all the doors, windows and gates are secured. Close your car windows. Get your dog used to a safe hideout in your home where he can feel protected.

Dog safety is of prime importance for any dog owner with a gun-shy dog.

# Spring & Summer Dangers

Panting helps dogs cool themselves but they still aren't as efficient at cooling themselves as people are."

We've all heard the warning, "NEVER leave a dog alone in a parked car in warm weather", but every Spring and Summer dogs suffer and die in vehicles that become ovens in a matter of minutes. Leave your dog at home if you'll be going anywhere pets are not allowed.

Many people don't realize how quickly the temperature can rise inside a car in warm weather. Temperatures do not need to be extremely high outside to reach dangerous levels inside. Even in the low 80's, a parked car can quickly become unbearable. In just 10 minutes the inside temperature can reach 102° or more, even with the windows slightly opened.

By 110°, your dog will have a heatstroke! On hot and humid days, the temperature in a car parked in direct sunlight can rise more than 30 degrees per minute and become lethal in just a few minutes.

## Know the signs of heatstroke...

Heavy panting is the first sign followed by huffing and puffing - a staring expression - warm, dry skin - failure to respond to hearing his name - rapid heartbeat - profuse salivation - vomiting or collapse. If left untreated the dog will become unconscious and die.

If your dog should become overheated, you must take measures to cool him and lower his body temperature immediately. Move the dog to a cool place, out of the sun and give him water. Immerse an overheated dog in cool, not cold, water or very gently pour cool water on him. Place ice packs on his head and neck. A fan, placed in front of the dog will aid in evaporation. See a veterinarian, but only after you cool the dog.

According to Dr. William Fortune, a professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, "Dogs become less efficient at cooling themselves as the humidity rises. Just like people, dogs are cooled by evaporation. The problem with high humidity is that it decreases evaporation and slows down the cooling process.

This time of year we hear a lot about the heat index, which is a measurement of both the temperature and the humidity level, and that is what an owner needs to pay close attention to.

There are other factors that hinder canines' ability to cool themselves. They only have sweat glands on the pads of their feet and on their nose, which are inadequate for cooling during hot and humid days.

Don't tie your dog outside, especially in hot weather. Chains on dogs tied to trees or poles can easily become tangled, making it impossible to reach shade and water. If, for any reason, it's unavoidable for a short time, put the dog in a shaded area and provide lots of water in a heavy spill proof container. Use a standard nylon, fabric or leather buckle-type collar.

Never hook a tie-out chain to a choke type training or correction collar any time of year. Make sure there's nothing your dog can reach to get the chain tangled on. Remember that shady areas might become hot and sunny areas as the day progresses.

Some dog owners who spend a lot of time outside in summer, keep a molded plastic child's wading pool in the back yard for their dogs to play in and cool off in the summertime.

Since dogs will inevitably drink their pool water, no matter how many bowls of fresh clean water are nearby, and since it will get dirty much faster than a pool used by many rowdy children, change the water at least once a day.

Never walk your dog mid-day during a heat wave. Skip long walks altogether or limit walks and outdoor exercise to early morning or late evening for any dog, young or old. You're wearing shoes and might not think about how hot sun drenched sidewalks and roads can become.

When air temperatures approach 100 degrees, the surface temperature of asphalt can cause second-degree burns on a dogs paws in as little as 10 minutes of walking. Don't expect a normally faithful dog to suddenly refuse to follow you. Some dogs will do anything to stay by their master's side.

A dog with a "fair complexion" can get sunburned. If your dog has a thin, light coat and you plan to take him outside for any length of time on a sunny summer day, apply sunscreen to his nose and ears about 1/2 hour before going out.

## Water Hazards

While it's true that most dogs can swim, some dogs are initially afraid of water and some dogs will never like swimming and water activities. If your dog doesn't jump right in or seems afraid of the water at first, let him/or her get used to it gradually.

Never throw a nervous, inexperienced swimmer in the water. With gentle encouragement, most dogs will soon realize that they can "do the doggie paddle" quite well.

Just as people who are experienced swimmers have drowning accidents, dogs can too. Retrieving games can be fun, but they can also be tiring, especially for very young dogs and older dogs. Rough currents or steep slippery banks can be too much for a dog who's already exhausted. Cold water can be dangerous. Though many Northern breeds and retrievers are well equipped for cold-water temperatures, water that's too cold for people is too cold for many dogs. Unless you have steps to access your pool and your dog has already used them to get out of the water, prevent unsupervised swimming by raising ladders and locking pool gates.

If you spend time at the seashore in summer, and pets are allowed on the beach, always provide an adequate shady area and lots of fresh drinking water for your dog. Rinse thoroughly, from head to tail, after any time on the beach. (Another good use for a kiddie pool) Salt and sand can be very irritating, especially to paws and ears. Always dry inside the ears after every swim, bath, or rinse.

