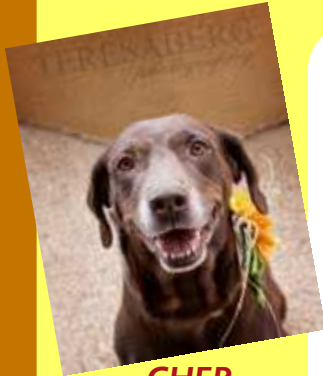




Paw Print

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

FALL 2011



CHER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Three Things 2
You Need
To Know
About Dog
Food**

**Training Tips: 3
Is My Dog
Getting
Enough Exer-
cise???**

**The Angels 4
Behind The
Wings**

Happy Tails! 5

**Tontin's 6,
Happy Tail 9**

**Second 7,
Chances: 9
King's Story-**

**No Kill...Slow 8,
Kill 12**

Who Cares For the Elderly

by Molly Peterson, CCHS President

As many of you know CCHS took in two senior labs that were dumped at their shelter by their lovely owners. They were named Lady and Buddy however due to CCHS already having those names active, we had to change it up. So their "stage" names are "Sonny and Cher" <<awwww, don't worry, Sonny doesn't ski so he should be just fine playing the part>>. Neither Sonny or Cher were spayed/neutered <<our next contest will be guessing how many puppies these two have created in their 8 years as a happy couple>>. They came along with an entire circus of acrobatic fleas that had their last show yesterday <<don't be sad, they had a long run on the road together, so it was time to retire the crew>>. Sonny has a horrible ear infection that is being treated w/ aggressive antibiotics/ointment as the Dr says it can take up to a month to heal. Cher has some lovely growths here and there and really needs some cosmetic surgery on her underside to tighten

up those years of motherhood. On Tuesday she will be a new woman.. re-freshed, lump and forever freed of being able to make babies <<you're welcome Cher;) sorry Sonny;>. We didn't tell her about the possibility of breast cancer yet as we don't want to scare her. We should have the results back from the biopsy by 8/19. On Monday, Sonny will retire his belt as Daddy of the year too. While he isn't excited about surgery... he tells me he just doesn't have the energy for kids any more so I'm sure he is relieved <<you're welcome Sonny>>. They are currently vacationing at Paw Beach Resort in Plano before their big surgeries next week! From there, Pet Paradise in Melissa has graciously offered to take

in the couple to help them settle into retirement. Ideally we would love for them to move in with some friends or family but they tell me that none of their kids are talking to them any more <<imagine that>>. So until we have a foster spot available for them, Hazel and her crew at Pet Paradise will take wonderful care of them. Unfortunately Sonny and Cher forgot to sign up for Medicare and neglected to save up for all of their pricey procedures/retirement home, but we have faith that the community will come together to help this happy couple get all the care they need and then some! Current vet bills are at \$280 for their full check up, DHPPC, Bordetella, rabies, HW test (both were negative!!!!),

(Continued on page 11)



SONNY

**Reserve
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2011 Gala
October 21**

Three Things You Need To Know About Dog Food *by Brett Grey, The Mutt Works Inc.*



The pet food recall in the Spring of 2007, prompted by the deaths of pets in the U.S. and Canada from renal failure due to melamine-contaminated wheat gluten, has spurred a dramatic increase in interest from pet owners about the quality of commercial pet food.

Unfortunately, accurate information about the issues surrounding food quality can be difficult to sort from the confusing morass of marketing hype and misinformation that comprises much of the widely disseminated advice about pet nutrition. There are excellent resources available, but the majority of the conventional wisdom that reaches most pet owners is either incomplete or simply wrong. To sift through some of the confusion and provide a basic framework for further self-education, here are three things you need to know about your dog's nutrition requirements and commercial pet food.

Regulations are Few

AAFCO is the American Association of Feed Control Officials, and they are responsible for issuing guidelines for the labeling of animal feed sold in the United States. If you've

encountered "experts" in the media discussing how to choose a quality dog food, you've no doubt heard them say something like "Make sure that the food you give your dog states on the bag that it meets AAFCO guidelines for complete nutrition for your pet's life stage." This isn't poor advice, but it is incomplete. The AAFCO guidelines are simply very broad standards for nutrient content that prevents products with serious deficiencies from being sold on the commercial pet food market. Every dog food on the shelves of your supermarket or pet retail store meets at least one of the AAFCO standards. If it didn't, it wouldn't be sold as dog food. The specifics of labeling and the AAFCO guidelines can certainly be informative, but to really understand how these guidelines relate to the quality of the food in the bag requires more than just checking the bag for the presence of a statement.

