



DOG TRACKS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2026



The CDC is urging pet owners to take extra precautions as concerns grow over the flesh-eating New World Screwworm following the first reported dog case.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the New World Screwworm is a flesh-eating parasite that can affect livestock, pets, wildlife, birds, and even humans.

The parasite is not contagious and does not spread between animals or from animals to humans. But even a small cut can put a pet at risk, as the larvae can infest an open wound.



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This and That

The revised Bylaws were submitted to AKC on July 17, and the Bylaws committee has been disbanded as all work has been completed.

A HUGE that you to the committee: Jennifer LaViola, Martha Ho, Thalia Rott, and Andi Kutlik. The work of a Bylaws committee is HUGE (I've done it for a different organization so I know!) and the club is so appreciative for all their hard work on getting this document completed.

The Spring Fling was held June 13 and those that attended had a great time. We wish more people had attended but those that did enjoyed all the history items that Colleen Colenso brought, some scored great things at the auction, and all had some most excellent Filipino food. It was a warm day but we had misters and the pool so it was very pleasant.

Hope to see more people next year, whatever the club decides to do in the future.



Health tips by Doc Tailwagger

Water Intoxication

Water intoxication in dogs is a rare but potentially fatal condition caused by excessive water intake leading to dangerously low sodium levels (hyponatremia).

Causes

Water intoxication occurs when a dog drinks a large volume of water in a short period, overwhelming the kidneys' ability to maintain electrolyte balance

Common scenarios include:

- Swimming, diving, or retrieving objects in water
- Playfully biting streams from hoses or sprinklers
- Drinking excessive freshwater after exercise or in hot weather

Small and toy breeds are at higher risk because it takes less water to overwhelm their systems, and breeds that love water, such as Retrievers, Spaniels, and Border Collies, are more prone to overdrinking.

Symptoms

- Symptoms of water intoxication can develop quickly and range from mild to severe:
- Mild: staggering gait, lethargy, nausea, weakness, excessive salivation
- Moderate: dilated pupils, glazed eyes, loss of coordination
- Severe: difficulty breathing, seizures, collapse, coma, or death

The underlying mechanism is **hyponatremia**, where low sodium levels cause water to move into cells, leading to swelling, particularly in the brain, which can result in irreversible damage

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Diagnosis

Diagnosis can be challenging because sodium levels may begin to normalize by the time a vet examines the dog, even though cellular damage has occurred.

Vets may also need to differentiate water intoxication from hypothermia, overexertion, or trauma.

Treatment

Immediate veterinary care is critical. Treatment may include:

- **Electrolyte administration** via IV to carefully restore sodium levels
 - **Diuretics** such as furosemide (Lasix) to remove excess fluid [r](#)
 - **Mannitol** to reduce brain swelling in severe
 - **Hypertonic saline** in extreme hyponatremia
- Treatment must be gradual to avoid further neurological complications. Mild cases may recover fully, but severe cases can result in permanent brain damage or death

Prevention

- Limit water play sessions to 5–10 minutes with breaks
- Monitor dogs during swimming or sprinkler play
- Provide access to fresh water but discourage rapid gulping
- Be cautious with small breeds and water-loving dogs

Recognizing early signs and seeking prompt veterinary care can significantly improve outcomes for dogs at risk of water intoxication.

Information provided by AKC, Canine Journal, Vets Now, Dogster, Canine Journal, and Hepper.





I shall Not Eat Bees!!!

You may have been there – you're outside playing with your pup or just enjoying the fine weather and here comes your pup looking very different than they looked earlier! Yep – they were stung by a bee. A dog that gets stung by a bee will have a serious swelling.



Assistance is needed at many upcoming events so keep an eye out when the requests are sent to the chat group. Help is definitely needed for the Woodland scent work trial – please contact DeeDee if you are available to help out.

Help is also needed for our big September show – here is the email request from Marsi:

Thank you to the folks who have already volunteered to steward at our Annual Obedience/Rally trial at Sycamore Lanes on Sept. 19th.

