

IT'S FALL YA'LL



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

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LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of each month

@ The Lady Lake Library, W. Guava Street.

Board meets 6 p.m. General meeting 7:15 p.m.

Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

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Updated membership list is available at <http://www.lekcdogclub.org/membership.html>



"IN A SMALL TOWN, THE SHERIFF AND THE DOGCATCHER ARE OFTEN THE SAME MAN."



September 23, 2018 Jonathon had perfect score of 100 and tied to a and tied to a second place in AKC Intermediate Rally. (Trial 1) In Trial 2 he won the class with a 96. He's getting better!



Feather finished her AKC Rally Master title at Orlando, September 31. Sally Hensen.

WHAT'S THAT DOG GROWLING ABOUT? Anna Burke (AKC)

When it comes to interpreting dog growls, some humans are surprisingly good at taking the hint, a new study shows. Scientists testing how people categorized different types of natural growls found that people could largely tell playful vocalizations from threatening ones – though women and dog owners seemed to do better than their peers.

The findings, described in Royal Society Open Science, shed light on the relationship between dogs and humans – as well as on underlying vocal behaviors that might be shared across mammalian species.

Plenty of research in recent years has delved into dogs' ability to understand humans. But relatively little seems to have focused on whether humans are any good at understanding dogs – even though communication is a two-way street, especially in tow species that have developed in such close proximity.

“We know relatively little about the vocal communication system of dogs, and the most studied vocalization are the different barks,” led author Tamas Farago, an ethnologist at Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary, said in an email. As dogs were domesticated by humans, barks likely changed significantly and became the main way dogs communicate. Growls however may not have changed as much since the point that dogs diverged from wolves.

Fargo and his colleagues tested humans using natural dog growls gathered in three scenarios: while playing tug of war with their owner, while guarding their food from another dog ad while they felt threatened by a stranger.

The scientists found that overall; humans were pretty good at differentiating the growl types, classifying them correctly about 63 percent of the time (well above the chance level of 33

percent). They correctly identified 81 percent of the play growls, but were less accurate when it came to food-guarding (60 percent) and threatening (50 percent) growls.

Dog owners were much better than other humans at correctly identifying a growl's meaning – which was surprising because previous research didn't find such a strong advantage when people rated dog barks.

By Amina Khan Los Angeles Times

What's the Deal with Capnocytophaga, the Dog Bacteria Making Headlines? By [Anna Burke](#)

Recent [news reports](#) from Wisconsin about a rare infection spread by cats and dogs have caused concern among pet owners. Capnocytophaga, as hard to treat as it is to pronounce, is a common bacteria found in our pets. While harmless to cats and dogs, it can cause serious health problems in humans. So, should we be worried about it?

Experts say probably not. Here's what you need to know about capnocytophaga.

What Is Capnocytophaga?

Many species of capnocytophaga inhabit the mouths of cats and dogs and also live in the mouths of some humans. These bacteria don't bother our pets, and they rarely infect humans. Experts compare the odds of contracting these bacteria from your pet to getting struck by lightning. Extremely rare, but potentially deadly when it occurs.

Unlike lightning, however, capnocytophaga does discriminate. Healthy people can get the bacteria, but individuals who have difficulty fighting off infections are at an increased risk, especially if they are bitten by a dog.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), symptoms of capnocytophaga in humans include:

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Fever

Redness, pus, blisters, and swelling around the bite wound

Muscle or joint pain

Headaches and/or confusion

Capnocytophaga is spread through saliva. Most cases occur after a bite wound, but the bacteria can be transmitted through exposure to saliva itself, for example from a [dog lick](#). It's essential to practice good hygiene when it comes to dog licks, especially with children. The bacteria pose serious health risks for those infected. Heart attacks, gangrene-induced amputations, and kidney failure have been reported, and 3-in-10 people who are infected die from the bacteria.

Should You Worry About Capnocytophaga?

Despite the dire mortality rate, capnocytophaga is extremely rare. It also isn't new. These bacteria have been around for a long time, and while recent cases may have drawn attention to it, that doesn't mean you need to panic.

The best thing you can do to avoid infections of any type, including capnocytophaga, is to always contact your doctor if you've been bitten by a cat or dog. This is especially important for people with compromised immune systems, but even healthy people can experience dangerous infections. In the meantime, check out AKC's [tips for preventing dog bites](#).

