



Loving Paws LLC

NEWSLETTER

April 2009



April Seminars

Dr. Lisa Kluslow will be giving two seminars on April 26th. If you want to know more about dog food and supplements please attend the nutrition seminar at 1:00. To learn more about keeping your dog structurally healthy, I would highly suggest the Injury Prevention seminar at 3:00. You all should have received a separate flyer on this. Contact Laura for more information 262-652-0652.

In The News

Safe Harbor Humane Society will be renovating the building soon. We are in the final planning stages. If all of the work to be done is hired in, the project will be over budget. We are looking for people who can donate their time, expertise and/or materials in the following areas:

Survey, excavation, landscape, concrete, carpentry, mason, windows, roofing, drywall, insulation, flooring, painting, plumbing, electrical and fostering of the animals in the shelter. Please contact either Colleen or Tonya at Safe Harbor if you can help. 262-694-4047. If you are interested in fostering you can contact me, Laura Yurchak, at 262-652-0652.

Dogs and Puppies in Need of Homes



Chris and Kerry Raymond's boxer, Katie, recently had puppies. There are two puppies left. If you are interested in either of these purebred puppies please contact them at 551-9903.



Ashley, a client of Loving Paws, has to find a home for her 2 year old boxer mix Dora. Dora loves people, car rides, walks and going for a swim. She lives with a two year old child and a Boston Terrier puppy. She gets along with most dogs. If interested contact Ashley at (262) 914 9509, ashley.blank.ctr@navy.mil.



Brandy, my foster dog is in need of a good home or a new foster home. You will see why once you read the article in this issue about Heartworm. Contact me if you are interested in helping her. Laura Yurchak 262-652-0652 or laura@lovingpawsllc.com.

Emotion Quiz

How do you think this dog is feeling based on his body language?



The answer is on page 5.

Healthy & Wholesome Snacks for Dogs

By Amy Wence

We've all heard the old myth not to feed table scraps or "people food" to our dogs. While there are table scraps and "people foods" that can be dangerous to dogs, there are also many that are beneficial for them. Wholesome, fresh foods can be a healthy addition to your dog's diet. Often times, dogs welcome fresh foods to their diet because it adds variety to their regular fare. Many dogs eat the same commercial diet day in and day out. I suspect this is why they lose interest in their food and do not find it as appetizing. Fresh foods can make a meal more appealing to them. Below is a list of healthy foods that can be fed, in moderation, to your dog. *Please note: These recommendations are for dogs with no health issues. If your dog has any known issues, please consult your veterinarian before making a change in his diet.



Veggies: Carrots, green beans, green peas, broccoli, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, zucchini, and parsley are great for adding to meals. Dogs digest veggies better when they are steamed, finely chopped or grated, or freshly pureed. Veggies are also good sources of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, fiber, and enzymes. Special Notes: Broccoli can cause gas and should only be fed in small amounts. Canned pumpkin (100% pure, not pumpkin pie mix) is great for relieving diarrhea or constipation. Veggies in the nightshade family (i.e.- potatoes) should be avoided for dogs with arthritis or other inflammatory problems. They can further aggravate the inflammation.

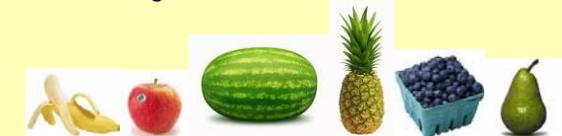


Sardines are a very healthy snack for dogs because they are a great source of Omega-3 fatty acids and calcium. My dogs love sardines! I add a couple

of whole sardines to their meals about twice a week. I purchase canned sardines packed in spring water with no salt added.



Eggs are very nutritious and easy to add to a meal or as snack. They can be given scrambled or hard-boiled.