I still need volunteers for the following positions:

- 1 steward for the rally ring**
- 1 steward for the novice ring**
- Table steward for the Utility ring**
- Table steward for the Open ring**
- 1 steward to substitute in rings for breaks**

Please email me at: marsi115@aol.com

Upcoming SJDTTC Events

- 9/10, 9/11, 9/13 – Scent Work, Woodland
- 9/19 - signature show – rally & obed, Lodi
- 10/9, 10/10, 10/11 - SW Detective trial
- 10/17 - Member Appreciation Luncheon
- 11/29 - Ltd obedience trail
- 12/3 Lodi Parade of Lights
- 12/5 - Club Christmas party

As funny as they may look to you – and I've had it happen to my pups and they DO look funny – some dogs may be highly allergic to a bee sting.



Your first step should be to give your pup some Benadryl. Because dogs metabolize different than humans, the dosage is 1 mg per pound of body weight. So, a 70-pound dog would get 3 25 mg tabs. It is very safe to give to your dog.



In rare cases, if the dog is highly allergic to bee venom, he will have anaphylactic shock, which is dangerous. A dog with anaphylaxis may get extremely swollen and if the airways are affected, it may stop the dog from breathing.



Keep an eye on your pup for any dizziness or difficulty breathing and seek immediate veterinary attention at once. One thing you can do to help eliminate the possibility of a sting is to make some environmentally and pet safe bee spray.

NON-TOXIC BEE REPELLENT

Fill a spray bottle with water nearly to the top. Add a few teaspoons of liquid dish soap; this will help the next ingredients dissolve and distribute evenly. Add a few drops of peppermint essential oil – enough that you can readily smell when you spray the mixture. Then add 1/8 teaspoon each of cinnamon and cayenne pepper. Shake well. Strain and refill spray bottle.

Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Penny Paws,

My owner thinks I eat my meals too fast. What do you think? Keep in mind, she makes me sit and wait before I'm allowed to eat and I flood the floor with drool while waiting. I can devour 2 cups of food in about 10 nano seconds.

My owner has tried hand feeding me and taking my dish away half way through my dinner, but nothing slows me down. A friend suggested putting a big rock in the middle of my dish so I'd have to eat around it. I don't know if that would work – what if I ate the rock too? Personally, I don't understand why she is so concerned.

Signed,
Speedy Eater

Dear Speedy,
Not only is it better for your digestion to eat slowly, but it's better manners as well. Your owner needs to watch you for food protectiveness too. Are you really that hungry? Or are you trying to eat fast so no one else can get to your food?

How is your weight? If you're underweight, maybe you need more food. Do you get enough exercise? A large rock will work, but there are many dog food bowls out there for speedy eaters. Some have a large hump in the middle, some are designed like a maze.

Adding warm water to the food helps sometimes to slow down gobbling, but soft mush food can create

more plaque so you'll have to brush after every meal. If your owner picks up your bowl half way through your meal, she should add a treat (like a liver snack) to the bowl when she gives it back, so the experience is a positive one.

Happy digestion,
Miss Penny Paws

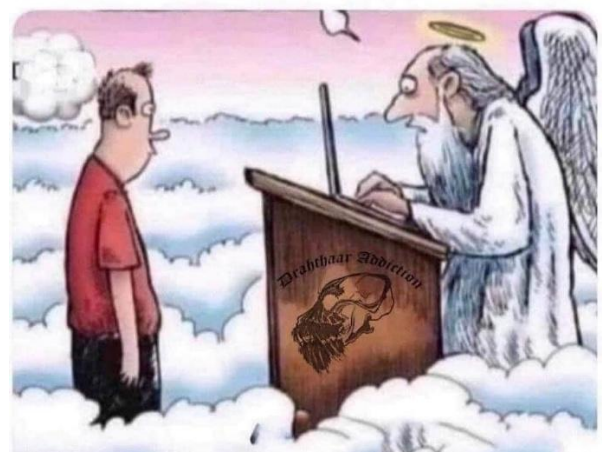


Another Successful Rattlesnake Clinic

The two-day rattlesnake aversion training clinic saw 78 dogs successfully trained. Natural Solutions does an awesome job with this training and are so professional and helpful.

Our volunteers were inside the airconditioned building at the Tri-Dam Lions Clubhouse, as well as those waiting for their turn at the training so everyone was comfortable – except perhaps the poor rattlesnake handlers who were out in the heat. And we made a profit of 410.22, so a good event!

**YOU ALMOST MADE IT, EXCEPT FOR YOUR
LANGUAGE WHEN TRAINING DOGS..**



For those not familiar with the rattlesnake aversion training, here is some general information.

