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Submission
 Deadline is the
 20th of each month.
Club Meetings are the
 3rd Tuesday
 of each Month.
 Board will meet 1 hour
 prior to the club meeting.

INSIDE THIS

Announcements	2
Nomination Committee	3
Brags	4
Salt City Shelties "Sophie"	5
Akadia / Windabrae Shel-	6
Akadia Shelties	7
Chandelle Shelties Puppies	8
Autumn Shelties "Robbie"	9
Summer Picnic	10
Summer Picnic	11
Lacewood "Zachary & Luci"	12
Ace Award Shanna & Holly	13
Ace Award Shanna & Holly	14
Windabrae "Danny & Ebby"	15
I Have A Question	16
Club Meetings	17
Condolence / Information	18
Raisin Toxicity	19
Word Search	20
Bites and Stings	21
Bites and Stings con't	22
Minutes	23
Calendar Of Events	24

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sheltie Connection



President's Message....

Tricia Harris

Summer is losing its grip and the show season is returning. I want to wish all of you success this autumn in the show ring.

As you all should know by now, it is time to get your nominations in to Diane Orr, our newsletter editor, for the person you would like to have the 2nd annual Pickering award. If you know of someone that has done an outstanding job this year in the club, please write up a statement as to why you think they deserve this award and send them to Diane. We will then have a vote via email or mail to choose that person. This award is meant to honor someone that has served the club well. Even being nominated is an honor. I hope you will think of someone that you feel deserves this award and send them in.

I want to thank everyone that helped put the summer picnic together. We had a great time at the picnic. It is kind of fun just to have time to visit with each other and get to know everyone on a more personal level. It was fun for me to see all the dogs that were there and to meet a few new ones. Thank you to all who attended and to all who brought the good food. I hope you all had as good of a time as I did.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS:

USSA
 Barbara Soderborg
 USSA Correspondence Secretary
 PO BOX 142, Sandy UT 84091-0142
TO EMAIL THE CURRENT BOARD:
 lacewoodshelties@comcast.net

We're on the web!
www.utahsheltie.org



Announcements

USSA WEBSITE

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.UTAHSHELTIE.ORG
YOU CAN DOWNLOAD PAST NEWSLETTERS THERE



Playing it Safe

Picking out some new toys for your pooch? Give 'em the toddler test: If you'd give the toy to a 2-year-old, it's probably safe for your pet, too.

Dogs are just as curious as young children. In addition, they have sharp teeth that can tear into almost anything. To spare yourself an emergency trip to the vet, ask these four questions before you buy:

- Does the toy have a squeaker? Unless you intend to always watch your dog at play, put it back on the shelf. Dogs are experts at liberating -- and eating -- the squeaker.
- Is the toy small enough to be swallowed? Look for something that doesn't quite fit into your pet's mouth.
- Is it sturdy? Polystyrene beads and other fillers are not digestible, so the toy should be made of a material strong enough to prevent access to stuffing. Are there any removable parts -- buttons, ribbons, snaps, rubber or plastic bits -- that could be chewed off and swallowed? If so, skip it.

Notice

Anyone who has puppies for sale, or is looking for a puppy or older dog, please contact Barbara Soderborg.

You can reach Barbara at 801 561-4616 or email at utahshetlandsheepdogs@hotmail.com

WELCOME

To new Member:



Happy Birthday

We want to wish the following members a very happy September

3 Julie Schow
14 Lonnie Lewis
30 Ernie Ciampini
30 Helene Pockrus



* If we miss your birthday please let us know so that we can add you to our list.