Labels are Tricky

The need for greater depth of knowledge about AAFCO guidelines be-

comes immediately clear once you realize that terminology appearing on dog food labels have specific definitions, and that those definitions are often far from intuitive. For example, if a food is labeled "Chicken & Turkey Dog Food" the combined weight of the chicken and turkey ingredients minus water content can be no less than 95% of the total ingredient weight. Change the name to "Chicken & Turkey Formula" and the requirement falls to 25%. A product called "Chicken & Turkey Flavor" is only required to have enough of those ingredients for them to be detected in a chemical analysis. All of those names may seem similar to a consumer, but there is a radical difference in the ingredient content.

The specific list of ingredients is another area where the guidelines may seem clear, but the reality is again quite different. AAFCO requires that ingredients be listed in descending order by weight prior to processing. That may seem simple enough, but manufacturers

(Continued on page 13)



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Tammy's Training Tips - Is My Dog Getting Enough Exercise

By Tammy Mills, Certified Dog Trainer, CPDT-KA, ABCDT

Someone once told me that if my dog was too fat then I was not getting enough exercise. I thoroughly agree. Contrary to popular belief, when you let your dog out he doesn't run out and start doing laps around the yard to get his daily exercise. More than likely he will do his business and then sit or stand at the door to be let back inside with you.

Dogs need exercise just like we do. It triggers a chain of chemical reactions in the body and the brain that helps promote calmness. Think about how you sometimes just seem to be going stir crazy from staying in the house too long and just have to go SOMEWHERE. Dogs

also go stir crazy. Being in the same house and same yard day in and day out does not give your dog the mental and physical stimulation they need. This is when behavior problems can start such as barking, chewing, digging, etc.

How much exercise does my dog need? It depends on the size, breed, age, and physical condition of the dog. Always start out slow if your dog is not used to strenuous exercise. Dogs who are crated for long periods of time, especially, need lots of exercise both mentally and physically, to offset time in the crate. Crating should be limited to no more than 4 to 6 hours at a time. Puppies should be crated



for even shorter periods because they cannot hold it any longer than their age + 1. For example, a two month old puppy can hold it usually 2-3 hours. A three month old puppy 3-4 hours. Dogs are usually their most active in the early morning and late evening, so if you do have to crate during the day, make sure you regularly exercise your dog early in the morning, before you leave and again when you return home. Keeping a dog in a crate for 8-10 hours a day and then crating at night is

(Continued on page 10)



Animal Corps— The Angels Behind The Wings



In planning our 2nd Annual CCHS Give a Dog a Home Gala, the idea was presented to give an award in recognition of a group or person who has gone above and beyond to help animals in need either in TX or across the US. The decision was made to give the "Justice" Award to Animal Rescue Corps lead by previous HSUS member Scotlund Haisley. The "Justice" award was named in dedication to a CCHS dog that was a poster child for neglect. When he turned up in horrific shape at a local shelter, a CCHS foster pleaded his case and she spent the next year rehabilitating him through the CCHS adoption program. He was adopted last Fall to a wonderful home in Houston! Justice truly was a prime example of the neglect that animals suffer at the hand of humans and the work that rescue does to bring them back to life.

As a team, we decided what a better name for an award than to recognize both Justice and a team or individual who has made an impact on animals in our communities. Here forward,

the "Justice" award was created and will continue to be an annual award in remembrance of the hard work that we all do every day of our lives to help those

that cannot otherwise help themselves. We are honored to have the Animal Rescue Corps team attend our event and receive this award in recognition of all their hard work and dedication.

Dressed in their Navy Blue shirts complete with Angel Wings on the back, ARC has come to the rescue of hundreds of animals across the US in 2011. They truly have gone above and beyond to help animals in need. Below is a breakdown about the Mission, Purpose and background of ARC... the Animal Angels in Blue.

Mission Statement:

Animal Rescue Corps' mission is to end animal suffering through direct and compassionate action, and to inspire the highest ethical standards of humanity towards animals.

Purpose:

Animal Rescue Corps (ARC) is a nonprofit animal protection organization that takes direct action in three ways. First, we conduct rescues of animals who fall victim to abuse and natural disaster. Second, we create public awareness of animal suffering. Third, we offer training and assessments for animal shelters, professionals and volunteers.

We work closely with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, other animal protection organizations, and communities to improve and strengthen relationships between humans and animals.

Animal Rescue Corps seeks to inspire a fundamental idea: that our responsibility to animals is vital, and all lives have value. This ideal benefits us

all in many ways — our physical safety, our economic systems, our mental health, our emotional well-being and our environment.

