



January 2009



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Events to Note

- Jan. 17** Club Meeting, RSVP to Laura
- Feb. 19** Newsletter Deadline
- Feb. 21** Club Meeting, RSVP to Wendy
- Apr. 18-19** Pet Expo

Baloo at Mercy

Submitted by Mark Swanson



Why I Dremel Instead of Clip?

By Dawn Garrett

(submitted by Mark Swanson)

The abridged summary answer to this question is that it is more comfortable for the dog and you can get the nails shorter and smoother (which is nicer for you). This is actually a much more

comfortable method of maintaining nails than clipping them because it does not pinch or hurt the quick. The quick is sensitive living flesh inside your dog's nail. With our large dogs, in order to cut through the hard shell nail, you must squeeze the nail between the clipper's two surfaces. If you use a guillotine style, then the nail is pushed hard against the immovable blunt metal while the blade cuts in from one side. If you use the scissors-style, then two blades squeeze in from either side of the nail. If you must clip, IMHO, this is the better method than the guillotine since it cuts from both sides and therefor squeezes a little less. However, neither is very good because when you squeeze in on the nail, you invariably must pinch down on the quick inside the nail. The harder the nail, the more the pressure you must apply. Thus, it can be very uncomfortable for the dog. Also, when clipping on dark nails, you are effectively cutting blind. In order to get the nails back, you keep doing a series of small clips and try not to hit the quick. As a result, you often stop short of where you could go, if you were using a Dremel. When done properly, there is no squeezing or pressure on the quick with the Dremel. Further, you can see "inside" the nail as you gradually grind back to the quick. So, you can judge when you're getting close to nicking it and stop in time. With the Dremel, you can also grind off all around the quick so that it recedes faster and you can get even shorter nails. The closer you can get to the quick, the more you can force it to recede and the more quickly it will recede. Finally, you can grind off all the corners and rough edges leaving nice soft nails that don't gouge nearly so much when your Dobes paw you for affection.

<http://homepages.udayton.edu/~merensjp/doberdawn/dremel/dremel.html>

You can't keep a good man down - or an over-affectionate dog.

Growing Old with Dogs

When I am old I will wear soft gray sweatshirts and a bandana over my silver hair and I will spend my social security checks on wine and my dogs.

I will sit in my house on my well-worn chair and listen to my dogs' breathing. I will sneak out in the middle of a warm summer night and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow...

When people come to call, I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs and talk of them and about them the ones so beloved of the past and the ones so beloved of today

I will still work hard cleaning after them, mopping and feeding them and whispering their names in a soft loving way.

I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat, like a jewel and I will be an embarrassment to all especially my family who have not yet found the peace in being free to have dogs as your best friends.

These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep, to greet you as if you are a God.

With warm eyes full of adoring love and hope that you will always stay, I'll hug their big strong necks I'll kiss their dear sweet heads and whisper in their very special company

I look in the Mirror and see I am getting old this is the kind of person I am and have always been. Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me.

Please accept me for who I am. My dogs appreciate my presence in their lives they love my presence in their lives When I am old this will be important to me you will understand when you are old if you have dogs to love too.

"Enjoy and take good care of your pets. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without them."

Do Dogs Have A Sixth Sense?

Source Unknown

Sit. Stay. Shake. Many of us enjoy bragging about the things our dogs have learned to do. But some of the most remarkable behavior seems to come

naturally, not through training, but through pure instinct or intuition.

Makai, a young German shepherd dog, had no children in his own family but enjoyed playing with the two-year-old boy who lived next door. Their relationship reached a new level one morning when the toddler suddenly bolted from his yard, scampering toward the street. Before any of the adults could react, Makai raced ahead of the child, gently bumped him to the ground and stood over him, thwarting the attempted escape.

Rusty, best friend and self-appointed protector of a first-grader, perceived danger in a more subtle form. The poodle/setter mix had seemed wary of Steve's playmate from the beginning, watching him steadily and always positioning himself between the two boys when they were together. The parents kept an eye on the situation but saw no reason for concern. That changed dramatically one Sunday during an afternoon of play in Steve's back yard. The visiting child picked up Rusty's favorite toy and dropped it into a kiddie pool. When the dog looked over the edge in search of his treasure, the boy placed both his hands on Rusty's head, pushed it underwater and held it there with all his strength. The boys never played together again. And Steve's parents learned never to question their canine family member's instincts.

