



Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Member BCA Division III

www.sdbulldogs.org

June 2008

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President's Message

Dear fellow Bulldoggers and Friends,

On the 17th and 18th of May, a Bulldog Specialty Show Cluster was held with one show put on by BCA Division 3 and two shows put on by the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego. Our Show Chairperson, Naomi Bell did an outstanding job of raising the funds for the venue at the Bernardo Winery and organized a great team of volunteers to prepare for and staff the event. I want to personally thank her and all of you who worked on this project for your patience and hard work in making this a great success.

There is so much work that goes into a show from the initial preparation to the final day of the show. It has been quite a few years since we have had the opportunity to put on more than one show and handled all the logistical challenges that come with setting up, manning, and taking down "three" shows. Again, I want to thank all of you who were there to set up, man, and take down the event. I also want to thank and express my appreciation to all of you who supported the Club with your entries and showmanship. It appeared that all who participated had a good time and the judges were pleased with the professional way in which the show was run. We had the challenge of warm weather to contend with but were prepared with lots of water and ice.

The hot weather season of summer is upon us. Please be sure to make an extra effort to keep your dogs cool and comfortable. This year on the 4th of July, the Club will have a booth at the Del Mar Fair where we will have an opportunity to inform and educate the public on the services of our Club and our sister organization San Diego Bulldog Rescue. Many visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about Bulldogs and to meet and interact with some of our four legged Bully buddies. If you as Club members have an interest in participating with your Bullies in this activity please contact me at derekrasmussen@cox.net. I am excited and looking forward to this event and the opportunity to rub shoulders with other Club members and interested Fair guests.

In the past few years, there has been an increased concern about puppy mills, imported dogs and disreputable breeders. This is still a serious problem. When in doubt about purchasing a bulldog, remember these rules: Do your homework! Buy from a reputable breeder. Don't be afraid to wait for a good dog. Buy yourself a quality puppy, not an expensive problem that may lead to costly and unexpected expenses and heartbreak. If you have questions or concerns about what to do or who to contact, you can communicate with Janice Hochstetler, our Club Vice-President and breeder referral coordinator.

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Upcoming Events

July 4, 2008 San Diego County Fair, contact Derek at derekrasmussen@cox.net

**August 23, 2008 Summer Picnic 11:00am at Dusty Rhodes Park in Ocean Beach.
Picnic will be catered.**

October 25, 2008 Annual Halloween Picnic

December 19, 2008 Annual Holiday Party & Business Mtg.



New Members

“A great big bullie hug to our new members”

Kelly and Anders Strothman and Bentley of Carlsbad.

Robert and Heidi McHugh and Bella of El Cajon.

Cindy Maresic Sheppard and John Samuel Sheppard III and Sugar.

Julie Dahlke and Garrett Poppe and Maddie of San Diego.

Daryn and Tina Donato and Magic of Escondido.

Julia C. Forsyth and Scott Lippincott and Hauser of San Diego.

Carlos A. Montoya and Alexander of San Diego.

Suzanne Grant and Morton of San Diego.

George and Barbara Linker and Georgie of San Diego.

Toni Ann and David Montione and Baxter of San Diego.

Chris and Hannah Schartiger and Finneway of San Diego.

Joy Green and Frosty of Carlsbad.

all Mentored by Derek

TIDBITS

from the editor

Dogs are happy because they believe that...

1. Everyone has the potential to be a good person (or dog)
2. You are never too old to make new friends
3. It doesn't matter what you did in the past, only what you do now
4. Regrets don't do any good just live for today
5. That one should try to be happy every day
6. You are never too old to play
7. Food is a very good thing
8. Treats are a really, really good thing
9. Massages are the best relaxation
10. Money doesn't buy you love
11. One good toy is better than 10 bad toys
12. You don't need money to be happy

We would be happier if we really lived by these "dog secrets".

