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Healthy puppies come from healthy moms. Understanding the dog gestation period is critical to ensuring her embryos develop properly and her puppies are born healthy and strong. Here’s a quick look at what happens during each stage of gestation as embryos develop into puppies.

How Long Are Dogs Pregnant?
Gestation for dogs lasts 62 to 65 days and we count from the last breeding. When a female no longer accepts a male it’s a sign she is ovulating and should give birth 62 days later. Small litters have much more room and can go a day or two longer gestation. Meanwhile, large litters may go a day or two earlier.

When Will I Know My Dog is Pregnant?
Dog embryos are tiny and have to be viewed under a microscope until about 30 days gestation. At around 35 days they are growing fast and mom starts to belly down. At this point you will be able to tell she is pregnant. An ultrasound can be done as early as 28 days to identify the number of embryos in the uterus. Blood testing for pregnancy is not very reliable and usually not done.

Taking Care of Pregnant Dogs
If you know or suspect your dog is pregnant make sure you give her extra care. The most critical time for toxins or drug-related defects are days 21 to 32 of gestation. Cleft palate and bone defects happen during the end of this period (days 25 to 32). Nothing should be given to mom during that time that does not help the pregnancy. This is when puppies’ organs are being formed and damage is easily caused by giving the wrong thing. For a complete list of what not to give during pregnancy check out my blog, 27 Things Not to Give Pregnant Dogs.

Days 21 to 32 are also the critical time to be giving prenatal vitamins such as Breeders’ Edge® Oxy Mate™ since organ, spine and brain development happens during this time. Prenatal vitamins were good for your mom when she carried you and they are good for your dog moms as well for the same reasons. Vitamins during pregnancy are necessary so babies are born as healthy as possible. We want puppies born healthy and fighting to live. We don’t want to fight to keep them alive.

Providing prenatal vitamins in addition to a regular healthy diet gives mom all the help she needs to grow healthy embryos. From days 21 to 32 of the pregnancy there is no need for extra calories and we don’t want mom fat! An overweight mom can lead to a difficult birth and C-sections. Remember, if you have to look under a microscope to see them, how much can they possibly eat?

At about day 45, it is necessary to increase calories since the rapid growth of the babies will cause an increase in appetite. At day 45, the cartilage bone formation starts to calcify and can be seen on an x-ray. When it comes to day 55 we often start giving mom puppy food since there are more calories per bite and she is running out of room in her tummy. It’s important to be sure mom stays on food until term and birthing starts.

The next step is whelping. It’s an exciting moment when those puppies start to arrive. We have lots of resources available on whelping, so make sure to do your research ahead of time so you can be prepared and have a successful and positive whelping experience.

If you have any questions, give us a call at 800.786.4751.

-Dr. B, DVM and the Revival Pet Care Pros

This is the third article in our My First Litter Series. Other articles in the series talk about whelping, newborn puppy care and what to know before raising a litter of puppies. Be sure to check out all the articles in the My First Litter Series.
Did you know some of the most common pet health problems are preventable?

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Ovulation timing, the telltale indicator that a brood bitch is ovulating and thus ready to breed, is the most common thing to go wrong in dog breeding. Poor timing during a bitch’s three-week heat cycle, also known as estrus, can cause a missed breeding and result in a normal female being labeled infertile.

“Knowing when to breed is perhaps the most important aspect of breeding. The prime time to breed is 48 to 72 hours post-ovulation,” says Fran Smith, DVM, PhD, DACT, a board-certified reproduction specialist, of Smith Veterinary Clinic in Burnsville, Minnesota. “This is because after ovulation, the released eggs continue to mature, reaching maturation two to three days later. Once the maturation process is completed, the eggs are ready for fertilization.”

Progesterone testing is used to determine when a bitch ovulates and thus when to breed. A reproductive hormone, progesterone increases in the bloodstream just before ovulation. As the progesterone level increases, lutenizing hormone (LH) is released from the pituitary gland, triggering the release of eggs from the follicles.

“When progesterone reaches 5.0 to 10.0 nanograms (a measure of one billionth of a gram) per milliliter of blood, a bitch is ovulating,” Dr. Smith
FEEDING DURING PREGNANCY

During pregnancy a bitch must not only meet her own maintenance energy requirements but also those of the growing fetuses. The amount of food she is provided should be gradually increased during the nine weeks of pregnancy.

The increased energy demand is minimal during the first five weeks of pregnancy due to the small mass of fetal tissues. Feeding her typical caloric intake of a dog food formulated for growth or all life stages is best during this time.

As the pregnancy progresses beyond the fifth or sixth week, the rapid rate of fetal tissue growth leads to a significant increase in a bitch’s energy requirement. It is estimated that her energy requirement will increase approximately 10 percent per week from week six to week nine. Thus, at whelping a bitch’s energy requirement may be nearly one and a half times greater than her typical maintenance requirement.

During the last three weeks of pregnancy, a brood bitch should be fed two to three times more than before pregnancy. Small feedings throughout the day of a caloric-dense diet, such as one of the Purina Pro Plan puppy foods or an all life stages food, is recommended. A puppy food also is recommended for the first part of lactation. Regardless of the phase of pregnancy, diets should be adjusted based on maintaining an ideal body condition for the pregnant bitch.

In her veterinary clinic, Dr. Smith uses a progesterone test that produces results in one hour based on chemiluminescence, or a process in which light is emitted from chemical reactions. The gold standard is radioimmunoassay (RIA) testing, which detects the quantitative progesterone level, though RIA testing is typically only available in veterinary teaching hospitals or large reference laboratories. At-home progesterone kits are available that estimate progesterone levels through color changes, though these are not as accurate as chemiluminescence or RIA progesterone testing.

Breeders can combine progesterone testing and behavior monitoring to help pinpoint the best time to breed a bitch. Knowing when a bitch ovulates as detected by progesterone testing significantly increases the chance of a successful breeding.

“In once you have confirmed ovulation with progesterone testing and know when to breed, you are more likely to get a larger litter size,” says Dr. Smith. “You also will know that a bitch’s due date is 62 to 64 days later.”

SIGNS A BITCH IS READY TO BREED

- A pinkish, reddish discharge appears during the first week of the heat cycle that gradually turns a tan color during fertility, though some bitches have reddish discharge throughout estrus
- The vulva, or two thick folds of tissue at the outer portion of the female reproductive tract, will be swollen and soft at the peak of the heat cycle
- Tail flagging, a behavior in which a female stands still while a male investigates her vulva, even wagging her tail from side to side to help a male pick up on her scent, is common
- Moody, sensitive behavior, including whining, is common before estrus
- Males become keenly interested when they smell the change in a female’s hormones, an indicator she is in her optimal fertile period and ready to breed

says. “The sooner the progesterone results are known, the better, since timeliness is so important in breeding.”
Some Human Foods Dogs Can and Can’t Eat

Dedicated dog lovers tend to be very kind and sharing when it comes to our pets. We feel like it is necessary to share our favorite foods with our best friend, ‘Fido’. But is it a good thing? Not necessarily. Many of the foods, such as fruits and vegetables, that we can digest just fine can create havoc for our furry friends. We as responsible pet owners need to be smart and use common sense when it comes to our pet friends. Here is a sampling of some Do’s and Don’ts:

Almonds: No, dogs should not eat almonds. Almonds may not necessarily toxic to dogs like pecans and walnuts are, but they can block the esophagus or even tear a windpipe if not chewed completely. Salted almonds are especially dangerous because they can increase water retention, which is potentially fatal to dogs prone to heart disease.

