Happy Holidays!
From the Kennel Spotlight
AKC wishes to thank you, our dedicated breeders for making a difference in the lives of people and their pets. You’ve shown your commitment by health testing your breeding stock and participating in AKC Sponsored health clinics in 2017. As industry leaders, this shows the level of importance you place on the health of your puppies.

Thank you for allowing the American Kennel Club to be a part of your community and all that you do. We are truly grateful for your trust and confidence. Our partnerships are based on mutual trust and respect, and we look forward to next year with you.

The American Kennel Club and Purina Pro Plan wish you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace, happiness and prosperity!
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The Kennel Spotlight

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Show Me Danes for our Cover Photos!
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for submitting photos for our Christmas issue!
Proper Sanitation is Vital in Preventing Spread of Campylobacter!

Although many people have never heard of it, each year nearly 1.3 million Americans are infected with Campylobacter. The most likely form of infection comes from consuming chicken, but as the CDC reported in September, Campylobacter also lives in the digestive tract of most dogs regardless of where the dog was obtained and can be transferred to humans.

According to the CDC, symptoms of Campylobacter in humans typically appear within 2-5 days of being exposed to the bacteria. It is transmitted from feces to mouth. Symptoms typically include diarrhea, nausea, intestinal cramping and vomiting. The vast majority of Campylobacter cases are treated simply with hydration and rest.

As Campylobacter was only made nationally notifiable to the CDC in 2015, it is quite possible that it is more common than previously expected. Human cases have now been reported in 15 states.

Epidemiologic and laboratory investigations linked this outbreak to contact with pet store puppies and other sources, according to the CDC.

Petland is extending every effort to aid in the traceback of the infection as it relates to Petland and the entire family of Petland stores has cooperated, providing data and on-site testing opportunities around the country. However, roughly 99% of people obtain their puppies from other sources, including shelters, rescues, friends, online and through local advertising.

The CDC continues to advise that Petland reinforces proper hand sanitization before and after playing with any of our puppies with the many sanitation stations in each store and continues to follow Petland’s strict kennel sanitation procedures and protocols put in place by consulting veterinarians. Since the initial contact, Petland has re-doubled its efforts in educating staff and customers about proper hand sanitization.

As with the risk of salmonella with reptiles and chickens, we again stress the importance of proper hand sanitizing when handling pets, pet food and treats, pet or waste, pet chickens and raw poultry. It is also important not to let any dog lick your mouth or any open wounds.

At the store level, Petland has increased the number of sanitation stations and signage stressing the importance of proper hand washing. Petland has also stressed the importance of using disposable gloves in the kennel and when handling pet waste.

These are measures that can be utilized not only in pet stores, but also in your kennels. Vigilent sanitation, monitoring of feces (and testing, when necessary) and simple hand-washing are the best methods to help prevent cross-contamination in any kennel environment.

—

Elizabeth Kunzelman
Director of Public Affairs
Petland, Inc.
Petland wishes you and yours the best this Christmas season and throughout the new year. May your 2018 be filled with wonder and happiness.
Maintaining a puppy vaccination plan is very important for owners, but so is making sure the plan is not outdated and that it fits well with the vaccines being used. There are probably as many strategies on how to vaccinate puppies as there are breeding kennels so I’m not going to try to fit everyone into a one-size-fits-all system. What I will say is knowing WHY you are vaccinating, WHAT you are vaccinating with, and HOW THIS WILL HELP your puppies will let you make an informed choice on the process of vaccinating.

Maternal antibodies are passed from mother to her offspring, both in the womb and through her colostrum in the first 24-36 hours of the puppy’s life. The mother passes her immune system in these maternal antibodies to her offspring. Any immunity she has developed, from exposure to or been vaccinated for, has a good chance of being passed on to her offspring. This is why it is so important to vaccinate adults in the kennel on a regular schedule. If the mother hasn’t been exposed to it, the only other way for her to develop immunity is to be vaccinated.

Maternal antibody protection is not long lasting and quickly wanes over the first 6-16 weeks of the puppy’s life. Many factors influence the duration of maternal immunity, including type of disease, immune status of the bitch, and amount of colostrum intake during early life.

Vaccination antibodies differ from maternal antibodies in that the puppy makes these itself and they are usually very long lasting. Vaccinations will not work while maternal antibodies are present, but veterinarians cannot accurately determine or predict when this will occur. For the health of the puppy and applying best medicine practices, we start vaccinating puppies at 6 weeks of age and then every 2-3 weeks until they reach 16 weeks of age. Currently, this method offers the best possible medicine for protection of your puppy.

When choosing what vaccine to use, consider both safety and efficacy. This simply means using a product that is safe for the puppies and will work by helping them develop vaccination antibodies to protect them. I strongly suggest using 5-way protection starting at 6 weeks and continuing every 2 weeks until after they are 16 weeks old. However, it will be necessary in certain situations to deviate from this. If puppies are adopted before 16 weeks, it is important to communicate to their new owner that more vaccinations will follow.

A great vaccination program for puppies starts with the mother’s health and nutrition. If she is doing her part and giving the maternal protection they need early in life, then vaccination protection can do its part as puppies get older. No matter which vaccine you use, you must do your part to ensure the health and well-being of the puppies. This means keeping stressors to their immune systems (disease, extreme heat/cold system, poor sanitation, poor nutrition) to a minimum. Remember, a healthy puppy is a happy puppy.
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The American Kennel Club’s Continued Commitment to Breeders

The AKC Breeder Relations and Breeder Development teams have been working side by side with breeders for many years, helping them raise the bar and become more successful.

Working together we have made huge strides to improve the health and well-being of all dogs. The development and sharing of new kennel designs, improved socialization and environmental enrichment areas, and updated protocols for grooming and handling are having outstanding positive impact. AKC staff has spent countless hours discussing health and genetic testing with breeders, as well as providing breeding stock critiques and mate selection advice. Many professional breeders are now having great success showing their dogs at AKC Dog Shows.

At the forefront of our efforts has been the AKC sponsored health clinics for breeding dogs. These clinics help breeders make better breeding decisions, increasing the health of their puppies, improving the experiences of new puppy buyers, and improving the image all breeders. Clinics include eye exams, x-rays of hips and elbows, as well as heart, dental and knee exams. The AKC would like to thank Dr. Brandon Sinn for his countless hours of work and assistance with this very important initiative.

Responsible breeders aim to preserve and improve the breeds to which they dedicate their lives. It is with this commitment in mind that AKC’s Breeder Development Department has teamed with Purina Pro Plan to launch “Know Your Breed, Inside and Out.”

Many puppy buyers choose purebred dogs because they can predict the dog’s size, care requirements, temperament, and coat type, thereby achieving a better match with the puppy buyer’s lifestyle. Puppy buyers find it exciting to see a dog’s natural instincts that have been carefully bred into him come to life. Watching a pointing breed aiming his muzzle at a bird even though he’s never hunted a day in his life or watching a Border Collie herd ducks or kids around the yard shows puppy buyers the reason for purposeful, thoughtful breeding. There are all kinds of reasons why people love a certain breed and that is why it is important that the puppies you are producing follow the AKC Breed Standard for that breed. The standard is the official set of guidelines covering specific observable qualities such as appearance, movement, and temperament for that dog breed.