May 10th 2008
Board Meeting Minutes
Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Introduction of Guests and New Members
Roll Call
Reading of Minutes

General Business

Officers Reports:

Membership Report: The membership is lower to date than last year.

Mentor Report: Invite to Specialty show was last action.

Treasurer's Report: We're in good shape, in the black.

Board Member/ Committee Reports:

Newsletter & Website Coordinator: Ready for few remaining articles. Pictures and bylaws updated on website.

Social & Events Coordinator: Spring picnic was in the black. Summer picnic August 23rd 11:00 at Dusty Rhodes Park. Picnic will be catered.

Fund Raising Coordinator: 5k run in planning stages, would prefer to have event that includes dogs. Lydia will contact Justin Rudd for event ideas and help. November timeline.

Show Chairperson: Review of logistics needs, show requirements and setup arrangements.

Education & Training Coordinator: Article on responsible breeding discussed: Showing, bettering the breed, costs involved in breeding, offering limited registrations.

Rescue Liaison from SDBR: Eight current dogs, 12 dogs processed this year.

Unfinished Business

New Business:

Breeding standards and expectations of members, enforcement of. Deferred to Jamie Kimball as Education and Training Coordinator to discuss at next meeting.

New Member Applications: Club rules state that expired memberships (unpaid by March 31st) require board approval for re-application. 2 expired members were re-instated.

Activities for Year 2008

Specialty Shows : May 17th and 18th, 2008

San Diego County Fair July 4th, 2008: Derek is coordinating. Last day of the fair. Fireworks show that night.

Summer Picnic : August 23rd, 2008: 11:00 at Dusty Rhodes Park. Picnic will be catered.

Halloween Party : October 25th, 2008

Annual Business Meeting/Holiday Party : December 19th, 2008

Board Meeting Dates and Times – Derek

July 12th - To be held at
Janice Hochstetler's home

Sept 13th

Nov 8th

Adjournment

(continued from page 1)

I would like to express my personal thanks to Naomi Bell and Deb Shoemaker for the wonderful job they are doing with this newsletter. It takes a lot of work to organize and put something like this together. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the board for their hard work and dedication in providing leadership and support to all of the activities of the Club.

Finally, the board would like to solicit your input on the format and content of our website. It can be found at www.sdbulldogs.org. It takes some time to make changes but we want to improve wherever we can. If you feel that is great the way it is let us know that too.

Derek Rasmussen

Spring Picnic

The Spring Picnic was another success thanks to Sarah Grant who organized the event and Jamie Kimball, the master B-B-Q man. Lunch included hamburgers and Tri-Tip steak, potato salad and chips. The event was held at the San Dieguito Park and we had great bully weather! If you didn't make it, we missed you. **Club T-Shirts** were available for purchase at the event. San Diego **Bulldog Rescue** had a fund raising table full of Bulldog items for sale. Many walked away with some pretty cool things. **The Bully Egg Hunt** was fun to watch as the dogs found little plastic eggs filled with treats. Attendees were asked to bring a **Bully Basket** for a silent auction, to be held at the May Specialty Show.

Thanks to members including Olivia Franklin, Kathy & Rick Mays, Daryn & Tina Donato, Janice Hochstetler, Kasey Kimball, Lydia DeMars, Amber Ferreira, Elgene Davison, Elaine Feinstein, and our friends from rescue. We received a total of 12 baskets. If you would still like to donation a Bully Basket for the auction, please contact Naomi to arrange to drop one off. Can't wait for the next event! (Thanks again Sarah and all who helped make the Spring Picnic a success)



Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego Booth at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar

The Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego will be staffing a booth at the San Diego County Fair from 9AM till 7PM on Friday July 4th. It should be a great opportunity to feature the Club and its two legged and 4 legged members and promises to be a fun activity. Anyone interested in signing up for a two hour shift, please contact Derek Rasmussen at derekrasmussen@cox.net. In the past participants have been given free passes to the Fair.