About Us:

The establishing members of Animal Rescue Corps (ARC) have more than 40 years of collective experience in animal protection. Founded by Scotlund Haisley, a 20-year veteran in this field, ARC provides expert animal protection services throughout the US and beyond.

ARC brings the professional expertise, human resources, tactical equipment, and financial backing necessary for its rescue operations, including investigations and permanent placements. ARC works with communities that don't have the resources to confront the cruelty themselves, especially when large numbers of suffering animals are involved.

ARC further addresses animal cruelty by generating public awareness, training volunteers, increasing community involvement and other measurable actions. Ultimately, ARC works within the legal system to affect lasting change from the inside out.

Animal Rescue Corps is unique because of its streamlined internal structure and its well-proven methods of external operations. Efficiency, effectiveness and expertise make ARC a leader in rescuing animals and serving communities.

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Featured Happy Tails

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Carli—Adopted by the Huth family



Pipi— with her new brother, Miguel and sister, Rosie



Violet — Adopted by the Innes family



Diva-Adopted by the Baughman family



Fall 2011

Phoenix—Adopted by the Cliff Family



Suzu- Adopted by the Smith family



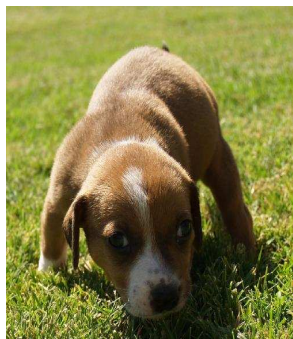
Captain Morgan - and his new bestie Drew



Maybell and Tito - Adopted by the Matus family



Claire- Adopted by the Kosanda family



Petey- Adopted by Deborah



Trinity- Adopted by the Kuhn's family



Harper- Adopted by the Fine family



Tontin's Happy Tail

by Ashley Pickering (CCHS Adopter)

I distinctly remember telling myself, "Don't watch that video". After seeing the description of it, I knew it would break my heart. I knew that I would cry. After all, how could I not when the title of the video read, "Dog watching family leave him" with a picture of a beautiful black and tan German Shepherd (one of my favorite breeds!!). However, for some reason, I was awake at 2 in the morning checking my Facebook and came across the video again and I watched it. Oh, my heart. It was broken as I watched the poor baby pace back and forth along the fence line watching his family walk away. I couldn't breathe as I imagined his pain and confusion as the only humans he ever loved left him in a strange building, with smells that were frightening. I could imagine his terror as the barks of scared and sad dogs echoed off the walls behind him. I didn't really ever get back to sleep that night. The next morning I posted his video on the Collin County Humane Society's Facebook page at 8:52 a.m. and by 5:25pm, it was discovered that he had been rushed into surgery for bloat. It seems as if all the anxiety and fear of his situation was too much for his system to handle and his stomach had twisted itself. The Denton Animal Shelter announced on their Facebook page that he would need a foster family once and if he



survived the surgery and recovery. As I read their announcement, I thought to myself, "I can take him. I need to take him. I **need** to show him that life can be wonderful!" Moments later, I was copied on an email from Tressa (the VP of CCHS) to Linda (owner of Camp Bow Wow) saying that if she wanted him, we needed to tag him. Only problem was that she couldn't take him until after Memorial Day. Divine intervention!! I chimed in and said, "Tag him, I can keep him with me". Thus began my journey with Tontin.

Tontin arrived in the middle of the first storm of the spring – tornado sirens wailing, hail swirling, and rain beating down on us; lightning and thunder creating a symphony as we tried to coax him out of Barbara's SUV. Obviously, not the best environment for a dog that had just gotten out of surgery for bloat less than 72 hours prior! My husband lifted him ever so gently and brought him into the house.

Once inside, he proceeded to find the nearest dark hiding space and tried to vanish into that spot. This was a dog that had obviously never been inside a home before, had never seen a crate, had never played with another dog, had no inside manners, wasn't sure how to interact with people, and had no idea what regular household appliances

were. Truly, this dog was absolutely heartbreaking. All we could do was stare at him for awhile. The first night I stayed up with him most of the night because I wanted to make sure he was okay in his crate. When he finally settled down and went to sleep, I quietly crept out of the room to try to get some rest. When I went into his room the next morning, I discovered he had somehow escaped from his crate – the locks were still closed and his e-collar was in his crate – and had slept on the sofa all night, LOL!! I would later come to find out, the crate was going to be a constant fight between the two of us. He

HATES the crate and will always find a way out of one, no matter what type of crate we would use! It was madness but also funny in an exasperating way.

