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Dear Readers,

Hello! I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, as well as ask for your help. My name is Mary Rogers, and I am the new editor of *The Kennel Spotlight* magazine. I am thrilled to have the chance to create this magazine, and I’m excited to get to know you.

This is where I’m going to need your help—I’d like to know what you’re interested in and might like to see in future issues. I would love it if you would send pictures of you and your dogs so that I might use them on the cover. In addition, if you know of upcoming events that would be of interest to our readers, I’d like to know about them. Honestly, I want to know what YOU want from YOUR magazine—YOU are the experts!

Let me take a moment to thank Kathy Bettes, who has been the editor of the magazine for the last 12 years; she has been extremely gracious and helpful as I have been making the transition to editor. Without her guidance, I don’t know what I would have done!

Thank you, Kathy, for your service to *The Kennel Spotlight*. You will be missed!

As we move forward with future issues of this educational and fun publication, I look forward to serving you, as well as making *The Kennel Spotlight* something you look forward to seeing in your mailbox.

Sincerely,

Mary Rogers
Editor

ciocacoveredcherry67@gmail.com
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ON THE COVER

THANK YOU TO OWNER DELLA GILLESPIE-MENDENHALL FOR SHARING THIS BEAUTIFUL PHOTO OF HER BULLDOGS, EVIE AND PEARL. THESE AMAZING PUPS CAME FROM BOGGS SUMMIT BULLDOGS IN NIANGUA, MO. SPECIAL THANKS TO HARRIET AND ROBERT BOGGS FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT. SEE THEIR AD ON P. 18.

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THANK YOU!

Your commitment to raising happy, healthy puppies and your dedication to animal welfare are greatly appreciated. Thank you!
Throwing an Engagement Party

Whilst engagement parties are characterised by their sense of humming excitement and guaranteed fun, they are a little more involved than throwing some cocktail weiners on toothpicks and calling it a day.

WORDS BY SARAH SANCHEZ

Breeder's Spotlight

The Saint Bernard

Credit: AKC

Temperament: Playful, Charming, Inquisitive

AKC Breed Popularity: Ranks 48 of 193

Height: 28-30 inches (males), 26-28 inches (female)

Weight: 140-180 pounds (male), 120-140 pounds (female)

Life Expectancy: 8-10 years

About the Saint Bernard

Not ranked particularly high in AKC registrations, this genial giant is nonetheless among the world’s most famous and beloved breeds. The Saint’s written standard abounds with phrases like “very powerful,” “extraordinarily muscular,” “imposing,” and “massive.” A male stands a minimum 27.5 inches at the shoulder; females will be smaller and more delicately built. The huge head features a wrinkled brow, a short muzzle, and dark eyes, combining to give Saints the intelligent, friendly expression that was such a welcome sight to stranded Alpine travelers.
According to Wikipedia, Barry der Menschenretter, who later became famous as Barry the Saint Bernard, lived from 1800-1814 and was credited with as many as 40 lifesaving rescues during his life as a rescue dog in Switzerland.

Barry's most famous rescue was of a boy who was trapped in an ice cave. Barry found the boy and licked him to keep him warm before positioning the boy on his back and carrying him to safety.

After his 12 years of service, Harry was bought by a monk, and he lived the rest of his life relaxing. It is said that the hospice in Switzerland continued to keep a St. Bernard named "Barry" for long after the original Barry retired.
The role of dog breeders in determining whether a puppy achieves his or her potential cannot be underestimated. Many factors that occur early in a puppy’s development impact quality of life and ultimately affect aging and longevity.

“Proper care of puppies includes many things,” says Melanie A. Barnes, DVM, head veterinarian at the Purina Product Technology Center in St. Joseph, Missouri. “Importantly, the first 24 hours of a puppy’s life may be the most significant nutritional period of its life. Breeders should encourage puppies to nurse often.”

Extra attention may be especially helpful with inexperienced dams. Dr. Barnes suggests that breeders place puppies near nipples at feeding time, reassure and calm the dam, and make sure poorly nursing puppies have a chance to nurse often. Newborns spend most of their time sleeping or nursing. During the first few weeks, puppies should nurse at least four to six times a day. Infrequent or weak nursing often signifies illness, chilling or congenital problems, and should be attended to by a veterinarian.

“Small or weak puppies may appear to nurse and develop abdominal fullness yet fail to thrive and become weak and die,” Dr. Barnes says. “Post-mortem examination often reveals air but no milk in the stomach. If puppies are weak but appear to be nursing yet do not improve within a few hours, supplemental tube feeding should be used.”
General signs of sick neonates include limpness when held, a weak or no suckling reflex, low weight gain or weight loss, and excessive crying. Weight gain is considered the most important measure of puppy health during the first few days and weeks of life.