Bread: Yes, dogs can eat bread.
Small amounts of plain bread (no spices or raisins) won’t hurt your dog, but it also won’t provide any health benefits either. It has no nutritional value and can pack on the carbs and calories, just like in people. Home-made breads are slightly better than store bought but it’s best to avoid it all together.

Cashews: Yes, dogs can eat cashews. Cashews are ok for dogs, but only a few at a time. They have calcium, magnesium, antioxidants and proteins but even though they contain less fat they can lead to weight gain. A few cashews here and there are fine as a treat only.

Cheese: Yes, dogs can eat cheese in small to moderate quantities. Cheese can be a great treat as long as your dog is not lactose intolerant (very rare cases). Many kinds of cheese are high in fat, so go for low-fat varieties such as mozzarella or cottage cheese.

Chocolate: No, dogs should not eat chocolate.
Chocolate contains very toxic substances called methylxanthines, which are stimulants that stop a dog’s metabolic process. Even just a little bit of chocolate, especially dark chocolates, can cause diarrhea and vomiting. A large amount can cause seizures, irregular heart function and even death. If your dog does ingest chocolate, contact a veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline as soon as possible.

Coconut: Yes, coconut is OK for dogs. This funky fruit contains Lauric, which strengthens the immune system by fighting off viruses. It can also help with bad breath and clearing up skin conditions like hot spots, flea allergies and itchy skin. Coconut milk and coconut oil are safe for dogs too. Just be sure your dog doesn’t get its paws on the furry outside of the coconut shell, which can get lodged in the throat.

Corn: Yes, dogs can eat corn. Corn is one of the most common ingredients in most dog foods. However, the cob can be hard for a dog to digest and may cause an intestinal blockage, so make sure you share the corn ‘off the cob’.

Eggs: Yes, it is OK for dogs to eat eggs. Eggs are safe for dogs as long as they are fully cooked. Cooked eggs are a wonderful source of protein and can help an upset stomach. However, eating raw egg whites can give dogs biotin deficiency, so be sure to cook the eggs all the way through before giving them to your pet.

Fish: Yes, dogs can eat fish. Fish contains good fats and amino acids, giving your dog a nice health boost. Salmon and sardines are especially beneficial—salmon because its loaded with vitamins and protein, and sardines, because they have soft, digestible bones for extra calcium. Watch for tiny bones in any other fish beside sardines and be sure to cook the fish thoroughly.

Honey: Yes, dogs can eat honey. Honey is packed with countless nutrients such as vitamins A,B,C,D, and K, potassium, calcium, magnesium, copper and antioxidants. Feeding dogs small amounts of honey can help with allergies because it introduces small amounts of pollen to their systems, building up immunity to allergens in your area. In addition to honey, the sticky spread can also be used as a topical treatment for burns and superficial cuts.

Macadamia nuts: No, dogs should not eat macadamia nuts. These are some of the most poisonous foods for dogs. Macadamia nuts, part of the Proteaceae family, can cause vomiting, increased body temperature, inability to walk and lethargy. Even worse, they can affect the nervous system. Never feed your dog macadamia nuts!

Peanut butter: Yes, peanut butter if OK for dogs. Peanut butter can be an excellent source of protein for dogs. It contains heart-healthy fats, vitamins B and E and niacin. Raw, unsalted peanut butter is the healthiest option because it doesn’t contain xylitol, a sugar substitute that can be toxic to dogs.

Pork: Yes, dogs can eat pork. Pork is highly digestible protein, packed with amino acids and contains more calories per pound than other meats. Pork also may be less likely to cause an allergic reaction in some pets compared to other meat.

Tuna: Yes, dogs can eat tuna. In moderation, cooked fresh tuna is an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, which promotes heart and eye health. As for canned tuna, it contains small amounts of mercury and sodium, which should be avoided in excess. A little bit of canned tuna and tuna juice here and there is fine—prepared only in water, not oil—as long as it doesn’t contain any spices.

Turkey: Yes, dogs can eat turkey. Turkey is fine for dogs as long as it is not covered in garlic (which can be very toxic to dogs) and seasonings. Also be sure to remove excess fat and skin from the meat and don’t forget to check for bones; poultry bones can splinter during digestion, causing blockage or even tears in the intestines. For more info:www.akc.org
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Kennel Spotlight * Aug/Sept'18 * 11
Petland Leads the Industry in Care and Compassion

Petland is the industry leader in the area of animal care. We provide ongoing staff training programs, in-store animal husbandry systems and community service programs aimed at placing homeless pets and curbing pet overpopulation in the community. The health and well-being of our pets comes first for all of us at Petland.

At the corporate level, Petland is actively involved with other pet industry leaders and helps create and enforce standards for everyone in the pet care business. We also work to make sure our pets are cared for by licensed pet professionals who pay careful attention to their welfare and veterinary needs. The number one reason an individual becomes a Petland store owner is his or her love of pets, and that’s a fact we continue to be proud of.

How many dogs are there in the U.S.?

Take a walk down any city street or suburban sidewalk, and it’s pretty easy to see – dogs are a big part of our lives. It’s estimated that Americans own around 70 million dogs.

How do most Americans get their dogs?

It may surprise you that as few as 4% of dogs are brought home from a pet store while as many as 37% of dogs are adopted from shelters or rescues and 34% from breeders. It’s also been shown that the majority of puppies purchased from pet shops become members of the family for life, with very few dogs purchased from pet stores ending up in shelters.

What happens to puppies who don’t get adopted or end up without a home?

Many pet stores like Petland have policies in place to ensure that all puppies find a home. Petland recognizes that its customers have the best of intentions, planning to exceed their pets’ basic needs with love and proper care for a lifetime.

Occasionally, circumstances arise making it difficult for pet owners to keep their lifetime promises to Petland pets. In these cases, Petland Pet Counselors encourage customers to let Petland help find a new home for their pets. Assistance at Petland may include posting flyers in the store and at associated veterinary clinics, making pet placement calls and informing Petland Pet Counselors, who in turn will spread the word to friends and family.

Petland’s goal is to see that no Petland pets end up homeless or burden an animal shelter. Petland also has a Pets-for-a-Lifetime! policy in place to see that no Petland pets end up homeless or in an animal shelter.

We’re working to end cruelty & substandard care

The pet industry has been painted as ruthless, cruel, and insensitive towards animals. There have also been claims made that we buy from "puppy mills" — or substandard breeders. These allegations are false. Petland does not do business with puppy mills.

In contrast to some portrayals of our industry and our store, we share in the concern of communities and have a common objective to put puppy mills out of business. That’s why we’re working continually to push for the highest standards of care at our breeder facilities and in our own facilities.

We’ve seen the pictures and heard the news reports, and as compassionate animal lovers, we are sickened and saddened. We agree there is a problem with substandard breeders here in the country.

However, pet stores are not part of the problem. Instead, pet stores are required to sell animals from USDA-licensed facilities and meet all government and industry standards. A recent USDA investigation revealed that 81% of large breeders selling puppies on the internet were not licensed and regulated by the USDA.

But instead of pointing fingers or assigning blame, we’re working towards a solution. That’s why we formed a coalition to improve animal welfare and work in a collaborative effort with a cross section of the pet industry, including animal welfare organizations as well as the veterinarian and academic community. We understand our responsibility as animal welfare and pet industry leaders to ensure the dogs in our country are treated humanely. It’s part of our goal to put these bad actors out of business.
As caretakers of future family members, Petland understands the commitment you make and the challenges you face with the puppies in your care. As a partner, we would like to say thank you for all that you do.

Petland.
About our process and standards for care

Our stores work directly with breeders to make sure puppies and their parents are cared for. Once a puppy is accepted at Petland, extensive care requirements are in place to ensure they stay healthy.