The “Know Your Breed, Inside and Out” initiative was launched at the Indiana Council for Animal Welfare on September 29, 2017 with great success. AKC Senior Breeder Development Field Reps, Stacy Mason and Dale Hunsberger, spent many hours developing and preparing the program. Copies of the breed standards and illustrated breed study guides for the top 50 breeds being bred by Indiana breeders were handed out to attendees. A television and AKC-produced DVDs allowed Stacy and Dale to discuss the nuances of each breed with the breeders in attendance. Numerous times during the conference, breeders were four and five deep watching the breed videos and listening to Stacy and Dale talk about the breed standards.

Many breeders commented about how important and useful it was to see the ideal specimens of their breed and understand what they need to do to improve their breeding stock and the puppies they produce. “Being able to see so many different dogs of my breed and understanding the correct and incorrect head type, size, proportions and characteristics of my breed was a very eye opening experience,” said Pembroke Welsh Corgi breeder Delmar Wagler. The American Kennel Club plans to have this program available at many state breeder education conferences in 2018.

Article by Stacy Mason & David Roberts; AKC Representatives
Good Dogs Come From Good Breeding

Health testing your breeding stock will give your puppies a healthy start to their lives.
For complete information regarding canine health, please visit akc.org under Breeders / Canine Health.

AKC is proud to work with Purina Pro Plan, our breeder outreach sponsor.

*The above tests are common among most breeds.*
6 Dog Sitting Tips to Leave Your Kennel Safely

Everyone occasionally needs a little time away. Whether you’re gone for a weekend or a couple of weeks, having a plan in place for your kennel will ensure things are taken care of so you can kick back, relax and know your animals are in good hands.

**Designate**

Always designate one person to be in charge in your absence. Make sure everyone helping out knows the “Go To” person responsible for treatment and management issues. Your “Go To” person needs to know all current issues, how to handle issues that may arise and have the authority to make decisions.

**Write it Down**

We often have more than one person feeding, filling water dishes and doing general care and cleaning. Each person needs written instructions and the instructions need to be posted in the kennel. Include location of medications, extra food and anything they may need. If something isn’t right they need to contact the “Go To” person so make sure to have their contact information visible and easy to find.

Written instructions for prescribed medication should include specific instructions for dose and how and when to use. You need a list of any current animals of concern to you or under treatment. Your USDA kennel medication form will cover medication and dosage. It is best if one person is designated to manage preventive care and current therapy being given.

When it comes to leaving specific notes about animals, I suggest using clothes pins and 3x5 index cards that get clipped to the pen or use a card holder that easily attaches to the cage. Notecards are easy to reference and identify. If it’s a notebook it’s harder to keep track of what needs to be done and often gets skipped.

**Make Sure Puppies Get Extra Attention**

Puppies are the first to suffer from lack of attention to details. The number one reason we lose puppies is dehydration so be sure you have electrolytes on hand. Whoever you leave in charge of puppies should know what to do if a puppy stops eating or is not looking right! If they aren’t eating, readily available electrolytes and what to hand feed will ease stress and prevent emergencies. Again, make sure any problems are written down on a notepad and then reported to the designated person have left in charge. Be sure the “Go To” person has available on site prevention for: parasites, cough, vaccines and always have electrolytes available.

**Have a Plan for Adult Dog Issues**

Kennel sitters will watch for any adult dog issues that come up. Your “Go To” person can be contacted if care is needed. (i.e. Older Dogs, Nursing Dogs or Accident/Injury)

- Health issues: Leave detailed notes on current treatments that are on-going and a list of all moms.
- Nursing moms: Leave notes about each mom clipped to her pen. For example: she’s a good mom, easy going, does not like to be disturbed when nursing, etc…
- You know and will mark who may come into their heat cycle. If a heat cycle is noted, your helpers need to call the “Go To” person to handle this.

**Pregnant Moms**

For moms that are due to whelp, designate a person to handle this and make sure everyone knows how to get in touch with that individual. Make sure all of the supplies needed are readily available and they are trained on how and when to use them. Again, when it comes to leaving notes about animals, I suggest using clothes pins and 3x5 index cards and clip to pen or use a card holder. Clearly mark pregnant moms, who they are and how far along (30 days or 45 days). People always keep a closer eye on close-up moms.

**Call Your Veterinarian**

Let your veterinarian know that you will be out of town and if there are any issues, you have instructed your kennel sitters to bring them to the clinic. Let your vet know when you will return and reassure them that you will take care of the bill when you return. Give your vet office the name of the “Go To” person you have put in charge so they know who to contact when the animal is ready to return to the kennel. We don’t want animals boarding until you return.

Be prepared and you will never have an emergency. A little planning and lots of communication makes for a successful and positive kennel sitting experience and a comfortable and relaxing vacation for you.

--Dr. B  
Don Bramlage, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health
The materials, information and answers provided through this website are not intended to replace the medical advice or services of your personal veterinarian or other pet health care professional. Consult your own veterinarian for answers to specific medical questions, including diagnosis, treatment, therapy or medical attention.
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Revival
Animal Health
A Dog is a Dog... a series in the understanding of the Canine Companion.
continued (from the Oct/Nov’17 issue)

Confine and Supervise
Most mothers would not allow their toddler unsupervised freedom of the house. Playpens and baby gates are used when Mom can’t pay attention to the “baby”. As the child grows and learns and begins to understand instructions, it gets more and more freedom. So it should be with a puppy. Too much freedom too soon has caused many problems.

Confinement and supervision are the very heart of molding the model dog. While being confined, the puppy cannot get into trouble. While being supervised, he is learning your rules. He gets into trouble only when you are there to discipline.

The most practical means of confining your puppy is to “crate train”. When you can’t watch the puppy, he should either be in his crate or in his yard. Outside, he can be either confined to a fence yard or a dog pen. Except as a temporary measure, and for training purposes, tying the dog out is not recommended. This is not safe, and in some cases encourages aggression. The puppy should never be allowed to run loose.

Make Rules
You will need to make rules. Acceptable behavior to one person may be obnoxious to another. You need to decide what behaviors are undesirable to you. All family members need to agree. Be reasonable in your expectations. Remember, this is after all, a dog. Keep in mind where children and dogs are together:

(1) Teach the child not to run up to or approach a strange dog without the owner’s permission.
(2) If a dog has not learned to be handled or “dominated”, such actions as hugging, bending over the dog, pushing the dog or coming too close to his food or toys can get a person bitten.
(3) Teach the child to “freeze”, fold their arms and turn away from the dog when he becomes too rowdy. Screaming, slapping at the dog or running away will only excite the dog.
(4) This should have to be said at all. Teach your kids not to pull hair, tails, ears, poke at dogs with objects or tease them when they are confined.
(5) Any children old enough to follow instructions and handle a leash should learn how to “work” the dog after the dog has had some training.

Discipline
Discipline should be a part of every dog’s life. It is certainly necessary in developing a well-behaved companion and discipline is not necessarily a punishment; nor even a correction. Discipline includes all of the little things in the dog’s everyday life that show him that he is a pack member, not leader, and that you are in control.

Corrections:
Some forms of correction will work better for some dogs than others. A very sensitive dog may only need a milder type of correction where a very rowdy dog may need a very severe correction. Before attempting any of these corrections, there are two things you need to understand. All of the corrections may be made in different intensities. Each correction may be either very mild or very harsh. But they are ALWAYS FIRM. None of the corrections will harm the dog. If you see no reaction from the dog when corrected, you will know it did not get through to him. Either be firmer or go to a harsher correction.

