Happy 4th of July!

- Tick Disease Research & Prevention
- Preventive Dental Care for Dogs
- Industry News
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The peak of tick season has arrived. Although there is no way to know the number of dogs infected annually by tick bites, the spread of ticks and tick-borne diseases is increasing and thus is a growing threat to dogs and people. Since 2016, the AKC (American Kennel Club) Canine Health Foundation has sponsored the Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative (https://bit.ly/2LSITkW) to address tick-borne diseases in dogs. Research is underway to learn how to accurately diagnose tick diseases and better understand the prevalence of chronic infections and co-infections, which occur when ticks carry and spread more than one disease agent through a tick bite. Here is a snapshot of two studies and an update on their findings.

LYME DISEASE CONTINUES TO SPREAD

The most common tick-transmitted disease in the U.S., Lyme disease (borreliosis) is considered an important infectious disease. From 1996 to 2016, the number of counties in the U.S. in which the tick species that transmit *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, were established doubled to 45 percent of all counties.

A study led by Jason Stull, VMD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at The Ohio State University and the University of Prince Edward Island, hopes to better understand disease prevalence, clinical illness and the prognosis of canine Lyme disease. A challenging disease to diagnose, Lyme disease often is not recognized until two to six months after a dog is bitten, though an infected tick can transmit Lyme disease only after 24 hours of attachment.

The majority of dogs that test positive for Lyme disease never get sick and the results of a blood test alone do not indicate whether a dog has Lyme disease and treatment is needed. This research involves studying patients seen at veterinary clinics that test...
positive for *B. burgdorferi* at three- and six-month intervals. One goal is to learn whether antibiotic treatment is recommended for healthy dogs with a positive Lyme antibody test and no signs of disease.

“Thus far, we have found about 11 percent of dogs test positive for *B. burgdorferi*, which is about what we expected,” Dr. Stull says. “A high proportion — about 18 percent — of dogs that tested positive for *B. burgdorferi* also tested positive for *Anaplasma*, another tick-borne pathogen that can cause disease in dogs. This is higher than we expected. We want to investigate if co-infection with multiple pathogens results in a greater chance for clinical signs or more severe disease for dogs.”

**HOW TICKS FIND DOGS**

Ever wonder what attracts ticks to dogs? Emma Weeks, PhD, assistant research scientist at the University of Florida, is studying how brown dog ticks locate dogs to get a blood meal. The most widely distributed tick in the world, and the most common in the U.S., the brown dog tick carries pathogens that cause debilitating diseases such as ehrlichiosis and babesiosis.

These ticks are drawn to a blend of volatile chemicals that dogs naturally produce. The research team used electrophysiological techniques to identify the chemicals in dog odor and then tested 10 ticks against each of five dog breed samples plus a mixed-breed sample, producing consistent responses in the tick’s nose. They are now testing the chemicals in an olfactometer, and once determined, will test the most attractive chemicals in a tick trap.

Both of these studies, along with others in the Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative portfolio, focus on a long-term goal of contributing to effective preventive and treatment strategies to help dogs everywhere. In the meantime, to help keep dogs safe from the risk of tick-borne diseases be sure to use tick preventives, screen annually for an infection, and practice head-to-tail body checks after being outdoors.
Summer Pet Poisons...from our friends at Pet Poison Helpline

Summer is finally here, and with that comes a myriad of fun outdoor activities along with home and garden projects. While summer is meant for relaxing at the lake with friends picnicking, watching fireworks, and cleaning up and readying yards and gardens for the upcoming growing season, it’s potentially fraught with toxic exposure to your pets! Summertime brings new opportunities for potential pet exposures to harmful and dangerous substances. Outside pets should be confined to a safe area or supervised at all times. Bottle, bags, and other containers should be tightly closed and locked away in the garage or basement.

During the summer months, Pet Poison Helpline is inundated with calls involving yard and garden products (including bone meal, fertilizers, and insecticides), mulch and compost pile ingestions, and exposures to outdoor plants and mushrooms. As with all poisonings, early recognition and decontamination are key to a successful outcome. Here is some basic information for you to know about when dealing with these exposures.

Salt Water Toxicity

While it’s probably not at the top of your toxin lists, salt water is a dangerous poison, particularly if you take your dog to the beach! If your dog loves to play on the ocean beach, heed caution. Dogs don’t realize that salt water is dangerous, and excessive intake can result in severe hypernatremia, or salt poisoning. While initial signs of hypernatremia include vomiting and diarrhea, salt poisoning can progress quickly to neurologic signs like walking drunk, seizures, progressive depression, and ultimately, severe brain swelling. Help avoid the problem by carrying a fresh bottle of tap water and offering it to your dog frequently while he’s frolicking on the beach.

Slug and Snail Baits

Slug and snail baits are commonly used on the West coast and in warm-weather conditions, and are available in a variety of forms (pellets, granular, powder, and liquid). The active ingredient is typically metaldehyde, which is toxic to all species (particularly dogs). When ingested, metaldehyde results in clinical signs that resulted in the nickname “shake and bake.” Within 1 to 2 hours of ingestion, clinical signs of salivation, restlessness, vomiting, and incoordination are seen, which then progress to tremors, seizures, and secondary severe hyperthermia. Generally, the prognosis is favorable if treatment is quickly and aggressively implemented.

Mole and Gopher Bait

Surprisingly, most veterinary professionals aren’t very familiar with mole and gopher baits, which typically contain zinc phosphide. Other types may contain bromethalin. Neither of these active ingredients have an antidote and both can result in rapidly developing, life-threatening symptoms. Zinc phosphide is often manufactured in a poisoned “peanut” form but can also be found in a pelleted or powdered form. When zinc phosphide combines with gastric acid, it results in rapid phosphine gas formation within the stomach. This toxin is made worse by the presence of food in the stomach, so make sure acutely poisoned pets aren’t fed anything when this toxicity occurs! This gas causes severe gastrointestinal inflammation, abdominal distension, and cardiovascular insufficiency (similar to symptoms of a GDV or bloat). Pulmonary congestion and edema may also occur. Clinical signs develop rapidly within 15 minutes to several hours and include vomiting, salivation, abdominal discomfort, bloating, depression, labored breathing, tremors, and weakness. Once clinical signs have developed, the prognosis is guarded.