Here are just a few of the rigorous care requirements & protocols we maintain for our puppies:

- All Petland puppies are checked by at least two and in many cases three veterinarians before being offered to customers.
- All Petland puppies are microchipped and can be enrolled in Petland’s Enhanced Protection Program, a strategic partnership that combines a national microchip database registry with an Amber Alert-type service, providing an enhanced layer of protection for Petland pets and their families.
- Our kennel system is state-of-the-art and designed by Petland. It exceeds all state and local laws. Our kennels are cleaned continuously, under the direction of the consulting veterinarian, throughout the day by trained technicians who are experts in maintaining clean and sanitary conditions.
- The consulting veterinarian must provide a health inspection to all new arrivals and fill out a Petland Veterinarian check in sheet and/or a state mandated veterinarian health certificate.
- Petland requires veterinarian documentation on each incoming puppy’s medical history, including vaccinations and de-wormings.
- The consulting veterinarian sets the protocols for ongoing vaccinations, de-wormings, and parasite control.
- Our trained kennel staff are the eyes and ears for the consulting veterinarian. Any follow-up care of a stressed or sick animal is provided based on protocols established by the consulting veterinarian. Any medicine that is administered in store is based on veterinarian recommendations.
- Every store has a support care room for any pet that has a minor illness and not available for sale. Puppies, like young human children, are prone to simple upper respiratory infections and digestive tract disorders. (Snotty noses and diarrhea)
- Any animal that has more critical medical needs are treated at the veterinarian’s clinic.
- The veterinarian is the final authority on care and if a pet is available for sale.

How we make sure our puppies are cared for after they go home:

- All Petland locations work closely with a consulting veterinarian that provides guidance and care for the pets during their stay at Petland and continue this need after a pet moves to its new home.
- Petland supports a Spay/Neuter program and offers literature explaining the benefits of this common, low risk medical procedure.
- Petland provides a Puppy & Kitten Health Warranty. The warranty covers infectious diseases for an initial period and congenital and hereditary disorders for one or more years.
- When a Petland puppy goes home, the new owner also receives a Puppy Resource Kit. This kit includes a basic canine obedience training instruction DVD and a toll-free phone number for free consultations with a certified canine trainer for the life of the Petland pet. It also includes information on Petland’s Enhanced Protection Program, a lost pet recovery service.

Petland stores help make the community a better place

At Petland, we’re dedicated to the wellbeing of the pets in the entire community. And with our Pets for a Lifetime! program, Petland attempts to ensure the pets it places into homes never burden an animal shelter. Petland’s program helps Petland customers find new homes for their pets if, for any reason, the owner can no longer fulfill the lifetime care responsibility.
Petland stores partner with national and local charities as well as community organizations. Our programs include:

- **Adopt-A-Pet**: Many of our stores partner with local shelters and rescue groups. Our Petland Adopt-A-Pet Program has found forever homes for more than 350,000 homeless pets. We have proudly assisted a local Humane Society to find homes for all their adoptable dogs.

- **Pet Therapy at Petland**: Pet therapy at Petland is the introduction of pets in the therapeutic treatment of humans. Pet therapy is a natural extension of Petland’s local efforts. At Petland we often take our pets to visit school children and nursing home residents. Petland stores also participate in Pets in the Classroom, a national grant program of the Pet Care Trust enabling teachers to have a pet in their classroom. Last year, Petland fulfilled 106 grants to teachers.

- **Safari Stan’s Children Charities**: Safari Stan's Children Charities by Petland was founded in 1994. Petland has two primary children's charities – Make-A-Wish of America and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Petland has fulfilled nearly 200 pet related wishes for the children at Make-A-Wish and last year our stores collected over $93,000 for St. Jude’s, bringing our total donation to $240,000 in 7 years.

- **Breeder Visits & Conferences**: Petland sponsors breeder conferences in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture and the American Kennel Club.

For more information about Petland, please visit: www.petlandcares.com  

**Petland Pets Make Life Better!**

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**OHIO’s Puppy Mill Restrictions could set a new national standard**

A legislative compromise aimed at reining in high-volume dog breeder abuse while heading off a ballot effort to place puppy mill restrictions in the Ohio State constitution is headed to Gov. John Kasich.

The legislation deal was struck between the majority Republicans at the Statehouse and HSUS and had already cleared the Ohio Senate. State Rep. Brian Hill, the bill’s sponsor, said that HSUS has agreed that if the bill becomes law, it will keep further puppy mill restrictions off Ohio’s ballot for 10 years.

The Humane Society’s push for a constitutional amendment was due to a state law that was passed last year that negated ordinances in Toledo and the Columbus suburb of Grove City that had sought to prohibit pet stores and other retailers from acquiring the dogs they sell from such breeders. The law was championed by Petland, which has also gotten behind the compromise.

The bill that has been sent to the governor would require pet retailers or dog brokers to get a signed document from their suppliers attesting that they’ve complied with Ohio’s standards of care for their animals, which relate to feeding, housing, veterinary care, exercise and human interaction.

If passed, Ohio will be the first state in the nation to say that a sourcing requirement, (where seller’s get their puppies), will be taken into account as well as the conditions in which breeding dogs live. The compromise bill identifies a “high-volume dog breeder” based on the number of puppies sold, as opposed to the number of litters produced, as under current law. Under the legislation, a “high volume” breeder is one that keeps six or more breeding dogs and either sells five or more a year to brokers or retailers, sells 40 or more directly to the public or keeps 40 or more puppies younger than 4 months old at any given time that were bred on the premises.

Mike Gonidakis, a lobbyist for Petland, feels that this legislation can be shopped around the country as the new standard in all 50 states.
Plump puppies may be cute, but when it comes to canine health, lean is better. Still, as is true with humans, too many dogs are fat, according to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention (APOP). In its eighth annual survey of the girth of American pets, released in March 2015, the organization found that 53 percent of the nations’ dogs are overweight. 

International research suggests that this is a global problem, with surveys from various parts of the world showing that the incidence of canine obesity around 40 percent more. Most investigators say that this health issue gets worse each year. Another part of the APOP survey showed that in 2014, 17.6 percent of dogs were clinically obese (30 percent or more overweight). That was up a full point from just one year before.

Even worse, 95 percent of owners don’t realize that their plump dogs need to drop a few pounds. The APOP calls this a “fat pet gap,” in which a chubby dog is identified as normal. Dr. Ernie Ward, veterinarian and founder of APOP says, “Pet owners think their obese dog or cat is a normal weight, making confronting obesity difficult. No one wants to think their pet is overweight, and overcoming denial is our first battle.”

**What Health Problems are Caused by Dog Obesity?**

Dogs do not suffer the social stigma that plagues overweight and obese people, but there are many diseases and conditions that come along with extra pounds. These include:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Osteoarthritis, especially in the hip
- High blood pressure
- Orthopedic problems, cranial cruciate ligament injuries
- Skin disease
- Thyroid problems
- Seizures
- Heart and Respiratory Disease
- Kidney Disease
- Some Cancers
- Decreased life expectancy (up to 2.5 years)

**How to Tell If Your Dog is Obese**

The rules range for people, but for pets, figuring out whether your dog is overweight or obese is a matter of appearance and touch. You should, for example, be able to feel your dog’s ribs when your press her sides. Several dog food manufacturers have canine body-condition charts that can help you determine if your dog needs to drop a few pounds. Check out the guideline chart:

**What to Do If Your Dog Needs a Diet?**

As with humans, there are a few tried-and-true methods for slimming down. First, you should check with your vet to make sure that the excess weight is not the result of an underlying health problem or disease. Also, before you change good or reduce calories, you’ll want to get your dog a check up and talk to your vet about the best options. After taking these steps, check out these helpful tips:

**Measure Meals:** Keeping a diary is one of the most important steps in any human weight-loss program. Since dogs can’t write, you’ll have to do it for him. Keep track of how much kibble you are feeding by using a measuring cup.