Fruits, such as bananas, apples, watermelon, pineapple, blueberries, and pears, make for healthy snacks and can be given in small quantities. They are a good source of vitamins, minerals, fiber, enzymes, and antioxidants. You may have to experiment to see which fruits, if any, your dog prefers. For instance, neither of my dogs like banana, but they love watermelon, and also enjoy apples and pears. When feeding fruits, like apples or pears, be sure not to feed the seeds to your dog. They contain a natural form of cyanide and can be very toxic. Aside from the core, the rest of the fruit is perfectly safe for your dog. It is best to feed fruits separately from meals because they digest more quickly. Citrus fruits should not be given because they are too acidic for dogs.



Dairy: Lowfat cottage cheese, lowfat plain yogurt, and string cheese are all delicious snacks for dogs that are able to tolerate dairy. Cottage cheese and yogurt can be given regularly in small quantities. String cheese can be given as an occasional snack. My dogs love string cheese, so I like to reserve it for special occasions like vet visits and nail trimming. It serves as a highly valued reward, as well as a distraction.



Popcorn is a fun, *occasional* snack for dogs. Plain popcorn is best, as butter and too much salt are not healthy for dogs.



Cheerios are a perfect treat to use when training. They are small, low fat, and a good source of fiber. They are a healthy treat to give occasionally and in moderation.

For a list of foods that are *not* safe for dogs, please visit:

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/people-foods.html>

References

- "Adding Fresh Foods to a Commercial Diet," Mary Straus, website: <http://dogaware.com/dogfeeding.html#addfood>
- "Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats: The Ultimate Diet," by Kymthy R. Shultze, C.C.N., A.H.I., P. 21—23
- "Pet Food Nation," by Joan Weiskopf, M.S. Veterinary Clinical Nutritionist, P. 71-77
- "People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets," ASPCA, website: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/people-foods.html>

Heartbreaking News about Heartworm Disease

By Laura Yurchak

I always thought "it will never happen to my dogs" until now. I have always given my dog's heartworm preventative so I didn't really worry about them getting this very serious and possibly fatal condition. Years ago I actually saw the heart of a dog that was full of worms. It was a shocking and eye opening experience. The late Dr. Wolf actually had a heartworm diseased heart that he would display at his open house and educational events. Once you see something like that you don't think twice about giving your pets a preventative.

Well, my foster dog, Brandy, wasn't as lucky as my Tasha and Terra were. Brandy, only about 2-1/2 years of age, was just diagnosed with heartworm. I honestly thought that the day she would leave our home she would be going to her perfect forever home and now we are frantically looking for a new foster home. I have researched this condition to find out that although early stages of heartworm are treatable the dog must not have any exercise during treatment or it could be

fatal. Brandy is in the early stage so she has a real good chance of beating this thing.

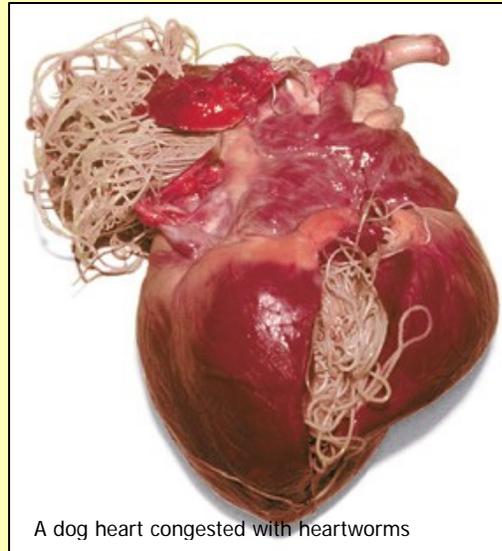
Heartworm is a type of roundworm that lives in the arteries in the lungs and/or the right side of the heart. Brandy was infected when a mosquito carrying the "larvae" bit her. It takes about 2 months for the "larvae" to transport to the arteries of the lung and a total of 6 months for the "larvae" to mature into adult worms. The adult worms then produce more worms. The number of worms can range from 1 – 250!!!! Adult heartworms can live in a dog for 5 – 7 years according to the American Heartworm Association.

To determine what stage of heartworm Brandy is at the veterinarian will do some or all of the following: blood tests, x-rays, urine test, angiography and an ultrasound. Amy Wence, Loving Paws trainer and author of articles in the newsletters, guided me to a website that really listed the classifications of Heartworm nicely.

