

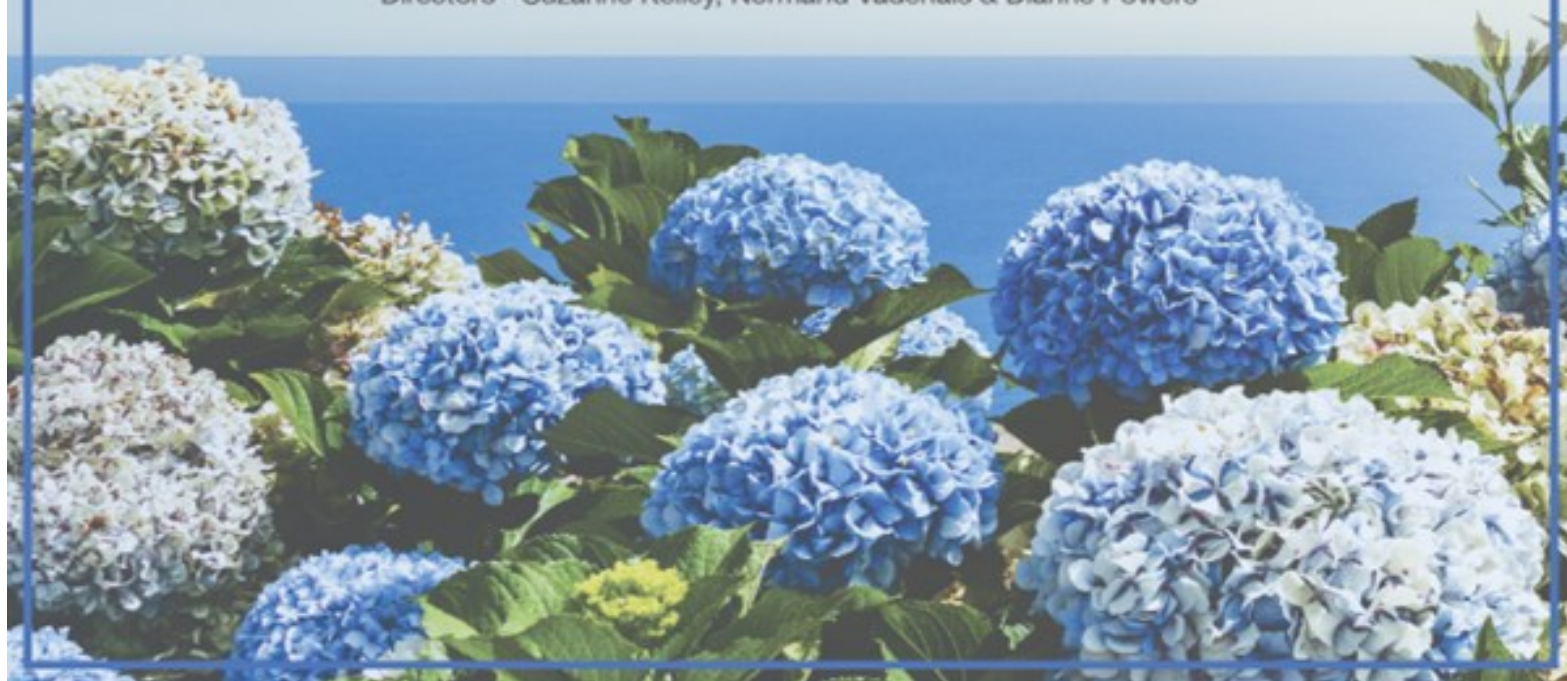
Dane Line **REIMAGINED**

AUGUST
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Note from Sue



Hi Everyone,

First of all, I want to thank Norm and Kathleen Vadenais for hosting our recent meeting. They know how to make us feel very special. Thank you, too, to everyone who attended. It was a fun day and great to see old friends.

The National will be upon us very soon and the committees are working hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Laurie Maulucci and Jeffrey Ball are finalizing all the details. Pat Ciampa and her committee are working on the welcome party, featuring dueling pianos, Judi Arsenault is welcome bag chair, Carol is working on the catalog and assisting with the auction, Colleen Ventre and I are doing CGC and Trick Dog Testing, Marcia is helping in the raffle room, as well as being in charge of our contributions of a regional-themed basket and our 'tower of toys' basket that has been very popular in the past.

They are looking for auction items and also items for the raffle room. There is a performance raffle and a rescue raffle as well. They all need contributions to make our national a success. Please look around and see what you can donate to the cause. It will be very much appreciated.

Our fall specialties are in the final planning stages. I believe the trophies are all covered and I so appreciate your generosity. As you know, the specialty raffle is really our only way to make a profit so your contributions are vital to make it successful. Contact Carol if you have something to contribute.

A big thank you goes out to Kim Thurler for handling the club awards this year. Recipients are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Soon we will have to make some decisions regarding next year's specialties so please be thinking about that and who you might like for judges.

Enjoy the remainder of this beautiful summer!

Best wishes,

Sue

GDCNE AWARDS



Congratulations to the connections of those dogs that recently received awards for their accomplishments.

The following dogs earned awards in 2024.

Champion

CH Dapper Cosmic NoBonz Simply Perry @ Linhaven, ATT (bitch)

Sire: MBIS MRBIS MBISS GCHP Cosmic NoBonz New Kid in Town, GDCA AOM, HOF

Dam: BISS GCH Cupar's You Crossed the Line

Owner: Linda Jacobson, Tami Bradford and Karen Pacino

Breeder: Ashley Coomes

Grand Champion

GCH Cosmic NoBonz Get Ready to Mambo Italiano, AOM (dog)

Sire: MBISS CH Maitau's No Bones About It Paesan

Dam: MBISS GCHB Cosmic NoBonz I'll leave You Starry Eye'd, GDCA AOM, ROM

Owners: Karen & John Pacino, Allison Gallant, Tami Bradford & Arthur Solnick

Breeders: Tami & Walter Bradford, Karen Pacino and Allison Gallant

From Karen: We are so proud of Mambo and what he has achieved! Not only attaining his championship, he went on to attain his Grand within three months, with his girl Ally at the end of his lead.

Mambo and Ally have become quite the team, especially in 2024, when Ally was #1 Great Dane Junior Handler, winning 11 Best Juniors, 8 Reserve and 19 class wins, which led to their invitation to Westminster!

Not only were we proud of this team but making it to the Junior finals at Westminster was the icing on the cake. Watching Mambo and Ally in the ring gives us such great joy as it's so evident Mambo is so in tune to her, where it was captured for all to see. Especially for me, it was a great "Auntie" moment filled with adoration. Both did remarkably well in 2024, especially at a young age, additionally winning Best in Show Owner Handler, many Group 1s, 2s, 3s and 4s, leading them to #12 in the Owner Handler series within 3 months. Our hearts are filled with so much joy having Mambo!

Best in Specialty Show, Best in Futurity GCH Cosmic NoBonz I'm the Pop Star!, AOM (bitch)

Owner: Tami and Walter Bradford, Karen Pacino, Allison Gallant and Leslie Solnick

Breeder: Tami and Walter Bradford, Karen Pacino, and Allison Gallant

Sire: MBISS CH Maitau's No Bones About It Paesan

Dam: MBISS GCHB Cosmic NoBonz I'll Leave You Starry Eye'd, GDCA AOM, ROM

GCH Cosmic NoBonz Meant to Be @ Rosendane (bitch)

Sire: MBISS CH Maitau's No Bones About It Paesan

Dam: MBISS GCHB Cosmic NoBonz I'll leave You Starry Eye'd, GDCA AOM, ROM

Breeder: Tami and Walter Bradford, Karen Pacino and Allison Gallant

Owner: Angela Kusmiesz

Grand Champion Silver

GCHS CH DavisDane's N Balor the Chronicles of Ridduck, RN, DCAT (500 points), CGC, TKN (dog)

Sire: CH DavisDane's Duckor Drakken I Presume, BN RI CGCA, TKN, BCAT

Dam: DavisDane's Reflecton of a Duck, CGC

Owner: Rachel Wilson and Lisa Lewis and Isabella Eaton

Breeder: Lisa Lewis, Sue Shaw and Rachel Wilson

Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA)

GCH CH BRF's N Americas V Maitau @ Balor A Legend Is Born, CGCA TKN (dog)

Sire: CH Maitau N Cosmic Eye'm a Hooligan CGC

Dam: GCH BRF's N Americas Red, White & Fawn

Owner: Rachel and Jeffrey Wilson

Breeders: Mary Woodworth, R Michal Woodworth, and Elizabeth Streeter

Top Producer

MBISS GCHB Cosmic NoBonz I'll Leave You Starry Eye'd, GDCA AOM, ROM

Dam of

BISS BIF GCH Cosmic NoBonz I'm the Pop Star!, AOM,

GCHBosmic NoBonz Meant to Be @ Rosendane

GCH Cosmic NoBonz Get Ready to Mambo Italiano, AOM

Breeder/Owner Tami Bradford

The following dog earned an award in 2017

Champion

CH Cosmic-JV-NoBonz Testarossa @ Linhaven, CGC (bitch)

Sire: CH Maitau's No Bones About It Paesan

Dam: GCH CH JV Cosmic's I'll Leave You Starstruck

Owner: Linda Jacobson, Karen Pacino and Richard Jefferson

Breeder: Tami Bradford, Vicki Kimbell, Walter Bradford and Karen Pacino

DISCLOSURE

Opinions or statements expressed in DaneLine Reimagined are not reflective of the Great Dane Club of New England.

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ADDITIVES TO AVOID IN YOUR PETS “NATURAL” SUPPLEMENT or CHEWS

Check the ingredients, usually found under “in-active” ingredients which sometimes are only found on the actual label and intentionally left off the ingredients list on the website.