At home and while traveling, keep your dog away from any source of stagnant water. Drinking polluted standing water that contains certain types of algae can cause rapid, serious illness and death. Ingesting even a small amount of blue - green algae is extremely dangerous.

### Pick-Up Trucks

Like so many of the dogs who die in over-heated cars, many of the dogs involved in tragic pick-up truck mishaps are much loved pets that their well-meaning but un-informed owners take with them wherever they go. Putting a dog, unsecured, in the back of a pickup truck, is dangerous even if you're only going a few blocks.



It's unsafe even if your dog is an obedient and faithful companion who would never, under any circumstances, jump off the truck or make a move

without your command. There are also some statewide laws and laws in cities and counties in various states that prohibit driving with a dog in the bed of a pick-up truck.

There are many possible dangers for a dog riding in the back of an open pick-up. When riding in hot, summer sun, dogs can become overheated and suffer heatstroke. Insects, gravel particles, and other flying debris can cause eye injuries, or lodge in the throat or nasal passages and cause serious problems.

Sudden braking or swerving, even hitting a pothole or bump in the road, can throw a dog off a truck. Dogs that do survive the impact of being hurled onto a road are often hit within seconds by oncoming traffic. The sight of a dog flying off the back of a truck onto a highway can cause a major traffic accident and, in the commotion that follows, a frightened and disoriented dog might manage to get up and run away, in spite of painful bruises and cuts.

Most dogs that live through the ordeal must be carried off the road, because of serious injuries like fractures and/or internal trauma and bleeding.

Don't attach a dog's leash or chain to the inside of an open pick-up truck. If a dog tries to jump off or is thrown from the truck, it could be hanged or seriously injured by being dragged along the road before the driver ever realizes what happened.

Never put a dog in a truck bed covered by a tarp or a metal or plastic shell made to fit right over the bed. Temperatures inside will quickly become unbearable in warm weather. Regardless of outdoor temperatures, a pet inside a covered truck bed without ventilation can become a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning. Anytime a dog must ride in the back of a pick-up truck, place the dog in an airline type kennel or use a covered pet crate and fasten it securely to the truck bed. Always park in the shade and have drinking water available in hot weather.

Covering a pickup truck bed with a fiberglass shell that has screened windows, which can be opened for cross ventilation is a good way to safely transport pets in a pickup truck.

A camper shell provides protection in bad weather and it can be locked so no one else can get to the dogs. Add a rubber bed liner and blankets for comfort and a secure crate for longer trips.

If there's no room for your dog to ride in the cab with you, and you can't provide the security of a camper shell or at least a secure crate for protection from summer sun and heat, lovingly leave your dog safely at home.

*by Sandy Moyer*

### Snake Bites and Dogs *by The Pet Center*

We are all familiar with situations where a dog happens to bite another dog or even a human. These occurrences are always scary. The most heart-stimulating bite cases are the ones where the headline might read "Dog Bites Vet". Therefore, no matter what you are... man or animal... the effects of a venomous snakebite can be extremely painful and disfiguring. Venomous snakes kill many dogs, cats and people every year. Did you know that each year in the United States, over one million animal-bite wounds are reported? Dogs and cats inflict the vast majority.

On occasion, the tables are turned on our canine friends though, and without warning, they are recoiling from the pain inflicted by sharp, poison-injecting fangs. Caught off guard, it is a moment you will never forget if you and your dog encounter a poisonous snake while simply taking a pleasant walk in the outdoors. Snakebites are a fact of life for dogs and humans in a wide area of North America. Venomous snakes bite about 8,000 people annually in the USA, but according to most estimates, only 12 to 15 of these bites are fatal. You won't find details on the numbers of dogs bitten, or killed, by venomous snakes. It is a fact that there is a about a 20 percent fatality rate for dogs bitten by the Eastern Diamondback and the Eastern Coral snakes. Although there surely are isolated areas of the United States where venomous snakes are not plentiful, their range spreads all across the country with only Alaska and Hawaii reporting no species of the poisonous kind. Many cases of snakebite occur in dogs that are "just visiting" a part of the country where poisonous snakes are plentiful. It has happened that dog owners who reside in an area devoid of poisonous snakes are shocked into reality when visiting an area where venomous snakes reside!

### Types of Poisonous Snakes

The United States has fifteen species of rattlesnakes; two kinds of water moccasins, the copperhead and cottonmouth; and two kinds of coral snakes. The six types described here make a good representation of the venomous snakes present in the USA.

