



SHELTIE WISE

The monthly newsletter of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ



October 2007

Club website: www.sscnj.org

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Meeting Notice – Nov 2, 2007

The next meeting of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ will be held on Friday, Nov 2, 7:30 pm at the Westfield Community Center.

Marj Tuff will be our guest speaker. As you know, Marj is our Regional 2 Director to ASSA and ASSA's delegate to the AKC. Marj will be discussing the standard.

Guests are welcome. Directions to the site are on our website. www.sscnj.org

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A little girl's letter

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her.

She dictated and I wrote:

Dear God,

Will you please take special care of our dog, Abbey? She died yesterday and is in heaven. We miss her very much. We are happy that you let us have her as our dog even though she got sick. I hope that you will play with her. She liked to play with balls and swim before she got sick. I am sending some pictures of her so that when you see her in heaven you will know she is our special dog.

But I really do miss her.

Love, Meredith Claire

P.S. Mommy wrote the words after I told them to her.

We put that in an envelope with two pictures of Abbey, and addressed it to God in Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith stuck some stamps on the front (because, as she said, it may take lots of stamps to get a letter all the way to heaven) and that afternoon I let her drop it into the letter box at the post office.

For a few days, she would ask if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch. Curious, I went to look at it. It had a gold star card on the front and said "To Meredith" in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith took it in and opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers, "When a Pet Dies". Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God, in its opened envelope (which was marked Return to Sender: Insufficient address). On the opposite page, one of the pictures of Abbey was taped under the words "For Meredith" We turned to the back cover, and there was the other picture of Abbey, and this handwritten note on pink paper:

Dear Meredith,

I know that you will be happy to know that Abbey arrived safely and soundly in Heaven! Having the pictures you sent to me was such a big help. I recognized Abbey right away. You know, Meredith, she isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me--just like she stays in your heart--young and running and playing.

Abbey loved being your dog, you know.

Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets!-- so I can't keep your beautiful letter.

I am sending it to you with the pictures so that you will have this book to keep and remember Abbey. One of my angels is taking care of this for me. I hope the little book helps. Thank you for the beautiful letter.

Thank your mother for sending it. What a wonderful mother you have! I picked her especially for you.

I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I am in heaven but wherever there is love, I am there also.

Love, God

...and the special angel who wrote this after God told her the words.

As a parent and a pet lover, this is one of the kindest things that I've ever experienced. I have no way to know who sent it, but there is some very kind soul working in the dead letter office. Just wanted to share this act of compassion.

May I always be the kind of person my dog thinks I am.

Protect Your Dog from 5 Lethal Household Items

By: Dr. Debra Primovic

Your dog is at risk for injury from hundreds of commonly-used home medicines and chemicals. Many home owners are unaware of these potential home hazards, and thousands of dogs are injured or die each year due to exposure to these substances. In this article, we consider five common household items that may pose a risk to your dog.

1 Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is considered a very safe form of pain relief in people, but this drug should never be administered to cats. While low doses are tolerated in dogs, there are far better and safer pain killers available for both species. Cats cannot properly metabolize acetaminophen and toxic effects include damage to red blood cells, anemia, and severe liver injury. As little as one regular strength Tylenol® tablet can be lethal to an adult cat! Symptoms of intoxication include vomiting, weakness, difficulty breathing, and swelling of the face and legs. Most cats are exposed to Tylenol® by ingesting a dropped pill or following administration by a well-intentioned, but uninformed owner. Acetaminophen also is a poor analgesic for dogs, so you are better off asking your vet about effective and safer treatments than risking adverse effects.

2 Aspirin, Ibuprofen (Advil®), and Naproxen (Aleve®) all belong to a class of drugs called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's). These drugs are commonly used to treat people for fever, arthritis, and other inflammatory conditions. Cats are unable to metabolize these drugs, and even one low (81 mg) dose given daily to a cat can be lethal after several days. Ultra-low doses can be safe, but should be guided by a veterinarian. While dogs better tolerate some NSAIDs, other drugs in this group carry a high risk of toxicity. NSAID toxicity in dogs causes

gastrointestinal ulcerations, enhanced bleeding tendencies and kidney failure. Exposure occurs when dogs ingest unsupervised medication or receive doses by well-intentioned but misinformed owners. Initial symptoms of toxicity may include vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, and dark stools. There are several NSAID's on the market licensed to treat arthritis and pain in pets including Rimadyl®, Deramaxx®, EtoGesic®, and Metacam®. These medications (and low-dose aspirin in dogs) are generally safe if used as directed by your veterinarian. Never give any NSAID to your dog unless instructed by your veterinarian, and be aware that pre-existent diseases (kidney failure) and drug interactions (including commonly-used prednisone and furosemide) can potentiate the adverse effects of these drugs.