Nomination Committee's Results

President - Jim Newman
Vice President - Tricia Harris
Recording Secretary - Ava Pickering
Corresponding Secretary - Barbara Soderborg
Treasurer - Rachel Holmes
Board Member - Steve Holmes
Board Member - Gene Cowley
Board Member - Tony Plott
Board Member - Judith Williamson

Pickering Award

Dear Club Members,

It is time to make nominations for the second annual Pickering award. We are doing the award a little differently this year. We are asking you to make your nominations in writing by email or letter and send them to our newsletter editor Diane Orr. Her address is: 3910 E 132 N, Rigby, ID 83442 Or email at windabrae@cableone.net The nominations are open to anyone that you would like to nominate that has made an outstanding contribution to the club in some way this past year. The person you nominate needs to be an active member of the club, and has to have made what is in your opinion is an outstanding contribution to the club. The nominations will be printed in the October newsletter. After they are printed in the newsletter we will allow you to vote for the person that you feel has made the biggest contribution. You may vote via email or letter. You are only allowed one vote per club member. We will keep track of who has voted. The October newsletter will be published the very first part of October so all nominations need to be to Diane Orr by the end of September. The winner of the Pickering award will be announced at our annual Christmas party. The recipient will receive a gift.

While this award is made using the name of Eva Pickering, it is an award made by the club for club members. It honors the memory of Eva, but is not a memorial award. For that reason we have decided to call it simply the "Pickering award".

We hope that simply being nominated for this award hold a level of honor for those that are nominated. We thank all who take the time and effort to make these nominations.

*Warm regard,
The USSA Board of Directors*



Braggs

Redcoat Kennel....

Soraj Chances Are CD RE AX AXJ earned two legs on his RAE title at the USRVDTCA Trials in Idaho Falls. He was also a member of the infamous Village People Team, he was a buffalo, mom the Indian.

Recoat A Fortune In Cash CD RN NA NAJ finished her CD at the same titles. It was a tri-state CD earning her 1st leg in Kansas, and the 2nd in Utah with a 1st place.

Milo daughter...

September 1st "Mahira" became Champion Ivanlee CharBar Mercy Me By Judge Bev Capstick, a four point major and going BOB over Specials. The next day she wins BOB again, Judge Guy Jeavons.

Sire: Am/Can/Intl Ch Apple Acres Chain Lightning "Milo"
Dam: CharBar's Flashdance "Jennifer"

Breeders: Pam Korcek, Barbara Vann
Owner: Lisa Martin of Lonestar Shelties in Texas.

Mahira' is Milo's 5th Champion
Barb Vann

Havanese Puppy For Sale.....

I have a 6 month old Havanese puppy boy, he is darling.
Barb Vann



Salt City Salsa "Sophie"
Is pleased to announce that her sire
Apple Ares Chain of Command "Reagan"
now has 8 points!!! She and owner
Barbara Soderborg are anxiously
waiting for his
Championship
Good Luck Dad
Keep up the
good work!!!



Sophie

Reagan



Akadia Shelties offers the following males at stud:

Ch. Akadia Just Priceless

sable and white son of Ch. Hillviews Patriot Games

Ch. Denian Deuces Are Wild

blue merle son of Ch. Willow Cove's Wild Card ROM

Can Ch. Sunlars Sudden Impact (pts)

tri color son of Ch. Apple Acres Lawman

Weathermans The Mudslinger

sable and white son of Ch. Glenesk Scenic Shadow Play

Iona Shelties and Akadia offer:

BISS Ch. River Dance Dressed To Kilt

sable and white

Kensils Iona Illumination

bi black

All dogs have OFA, eye,
and VwD clearances
and are available to
tested bitches only.

Full pedigrees and
pictures on our websites

<http://www.akadiashelties.com>

<http://myweb.cableone.net/blakely47>



*Windabrae Time
Remembered*



"Lacey" on August 18th under Lenora M. Riddle went WB & BOS for two points
and on August 19th under Col. Joe B. Purkhiser went WB & BOS
for two points at the Olympic Kennel Club shows in Enumclaw, WA.

Candia's How Do You Like Me Now

"Frank"
Has joined
AKADIA
Shelties

*Bred by Candy
Zumwalt*



*by Ch. Hickory Hills Shock N' Ya'll
out of Ch. Candia's From The Get Go*

*Available for sale to a show/breeding home or special
terms to a Junior handler.*

Shoreland The Bounty Hunter

"Leland" has 5pts.
and a major all
from the puppy class, including a
BOB over specials and a group
cut. He gets along with all
dogs and cats and is well
socialized and shows really well.