Hypothermia, or decreased body temperature, can occur for a variety of reasons. Immediately after birth, it is normal for puppies to have a temporary decline in body temperature, but healthy puppies with an attentive dam usually recover spontaneously. When hypothermia persists for several hours or occurs in puppies that were previously normal, several factors need to be considered. The dam may be inattentive for illness or behavioral reasons, environmental management may be inadequate, or the puppy may have an infectious or metabolic problem.

Newborn puppies should feel plump yet firm, with good muscle tone, and should wiggle vigorously. A strong suckling reflex should be apparent within minutes of birth or within several hours. Puppies’ eyes do not open until between 10 and 16 days, and their ears do not function until between 15 and 17 days. New puppies should only cry when they are hungry or cold. Excessive or prolonged crying is a sign of a problem.

Hypothermic puppies should be warmed gradually over two to three hours to the body temperature appropriate for their age in order to avoid rapid warming or overwarming. They may be fed if they are otherwise healthy.

“Breeders should weigh puppies daily for the first two weeks, then weekly until weaning to ensure they are nursing effectively,” says Dr. Barnes. “In seven to 10 days, puppies should double their birth weight.”

The most rapid growth in dogs occurs during the first six months. Toy and small breeds reach maturity by 12 months, compared with 12 to 18 months for medium breeds and 18 to 24 months old for large and giant breeds. When they are mature adults, most dogs have increased their birth weight by 40 to 50 times.

Helping a puppy reach his or her potential requires a commitment. Breeders who understand how early influences are interrelated realize the importance of providing proper care to ensure a healthy beginning for puppies.

PREPARING PUPPIES FOR WEANING

Puppies can be introduced to supplemental food when they are between 3 and 4 weeks old. When introducing puppies to solid food, the dam should be separated from the litter for a few hours to ensure the puppies are hungry.

The preferred food used to wean puppies is the food they will be fed throughout growth. Examples include a puppy food, such as Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Puppy Chicken & Rice Formula or Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Puppy Toy Breed Chicken & Rice Formula, or an all-life stages food, such as Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula.

A soupy gruel, made of dry food and warm water, should be offered several times a day in a large shallow bowl. Moistening dry puppy food helps to improve palatability and is easier for young puppies to eat. The amount of water added to the dry food should be gradually decreased until puppies are fully weaned.

Likewise, the length of time puppies are separated from the mother should be gradually increased. By 6 weeks old, puppies should be exclusively fed a puppy food or an all-life stages food and nursing very little, if at all. Normally, bitches will begin weaning puppies between 4 to 6 weeks of age.
Holiday Puppy Placement

Advice from the experts

Who doesn’t love the idea of giving a puppy as a gift? These expert breeders share their advice on how to keep everyone’s best interest at heart.

“I never allow puppies to be given as presents. I always have to interview the whole family/household to ensure the pup goes to a home where everyone wants it. For Christmas, I provide a picture for the new owner to place under the tree. Then I release the pup after the holiday excitement is over.”
— Kathy Coleman

“Instead of getting the puppy at Christmastime, I suggest that new puppy buyers plan for the puppy’s arrival and purchase items for Christmas gifts that they would purchase for the puppy. That might include a care and training book to help them put together a strategy for the perfect start for their new puppy.”
— Meg DeFore

“I would advise puppy buyers to wait until after the holidays to bring their new puppy home, as it can be a difficult time to focus your energy and time on properly raising and socializing a puppy. A puppy has a big adjustment when transitioning to a new home, and it’s important not to unnecessarily stress the puppy. That could happen with a house full of family and friends during the holiday season. A responsible breeder will ensure the puppy’s transition is as smooth as possible, which means preparing the entire family with information on training, supplies, and how to properly socialize their new family member.”
— Lorraine Shore
“If one of our females is having her heat cycle at the correct time (or depending on how you look at it, the wrong time), and her litter will be ready for their new homes right at Christmas, I will wait to place her with a male for mating for as long as possible without missing her cycle. This holding off will generally give me a couple of extra days to place the puppies at an age to go home after Christmas day. If this can’t be done, I only place Christmas puppies with families that I’ve gotten to know and to those families that have been waiting with us for a few months for their puppy. This way I am more confident that the family is well prepared.”
— Patrice Hinsley