Corrections are most effective when given while the pup is IN THE ACT. The more the delay between the action and the correction, the less chance it has of working. This is one reason it is so important to supervise the pup. In order to enforce rules, you must know how to correct desirable behavior. Following are some methods of correcting:

Distraction Correction: This is a form of non-contact discipline used mainly with young puppies. When the pup is in the act of misbehaving (chewing, digging, etc..) clap your hands sharply or hit a table or wall making a sudden noise. At the same time, bark out a sharp “NO” or “AH!” This should distract the pup from whatever he’s doing, and you can redirect his activity from the beginning or later in the enforcement phase of training.
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**Scruff Shake:** This form of discipline is usually very effective with young puppies. It simulates the correction a mother dog would give an errant pup. Grasp the pup by the scruff of the neck, either putting one hand on either side of his head, or getting the loose skin on the back of his neck in one hand. Establish eye contact and give a couple of firm shakes as you say “NO”. The mildest form of this correction involves barely lifting the pup’s front feet off the floor as you shake. The harshest form is to lift his whole body off the floor as you shake.

**Collar Correction:** This is the form of correction most commonly used in obedience training. It consists of a sharp jerk on the collar. You will learn how and when to use this correction when you teach your dog obedience commands. This correction is very effective with dogs over three or four months old.

Many people want identification tags on the collar. This is indeed a good idea. Be sure the tags are attached to a BUCKLE type collar. In the case of a young puppy, the collar should be so tight he can’t pull out WHILE WORKING WITH HIM. Otherwise, it should be loosened to the point he CAN pull out of it if caught on something, but not so loose it dangles. For the purpose of giving collar corrections, the choke or slip collar is much more effective. However, this type of collar should NEVER be left on an unsupervised dog. The dangling ring can catch on things and strangle the dog. This is a TRAINING collar only!

**Leadership Guides:**

Another aspect of discipline the pup needs to be exposed to is “leadership discipline”. The following are some exercises and guides to use in everyday life to promote human leadership.

1. Gently roll the puppy over on his back. Hold him there for around 30 seconds. This is a position that many dominant dogs do not like. It is a submissive position. The puppy needs to learn at a very early age that every family member can roll him onto his back and hold him there, thus “dominating” him. NOTE: DO NOT DO THIS WITH AN OLDER DOG THAT THREATENS TO BITE OR BITES!

2. Insist that the puppy allow you to handle him all over. He must learn that you can look at this teeth, feel between his toes, look in his ears, or examine any body part you wish. During his life he will have to be brushed, groomed or medicated. The first few times you do this, you may distract the puppy with a food treat. Let him have the treat only if you successfully examine the chosen body part. If the pup persists in throwing a fit or wiggling, a scruff shake or collar correction may be in order.

3. Get the puppy on a grooming regimen.

4. If the puppy gets in the way, make him move. Do not walk around him. Gently shove him aside.

5. Let the pup know that you can handle his toys or his food bowl whenever you please.

6. Obedience train. The very act of teaching each exercise puts you in the leader position.

**Praise and Approval**

Praise and approval are equally important as discipline in developing a good relationship. Quiet time and petting sessions can be very satisfying. However, be sure that you control the situation. Some puppies learn to be very demanding of your attention. When you are done petting, say “Enough” and flatly refuse to pet any more.

When the pup does something you approve of, tell him. After a correction, praise him when doing an acceptable action. If you just used a distraction correction for chewing the table leg, praise when he has his chew bone in his mouth—even if you put it there.

**Rewards**

A reward is something given in return for something done. Think about it. If the dog is rewarded for doing nothing, why would he want to DO something? On the other hand, the dog needs more incentive than being made to “do it” just because you are “master” and he is a dog. In order to be effective, the reward must be meaningful to the dog. Your approval should be important to the dog. Because voice control is so very important, verbal praise is mandatory. Some dogs may need the extra motivation that food rewards will give.

The use of food is still somewhat controversial among dog trainers. It is not the intention of this article to advocate one method of training over another. Food treats are suggested for various purposes throughout this series. There are some suggested guidelines for giving rewards:

1. The dog must DO something before being rewarded (come when called, sit when told, “potty” outside, etc…)

2. The dog may need some encouragement when first learning something new. Quickly phase this out. The dog can become dependent on this constant encouragement if over-used.

3. Use a light, pleasant tone of voice when rewarding the dog. The voice tone should be different from that used in giving commands (low, firm), or reprimanding (lower, sharp “bark”), or your normal conversation tone.

4. Do not over-pet when praising. If you put the dog as part of the reward, only do it once or twice, making verbal praise the primary reward.

5. When using food rewards, use treats that are small, soft and appealing to the dog. Crunchy treats take too long to chew. You may use some the “jerky” dog treats, biscuits or chopped up hot dogs. Do not use his regular food as it isn’t “special” enough.

6. Don’t let the dog manipulate you for food. When he hears the bag rustle, he may go into a “routine”—soulful look, sit down or whatever has earned him a treat in the past. Make sure YOU give the command before giving the treat.

7. Hold the food in your hand with your palm down. He should only be able to get the food when you give it to him.

8. Teach the dog to take the food gently. If he grabs at it, say “Easy” in your “correction” tone of voice. Bump his nose with your knuckles (your hand is palm down). Be sure to keep the food low. If you hold it too high, the dog will keep jumping up. To be continued in the FelyMarc’18 issue!
MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year

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MoFed Newsletter

The holidays are upon us and soon after, the 2018 Legislative Session will start on the first Wednesday of January. MoFed will once again be at the capitol working to protect your rights as animal owners and enthusiasts.

Bills will have been pre-filed December 1st for the coming session. Although no hearings will be held until January, many legislators feel that the sooner their bills are filed and the lower numbers they are assigned, the greater chance they have for passage. We have not necessarily found that to be true, but in recent years the tradition has escalated until a large number of bills are ready for viewing before session begins.

Recently, members of the Missouri Farmers Care were invited to meet with Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft in his office in Jefferson City. Eight representatives of organizations were there, including Karen & Lewis Strange along with Barb York of MoFed, Mike Deering of the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association, Jo Manhart of the Missouri Egg Council and Leslie Holloway of Farm Bureau. Our discussions centered around the large number of ballot initiatives that continue to grow with each election cycle. So far, about 300 have been submitted to the Secretary of State’s office for 2018!

Not all will be approved, but many special interest groups (like HSUS) are using this method to circumvent the legislature. Spreading propaganda and spending millions of dollars to sway the public to vote in favor of such measures, these groups are spreading their agenda without public input or testimony to iron out problems in the language. Among other concerns, we discussed severability clauses which prevent the entire measure from being ruled unconstitutional if any part of it is challenged. (As yet, HSUS has not filed a ballot measure for 2018 in Missouri but we are watching one that has been concerning captive deer that we suspect HSUS will support). Secretary Ashcroft stated that his office would be forthcoming with several pieces of legislation for the 2018 session. They are currently working on language for the bills. We suggested all Congressional districts be required for signature gathering versus only major urban areas which is common practice now. We also discussed larger filing fees, more signatures required, easier language to enable the public to understand exactly what they are voting on and various other ideas.

Ballot initiatives were originally meant for the public to have their say when they feel the legislature is not enacting their concerns. Its purpose was not as a means for special interest groups, many of whom reside OUT OF STATE, to enact their agenda on the will of the people.

We pledged to help Secretary Ashcroft in his legislative efforts and will keep you informed on movement and necessary action on the bills.

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Who could say no to these faces??

Happy Holidays

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Protozoan Parasites

Protozoa are among the simplest unicellular (single-celled) members of the animal kingdom. They are microscopic organisms with internal structures that are referred to as organelles rather than organs (organs, as in mammals, being composed of cells, and organelles instead representing specialized portions of a single cell). There are organelles to carry out all of the vital functions of the protozoan, including respiration, excretion and locomotion. Many protozoa are free-living in the environment and most are beneficial. Only the parasitic protozoa which cause important diseases of domestic animals, are of great significance to veterinary medicine.