**Establish a Schedule:** If you free-feed, leaving food down all day, offer meals on a set schedule. Put the food down for a certain time, perhaps 15 minutes, and take up any food that the dog does not eat.

**Limit Between-Meal Snacks:** Dogs get a lot of calories in addition to their regular kibble. These can include anything from training treats to a biscuit slipped over the fence by a friendly neighbor. Those calories add up. Find out where the extras are coming from and manage how many extra goodies the dog is getting.

**Choose Low-Calorie Treats:** Many store-bought treats, especially biscuits, can be fattening. The same goes for chews. Some dogs will be just as happy with fruits, like bananas, carrots, apple slices, for example. Certain chews, such as the popular bully sticks, are higher in calories than most people believe. A recent study from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University examined the nutrients found in 26 different kinds of bully sticks. Each inch contained between 9 and 26 calories. “While calorie information isn’t currently required on pet treats or most pet foods, these findings reinforce that veterinarians and pet owners need to be aware of pet treats like these bully sticks as a source of calories in a dog’s diet,” Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, Ph.D., DACVN, professor of nutrition at TCSVM, said in a press release describing the study results. Several companies have developed low-calorie commercial treats, such as the one-calorie heart-shaped Quickies treats from Honest Kitchen. When you try any new treat, offer just a small portion to make sure it agrees with your dog’s digestion.

**Get Moving!** This may be the best thing you can do to help your heavy hound. There are so many activities you and your dog can do together that it’s impossible to mention them all. Here are some of the best to start a weight-reducing program;

- Swimming is low-impact and can build muscles and burn calories without hurting joints.
- Walking, also low-impact, has the added benefit of getting both of you out of the house and into the fresh air.
- Fetch is fun, and its quick sprints will do a lot to raise fitness levels.
**Body Condition System**

1. **Too Thin**
   - Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2. **Too Thin**
   - Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palatable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3. **Too Thin**
   - Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

4. **Ideal**
   - Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5. **Ideal**
   - Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

6. **Too Heavy**
   - Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7. **Too Heavy**
   - Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8. **Too Heavy**
   - Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9. **Too Heavy**

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The **Body Condition System** was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

- Lafferty DF. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. Centre Practice July/August 1997; 22:10-15
- Kosel et al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. JAVMA 2002; 220:1316-1320

Call 1-800-223-YETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

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Nestlé PURINA
HSUS Continues Their Lies About Legal Businesses To Raise Funds

The assault against dog breeders by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) continues with their annual fundraiser of lies and propaganda also known as list of “Horrible Hundred.”

Once again, HSUS turns to their disturbing tactic of singling out dog breeders and publishing their names, and their addresses all obtained from USDA via Freedom of information Act (FOIA) requests. The information and photos are vastly taken out of context in order to support their exaggerated claims with their primary intent of raising money, and the secondary intent of terrorizing breeders into closing their breeding kennels.

Dani Butler, a spokesperson for the Humane Society in Southwest Missouri, continued the propaganda yesterday by making more false claims and misleading statements in a news report on Fox News 5 out of Springfield, Missouri claiming that dogs in her Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) shelter are owner relinquished animals coming from Missouri pet breeding operations.

While HSUS paints a frightening, emotional picture, the truth is that while animal activist organizations such as theirs may “care” about animals, they know nothing about animal care and husbandry and are not qualified to do an investigation of a professional dog breeder.

Mark Patterson, CEO of The Cavalry Group stated, “HSUS’ false accusations and misleading statements to the media serves as nothing more than a fundraiser for HSUS which uses emotionally based, unscientific propaganda to attack legal, law-abiding businesses which do not align with their ‘animal rights’ ideology. Once again, HSUS is stealing money from the American public under false pretenses and then uses that money to destroy animal ownership.”

The Cavalry Group is a member based company working to protect and defend the Constitutional and private property rights of law abiding animal owners, animal related businesses, sportsmen, and agricultural concerns legally and legislatively nationwide.

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Meet the Sheltie!

The Shetland Sheepdog, like the Collie, traces to the Border Collie of Scotland, which, transported to the Shetland Islands and crossed with small, intelligent, longhaired breeds, was reduced to miniature proportions. Subsequently crosses were made from time to time with Collies. This breed now bears the same relationship in size and general appearance to the Rough Collie as the Shetland Pony does to some of the larger breeds of horses. Although the resemblance between the Shetland Sheepdog and the Rough Collie is marked, there are differences which may be noted.

The Shetland Sheepdog is a small, alert, rough-coated, longhaired working dog. He must be sound, agile and sturdy. The outline should be so symmetrical that no part appears out of proportion to the whole. Dogs should appear masculine; bitches feminine. Size, Proportion, Substance: The Shetland Sheepdog should stand between 13 and 16 inches at the shoulder. Note: Height is determined by a line perpendicular to the ground from the top of the shoulder blades, the dog standing naturally, with forelegs parallel to line of measurement. Disqualifications - Heights below or above the desired size range are to be disqualified from the show ring. In overall appearance, the body should appear moderately long as measured from shoulder joint to ischium (rearmost extremity of the pelvic bone), but much of this length is actually due to the proper angulation and breadth of the shoulder and hindquarter, as the back itself should be comparatively short.

History:

Shetland Sheepdogs were originally bred on the rocky Shetland Islands, the United Kingdom’s northernmost point. They were employed by farmers to herd sheep, ponies and poultry. (“Toonie dog” was an old slang name for Shelties, “toon” being a Shetland word for ‘farm’.)

There’s a reason why the Sheltie was bred smaller than his close cousin, the rough-coat Collie. Thanks to their compact size, the Sheltie eats less than the Collie and other large herding dogs. This is an important consideration in the harsh, cold climate of the breed’s homeland, where food can be scarce. This also explains the diminutive size of Shetland ponies.

Exactly when Collies were imported to the island from the Scottish mainland and bred down to Sheltie size is a detail lost to history, as the islands’ breeders left behind no written records. And, because the islands were so inaccessible, Shelties lived in virtual isolation from other breeds and were nearly unknown in the rest of Britain until the early 20th century.

The Sheltie was first recognized by the Kennel Club (England), as the Shetland Collie, in 1909. Under pressure from Collie fanciers, the breed name was changed soon after to Shetland Sheepdog. The AKC registered its first dog of this remarkably bright and obedient breed in 1911.

The Sheltie was officially recognized by the English Kennel Club in 1909 but did not receive separate classification as the Sheltie (apart from Collie) until 1914. The Sheltie is one of the most successful obedience breeds.

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A Dog is a Dog….Understanding the Canine Companion series…
Continued from the June/July issue…

BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

Most behavior problems are preventable. Dogs develop behavior problems when unsupervised, undisciplined, when owners unintentionally teach behaviors and when owners don’t realize an unchecked behavior will become a problem. Preventing these problems is easier by far than curing them.

JUMPING—

Initially, puppies jump up in an effort to get nearer to your face. A puppy will greet a higher ranking dog by submissively licking its’ muzzle. If the pup is petted when he jumps up, he then starts trying to get nearer to your hands. Kneel down to the pup’s level to greet and pet him. Only pet him when he is sitting or has all four feet on the ground. If he gets a jump in unexpectedly, make it unpleasant by bumping him off as you say “OFF”. Do not use “down”. This is an obedience command that will have an entirely different meaning. “Off” is also used when the pup jumps up on furniture. Once the pup learns the “sit” command, use it to teach him to automatically sit when greeting humans. If you dog already has this problem, either bump him off with a knee in the chest, or jerk down on his collar as you say “Off”.

