



PAW PRINTS

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LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ Lady Lake Library W. Guava Street. Board/General meets 6:30. Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT LEKC

January 15th, Meeting
January 23rd & 24th, Conformation Show, Ocala

BRAGS:



AKC Scent Trial Daniel earned his Advanced Containers Title with a First place, and was 4th in Advanced Interior. Jonathan won his Novice Handler class and was second in Novice Containers., on 12/17/19 at Sonlight Ranch in Brooksville. Ellen



Rowdy, AKC Scent work Trial Sonlight Ranch, Brooksville 12/17/2019 Interior Novice 1st place, Container Novice 4th Place, Handler Novice 2nd Place. Sharie





The bad news is,
I accidentally took the
wrong medication today.

The good news is,
I'm now protected from
heartworms and fleas
for the next three
months

Emotional Pain in Animals: An Invisible World of Hurt (Southernwind Kennels)

Recognizing the psychological effects of animal abuse. Oct 24

Animals suffer emotional pain, too, and although the physical cuts and bruises have long healed, the psychological damage can persist.

In a fascinating lecture by veterinarian Frank McMillan on psychological aspects of abuse and neglect in animals. It is the obvious physical marks of abuse that tend to get our [attention](#): the scars, the broken bones, the emaciated bodies. The puppy whose mouth is duct-taped shut, because it barks too much. What gets far less attention, if we notice it at all, are the psychological scars and disfigurements that animals bear. Indeed, animal cruelty laws generally recognize only physical harm and suffering. Emotional abuse is far more difficult to see. Yet it may ultimately cause more suffering and do more lasting damage to an animal. McMillan is trying to raise awareness about this less visible, but profoundly important, aspect of animal abuse.

One of the central lessons from the lecture was how very little we really know about the psychological impacts of abuse, and how important it is to come to a better understanding, so that we can better prevent and treat abuse and neglect in our animal companions. We need to better understand the lasting psychological impacts of physical abuse, yet perhaps even more important, we also need to broaden our understanding of what constitutes maltreatment of an animal: a dog who has never been struck with a stick or punched with a fist can still have suffered abuse. What we know for sure is that animals do suffer psychological and not just physical pain, and that emotional abuse and maltreatment may be far more widespread and pernicious than physical abuse.

Based on a range of scientific studies (many of them horrific and unconscionable), we know that emotional harm actually hurts more than physical harm, and that animals will “choose” physical suffering over emotional suffering, if forced to pick.

McMillan cites an experiment in which an electrified grid was placed between a puppy and a person to whom the puppy was socially attached. The puppies crossed the grid, despite being shocked the entire way, to be reunited with their social contact. In another electrified grid experiment, mother rats were separated from their infant pups. The mother rats consistently chose to cross the grid and retrieve their pups, one by one, and return them to the nest, despite being shocked the whole way there and back. One mother rat crossed the grid 58 times before researchers terminated the test.

McMillan also mentioned the well-publicized case of a cat named Scarlett who ran into a burning building five times to rescue her kittens, despite severe burns to her face and head. These animals are willing to suffer physical pain to alleviate emotional suffering.

What kinds of psychological harm do animals suffer?

Rejecting: an active refusal to provide emotional support.

Terrorizing: the creation of a “climate of [fear](#)” or an unpredictable threat or hostility, preventing the victim from experiencing a sense of security.

Taunting: teasing, provoking, harassing.

Isolating: active prevention of social interactions and companionship.

Abandonment: desertion and termination of care.

Overpressuring: placing excessive demands or pressure to perform and achieve.

Of course, when it comes to caring for animals, how exactly to determine “emotional abuse” is tricky and often open to disagreement. What some consider normal or even good care will for others look more like abuse. For example, some consider Cesar Millan’s methods of discipline abusive, while others find his methods appropriate and effective. Some consider crating a dog abusive, others do not.

As McMillan notes, woefully little is known about the long-term psychological effects of abuse on animals. Coming to a better understanding is vitally important, particularly when it comes to the large population of animals in shelters.

Often the history of an animal is unknown, and obviously we cannot ask them about their past experiences. Yet we still seek clues from an animal's behavior to determine whether the animal is "damaged" and whether this damage will cause behavioral problems in the future. It is common for pet owners to assume earlier abuse when a dog adopted from a shelter shows certain signs, such as a fear of hands or an aversion to men.