Parasitic protozoa that are not transmitted to a new host by means of an intermediate host often develop a cyst form, which results from the laying down of a wall around the entire organism. The cyst form enables the parasite to survive in an inhospitable environment (drying, variation in temperature, lack of oxygen or tissue juices of the host), until a suitable host arrives.

Reproduction in protozoa may be either asexual or sexual. The most common type of asexual reproduction is called binary fission, wherein an individual organism divides into two. Another type of asexual reproduction is called multiple fission, or schizogony. In this form, the nucleus of the organism divides several times before the remainder of the cell divides. The dividing cell is known as a schizont, or meront. The daughter cells are referred to as merozoites. Merozoites may also be formed by a process called endodyogeny, wherein two similar daughter cells are formed within the parent cell. Another form of asexual reproduction is known as budding, in which the cell divides into two unequal parts, the larger part being considered the parent and the smaller one the bud. Sexual reproduction by gametogamy or syngamy involves the formation of gametes (reproductive cells) which fuse to form a zygote. The zygote may or may not then divide by multiple fission to form a number of sporozoites.

Coccidia

The coccidian (singular: coccidium) are some of the most important parasites causing economic losses in domestic and wild animals. Fortunately, coccidian are not especially significant parasites of dogs. Coccidia generally are intracellular parasites and have complex life cycles. Both asexual and sexual reproduction may occur in the same host. In other instances, sexual reproduction occurs in one host (the definitive host) and sexual reproduction in another (intermediate host).

Of the protozoal diseases encountered in small animal practice, one of the more puzzling is intestinal coccidiosis. The most common coccidian infecting dogs are those belonging to the genus Isospora. Egg forms of the organism, known as oocysts, are generated in the intestinal tract of infected dogs and are easily demonstrated by fecal flotation. Coccidia may be associated with diarrhea, but can slo be found in the feces of dogs not exhibiting clinical signs.

Signs of coccidiosis are more common in puppies, particularly under conditions of overcrowding where an increased chance of infection exists through food or water contaminated with oocyst-laden feces. In such an environment, young animals may also be stressed and less capable of rapidly mounting a protective immune response.

The extent to which intestinal coccidian actually cause disease in dogs remains controversial, because attempts to reproduce the clinical signs experimentally have not been consistently successful. It is possible that the clinical syndrome attributed to “coccidiosis” might actually involve a synergism between coccidian and one or more other intestinal microorganisms. Nevertheless, this syndrome as it occurs in pups, whatever its cause, can be treated successfully with sulfa drugs and/or antiprotozoal medication, such as amprolium, and good nursing care. Treatment is indicated for clinically ill pups, although the benefit from sulfa drugs may actually result from suppression of secondary bacterial invasion of the damaged intestine rather than from any specific anticoccidial effect. Treatment of healthy puppies shedding occasional oocysts may not be necessary, except for very young pups or severely stressed individuals. Prevention of coccidiosis in kennels involves:

- Thorough sanitation, including fecal pickup and disposal
- Cleansing of the environment with a strong ammonium hydroxide solution (coccidian are resistant to many common disinfectants)
- Heat-treatment of surfaces with steam or a flame gun

Other coccidian (Sarcocystis, Hammonidia) can infect dogs on occasion, although disease associated with such infections tends to be quite limited. Dogs are the definitive hosts for these coccidian, while cattle, sheep, goats, swine or horses serve as intermediate hosts. Most infections in dogs are self-limiting.
Be sure your puppies are healthy and ready for their new families.

Your puppies will be life-long companions to their new families and you want to be sure they get a healthy start. Vaccination against infectious diseases is one of the most important ways to protect them.

The Solo-Jec® family of vaccines offers proven protection against multiple diseases.

Contact your supplier to order your Solo-Jec® vaccines and make sure your puppies get a healthy start.
although a mild diarrhea may occur. Infections usually arise when farm pets are fed raw meat or offal (waste parts from butchering) from livestock species raised on the farm. Nearly all livestock harbor modest numbers of Sarcocystis organisms in their tissues. Upon primary infection dogs fed tissues containing these organisms can contaminate pastures, stables or barnyards with vast numbers of oocysts or sporocysts shed in feces, leading to disease outbreak in the livestock. Control involves preventing dogs from eating raw meat and keeping them out of areas where livestock are fed or grain is stored.

**Toxoplasma**

*Toxoplasma gondii*, the causative agent of toxoplasmosis, is a protozoan parasite that infects a wide range of mammalian species, including human beings. Cats, both domestic and wild, are the definitive host for *Toxoplasma gondii*. They can acquire the infection by ingesting any of the three infective stages of the parasite:

1. tissue cysts (containing bradyzoites), usually acquired by ingesting infected prey animals or other raw meat
2. oocysts shed in feces (present in contaminated soil or water)
3. tachyzoites (actively dividing forms present in the tissues of infected prey or other raw meat)

The ingested parasites invade cells of the small intestine and undergo cycles of asexual and sexual reproduction. Oocysts are formed in 3 to 10 days and are generally shed for approximately 1 to 2 weeks. Some of the parasites may invade extraintestinal organs and undergo development as described below for intermediate hosts. Clinical signs of toxoplasmosis only rarely develop in cats. However, enteritis, ulceration, pneumonia and neurological and ocular signs have been reported.

In dogs and other intermediate hosts, a generalized infection may be established as the parasites travel through the body and invade tissue cells. On entering a host cell the parasites multiply by endodyogeny, forming 8 to 16 banana-shaped tachyzoite forms per cell. In most cases the host’s immune response during this acute phase limits the invasiveness of the tachyzoites. Cysts containing bradyzoites (a dormant form of the parasite) develop in the tissues. The slowly growing bradyzoite cysts usually remain in a latent stage. If immunity is severely suppressed, however, the bradyzoites may become invasive.

Clinical toxoplasmosis is only rarely observed in dogs. When it occurs, signs can include dyspnea (difficulty breathing), fever, coughing, neurological dysfunction, gastrointestinal disturbances and sudden death. Diagnosis is made on the basis of rising antibody levels or by identification of the parasite in body tissues.

There is no completely satisfactory treatment for clinical toxoplasmosis. Sulfadiazine and pyrimethamine are the two drugs most widely used for therapy. They are most effective during the acute stage when the parasites are rapidly multiplying.

**Neospora Caninum**

This is a recently identified protozoan that is very similar in appearance to *Toxoplasma gondii*. Tissue stages (i.e., bradyzoite cysts and tachyzoites) have been identified in dogs; however, oocysts have not been discovered and the life cycle of the organism has yet to be determined. The only documented route of natural transmission is transplacental; that is, from the bitch to her offspring in the uterus.

Clinical signs are related primarily to the nervous and musculoskeletal systems, with encephalomyelitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord), paresis (partial paralysis), paralysis, dysphagia (difficult or painful swallowing), myositis (muscle inflammation), stiffness, and/or muscle atrophy being observed in affected dogs. Clinical signs are usually more dramatic in puppies than in adults. Signs develop at 3 to 6 weeks of age and usually involve limping or favoring of the limbs. Several pups in a litter may be affected. Unlike toxoplasmosis, successive litters of an infected bitch may have affected pups. Many infected dogs, particularly adults, may exhibit no clinical signs. Currently it is unknown whether signs developing in dogs are caused by reactivation of an infection acquired before birth or a recently acquired infection.