NIPPING OR MOUTTHING—

Grabbing at and chewing on your hands is normal behavior in very young puppies. They have no hands with which to grasp and feel, so they use their mouth. This doesn’t mean the behavior is to be ignored. With a very young puppy, act like he REALLY hurt you when he puts his teeth on you, and say “OUCH!”—THAT HURT!, and make a big deal of holding the spot he nipped and turn away putting an abrupt halt to any petting or playing. After a while, go back to what you were doing with the pup. If he puts his teeth on you again, repeat. If this is done consistently until he is 9 or 10 weeks old, the mouthing may never be a problem. If his doesn’t work, or if the pup is older and already getting carried away with nipping and mouthing, a scruff shake or collar correction would be in order. Do this the instant you feel teeth. Once again, stop any petting or playing and ignore the pup.

Some pup’s may try to control you by snapping. Act immediately the very first time he tries this by growling “NO” and giving a very fierce scrub shake or collar correction. If you have an older dog with a nipping, mouthing or snapping problem, work with a competent trainer.

BOLTING (running away)---

The most important thing in preventing bolting is to never let the dog learn that you can’t catch him. Any time he is not in a fenced area he should be on a leash or long-line. If he gets away, run the other way and try to get him to chase you. You may have to calmly and deliberately “walk him down”, but never, NEVER chase him. Never hit, spank or scold or in any other way correct him when you do catch him. He will only learn to run from you when he sees you coming, which will REALLY cause a bolting problem. As he is being obedience trained, he will learn the “come” command. Corrections will be use in systematic way to teach him he has no choice but to come on command. Until then, instill in dog’s mind that coming to you is always pleasant. Give him a treat or lots of praise. Never call him to you and then punish him for something he has done. If you call him to you with the intention of putting him out, bathing, trimming toenails or anything he doesn’t want to do, be sure to take the time to make a big deal of praising him for coming.

Some dogs learn to bolt through doors or gates. As he learns obedience commands, have him “sit/stay” until told he can go through the door or gate. Until then, walk the pup through doors and gates on leash, holding him back so that you always go through first.

If you have an older pup or dog that has a bolting problem, it is VERY important to get professional help. For the dog, this is a life-threatening behavior problem.

SEPARATION ANXIETY---

This is more or less a blanket term referring to dogs that are anxious and upset when the owner leaves. Their behavior may range from excessive barking, defecating or urinating in the house, to destructiveness that can cost the owners thousands of dollars. This behavior is very hard to deal with after it has become a problem, but is fairly easy to prevent. From the day you get your puppy, get him accustomed to separations from you. Utilize the crate training process (see Kennel Spotlight Feb’18 issue). Do not allow your dog to sleep with you. If you can, leave your puppy for short periods at a friend’s where he will be played with, thus associating being left by you with good things. Keep greetings and departures very calm and unemotional. Do not leave the pup loose in the house until completely house-trained and until he is totally relaxed about being separated from you. Your goal is a self-confident dog that knows from experience that you always come back.
BEGGING---

Obviously, the best way to prevent begging is to never start feeding the puppy treats from the table. It helps to make the pup’s feeding time coincide with your dinner time. He can be fed and crated while you eat. After he has learned the “down/stay”, you may prefer to utilize this when you eat.

STEALING OBJECTS---

Stealing objects is not usually a problem in itself. The problem is either chewing up what they steal or playing “keep away” games with the stolen object. The first few weeks you have the puppy, make an extra effort to keep laundry picked up, kid’s toys in their room with the door closed, etc... so that the puppy will not be tempted. Meanwhile, have a special box for the puppy’s very own toys. Each time he is brought in, make a big deal of pointing to his box and excitedly saying “where’s your toy?” until he looks forward to going directly to his box and getting a toy. If he gets an object you don’t want him to have, first use the “distraction” correction and give him one of his toys as a replacement. If a sterner correction is needed, go to the scruff shake. Never chase him to get a stolen object from him.

PROTECTING THE FOOD BOWL---

The dog that growls and snaps at people over his food bowl is a dog that feels he is in control. If you have an older dog that has already established this behavior, work with a trainer to overcome the problem. This is a very easy behavior to prevent. When you first bring your puppy home, teach him to accept your hand on and near the bowl while he is eating. At first, have a few pieces of his food in your hand to dribble into the bowl as he is eating. After doing this a few times, start picking the bowl up as he is eating, adding a little food, then returning it to him. If at any time he growls or snaps while you are doing this, immediately pick him up by his scruff and give a very firm correction. Have all family members handle the food bowl in this manner. Be careful not to drive the puppy crazy with this. Just pick the bowl up once in a given mealtime. Let him have some uninterrupted meals. After obedience training, you may have the dog sit/stay until you put down his food bowl.
Disorders of the Teeth..series continued from KS June/July’18 issue

CARIOUS LESIONS (Cavities)

Carious lesions, known more commonly as cavities or dental caries, are the result of acid demineralization of the tooth surface by oral bacteria, particularly certain streptococci. The acid is produced by bacterial fermentation of ingested sugars. Tooth decay may progress through enamel and dentin with possible infection of the pulp. Fortunately, true carious lesions are an uncommon problem for dogs for several reasons, including the constitution of the diet (low in carbohydrates) and a relatively high salivary pH. When decay does occur, it most often involves the upper or lower molars. A number of restoratives are available for filling cavities in dogs’ teeth, including amalgam (an alloy of mercury, copper, silver, zinc, tin and other metals), which is commonly used in human dentistry.

CROWDING

Crowding is the result of inadequate space for the teeth in either the upper or lower jaw, resulting in tooth contact or overlap. Crowding occurs especially in dogs that are bred for miniaturization or brachycephalic (flat-faced) head characteristics. Retained deciduous teeth or abnormally placed permanent tooth buds can also result in crowding. A secondary effect of crowding is increased retention of plaque with resulting gingivitis (inflammation of gums) and a predisposition to periodontal disease.

CALCULUS

Dental calculus, or tartar, consists of mineralized concretions (masses built up over time) of salivary calcium and phosphate salts and tooth surface plaque. Plaque is composed of a mixture of oral bacteria, bacterial sugars, salivary proteins and food and cellular debris. The host response to the presence of plaque is gum inflammation, or gingivitis, usually visible as a reddening of the tissue along the gum line. Calculus does not directly cause gingivitis; rather, the calculus serves as a spot for plaque to collect and for bacteria to multiply.

The presence of calculus will hamper plaque removal. Plaque cannot be removed by rinsing, but requires mechanical abrasion with a toothbrush or paste. Removal of calculus requires the use of dental instruments. Buildup of dental calculus can be retarded by feeding dogs hard-food diets and by encouraging prolonged chewing of resilient objects such as rawhide. Tooth brushing at home is the safest, most effective method of removing plaque and discouraging calculus formation. Recommendations for frequency of brushing are based on the health of the gums at the time. Brushing three times a week is recommended for dogs having otherwise healthy gums, while brushing seven times a week is recommended for those with alveolar bone loss caused by periodontal disease.