*Bred by Shoreland, he
has a stellar pedigree and
is just beautiful.*

Call or email for details

208-754-4275

akadia@srv.net



Chandelle Shetland Sheepdogs

"Proudly Announces"
Two pretty little five week old girls

**Father: Ch Starfall's The Enchanter
(Tricia's Brock)
Mother: Eclair du Ciel (Paris' mother).**





Autumn Shelties is pleased to introduce Autumn Ice Castles "Robbie."
Shown here taking his first points, a four-point major, from the American Bred class at the Five Valley show in Missoula, Montana on June 26.

Thanks to Shannalee for making him look so "Fantastic in the ring!"

Bred by Cherie & Marissa Hyde and Gail Dickson. Proudly owned by Cherie & Marissa Hyde

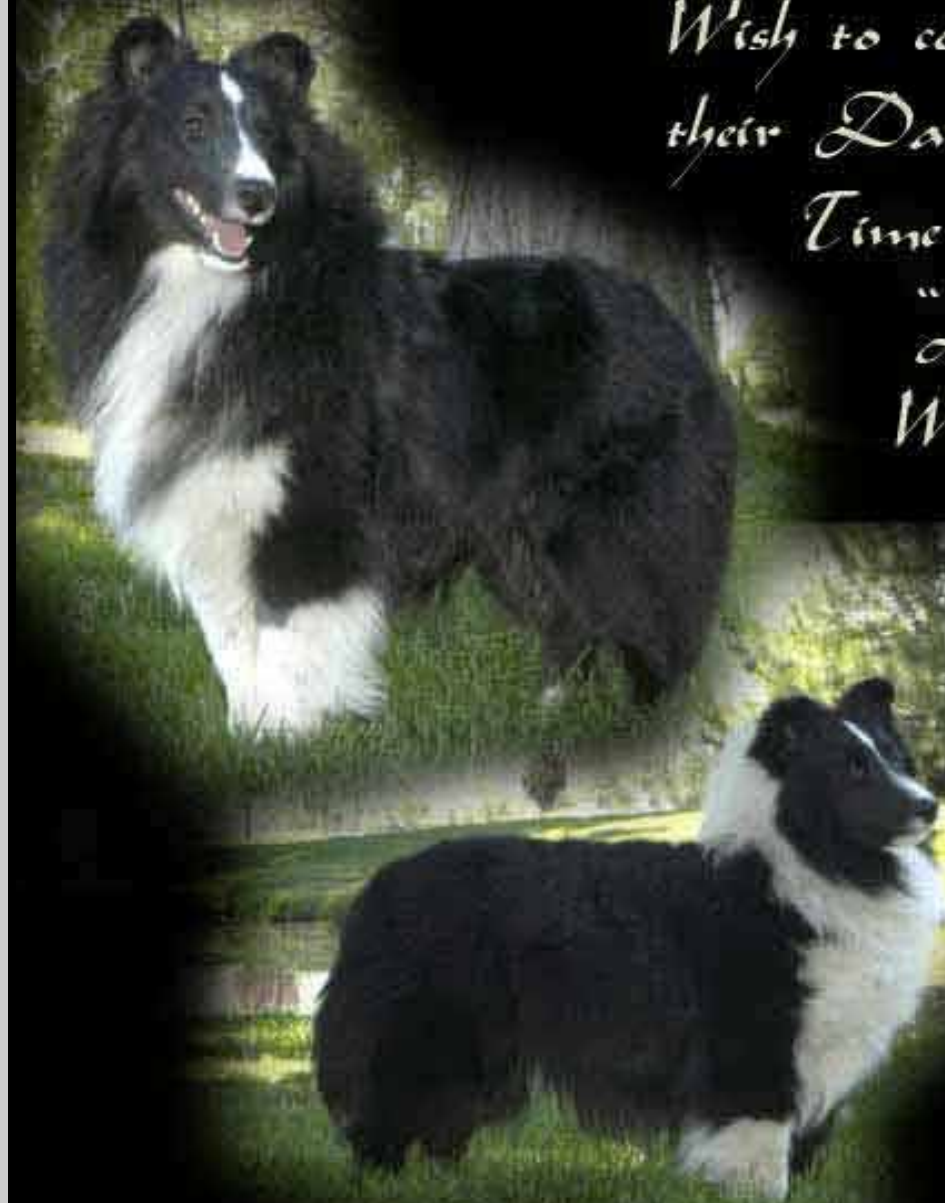
Autumn Ice Castles "Robbie"





