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GINGER, THD, RATS CGCA, CGCU, TKA, FDC



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Board meets 6 p.m. General meeting 7:15 p.m.
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***Did you know?**

March named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

Puzzle of the Month: I am composed of 4 letters. My first S in a fish, but not in an owl. My second S in shad, but not in a fowl. My third S in a crab, but not in a quail. My fourth S in a mackerel, but not in its tail. My whole is a thing that it pays to hoe well.

(Answer page 4)

***Farmer's Almanac**

Love has the kind of power criticism only wishes it had. (Bob Goff)

Luck is great but most of life comes down to hard work.

Wouldn't it be nice if you could call Information and ask them where you left your keys?

Consider the turtle. It can't go anywhere unless it sticks its neck out.

Be happy and a reason will come along.

So long as you can laugh, you're still winning.

Life is like a mirror. If you frown at it, it frowns back; if you smile, it returns the greeting.

***Coffee News**

Can Dogs Get Frostbite?

By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#)

The simple answer is yes, like humans, dogs can get it as well. Here are tips to avoid it, if your dog spends time outdoors this winter.

Frostbite is tissue damage that can occur in extreme cold. Dogs are at risk once the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Just like with humans, frostbite is a dog's natural process where blood is redirected from the body's extremities to vital organs when there is a drop in body temperature. Areas that are furthest away from the heart such as the tail, ears, nose, and paws will experience a drop in blood flow, and this can cause tissue damage.

Breed type certainly does play a factor in how susceptible a dog is to getting frostbite. Obviously, cold weather breeds such as the [Siberian Husky](#) and the [Alaskan Malamute](#) are less prone to this condition, but all breeds run the risk of frostbite and hypothermia when exposed to cold temperatures for a length of time. No dog should ever be left unattended in extreme weather for any period. A good rule of thumb is that if it is too cold for people, it is probably too cold for your dog. A warm dog jacket or sweater and booties will help minimize the risk, especially for short-coated breeds or older, more fragile dogs. However, clothing for your dog should never be used on an unattended dog or as a substitute for

proper care, but rather as an adjunct. In general, it is safer for pets to be in an area where temperatures can be controlled.

Do Dogs Need Sweaters or Jackets In the Winter?

By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#)

Many people assume a dog's coat will protect them from the chill of winter, but not all dogs are created equal when it comes to their ability to ward off the dangers of colder temperatures. Obviously, a [St. Bernard](#) or an [Alaskan Malamute](#) is more prepared for the snow than a [Dachshund](#) or [Chihuahua](#), but a thick coat doesn't mean a dog can't get hypothermia or frostbite in extreme weather. Just like humans wearing a winter coat, long-haired dogs can stay safe for a period of time in extreme cold, but eventually, the cold temperature will become dangerous. Dog owners and their veterinarians will know best what is required in winter based on climate, dog breed, age, and the health of a particular dog. Breeds with thick coats generally do not require cold weather protection for short periods of time, whereas short-haired breeds will be more comfortable with a winter sweater and booties. Activity level is another variable to include in the equation as you prepare to go outdoors. A stroll around the block is very different than a winter hike in the mountains or running at a fast pace. The duration of your outdoor time is also a factor. **Signs of Early Hypothermia in Dogs Include:**

- Shivering
- Cold ears and feet
- Rapid breathing
- Increase in urination
- Hair standing on ends

If you notice these signs, bring your dog indoors right away, dry him off with a warm towel, and offer fresh, lukewarm water. It is also recommended to call your veterinarian or emergency vet clinic to be sure your dog is safe from hypothermia or frostbite.

A Choking Pet

If your pet is choking, it is imperative you take immediate action to try and dislodge the object. You'll know your pet is choking because, like people, your pet will gag, retch, and cough to try and expel the object. If you suspect choking, you might not have time to make it to your veterinarian, so instead take action with these techniques.

First, open your pet's mouth and sweep from side to side to see if you can dislodge the object. Be careful not to get bitten or push the object further into the throat.

Option 1: To aid your pet's efforts of coughing up the object, first remove the collar. Try and lift your pet by the hind legs and hold him up vertically with the head facing down, like a wheel-barrow. This position may dislodge the object.

Option 2: Try the pet Heimlich maneuver. With your pet standing or lying down, place your arms around the waist. Close your fist and place it on the underside of the torso, where the ribs end just below the sternum. Compress the abdomen by pushing up with your fist 5 times, in rapid succession. Alternate with CPR if your pet is not breathing.

As a final solution, try administering a “sharp blow” with the palm of your hand between your pet's shoulder blades. Then go back to repeating the abdominal compressions. (Option 2) Sweep the mouth again for the object. Once dislodged, seek veterinary help immediately.

Only perform CPR if your pet is not breathing! Do not attempt on a conscious animal. Always follow the ABC order (check AIRWAY, BREATHING, CIRCULATION) when performing CPR on your pet.

AIRWAY: Lay your pet on its side and open the airway by extending the head and neck, until the neck is straight.