Less than 24 hours after arriving at our house, Tontin discovered the joys of people, food, and the comfortableness of the couch!! This dog, who has obviously spent his life outside with little to no interaction with people, was a very fast learner! He realized that in our house, dogs are allowed to get up on the couch and snuggle with us! He made himself right at home and snuggled with my husband that night. Each day that passed resulted in a new discovery for him. One day, he realized that the big plastic bin in the living room that was filled with weird looking things were dog toys!! Oh joy!! He proceeded to take every single toy out and spread them all over the house. On a different day, he realized that my shoes smelled like me and I got home to see 6 different pairs of shoes littered all over my house. None were chewed on, some were on the dog beds, some were on the couch, some were in the living room in front of the window – literally all over. This "shoe thing" because a habit with him – he liked to grab my shoes and carry them around with him.

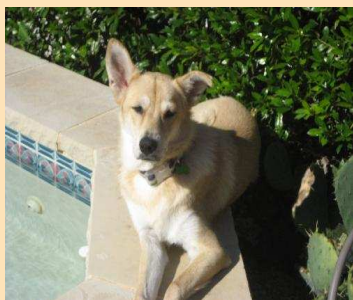
Every day was wonderful with him, Tontin grew more and more loving and we grew more and more attached to him. Applications came in piecemeal for him. Some



(Continued on page 9)

Second Chances: King's Story *by Laura A. Yuschak*

It all started from a Facebook post. On June 6th a man walked into Town Lake Animal Control scruffing an 11-month old puppy by his back.



He threw the dog to the ground and said, "He's not a purebred, I don't want him." This same man adopted the puppy, named King, from the same facility when King was only a few months old. No one will ever know what King endured from this man in the 8 months he lived with him, but from King's behavior, it had to have been horrific. King was terrified, submissive and hid in corners and did not allow anyone to get close to him at the shelter. He didn't have much time at Town Lake and he needed a savior.

I had just begun volunteering with Collin County Humane Society when King was dumped. I reached out to the President and the Advisory Board Member; I offered to rehabilitate King at no cost if CCHS would take him into their program. My mom stepped up and offered to foster King. After two days of working with Austin Pets Alive and Town Lake Animal Control, CCHS received the email, we could pull King. When I received the email I couldn't help but cry. There were many volunteers willing to help with transport but no one could get there until Thursday or Friday, I knew King needed to get out of the shelter environment as soon as possible. I thanked all the volunteers but said I was driving to Austin to get King that day, I left Dallas at 2pm.

King was absolutely terrified at the shelter. He came out of the shelter and right to me. We drove back to Dallas at 6pm that night. The first few days at his foster mom's he kept to himself and would hide in corners, his crate or behind the toilet. From the very start,

King loved being outside, he acted like a completely different dog. As he relaxed a little he found he loved the swimming pool as well! He doesn't just sun bathe on the steps, you can look out and see him swimming across the pool!

King has been in the CCHS foster program for three months and has made quite a bit of progress. He still is hesitant around men and when he gets into new environments but the greeting I get from him when I see him is amazing! He wiggles his whole body and licks me to pieces! He adores his foster sister and loves playing with other dogs! He is taking some time but after the horrific life he had, it's understandable and he is starting to learn not everyone is bad.

He recently had an incredible family that wanted to adopt him. The family was so patient

(Continued on page 9)



"He threw the dog to the ground and said, 'He's not a purebred, I don't want him.'"

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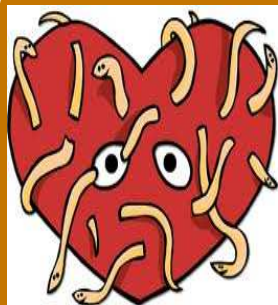
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No Kill...Slow Kill? Heartworm Treatments Gone! *by Mary Strauss*



On December 1, 2009, Merial published an open letter to veterinarians, announcing a shortage of Immiticide (melarsomine dihydrochloride), the only drug licensed for use in treating heartworm infestations in dogs. The shortage is due to a manufacturing site transfer. The company expressed hope that the shortage will not persist beyond the first quarter of this year.

An apparently unrelated problem is responsible for Merial's announced shortage of Heartgard (ivermectin) tablets, which may be unavailable until 2011. Heartgard prevents canine heartworm disease by eliminating the "tissue stage" of heartworm larvae for a month after infection.

Fortunately, Heartgard chewables and other ivermectin products (including products made by other manufacturers) remain available, so a shortage of the tablets is not cause for concern. The Immiticide shortage, however, has

alarmed veterinarians and shelters (who see a lot of heartworm-positive dogs) across the country.

To repeat: Immiticide is the only drug licensed or used to treat adult heartworms in dogs, and Merial is the only company who makes this product. Because of the shortage, veterinarians can no longer order Immiticide from distributors, in order to prevent stockpiling.