Specialty Show



A big thanks goes out to Dr. Christy Berg, a club member and the vet for our show. She not only provided us with her services, but also donated the raffle money she won to San Diego Bulldog Rescue.





Coordinator

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Hello from San Diego Bulldog Rescue!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our fundraising efforts at the Spring Picnic. The rescue bullies thank you also!

SDBR has already had **more than double** the number of bulldogs come into our program in 2008 as compared to the same time last year. Bulldogs are now the 5th most popular breed in San Diego County, and the 2nd most popular in LA/Orange Counties. Please help us educate everyone you know that is looking for that cute puppy to stay away from pet stores, the Internet, and backyard breeders! Refer them to Janice: mjh6@aol.com for reputable breeder referrals. We thank you, and more importantly, so do the bullies!

Currently in rescue:

Fiona: Cute little 3 year old girl recovering from severe untreated ear infections and hematoma surgery.

Bella: Bella was surrendered to us in very bad condition. She is a deaf 1 year old, and was very ill with demodectic mange, yeast and deep staph infections. She is doing well in rehab!

Stella: Sweet, shy and timid, Stella is 2 years old and has been moved around quite a bit in her short life. Stella needs a loving place to call home.

Buttercup: 5 year old Buttercup was relinquished when her owner lost her home. She recently had cherry eye surgery and is taking medications for skin infections.

Kylie: Poor Kylie came into rescue with numerous deep bite wounds resulting in a bad leg infection and ear hematoma. She still needs cherry eye surgery on both eyes.

Precious: 5 year old girl with very bad limp from an untreated injury as a puppy. Precious came to us emaciated and full of infections. She is eating 4 meals a day and loving it!

Molly: Little 4 year old Molly's owner lost her home. Molly will be having multiple surgeries to correct entropion and cherry eyes.

Beasley: Funny little Beasley is a 3 year old girl who needed entropic surgery on both eyes, and had a very bad tail fold infection. She loves her new peepers!

Betty: Our senior gal is 9 1/2 years old and needs a new home due to the human baby in the house :-)

Congratulations to our recently adopted bulldogs:

Elmer went to a fabulous home where he has a female bulldog playmate. Way to go Elmer!!

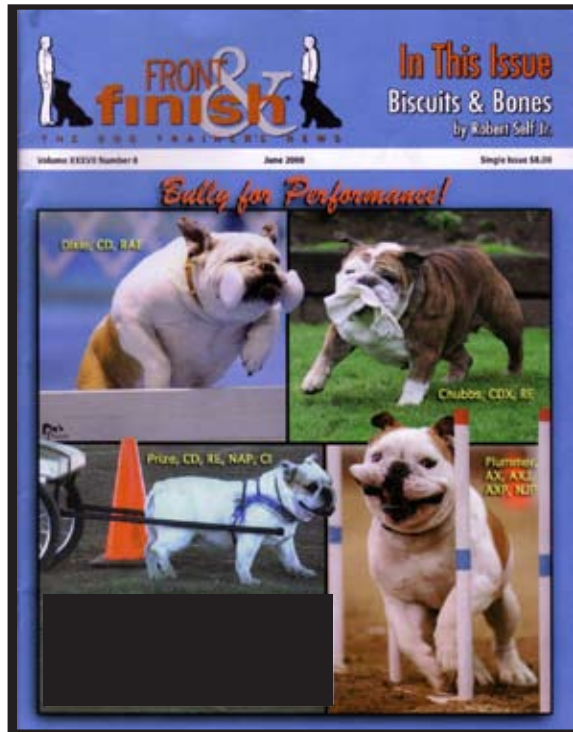
Gidget is now living it up with a wonderful retired couple who recently lost their male bulldog. You go Gidget!

Puma is in a very well deserved home with a loving family. Puma was in medical rehab for 6 months and is now the center of this families world! We love you Puma!

Gotti is living the high life in North County with a great young couple that adore him. Congrats, you big boy!