INGREDIENT	TYPE	PURPOSE	CONCERNS
Alcohol/Ethanol	Preservative	Prevents mold and bacterial growth	Dogs lack enzymes to break it down; stays in body, taxes liver, disrupts gut
Artificial Flavor Beef/Chicken	Flavoring	Mimics natural taste	Can cause allergies or sensitivities
Ascorbic Acid	Antioxidant	Vitamin C, used as a preservative and antioxidant	Synthetic source may be derived from GMO corn; may irritate sensitive systems
Blue 1 Brilliant Blue FCF)	Dye	Enhances appearance	May cause hypersensitivity, cellular toxicity
Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate	Preservative	Maintains texture and structure in chews/treats	May contribute to excessive calcium, kidney/bladder issues
Caramel Coloring	Preservative	Adds brown color	Contains carcinogenic compounds (4-MEI)
Choline Chloride	Synthetic Nutrient	Nervous system support	Synthetic; can irritate gut lining; common in ultra-processed foods
Citric Acid	Preservative	Regulates acidity and enhances flavor	May cause joint/muscle pain, GI symptoms
Corn Gluten Meal	Filler	Bulks up products	May trigger allergies or sensitivities, minimal nutritional value
DL-Methionine	Synthetic Amino Acid	Added for amino acid profile	Synthetic; may acidify urine; overuse may cause imbalances
Fructooligosaccharide (FOS)	Filler	Feeds beneficial gut bacteria	May cause gas/bloating if overused or from GMO sources
Fruit Juice Color	Dye/Colorant	Improves appearance	Ultra-processed; may come from GMO sources; adds sugar
Gelatin	Binder	Holds tablets or chews together	Source may be factory-farmed; ultra-processed
Glycerin	Humectant	Keeps product moist	Can be synthetic; may disrupt gut microbiota; source matters

Submitted by Betty Lewis

Sourced from FB

Thank you to
Dana Shaw and Melissa Pavlik,
as well as **Barbie and Fern,**
for helping with our

Meet & Greet

at Wampanoag Kennel Club's
recent show in
North Kingstown, Rhode Island



Natural Pet Care Kit

Submitted by Betty Lewis

Posted anonymously on Facebook:

Below is list of 15 favorite remedies for your natural pet care kit to have on hand at home. Of course, there are more but these are the foundation: the core home cures you will have on hand to use from time to time as needed. (if you are not familiar with any of these remedies, please research them online or ask questions for more information on their properties before using)

1. 10-20 PPM colloidal silver (CS)
2. Organic apple cider vinegar (ACV)
3. Food grade diatomaceous earth (DE)
4. Raw unrefined organic coconut oil
5. Montmorillonite/Bentonite clay powder or liquid
6. Activated charcoal (always have on hand)
7. Rescue Remedy and Australian Bush Flower Emergency Essence
8. Essential oils. The core basics to always have on hand are lavender, peppermint and tea tree oils.
9. Baking soda
10. Turmeric or Golden Paste
11. Raw honey (preferably Manuka honey)
12. At least these 5 homeopathic remedies -aconite, calendula, arsenicum, apis and arnica
13. Slippery elm powder for tummy issues
14. Calendula oil (dried calendula flowers steeped in organic olive oil for 6 weeks)
15. Herbal remedies, tinctures and an herbal salve, even herbal powders. Pick 3 or 4 from the list below that you feel would be user-friendly for you and your pet.

Here is a list of some of my favorite herbs used in herbal animal medicine:

- Plantain: First aid herb for stings and cuts
- Comfrey Root: Heals wounds, anti-inflammatory, soothes, lubricates
- St. John's Wort: Nerve pain, wounds, bites, rashes and stings (combine with comfrey root)
- Slippery Elm: Digestive tract and diarrhea: soothes, heals and protects intestines and intestinal lining• Alfalfa: a nutritive herb containing high amounts of protein. It is a rich source of vitamins and trace minerals, calcium, magnesium, potassium, beta-carotene, vitamins A, B-12, C, D, E and K.
- Kelp: for balancing glandular function. Contains iodine for stimulating the thyroid gland; promotes shiny, healthy skin and coat; aids in dry skin conditions, skin allergies and alopecia (hair loss)



- Milk Thistle: Liver detoxification, vaccine detox
- Calendula: skin problems, irritations and wound healing. Anti-viral
- Mallow: IBD (inflammatory bowel disease), colitis, skin conditions
- Stinging Nettle: allergy prevention and kidney disease. Highly nutritive tonic herb rich in vitamins and minerals. Has a broad range of actions and benefits

- Dandelion: Liver and gall bladder aid. Improves digestion, removes toxins. Diuretic.
- Burdock: Blood cleansing, liver tonic, nutritive, skin
- Juniper Berry: Diabetes, cardiovascular disease
- Uva Ursi: Kidney and bladder conditions
- Echinacea: Immune stimulant
- Yarrow: Skin healer, styptic (stops bleeding), digestive aid and flea powder, anti-viral
- Elecampane: Lung problems
- Mullein: Lungs, skin and ears, feline rhinitis, canine kennel cough,
- Coltsfoot: Lungs, asthma, rhinitis, kennel cough
- Valerian: Calmative, nerves, digestion
- Skullcap: Gentle sedative, nervine, anticonvulsant
- Wild Chamomile: Mild sedative and digestive. It helps to expel gas and calm nerves
- Licorice: Natural steroid and adrenal aid. Soothing. Good for use as an overall anti-inflammatory, anti-viral
- Eyebright: anti-inflammatory for use in eyes
- Raspberry Leaf: Uterine tonic
- Blackberry root: Bacterial diarrhea

FOLLOW THE LAWS OF NATURE

1. First and foremost, this requires that you give the optimal species-appropriate diet. Carnivore pets thrive on a raw meat diet, just as nature intended.
2. Eliminate all toxins in the environment. This also includes what is being given internally as well as externally: drugs, chemicals, vaccines, and pesticides, as well as everything in the home that is unnatural, including dryer sheets, floor cleaners, herbicides and more. If you must use these products in emergency situations, buy fragrance-free, use them and dispose of them safely. Synthetic fragrances are a much bigger burden on the nervous and immune systems of pets than people realize.

3. Give your pets plenty of sunshine outdoors, enough exercise daily for your breed, and always, only filtered or distilled water. (add back in fulvic minerals) Most tap water is not safe for drinking.

4. Give your pet a sleeping place to sleep that is restful, quiet and away from all EMF (electromagnetic fields) and electronics.

5. If your pet gets sick, treat the cause with natural remedies whenever possible. If you need to go to your vet for a diagnosis, do so. However, resist any suggestions to go straight to antibiotics and steroids, which only mask the symptoms, causing the disease to crop up later in a deeper, more difficult form to heal.

6. Keep a happy, healthy household. Our pets pick up on the "vibes" around them. Anger, sadness, yelling and fighting can make a pet ill from stress.

7. Remember that nature is the best cure. Only resort to surgery and drugs when in a true emergency situation.

**Next issue
is our
Holiday
issue. The**



**deadline is Dec. 5th. Send in
your articles, brags, recipies, et.
Al. as well as Holiday pictures.**

Member Brags

Mikie Woodworth, her mom, Mary Martha Woodworth and brother, John Mark Woodworth, have officially been recognized by the American Kennel Club as a Breeders of Merit in Great Danes! Many congratulations!

Cool-Down Science: How a Simple Head Dunk Could Save Your Dog from Heat Stroke

Contributed by Kim Thurler

Even with shaded rest areas, cooling towels, and constant hydration, it can be difficult to keep active dogs cool—especially those involved in working or sporting events. Dogs primarily cool themselves through panting and some sweating through their paw pads, which makes them more vulnerable to overheating.

“High-energy dogs often don’t know when to stop, and it’s devastating,” said Dr. Cynthia Otto, Executive Director of the PennVet Working Dog Center at the University of Pennsylvania. “They seem fine, then suddenly collapse with heat stroke. And there’s a 50 percent chance they won’t survive.”

For years, dog owners have turned to traditional cooling methods like alcohol on paw pads or dunking in water. But what actually works best? Until recently, no one knew for sure.

Putting Cooling Methods to the Test

In 2022, Dr. Otto launched a study to compare the effects of partial water immersion versus applying isopropyl alcohol to paw pads. Dogs stood in shallow water or on alcohol-treated pads. The result: water immersion proved more effective and did not raise heart rate like alcohol did, likely due to the alcohol’s intense smell.

Next, with funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Dr. Otto’s team tested four additional cooling techniques:

1. Ice pack on the neck
2. Wet towel on the neck
3. Wet towels in the axillae (armpits)
4. Voluntary head dunk in 70°F water

The head dunk came out on top. It delivered the fastest and most sustained reduction in body temperature.

“This result blew our minds,” said Dr. Otto. “But it also made perfect sense. Dogs pant to regulate heat, which increases blood flow to the head. Cool the head, and you cool the dog faster.”

From Research to Real Life: What the Data Means for You and Your Dog

Dr. Otto is now building on her research with a follow-up study to explore whether factors like water temperature or substitute methods, like applying cool towels to the head, can offer similar results—especially for dogs who are panting excessively or who are unwilling to dunk their heads.

Even for pet owners without sporting or working dogs, this research offers practical, life-saving insight. A soaked towel over the head, a shallow basin of cool water, or a quick head dip could

Excerpted from the American Kennel Club Health Foundation blog: <https://www.akcchf.org/educational-resources/library/articles/cool-down-science-how-a-simple-head-dunk-could-save-your-dog-from-heat-stroke/>
July 8, 2025

Dog Throwing Up Undigested Food?

Here's What To Do

Rita Hogan

Last Updated: May 3, 2024

Submitted by Sue Davis Shaw



Have you ever fed your dog after exercise, but within a few seconds you find your dog throwing up undigested food? Or how about when your dog eats his meal and then soon after he throws up a tube of mucus?

This is called regurgitation ... and it's a normal function of your dog's digestive system.

What Is Regurgitation?

Regurgitation is when your dog brings up undigested food. It comes mainly from inside the esophagus ... up through the mouth and out. It's a normal process for dogs. Even so, when you're in the moment, you might feel concerned. This is especially true when the lines between regurgitation and vomiting are blurry.

Before reviewing regurgitation in depth, let's quickly take a look at vomiting and how it's different from regurgitation.

Is Your Dog Regurgitating Or Vomiting?

Here are some key differences between regurgitating and vomiting.

Regurgitation

The purpose of regurgitation is an adjustment. Regurgitating doesn't involve any abdominal heaving. A dog's esophagus allows for easy evacuation. And

whatever food your dog regurgitates will look about the same as when he ate it. Regurgitated food hasn't been digested.

Vomiting

Vomiting is your dog expelling a toxic or unwanted substance. This kind of dog throw up is usually a sign of a digestive imbalance and originates in your dog's digestive tract. Dogs have short digestive tracts that allow rapid toxin expulsion. Before your dog vomits, you might see signs of nausea ... like excessive drooling, lip smacking. Or the perplexed, worried vomit face we've all seen.

Dog vomiting comes from the stomach and the upper intestines. Unlike regurgitated food, dog vomit is mostly digested food, plus bile and foam. It has a unique color, texture and smell. Many times, you'll see your dog doing four-on-the-floor bracing while he expels the contents of his stomach.

And there's one other distinction I want to make ...

Burping Or Excess Acid

Burping can also be confused with regurgitation ... and it originates in the stomach. Small amounts of food can come up with the gas. Burping can happen for a number of reasons ..

Emotional Upset

Lack of hydrochloric acid or other secretions

Excess fermentation of food in the stomach

Inflammation

But burping is a topic for another day ... so let's get back to regurgitating.

Throwing Up Undigested Food

The simple description of regurgitation is when your dog brings his food back up, shortly after eating it. This can also happen with fluids ... with your dog spewing out water right after he has a big drink.

Note: I'm focusing on food regurgitation here ... but check the When You Should Ask Your Vet section for some comments on fluid regurgitation.

Regurgitation can happen in seconds, minutes or within an hour. The timing often depends on what your dog ate ... kibble, cooked homemade, processed raw or traditional raw ... including bone. Bones and chews are especially subject to regurgitation. Your dog will eject them if they don't sit right in his stomach ... or if the bone or chew is too big to swallow.

When your dog swallows something that's too large, he simply brings it back up. The expelled contents are usually stuck together, covered in mucus, and almost completely undigested. Even though it's gross, it's perfectly normal for your dog to re-eat his regurgitated food. He may tear it up into smaller pieces first.