Instead, veterinarians who have a heartworm-positive patient must contact Merial directly and provide details of their patient's case. For now, Merial is selling the drug on a case-by-case basis, providing the drug only to the more severe cases, those dogs with clinical signs of heartworm disease. Dogs who test positive but have no clinical sign of disease will have to wait.

Safe, effective alternative

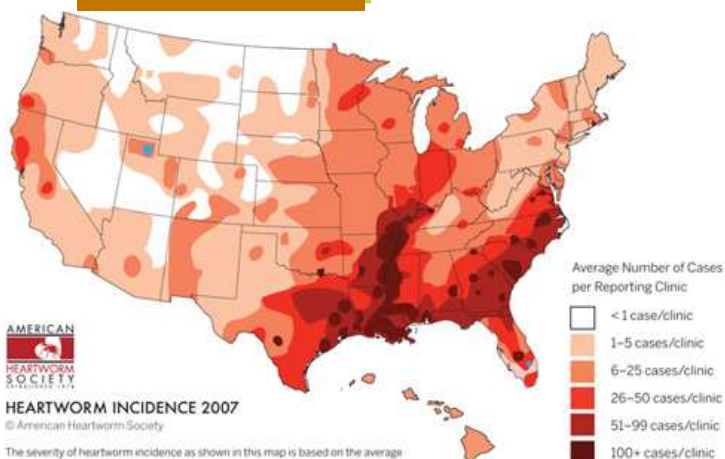
Fortunately, there is an alternative treatment for heartworm. As we discussed in "Update on Doxycycline and Heartworm Disease" (Whole Dog Journal August 2009), a combination of ivermectin (the active ingredient in Heartgard)

and doxycycline (an antibiotic), weakens and sterilizes adult heartworms, eventually killing them. The time this takes depends on the age of the worms; the older the worms, the longer they take to die.

In addition, giving doxycycline and ivermectin prior to treatment with Immiticide lowers the risk of adverse reaction to worm death, making the treatment much safer. It also lessens the negative effects of the worms themselves, primarily due to doxycycline's effect on *Wolbachia*, a parasite of heartworms (see "Parasites within Parasites," Whole Dog Journal August 2006).

The American Heartworm Society (AHS) recently updated its guidelines for treatment of heartworm infection in dogs. It says, "Studies have shown that heartworm-positive dogs pretreated with ivermectin and doxycycline prior to receiving melarsomine prior to starting Immiticide treatment. If treatment has not been completed within three to four months, doxycycline should be given again for

(Continued on page 12)



"Saving one animal may not change the world, But it will change the world for that one animal!"
(Unknown Author)

(Continued from page 7)

and understanding with him and he went over for several visits prior to leaving him overnight. Each visit King got more and more comfortable and I was so happy with the family! They had another rescue dog as well as children! The family decided to adopt him and each update I got said King was doing better and better! King had never been exposed to cats and unfortunately this family had two. One night King went outside to the bathroom and their cat ran by which caused King to chase him. Everyone was okay but we learned King has to be in a forever home without cats. Through his potential adoption we did learn that King can adjust to new environments, become more relaxed and settle into a family! King is still available for adoption and I am so pleased with his progress! Once King is adopted I will still continue to work with him at no cost to the adoptive parent. So many people joined the effort to save King and each one of them is one of his angels, "Saving one animal may not change the world, But it will change the world for that one animal!" (Unknown Author)

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(Continued from page 6)

were going to have a foster fail on our hands – not that we would have had a problem with that. Then it happened, exactly one month after he came into our lives, we received an application on him that in my heart I knew was the one. I read the application from Joseph H. and said to myself, "Now, this is what I have been waiting on!!" I started communicating instantly with Joseph. I was very honest with him about Tontin – as wonderful as I thought he was, he did have issues. Separation anxiety to name one. He was also "mouthy" – meaning, he was never taught as a puppy not to use his mouth to get someone/something to do what he wanted them to do. We had been working very hard on these behaviors but still hadn't cured them. Joseph had a daughter, so I was worried about the mouthiness of Tontin, Joseph was not. Everything I told him about Tontin, he was completely fine with and just wanted to meet him as soon as possible. On July 2nd, I loaded Tontin up in my SUV and drove over to Joseph's house to meet him and his family. Most of the time when Tontin met someone new, he would start barking like a loony dog at them, so obviously, I had some concerns to say the least. However, as Joseph opened his front door, Tontin approached him with a completely relaxed demeanor and stopped in front of him and let Joseph pet him. I could tell that Tontin was a bit nervous but A LOT less than I thought he was going to be. I was amazed from the very first moment. We went into the house and sat on the floor with Joseph, his wife, and his daughter for over an hour. Tontin started easing away from me and gravitating toward Joseph and his family. After an hour, I looked at Joseph, who looked at his wife, they both looked at me and said, "We want him. We want him in our family". It was an amazing moment and yes, I started to cry. As I completed the adoption con-