Yet we don't have any empirical studies that link these behaviors with earlier abuse. We also need to develop our understanding of psychological abuse so that legal definitions of animal cruelty and neglect can take into consideration the full range of animal suffering.

FUN STUFF



Can Dogs See Ghosts?

By [Alexandra Anastasio](#)

While there are people who believe in the paranormal, have you ever wondered whether your dog is able to sense the spirits? After all, canines have extraordinary senses that are much sharper

than a human's. And wouldn't it be comforting to know that your dog is able to detect a loved one who has passed on?

As much as we'd like to believe there is some truth to the idea that dogs can sense the paranormal, the scientific answer is that we just don't know. Despite the fact that there is no scientific proof that dogs can see ghosts, so much of animal behavior is uncertain that the possibilities of a dog sensing something a human can't is not out of the question. "The most interesting part of the science of dog behavior and understanding is that we simply don't know so much," says [Russell Hartstein](#), a certified dog behavior consultant and dog trainer in Los Angeles.

Your Own Perceptions Play a Part

Much of a dog's behavior can be a mystery to an owner, but there are countless examples that leave us wondering if the unimaginable is actually conceivable. "When someone is inclined to believe in the paranormal, some dogs may exhibit behaviors that make it look like they are perhaps sensing an apparition is nearby," says [Dr. Mary Burch](#), director of the AKC Family Dog Program and a certified animal behaviorist. "This may be the dog that stops and stands still at a given point in the house, and the owner later finds out someone died there."

If a dog is standing in a corner, barking at nothing visible, could it be that he senses something out of the ordinary? Or perhaps he stays close to an object that is associated with a deceased family member, whether it be a favorite chair or side of the bed, as if that person is still present.

Dr. Burch points out that when a dog barks at what appears to be nothing, an owner sometimes thinks it's because he's seeing a ghost or picking up on something she can't. "While clairvoyance generally falls outside of what we can prove in terms of science, we do understand and have research on a [dog's basic five senses](#)," she says.

The Sixth Sense

In addition to the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing), dogs also possess a [sixth sense](#) — that "gut" feeling we get when something doesn't feel right. The difference though is that dogs are more open to trusting what they feel and acting on those feelings accordingly, while most people's minds analyze what's going on and deny the possibility that auras or spirits exist. "Dogs are remarkable creatures, with senses that far exceed a human's," explains Dr. Burch.

When a dog runs and sits by the door waiting for his owner, Dr. Burch explains this behavior could be a habit simply learned through repetition. But if the owner comes home much earlier than usual, and the dog still sits by the door within minutes of his arrival, that unexplained behavior could appear to be his sixth sense.

Dogs also have the ability to [detect impending disasters](#) before they happen, thanks to their powerful sense of smell. "Barometric pressure and all natural phenomena have odors associated

with them,” says Hartstein. “They are beyond the capacity of our noses to recognize, but dogs can sense these changes immediately.”

Can Dogs See Things We Can’t?

The level of a dog’s hearing also surpasses a human’s, and dogs possess the [ability to hear higher-pitched noises](#) from a much greater distance. “Dogs’ auditory perception is another area where they perceive the world around them in a vastly different way from human beings,” points out Hartstein. “These differences may be connected to their ability to pick up on different and undetectable phenomena that we do not.”

A dog’s field of vision is much wider than ours; they can see objects at a greater distance, and their ability to see in [twilight](#), dusk, and dawn is far superior to ours, making it possible to pick up certain movements that are undetectable to the human eye. “It could be absolutely accurate that the dog is picking up on something we may not be able to see. But what they are perceiving may not be Casper the Friendly Ghost,” explains Dr. Burch.

Dogs are fascinating creatures, and there is still much uncertainty when it comes to the abilities of man’s best friend. “Their senses are highly attuned, and it is obvious they are perceiving the world in a vastly different way than we do,” says Hartstein. Whether their extraordinary senses are able to pick up on unknown forms, energies, or the paranormal continues to remain a mystery.