Tank: Big, adorable Tank lucked out with a fabulous family in Temecula. We are proud of you Tank!

**A column to address common training problems for pet owners.
 You are welcome to send in your questions or problems to
 Betty Fisher by phone (559-689-3551, bfisher@sti.net or
 P.O. Box 93, Raymond, CA 93653**



Bottom Left is Prize, CD, NAP, RE, CI. The NAP is an agility title, Novice Standard Preferred (Preferred dogs jump 4" lower). CI is the second carting title offered by the American Rottweiler Club. She is also my many times great granddaughter

Bottom Right is Plummer AX, AXJ, AXP, NJP. These are all agility titles. AX is Excellent Standard and AXJ is Excellent Jumpers with Weaves. This is the third level of AKC agility. AXP is Excellent Standard Preferred and NJP is Novice Jumpers Preferred. This means Plummer has earned 10 agility titles!

These four dogs have earned a 28 titles!! If you think your dog can't do working events think again!!

Incidentally Dixie is a rescue dog competing with an ILP number as her heritage is unknown.

I have to brag that this is the second of my descendants featured on a national magazine. My grandson, the Bear, was on the cover of the American Kennel Club Gazette in the 1970s. He was holding a dumbbell so you could see that he was a working dog too.

I hope you got to watch the Rally at the specialties held in May. The dogs and handlers really had a lot of fun in spite of the heat. Congratulations to all the winners.

Fang

Betty Fisher

Betty Fisher has owned and trained Bulldogs to more than twenty obedience, carting and agility titles. She is the author of "So Your Dog's Not Lassie" an award winning book on training independent dogs and "Caninestein", both recommended by the Bulldog Club of America. Betty writes a regular performance column for the Bulldogger, magazine of the Bulldog Club of America.

This issue I would like to brag on some of my descendents instead of answering your questions. My mom belongs to a Bulldog Performance email list. The group decided to place an ad in Front & Finish, the national obedience magazine, honoring all the Bulldogs that earned working titles in 2007. There were more than 40! When the magazine was approached they said, how would you like to be on the cover of the June issue? There are also two more pages featuring Bulldogs in the issue.

The cover features 4 Bulldogs doing obedience, agility and carting. The carting dog is my own descendent Prize who has 7 working titles. A picture of the cover is in this issue.

Top left is Dixie, CD, RAE. This is obedience Companion Dog title (she earned her CDX in early May) and Rally title Rally Advanced Excellent. This means she has earned all 4 rally titles.

Top Right is Chubbs, CDX, RE. CDX is Companion Dog Excellent (she has one leg on the next obedience title, Utility). Rally Excellent is the third Rally title.

It's That Time Again... Beware of Foxtails

The foxtail, in its "green condition" as seen below, is a native plant in Western areas of the United States.



This plant populates the area by drying and breaking apart into tiny burrowing duplicates of itself as seen in its "brown seeding condition" below.

The "seedlings" are physically built to burrow.

While some animals do not have difficulty with the plant (horses can eat them with no side effects), and people seem to be able to remove them easily, dogs appear to have the most severe reactions to them.



The outsides of the "seedlings" contain a bacterium with enzymes used to break down vegetation. This bacterium also allows the seedling to burrow into a dog along the tunnels of pus created by the enzyme. In fact, **pus and foxtails go hand in hand.**

A foxtail can literally go anywhere in the dog. For example, they have been found inside the brain, anal glands, eyes, ears, jowls, feet, spinal cord, lungs, and vagina. We will focus on the symptoms, first aid treatment, and veterinary treatment for foxtails in the more common areas of the ears, eyes, nose, mouth, feet, vagina, and a general wound.