The prevalence of *N. caninum* infections has not been documented; however, the incidence of the disease appears to be low. At the present time diagnosis is difficult, owing to the scarcity of widely available diagnostic tests. An indirect fluorescent antibody test using *N. caninum* tachyzoites has been described for detecting specific antibodies. Rising antibody levels in paired serum samples probably are indicative of a recent infection. However, more information about the immune response to this parasite is required to determine the appropriate use of such a test for the diagnosis of clinical illness.

Disease caused by *N. caninum* is progressive and frequently fatal. There is no proven effective therapy for dogs with severe paralysis. However, dogs with early signs of limb weakness may be treated with a combination of trimethoprim, sulfadiazine and pyrimethamine.

**Giardia**

Giardia are found in many vertebrate hosts. Although many species of *Giardia* have been named based on the host in which they are found, there may really be far fewer species, each having a wide host range. *Giardia* infections are usually acquired by ingestion of the cyst form of the parasite. Motile feeding forms called trophozoites reproduce in the small intestine by means of binary fission. The trophozoite is the pathogenic stage of the organism and attaches to surface cells, primarily in the small intestine, by means of a cup-shaped “sucker” located on the underside of the parasite. Cysts eventually are formed in the intestine and are passed out, along with some trophozoites, in the feces.

In dogs, *Giardia* appears to cause a mild enteritis and a chronic or intermittent diarrhea, particularly in pups. The type of stools in which both trophozoites and cysts may be found are often loose, light-colored, and occasionally contain mucus. Mild to severe diarrhea may also occur in
human beings infected with Giardia. To date it is still unclear whether the species of Giardia infecting dogs can also infect people; hence the zoonotic potential of this parasite remains a controversial issue. Water-borne epidemics of giardiasis have been attributed to contamination of drinking water with cysts from the feces of infected wild animals (e.g., beavers), domestic animals or human beings.

Diagnosis is confirmed by identification of trophozoites or cysts in feces. A direct smear of fresh feces should be examined to identify the motile trophozoites, whereas a fecal flotation should be performed to recover cysts. Because cysts are shed more commonly than trophozoites in the feces of dogs with giardiasis, fecal flotation is the preferred diagnostic technique. Giardia-specific fluorescent antibody or enzyme immunoassay tests are also used in some laboratories for diagnosis. It should always be kept in mind that the presence of a few Giardia cysts does not necessarily indicate that the organism is the primary cause of the disease under consideration. Many dogs are symptomatic carriers. Treatment involves administration of a course of antiprotozoal medication, usually metronidazole.

Recent studies indicate that an anthelmintic medication, albendazole, may be a safer and more effective alternative to metronidazole for the treatment of giardiasis. To be continued....!

By E. Stein

Little ears as soft as silk,
Little teeth as white as milk,
Little noses cool and pink,
Little eyes that blink and blink,
Little bodies round and fat,
Little hearts that pit-a-pat,
Surely prettier puppies never
Were before nor can be ever!
Dogs for All Reasons

Although many beasts have served humanity throughout time, only one serves by choice. Only one animal is willing to forsake its own kind and follow us. Dogs have always been and remain “man’s best friend” –and mankind, occasionally is dog’s.

Cynologists and archeologists have found evidence of the canine/human relationship existing almost as early as the species of Homo sapiens. Dogs served the hunter, the shepherd and the warrior. They were guardians of the home, beasts of burden and companions on the long journey of life. Dogs have long fed human need, their souls—even their bellies. Although few civilizations now incorporate dogs in their menus, dogs still assist their masters in all the ancient ways and in many new ones. How did this relationship come to exist between people and dogs? What caused the development of so many diverse breeds?

The answer to this special bond can best be explained by studying the wolf. Wolves are the most social of all mammals: cooperating in the hunt, mating for life, sharing in puppy care, playing with and teaching their young. The dog has a built-in capacity to love and serve his “pack” or family. Cynologist John McLoughlin, in his history of dogs, The Canine Clan, A New Look at Man’s Best Friend, summed up the phenomenon best when he said, “The dog can love us, not because we are so lovable, but because their wild wolf ancestors had such a mighty devotion for one another.”

Each breed, each individual dog is valued by someone or by a group of people. It serves a purpose, even if its destination is “only” to stave off loneliness. Oft-quoted legends portray this special relationship:

God summoned a beast from the field and He said,
“Behold man, created in my image. Therefore, adore him.
You shall protect him in the wilderness, shepherd his flocks,
Watch over his children, accompany him wherever he may go,
Even unto civilization. You shall be his ally, his slave and his companion.
To do these things, I endow you with these instincts
Uncommon to other beasts: faithfulness, devotion,
And understanding surpassing those of man himself.
Lest it impair your loyalty, you shall be blind to the faults of man.
Lest it impair your understanding, you are denied the power of words.
Let no fault of language cleave an accord beyond that of man with
Any other beast or even man with man.
Speak to your master only with your mind and through honest eyes.
Walk by his side, sleep in his doorway, forage for him, ward off his enemies,
Carry his burdens, share his afflictions,
Love him and comfort him.
And in return for this, man will fulfill your needs and wants
Which shall be only food, shelter and affection.
So be silent, and be a friend to man.
Guide him through the perils along the way to the land that I have promised him.
This shall be your destiny and your immortality.”
So spake the Lord.
And the dog heard and was content.
***
At the creation of the world, an earthquake carved a huge chasm, leaving man on one side and animals on the other. Man called to the beasts for companionship. As the dog saw man on the other side alone, he paced up and down the great divide, whining. When man called, “Come!”, the dog leaped, narrowly missing and barely hanging onto the edge. Man leaned over and pulled him to safety, and thus began the closest relationship between man and beast.

***
Bible lore credits the dogs with Noah as using their noses to plug the holes which sprang in the Ark. This is why their noses are so cold!

***
A Spanish legend says the Three Wise Men were each accompanied by a dog to welcome the Christ Child. These dogs were Cubillon, Melampo and Lubino, and it is said that any dog that bears one of these names if blessed. Dog & Man, by Sloan and Farquar

Continued on page 28
Even though I don’t raise Mini Aussies anymore, this is a photo of one of mine who was born Oct. 2013. The family moved but I send Birthday Cards each year to stay in touch with each of my puppies. So they had a little boy in 2015 and this is a photo of their 2 year old child with “Mae” the Mini Aussie and their other little dog. This is what Jenny told me when she sent the photo. Mae is doing great. She has a big back yard to run around in and lots of pup friends in the neighborhood. She has a little brother now too! His name is Wilbur and he just turned 2 last week. Wilbur LOVES Mae! You’ll probably appreciate this... we found out in December that our son has type 1 diabetes. We are fairly sure that Mae can sense when his blood sugar is dropping. She gets very anxious and unsettled when he has a tough low. It’s nice knowing we have a sweet girl helping us look out for our little guy. I caught them looking under the shed for a bunny the other day, it was really sweet.

Thanks, Harriett
Although the early relatives of dogs and humans were certainly less sentimental than the foregoing legends, the human-dog relationship was the first of all the beasts. When families lived in caves, it is certain canine types were utilized—as scavengers and for hunting; as playmates for the cavekids and for warming cold toes; probably even on the cave menu.

Eventually the relationship grew closer and the dog prototype was looked on as a friend, rather than just a means to a comfy life. A parallel history exists between *Homo sapiens* and the dog. When society was pastoral, flock dogs were developed. When hunters needed assistance, sporting breeds answered the call. When civilizations moved to war, mighty dogs accompanied them, and the diversification of the breeds began.

