



VOLUMN 7 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2020

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BOARD:
Sally Henson, Noren Walzer
LEKC meets on the month 4TH Wednesday of the month
@ The Lady Lake Library W. Guava Street.
Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

Happy Father's Day

In This Issue

Best Bath Day Choices	Pg. 2
Humorous Quotes/Puns	Pg. 2
Leadership and pack Structure	Pg. 4
Rabies increase in the U.S.	Pg. 5
How to Clean Your Dog's Ears	Pg. 6

THERE WILL NOT BE AN LEKC MEETING IN JUNE

CLUB NEWS:

The club is in need of the following:

A recording secretary

Someone to answer the Club phone line. Answer all questions concerning the Club activities, etc. Call Carolyn if you can record the minutes of the Club meetings or if you can handle the Club phone line. 205-7894.

And two stewards for the November Rally Trials. Call Marie if you can help steward. 352-408-8167.

If anyone knows of an indoor facility where the Club can hold the July meeting using Social Distancing, please let Carolyn know.

The Best Bath Day Choices: Shampoos need to be formulated for your dog's skin

The fewer ingredients in your dog's shampoo, the better, especially if your dog does have a reaction. But be weary of products that do not list any ingredients or use broad or vague terms.

“As far as ingredients go, I'm only concerned if the animal has had a reaction to a particular product. When the owner goes looking for another shampoo that's when ingredient comparison could be important,” says William H. Miller Jr. VMD, DACVD, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Section of Behavior and Selection of Dermatology at Cornell.

“Having said that, label comparison probably doesn't help much in many cases,” he says. “Most topicals have dozens of ingredients and it is difficult, if not impossible, to read the label and pick out the offending culprit.”

If your dog has a reaction—swelling, red skin, intense itching, difficulty breathing—rinse him thoroughly with cool water and take him to the veterinarian, with the shampoo bottle.

The right stuff. A good shampoo should cleanse your dog's coat, so it's soft and silky, and condition his skin. It should cleanse and rinse out easily. Don't worry about how much lather you get; it isn't a reliable indicator of the shampoo's cleaning power.

The shampoo should reduce flaky skin, dandruff, and itching. It should moisturize the dog's skin, with ingredients like aloe vera, oatmeal, panthenol, and eucalyptus. Oils from olives, coconuts, and jojoba can help reduce dry skin too.

Don't bathe your dog with a human shampoo. Dog skin and human skin have different pH levels, with dogs being more alkaline and humans being more neutral. The human shampoo will dry out your dog's skin. And never use dish soap!

If you have no shampoo and your dog needs a bath, either rinse him off with plain water or rinse him with a mixture of 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar to 1 quart of water.

The fewer, the better. Avoid the temptation to bathe your dog too often, as it can compromise your dog's skin health even if you're using a gentle product.

Excessive bathing removes your dog's natural oils and dries his skin and coat. Overly dry skin can crack, itch, and set the stage for more itching, possibly infection.

As a rule of thumb, bathe your dog no more often than every three months, unless there is immediate need, such as him playing in mud or rolling in something particularly smelly.

“For normal dogs, the biggest issue probably isn't the shampoo itself but how often the bath is given and what the whole bathing protocol is. Many people over bathe their dogs, as far as skin health is concerned. You can cause some skin issues if you over bathe, even with a very mild shampoo,” says Dr. Miller. “intense blow drying after the bath can only make things worse.”

Set up for success. Make baths fun but infrequent routine. Bathe your dog in a tub or shower with warm water-not out in the yard with the water hose. Even on a hot day, that can become chilling.

Lather up quickly, using a cloth to wash his face, then rinse thoroughly. Skip the blow-dryer routine, which will dry out his skin. To dry your dog, get lots of thick terry towels-at least one for the initial drying (which will become very wet) and one for the final drying-and rub him dry. (Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine)

Humorous Quote/Pun

The road to success is always under construction.”

– Lily Tomlin

Laugh of the Day

Question: How was the camping trip?

Answer: it was in tents (intense)

Happy Thought

I spent the whole day talking with a dolphin.

It was great. We just clicked.