Lacewood The Memory Maker "Zachary"
and
Lacewood Be Starlight "Luci"

*Wish to congratulate
their Dam Windabrac
Time Remembered
"Lacey" on
Winning her
first
4 points.
Way
to
go
MOM!!*





Ace Award

Have you ever made one little decision that later on changed your whole life? Then you think, "What if I didn't pick this dog?" and you cringe at the very thought of it? Well little did Shanna know that which puppy she picked would completely change her life.

"As Holly lies by my feet I cannot imagine the past six years without her. You see Holly is not just any ordinary Sheltie she is my life savor and without her my life would be totally lost. Holly has the rare and miraculous ability to alert to oncoming Seizures 5-10 minutes in advanced. She is truly my guardian angel. I never dreamed in a million years that I would need a Service Dog; the thought never even crossed my mind. I was only 17 when my life changed drastically; I had so many hopes and dreams. Holly has given me the strength and courage to still follow my dreams despite my Epilepsy. Holly has returned the favor of me saving her life and in turn has done more than save my life but she has also given me the independence and security that I need to live a normal life.

It all started when I was 14 and was allowed to pick a puppy from my moms Champion Sheltie. This puppy would be my companion and partner in Agility, Herding and Obedience. There was one particular puppy that was having a hard time and everyone did not think that she would make it. I didn't give up on this pup, I stayed up and watched over her making sure she nursed and assisted my mom in tube feeding her. I had a strong connection with this pup and just knew she was the one. The other female was the pick of the litter, but I just could not part with the puppy that had a hard start in life. I kept her and named her Holly (Lakepoints Holiday Greetings); we worked really hard together and grew closer to one another. At times it felt like we could read each others thoughts. We have competed in several AKC events and together as a team we have earned our HT, PT, CD, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ, MXJ, NF, RN, RA, RE and RAE.

When I was 17 I started having Seizures, before I was diagnosed with epilepsy, my amazing friend started warning me that something was wrong and that I should lie down. I was having between 7-10 Grand mal seizures a day and could not function. With Holly's advanced warnings I was able to get to a safe place to have my seizure so that I did not fall on cement or near glass or have a seizure any other hazardous place. It got to the point that I did not want to go out in public for fear of having a seizure. We did a lot of research on Service Dogs and found a place that helped train and certify Service Dogs. With Holly by my side I over came my fear. Holly's amazing gift has given me a new outlook on life.

We have continued to compete as a team in Agility, Herding, Obedience and Rally. We have also gone and taught elementary school kids about Service Dogs and about proper care of their own pets. Holly's tricks and abilities amaze everyone that she meets.

Holly is more than just another dog; she is my life, my love, my protector, my everything. I believe everything happens for a reason and Holly was sent here to watch over me."

Holly is truly amazing and has been 100% accurate in predicting Shanna's seizures. Together Shanna and Holly can overcome anything that life throws at them. They are an amazing team to watch compete in Agility, Herding, Obedience and Rally and they are even more amazing to watch as a Service Dog team. Holly has not only touched Shanna's life but everyone's lives around her.

Ace Award Continues

Written by my mom, Cindy Wilkinson

There are so many stories I would like to tell you about Holly and Shanna but one particular instance stands out. When we went to an AKC event in Idaho and stayed with a friend. There were five of us sitting around talking and relaxing after the long drive, when suddenly Holly started to alert by pawing and whining at Shanna. When that did not get our attention she stood up took a step back and started to bark, and then jumped on Shanna. We all knew at that moment that Shanna was going to have a seizure and she had time to make it into the bedroom away from the windows, the coffee table and the glass china cabinet. After Shanna started to come out of the seizure Holly started to alert again and within five minutes she started to have another seizure, this repeated itself seven times. Through the whole duration of these seizures Holly never left her side even when facing bodily injury to herself, like when she accidentally got kicked.