If your dog is kibble-fed, he may regurgitate compressed mucus-coated kibble pieces ... shaped like his esophagus! When your dog swallows, saliva and mucus help ease food through the esophagus into the stomach.

Why Your Dog Throws Up Undigested Food

Regurgitation is a natural function of your dog's body. The cause of regurgitation can vary ... so if your dog regurgitates often, it's a good idea to keep a health journal. Write down some details like ...

What your dog ate

How fast he regurgitated

Was he anxious or stressed

What it looked like

What it smelled like

Any food allergies your dog has

Your journal will help you see any patterns.

Here's a list of possible reasons your dog may be more prone to regurgitate.

Anxiety and fear

Stress or nervous stomach

Unpalatable food or consistency

Eating too quickly

Drinking water too fast

Eating too soon after exercise

Inflammation of the esophagus

Intubation during surgery (can irritate the esophagus temporarily)

How To Stop Your Dog Regurgitating His Food

There are a few strategies you can use to try and stop your dog throwing up his dog food.

Give The Right Size Bones

Bone regurgitation is common. Raw meaty bones or recreational bones can cause regurgitating. If your dog's a gulper, he may swallow them whole ... and then quickly bring them back up again, covered in goo. Always try to give bones that are appropriately sized. And never feed rawhides or cooked or smoked bones.

Soak Kibble

If you feed any type of kibble or compressed food, try adding warm water and letting it soak for at least 10 to 15 minutes. You can also use bone broth as a more nutritious way to do this. Adding moisture can help your dog get the kibble down.

Slow Him Down

Getting your dog eating slowly is key to avoiding frequent vomiting and regurgitation. It's especially key with kibble or harder foods. There are many types of slow-eating bowls or platters. Using one can go a long way in slowing your pup down. You can also give smaller meals frequently throughout the day. Feeding from a raised bowl may help.

Caution: Some people believe raised bowls can increase the risk of bloat. So if you see any extra gassiness, go back to a bowl on the floor).

Often, you can avoid regurgitation by just warming your dog's food ... or letting it come to room temperature before feeding.

When Should You Ask Your Vet About Regurgitation

Usually regurgitating undigested food isn't anything to worry about. But there are rare times when regurgitation is a sign of a more serious condition. Here are some situations when it's best to check with your vet.

Chronic regurgitation is when your dog can't keep any food or fluids down for more than a few seconds ... and it happens more than once or twice a week. If your dog consistently regurgitates fluids, check with your vet. It can be due to an abnormality in the esophagus ... or narrowing of the canal. Dogs can also have blockages and cancers of the esophagus.

In some cases, regurgitation can lead to a condition called aspirated pneumonia. This means your dog inhales food particles into his lungs. It's common in short-snouted dogs like Pugs, Bulldogs, and Boston Terriers. Normally, the flap or sphincter that separates the esophagus and stomach keeps regurgitation from happening. But sometimes, this flap can be forcefully opened by the stomach or your dog's reflux reaction. This causes inflammation and deterioration of the mucosal lining

Addison's disease can cause chronic regurgitation. Addison's is an autoimmune disease where the adrenal glands can't produce the correct amount of the hormone cortisol.

Megaesophagus (ME) is another condition that causes chronic regurgitation. Yorkies and Miniature Pinschers are prone to this condition. In ME, the muscles of the esophagus weaken and food stays stuck instead of moving into the stomach. Dogs with ME need to eat sitting upright so their esophagus can use gravity to get the food down.

If your dog's regurgitation is accompanied by loss of appetite, lethargy abdominal pain, constipation or diarrhea, see your vet.

It's important to know the difference between vomiting, burping and regurgitation.

Remember, most of the time regurgitating is absolutely normal. But a dog throwing up undigested

food chronically can indicate a bigger problem, so ask your vet to rule out a possible serious condition.

FAQ

Why is my dog throwing up undigested food hours after eating?

When your dog throws up undigested food hours after eating, it could be a sign of slow gastric emptying or eating too quickly. If the dog swallowed food too fast or if there's a disruption in normal digestion, undigested food can be vomited back up, sometimes indicating food sensitivities or other digestive issues.

What home remedy can I give my dog for throwing up undigested food?

A simple home remedy for a dog vomiting undigested food is to provide small, frequent meals of a bland diet, like boiled chicken and rice. This can help stabilize your dog's stomach and reduce the strain on the digestive system, allowing food to be digested more easily.

When should you be concerned about your dog throwing up?

You should be concerned about your dog throwing up if it becomes a frequent occurrence, or if it's accompanied by symptoms like lethargy, diarrhea, or signs of pain. Chronic vomiting can indicate serious conditions such as intestinal parasites, blockages, or other health issues requiring veterinary attention.

What does undigested food look like in dog vomit?

Undigested food in a dog's vomit appears similar to how it was consumed, showing little to no signs of digestion. It may be surrounded by mucus and not have the typical foul odor associated with digested food and stomach bile, which is often seen in cases of true vomiting rather than regurgitation.

Reprinted from Dogs Naturally Magazine Inc.

Whistle Recall

Submitted by Betty Lewis

I didn't invent the Whistle Recall, but I have had some positive experiences with it, and I think that if every animal: dog, cat, horse, ferret, rat, bird, has this training, it could significantly raise the success rate should any of those pets become lost.

First let me introduce Pam Dennison, a professional dog trainer, and star of the DVD "Training the Whistle Recall." Her website is <http://positivedogs.com> . I highly recommend you buy her DVD, and extras of the whistle she sells.

The Whistle Recall isn't a way to compel an animal to respond to you, but it does have an inherent component which makes it far better than just training an animal to come to your voice command.

That component is that it "speaks to the reptilian brain." This means the whistle bypasses the cognitive part of the brain, and often initiates a reflexive response.

A reflex, or reflexive response is one which bypasses the thinking mind, and triggers an instant response such as what happens when you touch a hot stove. Your mind isn't even in the circuit as you instinctively withdraw your hand. The whistle acts in the same way as the heat of the stove. A previously conditioned response seems to "just happen."

I have an example of how this worked with my own dog. We were playing frisbee in a field early one morning. We were so early this particular day, that we startled a deer, who was still sleeping there. She took off, and so did Kiah (Whippet) in hot pursuit. My frantic calls had no effect. I keep a whistle on a key chain in my pocket, which I whipped out and blew. Instantly, she turned on a dime, and returned to me at the same full gallop she was using to chase the doe! I was astonished, thrilled, and very thankful! It doesn't always work like this, of course, but in my opinion, it is one more tool in your toolbox.

The second reason I think the whistle is so important is that it is a neutral sound. No matter how frantic you are, the whistle conveys the same message with no emotion attached. This is critical, as I described above. And, while you

can use any whistle, the ones Pam sells are lightweight, and loud. I really like them and bought extras.

And, third, the whistle is audible! You'd think that screaming at the top of your lungs would be audible, especially to an animal with hearing so much more sensitive than ours. But, so many animals tell me that they don't hear people calling them under lost animal situations, that I wondered why. Then, I had an experience which explained this, and proved to me how much sound is absorbed by trees, and other plants.

I was on a Whippet Walk, in the woods, with a friend and her Whippets. Suddenly, my friend's dog took off after a squirrel. When she didn't come back right away, we separated, and started calling her. My friend and I used walkie talkies to communicate with each other so we could report if we'd found her. At one point, I could see my friend about 20 yards from me. We were each on a hill, separated by trees and undergrowth. I could see her mouth moving, but I couldn't hear her! It was at that time, that I realized I needed a better way to call my dogs, especially under unusual circumstances.

Please get the DVD & whistles from Pam Dennison, and start training now. At the very least, you'll have pets who come when you want them to. And, who knows, it may someday make a life and death difference.



*Photo credit Karen Hocker Photography

Homemade Dog Ice Cream — Cool Treats for Your Furry Friend!



Submitted by Sue Davis Shaw

Directions:

1. Slice bananas and add them to a blender or food processor.
2. Add Greek yogurt and peanut butter. Blend until smooth and creamy.
3. Taste (for humans only!) and add a small drizzle of honey if desired.
4. Pour mixture into silicone molds, ice cube trays, or small containers.
5. Freeze for at least 2-3 hours or until firm.
6. Pop out and serve as a cool treat for your pup!

Tips & Serving Ideas:

- ☒ Use silicone paw or bone molds for cute shapes.
- ☒ Keep portions small, especially for smaller dogs.
- ☒ Try adding pureed pumpkin or blueberries for variety!

Great Dane Club of New England Fall Specialties

I know we are all excited about the National coming up soon, but let us remember our own specialty weekend in November. Please talk it up to all your Dane friends so our entry can be great. Our judges are: Designated - Bill Stebbins and Paula Nykiel; Concurrent - Tom Davis and Nichole Coneen Holmes and Carolyn McNamara for sweeps. Thanks to everyone who supported with trophy donations and please remember we are accepting raffle donations as well.

If you prefer to send money for raffle items, feel free to send a check payable to GDCNE and note raffle on the memo line. We will buy a raffle item for you.

Mail checks to Carol Urick, 74 Briarwood Dr., Manchester, CT 06040 or use our PayPal. If you do that, please if you are able to include a few extra dollars to help with the PP fee that would be greatly appreciated.



Brain teaser

Submitted by Betty Lewis

What is unusual about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven?

Answer found elsewhere in this issue.

Sunshine

On April 6th, Mikie Woodworth was married to Tom Wallace!
We wish them many happy years together.

We are so happy to report that Suzanne Kelley has completed her chemotherapy and will have surgery on August 22nd, which is the next step to her recovery. We wish Suzanne a speedy recovery and will keep her in our thoughts and prayers until she is completely well.

Our hearts go out to Suzanne and Ted on the loss of their Giulia.

Also, sending love and strength to Jayme Lemaire, Carol Urick and Bob Layne on the loss of their Stevie.



Membership

The following applicants for regular membership were approved for publication by the Board at their recent meeting:

Meghan Hamilton, from Dartmouth, MA, sponsored by Dianne Powers and Sue Davis Shaw.

Patricia Ostrout, from West Brookfield, MA, sponsored by Pat Ciampa and Tiffany Cross.

Any comments regarding the applicants should be sent to Sue Davis Shaw, Membership Chair,
Davisdane@comcast.net



Welcome to the Town of Allopath

by Mike Adams in 2009

Submitted by Betty Lewis

There once was a town called Allopath. It had many people, streets and cars, but due to budget limitations, there were no stop signs or traffic lights anywhere in Allopath.

Not surprisingly, traffic accidents were common. Cars would crash into each other at nearly every intersection. But business was booming for the auto repair shops and local hospitals, which dominated the economy of Allopath.

As the population of Allopath grew, traffic accidents increased to an alarming level. Out of desperation, the city council hired Doctor West, a doctor of the Motor Division (M.D.) to find a solution.

