



NEWSLETTER



December 2009

In this issue:

Dog Bites.....	P 2
Bloat.....	P 3
Brain Games.....	P 4
Microchipping.....	P 5
Doggie News.....	P 6



Happy Holidays!

Another year is almost over. As I think back over the past years, the thing that stands out the most to me is how very special the Loving Paws clients are. I am deeply honored that you chose us for dog training and guidance. I hope that we have provided each of you with valuable tips and information. I believe that our pets are a pleasure and a treasure. May you all enjoy your pets as much as I do. I thank the Lord every day for Harley, our Border Collie and Joey, our cat.

Renovations at Safe Harbor Humane Society are under way. Repairs and additional space for a small clinic will provide the animals the care they need while waiting for their forever homes. I have adopted three dogs and one cat from this shelter in the last 17 years. Each of them was special in their own way. I wouldn't hesitate to adopt from there again. If you are considering adding a pet to your home, please check out the animals at Safe Harbor.

December 2008 was our first newsletter. It was packed full of great information. In that you will find the article on Holiday Hazards. Please take a moment to read through this article so you are better prepared for the holiday season. Many of you have commented on how much you look forward to receiving the newsletter. We are so very happy to hear that you enjoy it so much. Due to our busy schedules, we will be going to an every other month schedule in 2010.

We have added an "Our Products" page to the website. These items are available through Loving Paws. Some of the items are featured in Jennifer's article this month.

As you are all aware, I am still looking for a place for Loving Paws to call home. On December 20th, 2008, Jennifer, Amy, Kerry, Charlie, George, my brother Randy and I closed the Sheridan Road location. Since then I have been able to continue classes by renting Woofman's Lodge and Dawg House Daycare. I know that when the time is right, the Lord will give Loving Paws a permanent location again. I pray that this will happen in 2010.

God bless your holiday season and grant you a wonderful New Year.

-Laura Yurchak

Dog Bites

by Laura Yurchak

Last year, Loving Paws client and Southport Elementary School Counselor, Heidi, asked me to spend some time at the school talking to the children about the proper way to approach and interact with dogs. She brought her Border Collie/Golden mix, Blu, to the school to help demonstrate key points for the children to remember. The children were a joy to work with and they were very receptive to the information we presented. Blu was perfect with children, which made this a success.

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year. On an average, 1 out of 5 of those bitten requires medical attention. Those mostly at risk are:

- Children: The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for those ages 5 to 9 years, and children are more likely than adults to receive medical attention for dog bites.
- Adult Males: Among adults, males are more likely than females to be bitten.

- People with dogs in their homes: Among children and adults, having a dog in the household is associated with a higher incidence of dog bites. As the number of dogs in the home increases, so does the incidence of dog bites.

Dogbitelaw.com shows the following statistics for 2008.

- 23 U.S. fatal dog attacks occurred in 2008.
- 70% of the attacks occurred to children (11 years and under) and 30% occurred to adults (21 years and older). Of the children, half (8) occurred to ages 1 and younger.
- 39% of fatal attacks in 2008 involved multiple dogs; 9% involved chained dogs.
- 78% of the attacks occurred on owner property and 22% off owner property.
- 61% of the victims were male; 39% of the victims were female. Of the male victims, over half (8) were 3 years and younger.

The following tips are not just for teaching children about how to interact with dogs, but also for adults, too.

- Read chapter 3 [Socialization, Fear and Aggression] of Jean Donaldson's classic book on dog training, *The Culture Clash*.
- Never leave a child with a dog unsupervised.
- Children old enough can help parents train their dog. Teach children the proper way to play with dogs and toys.
- Teach your children how to approach and interact with dogs.

Although the statistics vary between reports, the message stays the same. If you follow these guidelines, you may be able to prevent a dog bite from happening. Since children have a greater chance to be bitten, it is critical that parents teach them how to respect and interact with a dog. Even if your family dog is tolerant of children (or adults) being rough with them or laying on top of them, there may be a day when the dog says "enough." Is the dog to blame if they aren't up for that kind of interaction? Absolutely not.

The children at the school were given a copy of a shorter version of PETTING below. Adults and children should do their best to remember as many points as possible. I urge parents to take time out of your busy schedules to teach your children the following basic safety tips and review them regularly.

P PERMISSION: Ask permission before petting someone else's dog.