Ears: The symptoms are clear: a head tilt or head shaking is the immediate response of a dog that has a foxtail in its ear. Later, the symptoms look like an ear infection. The larger the dog, the less noticeable the symptoms so monitor your dog carefully. First aid response is to put drops of oil into the affected ear to soften the foxtail. This softening helps pre-

vent the foxtail from moving forward and may allow the dog to shake it out. Unless you see the foxtail shaken out, do not assume it has been removed. Take the dog to a vet for removal of the foxtail. The vet will most likely conduct an otoscopic exam and a simple retrieval.

Eyes: Symptoms for foxtails in the eyes are a gummy discharge and a squint, or an eye glued shut. In parts of California, for example, if an eye is glued shut, it is generally considered a foxtail and treated as such. First aid response is to calm the dog. If the foxtail is in sight and you can control your dog, use a blunt tweezers to pull out the foxtail. Foxtails cannot be flushed from the eye with water or eyewash, nor can they be removed by applying ointment. Get your dog to the vet.

Nose: For a foxtail in the nose, the obvious symptoms are spasmodic and serial sneezing. If blood comes from the nose as a consequence of sneezing, you are almost assured it is a foxtail. First aid treatment is to drop (not squirt) some oil into the nose. Mineral oil is best but baby or vegetable oil can be used. The oil will soften the foxtail; so hopefully, it will not continue to burrow. The oil is for the dog's comfort as well as to help stop the foxtail from poking the sensitive nasal passages. But again, get your dog to a vet quickly.

Mouth: Dogs can get foxtails in their mouth. The symptoms of a foxtail stuck in the gums or back of the throat include gagging, difficulty swallowing when eating, etc. If swallowed, foxtails can be passed. However, if it gets caught in periodontal pockets, the tongue, in between teeth or in the back of the throat, it can cause problems. You can tell if this has occurred, not only from the above symptoms, but also because the dog may have a "dead body" odor coming from the mouth. The vet will anesthetize the dog, then locate and remove the foxtail.

Interdigital: Symptoms are continuous lick

ing of the foot or pad, or the appearance of a bubbly swelling between the toes. First check the dog. If you think there is a foxtail, you can soak the foot in warm water 10 to 15 minutes one or two times a day for three days. This will assist in the creation of an abscess in the area that will eventually burst. Once it bursts, you can remove the foxtail by milking the abscess and backing out the foxtail. Once the foxtail is removed, keep soaking the foot, but now add an antiseptic (like betadine) to the water (about one tablespoon per cup of water). What should be clear by now is that for foxtails, "**pus marks the spot,**" so always look for a bubble of pus on the foot. Sometimes the bubble shows up and disappears, then shows up somewhere else on the dog's leg. From our experience this indicates a roving foxtail and the best bet is to get your dog to the vet.

Vagina: This area is hard to spot symptoms at for they are not as obvious as in other areas. Look for a swollen area in the groin and con-

stant licking of the vaginal area. There is no first aid treatment. Take the dog to a vet immediately.

Any foxtail that enters a dog through the ears, eyes, nose, mouth, feet, or vagina if ignored, has the potential to travel (burrowing along the tunnels of pus created by the seedling's bacteria) anywhere in the dog's body. Don't ignore any of the outermost symptoms, as internal symptoms are usually not visible. Severe injury and even death can occur if the foxtail reaches the dog's brain, spinal cord, heart or lungs.

Although generally foxtails do not lead to death, they can cause severe injury. After any event in areas with foxtails, it is wise to carefully inspect your dog. It is also wise to immediately treat any dog that shows the above symptoms and get it to a vet. You might also want to add blunt tweezers, mineral oil, and an eyedropper to your growing first aid kit for field trial dogs.

Did you know that fleas are not only annoying but they can also be dangerous to your dog? Fleas are more than just insects that bite and suck your dog's blood.

Yes, fleas can also transmit diseases to your dog!

The most common and annoying disease caused by fleas is flea allergy dermatitis. Some dogs are allergic to the flea saliva and just one bite will cause them to be miserable. Dogs with flea allergies will scratch resulting in hair loss and skin lesions. I've seen some dogs itch until their skin was raw and bleeding from just one flea.

