

# NEWSLETTER

July 2009

## Summer Is Here!

Mosquitoes are out in swarms. Remember your Heartworm treatment!!!! Speaking of Heartworm, Brandy, my foster dog, is doing very well. We are searching for that perfect place that she can call her "forever home". Please forward the flyer I sent out to anyone that may be interested.

I have been asked numerous times about how to choose the right dog food. Here is your chance to get some excellent information to help you make your decision. Dr. Lisa Kluslow is presenting a seminar on nutrition on August 9th. She is also discussing the topic of vaccines and titer testing. You don't want to miss these two very informational seminars. Contact me if you didn't receive the registration and seminar information. Time is running out!!!! She will not be back to give these seminars, so don't miss out. The early bird prices are extended until July 19th!!!!

The Safe Harbor Humane Society is now carrying some very cool products. These are interactive toys that you can put kibble or treats in to keep your pet busy while having loads of fun. No one else in this area carries these items. They are prices very reasonable, so stop in and take a few home. Or, purchase one for one of the dogs that are at the shelter. When doing so, that toy goes with the dog when they are adopted. Speaking of Safe Harbor, during this time of the year many dogs get loose due to the extreme noise in the neighborhoods. If your dog gets loose, GO TO THE SHELTER to see if your dog is there. The sooner you get your dog back home, the better.

Please see page 6 for a local business that makes personalized jewelery and key chains using your dog's picture.

Watch for an e-mail about upcoming classes and events. Have a great July!

-Laura Yurchak



# Heat Stroke - Hyperthermia

By Laura Yurchak

One thing that gets my adrenalin going is seeing a dog in a car during the warm weather months or someone jogging with their dog in 90° weather. People don't realize how quickly heat stroke can occur.

Heat Stroke (Hyperthermia) can kill your dog within 10 minutes under the right conditions. Heat stroke in dogs occurs when the dog's body is absorbing more heat than it can release.

Dogs release heat primarily by panting and through their foot pads and noses. A dog's normal temperature is between 100 – 102 degrees. Once a dog's temperature elevates over 106 degrees, the dog's body is unable to regulate normal functions. When this happens, damage to the dog's muscles, organs, and metabolic processes can occur.

Heat stroke in dogs is a potentially life threatening condition that requires immediate medical treatment. Once you see signs of heat stroke, you have very little time before serious damage or even death can

## Signs of Heat Stroke

Physical symptoms include:

- Increased rectal temperature
  - o Over 104° requires action
  - o Over 106° is a dire emergency
- Vigorous/ uncontrollable panting
- Labored breathing
- Dark red gums
- Tacky or dry mucus membranes (specifically the gums)
- Salivating, thick saliva or foaming at the mouth
- Vomiting
- Bloody diarrhea
- Dehydration
- Lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up
- Trembling, dizziness, disorientation
- Wide-eyed
- Shock

Extreme symptoms:

- Collapse
- Loss of consciousness, coma
- Seizures
- Death

OUTSIDE TEMP	TIME IN CAR	INSIDE CAR TEMP
90 °	10 min	113 °
90 °	20 min	120 °
90 °	30 min	133 °

## What to do if You Suspect Heat Stroke

- Move your dog out of the heat, away from the sun
  - Check the rectal temperature
    - o Over over 104° requires action
    - o Over 106° is a dire emergency)
  - Submerge in luke warm (NOT COLD) water
    - o Wet belly, head, neck and legs
    - o Can apply wet rags to head, neck and body
  - Run Cool water over tongue & mouth
  - Apply rubbing alcohol to paw pads
  - STOP COOLING when body temp reaches 103°
  - Contact your veterinarian immediately
- DO NOT use ice or very cold water! Extreme cold can cause the blood vessels to constrict, preventing the body from cooling and actually causing the internal temperature to rise. Over-cooling can cause hypothermia, causing new problems.

## Preventing Heat Stroke

- Leave your dog at home on warm days.
- Avoid vigorous exercise.
- Keep is shaded and well ventilated area when outside.
- Keep fresh cool water available at all times.
- Dogs more sensitive to heat stroke are:
  - o Obese dogs
  - o Older dogs
  - o Very young dogs
  - o Dogs with heart conditions
  - o Brachycephalic (short-nosed) dogs
  - o Those that moved from cooler, less humid climate

Cars act like ovens when the sun is shining on them. The Weather Channel states that leaving a gap open in the windows has little effect because the heat buildup occurs mainly from radiant energy from the hot metal of the car.

