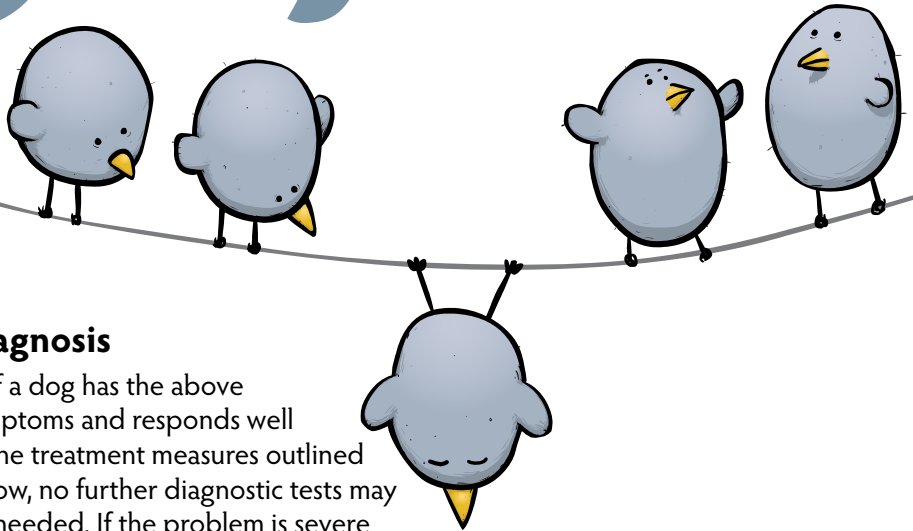


Dog Bytes

W/VESSA Newsletter

April 2009



Allergy Season

Inhalent Allergies

There are five known types of allergies in the dog: contact, flea, food, bacterial, and inhalant. This article will cover inhaleant allergies.

Substances which can cause an allergic reaction in dogs are much the same as those which cause reactions in people including pollens, dust mites and molds. A clue to diagnosing these allergies is to look at the timing of the reaction. Does it happen year round? This may be mold or dust. If the reaction is seasonal, pollens may be the culprit.

Symptoms of inhalant allergies include: **scratching, biting, chewing at feet and constant licking.** The itching may be most severe on feet, flanks, groin and armpits. Dogs may rub their face on the carpet. Ear flaps may become red and hot. Chronic ear infections may follow. Skin becomes thickened, greasy and has a strong odor. Hot spots may develop due to irritation from constant chewing or scratching, which is then followed by infection. Allergies have also been implicated as a possible cause of Acral Lick Granulomas, a frustrating, treatment resistant condition whereby the dog creates a sore on his skin from constant licking.

Diagnosis

If a dog has the above symptoms and responds well to the treatment measures outlined below, no further diagnostic tests may be needed. If the problem is severe and does not respond to simple measures, allergy skin testing can be done. A portion of the skin is shaved and a variety of substances are injected into the skin to see if they provoke a reaction. If so, an individual series of injections are formulated to give the dog over a period of time (there are blood tests designed to identify allergens without the skin testing, however their efficacy had not been proven. They should be reserved for cases where skin testing is not possible).

Treatment Options

Symptomatic Therapy

Treating the dogs symptoms may include; cool baths with or without colloidal oatmeal, Epsom salts, or medicated shampoos. This can be done frequently but provides only temporary relief. Caution should be used with sprays and ointments because many contain potentially

harmful substances. According to Dr. Ackerman, Dermacool is a safe spray containing witch hazel. Cortispray is a low dose, nonsystemic cortisone spray which can be safely used for short periods of time.

Immunotherapy

Allergy shots are very safe and many people have great success with them, however, they are very slow to work. It may be six to twelve months before improvement is seen. I spoke with Dr. Christine Johnson, a veterinarian with the dermatology department of the University of Pennsylvania, about intradermal skin testing for inhalant allergies. She reports the average success rate is 70-75%. This rate is for dogs showing any improvement at all. At U of P. the cost for the procedure is \$69.00 for the exam,

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\$122.00 for the sedation and testing, and \$85.00 for the first 5 months worth of vaccine. After that vaccines are purchased in 7 month supply for \$65.00. Substances that are tested include cats(!), feathers, wool, molds, dust, trees, insects, plants and pollens. Before testing, your pet must be free from all steroids, oral or injected (including those found in ear and eye medicines) for a specified period of time in order for the test to be valid. In all about 60 different substances are tested for.