She has learned to expand on her abilities and to escalate her warning, she has also learned that when Shanna starts having a seizure after warning Shanna she comes and finds me and takes me to where Shanna is having her seizure. What is completely amazing about Holly is that alerting can not be taught. It is an instinct that she has built upon and improved and because of this Shanna has gained the confidence to be able to grow and expand her knowledge and go to college full time with Holly by her side.

What started out as a bond between a girl and her dog, training in obedience, agility and herding changed when Shanna started having seizures. Holly instinctively knew that she needed to take care of Shanna and protect her. Holly knew way before we did that something was wrong and found a way to communicate that to Shanna and I. With the help of At You Service Dogz (taught Shanna and Holly the proper etiquette of service dogs in public places) we have been able to expand upon the foundation training that Shanna did with Holly in order to compete in performance events. We are so blessed to have such an amazing dog that has changed Shanna's life and has continue to amaze everyone.

As a mom the hardest thing is to watch your child struggle, you want to be there and take care of everything, instincts are to jump in and control every aspect. Because of Holly I can let go and let Shanna grow and live a life of her own. With Holly she is in capable hands (PAWS) and I don't worry as much.



Windabrae Wings of Time “Danny”

Mary Lee Moore “Danny’s” his owner was not able to show him at the USRVDTC Trial. Both Mary Lee and I are very proud of Danny’s achievements. “Danny” and I were entered in two classes each day for three days. He qualified in both classes each day of the USRVDTC Trail on August 17-19, 2007 handled by Diane Orr “Danny” finished his CD Title, also gaining two extra legs on his CD Title. “Danny” at the same shows finished his Novice Rally Title and earned two legs towards is Advanced Rally Title.

He is a very wonderful boy. Thank you Mary Lee for letting me have the privilege of showing this boy.

Windabrae Midnight Ice “Ebby”

Ebby earned her Novice Agility Title at the USRVDTC Trial In August 17-19, 2007. She earned her tile in the three days of this trial. Needless to say she is a fantastic obedience dog and I am so very proud of her.

This was a fabulous three days for me. These two dogs are awesome!!!!!!



I Have A Question

What are your feelings about removing dewclaws?

I take them off, front and of course rear. I do rescue and many times I get dogs in with their dewclaws almost a complete circle. Have you ever had a large pet jump up and catch your arm with one of those "sabers" Believe me you will never forget it.

As for weakening the pasterns, I have several old dogs here with no front dew claws and none of them are down in the pasterns. I believe that whether to remove or not is a personal choice, not a health issue.
Barb Aulbach

I think they should be removed.
Barbara Vann

I really believe that dogs -- especially dogs expected to be active -- should have their rear dewclaws removed. There are just too many opportunities with an active adult dog for them to catch on something and rip out. That is horribly painful and the amount of blood that can come out is sometimes a bit astonishing.

I am less opinionated about front dew claws. I've had many Shelties with them and many Shelties without them. I have a slight personal preference for them to have been removed, but that's largely because of the very slight awkwardness involved in clipping them when the nails are being done. Other than that, they really don't seem to be a problem.

My concern about removing dewclaws is how it's done. I have a theory that puppies remember the pain if their dewclaws are just ripped off at a few days of age, and they grow up into dogs who are terrified about having their nails clipped. (There is not a 100% correlation, of course.) But I think that it can be done more gently by sensitive breeders.

Jim Melton



I have always taken the dew claws off of my Irish Setters. This is especially important if they are going to do any field work, as I have seen some ripped off. As far as function is concerned, the agility vet Chris Zink states they are used for turning. I have not noticed a difference in the ability to make tight turns with or without them. It seems that is determined more by how much drive the dog has.
Jane Guidinger

I much prefer a dog that has had his dew claws removed. I have heard the argument that dogs use their dew claws when they run agility, and that may be a good argument for keeping them. But personally I prefer not to have them. I have two dogs at my house that have front dew claws and I have to force myself to remember to trim them. I feel like taking them off when the puppy is newly born is so easy that I prefer to take them off at that time. If a dew claw gets caught and torn when the dog is older, taking it off then is a much more painful surgery that takes some time to recover from. I have had one dog that I had to take the dew claws off when she was an adult dog. It was much harder on her then than it is when they are puppies. All my puppies have dew claws removed in their infancy. While I would not turn a dog down because it had dew claws, I am much happier when they are removed.