12 Warning Signs of Cancer in Dogs That Every Owner Should Know (Animal Encyclopedia)

The idea that our four-legged best friend might be sick is terrifying enough without the dreaded diagnosis of cancer. But just as with humans, spotting the signs early and getting your pup to the vet for a treatment plan is key.

Whether you’ve found a fatty tumor on your dog, or you’re suspicious that you’ve got a case of dog skin cancer on your hands, keep an eye out for these signs of cancer in dogs to help you identify a problem early.

Collapsing

If your dog collapses, get to the vet immediately. Collapsing, weakness, and general lethargy (not greeting people at the door like usual or less interaction) are common signs of cancer, says Jake Zaidel, DVM, of Malta Animal Hospital in upstate New York.

“I see this particularly in large breed dogs—even if they fall down and seem better the next day, bring them in because it could signal a tumor of the spleen,” says Dr. Zaidel.

Coughing

Coughing doesn’t automatically signal cancer; for example, small breed dogs tend to develop coughs because they have windpipe problems.

“If the dog coughs once or twice, it’s of no concern, but if it continues to cough for more than a few days, that’s a concern and could signal lung cancer,” says Zaidel.

Weight loss

Weight loss is the number-one dog cancer symptom Dr. Zaidel says he sees. It’s often the sign of a gastrointestinal tumor. “I’ve had a lot of dogs stop eating because of gastrointestinal tumors, so they lose weight very rapidly,” he says.

Cancer can also cause dogs to lose weight while maintaining their regular appetite. If you notice your dog shedding pounds, either rapidly or slowly, make an appointment with your vet.

Mouth changes

Sores, lumps, a strange odor, bleeding, or a change in gum color can be a sign of oral cancer, particularly in older dogs. This cancer sign in dogs often goes unnoticed for too long. “We commonly find visible oral tumors because people don’t examine their pet’s mouth,” says Dr. Zaidel.

“Many oral tumors can be really devastating because people don’t find them until it’s really advanced.” He also suggests brushing on a regular basis.

It’s a good idea to watch when your pet yawns or eats, advises Timothy Rocha, DVM, an oncology specialist in New York City. See a vet if you notice something out of the ordinary.

Nosebleeds

Nosebleeds are never normal, says Dr. Rocha. “With an older dog, a nosebleed is particularly worrisome. It can be a sign of cancer in the nose,” he says. “With younger dogs, I would worry more about something like a foreign object stuck up there before cancer.”

Diarrhea or changes in bathroom habits

Occasional diarrhea usually isn’t a sign of cancer in dogs, says Dr. Rocha, but if it persists or gets worse, get your dog to the vet.

Constantly begging to go out to go to the bathroom, difficulty peeing/moving bowels, vomiting,

Discharge

Persistent discharge from the nose or eyes is cause for concern, says Dr. Zaidel. Nasal discharge is a common sign of facial tumors, and eye discharge can signal an eye tumor.

Seizures

Seizures can be a sign of brain tumors and are typically seen in older dog cancer patients, says Dr. Zaidel. If you start to notice sudden and uncontrolled bursts of activity, like champing and chewing, jerking of the legs, or foaming at the mouth, your dog could be experiencing seizures and you should see a vet immediately, according to WebMD.com.

Skin changes

“Every lump, bump, or skin change should be checked,” says Dr. Zaidel. “It could be benign or cancerous, but it’s always easier to treat the earlier it’s caught.”

Feel for bumps, lumps, or swelling as you pet your pooch. If you notice something iffy, don’t delay—there’s no way to distinguish between a lump that’s benign or malignant without taking a sample. Also, pay attention to any sores that won’t heal or lesions that seem itchy or painful.

Weight gain

Sudden weight gain or bloating can be a sign of cancer in dogs. If your dog is eating less but seems to be bulking up, take a trip to the vet, says Rocha. A sudden spike in appetite also warrants a visit.

General pain or discomfort

“Pain is a rather substantial sign of cancer,” says Zaidel. If your dog whines or cries out when you pat her tummy or pick him up, call your vet. Mouth tumors may cause noticeable discomfort when eating

Quotes

Time spent with family is worth every second

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” Eleanor Roosevelt

“Airing one’s dirty linen never makes for a masterpiece”. Francois Truffant

“When you betray someone else, you also betray yourself.” Isaac Bashevis Singer



Heimlich Maneuver for Dogs