Corticosteroids

These compounds reduce itching by reducing inflammation. Unfortunately, they also affect every organ in the body. According to Dr. Ackerman, steroids should be considered only when the allergy season is short, the amount of drug required is small or as a last resort to relieve a dog in extreme discomfort. Side effects can include increased thirst and appetite, increased need to urinate and behavioral changes. Long term use can result in diabetes, decreased resistance to infection and increased susceptibility to seizures. You can recognize steroids by the suffix "-one", such as cortisone, dexamethasone, prednisone..etc.. In short, alternatives to steroid therapy should always be considered.

Antihistamines

Antihistamines can be used with relative safety in dogs. About one third of owners report success with them. The major drawback, as with people, is sedation. Dr. Ackerman recommends that a minimum of three different types of antihistamines be tried before owners give up on this therapy. According to Dr. Johnson, the most common problem with this type

of treatment is that owners give the drugs at doses that are too low. Check with your vet on correct dosing. Examples of antihistamines commonly used for dogs include: Tavist, Benadryl, Chlortrimeton, Atarax and Seldane. Personally, I have seen the best results with Atarax.

Omega-3 and Omega-6 Fatty Acids

These fatty acids are natural anti-inflammatory agents. They reportedly are helpful in 20% of allergic dogs. My own experience puts this figure a little higher. They are certainly worth a try because they are not harmful and have virtually no side effects. Omega-3 fatty acids are found in fish oils (especially krill and cod) and omega-6 fatty acids are derived from plants containing gamma-linolenic acid (GLA), such as oil from the evening primrose. These supplements are different from those sold to produce a glossy coat. They tend to reduce inflammation that may lead to skin sores but are not as effective in reducing itching. Products that contain both omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids include: Omega Pet, Derm Caps, and EFA-Z Plus.

Environmental Control

If you know which substances your dog is allergic to avoidance is the best method of control. Even if you are desensitizing the dog with allergy shots, it is best to avoid the allergen altogether. Molds can be reduced by using a dehumidifier or placing activated charcoal on top of the exposed dirt in your house plants. Dusts and pollens are best controlled by using an air cleaner with a HEPA filter. Air conditioning can also reduce circulating amounts of airborne allergens because windows are then kept closed.

Future Meetings

April Meeting

The April meeting of WVESSA will be Saturday, April 18th at 1 p.m. at Baja Fresh in Tigard at 12286 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.

We must be sure to order food and drink in order to use the room. So come prepared.

Directions

From Portland: Take US 26 W (Exit 1D) toward Beaverton. Take the OR-217 S (Exit 69A) toward Beaverton/Tigard. Exit on Scholls Ferry Rd/OR-210 (Exit 4B). Turn right onto SW Scholls Ferry Rd to the restaurant

From Salem: Take I-5 northbound to Portland. Take the OR-217 N (Exit 292A) toward Tigard/Beaverton. Exit on OR-210/Scholls Ferry Rd (Exit 4) toward Progress. Turn left onto Scholls Ferry Rd to restaurant.

May Meeting

Saturday May 16th at Padington's Pizza on Commercial St S, Salem, OR

June Meeting

Saturday June 13th, Washington County Fairgrounds, Hillsboro, OR. Bring a picnic lunch.

Coming Events

Conformation & Obedience

April 17-20, 2009

Lewiston Cluster
Lewiston, ID
Friday: Robert Stein
Saturday: Dorothy M. Macdonald
Sunday: Dr. Dale D. Simmons
Monday: Lawrence J. Sinclair

April 25-26, 2009

Walla Walla Kennel Club
Walla Walla, WA
Saturday: Dr. Wanda V. Spediacci
Sunday: Marilyn C. Spacht

May 2-3, 2009

Olympia Dog Fanciers
Elma, WA
Saturday: Mr. Lawrence J. Sinclair
Sunday: Arley D. Hussin

May 7-10, 2009

Southern Oregon Cluster
Klamath Falls, OR
Thursday: Loraine Boutwell
Friday: Betty Stites
Saturday: Gregory A. Anderson
Sunday: Dr. Dale A. Simmons