E EASY: Take it Easy. Stand still and speak softly. Don't run, scream, wrestle, or lay on a dog. Never kick, hit, or pull on a dog's tail, ears, paws or hair.

T TURNS: Take turns when petting a dog. One person at a time.

T TOUCHING: Let the dog sniff your hand first. Pet a dog on their back. Never pet the top of their head.

I INVADE: Don't invade a dog's space. Let the dog come and sniff you first. Don't disturb a resting or sleeping dog.

N NEVER APPROACH: Don't approach a strange dog. Avoid direct eye contact.

G GROWL: A growl is a warning that the dog may bite.

Other tips:

- Remain motionless (e.g., "be still like a tree") when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., "be still like a log").
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

Sources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/dog-bites/biteprevention.html>

<http://www.dogbitelaw.com/>

Bloat: A Life-Threatening Emergency

By Amy Wence

What is it?

Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), also known as bloat, is a life-threatening condition that can happen unexpectedly to our canine companions. GDV occurs when the stomach becomes filled with gas and twists. The blood supply to the stomach is then cut off, causing the organ to die. GDV can kill a dog in less than an hour. It is an extremely serious condition, so it is important to recognize the signs and to seek immediate veterinary help should this traumatic event suddenly strike your dog.

What are the causes and which dogs are at risk?

The causes of bloat in dogs are not fully understood. Some of the more concrete evidence points to breed predisposition, age, and rapid eating as contributing factors. It has been found that large breed and deep-chested dogs are certainly more predisposed to it. Great Danes, Saint Bernards, and Weimaraners have some of the highest incidence of bloat. Dogs older than 7 years, are twice as likely to develop GDV when compared to dogs younger than 4 years of age. There are some other suspected causes as well, such as eating from raised food bowls, exercise after eating, eating only one meal a day, eating small size kibble, and an aggressive or fearful temperament. However, these other factors have not been conclusively proven and some studies even reveal conflicting evidence.

What are the signs?

Since rapid diagnosis is the key to successful treatment of GDV, it is important to recognize the signs. These may include: bloated or swollen belly, restlessness, lethargy, non-productive vomiting or retching, shallow breathing, excess salivation, disinterest in food, nausea, and painful abdomen. If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms, contact your vet immediately.

I would suggest keeping an emergency vet phone number stored in your phone. Some veterinary clinics may offer after-hours urgent care for clients. CARE Animal Hospital in Kenosha has an emergency pager number for their clients.

Ask your vet if they offer any emergency services. If not, there are two animal emergency treatment centers in the area.

1. The Animal ER of Kenosha & Racine, 4333 S. Green Bay Road, Racine, WI 53403, P: (262)553-9223, <http://www.animalerwi.com/index.htm>
2. Animal Emergency & Treatment Center (AETC), 1810 E. Belvidere Road, Grayslake, IL 60030, P: (847) 548-5300, <http://www.aetcenter.com/>

Be sure to contact the vet to let them know you are on your way and that you suspect your dog has GDV. You may want to keep a Simethicone based product, such as Gas-X or Mylanta Gas, in an easy to access place. You can grab this quickly on your way to the vet to administer to your dog. This may reduce the bloating and buy your dog a little time. Talk to your veterinarian about

proper dosages. It should be stressed that this is not an alternative to veterinary treatment. GDV is very serious and must be treated by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

What you can do?

There are some proactive measures aimed at preventing bloat or GDV. These include:

- Adding a probiotic digestive enzyme supplement to your dog's diet (I personally like In Clover's Fresh Digest Daily (<http://www.entirelypets.com/frshdigest10oz.html>))

- Feed from food bowls designed to limit eating speed if you have a fast eater (<http://www.petsmart.com/product/index.jsp?productId=3519706> or

- <http://www.amazon.com/Brake-fast-Bog-Food-Bowl-Small/dp/B000S6XSA0>)

- Limit exercise 1-2 hours before and after eating
- Feed your dog twice a day
- If your dog is an extremely high risk candidate, you may consider having a procedure called, laparoscopic gastropexy performed. This procedure involves tacking the stomach to the abdominal wall so that it cannot twist. However, it's worth noting that this procedure is not guaranteed to prevent GDV and it is possible for the stomach to become loose from the abdominal wall.

The most important thing you can do in the unfortunate case that your dog should bloat is seek immediate veterinary help. The faster your dog is treated by a veterinarian, the better his chances of survival are.