This sixth sense can be equally important in the business world. One corporate executive tells of an Australian shepherd with a gift for sniffing out trouble. Bea is an active, gregarious pup who goes to work with her mom and gets along with almost everyone. But she was less than friendly to one employee, and no amount of gentle reassurance could win her over. When not barking aggressively, she kept close watch on his every move. After several months, the human staff members began to recognize what Bea had sensed immediately. Not exactly a team player, their co-worker was continually stirring up discontent. Worse yet, he was dishonest. The executive discovered that he had been stealing from the business. He's no longer with the company, but the resident character-detecting watchdog is still on the job.

Why do animals so often sense things that we don't? Is it because we rationalize and "intellectualize," while they simply go with the flow of their natural instincts? Whatever the explanation, we'd all be wise to respect their special gift.

The Importance of Puppy Socialization

By Arliss Paddock

From the very start, a puppy learns important lessons through his experience of the world around him. Even in the first few weeks as he snuggles with his dam, wrestles with his littermates, and is handled by his breeder each day, the personality traits and social skills that he will have all his life are beginning to form.

As the weeks go by, exposure to a variety of experiences is crucial to his becoming a well-rounded adult. Studies have shown that a puppy's experiences in the first three months of life strongly influence what kind of companion he will grow to be and how he will react to the world. Will he shy away from children? Will he be afraid of people in hats? Will he be aggressive toward other dogs? Or will he be easygoing and adaptable in a variety of situations.

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.~Samuel Butler, Notebooks, 1912



Holidays -Naptime

The Things Dogs Will Eat!

Rocks, Balls, and Other All-Consuming Passions
by Jerold S. Bell, DVM

Dogs have strong jaw muscles, which allow them to tear and chew many things. We have to remember, however, that their gastrointestinal tract is almost the same as a human's. Anything (aside from dog food) that we would not eat, our dogs should not eat.

There are three categories of foreign objects dogs tend to swallow: Balls, rocks, and other things. I have seen golf balls, Super Balls, rubber balls, and even a tennis ball removed from dogs' stomachs and intestines.

The most important recommendation I make to my clients is dogs should eat their food and treats, and play with their toys. They should not be consuming their toys. I am not in favor of rawhide treats, pig ears, or cow hooves. I have had to surgically remove these too many times. There are plenty of commercially available toys to satisfy a dog's chewing needs that do not break down into bite-sized pieces.

AAA Prescription Savings

(From the internet)

AAA Members whose prescriptions are not covered by insurance can now **save** on prescription medications:

- **15%** average **discount** on brand-name
- **35%** average **discount** on generic

These savings are available at more than 59,000 pharmacies nationwide...Start saving today by printing your **FREE** AAA Prescription Savings Card and presenting it at a participating pharmacy on your initial visit. You can use your AAA Prescription Savings Card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance or ... if your co-pay is high. AAA Prescription Savings cannot be used in combination with any other medical insurance plan you may have.

Pet prescriptions are also included. (Heartworm or flea/tick prevention medications are not covered.)

How many of these did YOU know about?

A sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a Knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.

Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them Neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't Refreeze.

To remove old wax from a glass candle holder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candle holder out and turn it upside down. The Wax will fall out.

Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped In baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!) rubbing alcohol on paper towel.

Whenever I purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, I immediately take a pair of Scissors and cut each pad into halves. After years of having to throw Away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally

decided that this would Be much more economical. Now a box of S.O.S pads last me indefinitely! In fact, I have noticed that the scissors get sharpened this way.

Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood.

Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal

For inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows On a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely Light scent in each room when the light is turned on.

Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell Freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 Hours prior to burning.

To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the Flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt And leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap And enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stove top.

Spray your TUPPERWARE with nonstick cooking spray before pouring In tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the Corn's' natural sweetness.

Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half, and rub it on your Forehead. The throbbing will go away.

Don't throw out all that leftover wine: Freeze into ice cubes for future Use in casseroles and sauces.