The interior color of the car, dark being most troublesome, influences the heat buildup. Even a dog's body heat (expired air in the dog's breath is 102 degrees and has 100% humidity!) will act like a heater inside an enclosed space. Leaving windows open slightly at the top surely helps IF there is a good amount of breeze coming through. Even in the shade, and especially in humid conditions, dogs need to inhale air cooler than their normal body temperature. In fact, even 80 degree air temperatures can be dangerous. Some dogs can recover fully from heat stroke if it is caught early enough. Others suffer permanent organ damage and require lifelong treatment. Some die.

		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
Relative Humidity (%)	40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
	45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
	50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
	55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
	60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
	65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
	70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
	75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
	80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
	85	85	90	96	102	110	117	125	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131										
95	86	93	100	108	117	127											
100	87	95	103	112	121	132											

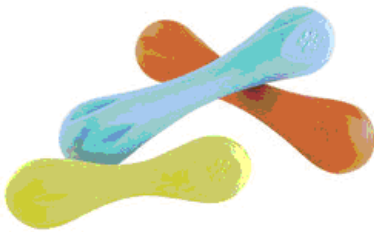
Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity  
 ■ Caution ■ Extreme Caution ■ Danger ■ Extreme Danger

## Toy Review: Chew Toys

By Amy Wence



West Paw Design is an eco-friendly pet supply company based in Bozeman, Montana. They have a wonderful line of chew toys made from their exclusive Zogoflex material. Zogoflex is a flexible, non-toxic material that is made in the USA. It is FDA compliant and 100% recyclable. It is even dishwasher safe! Best of all, the Zogoflex toys are guaranteed to last. West Paw will send a one-time replacement or refund for each style of toy that is destroyed. Their return rate is less than 1%! You'd have to have one tough chewer to destroy these toys! I have purchased both of the Zogoflex toys below and highly recommend them for dogs that love to chew.  
<http://www.westpawdesign.com/>



**Hurley:** This toy is very popular with my dogs. They love to just sit and chew on their Hurleys. They also toss them around the house and like to play fetch with them. My dogs are fairly heavy chewers and after almost 2 years they have yet to destroy this toy. Another cool thing about this toy is that it floats! The Hurley costs between \$10-13, depending on the size. However, I think it is well worth the price, since it will last much longer than most other toys.



**Tux:** This toy is another great one that my dogs just love. I like it because it's great for hiding treats. The cavity is fairly big, so larger treats can fit as well. I like to use this toy when playing hide n' seek with my dogs. I stuff a treat inside, hide the Tux somewhere in the house, and release the dogs to find it. It's their favorite game! The Tux runs about \$14-15. Although these toys may seem more expensive, they are extremely durable. You will probably end up saving money in the long run because they don't need to be constantly replaced like the less durable chew toys. I have had mine for almost a year and my dogs still play with them!

Places I have purchased these toys:

- Pet Supplies Plus in Racine, WI (HWY 11 across from Regency Mall)
- <http://www.onlynaturalpet.com/>
- <http://olivegreendog.com/tux-zogoflex-dog-toy.html>

# Skye and the Frog

By Larry Lau and Jamie Gesky

Jaime and I would like to relate a story to you so that if it happens to one of your dogs you won't go crazy like we started to. Many of you probably know our two white huskies Winter and Skye. One night they had been outside playing for a couple of hours. We went to let them inside so they could have some water and relax with us. Now usually as soon as we start to open the patio door they are barreling in as fast as possible. This night was different. They were by the picnic table and just looked up at us as if to say "Hey we are having fun out here. What do you want?" After a little coaxing they finally came in. We noticed that something was wrong with Skye right away when she didn't go get some water to drink. I noticed that as she walked around she was spitting little bits of foam on the floor.