Sources:

- 1) "The Right Tack" by Patty Khuly, VMD, Bark Magazine, Sept/Oct 2009
- 2) "Bloat (Gastric Dilatation Volvulus) in Dogs" by Holly Nash, DVM, MS, Veterinary Services Dept., Drs. Foster & Smith Inc., <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1677&aid=402>
- 3) "Minimally Invasive Gastropexy-A Preventative Procedure" by Dr. Daniel A. Degner, Board-certified Veterinary Surgeon (DACVS), http://www.vetsurgerycentral.com/proph_gastropexy.htm

Brain Games for Your Dog

By Jennifer Lueck

Like it or not, winter is on its way. For many of us in Southeastern Wisconsin, winter means we're going to hibernate and our dogs aren't going to get the exercise they got in the summer. As we all know, a dog with pent up energy will find a way to use it, but rarely in a way we like. Don't fret!

Physical exercise is not the only way to use up your dog's energy. Have you ever gone to an all-day seminar and come home exhausted? That's because your brain is working extra hard and guzzling up energy. You probably won't find many seminars for your dog to attend, but there are many ways you can stimulate his brain to burn up some energy.



Dog Brick

I love this toy! My favorite part is pushing the slidey things. Sometimes I keep moving them even after I've eaten all the treats. -Casey

Here are a few ideas to keep your dog out of trouble this winter:

- Play games like hide and seek, fetch and tug of war (see Amy's "Boredom Busters" article in the January 2009 Newsletter for more details on these games).
- Trick training: a half an hour of learning a new behavior can have almost the same effect as

Sources:

For the Love of a Dog and The Other End of the Leash by Patricia McConnell
The Culture Clash, by Jean Donaldson

Treat and food dispensing toys are available at many pet stores, as well as on-line. Loving Paws is now selling Nina Ottosson's Interactive Dog Toys at incredible prices. Please see the Our Products page on our new web site for pricing and details.

a one-hour walk!
Combine 15 minutes of training with 15 minutes of fetch or tug and you will be well on your way to having a tired pooch!

- Treat/food dispensers: instead of feeding your dog his dinner in a bowl, challenge his natural scavenging skills by feeding him from a food dispensing toy such as a Buster

Cube, Tricky Treat Ball or Busy Buddy Kibble Nibble. Gabe and Casey, eat a home-prepared diet, but they get kibble once a week just so they can chase down their food in their Buster Cubes.

- Chew toys: working on a stuffed chew toy or a meaty bone can keep some dogs busy for hours. As I write this, Gabe is busy chewing on a beef knuckle bone. He's been completely engrossed in it for the past two hours!

- Nina Ottosson's Interactive Dog Toys: these toys were designed to challenge a dog's mind by concealing treats (or

kibble!) beneath objects they have to push, pull, spin or lift. There are several toys available, with varying degrees of difficulty. Gabe is a natural problem solver, so he took to the interactive toys right away. Casey, however, is sensitive to noise and

Dog Tornado



This toy is lots harder than the other one. If I hold this part with my toes and smooch my nose in here, I can reach some of the treats with my tongue! -Gabe

things that move unexpectedly, so she was a little apprehensive at first. She actually spent the first few sessions just barking at the toys in frustration. I finally put liver treats in the compartments instead of kibble to motivate her to figure out how they work. She's no longer afraid of the toys and works with serious determination to get every single treat.

Mental exercise isn't a replacement for physical exercise, but it might help take some of the edge off this winter when the weather turns nasty and you can't get out for a walk in our winter wonderland.



Dog Spinny

Don't even think about it, Casey. It's not a BIRD Spinny!!! -Indy

Microchipping

By Stephanie Challand

What is a Microchip?

Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, which are implanted under the dog's skin, between the shoulder blades, using a special syringe. The procedure is much like getting a shot and causes very little pain to the dog. Once implanted, the Microchip can be detected by a special scanner which uses radio waves to read the chip.

How do they work?

Microchips are designed to be a backup to your dog's regular collar and tags, not a replacement. If your dog ever gets loose and loses their collar and/or tags, the microchip may be able to bring them home again. Many vets and shelters have handheld scanners which can detect and read the microchip's identification number. They can then contact the registry to get the owner's contact information provided the chip was registered. Microchips are only effective if you register them. It is also very important that you keep

your information up to date with the registry. If you move or change your phone number you must update your information with them. Many of the most popular registries have online servicing that allows you to update your information online. If you adopt a dog who has already been microchipped, you still need to register it or update the information on file. If you are not sure if the dog has been microchipped, ask your vet. They should be able to scan him and give you information about what to do.