A word of caution to veterinary staff: second hand phosphine gas exposure can result in significant health risks to healthcare providers working in unventilated areas. By the time the phosphine gas odor has been recognized (which smells like rotten fish and garlic), there has already been significant exposure to staff. So, whenever inducing emesis in a patient with this toxicity, do so in a well ventilated, outdoor area, and contact Pet Poison Helpline for more information on treatment. (855) 764-7661 PetPoisonhelpline.org
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Building a Dog Kennel: How to Create the Ideal Kennel Environment

Building a dog kennel takes planning. From the temperature and humidity to lighting, waste removal and water quality, dog kennel plans that are well thought out will help keep dogs healthier and happier.

**Temperature Inside a Kennel**

The temperature should be carefully controlled inside the kennel. Using a room thermometer or weather station is very important. An additional thermometer should be used on the surface of each whelping bed and nursery.

Temperatures between 65°F and 70°F are adequate for adult and young dogs. In the whelping areas and nursery, the room temperature can be between 70°F and 75°F. However, the surface temperature where the pups are should be at 90°F the first week, dropping the temperature 5°F a week until they are at 70°F. The use of a whelping nest to heat the pups from underneath and keep mom from overheating is the best solution. There are electric, propane and circulating hot water options available.

For premature, at-risk, sick, or failure-to-thrive pups, additional heat with oxygen can be life-saving. Puppywarmer has an incubator and oxygen concentrator designed for these pups. The investment will pay for itself many times over in pups saved.

**Humidity Inside a Kennel**

The use of a weather station, available at local hardware stores, is very important to managing humidity in the kennel. The ideal humidity for newborn pups is 55 percent humidity +/- 10 percent. For adult and young dogs, 40 to 60 percent humidity is ideal.

**Waste Removal**

Both urine, which emits the odor of ammonia, and stools or fecal material can produce odors and fumes. Not only is a kennel that smells good appealing for you and your team to work in, it is more pleasant for the dogs and leaves visitors with a good impression. A kennel that is well-designed to be easy to let dogs in and out and easy to clean will save you money, time and work in the long run. Good control of waste will also reduce exposure of the dogs to parasites.

Ventilation is critically important to maintain correct temperatures, humidity and control odors and irritants. Consulting with a builder or ventilation specialist is recommended if designing a new building or if you are having difficulties with odors, fumes, or infectious diseases.

**Kennel Lighting**

Dogs’ heat cycles are day-length dependent. This is why most females cycle in the spring and fall. If you are struggling with females not cycling every six months, you may want to evaluate the amount of light your dogs are exposed to. Allowing them to spend more time outdoors or adjusting the lights in the kennel to allow 14 hours of simulated daylight a day may improve their cycles.

**Water Quality**

Water is the most important nutrient in your dogs’ diets. Annual testing of the water in your kennel, home, and well is recommended. Water samples should be taken from multiple sources for testing - hoses, hose bibs, and faucets in the home and kennel, and the well. Your local county or county extension agent can help you with testing. Ask for coliforms and nitrates testing.

It’s also important to remember that the social relationships between the dogs in the kennel can interfere with heat cycles, mating behaviors, and appropriate mothering behaviors. Observation, direct or with closed circuit cameras can help understand if you need to adjust how your dogs are housed, exercised or fed.

For more advice on how to create the ideal kennel environment, call a Revival Pet Care Pro at 800.786.4751.

-Marty Greer, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Benjamin Franklin

Think of how much healthier your animals would be if you prevented health problems instead of treating them. That’s working smarter, not harder and it’s the stuff geniuses are made of.

Learn more at RevivalAnimal.com/Prevention
Petland tops 600 in teacher grants

Petland stores across the country have provided more than 600 Pets in the Classroom grants to teachers through the Pet Care Trust since inception of the program.

The program allows for teachers to apply online for a classroom pet and choose their preferred location. They receive a coupon that provides them with a pet, a starter kit and a discount for supplies during the school year. Many Petland stores also offer an in-school visit to talk to the students about their new pet.

“It has been so fun to watch my students flock to the guinea pigs — they are eager to take them home, clean up after them, play with them, and feed them. My sixth graders have stepped up to the responsibility handed them with the guinea pigs,” wrote one teacher. “The things that students share with me while holding a guinea pig is just amazing – the guinea pigs really help them open up.”

Petland has long believed in the importance of the human animal bond. Learning about, caring for and handling animals helps teach social skills, responsibility and compassion in children. And, there are documented health and therapeutic benefits to spending time with pets.

“Petland stores across the country dedicate time to visiting nursing homes and schools with various pets and we are constantly amazed and grateful at the difference a few pet snuggles can make in a person’s life.”

Petland stores in Canada have also begun participating in the program and have already awarded more than 30 grants.

$4K raised for Heartland

Petland Charities is pleased to announce the results of its November fundraising campaign, which raised $4,000 for Heartland Canines for Veterans, a 501c3 organization that provides service and therapy dogs for disabled veterans.

In 2015, Petland, Inc. committed to supporting the cost of one dog per year for five years. The average cost to raise and train each service dog is $7,200. In November, in an effort to provide additional support, Petland stores initiated a ‘Round Up at the Register’ campaign for Heartland and raised $4,000.
Thank You

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.
Coat Care: Preventing Matted Hair

WHY IS HAIR OR FUR IMPORTANT TO DOG HEALTH AND WELL-BEING?

It protects the skin from chemicals, bacteria, and physical injury.

It also helps regulate body temperature:
- Coat glossiness reflects sunlight to aid in cooling.
- It also acts as a barrier to block wind, rain, and snow to aid in warming.
- Color, length, and density can help retain or dissipate heat.

WHY IS HAIR OR FUR IMPORTANT TO DOG HEALTH AND WELL-BEING?