tract, I noticed that Tontin wasn't at my side, he was at his new mom's side because she was sitting on the floor playing with him. I could feel my heart break just a little bit more. As rescuers and fosters, we know that we will be saying goodbye to our fosters, but it doesn't make it any easier when the time actually comes, especially not when a foster was in particularly bad shape (either physically or emotionally) when they first arrived to us. After the paperwork was completed, we went outside so Tontin could take care of business and explore again. I knew I would have to sneak away – which is not something I normally do but I didn't want him to see me leave, I couldn't do that to him. I called Tontin over to me and said to him, "Alright buddy, this is it. It's your turn for a happily ever after. The best thing that ever happened to you was that stupid family leaving you at the shelter. I'm going to miss you so much, you always have a place with me if you need it. I love you, be good, show them how AWESOME you are". With that said, I hugged him and let go of him. He left me to go be with Joseph and his wife. I slipped out the side door and that was the end of my time with Tontin. As a family, we miss Tontin. He had an amazing spirit, his eyes shone with a love of life – you could practically see his beautiful spirit shining through those amazing eyes. In a very short time, he learned that the world is full of goodness and he longed for that goodness. He had a huge amount of love to give and we will always be grateful to Joseph and his family for giving Tontin a chance at a new life. Have a great life Tontin, thank you for allowing us to play a small part in it.



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Is My Dog Getting Enough Exercise (*continued*)

(Continued from page 3)

just not a good quality life for them. If this is the case, see if a neighbor can let the dog out midday, take your dog to a good safe doggie day care a couple days a week, switch off play dates with a neighbors dog, or try to be creative in finding a way to get him out more.

What type of exercise does my dog need? Some examples of physical exercise includes walks around the block, off leash at the park, playing fetch, long hikes, swimming - for some dogs, bicycling, agility, tracking, tug, find it games, etc. Mentally a good stuffed Kong toy, buster cubes, interactive games for dogs, obedience training... anything that makes your dog have to "think". Kong toys are good safe toys that can actually be left with the dog while you are gone.

"The old saying "A tired puppy is a good puppy" is very true."

You might be surprised at how much better your dog is when they are getting plenty of exercise. The old saying "A tired puppy is

a good puppy" is very true. Remember you have your job, kids, school, ball games, family and such...your dog only has you. Make sure the time you get to spend together is good quality time for both you and he. You might find that you get used to those long walks every morning and actually enjoy them.



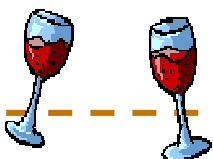
Residents Lucian and Melvin with pets Jake (Golden Lab) and Astro (Black and Tan Shepherd)

Wine Pool!!

No need for a swimsuit for this pool party... bring your party suit!

CCHS is having our 2nd Annual Gala to raise money for our adoption facility! We will be having a wine raffle (every ticket is a winner) but we need wine to make this party a success! Do you have a nice bottle of wine that you have been saving for that special occasion? If so, this is it! You can donate your wine to our cause and CCHS will be able to find it a good home. The value of the wine must retail at \$25 or more. If you have wine to add to the pool party, let us know!

Contact Karen Creel at kcree12433@yahoo.com



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Who Cares For the Elderly? *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

ear swab, ear meds, skin scrape to check for mange <<no mange... just mangy fleas and a bad hair cut given by her amateur barber>>. Boarding at Paw beach Resort was \$110 for 5 days and their surgeries and her biopsy were another \$889. Thankfully Cher's biopsy results come back non-cancerous!

The GOOD news is that Pet Paradise in Melissa has graciously offered to house them at their facility as long as space is available for no charge and they are doing great at their facility!!! Thank you so much to Hazel and her team at PP for their help w/ this family. They do still need a foster home (they do not have to stay together) as it would be ideal for them to be in a home vs. boarding. So if anyone would like to take in a lab... or two, please let us know! Donations are still needed to help cover the cost of their care. Visit our homepage and click on the Donation link to help contribute for their vet bills.