Dog Myths Debunked: Does a Warm, Dry Nose Mean a Dog Is Sick? By [Anna Burke](#)

Most dog owners would probably tell you that a cold, wet nose on their canine companion signals a healthy pup. Likewise, many believe a dog is sick when his nose is dry — but is this true?

Before we get into that debate, we first need to understand [why dogs have wet noses](#). The answer is simple: wet noses work better. Dogs depend on their [highly developed sense of smell](#) to interpret their world, and scent particles stick better to moist surfaces. That wet nose also cools your dog down on hot days, similar to how panting regulates his body temperature.

The lining of your dog's nose contains special mucus producing glands that keep his nasal passageways moist, along with producing a clear, watery fluid that helps keep him cool. Dogs also lick their noses on a regular basis to keep them clean. All that sniffing can result in dirt and pollen collecting around your dog's nostrils, and licking serves two purposes: not only does it keep your dog's nose wet, but pups can also interpret smell through taste, thanks to a highly specialized olfactory organ called the Jacobson's organ.

So, What Does It Mean When a Dog's Nose Is Dry?

As convenient as it would be to have an easy way to gauge sickness in dogs, there are several perfectly normal reasons why a dog's nose might be warm or dry, and it is worth noting that sick dogs can have wet noses, too.

Let's take a look at some possible explanations as to why your dog's nose might be dry:

- **Your dog was napping.** Sleeping dogs don't usually lick their noses, so they may wake up with warm noses.
- **Dehydration from exercise.** Strenuous exercise is dehydrating, which can lead to a dry nose.
- **Exposure to the elements.** Exposure to hot sunlight, wind, or cold can dry your dog's nose, and, in some cases, may result in chapped or sunburned snouts. Lying next to a source of heat, like a fire or a heat vent, can also cause dry skin on your dog's nose.
- **Age.** Some dogs develop dry noses with age.

A hot, dry nose doesn't always mean trouble, but it can certainly be a sign of fever, dehydration, or even conditions like dry eye. If your dog's dry nose is accompanied by other symptoms, like lethargy, vomiting or diarrhea, or changes in activity or appetite, contact your veterinarian for advice.

Looking and touching your dog's gums and noting their color can yield more accurate information than his nose. If gums are moist, that's a sign of good hydration. If they're very dry,

or tacky, it could be a sign of dehydration. If gums are a nice pink, like a person's, it's a good sign. Pale gums could be an indication of anemia or low blood pressure. If your dog has bright red-purple or pale blueish gums, he should be examined by a veterinarian right away.

Interesting statistics from AKC delegates meeting

Obedience entries are down

Rally is up 17%

Agility is flat

FAST CAT is up 171% - - chasing a garbage bag is fun

Scent work is now 4th most popular dog sport

Thought this is interesting, worth putting in newsletter

from Sally

The Function of Dewclaws 101

Front dewclaws are typically removed by some at 3-5 days of age, because they are believed to be a non-functional digit that poses an unnecessary risk for being injured.

In standing, the front dewclaw may not appear to be functional because it doesn't come in contact with the ground. However, observing the dewclaw when the dog is in motion tells a different story.

Five tendons attach to the dewclaw and play an important role when the dog is in motion. For example:

-When a dog's lead leg is on the ground during the gallop or canter, the dewclaw is on the ground to stabilize the carpus

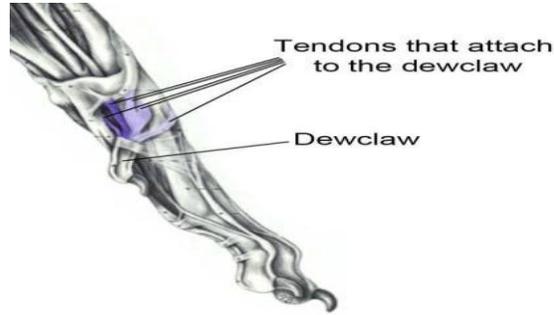
-When a dog turns, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the structures of the limb and prevent torque. If a dog does not have dewclaws, there is a higher potential for the carpal ligaments to stretch and tear which could result in laxity and arthritis over time (OUCH!). This can then result in more stress being generated through the dog's carpus, elbow, shoulder, and spine as it tries to compensate for the lack of digit.

On the other hand, the rear dewclaws do not have associated tendons and are considered non-functional (though they may be required for some breed standards to be present).

In speaking with many vets, you would be surprised at how few dewclaw injuries they see.