May 16-17, 2009

Mt. Baker Kennel Club
Lynden, WA
Saturday: Thomas J. Tracy
Sunday: Sandra Olsen

May 23-24, 2009

Spokane Kennel Club
Spokane, WA
Saturday: Gretchen K. Schultz
Sunday: Paula Hartinger

May 25-26, 2009

Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers
Coeur d'Alene, ID
Monday: Roger R. Hartinger
Tuesday: Keke Kahn

May 30-31, 2009

Yakima Valley Kennel Club
Yakima, WA
Saturday: Nancy J. Gallant
Sunday: Laurence J. Libeau

June 6, 2009

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers
Puyallup, WA
Meghen Riese Bassel

June 7, 2009

Tacoma Kennel Club
Puyallup, WA
Diane L Malenfant

June 9-10, 2009

Snake River Canyon Kennel Club
Tuesday: Loraine Boutwell
Wednesday: Jon R. Cole

June 11-14, 2009

Blackfoot Cluster
Blackfoot, ID
Thursday: Judy A. Doniere
Friday: Gloria Kerr
Saturday: W. Everett Dean Jr.
Sunday: Dr. Dale D. Simmons

June 20-21, 2009

Clackamas Kennel Club
Canby, OR
Saturday: Debbie Campbell
Sunday: James S. Covey

June 27-28, 2009

Mt. Bachelor Kennel Club
Redmond, OR
Saturday: Dr. Steve Keating
Sunday: Donald M. Booxbaum

June 27-28, 2009

Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Mt. Vernon, WA
Saturday: Walter Pinsker
Sunday: Lester R. Mapes

AKC Agility

April 24-26, 2009

Auburn, WA

May 1-3, 2009

Auburn, WA

May 8-10, 2009

Nine Mile Falls, WA

May 15-17, 2009

Auburn, WA

May 22-25, 2009

Eugene, OR

Graham, WA

May 29-31, 2009

Sequim, WA
Canby, WA

June 6-7, 2009

Ridgefield, WA

June 11-14, 2009

Blackfoot, ID
Moscow, ID
Ridgefield, WA
Auburn, WA

June 20-21, 2009

Monroe, WA

June 26-28, 2009

Redmond, OR

Tracking

April 19, 2009

Yelm, WA
TDX

April 26, 2009

Sprague, WA
TD

May 3, 2009

Rochester, WA
TD, TDX
Salem, OR
VST
Sprague, WA
TDX

May 17, 2009

Junction City, OR
TDX
Seattle, WA and Shoreline, WA
VST

Hunt Test

May 2-3, 2009

Rochester, WA

May 23-24, 2009

Rochester, WA

May 25, 2009

Fort Lewis, WA

Show Results

Linn County KC, 2/14

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of
Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Ramblewood Strictly From
Dixie RN

BOW/WD Lakeviews Twilight Magic

RWD G&J's Navajo Spirits

RWB Majic Temptation Brazen Virtue

Linn County KC, 2/15

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of
Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Topsail Catch A Tradewind
To Emerald

BOW/WD Ramblewood Stardust

RWD Lakeviews Twilight Magic

RWB Majic Azumawilbec Holiday
Connection

Seattle Kennel Club, 3/7

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of
Telltale CD RN

BOS/BOW/WB Ramblewood Evergreen

WD Darkover If You Can Dream

RWD Saffire's Poka Dance

WB Ramblewood Evergreen

RWB Kismet Pirate Treasure

Seattle Kennel Club, 3/8

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of
Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Kismet Pirate Treasure

BOW/WD Beswin Ynot Triple Play

RWD Pawmarc's Speed Of Light

RWB Avonleah Bewitched At
Tradewinds

Peninsula Dog Fanciers, 3/21

BOB/BOW/WB Majic Temptation
Brazen Virtue

BOS CH Ramblewood Believe

WD Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over

RWD G&J's Navajo Spirits

RWB Alynn's Solitaire SH OA OAJ

Peninsula Dog Fanciers, 3/22

BOB/BOW/WB Ramblewood If I
Were Your Woman

BOS CH Avonleah's Tradewind Traveler

WD Ramblewood Stardust

RWD Darkover Back Up And Push

RWB Ramblewood Hello Darlin'

Chintimini KC, 3/28

BOB CH Silverhill N Hunters All In
BOS/WB Esspecial Over The Moon
BOW/WD Pawmarc's Moonlight
Seduction

RWD Silverhill Statesboro Blues

RWB Pawmarc's Sweet Surrender

Chintimini KC, 3/29

BOB CH Oxbow's On To Silverado
BOS/BOW/WB Foxboro-Pawmarc's
Midnite Flair

WD Tri- Ste's And My Daddy Is

RWD Lakeviews Twilight Magic

RWB Tri-Ste's Why Not Spots

Runner-up Information

by Carol Callahan

I apologize as I didn't provide Kelly with the information on the 2008 Annual Awards Runners-Up for the last newsletter, sorry for the delay in publishing. Here is that information.