To date we are at the following for the vetting cost/needs for this pair:

\$280 Initial check up, vaccinations, skin scrape, ear swab, ear meds, HW tests at 380 West

\$110 Boarding from Thursday Aug 11th-15th at Paw Beach

\$264 Sonny's Neuter and exploratory "Ball" search at Parker Animal and Bird Clinic
\$625 Cher's spay, tumor removal, growth removal and biopsy sent to lab for cancer testing at Valley Ranch Animal Hospital in Irving

Total: \$1279

Beds and collars were generously donated for them to be comfortable at PP. Any help for their cause is greatly appreciated!



CCHS 2011 Gala

Our ultimate goal is to build a no-kill adoption facility and the Gala is our primary fundraiser to help us reach this goal.

GALA 2011

When: Friday, Oct 21, 2011

Where: Cityplace

Time: 7:00pm - Midnight

SPONSORS NEEDED

Please contact Molly Peterson for more information

pres@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org

Reserve your seats now at
www.collincountyhumaneSociety.org



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“the use of a monthly ivermectin-based heartworm preventive along with doxycycline could be considered.”

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No Kill...Slow Kill... (continued)

(Continued from page 8) (Immiticide) injections had less pulmonary pathology associated with the death of the heartworms. If doxycycline is incorporated into a heartworm treatment protocol it should be given before administration of melarsomine so the Wolbachia organisms and their metabolites are reduced or absent when the worms die and fragment. Doxycycline administered at 10mg/kg BID for four weeks has been shown to eliminate more than 90 percent of the Wolbachia organisms and the levels remain low for three to four months.”

For dogs who are not treated with Immiticide, the guidelines say, “the use of a monthly ivermectin-based heartworm preventive along with doxycycline could be considered. It has been reported that ivermectin and doxycycline administered periodically over 36 weeks resulted in a 78 percent reduction in adult worm numbers. Moreover, microfilariae from dogs treated with doxycycline that were ingested by mosquitoes developed into third-stage larvae that appeared to be normal in appearance and motility, but these larvae

were not able to develop into adult worms, thus negating the risk of selecting for resistant strains. The administration of doxycycline at 10 mg/kg BID for a four-week period every three to four months should eliminate most Wolbachia organisms and not allow them to repopulate.” While the AHS still recommends monthly use of heartworm preventatives in combination with doxycycline during treatment for heartworms, the studies reported above used standard heartworm preventative doses of ivermectin given weekly during the 36-week treatment period. They also pulsed doxycycline throughout the treatment period rather than just giving it every three to four months.

Based on the above, it may be best to give Heartgard (not Heartgard Plus) weekly until treatment with Immiticide is begun, or until the dog no longer tests positive for heartworms, if Immiticide treatment is not used. Giving Heartgard weekly (rather than monthly or every two weeks) is less important for dogs who will be treated with Immiticide than those relying on ivermectin and doxycycline alone to get rid of heartworms. (Note that weekly Heartgard is not recommended for dogs with the MDRI gene mutation that causes sensitivity

to ivermectin.)

Doxycycline should be given at the dosage level listed above for four weeks prior to starting Immiticide treatment. If treatment has not been completed within three to four months, doxycycline should be given again for four weeks. If Immiticide treatment is not done, treatment with doxycycline should be repeated every three to four months until the dog no longer tests positive for heartworms.

Ivermectin and doxycycline may seem a safer (though slower) alternative to Immiticide, even when the shortage is over. But heartworms cause damage as long as they are in the dog's body, and the danger from the dying worms, while reduced by the use of doxycycline, exists as long as the worms are present. Immiticide following one month of treatment with doxycycline and ivermectin is still the treatment of choice for most dogs with heartworm disease. If Immiticide treatment is not available, or if you have a dog with early-stage heartworm disease, then long-term use of ivermectin with doxycycline is a reasonable alternative. –

"The most common example is the splitting of ingredients. For example, a manufacturer may list "chicken, corn gluten meal, whole ground corn, whole grain sorghum, corn meal" on an ingredient panel."

(Continued from page 2)

have multiple ways of manipulating their labeling to meet the requirements. The most common example is the splitting of ingredients. For example, a manufacturer may list "chicken, corn gluten meal, whole ground corn, whole grain sorghum, corn meal" on an ingredient panel. Most consumers will assume that because chicken is listed first, it is the primary protein source in the food. This may be true, but it's unlikely. The trick is that items are listed by weight prior to processing. Raw chicken is more than 70% water and the water-weight is included in the calculation of ingredient order. The primary protein source in a food with this ingredient list is almost certainly corn gluten meal. The use of corn gluten meal as a primary protein source

in dog food has become popular with mass market dog food brands because it's a cheap, protein rich by-product of corn milling. Its value as a primary protein source is highly questionable and virtually all higher-quality pet foods avoid this ingredient entirely. Product labeling and the deceptive practices many companies use are complicated issues. If you need a more detailed background on labels and the guidelines they must follow, the Label Info 101 page at The Dog Food Project (<http://www.dogfoodproject.com/index.php?page=labelinfo101>) is an excellent resource. For most consumers the bottom line on food quality is that you must be able to trust the manufacturer of your pet's food and the person who sells it to you. That trust will allow you to find answers to your questions that you feel comfortable relying on.

