



Dear friends,

Welcome to our July Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com. Our recipe this month is for wheatless tuna biscuits – a healthy alternative for your pooch. We also have an article on how to firework-proof your dog (with the July 4 celebrations imminent in the US), and how to stop your dog eating poop. And don't miss our great article on Dr Richard Pitcairn, the author of Natural Health for Dogs & Cats. And in our Weird & Wonderful section this month we have surfing dogs and super power canines!

Contents

Recipe – Wheatless Tuna Biscuits	Page 2
Click to Give – Help Feed stray Dogs	Page 3
Joke of the Day	Page 5
Eating Poop Can be Dangerous	Page 7
Cancer Sniffing Dogs	Page 10
Natural Health for Dogs & Cats	Page 11
Scaredy Cats & Fireworks	Page 15
Weird & Wonderful	Page 17

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that is how dogs spend their lives' -Sue Murphy

Recipe - Wheatless Tuna Biscuits

Ingredients

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 small can tuna in oil , undrained
- 1/3 cup water

Directions to Make

Grind the oatmeal in a food processor to make a coarse flour, and set aside.

In the food processor, mix the tuna with the oil and water, then add all the rest of the ingredients. Switch to a kneading (or dough) blade. Pulse until the mixture forms a ball and then pulse to knead for 2-3 minutes.

If you don't have a dough blade, then you can knead the mixture on a floured surface until it forms a soft ball of dough.

Roll out to a 1/8"-1/4" thickness. Cut into shapes. Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet, at 350 for 20-25 minutes.

Allow to cool before serving.

Note: this recipe is from the I-Love-Dogs [Dog Food Recipes](#) cookbook available free at BestDoggieTips.com. Just click the link above, and then scroll down to the bottom of the page to download your free cookbook.

[Back to Contents List](#)

Click to Give at the Animal Rescue Site

Have you seen the website lately? We've just added a link to Click to Give on The Animal Rescue Site.

The Animal Rescue Site focuses the power of the Internet on a specific need — providing food for some of the 27 million unwanted animals given to shelters in the U.S. every year. Over 10 million animals are put to death every year in the U.S. alone because they are abandoned and unwanted.

Each click on the purple "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button at The Animal Rescue Site provides food and care for a rescued animal living in a shelter or sanctuary. Funding for food and care is paid by site sponsors and distributed to animals in need at the Fund for Animals' renowned animal sanctuaries (including Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in California), pet shelters supported by the Petfinder Foundation, North Shore Animal League, and other worthy animal care facilities supported by the GreaterGood.org foundation.

100% of sponsor advertising fees goes to charitable partners.

How You Can Help In Mere Seconds — Every Day

The Animal Rescue Site provides a feel-good way to help promote awareness and prevent rescued animal deaths every day — through easy and quick online activities.

Please remember to click every day to give help and hope to those most in need. Every click counts in the life of a rescued animal.

You Can Help Even More

In addition to clicking the purple "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button, visitors can help more by shopping in The Animal Rescue Site store. With each item purchased, shoppers generate funds for the feeding and care of animals in shelters and sanctuaries. The store offers a wide array of items to show your support.

Results — How You're Helping

Your clicks count!

The tables on the next page show the daily, monthly and yearly results from your clicks — along with those of other visitors — on the "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button.

In 2006, visitor clicks funded the value of 37,284,227 bowls of food for animals sheltering in sanctuaries.

Visitors who shopped at The Animal Rescue Site store funded the value of an additional 5,440,086 bowls of food.

All together, in 2007, your caring actions at The Animal Site funded the value of 42,724,313 bowls of food for animals in need. What can we accomplish together in 2008?

Results : Daily and Monthly

Date	Clicks	Bowls of Food	Kilograms	Metric Tons	Pounds
Jul.01	329,535	197,721	44,883	44.9	98,860
Date	Clicks	Bowls of Food	Kilograms	Metric Tons	Pounds
Jun.2008	8,896,247	5,337,748	1,211,669	1,211.7	2,668,874
May.2008	9,502,412	5,701,447	1,294,229	1,294.2	2,850,724
Apr.2008	9,239,089	5,543,453	1,258,364	1,258.4	2,771,727
Mar.2008	9,368,368	5,621,021	1,275,972	1,276.0	2,810,510
Feb.2008	9,516,760	5,710,056	1,296,183	1,296.2	2,855,028
Jan.2008	9,347,543	5,608,526	1,273,135	1,273.1	2,804,263