“I will allow puppies to be placed seven days before Christmas Eve to families with older children or four days post-Christmas for families with little kiddos. For them, I print an 8x10 glossy picture of their puppy with a letter from Santa saying that the puppy just couldn’t fit in the sleigh and be safe on the trip from the North Pole.”
— Dr. Doris Newkirk

“I only bend my holiday rule when it is a couple with no children or without any big party or travel plans. Well, not entirely true . . . I did deliver a puppy to a hospital once to a little boy who was seriously ill. I got permission from the nursing staff to bend the rules, so he could cuddle his puppy for an hour on Christmas Eve.”
— Dr. Doris Newkirk
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Winter Skin and Paw Care Tips

By Mary Rogers

Now that winter is in full swing, it's important to consider how you will care for your dog's skin and paws. We all know how irritating it can be when our skin is dry and our nails are brittle, and your dogs are feeling the same discomfort. With a few simple tricks and a little planning, your dogs can be much more comfortable during this frigid time of the year.

In terms of their skin, one solution that will help you and your dogs is to keep the air in your house humidified. The more moisture you have in the air, the less dryness and skin irritation you and your dogs will experience.

Along those same lines, most of us think about keeping our dogs hydrated during the hot summer days, but it's also very important to be conscious of hydration in the winter. Because the humidity levels are lower during the winter, it is easier for your dogs to get dehydrated; therefore, be sure they get plenty of water.

Also, it's not a good idea to bathe your dogs too often in the winter. When you bathe your dog, they lose some of their natural oils, and this can lead to dry skin.

If you just aren't sold on putting booties on your dogs in the winter, there are some other easy ways to protect your pup's paws. The most obvious thing would be to wash and dry your dog's paws after taking them outside. This will keep any chemicals and/or salt off their sensitive paws.

Another easy solution to dried paws is to apply petroleum jelly to their paw pads before they head outside. Then, check their paws regularly for cracks, and consider moisturizing after they come back inside as well.

Although many of the tricks are obvious to most dog owners, it's always good to be reminded that our dogs need special care during this cold time of the year. Remember that if it's too cold for us to be outside, then it's probably too cold for your dogs, so limit their time outside and pamper their skin and paws a little more than you do during the other seasons.

Homemade paw balm

2 oz. (approximately 2 T) olive oil or sunflower oil
2 oz. (approximately 2 T) coconut oil
1 oz. (approximately 1 T) shea butter
4 tsp. beeswax

Directions: Place all ingredients in a jar. Place jar in a pan of water, creating a double boiler. Melt ingredients over low heat. Stir ingredients together. Allow them to harden before applying to your dog's paws.
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AN INTERESTING LOOK AT WHAT HUMANS AND DOGS SHARE

By Mary Rogers

Once the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, many people are left feeling depressed. Let’s face it—your bank account is empty, the days are shorter, and it might feel like there isn’t anything to look forward to until after the long winter. While it’s perfectly normal to feel this way, and there has been extensive research on Seasonal Affective Disorder, especially in the winter, the real question is whether dogs can suffer from true clinical depression or whether they are simply responding to their environment. For example, we all know that dogs can act sad when we leave them alone and happy when we walk through the door, so the answer to the question about whether dogs can be depressed is that no one really knows.
The key to dealing with a dog who seems depressed is to carefully observe them and look for certain behaviors they might be exhibiting. Some such behaviors include any change in how they interact with humans; in other words, are they as excited to see you as they usually are? Are they acting more aggressively toward other people than they have in the past? In addition to behaviors with people, there are other indicators that your dog isn’t quite himself. Have they stopped eating? Are they sleeping a great deal? Are they having more bathroom accidents in the house? These are all warning signs that something might be wrong.

Although any of these behaviors can in part have to do with depressive symptoms in dogs, veterinarians warn us that we need to rule out medical conditions that might be causing our dog’s behavioral changes. The fact that our dog no longer seems to enjoy a walk in the park could be attributed to arthritis. A dog who no longer shows interest in food might have digestive issues.

So, what can you do to help your dog? First, it’s crucial to establish and maintain a normal routine with our dogs. Just like humans, dogs thrive on routines and like to know what to expect. If you have maintained a routine and your dog is still exhibiting symptoms, it’s probably time to visit your veterinarian, who can rule out physical illness. At this point, in extreme cases, your veterinarian might temporarily prescribe an antidepressant for your dog.
According to PedMD, there are 6 reasons your dog can feel depressed, and interestingly, human beings can also experience depression from several of these factors. They include:

• Lack of attention—If your dog is isolated for long periods of time, they can feel sadness. Do your best to spend quality time with them whenever you can. Spending time with your dog will help your mental health as well.