3 Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) keeps car engines from freezing in winter and overheating in summer. However, ingestion of this product is one of the best known toxicities affecting household dogs. While many people take their auto to the local garage, millions of Americans purchase over-the-counter antifreeze products to replace or supplement auto engine coolants. Inappropriate storage, drainage (into uncovered containers or pans), spillage in the garage or driveway, and inappropriate dumping into streets creates a real potential for lethal ingestion. Ethylene glycol (EG) is a critical toxic constituent of most antifreeze products. Following ingestion EG is metabolized into a number of chemicals that injure the kidneys, heart, lungs, and brain. Acute kidney failure is the best recognized lethal problem but initially dogs may appear drunk and then normal. Without intensive care, dogs and cats exposed to toxic amounts of ethylene glycol will die. Antifreeze carries a sweet, appealing taste so many dogs drink it willingly. As little as three tablespoons can be lethal to a 25 pound dog. Clearly, antifreeze must never be handled in a careless manner!

4 Gorilla Glue® is among the most prominent of the water-activated, expanding adhesives sold in hardware and home improvement stores. If ingested, this glue product can be fatal. Gorilla Glue® exposure most commonly occurs when a dog chews on the bottle and ingests the glue. The glue expands and hardens within the stomach, a process that prevents vomiting of the ingested product. The lodged "foreign body" and associated ulceration of the stomach lining causes a loss of appetite, lethargy, and vomiting. Treatment requires surgical removal of the glue ball from the stomach. If your dog ingests this or any adhesive, read the package insert, call the 1-800 contact number on the package, monitor closely for symptoms, and contact your veterinarian.

5 Paper Shredders have become a common home office item. While these machines can help protect your identity, the ripping mechanism also presents a clear danger to the heads, limbs, tail, and skin of dogs and cats. Thus, while the following section may seem akin to a horror movie, the risks of shredders are worth understanding, and we suggest you read on. The aperture or opening of a shredder

mechanism is designed to reduce risks, so it is relatively narrow. However, the powerful motor of some devices can literally pull in a hairy extremity or exploring tongue, causing severe tissue damage. Most paper shredder injuries occur when machines are left on in the "auto-feed" mode. Dogs are exposed most often when young children insert food items (think: peanut butter sandwich) into the machine, and the dog's instincts precipitates a lick into the opening. The auto-feed shredder can actually pull a dog's tongue into the machine resulting in severe tissue trauma or even transection of the tongue. The best ways to protect your dog (and children) from such injuries involves two simple rules: keep the paper shredder unplugged and never leave your machine on auto-feed.

To sum it up: there are many items in your home or garage that are potentially dangerous to your dogs. Help keep your dog safe by following these suggestions:

- Never give your dog prescription or nonprescription medications without the advice of your veterinarian.
- Keep antifreeze, glues, and other chemicals safely stored and out of the reach of your dog.
- Keep paper shredders unplugged (or at least fully turned "off") when not in use.
- Don't let your dog roam around the basement or garage.
- Don't wait! Call for help if you have a concern about your dog. Some toxins and substances can be treated effectively with prompt therapy; some toxins are fatal if treatment is delayed.
- If you think your dog has been exposed to a toxic substance, contact your veterinarian, local emergency clinic, search for information on www.PetPlace.com and/or call the Animal Poison Control Center (ASPCA) at 1.888.426.4435 (There is a \$55.00 fee for this service).

CRIES.....

I have a BIG cry...My baby was killed this summer. I live on a quiet, dead end street for 47 years, where you can put a lawn chair out and sit on the street. A new couple moved in about a year ago, at the end of the street. They are constantly having parties. I was out walking both of my



dogs, (my beagle mix - 3 years old..."zoey"....and my precious little girl - 6 months old "gina".). One of the original women to the street like I am (I'm in my parents house that my dad built when I was 3), was in a wheelchair and was coming towards me

up the road. I saw a SUV back out of these new people's driveway at the end of the road, and I informed the lady in the wheelchair to move over to the side of the road, that a

vehicle was coming...As she moved over, I pulled Zoey in and then Gina...As I pulled Gina in, her collar slipped off her neck and she started running up the street...I screamed for this lady to stop, and she just ignored me, running over my puppy twice. The lady never tried to contact me to say I'm sorry or to see if I needed anything. I decided to fight back. I took her to court, and I was completely rail-roaded, down to the lady who killed my puppy...(she changed her appearance). I just hate people. I purchased Gina when she was 8 weeks old, and woke up at 4 am every morning to take care of her...I had the girl across the street come over at lunchtime to let her out. I worked until 4, and spent every waking

moment with this precious little girl. She had the best of life for 6 months...I just got her spay, and she was just at the point where she



was trained. I just don't get why people are so cruel. I'm a single homeowner, and to me, both of my dogs are my children, and this evil woman took away my baby. and to top it all off, the people in the new house, the day I went to court, the man was waiting in the parking lot and threatened me...I never met this man, and he had nothing to do with the death of my puppy...Anyway...I'm enclosing a some pictures of my street, (I was 2 giant steps away from my house)...and my precious little girl. My animals are my life, and to me, they are not dogs, but people. When I first saw Gina in the pet store, within seconds, I had to have her. She was so beautiful, and I'm still so devastated.