- Bench Springer of the Year Runner Up
Ch Oxbow's Silver and Gold
Owners: Dave & Janee' Kemp
- BOS to Springer of the Year Runner Up
Cascadian's Touch the Sky, AX, AXJ OF
Owner: Carol Jansen
- Agility Springer of the Year Runner Up
Cascadian's Touch the Sky, AX, AXJ OF
Owner: Carol Jansen
- Junior Handler of the Year Runner Up
None

Raffle Items Needed

Please drop off your
raffle items at the next
meeting or contact
Debbie Kirsh
and let her know what
items you are donating
to the raffle.

Grieving the Loss of a Dog

The loss of a dog is the loss of a trusted friend and family member. The experience can trigger overwhelming feelings of grief and sadness that affect us both emotionally and physically. It's important to find ways to express your grief for the adored dog that is gone from your life, but never from your heart.

As you move forward to work through your grief, your first step is to take care of yourself, get enough sleep and watch your diet. You may not be able to concentrate very well at first, so pay extra attention when you are driving, operating equipment or walking outside. Think about different ways you might want to best remember your dog, whether it's keeping a locket of their fur, contributing to a memorial fund or planting a special tree in your yard.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) offers the following suggestions to better cope with your loss:

- Grief should be expressed freely so the healing process can begin.
 - Make a conscious effort to be thankful for the joy your canine companion brought you through the years.
 - Spend time with people who can appreciate the significance of your pet's impact on your life and who are empathetic to your loss, including other pet owners and your breeder.
 - Seek out pet bereavement groups through your local veterinarian, animal shelter or online. Your vet or local animal shelter may also be able to recommend a pet loss hotline.
- If this is your child's first experience with death, make it clear that the dog is not coming back but emphasize that it is now free of pain. Let your child know it's okay for him or her to express grief over the loss of your dog.
 - Other pets in the house may also react to the loss of their companion. Give them extra attention during this time.
 - Memorializing your dog can help you celebrate your pet's life and begin the healing process.
 - Create a photo album with snapshots of your dog, or write down some of your best memories in a journal.
 - Consider having a memorial service for your dog in an area that holds special meaning for you. Disperse your dog's ashes in a favorite location or keep remains in a specially crafted urn with the dog's photo.
 - If you participated in dog show events, consider placing a tribute ad in a dog show catalog, pet publication or Web site.
 - Realize that it may take time before you are ready to bring a new dog into your home. If you feel that you might not be ready for a new dog but want to spend time with animals, consider volunteering with a local kennel club, rescue group or animal shelter.
 - Discuss the idea of bringing a new dog home with your entire family. Whether or not you choose the same breed, be sure to appreciate your new canine companion for his own distinct personality and character traits.
 - Consider a donation to a dog-related charity in honor of your dog. http://www.akcchf.org/donate/index.cfm?nav_area=donate
Remember that grief is a natural process and that time does heal the feelings of hurt and loneliness. Although death is a difficult process at first, the pain of missing your dog will eventually turn into happy memories.

We sincerely appreciate and thank all those members and friends who have contributed to the 2009 Specialty trophy fund for our upcoming summer specialty. We are giving the beautiful Oregon Coast Pottery this year, along with lovely rosettes and some gift certificates which keep the "special" in our specialty.

We would truly appreciate all donations. If you haven't sent yours in yet, it is needed. If you can't remember if you pledged or not, just drop us an e-mail and we can tell you.

**Please send to: Janee' Kemp, 33730 SE Francis St.,
Gresham, OR 97080; djkemp@gotsky.com**

**Or to: Carol Callahan, 5310 S. Bates Rd.,
Spokane Valley, WA 99206; donahan@aol.com**



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Any questions, comments, or article submissions can be forwarded to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or to refuse any copy.

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