Another disease fleas can transmit is a tapeworm. Fleas cause tapeworm infections after a dog ingests a flea that carries a tapeworm larva. After ingestion, the tapeworm larva continues to develop in the dog's gastrointestinal tract. When developed, the head of the tapeworm will attach to the intestinal wall and small egg filled segments periodically breaks off and are passed out the rectum.

The best way to prevent both of these conditions is to prevent the fleas! Whatever remedy you use, this is the time to begin preventing fleas! Don't wait too long or flea season will be in full force and it is much more difficult to treat rather than prevent fleas.

Can people get diseases from their dogs?

The answer is yes, but this is not as common as some people think.

Let me explain... The transmission of diseases from pets to people is called "zoonoses" and is relatively uncommon. The diseases most commonly affect people with immune disorders or that are on chemotherapy or immunosuppressive drug therapy.

Most infectious diseases are transmitted only within a species. Dogs cannot give us their colds and we cannot give them our colds. Many viruses can be transmitted from dog to dog but not dog to person or even dog to cat.

However, you can get a few diseases from your dog. Diseases you can get include:

1. Parasites - a disease caused by a gastrointestinal parasites like Hookworms and Roundworms. Infection can occur from either ingesting parasite eggs or coming into contact with the larva in the soil. These parasites can be acquired from handling infected soil through gardening, cleaning feces, walking in sand or playing in sandboxes used by animals. For these reasons, children are especially at risk, so make sure they wash their hands thoroughly after handling their pet.
2. Rabies is a viral infection caused by a virus found in the saliva of infected animals and is transmitted to pets and humans by bites. Infected bats, raccoons, foxes, skunks, dogs or cats provide the greatest risk to humans.
3. Leptospirosis - a bacterial disease you can acquire from handling infected urine or by putting your hands to your mouth after touching anything that has been exposed to infected dog urine.
4. Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection that can affect the scalp, the body (particularly the groin), the feet and the nails. Despite its name, it has nothing to do with worms. The name comes from the characteristic red ring that can appear on an infected person's skin.

Animals with zoonotic diseases may exhibit a variety of clinical signs depending on the type of disease. The signs can vary from mild to severe. As a pet owner, you should know your animal and be aware of any changes in behavior and appearance.

Also, please make sure your dog has routine wellness examinations and vaccines to maintain his or her health.

Flea Control

Fleas **HATE** Stash Earl Grey tea. Tear open a few bags, scatter the dry tea leaves around on your carpet and leave it for a few days, then vacuum it up. Fleas will flee. Other folks have noticed that their pets love to roll in Stash- maybe that's why!

Pet Theft on the Rise - Tips to Prevent Pet Theft From the AKC website

The American Kennel Club® is warning pet owners and breeders about an alarming rise in dog thefts in recent months. From parking lots to pet stores and even backyards, more dogs are disappearing. In the first three months of 2008, the AKC has tracked more than 30 thefts from news and customer reports, versus only ten for all twelve months of 2007.

Media reports have chronicled the escalation of these "dog-nappings" from all around the country. Incidents have included armed robbers entering a breeder's home, tiny puppies being stuffed into purses at pet stores and most recently, purebred pets being snatched from cars in parking lots and even shelters.

"The value of pets in people's lives has been on the rise for a long time and now we are seeing thieves trying to capitalize on this.

Whether they seek to resell the dog, collect a ransom or breed the dogs and sell their offspring, thieves seem to be attuned to the increased financial and emotional value pets have in our lives," said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Losing a treasured family pet is devastating to the owner."

"Criminals look for weaknesses and exploit them. They know pets can't protect themselves, so that means owners need to be alert," said Lt. John Kerwick, a law enforcement K-9 handler and the President of the U.S. Police Canine Association, Region 7. "Be wary of anyone who approaches you and asks too many questions about your dog or where you live. This is a red flag that they may be out to snatch your pet."