Tricia Harris

Next Months Question:

What do you think about breeding Sables to Merles' or Blacks'?

(Please submit answers to Diane at Windabrae@cablone.net)

If you have a question for this column that you would like to receive an answer for, you can submit the question anonymously to Diane at windabrae@cablone.net or mail to Diane Orr, 3910 E 132 N, Rigby, ID 83442

Club Meetings

Our Club meeting for September will be held on **Tuesday September 18th at 7:00 PM** at Sandy Bicentennial Park, in the building behind the pavilion. The Park is located at **8680 South 500 East.**

The board will meet at the same location on the same night at **5:45PM**

For the program, we will continue discussion in our round table on selling puppies, how to go about selling them. To advertise or not to advertise.

*** If you know of someone in the club who is in the hospital, ill, or of a death in the club or in the sheltie world, please let Barbara Soderborg know so that she can send a card or flowers.

utahshetlandsheepdogs@hotmail.com
or call her at 561-4616

The club wishes to send
Get Well Wishes
to the following people:



RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

"How to Grow Hair on a Doorknob"

- ★ 1 lb. Peanut Butter
- ★ 1 lb. honey
- ★ 1 lb. Diaglo (powder) or Mirra-Coat
- 1 pt. Lavitamin also known as Lixotinic or Pet Tonic

Method:

Have peanut butter at room temperature. Mix all ingredients together. This will be very thick and sticky. Stores indefinitely in refrigerator. Make into balls according to size of the dog.

Small dogs 1-3 teaspoons daily,

Large dogs 1-2 tablespoons daily.

Guaranteed to grow hair - even on doorknobs. If you can get the doorknobs to eat and digest this - it will grow hair!



Condolences



The club wishes to express our deepest sympathy to Linda Cornella on the passing of her father.



Kay wanted to let the club members know that she has moved to Kentucky.

Kay's new address is:

Kay Miller

109 Wallin Ave.

Brooksville, KY 41004

My email remains the same...mkaymiller@msn.com and I'm using the same cell phone
(801-554-5999)

Kay wishes to express her good-byes and good wishes to the rest of the club. Thanks!
Kay & Dusty

The club wishes Kay & Dusty

On a personal note...

Kristin Sittner is off to college at Utah State University. She'll be studying Animal Science, following her fascination with all things dog-related. Her parents are looking forward to seeing where that leads... Tika is being temporarily boarded in the area, so that Kristin can see her and practice with her on the weekends, but Kristin is looking for another, more permanent situation near Logan, in case anyone is interested.

Raisin Toxicity

Written by:

Laurinda Morris, DVM
Danville Veterinary Clinic
Danville , Ohio

This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56-pound, 5 yr old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1AM on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7AM.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me - had heard something about it, but.... Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1 1/2 times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Re-checked the renal values at 5 PM and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At the point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values have continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220.. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. **Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handler's. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.**