To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area And you will experience instant relief.

Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So, Get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.

Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, Leaves a lovely smell to the shine.

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to Tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and Then pull it off. Scotch tap e removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer..... Clean a toilet. Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China.

Clean a vase. To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water And drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry. Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle. Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, and then run the hot water.

Caution About Chicken Jerky Products

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to caution consumers about a potential association between the development of illness in dogs and the consumption of chicken jerky products. The products—also called chicken tenders, strips, or treats—are imported from China. FDA continues to receive complaints of sick dogs that their owners or veterinarians associate with eating chicken jerky products. FDA issued a cautionary warning to consumers in September 2007.

Australian news organizations report that the University of Sydney is also investigating an association between illness in dogs and the consumption of chicken jerky in Australia. At least one firm in Australia has recalled their chicken jerky product and the recall notification stated the product was manufactured in China.

What is FDA Doing?

- FDA, in addition to several veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States, is working to find out why these products are associated with illness in dogs. To date, scientists have not been able to determine a precise cause for the reported illnesses.
- FDA has conducted extensive chemical and microbial testing but has not identified any contaminant.
- FDA continues to actively investigate the problem. Many of the illnesses reported

may be the result of causes other than eating chicken jerky.

Tips for Consumers

- Do not substitute chicken jerky products for a balanced diet. The products are intended to be used occasionally and in small quantities. Owners of small dogs must be especially careful to limit the amount of these products.
- If you choose to feed your dog chicken jerky products, watch the dog closely. Stop feeding the product if your dog shows any of the following signs, which may occur within hours to days after feeding the product:- decreased appetite, although some dogs may continue to eat the treats instead of other foods- decreased activity- vomiting- diarrhea, sometimes with blood- increased water drinking or increased urination.
- Call your veterinarian if signs are severe or last for more than 24 hours. Blood tests may indicate kidney failure (increased urea nitrogen and creatinine). Urine tests may indicate Fanconi syndrome (increased glucose). Although most dogs appear to recover, some reports to FDA have involved dogs that have died.
- Consumers and veterinarians should report cases of animal illness associated with pet foods or treats to the FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator listed for their area at www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html.

This article appears on FDA's Consumer Health Information Web page (www.fda.gov/consumer), which features the latest updates on FDA-regulated products.

Happy New Year Dog Cookie Recipe

This is a tried and true recipe for homemade dog cookies. These are so much better for your dog than store bought ones and they will like them better too. Fish Cakes

- 1 can Tuna or Salmon (8 oz) in oil
- 2 Cups of Cornmeal
- 2 cups flour
- 3/4 cups Water
- 2/3 cup olive oil

Mix and roll out, cut into shapes. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes. Cool and store in refrigerator. These cookies are very rich in omega oils and are good for your dogs coat and skin.

Bonding with Your Dog

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/woof/tips/tip_02.html

Developing a caring, loving relationship with your new pet paves the way for a trusting, successful companionship between you and your dog.

This bonding, or relationship building, is the first step toward successfully training your dog. When a dog is secure in the knowledge that he is accepted as a member of the family, he will respond more favorably to obedience training.

The theory is relatively simple... Love your dog and he will love you back. You can even change the relationship you have with a dog that has been living with you for a while, by changing the way you treat him.

How to Begin... Sometimes it is difficult to know how a new dog was treated before he came to live with you. He may have been loved and well cared for, or he may have been mistreated. In either case, immediately and consistently let your dog know that he is safe, loved and respected.

Let your dog explore his new home and get to know each member of the family freely... forgiving any accidents that may occur. He should receive a lot of affection from everyone. Hug him, play with him, and by all means, talk to him. Even though he doesn't understand what you are saying, he will feel affection through the tone of your voice.

Techniques... The following activities and the manner which they are performed will help create a strong bond between you and your dog:

- Feeding your dog
- Walking your dog
- Bathing your dog
- Taking your dog with you when you go outdoors or in the car
- Allowing your dog to be with you when you are doing chores
- Playing with your dog
- Exercising your dog
- Housebreaking or paper training (without harsh corrections)
- Consistent daily routines (for feeding, walking, playing)



Happy New Year