Results : Yearly

Date	Clicks	Bowls of Food	Kilograms	Metric Tons	Pounds
2007	62,140,644	37,284,227	8,463,520	8,463.5	18,642,114
2006	48,176,957	29,723,566	6,747,249	6,747.2	14,861,783
2005	50,950,876	30,570,525	6,939,509	6,939.5	15,285,262
2004	52,587,337	31,576,589	7,167,886	7,167.9	15,788,294
2003	39,948,086	23,968,850	5,440,929	5,440.9	11,984,425
2002	11,328,962	10,734,549	2,436,743	2,436.7	5,367,274

[Back to Contents List](#)

Joke of the Day

How To Bathe A Cat

(Note: Jeffery LaCroix is a veterinarian with an office in Wilmington. He writes a column for the Morning Star called "From Paws to Tails." Here is his response to a letter regarding bathing a cat :)

Dear Dr. LaCroix: I've heard that cats never have to be bathed, and that they have some sort of special enzyme in their saliva that keeps them clean. This doesn't sound believable to me because there are definite "kitty" odours on my couch and dirty cat paw prints on our white hearth. Is this true about the saliva? If we do decide to give "Nice Kitty" a bath, how do we do that? - NSP, Wilmington

Dear NSP: Fortunately for you, several years ago a client gave me a written set of instructions about cat bathing which I am privileged to share with you: **Cat Bathing As A Martial Art**

A. Know that although the cat has the advantage of quickness and lack of concern for human life, you have the advantage of strength. Capitalize on that advantage by selecting the battlefield. Don't try to bathe him in an open area where he can force you to chase him. Pick a very small bathroom. If your bathroom is more than four feet square, I recommend that you get in the tub with the cat and close the sliding-glass doors as if you were about to take a shower. (A simple shower curtain will not do. A berserk cat can shred a three-ply rubber shower curtain quicker than a politician can shift positions.)

B. Know that a cat has claws and will not hesitate to remove all the skin from your body. Your advantage here is that you are smart and know how to dress to protect yourself.

I recommend canvas overalls tucked into high-top construction boots, a pair of steel-mesh gloves, an army helmet, a hockey face-mask, and a long-sleeved flak jacket.

C. Use the element of surprise. Pick up your cat nonchalantly, as if to simply carry him to his supper dish. (Cats will not usually notice your strange attire. They have little or no interest in fashion as a rule.)

D. Once you are inside the bathroom, speed is essential to survival. In a single liquid motion, shut the bathroom door, step into the tub enclosure, slide the glass door shut, dip the cat in the water and squirt him with shampoo. You have begun one of the wildest 45 seconds of your life.

E. Cats have no handles. Add the fact that he now has soapy fur, and the problem is radically compounded. Do not expect to hold on to him for more than two or three seconds at a time. When you have him, however, you must remember to give him another squirt of shampoo and rub like crazy.

He'll then spring free and fall back into the water, thereby rinsing himself off. (The national record for cats is three latherings, so don't expect too much.)

F. Next, the cat must be dried. Novice cat bathers always assume this part will be the most difficult, for humans generally are worn out at this point and the cat is just getting really determined. In fact, the drying is simple compared with what you have just been through. That's because by now the cat is semi-permanently affixed to your right leg.

You simply pop the drain plug with your foot, reach for your towel and wait. (Occasionally, however, the cat will end up clinging to the top of your army helmet. If this happens, the best thing you can do is to shake him loose and to encourage him toward your leg.) After all the water is drained from the tub, it is a simple matter to just reach down and dry the cat.

In a few days the cat will relax enough to be removed from your leg. He will usually have nothing to say for about three weeks and will spend a lot of time sitting with his back to you. He might even become psychoceramic and develop the fixed stare of a plaster figurine. You will be tempted to assume he is angry. This isn't usually the case.

As a rule he is simply plotting ways to get through your defences and injure you for life the next time you decide to give him a bath.

But at least now he smells a lot better.

I know, I know – it's not a dog joke, but at least we don't have to go through that when bathing the dog

[Back to Contents List](#)

Eating Poop is a Potential Health Issue, But You Can Still Keep Your Dog Healthy

By Ian Westynn

This is one of those underground subjects that everybody sort of knows about and ignores. It just is not a "conversational" topic. As humans, we just cannot accept the practice of faecal eating. All sorts of imagery pops up. In fact, you are doing it yourself right now. And you are wondering if you can even finish reading this article. You have already been through the worse, might as well keep going now. It is all in the spirit to keep your dog healthy, right?