In order for the coat to be healthy and protect the dog, it's important to keep it clean and free of mats.

DID YOU KNOW?
Mats are commonly found under the collar, behind the ears, and in the armpits—areas where there is rubbing.

MATTED HAIR MAY:
- be painful
- cause skin irritation
- hide foreign bodies, such as ingrown collars
- hide tumors, injuries, or other skin disease
- trap foreign material such as leaves, twigs, mud, urine, or feces
- interfere with vision, hearing, and chewing
- interfere with urination and defecation
- interfere with normal movement
- interfere with temperature regulation, both cooling and warming

How Do I Keep My Dog’s Coat Healthy and Mat-Free?

It’s best to prevent mats by regular brushing and grooming. The frequency of brushing, whether daily or weekly, is going to vary by breed, type, and length of hair.

When mats occur, they can be removed by shaving with clippers or cutting with scissors even if the dog is not due to be groomed.

Don’t Forget Feet and Ears!
These areas mat easily and can trap moisture that may lead to skin infections. Removing hair from the top and under the ear flap and the bottom of the feet in between the paw pads is the best way to prevent problems.

PRACTICAL TIP
Clippers get hot with use and may burn the skin. Try using a clipper cooling product or alternating between two pairs of clippers. Scissors can cut the skin as well as the mat. Try using blunt-tipped (bandage) scissors.
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Is Benadryl Safe for Your Dogs? From AKC.org

The temptation to reach into our medicine cabinets to treat our pets can be very dangerous. Humans and dogs react very differently to medications, which is why veterinarians caution dog owners against making independent decisions about how to medicate their animals. However, some human medications are safe for use with dogs, as long as they are used appropriately.

Veterinarians use Benadryl for dogs on a regular basis to treat allergies, travel anxiety and motion sickness. While you should always consult with your veterinarian before giving your dog a human medication, here is what you need to know about using Benadryl for dogs.

What is Benadryl?

Benadryl is the brand name for the active ingredient diphenhydramine HCL. Diphenhydramine is a first-generation ethanolamine-derivative antihistamine, which is the scientific way of classifying antihistamines that can cross the blood-brain barrier from those that cannot. The ability to cross the blood-brain barrier makes them very effective, but also increases the risk of adverse effects when compared to less effective second-generation antihistamines. While Benadryl is not yet FDA-approved for veterinary use, it is considered safe for use in dogs and cats and is commonly used in veterinary practices across the U.S.

How does Benadryl work?

Diphenhydramine is a receptor antagonist, which means that the drug works by blocking the receptors that receive histamines in the body. This relieves many of the symptoms associated with allergies, like itching, sneezing and hives. The body still produces histamines, but the receptor antagonist blocks the receptors from registering the histamines. It is a bit like the mail-person trying to deliver mail to an already full mailbox. The letter arrives, but there is no room for it.

What does Benadryl treat in dogs?

Benadryl is a great medication for use in dogs with mild to moderate allergies. Seasonal allergies, food allergies, environmental allergies and allergic reactions to snake and insect bites all respond to Benadryl in most cases. Benadryl is commonly used to treat itchiness in dogs caused by skin allergies, and it also reduces many of the other symptoms of allergies including:

* Itching
* Hives
* Swelling and inflammation
* Redness
* Runny nose and eyes
* Coughing
* Sneezing
* Anaphylactic reaction

One of the side effects of Benadryl is drowsiness, which helps to calm anxious dogs. The Merck Veterinary Manual states that diphenhydramine may relieve symptoms of mild to moderate anxiety in pets associated with travel. It also may help relieve motion sickness during car rides and plane rides.

Veterinarians prescribe Benadryl for dogs with mast cell tumors to help mitigate the effects of the massive histamine release caused by mast cell degranulation. Benadryl is also used as adjunct therapy for other conditions. Veterinarians sometimes prescribe diphenhydramine during heartworm treatment, as it helps prevent allergic reactions associated with heartworm treatment therapy.

Benadryl makes an excellent addition to your pet emergency kit. If you don’t’ already have a pet emergency kit or pet travel kit, consider putting one together today.

When to Ask your Vet about Benadryl for Dogs

Before you reach for the Benadryl, consult your veterinarian about your dog’s symptoms. Allergy symptoms like itching and red eyes are also signs of more serious conditions. In some cases, like glaucoma, giving your dog Benadryl can actually worsen your dog’s condition. Red, goopy eyes could be a symptom of allergies, or it could also be a sign of an eye disease like glaucoma or dry eye, which Benadryl will not help treat. Similarly, itching is frequently associated with both allergies and other skin conditions. As Benadryl is ineffective for treating certain skin diseases, it is always a good idea to consult with your veterinarian to make sure you are doing the best thing for your dog’s health.

Your vet may recommend you bring your dog in for a checkup. If you choose not to bring your dog in against your vet’s advice, or if you administer Benadryl without first consulting vet, be sure to keep a close eye on your dog and call your vet if your pet’s condition worsens. (continued on page 18)
Great Reasons to Register Your Litter with the AKC

Need more reasons? AKC does more for dogs than any other registry.
Canine health research • Pet disaster relief • Lost dog recovery

- Access to Breeder Education through the AKC Canine College
  - AKC Marketplace puppy listings
    - Bred with H.E.A.R.T. breeder discounts on AKC products and services, marketing support and more
  - AKC sponsored health testing clinics for breeding stock
  - AKC Puppy Protection Package Registration Sales Program
  - Free pedigree research and breeding stock registration
Side Effects of Benadryl

There are side effects associated with using Benadryl for dogs that all dog owners should be aware of. Just like people check with their doctors before taking a new medication, you should always check with your veterinarian before introducing Benadryl to see if it has any potential drug interactions with your dog’s other medications, or if it could worsen a preexisting condition. If your dog has any of the following conditions, only use Benadryl after consulting your veterinarian:

- Angle closure glaucoma
- Prostatic hypertrophy
- Bladder neck obstruction
- Seizure disorders
- Hypertension
- Allergic lung disease
- Pregnancy

Common side effects associated with using Benadryl for dogs include:

- Sedation
- Dry Mouth
- Urinary retention
- Hypersalivation
- Increased heart rate
- Rapid breathing

Rare side effects:

- Diarrhea
- Decreased appetite
- Increased appetite

Most side effects occur within the first hour of exposure, so monitor your dog carefully during this time.