Dr. West spent days examining traffic accidents. He carried an assortment of technical gear -- microscopes, chemical analysis equipment, lab gear -- and put them all to work as part of his investigation. The townspeople of Allopath watched on with great curiosity while Dr. West went about his work, meticulously documenting and analyzing each traffic accident, and they awaited his final report with great interest.

After weeks of investigation, Dr. West called the people of Allopath to a town meeting for the release of his report. There, in front of the city council and most of the residents of Allopath, he announced his findings: "Traffic accidents are caused by skid marks."

As Dr. West explained, he found and documented a near-100% correlation between traffic accidents and skid marks. "Wherever we find these cars colliding," he explained, "we also find these skid marks."

The town had "Skid Marks Disease," the doctor explained, and the answer to the town's epidemic of traffic accidents would, "...require nothing more than treating Skid Marks Disease by making the streets skid-proof," Dr. West exclaimed, to great applause from the townspeople.

The city paid Dr. West his consulting fee, then asked the good doctor to propose a method for treating this Skid Marks Disease. As chance would have it, Dr. West had recently been on a trip to Hawaii paid for by a chemical company that manufactured roadaceuticals: special chemicals used to treat roads for situations just like this one. He recommended a particular chemical coating to the city council: teflon.

"We can treat this Skid Marks Disease by coating the roads with teflon," Dr. West explained. "The streets will then be skid-proof, and all the traffic accidents will cease!" He went on to describe the physical properties of teflon and how its near-frictionless coating would deter nearly all vehicle skids.

The city council heartily agreed with Dr. West, and they issued new public bonds to raise the money required to buy enough teflon to coat all the city's streets. Within weeks, the streets were completely coated, and the skid marks all but disappeared.

The city council paid Dr. West another consulting fee and thanked him for his expertise. The problem of traffic accidents in Allopath was solved, they thought. Although the cure was expensive, they were convinced it was worth it.

But things weren't well in Allopath. Traffic accidents quadrupled.

Hospital beds were overflowing with injured residents. Auto repair businesses were booming so much that most of the city council members decided to either open their own car repair shops or invest in existing ones.

Week after week, more and more residents of Allopath were injured, and their cars were repeatedly damaged. Money piled into the pockets of the car repair shops, hospitals, tow truck companies and car parts retailers.

The town economic advisor, observing this sharp increase in economic activity, announced that Allopath was booming. Its economy was healthier than ever, and Allopath could look forward to a great year of economic prosperity!

There were jobs to be had at the car repair shops. There were more nurses needed at the hospital. "Help wanted" signs appeared all over town at the paramedic station, the tow truck shops, and the auto glass businesses. Unemployment dropped to near zero.

But the traffic accidents continued to increase. And yet there were no skid marks.

The city council was baffled. They thought they had solved this problem. Skid Marks Disease had been eradicated by the Teflon treatment. Why were traffic accidents still happening?

They called a town meeting to discuss the problem, and following a short discussion of the problem, an old hermit, who lived in the forest just outside of Allopath, addressed the townspeople. "There is no such thing as Skid Marks Disease," he explained. "This disease was invented by the roadaceuticals company to sell you teflon coatings."

The townspeople were horrified to hear such a statement. They knew Skid Marks Disease existed. The doctor had told them so. How could this hermit, who had no Motor Division (M.D.) degree, dare tell them otherwise? How could he question their collective town wisdom in such a way?

"This is a simple problem," the hermit continued. "All we need to do is build stop signs and traffic lights. Then the traffic accidents will cease."

Without pause, one city council member remarked, "But how can we afford stop signs? We've spent all our money on teflon treatments!" The townspeople agreed. They had no money to buy stop signs.

Another council member added, "And how can we stop anyway? The streets are all coated with teflon. If we build stop signs, we'll waste all the money we've spent on teflon!"

The townspeople agreed, again. What use were stop signs if they couldn't stop their cars anyway?

The hermit replied, "But the stop signs will eliminate the need for teflon. People will be able to stop their cars, and accidents will cease. The solution is simple."

But what might happen if stop signs actually worked, the townspeople wondered. How would it affect the booming economy of Allopath? Realizing the consequences, a burly old man who owned a local repair shop jumped to his feet and said, "If we build these stop signs, and traffic accidents go down, I'll have to fire most of my workers!"

It was at that moment that most of the townspeople realized their own jobs were at stake. If stop signs were built, nearly everyone would be unemployed. They all had jobs in emergency response services, car repair shops, hospitals and teflon coating maintenance. Some were now sales representatives of the roadaceuticals company. Others were importers of glass, tires, steel and other parts for cars. A few clever people were making a fortune selling wheelchairs and crutches to accident victims.

One enterprising young gentleman started a scientific journal that published research papers describing all the different kind of Skid Marks Diseases that had been observed and documented. Another person, a fitness enthusiast, organized an annual run to raise funds to find the cure for Skid Marks Disease. It was a popular event, and all the townspeople participated as best they could: jogging, walking, or just pushing themselves along in their wheelchairs.

One way or another, nearly everyone in Allopath was economically tied to Skid Marks Disease.

Out of fear of losing this economic prosperity, the townspeople voted to create a new public safety agency: the Frequent Drivers Association (FDA). This FDA would be responsible for approving or rejecting all signage, technology and chemical coatings related to the town's roads.

The FDA's board members were chosen from among the business leaders of the community: the owner of the car shop, the owner of the ambulance company, and of course, Dr. West.

Soon after its inception, the FDA announced that Skid Marks Disease was, indeed, very real, as it had been carefully documented by a doctor and recently published in the town Skid Marks Disease journal. Since there were no studies whatsoever showing

stop signs to be effective for reducing traffic accidents, the FDA announced that stop signs were to be outlawed, and that any person attempting to sell stop signs would be charged with fraud and locked up in the town jail.

This pleased the townspeople of Allopath. With the FDA, they knew their jobs were safe. They could go on living their lives of economic prosperity, with secure jobs, knowing that the FDA would outlaw any attempt to take away their livelihood. They still had a lot of traffic accidents, but at least their jobs were secure.

And so life continued in Allopath. For a short while, at least. As traffic accidents continued at a devastating rate, more and more residents of Allopath were injured or killed. Many were left bed-ridden, unable to work, due to their injuries.

In time, the population dwindled. The once-booming town of Allopath eventually became little more than a ghost town. The hospital closed its doors, the FDA was disbanded, and the Skid Marks Disease journal stopped printing.

The few residents remaining eventually realized nothing good had come of Skid Marks Disease, the teflon coatings and the FDA. No one was any better off, as all the town's money had been spent on the disease: the teflon coatings, car parts and emergency services. No one was any healthier, or happier, or longer-lived. Most, in fact, had lost their entire families to Skid Marks Disease.

And the hermit? He continued to live just outside of town, at the end of a winding country road, where he lived a simple life with no cars, no roads, no teflon coatings and no FDA.

He outlived every single resident of Allopath. He gardened, took long walks through the forest, and gathered roots, leaves and berries to feed himself. In his spare time, he constructed stop signs, waiting for the next population to come along, and hoping they might listen to an old hermit with a crazy idea: ...that prevention is the answer, not the treatment of symptoms.

*This fable was authored by Mike Adams, the Health Ranger. You may reprint or repost, as long as appropriate credit is given to Mike Adams at <[<http://www.newstarget.com>]/[<http://www.newstarget.com>]]/www.newstarget.com***> www.Newstarget.com***



In the category of stupid pet pix from the past, I'm attaching a photo of our dearly missed Whitney (Ch. Allegro Saratoga Sequence) taking feeding time just a little too seriously. I rescued her quickly and no Danes were harmed in the process.

- Kim Thurler

Brain teaser answer:

Take the first letter of each word and place it at the end. It will spell the same word backwards.

Allergies

Submitted by Betty Lewis

The diagnosis of "allergies" is a catchall word which people use to describe a series of symptoms. These symptoms can be frustrating, painful, and even debilitating. Part of the reason they seem to be so difficult to eliminate is that if you try to get rid of an "allergy", you are not looking at the whole picture, but only a small part. I outline a plan below which attacks this issue from a natural perspective, and the big picture. Sometimes seeing an overview allows the creation of a plan, and a plan is what is needed to restore health. Before I understood the great damage environmental toxins do to our immune systems, I fed kibble and vaccinated regularly. The article below is born out of many of the lessons I have learned in my journey, and I share it in the hope that you can bypass the painful parts of my story in your own journey for your pets.

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my journey, and I share it in the hope that you can bypass the painful parts of my story in your own journey for your pets.

Paisley was a fawn Great Dane. She had her rabies vaccination the morning she turned a year of age and coincidentally came into her first season that same



afternoon. In other words, she was under stress when she was compromised with the shot. Within one week, she began to itch, and during the next seven years (to her early demise), nothing I tried to do with her gave her, or us, any relief. I tried diet changes (back then I only knew to use commercial brands), skin potions, homeopathy, herbs, topical ointments, and finally even allopathic medicines. Her distress made me weep. The frustration I felt in not being able to help her fueled my guilt, and I hated myself for yelling at her to stop scratching. Neither she, my husband, nor I got meaningful sleep for her lifetime. I wish I'd known then what I know now. Paisley had classic "allergies", which could have been avoided if I'd only known more about the big picture.

I keep putting the word "allergy" in quotation marks because I don't like giving the word validity, even though it is the easiest word to use to be universally understood. What she had was a toxic overload, and her body's inability to cope with it.

The definitions I found for the word "allergy" include "a misguided reaction to foreign substances by the immune system," and a "hypersensitivity disorder of the immune system." I don't agree with these definitions. I think the immune system *is* acting

appropriately. When the body's defenses (immune system) are overloaded with toxins from food, water, drugs, cleaning products, shampoos, etc., an inflammatory reaction is what you **should** expect. Toxic overload leads to impaired metabolism, free radical damage, inflammation, and symptoms. Treating the symptoms with more toxic products cannot possibly make things better, unfortunately.



Conventional treatment is geared toward controlling symptoms. While there is a lot to be said for finding a way to stop the pain and suffering from symptoms, **suppressing** those symptoms only create more problems. As I said above, the issue needs to be approached using the big picture.

Natural treatment begins with reducing toxic exposure. This means taking stock of everything your pet encounters from food and water to carpets and medicines. It's a good idea to make a list, then decide what items can be eliminated, and which can't. For example, the air in your neighborhood can't be addressed unless you move. But a water source could be controlled, cleaning supplies can be changed, and so forth.

One of the two biggest causes of "allergies" is commercial pet foods. And, even in the absence of overt symptoms, a species appropriate diet is still the foundation for good health. In other words, a raw diet won't necessarily eliminate a health issue, but without it, you can't create health. The first thing which must

be addressed when you see a problem is diet. Or, even better, start the animal's life with a proper diet. I will include my introduction to a raw diet in this *Dane Line* issue as a separate article.

If diet is a fundamental topic for good health, then the second largest topic is that of vaccines. Once a vaccine has been injected into the body, the damage it does

cannot be reversed easily. The only discipline I know of which has any hope of restoring total health is homeopathy. This requires a competent classical homeopath and often takes more time than you or your dog find acceptable.