Coprophagy Or Coprophagia

Coprophagia is the technical term for the action of eating faecal matter. In the case of dogs, it can mean their own, or any other animals, including other dogs in the household. There would appear that there is a reason for this behaviour. In fact, nobody has come up with a conclusive reason as to why dogs do it. Some believe that it is because of the dog lacking something in their diet. But if you think about this for a moment, faecal matter is comprised of non-essential "stuff" that the body could either not digest or not use. It is in all sense of the term "waste" product. So, to eat it does not make any sense really, does it? This isn't to say that a quality food should not be used to make sure that your dog is getting the right nutrition.

It is an unpleasant behaviour in your pet. But it is not by any means fatal. Of course there are side effects that go along with your dog eating faecal matter. It goes without saying that the dog's breath is horrendous and it is going to require you doing more doggie dental care to keep your dog healthy. There are also certain intestinal or internal parasites your dog can catch from practicing coprophagy. These parasites are even worse when your dog is eating other animals faeces.

One of the worst offenders are cats. A lot of families have both cats and dogs in their homes as pets. That makes cat's faeces readily available to dogs inside of the home. Just a quick trip to the little box, and dog is in faecal heaven. Nobody can exactly explain why, but cat faeces seems to be a favourite amongst dogs. If you do have both in the house, to help keep your dog healthy, find a way to separate the litter box in an area of the house that the dog can't get to. If you have a bigger dog, maybe installing an internal little doggie door to the area so that the cat can go through, but the dog cannot fit through it. The best method is to buy one of those cat litter boxes that do self-cleaning after every use. That way if it is even out in the open, your dog does not have access to it. Yes, they are expensive, but then so is a vet bill and meds for your dog.

Some Ways To Try To Eliminate Coprophagy

There are some things you can do to try and curb or stop altogether your dog from eating on the "snacks" of other animal's rear ends. Below are some things you can try that have been stated to

work. But there is really only one absolute way to put a stop to this behaviour. It is time consuming and even laborious, but an absolute positive way to stop this behaviour is to constantly get rid of the poop as soon as it "arrives" in the lawn, in the cat box, or wherever. It is an obvious thing, but if it is not present to feed upon, the dog cannot eat it. As promised, below is a list of possible solutions if eliminating the substance does not seem doable to you.

Supervision.

This is as time consuming as cleaning it up at first, but this option you might be able to stop doing after a certain time period where cleaning it up is constant. Just like training the dog on what to chew and what not to chew, you will have to supervise the dogs activity and every time the dog goes in for a "snack" either make a loud noise or shout a stern "No" and immediately give the dog something alternative to put into their mouth. Give them a toy, a chew toy, a raw hide, or a chew bone. This can, over time, re-wire the dog's mind into thinking to chew on the alternative versus the faecal matter every time that urge comes up.

Flavour the poop.

There are certain food items and additives that, after digestive processing, makes the poop taste bad. I know you are currently thinking, "what, it doesn't taste bad to begin with?" I cannot honestly answer that question, and hope that I never will be able to. But you do have to keep a perspective in mind. Dogs have no problem chewing on rotting road kill that has been in the hot sun for days. I cannot imagine faecal matter can taste any worse than that, right? So it is rumoured that pineapple makes faecal matter taste bad to dogs. You can either pour pineapple juice over the dog food, or try mixing some chunks of pineapple in the food. I believe the fresher, the better. Dogs like the sweet flavour, but apparently some chemical reaction happens during digestion that changes that completely at the other end.

Try a product.

There are some products you can get from either your vet or at a pet store that are supposed to eliminate the behaviour as well. I am not sure how they work, I would assume they work something similar to the pineapple theory above, rendering the faecal matter tasting bad to the dogs. I cannot recommend any particular brand name, as I have not used any. But I am sure your vet or maybe a friend or family member could give you some idea which ones work and they have had success with.