• Not enough exercise—A great way to give your dog attention is to take him out for a walk or a run. Go to the park and play. It will be good for both of you!

• Death of a family member or fellow pet—When you lose someone close to you, it is only natural to feel depressed, and your sadness won’t go unnoticed by your dog.

• Owner is depressed—Obviously, if you are depressed, your dog will react accordingly. When humans experience stress, we may not realize that our dogs carry that burden with them as well.

• Behavior Correction—Sometimes, dogs will opt for no behavior if they don’t like being disciplined for their bad behavior. This lack of behavior might be interpreted as depression.

• Medical Problems—Just like humans, dogs who don’t feel well can experience sad feelings. It’s best to seek medical help in these situations.

When it comes to dog depression, a little common sense can go a long way. The bottom line is that it’s important to pay close attention to our dog’s behavior and then respond in a way that helps them get back to being happy!
Snow Globes: Snow globes may contain antifreeze (ethylene glycol). As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze in a cat or a tablespoon or two for dogs, depending on the size of the animal, can be fatal. Immediate treatment with an antidote is vital. Signs of early poisoning include acting drunk or uncoordinated, excessive thirst, and lethargy. While signs may seem to improve after 8-to-12 hours, internal damage is actually worsening, and crystals develop in the kidneys, which result in acute kidney failure.

Bubble Lights: Bubble lights have methylene chloride that can result in depression, aspiration pneumonia, and irritation to the eyes, skin, and gastrointestinal tract.

Tinsel: Tinsel, like any long, stringy item, can prove deadly if ingested. While it does not pose a poisoning risk, it can cause severe damage to a dog’s intestinal tract if swallowed. Ultimately, dogs run the risk of severe injury to, or rupture, of their intestines and treatment involves expensive abdominal surgery.

Holiday Plants: Though they have a bad rap, poinsettia plants are only mildly toxic. Far more worrisome are holiday bouquets containing lilies, holly, or mistletoe. Peace lily, calla lily, amaryllis, lily of the valley, autumn crocus and the common houseplant, giant Dracaena or palm lily are all dangerous to dogs. The berries and leaves of holly as well as mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and even heart arrhythmia if ingested.

Alcohol: Because alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, it affects pets quickly. Ingestion of alcohol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure, and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure. Additionally, foods such as desserts containing alcohol, and unbaked dough that contains yeast, should be kept away from pets as they may result in alcohol toxicity, vomiting, disorientation, and stomach bloat.

Ornaments: Ornaments on the tree can cause injury and a potential gastrointestinal obstruction risk, but are not usually toxic unless they are the homemade salt-type ornaments. These are very appealing to dogs and result in serious salt toxicity with signs of vomiting, diarrhea, and serious electrolyte changes.

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Metritis in Dogs: Understanding Uterus Infections in Dogs

Metritis in dogs is an infection of the uterus, during or after pregnancy. It is different than a pyometra, which is an infection of the uterus unrelated to pregnancy.

**Metritis Symptoms**

Metritis can be diagnosed based on symptoms such as fever, loss of appetite, a sick female, and a larger volume of uterine and vaginal discharge with a thick dark color and a foul smell.

**Causes of Metritis**

A retained pup that dies inside the mom can lead to metritis. Other causes include retained placentas, or fluid in the uterus.

There are steps you can take to lessen the chances of your female developing this infection. Using calcium such as Breeders’ Edge® Oral Cal Plus during labor can reduce the risk of a placenta being left in her uterus.

In addition, knowing how many pups the female should have and intervening if all the placentas have not passed using oxytocin and calcium can save the cost of medical or surgical intervention, the female’s uterus and possibly her life. Working with a veterinary clinic that has the ability to take high quality x-rays is essential. Taking her to the vet without breakfast and after walking her to have her have a stool is an important part of getting an accurate count.

**Treating Metritis**

Treatment of metritis in dogs consists of antibiotics, drugs to help the uterus empty, probiotics, and supportive care including fluids and medications if needed to manage vomiting. After 24 hours post-whelping, oxytocin will no longer help the uterus to contract. If a retained placenta is diagnosed or suspected, a prostaglandin injection can help the uterus empty. If a retained pup(s) is diagnosed based on ultrasound, palpation or x-ray, surgery is usually required to manage the metritis. After more than 24 hours from the last pup passing, the fluid around the pup is gone, and the pup adheres to the uterine lining, making the pup almost impossible to pass without surgical intervention.

If you have more questions on metritis in dogs, call a Revival Pet Care Pro at 800.786.4751.