Benadryl overdose

It is possible to overdose on Benadryl. Signs of an overdose include hyper-excitability of the central nervous system (CNS) and can be fatal. Other warning signs to watch for are:

- Rapid heartbeat
- Dilated pupils
- Agitation
- Constipation
- Seizures

If you suspect your dog has overdosed on Benadryl, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinary hospital immediately. Some dogs develop an allergic reaction to Benadryl. If your dog starts having symptoms of an allergic reaction, seek veterinary care immediately. As Benadryl for dogs is often used to treat allergies, keep an eye on your dog after giving Bendadryl for the first time to make sure that the allergy symptoms don’t worsen.

Dosage of Benadryl of Dogs

The best way to determine the correct Benadryl dosage for dogs is to consult your veterinarian. The Merck Veterinary Manual recommends administering 2-4mg of Benadryl per kilogram of body weight, two to three times a day. However, this dosage can vary depending on your dog’s existing medical conditions.

Never use time-release capsules for dogs, as capsules are absorbed differently in dogs than in humans and may affect your dog’s dosage. They may also break open when chewed and deliver too much medication at one time, putting your dog at risk of an overdose. If you choose to use a liquid Benadryl, it is safer to use a children’s liquid formula, as most do not contain alcohol (although they do contain sodium). Children’s Benadryl pills or tablets can also be used to dose very small dogs. Dosage for liquid Benadryl is different than the dosage for Benadryl pills. Consult your veterinarian for the appropriate dosage, and use a syringe to increase measurement accuracy and ease of administration. Benadryl typically takes 30 minutes to start working, so plan accordingly if you plan on using it to treat anxiety or mild motion sickness. For dogs with chronic allergies or conditions that require daily doses, consult your veterinarian about the appropriate dosage, as it may change over time.

Always consult your veterinarian before giving Benadryl to pregnant or nursing dogs, since the drug is not recommended for use in these animals.
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Canine Periodontal Disease (PD)

WHAT IS PD?
Inflammation of tissues and bone that surround and support the teeth due to a bacterial infection. PD is sometimes referred to as dental disease.

HOW DOES PD DEVELOP?
When food and bacteria collect along the gumline, plaque forms that eventually hardens into tartar. Tartar irritates the gums, causing inflammation called gingivitis. If left untreated, the tartar builds up under the gum line, resulting in PD. Dogs may experience pain, infection, abscesses, and tooth loss as the disease becomes more severe.

DOES YOUR DOG HAVE PD?
The earliest and most common sign is bad breath. The following signs may indicate your dog has advanced PD:

- Excessive drooling, licking
- Repeated pawing or rubbing of face and mouth
- Swelling of the face
- Difficulty chewing
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Aggression, head shyness (moving away) when attempting to look in the mouth

If you see any of these signs, consult with your veterinarian for treatment options.

PD Causes Significant Health and Welfare Problems
More than 80% of dogs over 2 years of age have PD

Increased risk of:
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Heart disease

May increase the risk of:
- Premature birth, low birth weight, increased infant mortality, small litters
- Bleeding gums
- Tooth loss
- Pain

RISK FACTORS:
Certain characteristics of the dog increase the risk of PD.

- BREED SIZE
  In general, the smaller the dog, the higher the risk.

- AGE
  The older the dog, the more likely it is to have some degree of PD.

- MUZZLE LENGTH
  Short-muzzled breeds may be at increased risk due to overcrowding of the teeth.

- BREED
  Certain breeds, such as Greyhounds, are known to be at increased risk.

Questions? Email us at CenterforAnimalWelfare@aphis.usda.gov

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to provide information about PD in dogs. For more information, refer to the other topics covered in the series (“Monitoring PD in Dogs” and “Preventive Care for PD in Dogs”).

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Credit: Dog illustration at upper right created by Cristiano Zoucas from the Noun Project.
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Preventive Care for Periodontal Disease (PD) in Dogs

More than 80% of dogs over the age of 2 years have some degree of PD. Preventive care and treatment aims to slow the progression of the disease.

COMMON PREVENTIVE CARE OPTIONS

Outlined below are examples of types of preventive care that caretakers can use between dental cleanings at the veterinary clinic.

BRUSHING

**PROS**
- The “gold standard”
- Most effective method
- Inexpensive

**CONS**
- Requires training of the dog to accept it
- Time-consuming—may not be practical with a large number of dogs

PRACTICAL TIP
For best results, combine two or more types of preventive care.

CHEW ITEMS

**PROS**
- Effective when used consistently, such as daily
- Provides enrichment to the dog

**CONS**
- Risk of broken teeth
- Risk of gastrointestinal obstruction
- Some products are expensive

DENTAL DIETS

**PROS**
- The abrasives in the kibble work to clean the teeth
- Size and hardness increase chewing
- Effective when fed as main diet

**CONS**
- May be too hard or large for toy breeds
- Not nutritionally complete for pregnant or lactating dogs

DID YOU KNOW?
Anesthesia-Free Dentistry (i.e., hand-scaling, scraping tartar off teeth) does NOT slow or prevent PD. In fact, it may increase the risk and severity of PD:
- Removes tooth enamel, leaving a rough surface for bacteria to grow and tartar to build up quickly
- Does not allow for cleaning under the gum line
- Very likely to be painful and stressful to the dog
- Increases the risk of bites or injuries to the caretaker

RINSE or GELS (containing chlorhexidine)

**PROS**
- Effective when used consistently, such as daily

**CONS**
- Must apply directly to the gums
- Tastes bad
- Hasn’t been shown to be effective when added to water
- May not be safe during pregnancy

FOR MORE INFORMATION
American Veterinary Dental College, www.avdc.org

Remember:
PREVENTIVE CARE aims to slow the development of PD by removing the plaque and tartar from the teeth BUT does not replace the need for regular veterinary exams and professional veterinary dental cleanings under anesthesia.