More about Registries

There are many different companies that manufacture and register microchips throughout the United States. All of the registries will register their own chips as well as chips from other manufacturers. There are also two relatively new companies that have created internet based lookup utilities to help rescuers locate the dog's owner. PetMicrochipLookup.org created by AAHA and CheckTheChip.com created by



Chloe Standard. These sites allow you to enter a microchip id and get the registry information if it is available. Not all registry information is available at this time but both companies are working on building their database to hopefully include all registries sometime in the future. I tested these sites on my own dog's microchip numbers and they were both able to correctly identify the Home Again chips but only CheckTheChip.com was able to identify the AVID chip. Below is more information about the most popular registries.

Registry	Website	Online Servicing	Registration Fee	Annual Fee	Update Fee
AKC CAR	www.akccar.org	Yes	\$17.50 – online \$19.95 - paper	None	None
Avid / PETtrac	www.avidplc.com	No	\$19.95 – 1 pet \$50.00 – 3 pets	None	\$6.00
Home Again	www.homeagain.com	Yes	None	\$14.99	None
Pet Link	www.petlink.net	Yes	\$11.95	None	None
24 Pet Watch	www.24petwatch.com	Yes	None	N/A	None

Sources:

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/microchips.html>

Microchip Registration Locator Tools Launched, Mary Straus, Whole Dog Journal, November 2009



Stop Wisconsin Puppy Mills Update

By Amy Wence

Great News!!! The joint Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, Assembly Bill 250 and Senate Bill 208, were unanimously passed through the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly! This is encouraging news for the thousands of dogs suffering in Wisconsin puppy mills. This proposed legislation will provide some much needed regulation in the dog breeding industry. Wisconsin is one of the few states left with no regulation to enforce basic standards of humane care for dogs used for breeding and for their offspring. For a summary of the bill, please visit <http://www.nowisconsinpuppymills.com/smith-kreitlow-summary.html>

Also, please take action and ask Governor Doyle to sign Senate Bill 208 and Assembly Bill 250 in to law! It will take less than a minute to fill out this form and show your support! Thank you!!!

<https://secure2.convio.net/whs/site/Advocacy?pagename=home&page=UserAction&id=229>

Dairyland Greyhound Park to Close Dec. 31, 2009

By Amy Wence

It was recently announced that Kenosha's Dairyland Greyhound Park will close at the end of this year. Hundreds of greyhounds will be in need of a new home. There are various rescue groups working with the state and the kennels to place the dogs. So, if you've ever considered adopting a greyhound, now would be a great time. The more dogs the rescues can adopt out into suitable homes, the more dogs they can take in. Also, donations of money and supplies to offset the cost of taking in additional dogs is needed. If you are interested in adopting a greyhound or making a donation, please visit www.gpawisconsin.org

In case you are wondering how the sport of Greyhound racing works and why the "owners" of the dogs cannot just take them, here is a little background info from http://www.gra-america.org/buy_a_dog/how_to_start_racing.html

The Greyhound racing industry is composed of three basic segments:

- The Greyhound Racetracks Each racetrack is licensed by the state racing commission to conduct pari-mutuel Greyhound racing in accordance with the rules set forth by the state racing commission. The racetrack does not own, breed, buy, sell or race any Greyhounds.

- The Contract Kennel The kennels are contracted by the track to race Greyhounds. Each kennel agrees to provide a number of active Greyhounds, usually 30 to 50 in number, to race at the track. In return, the track provides kennel space on the grounds for the Greyhounds to be housed. The kennel receives purses based on a percentage of the mutuel handle and the performance of the Greyhounds. Some contract kennels own all of the Greyhounds they race, while others lease the bulk of their Greyhounds from other greyhound owners.

- The Greyhound Owner The owners are either breeders, or they purchase Greyhounds from breeders. Some Greyhounds are bought as young pups, while others are bought when they are ready to race. The price of Greyhounds varies according to age and breeding. When Greyhounds are ready to race, they are then leased to a kennel that is contracted by the track. From this point on, the kennel is responsible for all expenses incurred for the caring of these Greyhounds and the kennel then pays the owner a percentage (usually 35 percent) of the purses the Greyhounds earn during their racing career at the track.