



# Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Member BCA Division III

www.sdbulldogs.org

May 2009

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## President's Message

Dear fellow Club members and visitors to our website,

Spring has been with us a little while and we should enjoy the cool weather with our bullies, while it lasts. We are just over one third of the way into the year and have many exciting activities planned for the upcoming months. I want to give a big welcome to the newest members of the Bulldog Club – Edward and Jenny Mackie and their dogs, Gus, Bandit, Honey and Princess. The Mackies live in Murietta. I encourage them to share their talents as they participate in club activities.

We held our annual spring picnic on March 21st at the San Dieguito Dog Park. The weather cooperated and we had plenty of sunshine. I want to thank Janice Hochstetler and all of her helpers for a wonderful activity. We had a lot of attendees which included quite a few visitors. All who attended seemed to have had a good time. The kids and bullies had fun with the Easter egg hunt and it was fun to see the various different talents of the Bulldogs in the best tricks contest. The food provided by Rubios was excellent. It was good to have so many of the San Diego Bulldog Rescue families there. SDBR was able to raise some additional funds from their crafts and desserts booth.

Our next club event will be the Del Mar Fair on July 4th. The club will have a bulldog booth to provide information about the breed. This is a wonderful activity and all who have participated in the past have really enjoyed it. I hope that many of you will participate in this public outreach and educational event. We encourage participants to bring their bulldogs. People love to come and pet the animals. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about the special needs of our lovable Sourmugs and also meets AKC requirements for our Club. Please contact me if you are interested in working at the booth.

After the Delmar Fair we will hold our Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego Specialty Shows on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who would like to help us with these events please

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## Upcoming Events

July 4, 2009	SD County Fair Booth
July 18-19, 2009	Specialty Show, Guajome Park, Oceanside
August 22, 2009	August Picnic
October 17, 2009	Halloween
December 4, 2009	Holiday Dinner

## New Members

"A great big bullie hug to our new members"

**Edward and Jenny Mackie and their dogs, Gus, Bandit, Honey and Princess.**

contact myself or Jamie Kimball. We will need many volunteers to help with set up, provide hospitality for the judges, run the auctions, take-down and other service opportunities. Please let us know if you can help. All help is greatly appreciated. After the Specialty shows our next club activity will be our annual August picnic. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fair, the Specialty shows, or at our August picnic. On behalf of the officers and Board, I thank you all for your support and encourage you to get involved in club activities. There is a lot more we could do with more involvement. We appreciate your input and encourage your questions and suggestions for club improvement.

Derek Rasmussen



TIDBITS  
from the editor

Knowing when to get your dog to the veterinarian can save his or her life! There are serious symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog.

First, what is a symptom? A symptom is defined as "any problem that can indicate an underlying disease" and may be your first clue to the presence of a life-threatening problem in your pooch. Some of these symptoms are obvious, but others are not. If you don't know what they are you may not know if your dog is a little off or extremely ill.

Read the list of 21 symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog. The symptoms include:

1. Pacing and Restlessness
2. Unproductive retching
3. Collapse or Fainting
4. Not Eating or Loss of Appetite
5. Loosing Weight
6. Breathing Problems
7. Red Eye
8. Jaundice
9. Trouble Urinating
10. Urinating and Drinking Excessively
11. Fever
12. Seizure
13. Bleeding and Bruising
14. Coughing
15. Bloating or distended abdomen
16. Bloody Diarrhea
17. Bloody Urine
18. Bite Wounds
19. Bloody Vomit
20. Lethargy or Weakness
21. Pale Gums



# Spring Picnic





## Walking your Bulldog

Walking your dog should be enjoyable for both of you, but with bulldogs, it too often ends in a pulling contest. All dogs can be taught to walk on a loose lead, and be well behaved in public. To ensure a good time on your next walk, you first need to understand a little about pack behavior. In wolves and wild dogs, the dominant dog always leads any outing, and the other dogs follow. If a less dominant dog attempts to cross in front, the pack leader will nip and discipline the dog to keep him behind. Your dog sees any adventure into the outside world as a pack hunt. You can make him feel secure and happy by being the strong pack leader. A dog without a leader is more likely to engage other dogs in fights, bark at strangers and exhibit other signs of stress. If your dog feels that you will handle any situation, he is more willing to take a back seat. It is important that you always lead on a walk, and let your dog follow at your side. Long retractable leashes are popular, but they give the wrong message to the dog - that he is leading and you are following. Leads should always be just long enough to allow the dog to walk comfortably at your side.

The right equipment is important in training. Bulldogs do not need to be walked in a halter. Many owners fear that their dogs pulling will somehow damage their throats or interfere with breathing, but a properly trained dog will not pull. Harnesses allow the bulldog to use his massive chest, which gives you little control over his behavior. A thick metal choke chain is the best training tool. Thin chains are used for show, but are less comfortable for training. Be sure to place the chain on the dog so that it automatically loosens when the lead is relaxed. If it does not, it is on backwards. Remember every show dog from Great Danes to Chihuahuas walk on a choke chain, and they do so on a loose lead. The goal is not to "choke" the dog, but to have him not pull.