BREATHING: Hold your pet's mouth shut and forcefully blow with your mouth over their nose – just enough to make your pet's chest rise. Repeat four or five times, then check to see if your pet begins to breathe on their own. If your pet is not breathing, or breathing is shallow, continue assisted breathing for a maximum of 20 minutes.

CIRCULATION: If there is no pulse or heart beat, perform chest compressions and alternate with breathing.

Stand or kneel behind your pet with your arms extended, and your hands cupped and place your palms over the point on the chest behind the elbow.

Compress the chest 1-3”, keeping the elbows locked and arms straight.

Do 3-5 compressions to one breath. Alternate chest compressions with breaths and check for a pulse after each minute.

DID YOU KNOW? 60% of animal hospital visits are an emergency, but 1 out of 4 pets could be saved if just a single pet first aid technique was applied prior to seeking veterinary treatment.

For more information visit www.kurgo.com

Answer to Puzzle of the Month. “Farm”

Laugh Line

Q: Which dog breed absolutely LOVES living in the city?

A: A New Yorkie!

Q: What do you get when you cross a dog with a phone?

A: A golden receiver!

Q: How are a dog and a marine biologist alike?

A: One wags a tail and the other tags a whale!

Hill's Pet Nutrition is expanding its recall of specific lots of its Prescription Diet and Science Diet dog foods due to elevated levels of vitamin D.

Very high levels of vitamin D can lead to serious health issues in dogs, including kidney dysfunction. To learn which products are affected, please visit the following link: [Hill's Prescription Diet and Science Diet Dog Food Recall Expands](#)



Submitted by Kathy P

What Dog Owners Need to Know About the FDA's Grain-Free Diet Alert By [Anna Burke](#) AKC

The [FDA launched an investigation](#) into potential links between canine heart disease and diet — specifically grain-free diets. We've compiled the information you need to know to understand this recent development.

What is the FDA Investigating?

It is easy to jump to conclusions anytime we see an FDA headline about pet food. After all, our dog's health is essential to us, and we know that diet can make a big difference in a dog's well-being. We reached out to Dr. Jerry Klein, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the AKC, to hear his thoughts on the investigation.

“The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free pet foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease.”

After the advisory, 149 new cases of DCM were reported to the FDA.

What is Dilated Cardiomyopathy?

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle. The hearts of dogs with DCM have a decreased ability to pump blood, which often results in congestive heart failure.

Some breeds, especially large and giant breeds, have a predisposition to DCM. These breeds include [Doberman Pinschers](#), [Great Danes](#), [Newfoundlands](#), [Irish Wolfhounds](#), and [Saint Bernards](#). While DCM is less common in medium and small breeds, [English](#) and [American Cocker Spaniels](#) are also predisposed to this condition.

When early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicated that recent, atypical cases in breeds like [Golden Retrievers](#), [Labrador Retrievers](#), [Whippets](#), [Bulldogs](#), and [Shih Tzus](#) all consistently ate grain alternatives in their diets, the FDA took notice.

Should you be Concerned About Grain-Free Diets?

According to Dr. Klein, “At this time, there is no proof that these ingredients are the cause of DCM in a broader range of dogs, but dog owners should be aware of this alert from the FDA. The FDA continues to work with veterinary cardiologists and veterinary nutritionists to better understand the effect, if any, of grain-free diets on dogs.”

In the Dec. 1 version of the [Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association](#), Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, Ph.D., DACVN, provided an update to the research on DCM and emphasized the issue is not just grain-free diets. She calls the suspected diets “BEG” diets (boutique companies, exotic ingredients, or grain-free diets).

“The apparent link between BEG diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits,” Freeman wrote.

Freeman emphasizes that although there appears to be an association between DCM and BEG diets, the relationship has not yet been proven, and other factors may be equally or more important.

As a general rule of thumb, the best thing you can do for your dog’s dietary health is to consult your veterinarian, not the internet. Together you can weigh the pros and cons of your dog’s diet and if necessary monitor your dog for signs of DCM. Cases of DCM in dogs related to a specific diet can be reported to the FDA via their [Safety Reporting Portal](#).

Charity Group Helps K-9 Officer Needing Surgery

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (CBS4) – A nonprofit organization based in Centennial is coming to the rescue of a police dog with the Greenwood Village Police Department.



Back the Blue K-9 Force is footing the bill for a K-9 named Miner, who had to have surgery for an **internal** blockage.



“We’re really concerned, because if it’s a blockage there’s a lot of bad things that can happen to a K-9. So please keep him in our prayers,” said Jennifer Leggatt, one of the organization’s founders.

A few years ago she and several friends wanted to raise **money** to buy protective vests for several police K-9s. They stood outside of drug stores and coffee shops to raise money Those efforts turned into a nonprofit that has not only purchased protective gear for departments, but actual dogs for police forces.



“We do it because we love the dogs, we’re dog lovers. We respect the police and we really think it’s a great part of our community,” Leggatt told CBS4’s Dominic Garcia.

Back the Blue K-9 Force is another example of a community organization helping police departments who can’t afford protective gear. As for Miner, his handler says a piece of a toy he



ate was causing the blockage, but it’s now out. His handler hopes he will be back in service in a few weeks. (Submitted by Kathy P)