There are some supplements which support health and can be helpful in reducing the inflammation which leads to the symptoms. These include pure water, digestive enzymes, probiotics (the gut contains some 75% of the immune system), omega 3 fatty acids, bovine colostrum (New Zealand is cleanest), and some kind of air purifier for indoors.

Each of these topics is so big that books have been written about them. I can only point you to further research in a short newsletter, but I hope I've given you the basis for a plan.

To your Dane's good health,

Betty

How To Manage Yeast Infection In Dogs

Submitted by Sue Davis Shaw
Last Updated: January 21, 2025



Yeast dermatitis is a common issue in dogs that can be frustrating to treat. But don't worry ... there are home remedies for yeast infection in dogs that can help solve this common cause of itchy skin. What to feed when a dog has a yeast infection is an important part of this, so let's take a closer look at yeast in dogs.

What Is A Yeast Infection In Dogs?

Yeast is a fungus that lives in your dog's intestines in small numbers. It's a normal inhabitant of your dog's digestive tract and it helps him digest his food. But when yeast is allowed to overgrow, your dog will start to suffer from what's essentially a fungal infection. Two species of yeast in particular can be a significant problem for your dog ... *Candida albicans* and *Malassezia*.

What Causes Yeast Infection In Dogs?

Yeast is normally held in check by friendly bacteria in your dog's gut. They compete with *Candida* for food and attachment sites ... and this keeps the yeast numbers down. But if yeast is allowed to grow out of control, it can irritate the cells lining your dog's gut. Normally, these cells have tight junctions between them. This stops harmful bacteria, viruses and yeast from entering the blood stream from the intestines.

But yeast overgrowth will cause inflammation ... and this causes the space between the cells lining the intestines to widen. When this happens, yeast and toxic byproducts can

exit the digestive tract and enter your dog's blood. This is called leaky gut.

If there's leaky gut present, it can complicate the symptoms of yeast infection ... many of the symptoms overlap. But yeast infection has a few key signs you'll want to look for:

Yeast Infection In Dogs: Symptoms

There are a few telltale signs that will help you figure out whether your dog has a yeast infection, leaky gut or allergies. One of the key signs is changeability ... yeast can change with shifts in pH or temperature.

Here are other symptoms of yeast infection in dogs you'll want to look for:

- Chewing or licking the feet
- Dark rusty-red hair between the toes
- Black skin (often with hair loss)
- Bad smell and greasy hair (seborrhea)
- Ear infections or head shaking
- Speckles on the underbelly
- Hair loss on the tail and upper back
- Grayish or rust color around the genitals
- Diarrhea
- Seasonal allergies
- Secondary bacterial infection

It's important to know these signs ... because the longer your dog's yeast infection goes untreated, the harder it will be to resolve.

If your dog has more than one of these signs, it might be time to treat the yeast. Here are the 4 steps you need to take to stop your dog's yeast overgrowth.

How To Treat Yeast Infection In Dogs

Fortunately, treatment for yeast infection in dogs can be done at home. You can manage most types of yeast problems ... like yeast infection in dog paws or a dog skin yeast infection ... as the underlying cause is the same. Managing a dog yeast infection effectively just requires tweaking the diet and some lifestyle changes.

Dog Yeast Infection Home Remedy

There are four simple steps you need to follow:

Step 1: Stop Feeding The Yeast

Yeast has two different forms ... which makes it a dimorphic organism. And the conditions the yeast lives in can change it from one form to another. When yeast is benign, it's a single celled organism that lives fairly peacefully alongside bacteria.

In this form, it doesn't pose much harm to your dog. But sometimes yeast is allowed to grow out of control. This happens when there aren't enough gut bacteria to compete with it. This can happen after antibiotic use, but there are other common causes (and we'll talk about that in a bit).

When yeast doesn't have to compete with other organisms for resources, it becomes a super yeast! It changes from a single cell structure to a larger and more complex multi-cellular fungus. When this happens, the yeast needs more and more food ... and it gobbles everything up around it. This aggressive super-yeast releases over 60 different toxins that can travel anywhere in the body. These toxins irritate the gut lining and cause leaky gut. The yeast can then escape through the holes in the digestive tract and travel to your dog's organs.

So the first step to stop yeast infections is to stop feeding it! There are two common ways you can unknowingly feed unwanted dog yeast infection:

Yeast Loves Starch and Sugar

Yeast has a silver bullet ... it loves to eat sugar! So if you remove carbs and sugar from your dog's diet, you can start to starve the yeast. Carbohydrates are complex chains made up of sugars. When your dog eats them, her body converts them into sugars and this feeds her yeast. Take a slice of bread (which is mainly carbohydrate), bite off a piece and hold it in your mouth for half a minute. You'll notice that it starts to taste sweet. That's because the amylase in your saliva is breaking that starch down into sugar. The same thing happens in your dog's gut ... and that sugar feeds the yeast living there.

In the wild, the foods your dog's ancestors ate (as well as the foods that our human ancestors ate), contained only about 4% starch. But most commercial pet foods have over ten times that amount! Even grain-free foods are usually full of potatoes, sweet potatoes or tapioca and have just as much starch as other kibbles. Sources of carbs and sugars in pet foods include:

Rice
Millet
Potatoes and sweet potatoes
Wheat and corn
Oats
Peas

This is why a raw diet is best for yeast infection in dogs. It doesn't have the large amount of carbohydrate that commercial foods contain. So if your dog is eating kibble today, you'll need to switch him to a raw diet or a cooked diet that doesn't use grains. And if you feed your dog fruits, limit it to berries: they are lower in sugar content.

Yeast Loves Heavy Metals

You might not know it, but yeast has a special affinity for heavy metals ... especially mercury. Some metals have important functions in the body ... like iron and zinc. As long as they're only present in small amounts. But large amounts of metals like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead and mercury can be toxic to your dog.

Heavy metals generate harmful free radicals, which can damage cell membranes and cause serious health issues. In humans, it can cause Parkinson's diseases, Alzheimer's disease and even cancer (1). This damage is called oxidative stress and it builds up like rust in the body. Heavy metals are so toxic, they can even change your dog's proteins and DNA. Your dog's immune system doesn't do a good job of removing heavy metals. So heavy metals stay in your dog's body, build up over time, and start causing health problems. Heavy metals can get into your dog in several ways:

Vaccinations
Industrial waste
Pesticides
Poor quality water
Fish
Pet foods

Research shows that detoxing the body from heavy metals can help prevent kidney disease, heart disease and neurological diseases. So there are really compelling reasons to get heavy metals out of your dog. But if your dog suffers from a yeast infection, there's another important reason ... Yeast loves to gobble up heavy metals. Researchers are actually looking at yeast as a solution to soak up environmental heavy metals. The fact that yeast binds to heavy metals is good news for the environment ... but less so for your dog. Researchers are investigating how yeast interacts with heavy metals in the intestines. And it looks like Candida and other yeasts bind to heavy metals in the intestines. This is good news ... yeast grabs the heavy metals before they enter the body. But heavy metals are toxic to the beneficial bacteria that also live in the gut. As the mercury and other heavy metals kill off the competing bacteria, the yeast has less competition ... and can grow out of control. So if you want to kill a dog yeast infection, you have to reduce the number of heavy metals. Here are some things that will help:

Avoid vaccinations whenever possible
Don't give your dog fluoridated water
Avoid feeding fish and low-quality fish oil
Feed organic food when you can (glyphosate is loaded with heavy metals). Once you limit the heavy metals going into your dog, you can start working on removing them.

A Note About Yeast-Die-Off

As yeast start to die, they can release a toxic substance called acetaldehyde. Acetaldehyde is the byproduct from digesting alcohol and it's thought to be the toxin that causes hangovers. Yeast also produces a toxin called gliotoxin that can harm your dog's liver. So your dog can get hangover-like symptoms from yeast die-off.

The heavy metals the yeast holds are toxic to your dog ... and if the yeast is killed quickly, the heavy metals will be released into your dog's circulation. This is often mistaken for yeast die-off ... and it can cause the same flu-like symptoms in your dog. You might see nausea, diarrhea, joint pain or just a general sickness as your dog detoxifies from the heavy metals the yeast releases. This is called the Herxheimer Reaction ... and it usually lasts from a few days to a few weeks.

The symptoms of yeast die-off can include:

Diarrhea

Worsening of symptoms

Discharge from eyes, nose, skin and ears.

Joint soreness

These symptoms should only last a few days to a few weeks ... then your dog should start looking and feeling much better. If you suspect the Herxheimer reaction is happening, there are two things you can do to help:

1. Give digestive enzymes: They can help quickly digest and eliminate dead yeast cells.
2. Give humic/fulvic acid, bentonite clay and chlorella: They can help bind to heavy metals.

Step 2: Destroy The Yeast Biofilm

Yeast cells have a protective shell made up of several layers. This tough outer shell is called a biofilm and it's what makes yeast tough to kill. Once this protective biofilm is stripped off, the yeast no longer has a safe house to protect it from the immune system. Digestive enzymes are special proteins that help your dog digest his food. They're also the enemy of yeast ... they can digest yeast's biofilm. And while yeast can build up immunity to some antifungal meds, they're always susceptible to enzymes.

The biofilm is mainly made of fiber, but also fats and proteins ... so it's important to use digestive enzymes that break down all three of these substances. An important addition is cellulase, a plant-based digestive enzyme. Cellulase breaks down the fiber in yeast's shell ... but your dog doesn't manufacture it, so it needs to be given as a supplement. Other digestive enzymes will break down the fats and proteins in the biofilm.

It's important to give your dog digestive enzymes between meals. If given with meals, the enzymes will digest your dog's food and not the yeast cell walls. Enzymes will also make your dog's digestive tract more acidic, which makes it less hospitable to both yeast and harmful bacteria. Another benefit to digestive enzymes is that they can reduce the symptoms of yeast die-off. If your dog becomes too uncomfortable, you can increase the digestive enzymes or reduce the amount of anti-fungal foods.

Step 3: What To Feed A Dog With A Yeast Infection

The best diet for a dog with yeast is a whole food, raw diet, avoiding any starchy carbohydrates. Then, once you've stopped feeding the yeast and you've broken up the biofilm, you'll want to add antifungal foods and supplements to your dog's diet. Use as many as your dog can tolerate ... but if he's showing signs of yeast die-off, go more slowly.

Here are some of the top performing antifungal herbs:

Caprylic Acid

This is a medium chain triglyceride (MCT) found in coconut oil and palm oil. Of course, you want to be kind to the planet and make sure your caprylic acid never comes from palm oil. Research shows caprylic acid can directly treat some yeast infections. It's believed it can destroy Candida by destroying its cell membrane. Ideally, your dog's caprylic acid would come from MCT oil. Research done on the benefits of coconut oil weren't done on the same coconut oil you would buy at the grocery store ... they were done using only the MCTs.

Coconut oil is also a poor choice for managing yeast infection in dogs because of its lauric acid content. Lauric acid promotes inflammation in the digestive tract. This is a key cause of leaky gut. So a good quality MCT oil might be a better source of caprylic acid than coconut oil. And as a bonus, it's been shown to be a potential way to manage seizures in dogs.