We encourage dog owners to consult with their veterinarian to develop the best plan for their dogs.

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to provide information about PD in dogs. Identifying and treating problems early is the best way to maintain your dogs’ health. For more information, refer to the other topics covered in the series (“Monitoring PD in Dogs” and “Canine PD”).
MINTY FRESH FREEZIES

This treat is a great breath freshener for your pooch since it contains parsley and mint. These herby-licious ingredients also have many other surprising health benefits, too. Parsley aids digestion, can reduce inflammation and is even thought to have cancer preventing properties. Mint is a powerful antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral herb that will help prevent bacteria developing in your dog’s mouth. Whoever said treats had to be naughty?

Ingredients:
- 1 cup of plain or Greek yogurt
- Small handful of fresh parsley leaves
- Small handful of fresh mint leaves

Method:
1. Scoop your yogurt into a blender and add your parsley and mint leaves.
2. Blend until the herbs are evenly spread throughout the mixture. At this point you can add a splash of water if you want to thin out your mixture to create a better pouring consistency.
3. Fill your ice cube trays to the brim and pop them in the freezer.
4. Freeze until solid and serve.

Can you give a dog Greek yogurt?
Greek yogurt is safe and healthy for your dog to enjoy unless they’re lactose intolerant. It’s higher in protein than regular yogurts and has probiotic qualities. With modest but regular doses it can improve your dog’s digestion and strengthen their immune system. But as it’s a dairy product and dog’s can sometimes be intolerant to dairy, it may still upset your dog’s tummy. Feed in small quantities and note any signs of stomach upset. If it doesn’t agree with your pooch, you may need to stick to non-yogurt summer treats. But don’t worry, you’ll still have plenty of other options.
Some News from our Friends at Humanewatch.org......

20 Dogs Die in ASPCA’s Care

Recently, news broke that 20 dogs died in the care of the ASPCA during a long-haul transport from Mississippi to Wisconsin. Although ASPCA is currently investigating what exactly happened, there are no real details about the incident other than it wasn’t the result of a crash. But if it wasn’t the result of a crash, then it surely sounds preventable. The ASPCA raises over $200 million a year. If it’s going to transport animals 1,000 miles by truck—a stressful experience—then it had better go above and beyond to make sure the animals thrive.

Also, had it not been the ASPCA whose animals died in transport, but rather a farmer or dog breeder, animal activists would be screaming bloody murder. Will PETA be calling for a roadside memorial to honor these victims of the ASPCA? We doubt it.

The source of the story was apparently an internal ASPCA email that was leaked to the press. We’ll be curious if the ASPCA releases any public details about the incident. That will go a long way to determining if the organization is transparent and regretful, or prefers the incident get swept under the carpet.

Why Does Best Friends Animal Society Own Two Planes?

We’ve written plenty about the D-rated Humane Society of the United States, which wastes donor money by the millions—shortchanging the very animals it claims to represent. Readers are wondering: Is Best Friends Animal Society any better? We decided to take a look into its finances. In general, Best Friends spends money better than HSUS or the (C-rated) ASPCA. But there are several items of concern in its most recent (2016-17) tax return:

Best Friends admits on its tax return that it owns two private planes, which are used to charter air travel for its employees. Why do nonprofit employees need private planes? Best Friends says it also uses the planes for animal rescue, but doesn’t include an accounting of how much airtime is used for rescue versus ferrying around its executives and other staffers.

Nepotism appears alive and well at Best Friends. Its tax return shows six employees who are related to board members or executives. BFAS employs the board chair’s wife, son, and daughter in law. The total compensation for these individuals is close to $600,000.

This also creates conflicts of interest. For instance, Best Friends’ then-CDMO Julie Castle was married to the board chair/CEO Gregory Castle. Julie Castle has since been elevated to CEO, and her husband is still on the board. Since she reports to the board, there’s an obvious conflict. Additionally, some board members receive significant compensation. Board chair Francis Battista received about $150,000 in compensation, but it’s not clear that he had any employee role at the organization. The National Council of Nonprofits states: “Charities should generally not compensate persons for service on the board of directors except to reimburse direct expenses of such service.”

Several fundraising campaigns cost (in aggregate) about $600,000—yet did not raise a single penny for Best Friends. Of the $91 million BFAS spent, about half was spent on salaries, benefits, and pension plans.

Best Friends is based in Kanab, Utah—the middle of nowhere, and extremely isolated. That choice seems to be on purpose—and here is where the Best Friends story really gets weird.

Before Best Friends Animal Society decided to structure itself as a charity, the organization was known as The Process Church. The organization was started in the 60’s by two London-based Scientologists who were excommunicated by L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology’s founder. After being excommunicated, they gathered members throughout London and went on a 10-year journey building a cultish church. They set up additional locations in Germany, Mexico, and all over the United States. They even set up a magazine that once published an essay by Charles Manson in an issue titled Death. The original church members even had matching outfits, sporting all black capes and turtlenecks paired with shiny silver crosses.

A rift led to a split in the organization, with some starting the Foundation Church of the Millennium. The new iteration of this organization cleaned up its act, removing references of Satan and instead focused on the second coming of Jesus.

Several decades later in 1993, the group decided to ditch the references to being a spiritual community entirely. The remaining Foundation Church members reorganized themselves as Best Friends Animal Sanctuary (later changing Sanctuary to Society). Today, Best Friends runs a shelter in Utah and promotes the “no kill” philosophy, and has been critical of PETA killing pets—all good things.

But the structure of the organization raises lots of questions, and its positions can be extreme. For instance, Best Friends states it will never partner with zoos. Why not? Many zoos do a tremendous amount for the conservation of animals. Blind opposition to working with others is a sign of radical ideology, not intelligent policy. We generally recommend people support their local shelter. After taking a hard look at Best Friends, that’s still good advice.