WonderWord Word Search

M C C O X K X D A J A M E J M K Q Y G K K P B Y N
 O O E E H R V Q G D P U H D D F Y B F N A A I D E
 E M M A N B T Q P G B L G B I O F F Y D E G A R E
 S P I Y M Q I X L V C K W T N E L L E C X E E F S
 T A T L F E T B K J K U M R U S Y H H S S C X J A
 A N O W M Q A P Z D A Y O L M L N G C G A V I D B
 Y I Y J L M L O A U D I E N C E I V J L B Z R R P
 R O L J T O S O S K R W N N H A N Z L F M A D O L
 E N E E K G T R N I M J S R S C N Z C A G I R P D
 L P V H C D I R E C T E D N J U M P A B F K I K U
 D D I W A E O Y H A F Z R E N N I G E B P U U C M
 N O L T B L W O E L O U P D K J R T V R D L H O B
 A G Z Q R B T R Q Y T S A Z E P V P A I U W H M E
 H G R U O L G U N P P C L F P U R B P Z T K V P L
 S I E E G C I Q X P I C C A H T Q F P E I G W E L
 I G G J N H X C C U B E P I T W M S L V L S A T S
 G C A D Z L E T P P H C Y L Z K Y A A E I H F E X
 N D E Q Q G E I O C O M C O X K X D U N T A J A M
 A E J M D K Q Y G M K K P B Y N O E S T Y H R Y V
 L Q G U D D D F P Y B F N A A I D E E S A N B O T
 Q P J G B L G L B I O F F Y D Y M Q X L V K W J O
 F L F E B K E J U M R U S A T Y D N A M M O C N L
 T R I A L T F E V R E N E H S H S S X J S E T E L
 Y A W N E A U O W M Q L Z D O Y O L M L N G C G V
 I B J L M I N V H C T E F J C Z N I W R P J T O K

WonderWord Word Search - 47 Words to find

AUDIENCE
 AGED
 BARK
 CLAP
 COMPANION DOG
 COMPLETE
 DIRECTED JUMP
 DUMBELLS
 ENJOY
 EXCELLENT
 FETCH
 GO BACK
 HALT
 HUP
 LEAD
 NERVE
 PUPPY
 SEE
 SIGNAL
 STAY
 TITALS
 TRIAL
 UTILITY
 WIN

AKC
 APPLAUSE
 BEGINNER
 COMMAND
 COMPETE
 COST
 DROP
 EAGER
 EVENTS
 FAIL
 FUN
 GREAT
 HANDLER
 JUDGE
 LIVELY
 POOR
 RECALL
 SET
 SIT
 TIME
 TOLL
 TURNS
 YAWN

Coping with the Bites and Stings of Nature's Creatures

By AKC Pet Healthcare Plan

The welcome months of spring and summer bring lush green lawns, warm days and pleasant nights, fragrant flowers and thoughts of relaxing vacations. Unfortunately, they also bring those ever-present and annoying insects and creatures of all kinds. We humans are used to shielding ourselves from insects and reptiles in a variety of ways, to avoid being stung or bitten. Our pets, however, are unaware that these unwelcome pests can become a source of danger.

Defense Strategies

When the weather begins to warm up, out come fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, wasps, bees, yellow jackets, fire ants and snakes – sometimes armies of them. They are all ready to attack us and animals, infest our homes and cause itching, illness or even death in some situations. The best way to combat these pests is to prevent or avoid them in the first place. Discuss with your veterinarian the safest products or procedures to use toward preventing these unwanted guests. Some common preventive methods include:

- Use flea, tick and heartworm prevention; some flea and tick preventives also contain a mosquito repellant.
- Eliminate standing pools of water and keep water bowls fresh, to avoid mosquitoes.
- Don't use 'human' mosquito repellants, especially those containing the ingredient DEET, on animals, as they can cause neurological problems.
- Learn about ways to attract birds to inhabit your area, since many of these species eagerly feed on mosquitoes.
- Keep your dog leashed on walks and stay on open pathways where snakes can be visible. Watch for fire ant nests on the ground.
- Don't allow your dog to explore in holes in the ground, or dig under logs or other objects where snakes or yellow jacket nests might be hidden.
- Keep nighttime walks to a minimum, as some rattlesnakes and some other snake species are nocturnal for much of the year.
- After your dog has been in an area you suspect is populated by ticks, thoroughly comb him within four to six hours to help prevent ticks from attaching.
- Avoid long walks at dawn and dusk, when many insects are most active.
- Watch for spiders in basements, garages, woodpiles and brush.
-

Be on the Alert for Stings

If you suspect that your pet has been stung or bitten by an insect, it's always best to call your veterinarian immediately for advice on what to do.