Always begin walks at a sit. When you have your dog's attention, say in an excited voice "Walk" and move off at a good pace. If the dog pulls ahead, give one quick pull back and say "heel". Again body language and attitude are key - if you act like a leader, your dog will follow. Most dogs can be cured of pulling in just a few minutes. If you have a dog already conditioned to pull - turn in the opposite direction every time he pulls, and he will quickly learn that pulling does not bring him the desired results. When you stop, your dog should return to the sitting position.

If you have problems with your dog barking at people or other animals, try to assume more control. When you see an animal approach, keep moving. If your dog shows too much interest, correct him and give a command like "sit" to refocus his attention. He needs to know that as the leader, you will protect him from harm, and that he is safe following your direction. Never allow your bulldog to pull towards people or animals, as he will assume you have given up leadership.

Walking is great exercise for both you and your dog. Bulldogs do best in the early morning or evening hours when it is cool, but can be conditioned to a good walk. Be sure to bring water with you, as excessive panting can cause the throat to swell. Become your dog's pack leader, and enjoy your time outdoors. Walking questions? Email Janice at [mjh6@aol.com](mailto:mjh6@aol.com)

## 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 prevent 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 tweezer to pull out the foxtail. Foxtails cannot be flushed from the eye with water or eye-wash, 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.

**Interdigital:** Symptoms are continuous licking 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 constant 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.

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.

## Breeding your Bulldog

Everyone in our club loves bulldogs - and bulldog puppies are hard to resist. As an AKC club, our charter states that we promote the ownership and breeding of bulldogs, but what does that mean. Should you breed your bulldog? Let's talk about bulldogs and breeding and how to make the best choices for our beloved breed. The future of any purebred dog is up to the keepers of the breed. Dog clubs were formed to protect the quality and standards of each breed, and the decisions they make will affect the look, temperament and health of the next generation of dogs. It is up to us to preserve the best traits of the bulldog, through careful, selective breeding.

As a club we encourage owners to show before they think of breeding. Showing your dog allows you to learn the correct breed standard, gives you an outside opinion on how well your dog conforms to that standard, and puts you in contact with experienced bulldog breeders. Not all bulldogs should be bred, but only those who best exemplify the breed standards, and who are free from health issues. Even two champion parents will produce dogs that are less than perfect, so it is important that we only breed the best of the best.

Bulldogs who are poor or noisy breathers, have allergies, have hip, leg or spine problems, or who are over the breed standard may not make the best candidates for breeding.

It is important that you know at least 5 generations of genetic history on a dog you wish to breed, otherwise you can inadvertently pass on health problems that run in your line.

"Backyard breeders" will often buy a pair of dogs to breed, with no regard to the genetics of this pairing.

Breeding bulldogs is not like any other breed. Few bulldogs mate naturally, so they must be artificially inseminated or implanted. Most births require a surgical c-section.

The bulldogs short back makes them prone to lay on their pups, so the bitch cannot be left

alone with her puppies. This means that you must get up every 2-3 hours and supervise feedings - day and night for several weeks. Puppies require special bedding and care to avoid having flat chests or other problems, and it is vital that you have an experienced breeder to guide you. Most litters are small, and owners find that they lose money more often than they make any profit.

When selling pups, our club is committed to upholding the standard that pups should be sold to pet homes with limited registration. This means the dog will have AKC papers, but is not allowed to breed. Only owners who are willing to show and commit to breeding standards should receive breeding privileges. This ensures that our breed will live on into future generations with the looks, temperament and health that we all want for our dogs. Pet dogs are most healthy when they are spayed or neutered. This prevents many behavior problems and also many types of cancer in later years. When looking for a bulldog pup, please encourage your friends and family to avoid internet breeding sites as these cater to the Midwest puppy mills and the backyard breeders who know little about the breed - but sell pups for profit. Our own Rescue group takes in many dogs each year, mostly from un reputable breeders. These dogs end up with health or behavior problems that result in their being abandoned. Direct potential bulldog owners to the BCA referrals or have them contact their local bulldog club for referrals of qualified breeders.





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Coordinator Tracey LeVeque

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Hello from San Diego Bulldog Rescue! We would like to thank everyone who came to the spring picnic and stopped by the rescue booth. We truly appreciate your support, interest and donations! We simply couldn't save all the deserving dogs that come to us without you!

SDBR participated in the First Annual Doggie Street Festival in Point Loma in March, and we also teamed up with Brecht Mini Auto Dealer in Escondido for the launch of the new convertible Mini Cooper. Fun times for bulldog lovers!