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Some news from PIJAC.org....The Pet Care Industry

The pet care industry is booming, as people around the world — especially millennials — blur the line between human child and animal.

In 2018, pet care was a $225 billion business in North America, according to data from market research firm Edge by Ascential. By 2023, the firm expects that figure to rise to $281 billion.

Big brands are eager to cash in on the humanization of pets. Petco is opening kitchens in stores, where people can buy meals prepared by chefs for their pets. Walmart is adding vet clinics to 100 stores. And, Purina is getting into the lifestyle brand space, with a new line of Pioneer Woman-branded pet treats.

"Millennials are bringing pets into their household earlier than the previous generation. They kind of delay marriage, but those pets fill that void in their life," Ryan Gass, Purina Treats' senior brand manager, told Business Insider.

Ree Drummond, a rancher from Oklahoma and television host of "The Pioneer Woman," was quoted as stating that while it's not practical to have a 'Louis Vuitton' dog carrier in the midwest, in the city, the lines would become even more blurred between human child and canine child.

"I think the common thread is that dogs make us feel and pets make us feel," Drummond said. "I think we live in a more stressful world than ever. So, we do rely on that comfort and reassurance."

The industry is churning out trendier and higher-quality products. According to data analytics firm GFK, more than 4,500 new pet-food products — the majority of them premium options — were introduced in 2017, a 45% increase from the prior year. There seems to be a more 'pet humanization' trend which means a bigger focus on health and wellness.

The Pioneer Woman-branded Purina treats fit the bill, with recipes inspired by the meals Drummond cooks for her family and friends.

On Another Note......

Many people know about the challenges that can sometimes arise with blended families, but on a smaller scale, what about people who come into a relationship or marriage with pets?

A recent survey conducted by Pet Life Today tried to find some answers. The survey polled 1,000 participants who are currently in a relationship with a pet owner, and it asked a variety of questions.

Here were some notable results:

- Asked if they would break up with their partner if they were asked to give up their pet, 69.5% of respondents said yes.
- Of those who responded, 40% who like their partner's pet are more likely to be satisfied with their relationship than those who dislike their partner's pet.
- In terms of liking the pets their partners bring to the relationship, 96% of men and 94% of women said they liked them.
- On the subject of intimacy, 39% of dog owners and 31.3% of cat owners said their pets are never in the bedroom with them when they are having sex. In addition, 30.7% of dog owners and 25.8% of cat owners say a pet ruined sexual intimacy between partners.
- Asked whether they felt in competition with their partner's pet, 90% of respondents said they did indeed feel in competition with their partner's pet for attention (22.4%), affection (18.8%), love (17%), time (15.2%), care (12.8%), appreciation (5.2%) and money (5.2%).

Are you scratching your head? Would you break up with someone over a pet? Hmmm.....
MoFed Message to Breeders On Puppy Spot & American Humane Association Inspections

Important Message, Please Read.

Dear MoFed Members,

We have had a number of inquiries from our member pet providers concerning an announcement they received this week from a company who is planning to partner with the AHA (American Humane Association) for third party inspections of breeder facilities who sell puppies to this company.

We are being asked our opinions about the AHA as well as allowing third party inspections. While AHA is not as radical as HSUS and some others, we do consider them “animal rights lite”. On their website, they state that “we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.” Their various programs for cattle farmers and other animal owners we consider beyond realistic in their certification programs.

We do not tell providers what they can and cannot do. We state the facts and let animal owners decide for themselves concerning their businesses. However, we do have major concerns, some of which are listed below:

- Allowing third party inspections by private or not-for-profit organizations is a slippery slope toward allowing others to request the same. Should AHA be allowed to do third party inspections in Missouri, how long will it be before HSUS, ASPCA and others claim that the precedence has been set and they want to partner with a business or a state or federal government to do the same? MoFed has stopped numerous attempts by animal rights groups to do inspections of kennels. Several attempts were made to amend legislation for such by HSUS during the 2019 Legislative Session alone, which we have stopped thus far.

- Pet stores strive to please the public who want puppies. But rather than educating the public about the legal, state and/or USDA licensed breeders and the requirements for licensure, they seem to bow to the propaganda put forth by animal rights groups. Rather than educating the public further about the pet provider industry, pet stores demand that breeders do more and more improvements to comply, which costs the breeders. When is enough, enough? For many years, breeders have been told that if they are licensed by USDA and state officials, it would set them apart as professionals meeting the standards put forth by the government. Many breeders are also inspected by their registry of choice as well as distributors and pet stores with whom they do business. Now they are being told by this particular company that they need additional “third party” inspections to be certified as this will please the buying public? Where does it stop? When are pet stores going to defend the industry to the buying public? Are they bowing to propaganda put forth by animal rights activists and constantly requiring more from the breeders while exempting themselves from many regulations?

- Will the business partnering with the AHA require the same certification from unlicensed breeders from whom they purchase puppies? If not, why are there two sets of standards?

- Who will write the rules and regulations in order for a breeder to be certified?

- Will certification by the AHA be in addition to or in conflict with state and federal laws? If a certification inspector sees something, he or she believes does not meet the standards for the program, will they contact law enforcement on a compliant basis?

The following is taken from the American Humane Association website defining their certification inspectors: Certified Animal Safety Representatives working for American Humane’s Film & TV Unit must have an extensive background in animal-related work. Some Safety Reps are vets or have been veterinary technicians, some have worked at shelters or as animal trainers, and other are experienced as zookeepers. Many hold advanced degrees in animal behavioral sciences, and several Safety Reps are also certified as Humane Officers and Investigators in their own communities, where they respond to any situation in which an animal needs help. Safety Reps may have species-specific expertise or may be generalists with knowledge of an array of animals. But one thing they all have in common is a strong foundation upon which they can build their careers as on-set safety monitors for American Humane.