Copperhead	Cottonmouth (Water Moccasin)	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake
 <p>Photo: John White</p>	 <p>Photo: John White</p>	
<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 22-36 inches and up to 53 inches has been reported.  <b>Range:</b> Northern Florida up to Massachusetts, west to Texas and southeastern Nebraska.</p>	<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 20-48 inches but over 70 inches has been reported.  <b>Range:</b> From Florida all the way north to Virginia and west to Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.</p>	<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 36-72 inches; the longest reported was 96 inches.  <b>Range:</b> All through Florida and several offshore islands and keys, north to southeastern North Carolina and west to southern Mississippi and parts of Louisiana.</p>
Timber Rattlesnake	Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake	Eastern Coral Snake
	 <p>Florida Museum of Natural History</p>	 <p>Photo: Bill Love</p>
<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 36-60 inches; over 70 inches have been reported.  <b>Range:</b> This is an endangered species; its range is limited to small areas of the eastern US.</p>	<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 12-24 inches; the longest was recorded at 31 inches.  <b>Range:</b> Throughout Florida, eastern North Carolina and west to parts of Missouri and Texas</p>	<p><b>Average adult size</b> is 20-30 inches; some exceed 40 inches.  <b>Range:</b> All of Florida and north to parts of North Carolina and west to eastern Texas and northeastern Mexico.</p>



Fortunately, if your dog happens to be bitten by a poisonous snake the odds are in favor of a complete recovery. The degree of damage inflicted by a venomous snake is determined by a wide variety of variables. The age and species of snake, the intensity and depth of the fang penetration, the amount of venom injected, the location of the bite, and the size of the dog are just a few of the variables. In general, snakes want to be left alone. But along comes an inquisitive dog probing every mysterious hole in the ground, sniffing under downed logs, slogging along the riverbank, and digging up leafy patches on the forest floor... and a lightning strike of the serpentine kind may be the result!

### **What Should You Do** in the event a snake bites your dog?

Firstly - do not take out your pocketknife and cut Xs over the fang marks! Do not attempt to suck venom through those X marks. Do not grab the snake in a fit of anger and attempt to choke it to death. You may be bitten yourself.

### **Please do...**

- \* Try to identify the snake by taking note of its size, color patterns and the presence or absence of a rattle at the end of the tail.
- \* Look the dog over carefully for fang marks, noting that there may be more than one bite wound.
- \* If bitten on a leg, wrap a constricting band on the affected limb snugly at a level just above the bite wound (on the body side of the wound). This band could be fashioned of a shirtsleeve or other fabric and should be snug but not excessively tight. The compression around the limb will slow the spread of the venom. The dog may lose the limb but that is better than losing his life.
- \* Start your journey to the nearest animal hospital while trying to keep the dog as quiet as possible.

### **Preventing Snake Bites**

- \* While out walking, controlling your dog with a leash may be your best safety device.
- \* Do not allow your dog to explore holes in the ground or dig under logs, flat rocks or planks.
- \* Stay on open paths where there is an opportunity for snakes to be visible.
- \* Keep nighttime walks to a minimum; rattlers are nocturnal most of the year.
- \* If you hear a rattlesnake, keep your dog at your side until you locate the snake; then move away.
- \* Off-trail hiking with an unleashed dog may stir up a snake and you may be as likely a victim as your dog.
- \* If your dog seems unusually curious about "something" hidden in the grass, back off immediately until you know what it is.

### **What is venom?**

Venom is a toxic fluid created in specialized oral glands related to salivary glands, and the toxic component is composed of an array of complex proteins. Every snake's venom contains more than one toxin, and in combination, the toxins have a more potent effect than the sum of their individual effects. Most of the toxic effects are due to the enzymes in the venom and there have been about twenty-five enzymes discovered so far. Venoms are of two types, either neurotoxic (affecting the nervous system) or hemotoxic (affecting the blood and vessels). The venom of many snakes contain both neurotoxic and hemotoxic components.

### **What does venom do?**

Venomous snakebites cause severe pain, cell death, numbness, diminished function and, occasionally, loss of a limb. Snake venoms inflict local effects such as inflammation, damage to blood vessel lining, clotting defects and localized tissue destruction. Some venom can also cause neurotoxicity and interfere with nerve transmission resulting in paralysis.

### **What is Antivenin**

Antivenin or commonly called antivenom, is a group of medications that may help people or animals recover from venomous bites. Monovalent medication is specific to treating bites from one type of creature, and polyvalent types will treat exposure to more than one species of animal/insect/reptile. They work by providing antibodies that fight directly against the venom that is circulating in the body. The earlier antivenin is administered, the better, because it cannot reverse damage that venom may have already caused.

Vigilance and keeping control of your dog when walking in areas inhabited by poisonous snakes will be your best deterrent to a snake encounter. It's not a bad idea to memorize your veterinarian's emergency phone number, too!



**Kimba - Owned by Lea Kratzer**

**Warm weather is here - Tally Ho, Everyone!  
Love your hounds and they will more than double their love back to you.**

**Please feel free to contact any of the following people:**

**CBARRC Membership questions**

Lynn Quinney, Secretary  
quinneyzoo1@comcast.net

**CBARRC Events**

Steve Hoffman, President  
shoffman@dominionrr.com

**The CBARRC Website**

Cari Messick, Vice President  
cari.messick@gmail.com

Steve Christiansen  
stevebc3@verizon.net

**CBARRC newsletter questions or submissions**

Stephanie Matulich  
stephanie\_matulich@yahoo.com