Peterson added that "These 'dog-nappers' are misguided and naïve. They're stealing living beings, not jewelry that can be pawned. Plus, it's unlikely that they can sell the dogs for high prices without proper registration papers, and these inept criminals are not realistically going to collect a ransom. Caring for a dog -- and especially breeding -- is a time consuming endeavor that requires a lot of knowledge. Thieves will find themselves with a frightened and confused animal that needs a lot of care."

The AKC offers the following advice to prevent your "best friend" from being a target of a crime:

At Home

Don't let your dog off-leash - Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves. A Saint Bernard that had wandered away from his owner in Nebraska was snatched up right off the road.

Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard - Dogs left outdoors when no one is home for long periods of time

can be potential targets, especially if you live in a rural area and the fenced-in yard or dog runs are visible from the street.

Keep purchase price to yourself - If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

Breeders need to be aware of home visits by potential puppy buyers - Criminals posing as would be "puppy buyers" have visited breeder homes to snatch dogs, while other homes have been burglarized when the owner was away. From Yorkies in Los Angeles to Bulldogs in Connecticut, thieves have targeted young puppies of these highly coveted breeds.

On the Road

Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked - Even if you are gone for only a moment, an unlocked car is an invitation for trouble. Also leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only invite thieves to break and possibly allow the dog to escape.

Don't tie your dog outside a store - This popular practice among city dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. Reports have surfaced of such thefts in Manhattan. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.

Be vigilant when entering or leaving establishments or venues catering to dogs such as grooming salons, veterinarians, doggie day care or hotels - Be aware of your surroundings, such as slow moving vehicles, or people watching you and your dog. Carry pepper spray as a precaution and, if possible, don't walk alone late at night or stay in a well lit area.

Recovery

Protect your dog with microchip identification - Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Keep contact information current with your recovery service provider. Several pets have been recovered because of alert people scanning and discovering microchips. For more information and to enroll your pet in a 24 hour recovery service visit www.akccar.org.

If you suspect your dog has been stolen - Immediately call the police / animal control in the area your pet was last seen.

Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing - Keep a photo of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.

Flea Free

With the emergence of spring flowers, budding trees and green lawns thoughts automatically turn to those parasites that play havoc with our dogs. One parasite, in particular, that is especially troublesome not only to the dog, but the environment in which he lives, is the flea. Fleas are tiny wingless insects that feed on dogs, among other animals. Flea bites make some dogs, who are allergic to the flea saliva, so miserable that they bite and scratch themselves raw. Other dogs do not seem to respond to flea bites with the same intensity. No matter. If you see evidence of fleas on your dog, it is essential to eradicate them as quickly as possible, before their population grows. Hungry fleas sometimes bite humans, too, leaving small, red, itchy bumps most commonly observed on the wrists and ankles.



How can you tell if your dog has fleas?

You may see the dark fleas, about the size of sesame seeds, scurrying about on the skin. Their favorite haunts include the base of the ears

and the rump. Look closely in sparsely haired places like the groin for telltale signs. A more accurate way to diagnose fleas, however, when live ones aren't observed, is to part the fur in several places and look for tiny black specks about the size of poppy seeds. These specks are flea feces, composed of digested blood. If you're not sure whether you're looking at "flea dirt" or just plain dirt, place it on a damp piece of white tissue. After a minute or so, a small red spot or halo will become apparent if it's flea feces, since the blood rehydrates and diffuses into the tissue.

Getting rid of fleas on your dog:

The flea comb is a handy item, which helps you determine if your dog has fleas. The teeth are set very close together and snare flea evidence when the comb is drawn through the dog's coat. If you trap a flea, crush it immediately. Though wingless, fleas can jump so fast and so far that they practically disappear the second you see them. Getting rid of fleas entails killing them on the dog as well in the environment. For this, you may need an armament of products.