So- given the front dewclaws' functional use, why are we so quick to remove them?

In dogs, the most common injuries seen by many rehab providers and vets occur in the shoulder complex, yet we don't see shoulders being removed. Food for thought! Here are some cool videos if you'd like to learn more about the functional use of dewclaws in dogs:



10 Human Medications Poisonous to Pets continued.

Last month we listed the first five meds. Today we list the last of the meds from the Pet Poison Helpline.

6) **Birth Control** (e.g. estrogen, estradiol, progesterone) Birth control pills often come in packages that dogs find irresistible. Thankfully, small ingestions of these medications typically do not cause trouble. However, large ingestions of estrogen and estradiol can cause bone marrow suppression, particularly in birds. Additionally, female pets that are intact (not spayed), are at an increased risk of side effects from estrogen poisoning.

7) **ACE Inhibitors** (e.g. Zestril, Altace) Angiotension-converting enzyme (or “ACE”) inhibitors are commonly used to treat high blood pressure in people and, occasionally, pets. Though overdoses can cause low blood pressure, dizziness and weakness, this category of medication is typically quite safe. Pets ingesting small amounts of this medication can potentially be monitored at home, unless they have kidney failure or heart disease. All heart medications should be kept out of reach of pets.

8) **Beta-blockers** (e.g. Tenormin, Toprol, Coreg) Beta-blockers are also used to treat high blood pressure but, unlike the ACE inhibitor, small ingestions of these drugs may cause serious poisoning in pets. Overdoses can cause life-threatening decreases in blood pressure and a very slow heart rate.

9) **Thyroid hormones** (e.g. Armour desiccated thyroid, Synthroid) Pets – especially dogs – get underactive thyroids too. Interestingly, the dose of thyroid hormone needed to treat dogs is much high than a person’s dose. Therefore, if dogs accidentally get into thyroid hormones at home, it rarely results in problems. However, large acute overdoses in cats and dogs can cause muscle tremors, nervousness, panting, a rapid heart rate and aggression.

10) **Cholesterol lowering agents** (e.g. Lipitor, Zocor, Crestor)- These popular medications, often called “statins,” are commonly used in the United States. While pets do not typically get high cholesterol, they may still get into the pill bottle. Thankfully, most “statin” ingestions only cause mild vomiting or diarrhea. Serious side effects from these drugs come with long term use, not one-time ingestions.

Always keep medications safely out of reach and never administer a medication to a pet without first consulting your veterinarian. The following are some tips from Dr. Justine Lee and Dr. Ahna Brutlag at Pet poison Helpline to help prevent pets from getting over-the-counter or prescription medication:

- Never leave loose pills in a plastic Ziploc bag – the bags are too easy to chew into. Make sure visiting house guests do the same, keeping their medications high up or out of reach.
- If you place your medication in a weekly pill container, make sure to store the container in a cabinet out of reach of your pets. Unfortunately, if they get a hold of it, some pets might consider the pill container a plastic chew toy.
- Never store your medications near your pet's medications – Pet Poison Helpline frequently receives calls from concerned pet owners who inadvertently give their own medicate to their pet.
- Hang your purse up. Inquisitive pets will explore the contents of your bag and simply placing your purse up and out of reach can help avoid exposure to any potentially dangerous medication(s).

It is also important to note that while a medication may be safe for children, it may not be safe for animals. Pets metabolize medications very differently from people. Even seemingly benign over-the-counter or herbal medications may cause serious poisoning in pets. If your pet has ingested a human over-the-counter or prescription medication, please call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline's 24 hour animal poison control center at **800-213-6680**.

About Pet Poison Helpline: Pet Poison Helpline is a service available 24 hours, seven days a week for pet owners, veterinarians and veterinary technicians that require assistance treating a potentially poisoned pet. Staff can provide treatment advice for poisoning cases of all species, including dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, large animals and exotic species. As the most cost-effective option for animal poison control care, Pet Poison Helpline's fee of \$35.00 per incident includes follow-up consultation for the duration of the poison case. Additional information can be found online at www.petpoisonhelpline.com.

You can quote me*

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.
(Thomas Edison)

If you have a midlife crisis while playing hide-and-seek, do you automatically lose because you can't find yourself?

The dodo bird, which became extinct in 1681, was once abundant on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. European explorers discovered the island, and it became a stopover location. The birds were a source of food.

*Coffee News