DISCOLORED TEETH

Both dogs and cats normally have ultra-white teeth. Discoloration of the teeth can be caused by either extrinsic (tooth-surface stain) or intrinsic (tooth structure itself) causes. Extrinsic stains, such as those caused by pigment-producing plaque bacteria, are removable with thorough cleaning and polishing. Intrinsic stains may arise from abnormal development pre- or post-eruption, acquired disease, or secondary to a dental procedure. Developmental discoloration of teeth may be acquired during tooth eruption as a defect of growth or from incorporation of material into the growing tooth structure. Enamel hypoplasia (reduced enamel formation) results in a porous enamel surface and depending on the severity of maldevelopment, may expose the underlying dentin (which is softer and more porous than enamel). Affected teeth are more receptive to plaque retention and to the uptake of dyes present in some chew toys. Intrinsic tooth stains may also be caused by excessive fluoride ingestion (causing white spotting, brown spots or enamel pitting), iron ingestion (causing an orange discoloration), or administration of tetracycline antibiotics (causing yellow, brown, gray or blue discolorations) during tooth formation.

Acquired intrinsic stains can result from impact trauma, crown wear, deep decay or materials used as dental restoratives. Metallic restoratives such as amalgam can cause virtually irreversible discoloration of teeth. Vital and non-vital bleaching techniques refer to the external or internal application of bleaching.
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Disorders of the Teeth cont. from pg 24

materials to alter tooth color. Such procedures are used cosmetically in human beings and occasionally in animals. The success of the treatment relies on proper diagnosis in order to choose the appropriate technique for maximizing the whitening effect.

GINGIVAL HYPERPLASIA

Generalized gingival hyperplasia (gum enlargement caused by an increase in the number of cells) is a common clinical observation in older dogs. Collies, Boxers and other large-breed dogs are more commonly affected with this condition. Treatment is unnecessary unless there is plaque or calculus retention below the gum line or the overgrown gum tissue is being traumatized by the opposing teeth when the jaws close. Treatment consists of surgical removal of the excess gum tissue. Owners should be aware that this problem may reoccur.

Gum enlargement also occurs in puppies during the eruption of primary and secondary teeth. Gingivitis (gum inflammation) may be superimposed on this normal tissue enlargement due to the mix of teeth in various stages of eruption accompanied by poor self-cleaning mechanisms. The presence of loose or retained deciduous teeth, or mis-positioned teeth causing overcrowding, greatly contributes to overlying gingivitis due to increased plaque retention. Benign or malignant tumors can mimic gingival hyperplasia. The importance of early biopsy and interpretation of any localized gum enlargement should be stressed, given the inability to distinguish clinically between benign and malignant oral growths.

PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Periodontal disease should interest all of us because it is the most common cause of tooth loss in adult human beings, dogs and cats. The focus of this disease process at the tooth-crown junction is the transformation of a normal environment, the gingival sulcus (the area formed by the junction of the tooth and the gums), into the diseased environment of the periodontal pocket. The sulcus is the space bounded by the crown enamel surface, the free gingival margin (the visible edge of the gums opposing the tooth surface), and the microscopic gum attachment to the cementoenamel junction (the anatomical junction of the crown and the root).

Periodontal disease represents a continuum, initially involving only gingival soft-tissue inflammation (gingivitis) with possible progression to loss of the microscopic gum-tooth attachment and alveolar bone destruction (periodontitis). Gingivitis is a completely reversible process involving inflammation of the gum tissue bordering the teeth. Gingival inflammation can range from a slight reddening (caused by increased blood flow) to severe swelling and frank bleeding. Periodontitis is a partially reversible (but controllable) progression to loss of gum-to-tooth attachment and tooth-socket bone support. With microscopic gum-attachment loss, the normal gingival sulcus deepens and is transformed into the abnormal periodontal pocket, conducive to the creation of an oxygen-free microenvironment in which bacteria can proliferate and cause even further tissue destruction.

Periodontal disease progression is episodic or cyclic, with periods of exacerbation and remission. It is important to point out that the progression from gingivitis to periodontitis is not inevitable; given an early diagnosis, it can be halted with therapeutic intervention. The primary factor influencing disease progression is the bacterial population of the gingival. The amount and type of bacteria (plaque population) above and below the gum line and the individual host animal’s response to infection are both of great importance in this regard.

Plaque is composed primarily of proliferating microorganisms plus food and cellular debris, all embedded in a sticky matrix of salivary proteins and bacterial sugars. One cubic millimeter of dental plaque weighs about 1 milligram and contains over 300 million bacteria. Despite the fact that over 300 species of microorganisms reside in the oral cavity, only a few are responsible for the tissue destruction seen in periodontal disease.

In the natural sequence of events in canine periodontal disease in the Beagle dog, gingivitis becomes severe at around 2 years of age and progresses to periodontitis by 4 to 6 years of age. In clinical surveys of pet populations of dogs and cats, periodontitis has been reported to occur at rates between 60 to over 80% of patients examined. Without therapeutic intervention, periodontal disease will result in tooth mobility and eventually tooth loss.

Dogs with periodontal disease may or may not exhibit overt signs of oral disease. Owners of animals with periodontal disease most frequently report nonspecific clinical signs in their dogs, such as halitosis (bad breath) or behavior changes referable to chronic oral pain, such as poor self-grooming, teeth chattering or grinding, hesitancy to open or close the mouth completely, decreased chewing of toys or treats, pawing at the mouth, facial rubbing, personality changes, head or mouth handling shyness or a preference for soft food. Sneezing, one-sided nasal discharge, and incessant nose licking often are seen in dogs with advanced periodontal disease in which an oronasal fistula has developed. Periodontal disease in more unusual cases may be manifested by severe gingival hemorrhage, nasal bleeding, jaw fractures, oral ulcers, tooth displacement into the nasal cavity or deep bone infection of the jaws.

As in human beings, the extent of periodontal disease cannot be fully evaluated without a definitive oral examination that includes a periodontal probe of every tooth and radiographic evaluation of the teeth. Such an examination may reveal tooth abscesses, periodontal pockets (with or without active gingival inflammation), or ononasal fistulas. A definitive oral examination in the
dog necessitates that the patient be placed under general anesthesia. The baseline objective in treatment is to reduce or eliminate disease-producing bacteria from the tooth crown and root surfaces. The baseline objective in treatment is to reduce or eliminate disease-producing bacteria from the tooth crown and root surfaces. The starting point of periodontal therapy thus relies on thorough cleaning of the teeth both above and below the gum line; that is, crown and root scaling (cleaning) and polishing, with or without surgical intervention. Periodontal therapy goes a step beyond routine dental cleaning, however, having root planing (cleaning) as its basis. Root planing involves scaling the root surface of plaque, calculus, and bacterial-laden cementum.

Obtaining sufficient access to the depths of the periodontal pocket and exposure of the contoured root surface may require gum surgery. Root planing without gum surgery is known as closed root planing, while planing that necessitates surgical intervention is referred to as open root planing. Periodontal pockets in excess of 4-5 mm may require surgical intervention. Root planing attempts to produce a glasslike smoothness to the root surface to discourage re-deposition of plaque bacteria, debris, and subsequent calculus formation. Long-term control of periodontal disease progression relies on an oral hygiene home-care program, consistent patient follow-up, timely dental cleaning/scaling, and repeated periodontal therapy as needed.

To be continued in the Oct/Nov’18 issue...
Report: HSUS Pays Twice What it Receives in Fundraising
By Humanewatch.org

We recently wrote about the bizarre tale of HSUS fundraiser Loop NYC, which appears to raise money by soliciting random strangers on the New York subway system. For anyone who’s ever been on the system, this has to be one of the dumbest strategies: People want to avoid other people on the New York subway, not give them their credit card info.

One thing that caught our eye was the claim from the marketing firm that for every dollar a solicitor raised for HSUS, he received two. This is what one might call “fuzzy math.” Here’s how it works—and why it’s terrible for charities to do.