Many anthropologists believe that the “thinking human” first developed in the area somewhere between northern India and northern Iran. This is also the geographical location that is believed to be the site of the oldest domesticated canines. From this background, it is possible to imagine either a single or twofold origin for the dog and to envision how the animal changed and spread throughout the world. Human's first success at domestication was the dog. For centuries, the pattern persisted—primitive hunters and their dogs stalked and cut animals out of wild herds, sharing the bounty.

The first domesticated dog probably performed mainly as a herder. The herding progenitor retained many characteristics of the wolf: small, upright ears; foxy (wedge-shaped) faces; a stand-off coat; and the square, athletic body built for endurance rather than speed. The neotanous (infantile) trait of the curled tail was purposely selected, along with the infantile temperament, i.e., more trusting and companionable than the adult wolf.

Geologists have found cave drawings and other proof of close association occurring during the Stone Age—50,000 years ago. In the U.S., remains of dogs (dating to 9,000 years ago) were discovered in the Jaguar Cave, situated in the Beaverhead Mountains of east-central Idaho. Bones of two classes were found: one a small Beagle size, and another closer to the size of a modern-day retriever. Other burial sites in late Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements, circa 600 BC in Denmark, and lake settlements of Switzerland and Austria have disclosed the remains of sheepdogs, hunting dogs and miniature dogs. Artwork that depicted dogs was used to decorate stoneware, pottery and paintings from early Egypt, Assyria and Greece, as early as 3200 BC. Canine paw prints appear in a clay brick Ur (ca. 2100 BC).

In Neolithic times, the Finno-Ugrian peoples first migrated from Tibet westward into Europe, then north to populate the great northern plains. They became Lapps, Samoyeds and other northern tribes. Later still, these nomads crossed the land bridge to populate the North and South American continents. With them, to all points of the world, came dogs of northern type, selected and molded for a variety of tasks.

Meanwhile, civilized Tibetans were selecting dogs for other traits. Smaller and shaggier dogs were used for herding. Others—larger and eventually, giant—were selected for guardian chores. These became the stem breeds of the eastern herding dogs, as well as the fount of flock guards and mastiffs. As migrations moved west into Europe and east to the Orient, these varieties moved with them—still retaining the tail curled over the back.

As civilization traveled south into the warm Fertile Crescent, it became more efficient to have a smaller and smoother coated pariah type dog. Within native populations of pariahs in the Middle East, a natural variation occurred and still exists: from the large flock-guard type, to the medium husky size and the collie type, and the svelte racing variety. This pattern indicates that these tendencies traveled with them from other parts of the world.

Nature influenced the development of breed types—when the dog lived in a cold climate, he grew a thick, warm coat. When he ran the hot desert sands, tufts of hair protected his feet. His owner, too, helped to dictate his transformation. Breeders selectively bred for larger, faster, stronger, tinier—leaner or meaner.

Taxes and other impositions dictated canine fashion. In parts of the world, long-tailed dogs were taxed, and it became more economical to own a dog with a short stump or none at all. When genes didn't cooperate by transmuting this expensive appendage into short stubs, many a dog lost his tail to the knife—or even to teeth. For a fee, the whelps were nipped by the town's tail-biting “specialist”.

Dogs of nobility were pampered pets, or favored hunting companions, that enjoyed luxuries most of the populace could not imagine. The dogs of the poor, however, endured suffering and existed mainly to help their masters put food in their mouths or to ease their workloads. The nobility further protected their advantages with cruel laws designed to prevent a royal hare stewing in a pheasant's pot. The poor paid dearly for the luxury of their poverty, and so did their dogs. To prevent poaching by the commoners, their dogs' knee tendons were cut, so they could not run down a hare or deer on royal land. Expeditation, cutting of the toes from one foot, accomplished the same purpose. The “dog gauge”, a ring of 7 inches x 5 inches, through which the dog must fit to escape mutilation, separated the fortunate toed from those who would soon be de-toed.

It's a miracle dogs (or their masters) survived to modern times! Treatments for various diseases (human and canine) called for mixtures of ox dung and vinegar; quicksilver, brimstone, nettlefeed and sewet; new pressed wine or egg white in the ear; a nail or needle to pull out worms. These methods were prescribed to cure everything from infertility or rabies to acne. To the pharaohs in Egypt, the dog was a symbol of fidelity and a guardian. Anubis, the Egyptian god of death, who enfolded the dying in his arms, had the body of a man and the head of a dog. Even the Dog Star, Sirius, heralded the overflow of the Nile, and the shepherds moved their flocks to higher levels when the guardian star appeared.
Since these times, and even earlier, a wide variety of sizes and types bred true. The definition of a breed is “a race of animals from the same stock, kind or sort.” The individual breeds recognized by the various world registries have bred true for many generations. Registry organizations, such as the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI), American Kennel Club (AKC), Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), The Kennel Club of Great Britain (TKC), and United Kennel Club (UKC), and those of various countries throughout the world, demand that newly recognized breeds be purebred and that their owner’s maintain stud books which list matings prior to the time of application for recognition. Many of these dogs boast pedigrees fancier than their masters’ family trees. Pedigree is derived from the French Pied de Grue, meaning foot of the crane.

In Roman times, however, before pedigrees or registrations became important, the earliest listing classified dogs as House, Shepherd, Sporting, Pugnacious or War, Dogs Which Ran by Scent and Swift Dogs which Ran On Sight. The first breed “catalog” was attributed to Juliana Barnes (Berners), the prioress of Sopwell nunnery, in the 1486 Boke of St. Albans: “Greyhound, Bastard, Mengrell, Mastif, Lemor, Raches, Kenettrys, Terroures, Butcher’s Houndes, Dunghill Dogges, Tryndeltaylles, Pryscheryd Currys and Small Ladies Poppees That Bere Awaye The Flees.” These translate into our current sighthounds, mongrels, mastiffs, Bloodhounds, Beagles, Bulldogs, terriers, long-tailed shepherd dogs, pariahs and toys of today—all of which still occasionally “bere flies”.

While the “Small Ladies Poppees” and the hounds of the hunt enjoyed sumptuous quarters, foods cooked especially for them, and personal servants, the dogs of the underclass scratched for their existence. No wonder certain breeds carry themselves with regal bearing, while others are scrappy, feisty and independent. Dog expert Edward C. Ash noted: “The dog of well-educated people somehow or other collects some of their education, habits and manners, and the dog of a man who lives by his wits appears verily to vie with his master, behaving with the greatest cunning, sometimes with more wisdom than its biped companion.”

Throughout time, individuals have shown their bond to dogs even unto death. Egyptian masters mourned the loss of their pets by shaving all the hair of their heads and bodies. They erected tombs in miniature for their beloved pets, and even fitted their dogs with golden masks, similar to those placed on esteemed personages. The Toltec Indians felt the most perfect, unselfish love was that of a dog for its master. When its owner died, the pet was buried with the master. The selfless beast’s devotion carried through life unto death, when the dog interceded with the god of death, relating the master’s good deeds. Some cultures fitted deceased dogs with glass eyes so they could see in the afterworld.

The largest funeral for a dog was hosted by Emporer Norton I of the U.S., Protector of Mexico. Ten thousand people mourned the death of the Emperor’s mongrel, “Lazaras”. Concern of masters for their pets in the afterlife has been chronicled by anthropologists who have found evidence of cave dwellers, and later Indians, and their dogs buried together. In the ruins of Pompeii were the remains of an elderly person. Cradled in the skeletal hand was a pet dog, comforting and being comforted to the fiery end. A dog cemetery from 700 BC has been unearthed in Israel. All the skeletons appear to be of sighthound type.