Many questions remain, and again, MoFed does not profess to tell our members and associates how to conduct their businesses. However, we question the far reaching implications of where certification by third parties may lead in the future. As a political lobbying organization, we have worked for many years to prevent groups such as HSUS, ASPCA and others from being allowed to conduct inspections of kennels in the state of Missouri. This legislative session alone, numerous attempts have been made by animal rights groups to gain access to facilities to inspect, either with or without search warrants. We have killed each and every attempt. They will continue to push and so will we.

We are very concerned that such certification requirements by any business purchasing puppies from Missouri breeders will set a precedence for future third party requests and demands.

What can you do? If you do business with the company who notified you of the partnership they are establishing with the American Humane Association and do not wish to participate or have questions, we advise you to contact the company directly to voice your concerns. The decision will then be yours. Just remember, what you agree to now may affect the entire industry in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of MoFed
Karen Strange, President
kkeeper@gmail.com
Follow Up Message from MoFed
April 10, 2019

MoFed Message Regarding PuppySpot & American Humane!!

Dear MoFed Members & Associates,

Tuesday evening, April 9, 2019, Barb and I were invited to be on a conference call with Jack Hubbard, Chief Operating Officer of American Humane Association, Josh Kreinberg, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel of PuppySpot, and Kerry Rod, Vice President Public Affairs of PuppySpot to address the concerns MoFed and breeders have concerning a new collaboration between American Humane and PuppySpot.

The conversation began with Mr. Hubbard who explained the work AH does in Hollywood to ensure the safety of animals in film and their work in farm, zoo and aquarium certification programs. Most importantly he communicated their support for the responsible use and enjoyment of animals while other organizations seek to eliminate the use and enjoyment of animals entirely. We asked numerous questions and expressed our concerns as it became abundantly clear that Mr. Hubbard is very supportive and appreciative of our industry as he sincerely expressed his support for the responsible raising and stewardship of dogs. After all, he stated, he has enjoyed purebred dogs in his own life.

Mr. Kreinberg went on to explain PuppySpot’s strong support of the pet industry and by working with AH, intends to further enhance and advance the industry by touting the excellence of the work breeders do in supplying happy, healthy puppies that are in high demand by the buying public. All existing AH certification programs are voluntary and distinguish those entities that are certified as having high standards and practices. We made it abundantly clear that we would NOT support an inspection process with enforcement. It was explained to us in depth that a certification process would be just that - an extra verification that breeders are doing a good job.

Barb and I made it very clear that we in no way support animal rights nor do we support anyone entering our properties with hidden agendas. We also heavily stressed that there are individuals connected with certain animal rights groups that we would not grant permission to enter our properties! Both AH and PuppySpot were adamant that the screening process of anyone involved in the certification process would be heavily screened, background checked and tested at length to ensure they were not in any way linked to animal rights groups. We also stated that we want breeders to have input in the establishment of the certification process as their vast knowledge and experience would be a valuable asset in what is best for animals in their care.

All in all, the conversation went very well. We look forward to being a part of the process that is in the very beginning stages. We want breeders to have a major role in where they want their industry to go and to express their concerns as well as ideas to protect and promote pet production and sales. We want certification to be the mark of a job well done.

Staying engaged and part of the process we believe will benefit all as we pair to promote our industry while joining forces against our shared enemies.

The certification program being considered is not mandatory nor is anyone required to participate. Rest assured that we will continue to monitor and participate to do our utmost to protect the pet industry against our foes while working together to promote the excellence of the industry for a bright and profitable future for all.

Sincerely,

Karen Strange, President MoFed
BILLS AIM TO MAKE BIG CHANGES TO THE HORSE INDUSTRY

The Horse Protection Amendment Act – H.R. 1157 – Amends the Horse Protection Act

Background – Horse Protection Act
The Horse Protection Act was passed in 1970 and outlawed the sale, transport, showing or auction of a horse that has been sored. This led to nearly a 95% compliance rate within the industry, which is overseen by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inspectors and Horse Industry Organization inspectors.

Support for The Horse Protection Amendment Act
Protect The Harvest joins the American Farm Bureau, the Performance Show Horse Association and those involved with the Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horse and Racking Horse breeds in support of H.R. 1157, also known as the Horse Protection Amendment Act. This bill was written by Representative Scott DesJarlais (R-TN) and reintroduced this year. The bill would create a single Horse Industry Organization (HIO) that would be responsible for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA).

The Horse Protection Amendments Act would make these changes to the Horse Protection Act:
- Create a single Horse Industry Organization to oversee compliance with HPA
- The HIO would be governed by a board consisting of two individuals appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture of Tennessee and two individuals appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture of Kentucky. These four board members would in turn appoint two representatives from the walking horse industry in consultation with the Walking Horse Trainers Association. These six board members would then appoint three additional board members.
- The bill directs the HIO to use ‘objective inspections’ when inspecting animals for soring tactics. These ‘objective inspections include swabbing or blood testing protocols. These science-based protocols must:
  - have been the subject of testing and are capable of producing scientifically reliable, reproducible results;
  - have been subjected to peer review; and
  - have received acceptance in the veterinary or other applicable scientific community.
- The Horse Protection Act would be enforced by the Horse Industry Organization

Moving Away from the PAST Act – Legislation Proposed by Lawmaker With HSUS Ties
The PAST Act, otherwise known as the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, was originally introduced in 2013 by Rep. Ed Whitfield with direct involvement from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), where Whitfield’s wife was employed. The PAST Act intends to add further restrictions to the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. It seeks to ban pads, weighted shoes and actions devices. It is important to note that there is no scientific evidence proving these devices harm the horses.

The PAST Act was reintroduced this year during the 116th Congress as S. 1007 and was sponsored by Sens. Mike Crapo and Mark Warner. Both senators were honored at the “Congressional Humane Awards” hosted by the Humane Society of the United States. The PAST Act – S.1007 aims “To amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act and for other purposes.” Essentially, it is trying to create stricter enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and increase the fines associated with penalties.

As we mentioned above, Protect The Harvest supports the Horse Protection Amendment Act instead due to its common-sense approach to maintaining animal welfare standards and plan to utilize scientific protocols to ensure compliance.