MCT oil can cause diarrhea in your dog if you give too much. So start slowly and work your way up. Try starting at a quarter tsp for large and medium sized dogs.

Olive Leaf

Like caprylic acid, olive leaf is believed to break down the Candida cell membrane. Its active antifungal substance is oleuropein. This is what gives olive oil its bitter taste. Olive leaf has been shown to prevent and manage yeast in multiple studies ... so it's a great addition to fight yeast. Use the powdered form for your dog. The dose is:

Small Dog 1/4 teaspoon daily

Medium Dog 1/2 teaspoon daily

Large Dog 1 teaspoon daily

You can slowly increase the dose (up to 500mg twice daily for large dogs), but go slowly to avoid the Herxheimer reaction.

Pau D'Arco

This is a proven antifungal from the rain forests of South

America. Pau d'arco contains naphthoquinones, which can kill fungi (as well as parasites and viruses). Plus it contains lapachol, a substance known to kill yeast. But be careful ... lapachol should not be given to pregnant dogs.

Pau d'arco is available in supplement form, but it's important to find one of a higher quality. The amount of lapachol varies from tree to tree, so it must be standardized. Give pau d'arco as a dried herb. Canine Herbalist Rita Hogan recommends dosing twice daily with food, in these amounts:

100 mg for extra small dogs
200 mg for small dogs
300 mg for medium dogs
400 mg for large dogs
500 mg for extra large dogs
Goldenseal

Goldenseal contains a compound called berberine. This is an alkaloid that helps the plant defend itself from fungus and bacteria. It's a well-known antifungal that has been shown to fight yeast in studies. Goldenseal should not be given in pregnant or hypoglycemic dogs and should not be given long term in large doses. Give goldenseal once or twice daily in these amounts:

Dried powder: use 1 teaspoon per 20 pounds
Tincture: Give 5 – 10 drops per 20 pounds
Those are four proven yeast killers you'll want to use. .
Once you've stopped feeding the yeast and you've added the above foods and supplements to kill off the yeast, it's time for the final step ..

Step 4: Crowd Out The Yeast

If you switch your dog to a raw diet and reduce the heavy metals in his diet and environment, you'll start to starve the Candida and harmful yeasts. And that's good! And now you have some supplements to help kill the yeast. Also good.

But dog yeast infections are tough ... it's often hard to limit heavy metals and there will always be some food for the Candida to eat. So you need to create a gut environment that's not hospitable to yeast. There are a few ways to do this:

Avoid Gut Harming Chemicals
Yeast can't grow out of control if your dog's gut has healthy populations of bacteria. Yeast can't take over the neighborhood and all its resources unless its neighbors

can't defend their territory. So if you want to crowd out the yeast populations, you have to stop doing things that cause its neighbors to lose real estate. Besides sugar, here are common things that can harm your dog's gut bacteria: Antibiotics: Antibiotics will destroy both the bad bacteria and the good bacteria. Without the competition, yeast can take over and grow out of control.

Toxins: There are toxins in your dog's food, water and environment that will damage the beneficial bacteria that keep yeast in check. You'll want to avoid:

Unnecessary vaccines
Drugs and chemicals
Flea and tick preventatives
Cleaning products
Foods high in herbicides like glyphosate
Cortisone medications
Thyroid medications
Stress

These will all cause unwanted changes in your dog's gut. So a clean diet and living environment will make sure you don't damage any of those friendly bacteria populations. Once you make the neighborhood "probiotic friendly" again, it's time to get them to move back in ...
Add Probiotics.

After you make the microbiome a nicer place for beneficial bacteria to live, it's time to start adding probiotics to your dog's diet. There are many probiotic supplements you can choose from. Not all probiotics will fight yeast, but these strains have good research behind them. And they're regular inhabitants in your dog's gut:

Lactobacillus acidophilus
Lactobacillus casei
Lactobacillus plantarum
Lactobacillus reuteri
Lactobacillus rhamnosus
Bifidobacterium bifidum
Bifidobacterium longum

Best Probiotics For Yeast Infection In Dogs

Soil based probiotics (SBOs) are a different class of probiotics. Most bacteria like Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium are fragile ... they're easily destroyed by your dog's acidic gut. But SBOs are spore-forming. This means they can form a protective coating that makes them resistant to heat, acid and antibiotics. It also makes them more likely to survive the large intestine compared to other probiotic strains.

These soil-based probiotics are proven to help fight yeast overgrowth directly:

Bacillus coagulans
Bacillus subtilis

Pediococcus acidilactici is an additional probiotic that bears special mention. It prevents undigested food from accumulating in the gut and attracting unwanted yeast and bacteria. Another study found that it protects the gut lining from harmful organisms.

Avoid Fermented Foods

Many foods are rich in probiotics, including yogurt, kefir, kimchi and kombucha. You might think these foods would help crowd out your dog's yeast. But you'll want to avoid fermented food until your dog's yeast is back under control.

This might seem counterintuitive since your dog needs probiotics. But fermentation happens when the carbohydrates and sugars in food are eaten by bacteria and yeast. So the prebiotics found in fermented food will also feed the yeast in your dog's intestines! It's best to leave the fermented foods alone until your dog's yeast infection is resolved.

Fight Yeast With Yeast

There's a special probiotic called *Saccharomyces boulardii*. What's unique about this probiotic is that it's not bacteria ... it's actually yeast. You might be thinking you don't want to add any more yeast to your dog's problems! But *S. boulardii* has been shown to stop *Candida* from moving out of the digestive tract and into the bloodstream and organs. And it also reduces the inflammation *Candida* causes and reduces its colonization.

Add Prebiotics

It's important to remember that probiotics only live in your dog's gut for a day or a few days. So you can't stop at probiotics. If you want to grow your dog's bacteria populations, you need to do more ... you need to give your dog prebiotics. Just as yeast loves to eat carbs and sugar, friendly bacteria love to eat starch. Not to be confused with carbs, the starch that feeds yeast is the kind your dog can't digest. You might know it as fiber.

So if you really want to increase the numbers of bacteria in your dog's gut ... feed them with fiber! Prebiotics will do a much better job than just giving probiotics for a couple of reasons:

Most of the friendly bacteria in your dog's gut aren't found in probiotic supplements.

Probiotics don't grow bacteria populations as well as prebiotics do.

So prebiotics are a critical part of your dog's fight against yeast. Plus, fiber can reduce mercury levels in the brain and body. Here are some important, food-based prebiotics you should add to your dog's diet:

Dandelion root

Burdock root

Chlorella (also detoxes the brain from mercury)

Low-sugar berries (like raspberries)

Remove The Heavy Metals

Your final job is to remove all those heavy metals the dead yeast will dump into your dog's body. Fiber will already do a good job of this ... but there are foods that can help with this job:

Chlorella (This green algae has been shown to reduce the absorption of mercury in mice.)

Foods Rich In Sulphur (Foods that are rich in sulphur can bind to heavy metals and reduce the oxidative damage in organs. These include garlic and broccoli. These supplements have also been shown to chelate (bind to) heavy metals:

Glutathione

Citrus pectin from brown seaweed

Sulphur-containing amino acids (like taurine and methionine)

Selenium

Bentonite clay

Humic and fulvic acid

So there you have it ... the four simple steps to managing a dog yeast infection! If your dog is really suffering, go slow. These are changes that will last a lifetime, so slow and steady wins the race against yeast.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Dana Scott

Reprinted from Dogs Naturally Magazine, Inc.

Relieving Pain, Restoring Joy: A New Approach to Canine Osteoarthritis

AKC Canine Health Foundation

August 13, 2025

Submitted by Kim Thurler

A Silent Epidemic Among Dogs

Osteoarthritis is a serious and growing problem in dogs. Although most often diagnosed in older pets, recent studies show it begins much earlier than many realize. In fact, 20% of dogs over one year old, 40% of those under four, and an astounding 80% of dogs over eight show signs of this chronic and progressive joint disease.

Osteoarthritis occurs when joint cartilage, the cushioning tissue on bones that allows smooth, pain-free movement, begins to deteriorate. This leads to pain, inflammation, stiffness, and eventually difficulty using the affected limbs. Often, the condition develops as a secondary response to an underlying injury or structural issue in the joint.

Despite how common and painful this disease is, truly effective treatments remain limited.

Treating Pain, Not the Problem

The standard treatment for osteoarthritis in dogs is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as carprofen or deracoxib. These medicines help lower

inflammation and ease pain. However, they do come with some risks. Over time, their use can cause stomach problems like upset stomach and ulcers, and in some dogs, it can affect the liver and kidneys.

Side effects are especially concerning for older dogs because they often have osteoarthritis along with other health issues and may be taking multiple medications. Younger dogs, who may need to manage osteoarthritis for many years, also face risks. That's why many owners and veterinarians are seeking better treatment options.

There's a Fix for People...But Not Yet for Dogs

In human medicine, if other treatments aren't working, doctors may use local anesthetic injections, also known as nerve blocks, to manage chronic joint pain. These injections can provide targeted relief without the systemic side effects of oral medication. But for dogs, this treatment option has not been explored.

That is beginning to change, thanks to pioneering research by Dr. Diego Portela at the University of Florida, funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Reimagining Pain Relief, One Joint at a Time

Dr. Portela set out to explore whether a safe, effective technique could be developed to target the sensory nerves in canine joints, specifically the knee and elbow, without impacting the motor function of the leg.



Paws & Reflect

“The problem is that, if you inject a big nerve, it can paralyze that part of the body for months,” explained Dr. Portela. “To avoid that, you need to develop a technique that blocks only the sensory nerves.”

After numerous trials and adjustments, Dr. Portela and his team succeeded in developing two innovative techniques. His method for targeting nerves in the knee proved especially promising, showing a high success rate and minimal risk.

“The technique is very easy to perform and easy to reproduce,” Dr. Portela said. “With minimal training, this is something that many veterinarians can do.”

A New Hope for Dogs in Pain

While the elbow block was more challenging due to the joint’s complex anatomy, the team still saw positive results and identified areas for further refinement. Both studies were published in peer-reviewed journals earlier this year, marking a significant milestone in canine pain management research.

Dr. Portela’s motivation for this research comes from his early experiences working with regional anesthesia in small animals under the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Pablo Otero, in Argentina.

“I saw how much better the management and stability of the dogs was under anesthesia,” he said. “It’s safer, and the animals recover a lot faster. That’s amazing.”

Although these techniques are still in the research phase, their potential to improve quality of life for dogs with osteoarthritis is enormous. For the many dogs living in pain, this work opens the door to safer, more targeted care.

What's the Challenge?

Osteoarthritis affects millions of dogs and often starts earlier than most owners realize. While common pain medications can help, they come with risks – especially for dogs with other health issues, those on multiple medications, or younger dogs who need long-term care. Better, safer solutions are urgently needed.

Need to Know

Local anesthetic joint injections, sometimes used in humans, could become a viable option for dogs. New techniques are being developed to block pain at its source without the dangerous side effects of conventional medications. These breakthroughs could redefine how we manage canine joint disease.