We are very sad to have lost our sweet puppy, Hamilton. Ham was on 'sale' at a local pet store, with what the store was saying was a grade 3 heart murmur. With some coercion, we were able to get Ham surrendered to rescue for treatment when he was 12 weeks old. Ham had very severe pulmonic stenosis, and despite a \$3500 balloon valvuloplasty surgery performed by a cardiologist, his very sick little heart gave out on March 9th, and he passed away in the loving arms of his foster mom. He was 6 months old, and is greatly missed. **Please** don't buy those cute bulldog puppies you see in pet stores. They **all** come from commercial breeding kennels, (puppy mills) most often from Missouri. We are getting more and more adult dogs surrendered to us that were purchased from pet stores. All have medical, and/or behavioral issues, some so severe they cannot be saved. If you must have a puppy, please find a reputable BCA approved bulldog breeder.

SDBR has a new video! Please view at [http://www.onetruemedia.com/otm\\_site/view\\_shared?p=821a5fecf7af16f218873b&skin\\_id=601&utm\\_source=otm&utm\\_medium=text\\_url](http://www.onetruemedia.com/otm_site/view_shared?p=821a5fecf7af16f218873b&skin_id=601&utm_source=otm&utm_medium=text_url) Make sure your sound is on!

Congratulations to the following bulldogs who have recently found their way to wonderful, forever homes:

Dudley, Winston, Sancho and Khuyana, Butch, Oscar, Mildred and Jesabelle!! We are so happy for you, and so very proud. May you bring years of joy to your new families!

SDBR would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Dave Judy and Judy Vet Clinic in El Cajon for their continued generosity and support of our program. We and the bulldogs are ever so grateful!

**A column to address common training problem  
for pet owners.**

**You are welcome to send in your questions or problems to  
Betty Fisher by phone (559-689-3551, [bfisher@sti.net](mailto:bfisher@sti.net) or  
P.O. Box 93, Raymond, CA 93653**

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Dear Fang,

We are getting a new Bulldog puppy and are wondering when you should start training so we have a well behaved pet when he grows up?

Thanks.

New puppy owner

If you buy a puppy your training starts when you get home. A puppy needs to learn to stay in a pen or crate, walk on a lead, sit, down and stand. Further more you need to provide your puppy with lots of enrichment materials. Cut out the bottom on a trash can to make a tunnel or use a cardboard box. Tires, milk jugs, milk crates.....all provide things to explore, climb on and go up and down. A board elevated just a bit on a brick makes a mini ramp for small pups. A big box makes a great fort. Vary your objects, move them around the yard into different places and add and subtract items every week or so.

Besides giving your puppies experience with encountering new items and finding change in their environment you need to start teaching them to pay attention to you. I prefer bits of boiled chicken, easy to digest and not too rich. Using the chicken lure the puppies over and through your obstacles. Say their name and reward each time they look at you. Call them as you place their food bowl down, teaches a fast recall. As they get older use a sit or down stay before they get to approach the food bowl. Always ask them to look at you and not the food dish before you put it down.

Using the chicken lure them into sit, stands and downs. Young puppies cannot stay for very long but you can introduce the concept, just don't expect much duration. Remember there are three elements to any stay—duration, distraction and distance. Try to teach each part separately then combine them. Stays with lots of distraction require a short time with you standing very close and so on.

As soon as the last shots are given take you puppies everywhere you can. Parks, school yards, visit the local Home Depot, visit your friends and training classes. Go to a match and walk around letting your puppy meet many new people. A common trap we all fall into is taking our

pups to the same places. If you walk you puppy around the same block every day that block just becomes part of home and isn't helping your socializing at all. Varied and different locations and situations are the secret to a well socialized puppy that can cope with new situations.

Positive methods work best with young puppies. Clicker training is very good even if you don't use the clicker. Bulldogs especially aren't into working but they sure do like to have fun. Positive methods do wonders with young dogs and make it fun and easy to put a good foundation on you new dog.. As one potential student said to me "I thought when my dog turned two she would be well behaved"! Not unless you do a lot of work during those two years!

[www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com) has a wonderful selection of puppy training materials. Karen Pryor has Puppy Love-Raise Your Dog the Clicker Way. Ian Dunbar has several really good books including Sirius Puppy Training (both a book and a DVD one of the best I've seen). Management Magic by Leslie Nelson helps you avoid many of the pitfalls of living with a puppy. Mother Knows Best by Carol Benjamin has a lot of common sense advice for puppy raising. It is difficult to find really good DVDs so either try to get one by an author you are familiar with or preview it first.

One more piece of advice, don't allow your puppy to do anything you don't want him to do when he grows up!!

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.*



**Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego**  
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Next Board Meeting  
Saturday,  
May 16, 2009  
10:00 am  
at Janice's house