- Class I: Lowest Risk. Young healthy dogs with minimal disease evident on radiographs, normal blood work, and no symptoms of illness. They may cough only occasionally if ever, they only fatigue with exercise, and their chest radiographs are normal.
- Class II: Moderately Affected. Healthy dogs with

minimal signs as above, occasional coughing, fatigue only with exercise but with radiographs that show definite evidence of heart disease. Lab testing shows mild anemia, urine dipsticks show some protein, but not severe urinary protein loss.

- Class III: Severely Affected. Dog is suffering from weight loss, cough, difficulty breathing, blatant damage to the vasculature is apparent on radiographs, laboratory work reveals a more severe anemia and marked urinary protein loss.
- Class IV: Caval Syndrome. Dog is collapsing in shock and dark brown urine is evident. Heartworms visible by ultrasound in the AV valve of the right side of the heart, and blood work is very abnormal. These dogs are dying and can only be saved by the physical removal of adult heartworms via an incision through the jugular vein. If such a dog can be saved from this crisis, further



A dog heart congested with heartworms

heartworm infection treatment cannot be contemplated until the dog is stable enough to fit into one of the other categories above.

Dogs have three groups of heartworms in their body:

- The microfilariae, which are the newborn children of the adult worms living in the heart and pulmonary arteries. The microfilariae are swimming freely in the bloodstream, possibly in large numbers, and it is the microfilariae that can spread to other dogs through a mosquito.
- The new arrival heartworm larvae, delivered from mosquito bites in the last 6 to 7 months. These are L3 and L4 larvae living in the skin (having arrived within the last 3 months). These will continue their maturation and repopulate the heart and pulmonary arteries if they are not killed before the adult worms.
- The L5 larvae and adult worms living inside the heart and pulmonary arteries. This group

requires the arsenic compounds for destruction while the other two groups can be killed with less toxic products.

There are some differences in the way some veterinarians treat heartworm. I have asked Dr. Lewis from Care Animal Hospital to help me with Brandy's treatment. Although some veterinarians helping out the shelters will go directly to injections to save the shelters money I hope that the Humane Society can afford the cost of Brandy's treatment so she can have the same treatment that my dogs would have had.

So, the first step is to clear out the immature worms. If we don't get rid of the immature worms and go directly to attacking the adult worms then we will give the immature worms a chance to grow up into adult worms. Also the fewer worms dying at once are less risky. We will do this by giving Brandy Heartgard. Yes, Heartgard is what many of you give your dogs to prevent heartworms. The only difference is that Brandy will not be active when given this medication. We don't want the dying worms to block an artery and cause problems or death.

After 1-3 months of giving the Heartgard the adult worms will be addressed. She will receive 1 – 3 injections of melarsomine dihydrochloride (Immiticide® by Merial). This is a painful injection and she will be very sore afterward. The veterinarian may have to give her pain medication and possibly an anti inflammatory to help her get through this. The injection site can be so painful that if touched the dog may bite. Some dogs have a reaction at the sight and may have a permanent lump.

Brandy will have to be confined from activity for one month after the final treatment also. So from start to finish she will have to be kept as quiet for 1-4 month. So after reading this I hope you take Heartworm infection/disease as seriously as I do.

Please let me know if you know of anyone that can help us by fostering Brandy during her treatment. I can't keep her here with me because we adopted an 8 month old Border Collie puppy just days before we found this out about Brandy.

Sources:

American Heartworm Association

www.heartwormsociety.org.

Dr. Wendy C Brooks, DVM, DipABVP

www.veterinarypartner.com.

Dr. Brooke Lewis, Care Animal Hospital, Kenosha WI

Do Dogs Feel Disgust

By Kerry Andersen

Do dogs feel disgust? And, to what extent do dogs communicate disgust? In her book, *For the Love of a Dog*, Patricia McConnell suggests that dogs do feel disgust. And, that if you watch him closely enough, you can see your own dog communicate disgust with facial expressions and body language similar to your own! Curious to see the look of disgust that McConnell describes, I put my own dogs up to the challenge.