Summation

Dogs often are found eating the faecal matter of themselves, or other animals. The technical term for this behaviour is called, "coprophagy" or "coprophagia". Despite rumours and suggestions that the dogs eat the matter because they are missing something from their diet, there is no proof to support it. The reason dogs do it is currently unknown, and anything used for the reasoning at this time should be taken as pure speculation. Cat faeces is a personal favourite amongst dogs. If you have both dogs and cats in the house, try to take care to separate the litter box from the dogs so that they do not have access to an instant buffet. The only true way to stop the behaviour is to eliminate any faecal matter by picking it up as soon as it is dropped. You can also try to train the dog to no longer eat faecal matter. There are other ways that have been stated to work, although I personally have no evidence to back them up. The other ways require you to feed the dog something with their food that will make the faecal matter no longer tasteful to the dog. Pineapple

is rumoured to be one of the best deterrents. Another method is to purchase a product made specifically for this from your vet or from a pet store. Eating faecal matter is not deadly to the dog, but can create health issues, especially internal parasites. Stopping the faecal eating not only seems "practical" (no kisses for me thanks) but also helps you to keep your dog healthy and happy.

Ian Westynn considers himself a Renaissance man who likes to speak on many subjects. He loves to learn new things daily and has just recently found an outlet as being a web author. The above article can be used freely as long as this resource box is with the article. Ian has created a blog too, you can visit it by going to <http://keepyourdoghealthy.wordpress.com> Ian often recommends products, and for this article, he recommends [Dog Health](#) a great overall guide to keep your dog healthy at home.

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[Back to Contents List](#)

Cancer Sniffing Dog Cloned



The Korean biotechnology company that took part in cloning the world's first dog reports that it has successfully produced four cloned pups from the cells of a famous cancer-sniffing dog named Marine.

With training, the company expects the four cloned canines to be able to sniff out cancer cells as well.

"The four black retrievers were born on May 28," Ra Jeong-chan, president of RNL Bio said. They were named as Marine-R, Marine-N, Marine-L and Marine-S. The cloning team of RNL Bio, led by Seoul National University (SNU) professor Lee Byeong-chun, implanted cloned fetuses from Marine into a surrogate mother in April.

RNL Bio says the four retrievers will be sent to Japan after three months to join the training program for cancer detection. Each cloned dog will be priced at \$480,000, the company said.

Research has shown some dogs have the ability to detect breast, prostate, lung and skin cancer at a treatable stage. The cancer cells give off a scent that is not present in healthy cells, which can be detected by dogs in breath or urine samples.

RNL Bio recently recreated seven drug-sniffing dogs last year at the request of the Korea Customs Service. The team also says it cloned the world's first commercial dog, ordered by a California woman who wanted her dead pit-bull terrier cloned.

The Seoul National University team created the world's first cloned dog, an Afghan hound named Snuppy, who was cloned in 2005.

[Back to Contents List](#)

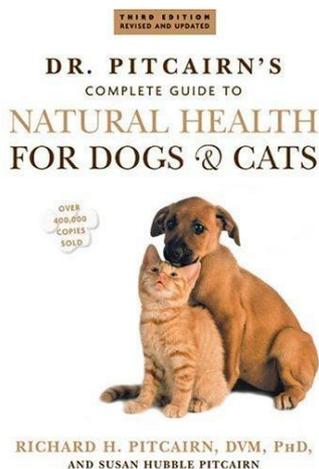
Natural Health for Dogs & Cats - Dr Richard Pitcairn

Dr Richard Pitcairn graduated from veterinary school in 1965, from the University of California at Davis, California. His idea was to be a practitioner and that is what he did for the first few years. However, he did not see the results that he expected to have using the treatments learned in veterinary school and this was a disappointment. His assumption was that he was not that skilled, so he joined a graduate school program. There he worked on a Ph.D. degree emphasizing the study of viruses, immunology and biochemistry. He then returned to practice.

During his training he had learned a great deal about how the body worked, especially the immune system, but did not know any better how to cure disease. This led him to study nutrition having realized its importance in maintaining a healthy body. Finding out about the pet food industry and what sources were used to make the food led him to recommend fresh foods for animals, prepared at home. This was very satisfying and many animals were greatly helped by making this change.

However, there are animals that are not helped by nutrition. These are the ones that are too ill to eat or have injuries or illness that is so severe that there is not time for nutrition to have an effect. He continued to look for some other means of restoring health in a true sense, not just covering symptoms with drugs or removing diseased tissues with surgery. Looking into many approaches he settled on homeopathy as the most practical and effective..