Leadership and Pack Structure with Dogs

Establishing leadership and pack structure is probably the single most important thing to do when you own a dog. Whether it's your long time family pet, a new puppy, or one you rescued, you will want to start off with this basic foundation. Dogs without leadership and structure can start to display signs of dominance, show aggressive behavior, become fearful, and have separation anxiety. If you notice that your dog shows behaviors like these, you may need to step back and re-evaluate where you stand as a leader. Great leadership and structure may not completely fix or "cure" the unwanted behaviors in your dog, but it will certainly make a great impact.

What is leadership? At some point in our lives we have been given specific rules to follow; for example: curfews, bedtimes, manners, etc. These were all tools to help pave the way of how we live. The same guidelines are used with our dogs. Dogs need to understand who to look up to for guidance. A good example of this is when you give your dog a command or tell him/her to do something. Does he or she do what you ask every time? If so, that's awesome! However, I will be willing to bet at one point he or she will not do what you ask. This is where many dog owners fail because they don't always follow through with a command or task. Whenever we let our dog get away with not doing what we ask, they don't see us as a strong leader, and overtime notice that every task does not have to be done 100%. This is why we must follow through with simple commands, big or small, and take the necessary time to ensure they understand us. Small tasks go a long way in displaying leadership with our furry friends. What is pack structure? If you have ever seen a pack of 20 wolves on a wildlife show, or even a small pack of dogs roaming together at an off-leash park, there is rank between each pack. Picture a totem pole with the higher importance being at the top and the less important working its way to the bottom. It's through structure and leadership that each member of the pack knows his/her place. Dogs don't have to be mean to each other or fight to show pack structure. And with some groups of dogs it can be fluid. Dogs have their own way of showing structure; for example: mounting(humping), biting legs, and barking are just a few. These are signs of dominance; however, through this dominate behavior is how they determine rank. You are probably thinking now, how can I show my dog his "rank" with in my home? No matter the size of the household, your dog should never "rank" above any family member. A very small cue that dogs pick up on, but most dog owners ignore, is letting your dog go out the door first and having him/her go inside before you enter. It may not

seem like much, but the dog views the home as “mine” and not a shared environment. Once you start to reverse these roles, the dog begins to see that the home is not “mine”, but instead is your “den” that you allow him/her to live in. This is just one simple example of giving structure to your dog’s environment.

Now that you have a better understanding of what leadership and pack structure is, you can see how they go hand and hand. It is never too early or late in a dog’s life to start giving them this foundation. Dogs need structure and a good leader, and without this they may act out in various behaviors and be left trying to determine who is in charge. So next time your dog chews up the couch or runs for the neighbor, take a step back and think as a leader what you could be doing to help him/her see you differently. Being a leader does not mean being mean, or dominant but rather provide consistent rules and direction. Remember with any kind of training and leadership, commitment on your part is going to play the biggest role for success. (Maria Cecilia Martinez)

***Rabies Increase in the United States**

Most rabid animals were wildlife

A report from the CDC showed an 11% increase in rabies in the United States in 2018 over 2017. The states with the most cases, in decreasing order, were Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado, and New York.

Over 90% of the rabid animals were wildlife. Bats, racoons, skunk, and foxes were the leaders in decreasing order. Among domestic animals, rabid cats, followed by rabid dogs, accounted for over 80% of the cases. Three people died of rabies in 2018, up from two in 2017.

Canine rabies is the greatest risk for human health and the cause of 99% of human deaths from rabies. This is undoubtedly due to the close relationship between people and dogs, with even feral dogs often living in human communities.

This study emphasizes the importance of having wildlife that bites someone evaluated for rabies infection, especially if they have been acting strangely. In addition, our pets are a safety barrier between wildlife and people. That means it is vital to have your pers current on their vaccinations.

Most of the rabid cats and dogs were associated with the raccoon, variant of the rabies virus. That means contact between pets was bitten or got infected saliva into a wound or licked it off. Pets also can be exposed to ill or dying bats that get into your house or are found outside. *Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

How to Clean Your Dog's Ears

Get a product intended for ear cleaning from your veterinarian or a pet supply store. Look for a product that contains a drying agent, as this will help to discourage further infections.

Squirt the cleaner onto a cotton ball, then gently squish the cotton ball inside your dog's ear. This is generally better tolerated than squirting the cleaner directly into the ear.

Use additional cotton balls, gauze pads, or cotton-tipped sticks to remove debris from the ear. Continue until the ear is clean. (DogWatch-Cornell University)