McConnell suggests that if you would like to experience the look of disgust on your own dog's face, simply hold up a bottle of flowery perfume to her nose. Not a perfume wearer myself, I searched my bathroom to find some scents that my dogs might find repulsive. My list included a vanilla scented body spray, my underarm deodorant, a lightly scented insect repellent, and a "natural" scented hair gel.

I didn't have an elaborate plan. I simply held each product to each dog's nose, made a mental note of their responses, and tried to capture a photo. Here is what I found. Olive stood still when presented with a scent. However, the top of her lip curled up a bit—just enough to say, "Ewww" while the rest of her face seemed to say, "Are we done, yet?" Bear, on the other hand, wanted absolutely nothing to do with these scents. He continually turned his entire body away each time he was presented with a new smell. If Bear could speak he would probably have said, "Me smell that? Not a chance, lady!"



Although not very scientific, this little experiment satisfied my curiosity. My dogs were clearly disgusted by the smells I forced upon them. The big question now is, since I wear these products on my own body, are my dogs disgusted by the scent of me? Moreover, are they disgusted by their own scent after I bathe them with a sweet smelling shampoo? What do you think?

The Verdict Is In: Not Guilty!

BY Jennifer Lueck

The topic of whether animals have emotions is surprisingly controversial. It may be hard to believe, but some veterinarians, scientists and philosophers still argue that only humans have emotions. In the introduction to *For the Love of a Dog*, Patricia McConnell explains her thoughts on the subject: "Dogs evoke emotions in us as if wringing water out of a sponge, and so discussions about whether they have emotions themselves seems like arguments about whether there's a sun in the sky." I agree with her. To me, it seems like a given that dogs have rich emotional lives that we are blessed to share with them.



Among those of us who believe animals have emotions, there is yet another debate about which emotions animals feel. While it is commonly accepted that dogs feel disgust, fear, anger and happiness, there is much debate about the more complex emotions of jealousy, sympathy and guilt. McConnell believes dogs do feel jealousy and sympathy but she, like most positive reinforcement dog trainers, does not believe they feel guilt. Feeling guilt requires an understanding of our moral code, which dogs simply do not have, therefore they cannot know when they have done something wrong. To demonstrate this, imagine yourself walking your dog late at night. There's no one else around. While you're walking, you find a \$100 bill. You pick it up and put it in your pocket without trying to find the owner. Most people would feel extremely guilty by this because it would feel like stealing from the person who lost it. If a dog found a \$100 bill, he wouldn't think twice about it. To him, it's just a piece of paper floating in the breeze. Suppose the dog has a penchant for eating paper and eats the \$100. Surely he wouldn't feel anything but satisfaction at finding an unexpected treat. He doesn't feel guilty because he doesn't understand that it's wrong to take what belongs to someone else and he doesn't understand the concept of money or what things are worth. To demonstrate this further, think about bringing your dog to Petco. I bet he wouldn't hesitate to steal a rawhide off the shelf, but I know you would! You know stealing is wrong; your dog doesn't. (He probably thinks Petco has a free buffet!)

Here's another scenario that might be closer to your own experience. You arrive home from work and find that your dog has raided the garbage again. You are very angry and your dog's guilty expression makes you even madder. You've scolded him for this many times. He knows better! But does he? Let's look at it from the dog's perspective. After his morning nap, the dog wakes up and feels bored. He can smell a wonderful

snack in the kitchen garbage, so he proceeds to knock over the can and scatter the garbage all over the kitchen in search of the good stuff. When he's done, he heads off to the living room for another nap. A few hours later you come home, you see the mess, he sees your face and he is scared. He instantly assumes a submissive posture to appease your anger. But why is he scared? He has learned that when you come home and make that face, he is not safe. He doesn't associate your angry expression with the fun he had with the garbage. Or he has learned

that when you come home and there is garbage on the floor, he will be punished. But he doesn't really understand why you are upset. To a dog, garbage on the floor is a good thing! The sad thing is that he associates your arrival home with bad things happening to him. Is that what we want?