Fat is Critical

Fat has been demonized in mainstream American food culture over the past few decades.

Other than smoking, and perhaps salt, no other consumption related activity has been discouraged like the consumption of fat. The growing obesity epidemic in pets is likely

to cause such demonization to increase dramatically in the pet food market as well. There are a few inherent differences in pet nutrition that may help stem the tide, however. People find it much easier to connect dogs and cats with their evolutionary past than to connect with their own. This leads to at least some level of recognition that both dogs and cats are predominantly carnivorous, and by extension that carnivores ingest fat in significant quantities. The nutritional value of quality fat sources for dogs and cats cannot be understated. Skin, hair, immune system, hormone cycles, and brain function are all dependent upon dietary fat and the fat-soluble vitamins that come with it. If your dog is constantly shedding large volumes of hair regardless of season, it may very well be related to an insufficient quality or quantity of dietary fat. Likewise for skin irritation, hyperactivity, and several other common health complaints.

The key questions for most pet owners are:

What are the primary sources of fat in my dog's current diet? What are the ideal sources of dietary fat for dogs?

The answer to the first question can be divined generally

by reading the ingredient panel of your dog's food, plus any supplemental feeding of fats or oils that you add to a commercial diet. Any commercial food which simply lists "Animal Fat" or "Poultry Fat" in the ingredient panel rather than a specific source should be avoided at all costs. The second question is much more complicated. Ideal sources of dietary fat will differ based on the dog's current condition. Generally, fat

organ meats such as liver, kidney, and heart are ideal for almost all dogs. These are extremely dense sources of fat-soluble vitamins in their most usable forms. Extra-Virgin Coconut Oil is a favorite for dogs that have dull, brittle coats. The high saturated fat content helps restore hair health and reduce shedding. The fact that the lauric acid in coconut oil is a medium-chain triglyceride means that it is used efficiently by the body. Sunflower oil is an excellent supplement for dogs with dry skin. The Omega-6 fatty acids in sunflower oil help skin cell membranes retain moisture and, by extension, reduce flaking. Fish oil is also very popular and beneficial to dogs with all manner of inflammation-related problems including allergies, irritable bowel disease, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, and many others. The high Omega-3 fatty acid content in fish oil produces anti-inflammatory by-products during metabolism that help balance the excess of Omega-6 in most dogs' diets.

What Next?

Obviously there is a great deal more to food selection for your dog than the three issues listed, but these are a few of the most commonly misunderstood and misrepresented. If you wish to significantly advance your knowledge of pet nutrition The Dog Food Project (www.dogfoodproject.com) and The Whole-Dog-Journal (www.whole-dog-journal.com) are excellent resources. I would also strongly recommend that you find someone in your area that has in-depth knowledge of these issues and is willing to help answer questions for you. The ability to pick up the phone when you have a question or encounter something confusing is invaluable.

LET'S ART PARTY PLANO



On August 14th, 2011

Lynn Hale organized an "art for dogs" event! 20 people participated raising \$225 in revenue from ticket sales and \$140 in T-Shirt sales toward rescue costs and shelter build.





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Who We Are

Collin County Humane Society is a non-profit 501c3 organization established in March of 2008.

We are dedicated to helping dogs who are unwanted, abandoned or lost. We focus on finding these loyal souls proper care and loving homes. CCHS does not have a shelter. All of our dogs live in foster homes with volunteers until they are adopted. We provide all necessary veterinary care for our foster dogs, including vaccinations, spay/neuter, heartworm treatment if needed, heartworm preventative and any other special care they require. Please consider CCHS when you are ready to add a furry friend to your family.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month:**
Adoption event at PetSmart - 170 E. Stacy Rd, Allen, TX
- ⇒ **Adoption Event: Oct 15th**
When: 1-4pm
Where: All Creatures Vet (2525 E Hebron Parkway, Carrollton 75010)
- ⇒ **Give a Dog a Home Gala: October 21, 2011**
When: 7pm-midnight!
Where: City Place, Dallas, 2711 North Haskell Avenue Dallas, TX 75204-2911
(214) 515-5100
<http://www.collincountyhumanesociety.org/registration.htm>
- ⇒ **The 6th Annual Celina Balloon Festival and Family Fun Day**
When: November 4th & 5th
Where: Old Celina Park