Even today, true dog lovers take it upon themselves to ensure their pet a peaceful departure from life and arrange a burial of memorial of their companions. Pet cemeteries and cremations are common, as are the accoutrements of death: caskets, stone markers and memorial donations. In some societies, the bond was so strong that dogs were actually chosen over humans. The Fulgian Indian Dog, which guarded the camp and aided in hunting otters and birds, was crucial to the tribe’s welfare. The oldest women were assigned to care for these dogs. When food was scarce, these women would be cannibalized, but never the dogs. A tribesman was quoted, “Dogs catch otters…old women are good for nothing.”

In more modern times, however, the odds leaned to the humans. Wars were hard on dogs, as well as people. Breeds suffered decimation, some to extinction, others to minimal numbers. People were occupied with keeping themselves alive, rather than concerned with breeding purebred dogs or even feeding them. Later, with care and nurturing, several endangered breeds again flourished. By the year 1989, there were over 400 dog breeds recognized by the FCI. Those that are unknown in the U.S. are often termed “rare breeds,” which some are, indeed. Others are common-place in their homeland, but still relatively unheard of in some areas of the world. The popularity of many lesser known breeds is increasing in their native lands and in the United States today.

From the Encyclopedia of Dogs
THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
DOG BREEDING

Planning a litter of puppies? Margaret V. Root Kustritz, DVM, PhD, DACT, professor of small animal reproduction at the University of Minnesota, answers frequently asked questions from breeders preparing to breed that promising next litter.
1. **WHAT’S A NORMAL HEAT CYCLE?**
   Bitches should have an obvious heat cycle by 24 months of age. Although bitches vary in the frequency of their heat cycles, an average female goes through heat about every seven months. A bitch is not considered abnormal unless she has not had an obvious heat cycle for one year.

2. **IS IT OK TO BREED A BITCH IN BACK-TO-BACK HEAT SEASONS?**
   That depends on how many puppies she whelped the first season and how well she maintained her body condition during pregnancy, whelping and lactation. If she had several puppies and was thin by the time they were weaned, she probably cannot regain normal body condition before she is in heat again and thus should not be bred. If she had few puppies at the first breeding and is in excellent body condition, she potentially could be bred again. Every circumstance and every bitch should be evaluated individually.

3. **WHAT SHOULD YOU FEED A PREGNANT BITCH?**
   A growth or performance food is best to feed a pregnant bitch because they are nutrient dense and thus require less food to sustain her increasing energy needs. Particularly later in the pregnancy when her uterus takes up much of the space of the abdomen, she may have trouble eating a significant amount of food. At whelping, a bitch should weigh 5 to 10 percent more than before breeding. Try to avoid obesity as it is associated with difficulty whelping, increased birth defects in neonates and stillbirths. Likewise, a thin body condition can cause conception failure, abortion and low-weight pups.

4. **WHY SHOULD PUPPIES NURSE IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH?**
   Puppies cannot make their own antibodies at birth so it is important that they receive their dam’s first milk, colostrum, which is rich in disease-protecting antibodies. Puppies can absorb these antibodies from their intestinal tract for only about the first 24 hours of life. Don’t be concerned if your bitch does not nurse until all the puppies are born. This is common behavior that generally causes no risk to puppies.

5. **WHAT CAUSES SMALL LITTERS?**
   The most likely culprit is breeding at the wrong time. The optimal breeding day for litter size is two days post-ovulation, as determined by your veterinarian based on progesterone measurements. Other possible causes of small litters are hypothyroidism, uterine infection and advanced age of the bitch.

6. **WAS THE RUNT CONCEIVED LATER THAN HIS LITTERMATES?**
   Probably not. Runt puppies most likely are the same age as their littermates but had poor placentation. Bitches release all their eggs over a 24-hour span. Even if the conception of that small pup occurred later than conception of the other puppies, all pups float around free for 17 days before implantation and formation of the placenta.
I am for animal welfare and welfare only. Ten years ago, the line between rescues and breeders was very clear. That line has since been blurred creating “black-market and retail rescues”. The year of 2016 has had as many, if not more, animal cruelty seizures from “black-market rescues” verses breeder “puppy mills”. I personally have witnessed so much unnecessary animal neglect and abuse due to the lack of any proper care guidelines in a state and have decided to present “The Companion Animal Welfare Act” and Rules in which I had to change to Companion Animal Minimal Care Act and rules (attached).

This is America, and we have the right to choose a healthy pet, from either a Reputable rescue or a Professional breeder without the fear of unknowingly funding animal abuse or neglect and/or that one or the other is falsely representing itself or others. Both Professional breeders and Reputable rescues are in the legal business of placing companion animals with individuals requiring some type of monetary compensation. Not every breed of animal is suitable for everybody, nor is everybody suitable to care for every “rescue” animal. Both are needed for their purpose, neither is better than the other and not all are “bad”. When animals are cared for properly with the adequate food, vet care and the housing they need, there is minimal profit from either a sale or adoption fee.

Currently, various states either do not have any regulations or have irrational one-sided regulations designed for the “breeders are the only bad guy” mindset. These types of regulations are uneducated, emotionally based and blindly allows the abuse and neglect of companion animals by permitting “black-market rescues” (legal puppy mill) and “retail rescues” (illegal broker) to prosper. Professional breeders are being publicly criminalized by the Humane Society of the United States media and other similar organizations; causing our society to be deceivingly convinced that only the care of an animal from anyone called a rescue is “right” and any care from someone called a breeder is “wrong”. This ideology has many people claiming to be the only savior of a companion animal; by calling themselves a “rescue” and nobody questions their legitimacy.

While cruelly praying on society’s emotions and tainting the true Reputable rescues image: The “black-market rescues” misrepresent the possession and/or condition of an animal to acquire “donations” via Go Fund Me sites; are providing extremely substandard living conditions while denying the gained “donations” for adequate food or any medical attention to the animals they are exploiting; and are breeding animals for the higher “adoption fee” valued offspring. The “retail rescues” are obtaining a “re-homing fee” for the animals they purchase with “fund raising” money; are transporting dogs/cats (even at 5wks old) in horrific conditions without food, water or cleanup for hours/days in non-air conditioned vehicles; and are illegally transporting across State lines (including Mexico) without valid health certificates, proof of rabies, proper vaccinations or quarantine procedures; causing the rampant spread of parvo, distemper and other diseases. Both of these “rescue” types are currently being permitted by your state without any consequences or accountability.

Without any inspections, guidelines or requirements regarding adequate care, anyone, may become an idolized “rescue” by meeting the following requirements: (Google It.)

- Pick a name (something cute).
- Take minutes (3 friends out to dinner).
- Do not promote breeding (doesn’t say you can’t, just tell others not to).
- Find animals a new home (when you sell/"adopt" an animal, it has a new home).
- Obtain volunteers (free help).
- Do fundraising (free money).
- Find fosterers (free care from others).
- Request discounted or free services and goods (vets, groomers, donations, food).
- File for tax exempt or 501 (c) 3 status (tax free money) (have you ever asked for proof of obtaining?).
- Obtain grants to start your "rescue" (more free money).