There are many products on the market today that help eradicate fleas – some contain poisons and others are homeopathic in nature. Dog owners should always be aware of the fact that they need to be constantly vigilant of their animal's health and well-being when any form of medical treatment is being administered for whatever reason.

It is necessary to treat not only a dog for fleas, but also the environment in which it lives. If sprays or flea bombs are used, care should be taken to remove all food, exposed dishes, utensils and housewares from the area being sprayed or bombed. Humans and animals should also not be exposed to the chemicals according to the instructions listed with the spray or bomb.

Natural Remedies:

The common cause of itching is due to fleas and flea bites - some animals are actually allergic to them, compounding the problem. Brewer's yeast is often recommended, 1 teaspoon or tablet per day, as a deterrent. A word of caution here: some animals are allergic to the brewer's yeast, or react to it with dry patches of skin that itch just as bad as the fleas do. If you use brewer's yeast, keep an eye out for these sorts of skin problems to develop, and discontinue the brewer's yeast if necessary as soon as one of these symptoms appear. A good remedy for those dry itchy skin patches is tea tree oil, rubbed over the patch. The bitter taste will discourage the animal from digging at his skin, and the oil works well to heal the dryness. Do not use it near the eyes or genitals. Aloe is also good for those dry patches. Another method is to put a slice of raw cucumber over the "hot" spot, holding it there for a few minutes, and then rub aloe or tea tree oil over it. The shampoo you use, or the flea collar you use, may actually be causing the itching. Bathe the animal in an all natural shampoo, preferably something that has aloe in it, and find an alternative to that flea collar!! Would you wear chemicals around your neck?

You can make an herbal dip for your pet as follows: 2 cups packed fresh peppermint, pennyroyal, or rosemary; 1 quart boiling water; 4 quarts warm water - - Prepare an infusion by pouring the boiling water over the herbs and



allow it to steep for 30 minutes. Strain the liquid and dilute it with the warm water. Saturate the animal's coat thoroughly with the solution, allowing it to air dry. Use at the first sign of flea activity. This remedy will need to be repeated every three to four days, but it is totally safe.

If the itching persists, and fleas or poor diet are not the culprit, use a mixture of Licorice Root, Dandelion Root, and Cat's Claw in equal drops of each tincture for two weeks. The licorice is a natural cortisone, and will help to jumpstart the immune system.

To get rid of fleas in your carpet, after removing pets from the room, sprinkle Borax over the carpet and rub it in. Wait a while, then vacuum as usual. This is a safe, non-chemical method of flea control. Reapply the Borax once a week until the problem is gone.



What's Wrong With Having an Overweight, Spoiled Dog?

Well my emotional answer to this question is - there nothing wrong with it. I just love my dog and want to make him happy. Like many of you, I am guilty. He loves treats and when looks at me with his big brown eyes, my heart melts and I give in.

The medical answer is different. I know that obesity is accompanied by a set of physical problems that may contribute to a shorter life span. Fat dogs have an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, liver disease, diabetes, orthopedic problems, and even neurological problems.

So are there healthier ways to spoil your dog?

Yes, there are. Here are a few healthier ways to spoil your dog without helping him/her pack on the pounds.

1. Trade up for healthier treats. Fresh baby carrots are a great, low-calorie alternative to fatty biscuits and permit the frequent treat-giving that many dogs have become accustomed to.

2. Make them work for it. Interactive toys keep pets busy while rewarding them with small treats throughout the play activity. For already obese pets, using pieces of their regular dog food as treats is helpful.

3. Forget the treats and get moving. Increasing playtime with your pet can greatly increase calories burned in a day. Spoiling your pet doesn't have to involve food. Playing ball, going for a run or visiting a dog park are fun and healthful ways to interact with your pet.

Remember, keeping a dog healthy, active and energetic is the best treat of all.





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Next Board Meeting

Saturday July 12th
6pm at
Janice's house,
Valley Center