A charity, in this case HSUS, pays a solicitor money to attempt to raise funds. In some cases, the payment may be more than a solicitor actually raises (if the solicitor charges by the hour or by the call, for instance). Some veterans charities have been called out for operating in this way, whereby they raise millions but the solicitor keeps close to 100% of what’s raised and the veterans see next to nothing. (Or, in HSUS’s case, homeless animals see next to nothing.)

The charities defend this practice by saying they are essentially prospecting—they’re paying for a fund raiser to build a mailing list of donors that the charity can then reach out to, on its own, years down the line. But this fact is not made clear to donors, who think their money is being used now for charity—not put into the pockets of a fundraiser.

If solicitors were honest about it, people wouldn’t donate. That’s how you knew it is a deceptive fundraising practice. And blame should be shared equally between both the solicitor and the charity, since they have an agreed-upon, detailed contract about the solicitation activity.

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TAX SHELTERS OVER PET SHELTERS?!

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has put over $50 million into Caribbean accounts instead of using that money to help animals, according to its tax returns.

If you want to help pets, donate to your local humane society, which is unaffiliated with HSUS.

LEARN MORE AT: HUMANEWATCH.ORG

Keeping a watchful eye on the Animal Rights Movement

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PROFESSIONAL BREEDER FIGHTS BACK!

Recently, there was an article published in the Springfield, Missouri ‘News Leader’ written by the Animal Rights group, HSUS, who continue their claims that ‘ALL DOG BREEDERS’ are what they call ‘puppy mills’ and referenced their report on Missouri’s ‘horrible hundred’ list.

Ann Quinn, publicity director for the Missouri Pet Breeders Association and long-time professional breeder, decided to do something that most professional breeders wouldn’t dream of. She invited the reporter who published the ‘scathing’ report from HSUS and a photographer to her kennel to talk about the actual facts of professional dog breeding and not the highly exaggerated rantings of the animal rights group.

“We don’t have a fair fight with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) because we don’t have the money,” Quinn said during the tour of her kennel.

To compile the Horrible Hundred report, the HSUS pulls information from state and federal inspection reports and they focus on a few of the problematic kennels and fail to mention any of the good, responsible breeders who do things the right way. Quinn thinks some of the examples are misleading. She pointed to portions of the report that mention yellow discharge in dogs’ eyes. Humans, too, wake up with yellow ‘sleep’ in their eyes.

“The inspections are unannounced. These inspectors can come to your house at 7 am and 7 pm,” Quinn said, arguing that it’s not unusual that at least one dog would have such discharge. She stated that there is much work to be done in keeping a kennel up to snuff and it wouldn’t make much difference if the breeders were given 24 hours notice before the inspection.

“If you knew the amount of paperwork that goes with a license and with our puppies, our vaccinations and day to day examinations, Superman could not turn around a kennel that was bad. Nor could you clean it all or put the gravel in or wash all your dog houses or if you had a sick dog, take it to the vet in 24 hours. There would be no way,” Quinn stated.

“In most of our kennels, it would make no difference whether you came unannounced or announced,” she continued. “We (licensed professional dog breeders) are all vigilant. And the reason we are vigilant is that these dogs and the production of their puppies make us money. If you do not take care of them, the dog doesn’t have puppies or the puppies don’t make it to eight weeks. It’s just that simple.”

MPBA President Kevin Beauchamp, who was there when the News-Leader toured Quinn’s kennel, agreed. “The bad (breeders) will weed themselves out,” he said. “The substandard ones are not going to be in business six months. They can’t afford it.”

Both Quinn and Beauchamp acknowledged that there are bad dog breeding operations out there, but they say those are the unlicensed breeders who don’t have to worry about state and USDA inspections or meeting American Kennel Club regulations. Though Quinn has never been included in the HSUS’s Horrible Hundred report, photos of her operation showed up on the ASPCA’s No Pet Store Puppies website.

The photos were taken by USDA inspectors back in 2014 and were accompanied by notes from the inspection. Quinn said one of the photos showed a puppy room with brown smears on white walls—a perfect example of the “insignificant stuff that sometimes we get written up for.”

“I had scrubbed the floor and the puppies weren’t even in the enclosure,” she said. “But I hadn’t scrubbed the wall yet. Those were puppy paw prints on the white barn board and the violations never affected my ability to sell puppies.”

Quinn’s dog breeding operation sits in and around her former horse barn where she used to breed horses until the market tanked when slaughterhouses were banned a few years back. Puppies, nursing moms and soon-to-be moms are kept in her indoor facility where the temperature and moisture level are closely monitored. Quinn would not allow the photographer to take pictures of her outside runs but they were allowed to look around.

She explained that she didn’t want photos taken outside because some animal rights activists are upset by the mere sight of an outside kennel, no matter how clean or big it is. Her kennel was as clean as could be expected and all the dogs appeared healthy with food and clean water. The outside kennels were shaded and 3 times larger than what the state mandates, she said, with doghouses tall enough to permit the animals to stand.

Quinn said that most breeders would never allow a stranger with a camera anywhere near their operation for fear the photos would end up in the hands of animal rights activists. Asked if she’d ever had trouble with people opposed to her dog-breeding operation, Quinn said it hasn’t happened yet.

“Your story may cause them to come after me,” she said. “It will be a threat to them for us to speak out in a story against the most Horrible Hundred list. But I have a good sheriff in Webster County, so they’d better not show up on my property.”

A spokesperson for the HSUS Puppy Mills Campaign retaliated by saying that HSUS feels that commercial breeding kennels do not provide the adequate amount of care and socialization that dogs require. They state that the dogs are kept in crowded conditions, often in small cages with very little room to run and play and that they never see a treat or toy and sometimes live in small wire cages with their feet never touching grass and when the dogs can no longer profit for their owner, they are often killed or abandoned.

The News-Leader observed toys for the puppies at Quinn’s kennel. None of her animals were in small wire cages. Quinn said when her dogs are too old to breed, she finds a home for them or puts them in a program that places the dogs with Vietnam War Veterans.
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RESEARCH estimated 40-50% of all SHELTERS have experienced a canine DISTEMPER outbreak causing MILLIONS of dogs to be euthanized. Distemper is an every DOG problem not a BREEDER only problem. RESEARCH shows distemper effects <40% of the entire USA DOG population. All positive dogs should be ethically and humanely euthanized. Positive dogs are forever carriers of the virus and could potentially contaminate other canines.


**The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act** addresses HSUS’s concern with required Proper Veterinarian Care for both BREEDERS and RESCUES including: grooming, parasite control, health certificate or written annual veterinarian program, dentals, immediate treatment of any illness or injury, have current vaccinations for all animals, have vet statements for any chronic medical conditions, an annual veterinarian exam on any animal over 5 years old, any surgical procedures will be performed by a licensed vet, euthanasia will only be performed by a licensed vet, shall not abandon or dump any animals;

**Additional requirements for Professional Breeders:**

(a) A written annual veterinarian program to address each dog’s exercise, behavioral, and social needs; and any additional care, vaccinations, and/or worming’s recommended by a veterinarian.

**Additional requirements for Reputable Rescues:**

(a) Have a 14 day quarantine hold on any unknown origin sourced animals.
Animal Rights activists believe any violation, regardless of how minor, is an intentional act of animal cruelty.

HSUS fails to mention that they played an active role in getting legislation passed in several states that prevents any USDA BREEDER with 1 direct or 3 indirect violations from selling any animal to a pet shop for 2-3 years. A direct violation could be the failure of having your vet log signed and an indirect could simply be a feed lid is off its container.