Without question you will receive society’s halo for claiming to “save” animals, collect tax free money from “adoption fees” and “donations” and any neglectful care you provide is praised for “being the best you can afford to do”. Can you see the appeal to unscrupulous people? Monetary gain is monetary gain, just as, neglect and abuse is neglect and abuse. Think about it.
My agenda is not to hinder or criminalize neither the Professional breeder nor the true Reputable rescue; but for society to realize that by embracing the current mindset of only the animals of a Professional cat/dog breeder are entitled to proper care, you are failing to protect the companion animals within a “rescue”. As a society, we are condoning animal abuse when we refuse to educate ourselves about their basic needs; fail to accept the fact that they are animals; and impose our own personal “warm and fuzzy” ideals upon them. Sadly, the animals are the ones that suffer needlessly; as most improper care is a direct result of ignorance and not malicious intent. Many of us have only seen the misguided visuals of “wrong” animal housing and care that is promoted by the HSUS, without personally viewing (in use) or experiencing the “right” way. As a result, we have an idea about what type of care and housing we do not want, while we struggle to find the right words for what the animals really need.

The sole purpose of this proposed legislation is to offer all states a set of prewritten, in detail, affordable and fair guidelines for proper animal care for both breeders and rescues. “The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act” and Rules describes what is and what is not acceptable housing, exercise and proper care; is based on USDA regulations and factual animal behavior; is void of human emotions or personal opinions; has reasonable exemptions for the small breeders, Reputable rescues and working/sporting animals; gives everyone (including authorities) the ability to prove or disprove a complaint of abuse and/or neglect; and protects the public with a “lemon” law while holding all Professional and Hobby breeders, Pet stores and Reputable rescues with accountability.

“The Companion Animal Minimal Care Act” and Rules explicitly addresses the following common problems with comprehensive solutions and consequences: complaints from consumers from receiving misrepresented or ill animals; complaints of abuse and/or neglect without a true definition and relying on someone’s opinion; illegal importation; improper transportation; improper care; improper housing; improper public display; slander and libel towards both enterprises; chronic false reporting; lack of validated revenue to the states obtained from the companion animal industry; and others with a black and white course of action should ill doing arise.

All companion animals deserve to be treated humanely. Therefore, anyone who receives any type of compensation (adoption fee, sale) from more than 20 companion animals in a year, should be held to a higher standard, and be mandated to follow all The Companion Animal Minimal Care Rules. Regardless of the number or location, all companion animals deserve at least the defined basics of proper care. After all, a dog is a dog and a cat is a cat. Anyone who is unable or refuses to provide the basics correctly should not be allowed to continue participating in the companion animal industry, period. Those who would yell the loudest has the most to hide.

With these simple problem solving regulations in play, your State and society will be able to end their frustration by empowering themselves with the knowledge of what is “correct”. A license should only be given to those who will abide by these regulations and not tolerate any form of defined abuse and/or neglect from those who do not. I have recommended this Act be placed within “Consumer Affairs”. Without having to fund the enforcing, your state can take the acquired license fees, leave them in each county to train and pay either the local sheriff or existing animal control officers to be the inspectors. A $30 application fee will cover the printing and processing of the application and rules. Even though the majority of Professional breeders and Reputable rescues already meet or exceed these proposed regulations, I recommend that everybody is given one full year to comply. I have already spent $10,000 getting this printed and sent to all of your state representatives, house, senate, state vet, etc.. You, as a society, need to speak up and for the animal’s sake and get this law passed as to make a level playing field for our precious pets.

Visual aids are included to help clarify the stark difference between the right and wrong animal housing.

An acknowledgment of receiving and reading this summary, with your personal opinion, would be greatly appreciated. If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

savemeplease2017@yahoo.com

See a preview of the proposed Companion Animal Minimal Care Act in the next few pages of the Spotlight.

to be continued!
ARE YOU SUPPORTING ANIMAL NEGLECT AND ABUSE?

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO EDUCATE SOCIETY REGARDING:

- HOW THE LINE BETWEEN BREEDERS AND RESCUES HAS BEEN BLURRED
- THE DIFFERENCE OF CARE BEING PROVIDED AT A LICENSED REGULATED "COMMERCIAL" FACILITY VERSUS AN UNREGULATED SUBSTANDARD FACILITY
- HOW REPEATING THE DEROGATORY TERM "PUPPY MILL" INSTEAD OF ADDRESSING ALL ANIMAL WELFARE HAS LED US TO SUPPORT ANIMAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT.
- HOW ONLY REGULATIONS THAT ARE ENFORCED WILL PROTECT ALL COMPANION ANIMALS FROM IMPROPER CARE BY ALL PET REPRESENTATIVES (BREEDERS AND RESCUES)

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Do you know the difference between Animal Rights Versus Animal Welfare?

Animal Welfare, as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association, is a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling and when necessary, humane euthanasia. [http://realanimalwelfare.com/animal-rights-vs-animal-welfare/](http://realanimalwelfare.com/animal-rights-vs-animal-welfare/)

1. **Animal Welfare Activists** want to improve the treatment and well-being of animals working with humans and in the wild.

2. **Animal Welfare Activists** believe that humans can interact with animals in entertainment, industry, sport and recreation. However, this interaction should be regulated.

3. **Animal Welfare Groups** use scientific evidence and information to base their animal care and handling guidelines.

Animal Rights is an ideology that animals have the same rights as humans.

1. **Animal Rights Activists** believe that humans do not have the right to use animals at all.

2. **Animal Rights Activists** support laws and regulations that would prohibit pet stores, kennels, breeders, rodeos, horse racing, circuses, hunting, life-saving medical research using animals, raising of livestock for food, petting zoos, marine parks, and any use of animals for industry, entertainment, sport or recreation. [http://www.pet-law.com/what-is-animal-rights](http://www.pet-law.com/what-is-animal-rights)

3. **Animal Rights Activist** believe that violence, misinformation and publicity stunts are valid uses of funding donated to their tax-exempt organizations for the purpose of helping animals. Vandalism and assault are common tactics used by Animal Rights Groups and Activists.
Did you know
The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is a nonprofit Animal Rights Organization and is **NOT** affiliated with the United States Government?

HSUS states: Many of the AWA’s requirements are vague and USDA kennels are only inspected every 2-3 yrs.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal%20Care%20Blue%20Book%20-%202013%20-%20Final.pdf HSUS voice their concerns that the AWA may be substandard.

**Did you know the USDA’S Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations were, in fact, written by licensed veterinarians?** All USDA licensees are subject to random, unannounced INSPECTIONS at least once a year.

There are several requirements that could be difficult to understand. However, when a USDA inspector comes for an INSPECTION, they are very quick to CLARIFY them for you. This is the very reason 50% of all AWA citations or violations ARE from miscommunication.

The **Companion Animal Minimal Care Act** offers a set of written, affordable and fair guidelines for proper animal care for both BREEDERS and RESCUES. It addresses all aspects of animal WELFARE being provided for companion animals, and:

- Is based on factual animal behavior and uses 80% of USDA AWA regulations
- Describes what is and is **not** acceptable housing, shelter, space, exercise and adequate care
- Is void of human emotions or personal OPINIONS
- Has reasonable exemptions for the small BREEDERS, RESCUES and working/sporting animals
- Gives everyone (including authorities) the tools to prove or disprove a complaint of CRUELTY and/or NEGLECT
- Protects the public with a “LEMON” law while holding ALL Professional and Hobby BREEDERS, Pet stores and Reputable RESCUES accountable

This legislation addresses HSUS’s concerns and clarifies any part of the AWA that is/was considered vague, to prevent future misunderstandings.
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Feb 17th, 2018-February Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.  
Mar 3rd, 2018-March Consignment Dog Auction @ Wheaton, MO.  

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