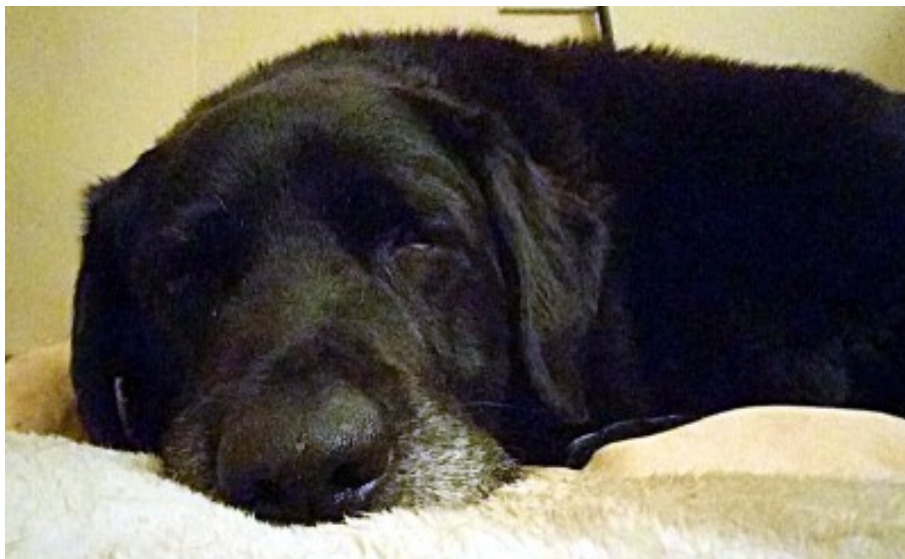
Owner Tip

Ask your vet if your dog is showing signs of joint pain, even at a young age.

Discuss the pros and cons of long-term NSAID use, and ask about alternative therapies like physical therapy or rehabilitation.

Help your dog maintain a healthy weight—extra pounds put added strain on joints and can worsen pain.

Follow AKC Canine Health Foundation updates to learn when these new techniques become available.



Nutrition for Companion Carnivores

by Betty Lewis, RVT, Dr. A. N.

(Note: this discussion specifically talks about dogs, but is applicable to cats & ferrets as well)

Article updated on 9/8/22

Introduction

Until recently zoologists classified dogs and wolves as separate species; now scientists have proclaimed that there is no difference between the two species. This change was formalized in the 1993 publication:

Mammal Species of the World, A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, edited by D.E. Wilson and D.A.M. Reeder, published by the Smithsonian Institution in association with the American Society of Mammalogists. (1) This reference book is the final authority of the scientific community on mammal classification.

Why is this important in a discussion of nutrition for our pet dogs? In many ways, dogs are wolves with a thin veneer of civilization over them. We can learn a lot about our companion dogs from studying the wolves, but this discussion shall be confined to how best to feed our family companions using the wolf as a model.

What's wrong with commercial foods?

The number one item which makes commercial foods inappropriate for pets is that these foods are cooked. No one has ever reported seeing wild animals routinely barbecuing their meals! Raising the temperature of food above 118° destroys all the enzymes and many of the nutrients.

In addition, I am given to understand that for the extruder (machine that makes the kibble into little pieces) to work, the food must be at least 40% grain. Since there has never been a report indicating that dogs and cats require carbohydrates, let alone grains, the reliance on this inappropriate food source is out of proportion, and detrimental to their health. * Many dogs who have had grains entirely eliminated from their diets have responded by having "allergies" and other conditions clear up. (2)

The best guide to feeding dogs is to think about what they would eat in the wild, and then to try to reproduce that as closely as possible with the ingredients we have available. Wolves eat whole animals, from mice to caribou, and supplement their diets opportunistically with other things that they find, like nuts. Very little grain would be found in the diet of a wild carnivore, and they would avoid the moldy, toxin-ridden grains that comprise the majority of commercial pet foods. Even though there is no evidence showing that dogs & cats require carbohydrates in their diets, that is what makes up most commercial foods.



Here are some links to learning about raw diet philosophy:

[Mogens Eliassen- http://k9joy.com](http://k9joy.com)

[Jane Anderson- http://www.rawlearning.com/](http://www.rawlearning.com/)

From the late Sandra Brigola, editor and publisher of Canine Health Naturally Newsletter, comes the following information regarding commercial pet foods: "The stored grains are sprayed with ethoxyquin, and moldy grains that have mycotoxins, aflatoxin or fusarium molds are hard to destroy. The allowable level in pet foods is 1.0 ppm (parts per million). The way that pet food manufacturers get around this is by mixing grains with higher levels of mycotoxins with grains of lesser levels; hopefully to reduce the higher levels. In its 1992 report, the Mycotoxin Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Lab Diagnostics said: "Virtually all animal foods contain at least some viable mold." (3)

I have been following pet food activist, Susan Thixton <https://truthaboutpetfood.com> for some time. She sits in on the AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials.) Her reports indicate to me that they are a devious lot, at best. Suffice it to say that, in my opinion, no rules they make are in the interests of *your* family member's good interest. "Feed" doesn't pertain to "food." It's a category in itself. If you want to know what a dog food that "meets AAFCO standards" is allowed to have in it, follow Susan's updates; get on her mailing list.

In addition to substandard and heavily preserved grains, there is more bad news. The "meat" ingredient is not a whole cow or even a steak. This is what the late Marina Zacharias printed in her Natural Rearing Newsletter:

"The National Animal Control Association has estimated that animal shelters kill over 13 million household pets a year. Of this total, 30% are buried, 30% are cremated and the remaining 40%, about 5 million pets, are shipped to rendering factories to be recycled and used in pet food." (4) This information has been confirmed in great detail by Ann Martin in her book, *Food Pets Die For*. (5)

In his book, *Give Your Dog a Bone*, Ian Billinghurst, BV. Sc (Hons), B.Sc. Agr., Dip. Ed. talks about modern dog feeding myths. We have been raised to believe that these myths are gospel, when, in fact, they are not true and never have been.

These are the myths:

1. The digestive system of modern dog is different from that of his ancestors and therefore must be fed differently.
2. Dogs shouldn't eat bones and other raw foods.
3. All dog food should be cooked.
4. You need a university degree in dog nutrition to feed a dog.
5. The best way to feed a dog is with commercial dog food.
6. Each meal you feed a dog must be complete and balanced. (6)

Why feed raw foods?

Dr. Ian Billinghurst, an Australian veterinarian was the first to bring the concept of evolutionary, raw feeding to American public awareness. The buzzword for feeding raw in the early days was BARF, an acronym, which stands for Biologically Appropriate Raw Foods or Bones and Raw Foods. Dr. Billinghurst adopted the term as his trademark, so the term is no longer all-encompassing and most people now just refer to the method as "raw feeding." You will hear different terms as people try to distinguish between feeding philosophies, but in the end, we are all trying to feed our carnivorous pets as Mother Nature intended.

What are the benefits of feeding raw?

You control what your pets eat
Healthier animals, with resulting lower veterinary costs
Balanced energy: "hyper" animals become calmer, lethargic ones become energetic
Naturally clean teeth
Small, nearly odorless stools which disintegrate quickly
Reduced chemical exposure (found in commercial foods)
No "doggy" odor and fresh smelling breath
Often, reversal of behavior and physical ailments
Not yet proven, but quite likely less prone to bloat
Can be less expensive

What are the challenges to feeding raw?

While feeding a raw food diet to your pets is, in reality, no more complicated than feeding yourself or your family, several generations of humans have grown up listening to the commercial pet food companies' commercials. Thus, we have it ingrained in our brains that feeding animals is not understandable. This indoctrination is difficult to overcome without active education about the requirements of feeding carnivores and the possible choices available. The recommendations in this article are my conclusions at the current time (2020.) My opinions are based on the writings of many authors including Billinghurst, Lonsdale, Eliassen, and others (see end of article for recommendations), being an active member of several raw feeding email lists and feeding a raw diet to my own dogs since 1998.

Probably the biggest challenge, after making the decision to change the way you feed your animals, is lining up your food sources. Depending on the size of your animals, a freezer may be necessary as well.

In addition, being a pioneer is never easy and there will always be well-meaning, but ill-informed family and friends and veterinarians who will try to dissuade you and will try to convince you to feed kibble again. It is often better to go ahead with your feeding changes without telling others. Once you, and they, see the positive changes in your animals, there will be fewer negative responses about this.

BONES? Did you say bones and raw foods?

We've been told that bones, especially chicken bones are the very worst foods we can feed our animal companions. Where did this information come from? It came from the habit of cooking our own food and feeding the leftover bones to our animals. Cooked bones are dried out and tend to splinter, making them prime candidates for perforating digestive organs on their way through. Raw, meaty bones, however, are soft and pliable. You will be amazed at how well the carnivore jaw is adapted to eat raw bones. In fact, my Great Dane can chew up a chicken leg in 10 seconds, my Whippet can do it in 30, but it took my disposal 5 minutes to accomplish the same task! Dogs and cats are truly designed by Mother Nature to eat in this fashion.

What about salmonella & other bacteria?

Bacteria are everywhere. We all live with a tremendous amount of bacteria. Dogs and cats are especially adapted to be able to handle ingesting bacteria. Remember how these beings clean themselves!

Yes, salmonella is found on chicken, but it is also on vegetables, on your counters, your floors, in your back yard, at the park, and everywhere else. What is the answer to minimizing your family's exposure to these critters? Wash your hands! Clean your counters and just be aware. Common sense and proper food handling is always advised.

Is feeding raw food safe?

Life is not "safe"; all choices carry risk. I've heard of dogs choking and dying on kibble and I've heard of dogs choking on raw meaty bones (RMBs). I have also heard of people choking on food. Feeding raw is as safe as anything else in life and, as stated above, common sense should prevail. Supervised meals are always a good idea.



What are raw feeders feeding?

This is an introductory article and is not meant to be comprehensive, thus the strong recommendation to read the books mentioned at the end of this article. However, I can tell you what I feed my dogs.

The rule of thumb is 80-10-10. That is 80% meat, 10% bone, & 10% organs, of which about 5% is liver & the other 5% other organs.

Variety is the keynote of feeding raw, so once your animals are eating 100% raw, you should rotate among as many different animal sources as possible. I routinely feed chicken, lamb, pork, beef, fish, rabbit, venison, & my dogs have eaten cavi. They liked it, so we'll try it again.

Krill Oil & squid oil are my alternating two choices of omega 3 fatty acid supplements, the only supplement which is routinely needed.

These are the basics. The closer to the whole animal, the way Mother Nature presents it, the better.

A word about oils:

You'll hear a lot about different oils and people have written long, involved books on this topic alone. However, in my opinion, it boils down to a few facts.

While omega 3 and omega 6 need to be balanced in the body, we take in far more omega 6 when we eat, especially if we rely a lot on chicken. Therefore, I think we have to supplement only omega 3 fatty acids. This is found in fish oils and flaxseed oil primarily. Carnivores eat other animals, so we discard flaxseed oil, especially since it's been reported that some dogs itch as a result of eating it. That leaves fish body oils.