Dogs are most often stung on their face or paws and these stings can be extremely painful -- sometimes you can't immediately tell what is wrong. A dog that has been stung will often become agitated, run around shaking his head or pawing at his muzzle. If stung in or around his mouth or throat, swelling can constrict your dog's airway and be life-threatening. Multiple stings can also cause major problems, such as anaphylactic shock. Signs of shock can vary but may include depression, breathing problems, pale gums and a weak pulse.

If your dog is stung by fire ants, remove him from the area and brush off any ants remaining on him. Don't spray them off with water, as they will hang on with their jaws and continue to sting.

Spider bites can be quite dangerous to dogs. Although generally harmless, there are several varieties of spiders that can cause severe problems. Some spider venom contains digestive enzymes that can damage skin tissue, causing a wound to grow quickly with a secondary infection.

Be certain to inspect your dog often for ticks (cousins to spiders) that can also pose a threat to your dog's good health. They can also carry and spread blood-borne diseases, such as Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Tick Paralysis.

These kinds of injuries are covered under the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan. The costs of treatment can quickly add up, especially if your dog has had a life-threatening situation. PetPartners paid a claim of over \$2,200 for the hospitalization of Piano, a dog in California, after she was attacked by a swarm of bees in her backyard. After several days in intensive care and three blood transfusions, Piano amazed everyone and survived this potentially fatal attack.

Things That Slither and Bite

Treatment for a snake bite can be quite expensive and vials of antivenom can cost as much as \$750 or more. We see many claims for snake bites; some recent claims included, \$2,783 for a German Shepherd Dog bitten by a snake, \$1,895 for a Labrador Retriever bitten by a Rattlesnake and \$1,262 for another Labrador Retriever bitten by a snake.

Snakes are beneficial to our environment because they control the rodent population, among many other reasons. In general, they prefer to be left alone and avoid conflict. If your dog is bitten by a snake, try to identify it, without getting bitten yourself, as identification is important in determining treatment. Notice the snake's head shape (triangular vs. oval), coloration, markings, size, and whether or not it has a rattle at the end of its tail. Keep your dog as quiet as possible, since movement spreads snake venom. If you're out on a hike, carry or walk your dog to the car at a normal pace and do not let your dog run. Snakebites are very painful, so be careful -- even a loving dog may bite when it's in pain.

Plan Ahead and Be Prepared for the Unexpected

Planning ahead for unforeseen medical emergencies can help make them more manageable when they occur, with better outcomes. Pet healthcare insurance can significantly help you manage the cost of veterinary care and preventive measures and save you money in the long run.

The range of AKC Pet Healthcare Plans* offers quality and affordable coverage for as little as 68 cents a day, far less than the cost of a soft drink at a fast food restaurant. You can choose the Essential Plan that covers unexpected illnesses or injuries up to \$11,000 for treatment costs per year, at \$20.75 a month, or higher levels of protection with Essential Plus (for a higher cost). You may be interested in plans that, in addition to accident and illness coverage, also offer reimbursement towards those wellness measures that can add up to \$500 or more a year. The Wellness Plans are designed to provide coverage up to \$13,000 for treatment costs a year, and this includes flea, tick and heartworm prevention, as well as an annual physical exam, annual dental cleaning and prescribed vaccinations. The Wellness Plus option also offers additional coverage for spaying/neutering.

Seeking a veterinarian's advice first is important if you have any questions about your dog's health. If you program your veterinarian's emergency phone number into your cell phone, you'll have it close at hand if something happens to your dog and you're away from home.

If a friend or sitting service is caring for your dog during your absence, discuss in advance your dog's health history and potential health emergencies, as well as any medications they are taking. Make certain your veterinarian's contact information -- and the phone number for the closest emergency veterinary room -- are clearly posted. Be prepared and be safe -- not sorry.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Club Meeting Minutes

There are no minutes for August because there was no meeting.

Calendar of Events

September 18, 2007 — Club Meeting
September 19, 2007 — Bozeman, MT
September 22, 23, 2007 — Helena, MT
October 11 –14, 2007 — Boise, ID
October 16, 2007 — Club Meeting
November 20, 2007 — Club Meeting



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