In the 3rd edition of his book, [Natural Health for Dogs & Cats](#), Dr Pitcairn includes issues such as:



- What's really in commercial foods.
- Updated fresh food recipes.
- Special diets.
- Expanded information on calcium supplements.
- Non-toxic grooming.
- Benefits of exercise.
- How to select a healthy animal.
- Natural care for common ailments.
- Alternative treatments with homeopathy, herbs and wholesome foods.
- First aid tips.
- and much more...

Here's what Dr Pitcairn has to say about using calcium in diets, and his thoughts on raw meat diets.

Using Calcium in Home-Prepared Diets

Introduction

Dogs and cats, their kind in the wild, eat a large amount of calcium. This happens because they chew on, and swallow, bones which have large quantities of calcium in their makeup. It is assumed that with time they have adapted to having this kind of diet. It is not completely clear that they must

have this much calcium to be healthy. In other words, perhaps they can adapt to lower levels. It certainly seems that way for many of the animals I have known that, for one reason or another, have had small amounts of calcium in their diets. They often seem just fine.

There is evidence that the growing animal is the one most sensitive to calcium deficiency. This makes sense if we remember that it is during this time that the bones of the body are rapidly enlarging. They are made up primarily of calcium and phosphorus.

In any case, it seems wise to supply the amounts of calcium that are typical of the natural diet and our recipes are formulated with that consideration. To give you some idea of how much more calcium is "required" by a dog compared to a human being, consider this comparison. The amount of calcium the average woman needs is the same as that required by a small 10 lb. dog. A larger dog, say a 100 lb. German Shepherd requires about 10 times as much as this average woman.

It is difficult to find sources of calcium that can add this much to the diet. The natural source is bones and we find that this is also the most ample source with which to formulate diets. It is also possible to concentrate calcium from vegetable sources by a special method of extraction. This is the way the supplement Animal Essentials (Aquamin) is made — from seaweed.

Advantages of vegetable sources of calcium

There are some advantages to a vegetable source. Bones contain both calcium and phosphorus, with more calcium in them than phosphorus. We also know that animals need to have a balance of calcium to phosphorus in the ratio of 2:1, e.g., twice as much calcium as phosphorus. What this means is that to come out with enough extra calcium from bones, you have to use a lot more total minerals to cancel out the extra phosphorus. It turns out that the phosphorus in the bone meal makes the requirement for calcium even higher. This would not be a problem in the natural state but when we are feeding grains and vegetables, the balance of these minerals has to be adjusted accordingly and we get into these issues. A vegetable source of calcium therefore has the advantage of providing just calcium without the unwanted phosphorus.

Another advantage of non-animal sources of calcium have to do with diseases like "Mad Cow" which can be transmitted through animal products. Granted the danger of this is extremely small but it does give another reason to prefer the vegetable sources.

Bones can also contain toxic elements like arsenic, lead, mercury, & radioactive strontium. This is because these elements have contaminated our world, coming from the use of gasoline, agricultural products, nuclear reactions and so on. The contaminants are picked up by grazing animals (e.g., sheep, cattle) and deposited in their bones. This is why it is important that the bone meal source has been checked for these substances. It is often bone meal from other countries, less industrial, that can be used while bones from cattle in the US are often quite contaminated. This is one reason that you will find warnings on bone meal in garden supply centres, that it is not to be used in food. It is a little known fact that commercial pet foods use bones from US cattle & are often unacceptably high in lead.

Very few veterinarians know this or consider this when treating ill animals yet excess lead can cause a myriad of serious problems including anaemia, intestinal problems and disorders leading to death.

My Thoughts On Feeding Raw Meat Diets

About 20 years ago, when I began to think for myself about the significance of nutrition in animal health, I realized that animals like dogs and cats in the natural state subsist entirely on raw food. This was enlightening to me.

Shortly after that, I read of Dr. Pottenger's work with cats on raw meat, bones and milk, in which he showed he could duplicate most of the common illness we see in cats clinically by feeding them cooked food. As I cast about for more information, I found much opinion but no veterinarians that had actually tried feeding raw meat to animals. As far as I could tell, they were saying the same thing that was told to me in school — that raw meat would cause disease, parasites and death. This apparently was not based on any scientific studies.

I do not remember when I began to suggest the feeding of raw meat myself but at some point I did. The result was unexpected. I found animals becoming more healthy even without other treatment. Indeed, I have frequently had the report that people find their animals become healthy when they make this change and diseases for which they were hoping to have treatment (on a waiting list) have disappeared. Since that time, other veterinarians have told me similar things about the use of raw meat. I do not have numbers but I think the veterinarians recommending raw meat in the US are in the hundreds.