The side of her mouth looked foamy and at first I thought she maybe had a rawhide stuck in her teeth. I wiped her mouth and found that there was nothing in her mouth but foam. We couldn't get her to drink any water and the foam just kept coming. Jaime was getting worried and had me call the emergency number for the vet. I called their service and started to get ready in case we had to take her to the vet. I came back downstairs in about two minutes and Jaime said that Skye was starting to drink some water. The vet called back about then and I told her what had happened, and that Skye seemed to be getting better. The vet told us that what most likely happened was Skye had gotten a hold of a frog. Now many of you probably know that part of a frog or toad's defense against animals that may try to eat them is they release a bitter liquid to make the animal drop them. I guess Skye may not have minded the taste and kept playing with it enough so that she got quite a dose, and that caused her to foam up a lot. When she was back to normal a few minutes later she ate and drank quite a lot of food and water. I guess she was finally trying to get that taste out of her mouth.

It was quite a scare for a few minutes as all sorts of ideas like seizures went through our minds. In the end it was nothing more than a playful frog.

If we had tried to bring them in the house 15 minutes later we may never have known it happened.

In case you are wondering about the frog. I think it got away. I went outside with Winter and he went crazy looking for it, but we never found it. I doubt if the frog will ever try to play with Skye again, but I am not too sure that our crazy Skye won't try to play with another frog.



# Canine HEROES



I'm sure you hear amazing stories of dogs saving people's lives all the time. Dogs have been known to save people from fires, dial 911 when their owners have heart attacks, alert owners of medical emergencies, and of course, there's Lassie saving Timmy when he fell in the well! Here are the stories of two very special canine heroes.

## Moses

By Wendy Gold

I just needed to send you this story about the ability of the collie and their love for others. This weekend we decided that the pool could be covered and the that Moses realized it was not ice anymore and would go out on it to lay. So at the end of the long week end I put the solar cover on the pool and called it a day. I was standing with Moses by the pool and said, "Don't go in there – stay away from this."

Mind you the pool is 4.5ft deep and we do not have the steps in yet because it's not quiet warm enough.

As my husband and I were watching a movie in peace because the 2 boys both fell asleep, he let the dogs outside for one last run. A few minutes later Moses is at the door barking like a maniac and scratching. Rarely does he ever want to come inside. So Steve opens the door to let him in and Moses walks backwards barking at my him. Moses keeps turning his head in the direction of the pool. He runs up to Steve nips at him and runs in the direction of the pool on the upper deck. Steve gets up and yells for help. Zeus the 125lbs black lab fell in the pool. Steve had to jump in the pool to get him out, but Moses saved his life. But it didn't stop there – after we all came back in Steve took a shower to warm up and I rubbed on Zeus but then Moses came and laid on him licking him until he was dry. That's a good dog.

## My Hero

By Jennifer Lueck

My mom is a diabetic and every once in a while she gets extremely low blood sugars. If she has a low blood sugar while she's awake, she has a sensor that alerts her so she knows she has to eat something to bring her blood sugar back up to a healthy level. It's accurate most of the time, but when it's not, I'm usually there to tell her to do a blood test. When she's sleeping however, she doesn't hear the sensor's beeping. That's when Gabe takes over. He can sense when my mom's blood sugar is low and barks at her until she gets up. He waits patiently while she does a blood test and then watches as she drinks juice or eats something. Then he eats the cookie she always gives him for saving her life and, when her blood sugar is in a safe zone, they go back to bed. We never trained him to do this; he just does it. In fact, he's done it almost from the start of his life with us. About a week after we rescued Gabe from the shelter, my mom brought Gabe out for what she thought would be a long walk. About ten minutes into the walk, Gabe sat down and refused to walk any farther. When she tried to convince him to walk on, he turned around to face the way they had come. My mom decided not to argue with him and headed back home. By the time she got home, her blood sugar was very low.

She treated it right away and was fine. But I shudder at what could have happened if Gabe hadn't refused to keep walking and she had been miles from home when her blood sugar dropped. Gabe saved her life that day and many times since. He is my hero.



**Touch of Embroidery  
with a  
Creative Image**



**KEYCHAINS**



All keychains  
\$20.00



**NECKLACES**



Dog Tags  
\$28.00

Silver & Gold charms  
with chain  
\$25.00



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