Implications of the PAST Act on the Performance Horse Industry
The PAST Act aims to further regulate an industry that already has animal welfare standards that are both clear and enforced. Major horse show organizations have rules and guidelines to dictate the care and handling of horses involved in their respective disciplines; As animal rights organizations continue to push for a world with no human animal interaction, regulating performance animals out of existence is a key part of that plan. Animal welfare is and should be the highest priority at any event; however, Protect The Harvest also believes that preserving our ability to own and enjoy those animals is also extremely important.

The PAST Act is Pushed by Animal Rights Organizations
The PAST Act 2019 is being pushed by the animal rights’ movement, specifically the Humane Society of the United States. One of the changes proposed includes an amendment to the Horse Protection Act that would reinstate the ability for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture to publish personal information of citizens who violate this act on their public website. This is something animal rights groups have pushed for since those reports were taken off their website in 2017. They held inspection records and annual reports for every commercial animal facility in the U.S.—including zoos, breeders, farms, and laboratories. As well as included a variety of documents like: information about USDA license holders, official warnings, settlements made before trial, administrative complaints, inspection reports, research facility annual reports, as well as licensing information about breeders.
When that information was taken down in February of 2017, it was a huge relief to researchers, breeders, exhibitors, and livestock owners. Animal rights extremist groups like the HSUS and PETA used the lists and information available on the USDA-APHIS website to target, harass and in a number of cases, commit terrible crimes against animal owners. Although it is important for those who violate the Horse Protection Act to be held accountable for their actions, their personal information should not be published publicly, which could make them vulnerable to harassment.


Multiple Equine Organizations Do Not Support the PAST Act

While it is being promoted as being supported by the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, the Performance Show Horse Association says that is false. They’ve explained: “The vast majority of the active Tennessee Walking Horse Industry (The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Associations, the Performance Show Horse Association, The National Celebration and SHOW Horse Industry Organization) oppose this bill and instead support H.R. 1157 and its common-sense reforms of The Horse Protection Act.”

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act – H.R. 961

The SAFE Act calls for the prohibition of horse processing for consumption in the United States as well as prohibits the exportation of horses for the same reason. In 2006, Congress pulled funding for USDA inspections of horse processing plants. This action closed processing facilities in the United States because there were no USDA inspectors available to oversee animal welfare and horse product production. Since then, every year nearly 100,000 unwanted horses (usually chronically lame, dangerous, old, or sick animals) are shipped to Canada or Mexico for processing where there is no animal welfare oversight. The SAFE Act bill aims to outlaw the sale of horses to other countries where the animals will be processed for human consumption. The passing of this bill brings up serious and unanswered questions about where unwanted horses will be sold and how their health will be monitored.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has serious concerns about the consequences of closing horse processing facilities in the United States. So much so that the Dr. Ron DeHaven Chief Executive Officer of the AVMA produced a video (2009) discussing the consequences of closing horse processing facilities in the US. Here’s a link to his statement on behalf of the AMVA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=3S1K20EiZmY

Protect The Harvest has been a proponent for the reopening of USDA inspected processing facilities so that the they can ensure the animals are treated humanely throughout the harvesting process.

Coming Together on Behalf of the Horse Industry

It is important to pay attention to legislation that effects the horse industry. When pushed by animal rights organizations, it is particularly important to further investigate and consider their ultimate goal – removing animals from human care. With both the PAST Act and the SAFE Act, we know that their aim is to make owning and showing horses more difficult with the hopes that one day it will be eliminated completely.
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EF-1 Tornado Hits Southwest Auction Service..

On Tuesday, April 30th, an EF-1 Tornado hit the small town of Wheaton, Missouri, home to the Southwest Auction Service Facility & Kennel Spotlight office. Damage to the area included Dollar General (across from SW Auction), several homes and multiple trees and power poles. The twister started in Stella and was on the ground for 12 miles with a 1/2 mile wide path, lifting about 5 miles northeast of Wheaton. Wind speeds maxed out at 110 miles per hour.

Southwest Auction had just finished a brand new large-breed dog addition to their facility that was completely destroyed as well as several buildings and a home on the property. The splintered lumber, warped and twisted metal and shattered glass is all that is left of the home and the 2 large warehouse buildings on both sides of the auction barn itself including the 2T Kennel Buildings and Supplies owned by Mike & Stacey Tichenor. In addition, SWA lost their office trailer, dog trailer & 2 additional cargo trailers that were used for offsite auctions and 2 barns that had just been painted on the property.

Incredibly, the Auction Pavilion itself is still standing but has sustained severe damage and due to the extensive roof damage, the offices are being completely stripped and remodeled. Luckily, no one was injured as the office staff had left just before the tornado hit. That same week, the ever resilient SW Auction crew gathered what supplies they could and went on to conduct an auction that following weekend in Iowa.

SWA quickly set up a temporary office in the nearby town of Cassville and have continued to conduct business as usual with temporary kennel facilities set up in Wheaton at the Body of Christ Ministries facility (formerly Gizmo’s Event Center). Bob Hughes, owner of Southwest Auction & the Kennel Spotlight has already begun the clean-up and rebuild. Plans for the new offices and an upgraded kennel facility are well underway.

2T Kennel Supply

Auction pavilion & offices

Dog Trailer

large breed addition

former 2 story house

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We have over 5,000 references, computerized clerking and invoicing, cataloging, website listing, mailing lists for potential buyers, invoice division for consigned sellers and full time office & auction personnel. We will handle your auction as if it were our own from start to finish! Whether you have a $5,000.00 or $5,000,000.00 auction, your sale will get our full attention! Kennel, Farm Equipment, Antiques, Real Estate, Personal Estate, Automobiles, Guns & Collectibles; we can do it all! It’s all about reputation & marketing and we know how to bring the buyers to your auction! Don’t make a mistake that can cost you thousands of dollars, call us first!!

“We work hard for our seller and never compromise honesty to our buyers!”