My experience, albeit clinical and not based on studies, is that my patients have improved health on a raw diet. Furthermore, I have not seen significant parasite problems. It may be that the meat sources in this country are especially "clean" but I doubt it. I have read that the typical inspector spends 12 seconds examining a carcass. My thought at present is that dogs and cats, being carnivores by nature, are meant to eat raw meat and do not have a problem doing so. I readily admit the limitation of not doing statistical studies or careful evaluations, in terms of parasites, of these animals. However, I do feel the actual experience of recommending this feeding practice for 20 years does offer some evidence of the usefulness and safety of this practice.

Should the diet be entirely raw meat? No, wild carnivore diets include the bones and organs as well as other parts of the body. Meat is too limited as a food source. We can make up for some of this deficiency by drawing on grains and vegetables and other supplements to make a diet sufficiently balanced.

What about feeding just meat and bones? This is close to what is natural but not entirely. The wild animal also eats organs, skin, connective tissue and other parts. When we buy meat at a market and feed it raw, this is close but by no means is the meat fresh. It has been "aged" in a cooler for many days before shipping and then, of course, shipped to a market where it is sold. In addition it is not organic. Yes, organic meat (or "free-range, pesticide free") is available but unless the cattle, sheep or other animals are fed organic grains and hay then of course any contaminants in those food sources will end up in the tissues of the animals.

So we have to consider the "toxic load" of a high meat diet as meat animals (as a food source) concentrate the contaminants (even deliberately added chemicals like hormones and anti-parasite drugs). The more your dog or cat eats meat the higher the toxins absorbed.

A further complication is feeding raw bones (or cooked, makes no difference) because of the high lead and other heavy metal content. The chief concern is with lead, mercury, & cadmium—all poisonous metals. Lead is the chief problem as decades of driving automobiles using leaded gasoline spewed the element lead into our environment all over the country. It is in the soil and water and taken up by plants and eventually deposited in the bones of animals (cattle, sheep, etc.) that eat plants as their food. It will take centuries for the lead to work itself out of the soil and end up in the sea. Therefore, feeding large quantities of bones will expose your pet to high lead levels. This is the reason for using a calcium supplement as described in our discussion on calcium supplements. If the supplement is from bones, they are from animals that did not grow up in the US where lead is high.

In summary, raw meat is an excellent food for dogs and cats in my opinion. However, a complete and balanced diet is necessary. Just meat cannot be fed without eventual problems.

[Back to Contents List](#)

Help scaredy cats (and dogs) cope with fireworks

Shawn O'Dierno's rescued Doberman was a certified therapy dog who could help soothe patients and tolerated the sounds of dropped hospital equipment, loud arguments or crying visitors. But while Reid coped with the stress of a hospital room, he couldn't handle fireworks. This unique six-fingered glove is designed for use with either the right or left hand AND either side can be used, doubling the cleaning surface area.

"We were staying at place by a beach where the fireworks were going on," said O'Dierno, of Portland, Ore. "He went nuts and hid behind chairs." The situation repeated itself at other celebrations until O'Dierno realized her dog had a fireworks phobia: "His eyes would pop open, and you could see the fear when the fireworks go off."

Experts haven't figured out why some pets are extremely sensitive to fireworks, but some believe the smell of gunpowder may add to jitters caused by loud explosions.

"Fireworks have many stimulus qualities that are inherently aversive to pets," said Mary Lee Nitschke, an animal behaviourist and psychology professor at Linfield College. "The volume and suddenness of a firecracker elicits a startle reaction in most species."

Cesar Milan, dog trainer and host of the National Geographic Channel's "Dog Whisperer" show, says getting a dog ready for fireworks can take months.

At Behave Canine Solutions, a company that offers dog training classes in the Portland area, dogs in the Puppy Preschool program spend a day training for fireworks. The process involves integrating sound, smells and visual displays into activities such as playing or eating.

"What a dog is or isn't exposed to, especially in the first 16 weeks, can affect their behaviours for the rest of their lives," said Denise Mullenix, one of Behave's trainers. The class moves puppies to different stations that play sounds of fireworks, expose them to small smoke balls and burning charcoal, and bring them near sparklers and bright flashes.