The following is from the PetMD website, by Dr. Jennifer Coates:

A study published in 2011 showed that giving antivenin to dogs who had been bitten by rattlesnakes “effectively stabilized or terminated” the effects of the venom.

Researchers had access to 115 client-owned dogs who had been bitten by rattlesnakes and whose symptoms associated with the bite were worsening over time. All dogs received “standard supportive care” and one vial of rattlesnake antivenin either given all at once or divided in half with the second dose given six hours after the first. Each dog’s condition was evaluated using a standardized system and assigned a “severity score.”

The scientists found that after receiving the antivenin “the mean severity score of the 115 patients decreased from 4.19 to 3.29 points” and “the mean severity score of the 107 patients without fatalities decreased from 4.16 to 2.15. It didn’t seem to matter whether the dogs received the entire contents of the vial as one dose or divided into two doses.

Giving antivenin is not an entirely benign treatment. Dogs can have adverse (including allergic) reactions to the injection, but in this study only six percent of the dogs had problems associated with the antivenin.

If you choose the vaccine, do your research and talk with your vet. My vet no longer recommends it, and the National Snakebite Support Group (www.nationalsnakebitesupport.org) does not recommend the vaccine either. Definitely check out their FAQs for more information – they have

great advice (such as Benadryl has no effect on snake bites since snake venom is not a histamine) and they have the most up to date protocols in the case of an active bite.

Some people take a different route – rattlesnake aversion training. Some prefer to reduce the vaccines given to their dogs, some people believe avoidance of snake contact is the best solution.

The rattlesnake aversion training does use real rattlesnakes. The snakes are either humanely muzzled or hooded so as to protect the dogs from a bite.

The “handler” takes your dog on a long-line, with a shock collar. When the dog goes to the snake, they receive a small shock. The dog is introduced to a snake in front of them, one hidden (so they just hear the noise), a skin or a snake with the rattles wrapped (so they associate the smell as well as the sound), a recording of a rattle so they associate that sound with danger, and the final test is the handler brings the dog towards the owner, and there is a large snake between the dog and the owner. The owner calls the dog, who should make a wide path around the snake.

If you haven’t done this training with your dog, please consider attending our clinic next year – it’s a fabulous training and could possibly save your dog’s life.



NATIONAL SNAKEBITE SUPPORT

VETERINARY PIT VIPER ENVENOMATION FOR DOGS AND CATS

INDICATED / RECOMMENDED TREATMENT

- Antivenom** The only thing that can neutralize venom. Nothing else addresses swelling, bruising, tissue damage, pain, hematologic changes, and long-term effects from envenomations.
- IV Fluids** Precise control of patient hydration.
- Pain management** Pit viper envenomation is an extremely painful condition.
- Bloodwork** Helps assess the progression or regression of hematologic changes.

CONTRAINDICATED / DO NOT ADMINISTER

- NSAIDs** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including, but not limited to, carprofen and meloxicam, can increase bleeding tendencies. Bleeding risks are already increased due to venom effects. NSAIDs can also cause significant kidney injury.
- Corticosteroids (aka steroids)** Corticosteroids, including, but not limited to, dexamethasone and prednisone, increase the risk of delayed healing and gastric ulceration/perforation. When combined with NSAIDs, the risk of septic peritonitis and potentially fatal GI bleeds is even higher.
- Subcutaneous fluids** Administering fluids under the skin causes some bleeding. The tendency to bleed is already increased due to the venom.
- Human Medications** Human medications can be fatal to pets and should never be administered except as instructed by a veterinarian.
- Home Remedies** There are no effective home remedies for pit viper envenomation. Some home therapies may cause additional harm and complicate or prolong proper veterinary treatment.

NOT INDICATED / OF NO BENEFIT

- Benadryl** Benadryl is an antihistamine that is useful in treating swelling and inflammation mediated by a body chemical called histamine. Histamines are released by the body in cases of allergic reactions and in response to bee, wasp, and hornet stings.
- Swelling from pit viper envenomation is caused by massive tissue damage mediated by hemotoxins, cytotoxins, and myotoxins, not by histamine release.
- Using antihistamines to address swelling related to snake venom is of zero benefit, and may cause dangerous altered mentation in patients experiencing shock.
- Antibiotics** Antibiotics prescribed during the initial treatment of envenomation are unnecessary. Antibiotics should be prescribed only if infection has been diagnosed.

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