Most violations are as minor as an expired tube of Neosporin. 23% of all violations is from expired or improper medications. Most people have experienced a traffic ticket and learned from this by paying a fine, not by having their driver’s license removed.

The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act explicitly addresses the following common problems with comprehensive solutions and consequences for RESCUES and BREEDERS:

- Complaints from consumers who have received misrepresented or ill animals
- Complaints of abuse and/or NEGLECT with clear definitions instead of OPINIONS
- Illegal/improper importation and transportation
- Improper care, housing and public display
- Uncollected revenue from sales
- Proof of valid 501c 3 license
- No sale of puppies/kittens under 8 weeks of age

This legislation addresses HSUS’s concerns for consequences and the necessity of INSPECTIONS. However, it is designed to allow a learning curve as not to impede or place undue burdens upon BREEDERS or RESCUES (Pet Representatives) that would prevent American Free Enterprise.
HSUS states: CURRENT REGULATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE WATER TO BE PROVIDED TO DOGS CONTINUALLY.

Animal Rights activists insist on making such misguided statements as proof of kennel cruelty. Why not address the GREEN water that is being provided for the animals at the 2017 CRUELTY raid on a RESCUE?

The AWA states: § 3.6 - Primary enclosures. (viii) Provide all the dogs and cats with easy and convenient access to clean food and water.

And AWA states § 3.10 - Watering. If potable water is not continually available to the dogs and cats, it must be offered to the dogs and cats as often as necessary to ensure their health and wellbeing, but not less than twice daily for at least 1 hour each time, unless restricted by the attending veterinarian.

HSUS clearly does not understand that the AWA mandates that all animals within PRIMARY enclosures has to have free access to clean water and food.

Animals that are REMOVED from their primary enclosures for the PURPOSE of a dog show, working, display for sale or adoption, vet appointment, short trip in a car, a short walk, ect... Do NOT need water to be provided continually.

CLEAN WATER (means potable water that is not frozen, free of excessive debris, feces, algae, and other contaminants).

The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act addresses HSUS’s misunderstanding, along with clearly defining how and when water is to be given to all companion animals.
HSUS states: CURRENT REGULATIONS ALLOW DOGS TO BE KEPT IN FRIGID OR SWELTERING TEMPERATURES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS.

HSUS mentions the death of a 4 week old puppy from hypothermia at a USDA Missouri kennel in 2014.

The AWA states: § 3.4 - Outdoor housing facilities. (a) Restrictions. (1) The following categories of dogs or cats must not be kept in outdoor facilities, unless that practice is specifically approved by the attending veterinarian: (ii) Breeds of dogs or cats that cannot tolerate the prevalent temperatures of the area without stress or discomfort (such as short-haired breeds in cold climates); and (iii) Sick, infirm, aged or young dogs or cats.

And AWA states: § 3.3 - Sheltered housing facilities. (a) Heating, cooling, and temperature The ambient temperature must not fall below 45 °F (7.2 °C) for more than 4 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present, and must not rise above 85 °F (29.5 °C) for more than 4 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present.

HSUS played a pivotal role in the passing of Prop B in Missouri in 2010. Prop B mandates that all animals, regardless of age or breed, shall have unfettered (free) access to the outdoors. By disregarding the AWA requirement for very young animals to be protected from extreme temperatures, the unfettered access mandate of Prop B facilitated in the death of that 4 week old puppy during freezing weather.

Keep in mind that state law trumps federal law; allowing Prop B to be enforced over Federal USDA law.

In lieu of previous legislations, such as Prop B, that failed to properly address animal WELFARE, this legislation uses the AWA requirements for temperature control and require a signed letter of acclimation from a licensed veterinarian for those who do not provide sheltered housing.
Animal Rights activists focus on dogs within kennels, while failing to address the NEGLECT that cats are forced to endure on a daily basis.

Cats are the most neglected companion animal within RESCUES and SHELTERS. They are usually forced to live in enclosures that do not meet their needs and are denied daily changing of their litter boxes.

https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/facility-design-and-animal-housing

The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act uses the AWA regulations for the proper space and care requirements for cats by PET REPRESENTATIVES, which entails:

- Enclosure must be at least 24” tall
- Cats up to 8.8 # must have at least 3 ft. square floor space
- Cats over 8.8 # must have at least 4 ft square floor space
- Floor space is exclusive of any food or water pans
- Litter pan will only count as floor space if cleaned daily
- Elevated resting surfaces must be provided for each cat
Doobs and don’ts: 6 things you should know about pets and pot

Marijuana toxicity in pets is on the rise

Whether it’s for medical or recreational use, marijuana is becoming common in more households. Not surprisingly, Pet Poison Helpline has seen a 450% increase in accidental marijuana ingestion.

Of the nearly $1 million in plant poisoning pet insurance claims submitted last year to Nationwide, many were attributed to pot exposure. Here’s what you need to know.

1. Oh yes they can-nabis
Pets can be affected by pot in many of the same ways as humans—but worse. Signs include:
- Dazed expression, glassy eyes, dilated pupils
- Incoordination; slow response
- Dribbling urine
- Salivation
- Vomiting
- Changes in heart rate
- Tremors, seizures
- Agitation, hyperactivity

2. Ingest, inhale, intoxicate
Common sources of exposure for pets:
- Dried or live cannabis
- Marijuana edibles
- Concentrated oil products (“dabs,” “shatter”)
- Secondhand smoke
- Marijuana alternatives (K2, Spice)

3. Infused with extra danger
Marijuana edibles pose an added layer of risk to pets. Potential food toxicities. Common sources include chocolate, raisins, xylitol (a sugar substitute), nuts and savory edibles.

4. Get your pet to the vet right away
If your pet shows any signs of marijuana intoxication, get to the vet. Delaying treatment because you’re worried about what your vet might say may be putting your pet at even greater risk.

5. Hash out the details
Be honest about everything you know (or suspect) about what your pet was exposed to so your vet can start an appropriate course of treatment.

6. Know who to contact
Keep a poison control number programmed into your phone.

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Some exclusions may apply. Certain coverages may be subject to pre-existing exclusions. New policy documents for a complete list of exclusions. Plans may not be available in all states. Policy limits by state.
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- Sept 22nd: Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.
- Sept 29th: FALL Equipment Consignment Auction-Taking consignments on Farm Machinery, Shop, Tools, Sporting Goods, Trucks, Trailers, Vehicles, etc...
- Oct 13th: Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.
- Oct 27th: Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.
- Nov 3rd: Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.
- Nov 17th: Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.

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**Breeder Events:**

- Sept 28th & 29th: Indiana Council for Animal Welfare (ICAW)  
  Contact John Lapp:  
  email: icawinfo@gmail.com

- Oct 5th & 6th: Professional Pet Breeders of Texas (PPBofTX)  
  Mt. Pleasant, Texas

- Oct 18th: Lambert Vet Supply Health Clinic  
  Oct 19th: Pinnacle Pet Health Clinic

- Nov 7th: Ohio Prof Pet Breeders Assoc (OPDBA)  
  Mt. Hope, Ohio

- Nov 16th: Tri State Premier Pet Assoc (TSPPA)  
  Independence, KS. Contact Shirley Walton  
  email: adwalton6200@gmail.com

- Nov 16th: Professional Pet Assoc (PPA)  
  Moberly, MO. Contact Cathie Griesbauer  
  (573) 489-6974
Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the World is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick Your hand between blows, your patience and understanding Will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world’s sweetest music, As you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when Your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a Domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though had you no home, I would rather Follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow In the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am Your devoted worshiper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not Reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst.

Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and Do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me Of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you.

Rather, hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant the Merciful boon of eternal rest—and I will leave you knowing with the Last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.
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