Each step, Mullenix said, is designed to "minimize stress and anxiety in situations of exposure to fireworks."

Owners can also train their dogs at home. Milan plays recordings of fireworks at a low volume during an activity that the dog enjoys. Nitschke said she uses a toy similar to Roll Caps that produce an explosive noise and smell similar to gunpowder used in fireworks. You can also pop a paper bag, she said.

Continue introducing sounds of explosions for several weeks, increasing the volume with time. "Involve the sound into positive activities such as eating, at a low sound, or walking with your dog, so the dog becomes familiar with the sound while doing an activity that he enjoys," Milan said.

The dog is conditioned when it stops exhibiting signs of anxiety – panting, drooling, pacing – and it's comfortable when the recording can be played loudly, said Pam Reid, who works with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to educate pet owners and professionals.

If owners don't have months for training, veterinarian Dr. Robert Raider says other help is available. Take the pet for a checkup at least a week before the big day, and then return to the vet for sedatives if the dog is given a clean bill of health. Raider, who works at Maspeth Animal Hospital in Queens, N.Y., recommends getting the pills a few days early to avoid a mad rush to the doctor.

Some experts – including Milan – consider sedatives an option of last resort. But those who own particularly anxious pets shouldn't hesitate. "The kindest thing you can do is get them on medication," Pam Reid said.

If owners find themselves unprepared on the holiday, they should forget the fireworks and concentrate on the dog, Milan said. If you're in a park or an open area, keep the dog calm by remaining calm yourself.

"Just make sure you have very good control of your dog," said Reid. "You want your demeanour to be calm or confident. Dogs can pick up on your demeanour, and they'll panic if you start to panic, too."

Reid suggests getting the dog indoors as quickly as possible. If you drove, get into your car and sit with the dog. "Get them to calm down, then mask the noise. Turn on the air conditioning or the radio," Reid said.

If you're indoors when the dog panics, Reid suggests giving it a hollow chew toy filled with Cheese Whiz or peanut butter. "Some dogs are OK as long as they have something to lick or chew," she said, likening the effect to a baby's sedation from pacifiers.

Milan also said scared pets – not animals that already have been traumatized by fireworks – can be calmed with pheromone-mimicking scents. These products release smells similar to the ones naturally produced that signal comfort or relaxation. Nitschke, who recommends DAP, or Dog Appeasing Pheromone, for canines, and Feliway for cats, said the scents helped keep her pets calm during a home remodelling.

"Medicine is great, but if you can do it without it – you can do it with good exercise," Milan said. "Normally you walk a dog for 20 minutes but on Fourth of July, you walk an hour and a half, and you drain the energy so your dog is more tired. That is just like a sedative. But it is a more natural sedative, no side effects."

On past Fourths, Milan said he Rollerblades with his pack of more than 20 dogs, or takes them backpacking in the mountains near his Los Angeles dog training centre. He suggests doing an activity the pet will enjoy: let the dog have its day.

"Anything that can involve relaxation and fun, because that's what you want the dog to learn," Milan said. "Relax and have fun on the Fourth of July. That's what people do, right? They relax and they have fun."

[Back to Contents List](#)

The Weird & The Wonderful

Canine kahunas shred the surf to be top dog

IMPERIAL BEACH – Rolo didn't pay much attention to the throng cheering him on as he sat on the surfboard, waiting for just the right wave.

When it came, the Pomeranian-sheltie mix stood on all four legs and rode the swell like a pro, relishing the spray of salt water in his face.

“He just loves being out there with me,” said owner Louann Shannon, who had given a little nudge to Rolo's board and then bodysurfed behind the little dog.

About 60 canines, big and small, competed for medals and bragging rights yesterday at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort Surf Dog Competition in Imperial Beach. Prizes included a pet vacation at the resort and a feature in *Modern Dog Magazine*.

Dogs from all over the region strutted across the sand wearing everything from swim trunks and Hawaiian leis to sunglasses, life vests and wet suits.

Vendors sold T-shirts with the slogan, “Surf Dogs Rule; Show Dogs Drool.”

The contest, in its third year, drew an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 spectators plus news photographers jockeying for position in the surf.

“It goes to show that dog surfing is part of the San Diego lifestyle,” said Anne Stephany, a spokeswoman for the resort.

“The best thing about this event is that no particular breed seems to do better than others. I've seen poodles, a bulldog, (a) Chihuahua. As long as your dog loves the water, they're a great candidate for this sport.”