Dogs do things that we consider to be wrong because they are fun, they feel good or they taste good. They continue to do them, despite your scolding, because they are reinforcing. He sits on the sofa when you're not home because it's comfortable. He chews shoes to relieve boredom and satisfy his urge to chew. He goes potty on the rug because he's not completely potty trained and he feels relief when he goes. He raids the garbage because there are good things in it and it's fun to do. Believing that a dog feels guilty about these things implies he knows they are wrong and does them anyway. This thinking leads people to feel that their dogs are bad, spiteful and mean, when in reality that are just being dogs.



You were correct if you said the dog on the front page looks scared. He shows the classic signs of fear: lowered head, ears drawn back and flat, lowered tail and rounded topline. When you see him with the shredded plants, though, it's very easy to think he looks guilty.

Ever since I attended Patricia McConnell's seminar in March on "The Emotional Life of Dogs," I've asked myself many times if it really matters if dogs have emotions. I've concluded that the answer is yes! Believing that dogs feel love and sympathy strengthens the bond we have with them because it means they can love us as much as we love them. When we lose someone close to us, they can grieve with us and that gives us comfort. Believing they feel anger and fear can help us protect them from the things that make them angry or afraid. But believing they feel guilt can seriously damage the relationship we have with our dogs and can have serious consequences for the dog. In *The Culture Clash*, Jean Donaldson says, "As soon as you bestow intelligence and morality, you bestow the responsibility that goes along with them. In other words, if the dog knows it's wrong to destroy furniture yet deliberately and maliciously does it, remembers the wrong he did and feels guilt, it feels like he merits a punishment, doesn't it?" She goes on to say, "And the saddest thing is that the main association most dogs have with that punishment is the presence of their owner."

Here's the good news: with a slight change of perspective, we realize that the dog is doing what is natural to him, and perhaps we are the guilty party for setting the dog up for failure. Instead of saying, "No! Bad dog!" the next time your dog chews your shoe, try, "Oops! I shouldn't have left my shoes lying around." Think back to the garbage can scenario. Why did the dog have access to the kitchen garbage in the first place? If the dog raids the garbage often, wouldn't it be wise to move the garbage to a place out of the dog's reach? The key is to manage the dog's environment so he cannot practice the behaviors humans consider to be wrong. Set him up for success and he will have no need to feel guilty or scared, only happy and loving!

Sources:

The Culture Clash, Jean Donaldson
For the Love of a Dog, Patricia McConnell
Positive Perspectives, Pat Miller
The Power of Positive Dog Training, Pat Miller

Sources for Last Month's Articles on Dog Food

I realized after the March newsletter was sent out that I forgot to include mine and Amy's sources for our articles. Our sources are listed below if you'd like to do some research of your own.

-Jennifer

Commercial Dog Food & What You Should Know About It

Sources:

<http://www.dogfoodproject.com/index.php?page=betterproducts>

Author: Sabine Contreras, Canine Care & Nutrition Consultant

<http://www.dogaware.com/dogfeeding.html#commercial>

Author: Mary Straus (Whole Dog Journal)

Pet Food Nation, Joan Weiskopf (M.S. Veterinary Clinical Nutritionist), P. 55-69

The Whole Dog Journal, Feb 2009 Issue, Vol 12, No. 2, P. 3-5

Making a Change in Diet

Sources:

Better Food For Dogs, David Bastin, Jennifer Ashton and Dr. Grant Nixon, D.V.M.

"Choosing Good Foods", *The Whole Dog Journal*, February, 2009, Nancy Kerns, P 3-9.

"Variety is the Spice of Life", *The Whole Dog Journal Handbook of Dog & Puppy Care and Training*, Nancy Kerns, P. 179-181

Pet Food Nation by Joan Weiskopf, P. 69.

Other recommended reading on dog diets:

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health For Dogs & Cats, Dr. Richard H. Pitcairn, DVM, PhD.

The Whole Pet Diet, Andi Brown.



These pictures were taken by Casey on recent Hiking Club excursions.