-Marty Greer, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health
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Benjamin Franklin

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
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OPPOSE Animal Rights Driven P.A.C.T. Act (S.479)

Urge President Trump to VETO the P.A.C.T. Act that has already passed in both The House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Rural America helped send President Trump to the White House. Make sure he hears your voice on this dangerous legislation.

Authored by Florida Republican Vern Buchanan (wealthy owner of an auto dealership chain) and co-sponsored by Palm Beach Anti-2nd Amendment Democrat Ted Deutch, S. 479, is the so-called Prevent All Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act.

Every state in the nation has felony animal cruelty laws on the books. Legislators want you to believe that this bill only applies to people who are committing horrendous acts of horrific animal cruelty that they then video tape. But what about medical research trials? What if a veterinarian videotapes a spay or neuter surgery for teaching purposes What about normal security surveillance videos on a dairy farm? A cattle ranch? An egg farm? What if no video tape is involved at all?
These concerns go all the way back to 1999 when Congress originally passed this legislation, which was later overturned by the Supreme Court. Passed again in 2010, this legislation would amend the existing federal law to create a whole broad new category of animal cruelty crimes.

In America today, average everyday activities are now being reclassified as deliberate acts of animal cruelty by animal rights-driven legislation masquerading as increased welfare standards. The most normal everyday animal owner’s actions are being redefined as criminal acts, even when no animal is harmed. In states across America, kittens and caterpillars now have more rights than people.

Representative Buchanan has been investigated by the House Ethics Committee, FEC, the Justice Department, and the Office of Congressional Affairs. Buchanan owns a massive $100 million dollar insurance and real estate empire in Florida, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. After years of investigation and scandals, Buchanan won re-election in 2018 with just 54.6% of the vote. This “feel good” legislation is just another way for Buchanan to whitewash his dodgy background and win back his disenfranchised constituents. He may be well meaning, but a real estate and auto dealership magnate is totally unqualified to determine whether or not common animal practices are acts of animal cruelty, let alone felonies.

The American Kennel Club recently issued a new warning against this avalanche of new animal cruelty laws being passed on state and federal levels, by stating, “Increasingly restrictive laws that allow the confiscation of animals and criminal charges against the owner are being enacted every day in states and communities across the U.S. You can be convicted of animal cruelty under these overreaching laws even when no animal is harmed.” Did you read that? Even when no animal is harmed...

- S. 479 does nothing to stop animal abuse or cruelty. What it does is criminalize animal owners.
- S. 479 would make a felon out of the owner of a dog with nails that are too long.
- S. 479 would make a felon out of the owner of a horse that has a difficult time maintaining weight.
- This legislation amends already-existing legislation to create a whole new category of felons, your next door neighbor and you.

Animal rights organizations want Americans to believe that in 2019, there are no federal laws banning animal cruelty from occurring, which is a complete lie. Animal abuse and torture should never be tolerated, and for that reason, every state in the U.S. already has felony animal cruelty laws on the books. However, sponsors of this bill fraudulently claim that there are no federal laws against animal cruelty. We believe this “Prevent All Cruelty and Torture Act” is setting the stage to criminalize animal ownership out of existence.

Follow these instructions to submit a letter to President Trump:
1. Go to thecavalrygroup.com
2. Click on the "Take Action" tab.
3. Open the "Federal and State Legislation Letter Campaigns" tab.
4. Open the URGE PRESIDENT TRUMP TO POCKET VETO THE PACT ACT link
5. Submit your zip code and follow the directions on the screen.
Two new studies, recently published in *Circulation*, a journal published by the American Heart Association, found that the mortality rate of people who own dogs is decreased by 24%. This research study was conducted over 70 years globally, and the records of more than 4 million people were analyzed. Although the studies were both observational in nature, meaning that it cannot be directly proven that dog ownership causes longevity in humans, they certainly suggest that this is the case.
The World Health Organization research indicates that heart attack and stroke are the 2 leading causes of death across the globe. The AHA study found that there is an even larger positive effect on people who have already suffered from a heart attack or stroke. Dr. Caroline Kramer, the lead author of the study, said that for people who had already suffered such a serious health event, there was a “31% reduced risk of dying from cardiovascular disease.”

In addition, the study indicates that the gap widens even more for people who live alone. Heart attack sufferers who live alone and own dogs have a 33% lower risk of death as compared to those who don’t own a dog. For people who have suffered a stroke and live alone, there is a 24% lower risk of death if they own a dog. One of the main indicators for these numbers is the decrease in loneliness; this has led some doctors to prescribe dogs to their patients.

The bottom line is that dog ownership is a good prescription for good health; some might say it’s just what the doctor ordered.

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