Jayne Monchuk

AKC and AKC Companion Animal Recovery Stand Ready to Provide Relief to Canine Victims of California Wildfires

[Wednesday, October 24, 2007]

-- Take the Lead Poised to Help Human Victims --

The American Kennel Club and AKC Companion Animal Recovery have reached out to AKC affiliated dog clubs as well as local disaster officials to offer assistance in the wake of the California wildfires.

AKC is also working closely with Take the Lead - an organization which provides direct services, support and care for people in the sport of purebred dogs who are affected by tragedies -- in order to ensure that offers of support are extended to both the humans and canines

affected by these fires.

"Since Monday we have been contacting AKC clubs in the affected areas as well as disaster officials, such as the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services," said Dennis B. Sprung, AKC President and CEO. "Fortunately, it appears that both people and animals are being well cared for and evacuated safely, so there are no immediate needs. We are relieved to find that the majority of our constituents' needs are being met however we want to stress our willingness to assist wherever needed. Together with Take the Lead, our two organizations are poised to do whatever we can to ease the burden of this terrible tragedy."

In order to proactively ensure that provisions are available immediately if needed, AKC has coordinated with the California Federation of Dog Clubs to provide food, collars, leashes and crates to be available at a central Southern California location. Dog clubs, shelters or individuals in need of assistance are asked to contact Corporate Project Manager Marcy Zingler at mlz@akc.org or 212-696-8346.

The AKC will continue to post frequent updates to our website at www.akc.org.

DONATIONS

In anticipation of the needs of the canine victims, we are accepting monetary donations. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, you may send it to:

AKC/CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund
American Kennel Club
260 Madison Avenue - 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016-2401

Or donate online at <http://www.akc.org/donations>.

AKC/CAR is a permanent charitable fund which provides resources, support and other assistance to not-for-profit animal shelters and similar not-for-profit organizations providing care for domestic animals orphaned or displaced as a result of natural or civil disasters.

To donate to Take the Lead to help individuals in the dog fancy, visit <http://www.takethelead.org>

Rabies Still a Health Threat to Dogs

Pet Column for the week of October 24, 2007

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Sarah Dowling
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News has quickly spread across the country concerning last month's announcement by federal health experts declaring the United States is now rid of one strain of the deadly rabies virus, dog-specific rabies.

This strain is responsible for dog-to-dog transmission of the disease. According to the CDC it has been over two years since a confirmed case of canine-rabies was seen in the country. The United States now joins several countries across the world that have declared themselves to be canine-rabies free.

According to Dr. John Herrmann, a veterinary specialist in public health at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, Ill., it is important for pet owners to keep from falling into a false sense of security. While this breakthrough is indeed an exciting step in the right direction, it should not change anything concerning companion animal rabies vaccination protocols.

Dr. Herrmann explains that the elimination of canine rabies is a direct result of rabies vaccine protocols and laws for dogs that have been instituted across the country. As the number of vaccinated animals increased nationwide the canine population developed herd immunity to the rabies virus. Herd immunity involves the theory that it is more difficult for large numbers of animals to become infected with a disease when approximately 95 percent of the animals in the population are immune to, or vaccinated against, a particular disease.

It is also important for owners to understand that if owners were to stop vaccinating their dogs against rabies and the number of vaccinated animals drops below 85 percent of the total population, the herd immunity that we have worked so hard to achieve will be lost.

Owners should be aware that just because the canine strain of the rabies virus is no longer an active threat in the U.S. this does not mean that your beloved canine companion is safe from this fatal disease. Dr. Herrmann explains that rabies can still be transmitted to both pets and people via a bite from infected wildlife, such as skunks, raccoons, and bats.

"The fact that canine rabies has been eliminated is indeed a triumph, it is important that owners understand that rabies is still endemic in this country and the wildlife reservoir for the disease is a real threat," says Dr. Herrmann.

In general, any animal that could come in contact with wild or feral animal populations are at risk of infection, whether they be couch potatoes or a prized hunting dog. Certain animals may have an increased risk of infection due to their lifestyle, these animals include:

- Dogs involved in hunting or sporting activities
- Outdoor cats and dogs
- Horses that are ridden in heavily wooded areas

Owners can protect their animals by following their veterinarian's recommended vaccine protocol. Puppies and kittens should be vaccinated with a one-year vaccine at approximately 16 weeks of age and subsequent vaccines should follow yearly. A three-year vaccine is available for animals who have previously been vaccinated with the one-year vaccine; your veterinarian can provide you with more information about this vaccine.

Even if your pet is vaccinated against rabies, if you suspect that your pet has been bitten by another animal, whether it is by a stray cat or sick bat, it is important to notify your veterinarian and local animal control officer.

Federal and local health agencies, veterinarians, and other medical professionals are working together to find ways to reduce the rabies virus threat. For more information, please contact your local veterinarian or visit the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

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