Some dogs warmed up before the competition with surf lessons from the Coronado Surf Academy.



LAURA EMBRY / Union-Tribune

Murphy, owned by Mike Mundt of Kensington, cruised past a phalanx of cameras at yesterday's third annual Loews Coronado Bay Resort Surf Dog Competition.



LAURA EMBRY / Union-Tribune

TJ, a Spaniel mix, owned by Wendy Slijk of San Carlos, hangs ten as he surfs his way into first place in the small surf dogs division (40 pounds and under) at the Third Annual Loews Coronado Bay Resort Surf Dog Competition in Imperial Beach on Saturday morning.

Academy owner Teevan McManus said dogs with a lower centre of gravity tend to do best.

“The bottom line is surfing is all about balance; dogs have four legs and therefore good balance,” said McManus, who also served as a judge alongside Imperial Beach Mayor Jim Janney.

The dogs were judged on style, confidence and length of time on the wave.

Craig Haverstick competed with his dog, Stanley, for the first time this year, taking third place in the large-dog competition.

“He gets very excited – he jumps right on the board,” Haverstick said while stroking the Chesapeake Bay retriever on the head.

Even after a wave launches us and we're trying to get back on the board after getting creamed, he jumps right on.”

Not surprisingly, the Team Chandler threesome won first place in the tandem contest for the third year in a row.

Tyler Chandler, 9, along with her professional surfer dad, Scott, and their dog, Zoey, rode the waves on one board. Tyler sat on her father's shoulders while their Jack Russell terrier stood in front.

“She likes water to splash at her,” Scott Chandler said of their Jack Russell terrier, who wore a pink lei around her neck. “She's a water freak.”

UKC Premier dog show lets canines show off their super powers



Mark Bugnaski | Kalamazoo Gazette

Forrest Gummy leaps 21 feet, 1 inch into the swimming pool during one of the Ultimate Air Dog events at the annual United Kennel Club Premier dog show at Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground. Forrest Gummy is a rescued Jack Russell terrier trained by 14-year-old Sarah-Simone McDougall, of Ontario, Canada.

KALAMAZOO -- Tom Fruehauf was watching his 6-year-old daughter Tannyr stand by the Ultimate Air Dogs pool, the water splashing over the edge onto her brown hair and lime-green shirt every time another dog launched from the platform.

"You got all wet," Fruehauf said.

"I know," Tannyr replied, looking back at her father with a mischievous grin. "I wanted to."

Forrest Gummy, a 3-year-old Jack Russell terrier, was one of the pooches splash-landing Friday at the 15th annual United Kennel Club Premier dog show. Ten thousand humans and 5,000 dogs were expected to attend the show, which included air jumping, agility and weight-pulling events.

Gummy, before being rescued by Aimee McDougall and her daughter, 14-year-old Sarah-Simone, had been scheduled for euthanization three times and is currently in regression from a case of lymphoma.

"She's really brought him around," Aimee said of the relationship between her daughter and the dog. "Gump used to be extremely aggressive." "At home, he's very quiet," said 14-year-old Sarah-Simone, while trying to curtail the rambunctious dog that had just jumped 21 feet into the water below.

The family has rescued three of the four Jack Russells they house back in Ontario, Canada, with Sarah-Simone training all of them in her own unconventional way.

"She does it as play," Aimee said. "She trains them by playing with them." Besides the dock jumping, Sarah-Simone has trained other dogs for agility, disc and flyball competitions.

Inside the fairgrounds' County Expo Center, Cheryl Cieslinski had some trouble urging Flirt, a 3-year-old basset hound, around the agility course. A chorus of giggles came from the crowd when Flirt stopped to sniff every weave pole. "That's the first time she's done that," said Cieslinski, a Milwaukee resident.

Betsy Richards drove from Roanoke, Va., to show her Berger Picards, one of the rare breeds at the event. "This Kalamazoo show is a fantastic show for us," said Richards, of the Berger Picard Club of America. "You see breeds here you never see (anywhere else)," she said.

Back at the pool, Aimee McDougall couldn't help but laugh looking at her daughter chasing Gummy.

The family has spent more than \$2,300 for Gummy's treatments, but McDougall said it has been worth every penny. "It's his chance to live life," she said as Gummy bounded up the stairs and across the platform into water. "He deserves the chance to be who he is."

[Back to Contents List](#)