Salmon oil is the most easily obtained, but, most often it is rancid by the time you can purchase it.

I get my krill oil from <https://www.mercolamarket.com> and my squid oil from <https://peterdobias.com/products/feelgood-omega>

The vegetable controversy:

People who espouse "whole prey model" would have you believe that what I listed above is all that is needed. They create a "whole animal" from the parts of various animals. In theory, I agree with this, but in reality, I disagree that animals fed entirely in this way are getting all of the nutrients available in nature. Where is the entire endocrine system, for example?

When estimating the dressed weight of a slaughtered animal, the estimate is approximately half that of the live animal. If **half** an animal isn't available for us to feed our pets, then there's a big hole in the whole prey model approach, in my opinion.

*I stress that finding *variety* in our food sources is the most important.* Carnivores fed with a wide variety of food sources do not seem to have deficiencies.

A lot of people just starting a raw diet get **hung up** on feeding vegetables to their carnivorous family members. Please remember that dogs, cats, ferrets and some other pets are **not** humans. If you want to think about vegetables, please think about adding them to your **own** diet. **Humans** need to eat 10-20 servings of vegetable matter per day. Carnivores do not.

One exception **might** be **fermented vegetables**. They are loaded with probiotics. My dogs do get a bit of sauerkraut fairly often.

Probiotics: These are the good bacteria which populate the gut and are needed to digest some foods as well as to manufacture certain vitamins such as vitamin K (for clotting). They have a lot of other jobs as well.

Digestive Enzymes. We were taught in high school biology that our bodies make digestive enzymes--some in the mouth, some in the stomach and some in the pancreas. This is true. It is also true that those who eat a raw diet get enzymes in their food, however, when the quality of that food is compromised, we must once again draw on the body's capacity to make enzymes from the foods we eat. When the amino acids are used to make digestive enzymes, they are not then available to make other enzymes used in other functions, or to be used to run the body. Therefore, it may be prudent to supplement some animals with digestive enzymes. This may be true for some animals during the initial transition to a raw diet, for sick or debilitated animals.

Other foods that may be useful include:

Seeds & nuts. like almonds or pecans
Eggs with the shells if the dog will eat them. My experience shows that most dogs won't eat the shells, but they'll happily eat a raw egg. Sometimes, they just lick the yolk, so breaking it up helps.

Some people feed alfalfa and kelp, but I don't believe that animals with healthy thyroid glands should eat kelp every day. In addition, the quality of both the alfalfa and the kelp is so variable that sometimes it's useless. Wherever man intervenes, you must be vigilant and know your sources.

Table scraps. My dogs like to lick the plates before they go in the dishwasher, and I like to let them do it. There is no harm in letting dogs have some of your food, even cooked, if you use common sense on amounts and remember that cooked bones are NEVER included.

What about a balanced diet?

Here's what Randy Wysong, DVM has to say about a "complete and balanced diet":

A 100% complete processed diet requires:

1. 100% complete knowledge of food.
2. 100% complete knowledge of nutrition.
3. 100% complete knowledge of #1 & #2 requires 100% complete knowledge of every science.
4. Since #1,2 & 3 are not possible, the 100% complete processed diet is a myth." (7)

So, even if the bag says "complete and balanced", it's not likely that is what you're really feeding your pet. The truth is, though, that the body knows what it needs. If you supply variety in the form of a species appropriate diet, you do not have to concern yourself about this aspect of feeding. *Balance is achieved over time, not in every meal or even every day.*

How do I know how much to feed?

I attended a Billingham seminar when he was lecturing in the USA in 1998. In answer to this question, he showed a slide. One side showed a drawing of a dog with her ribs sticking out. Under this drawing it said, "Feed More". The other drawing on the slide was that of an extremely obese dog and the caption said, "Feed Less." This is the simplest way to decide: let your animals tell you by how they look and feel. A healthy dog should have just the hint of visible ribs. For those who need figures, 2-3% of body weight has been suggested for adult dogs with 5-7% for growing puppies. (See raw food suppliers' websites a food calculator.)

Can I feed a combination of RAW and commercial foods?

The purists would tell you that you cannot, because cooked, grain-based foods are digested at a different rate from raw foods and you will create digestive upsets if you try. However, for 29 of the 50+ years I have been raising dogs, I did just that. My dogs had always been fed raw food along with kibble, and they did reasonably well as far as their overall health was concerned. However, I can tell you that when I learned about raw feeding, and completely dropped the kibble from my dogs' diets, there was a visible improvement in their coats and musculature. Why feed a portion of

the dog's food which is obviously holding him or her back from optimum health? I sometimes recommend feeding both together during the transition to raw feeding. This depends on the dog & the situation, however. For my own dogs, I always just went "cold turkey." (Pun intended!)

Some people transition from commercial foods to raw food by alternating meals or days. There is no hard and fast rules. Do what works for you and for your animals.

What else is important when feeding my companion animals?

Finally, no discussion of diet is complete without the mention of pure water. After oxygen, water is the most important nutrient required by our bodies. Bodies are reported to be about 75% water. Therefore, it is important to provide the best quality. Quality water used to be something we could take for granted, but no more! Municipal sources are often polluted and then sanitized by using the toxic chemicals chlorine and fluorine. People say to me, "but I have well water!" as though not knowing the source of our water somehow makes it better! Are you certain that underground aquifer is pristine? Are you downhill from your neighbor's septic system? The only thing better about your own well water is that no chlorine or fluoride has been added. Beyond that, we don't really know what's in it, and the standard water analysis which proclaims our water "safe" doesn't begin to test the number of possible contaminants.

The only way we can be sure our water is pure is by purifying it ourselves. Water purifiers come in a variety of categories from small countertop models to whole house units. My information says that the most practical kind is a reverse osmosis unit. Don't be fooled into thinking that a carbon filter on the faucet is enough. Bottled water from the grocery store may be an expedient compromise in the short-term, either during the transition to a home purifier, or while traveling, but this industry is little regulated, and you could be drinking someone else's tap water! (Note: reverse osmosis water is not "best," but just the best that is affordable & available for most people.)

Incidentally, water is also known as the universal solvent, which means that it has the ability to dissolve materials and incorporate them into itself. That plastic water dish you let water sit in all day is a toxic waste dump! Use only stainless steel or glass for your animal's food and water dishes, please!



Water quality is such a critical issue when looking at overall health, and we have been lulled for so many years into believing in the safety of our water supply, that we find it easy to just ignore this part, thinking that it doesn't pertain to us. For your own health and that of your animals, do something about your water quality today.

By combining a raw diet with purified water and wholesome supplements, you can take steps towards insuring that your animal companion can live a long, healthful life as nature intended.

Where do I start?

I recommend that you purchase some of the books below. They are in order of recommendation. You **can** do it all yourself, but with guidance. Links to recommended websites are at the end of the article.

1. *Work Wonders, Feed Your Dog Raw Meaty Bones* by Tom Lonsdale
2. [The Wolf's Natural Diet - a Feeding Guide for Your Dog](#) by Mogens Eliassen
3. *Raw Meaty Bones Promote Health*, by Tom Lonsdale
4. *The Complete Herbal Book for the Dog*, Juliette de Bairacli Levy

These books can be of considerable help as you grow, learn and change. Most are available from Dogwise at 800-776-2665 <https://www.dogwise.com> or at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The Eliassen books are available as downloads at www.k9joy.com.

(End of article. Footnotes below and then more resources)

* Carbohydrates

"There is no known minimum dietary carbohydrate requirement for either the dog or the cat. Based on investigations in the dog and other species it is likely that dogs and cats can be maintained without

carbohydrates if the diet supplies enough fat or protein from which the metabolic requirement for glucose is derived." (*The Waltham Book of Dog & Cat Nutrition*, 2nd Edition 1988)

"...dogs experience digestive and metabolic limitations to high grain diets, which reflect their evolution on diets relatively low in soluble carbohydrates (Clarke et al. 1990, Kronfeld 1973, Sprouse et al. 1987, White et al. 1993.)

"The nutritional strategy of carbohydrate loading risks a variety of abnormalities in dogs...An alternative strategy of fat adaptation (the combination of fat feeding and training) was found to improve aerobic performance in dogs...and to spare glycogen utilization and reduce lactate accumulation."

"More attention was given to side effects in dogs and horses, species that did not evolve on high grain diets. Attempts at carbohydrate loading led to tying up, a mild form of exertional rhabdomyolysis in racing sled dogs. (Kronfeld 1973)." -Kronfeld et al. 1994. *Optimal Nutrition for Athletic Performance, with Emphasis on Fat Adaptation in Dogs and Horses*. The Journal of Nutrition 124:2745s-2753s.

"Provided the diet contains sufficient glucose precursors (amino acids and glycerol), the glucogenic capacity of the liver and kidneys is usually sufficient to meet the metabolic need of growing animals for glucose without the inclusion of carbohydrate in the diet (Brambia and Hill, 1966; Chen et al., 1980)." -*Nutrient Requirements of Dogs*, Rev. 1985. National Academy of Sciences

1. *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*, edited by D.E. Wilson and D.A.M. Reeder
2. BARF email list at egroups.com (no longer exists)
3. Canine Health Naturally Newsletter, Sandra Brigola
4. Natural Rearing Newsletter, Marina Zacharias
5. *Food Pets Die For*, Ann Martin
6. *Give Your Dog A Bone*
7. *Fresh & Whole: Getting Involved in Your Pet's Diet*, Randy Wysong, DVM

Pottenger's Cats study- extremely important
<https://feline-nutrition.org/answers/answers-who-were-pottengers-cats-and-do-they-matter>

My book on *Animal Communication* is available at Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Animals-Speak-Betty-Lewis/dp/0759621721/ref=sr_1_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1283451218&sr=1-8

Betty Lewis, RVT, Dr A N
Paws & Reflect 978-578-7247
Animal Communicator/Wholistic Consultant: by phone
betty@pawsreflect.com
Book: Animals Speak!
You cannot poison your way to good health.

Good additional resources not mentioned above:

Getting Involved in Your Pet's Diet, Randy Wysong, DVM

Homeopathic Care for Cats & Dogs- Don Hamilton, DVM -excellent book with a great chapter on vaccines

The Nature of Animal Healing- Martin Goldstein, DVM

How to Have a Healthier Dog, Wendell O. Belfield, DVM & Martin Zucker, Doubleday & Co., NY, 1981.

Keep Your Pet Healthy the Natural Way, Pat Lazarus, Bobs-Merrill Co., NY, 1983.

The Natural Remedy Book for Dogs & Cats, Diane Stein, The Crossing Press, 1994.

The New Natural Cat, Anitra Frazier, Penguin Books, 1990.

Super Nutrition for Animals!, Nina Anderson, Howard Peiper, & Alicia McWatters, MS, Safe Goods, 1996.

Pottenger's Cats, The Price-Pottenger Foundation, 2667 Camino del Rio South, Suite 109, San Diego, CA 92108-3767.

Follow these links for more information:

<http://k9joy.com>-Mogens Eliassen's website; you owe it to your animals to explore it

<http://rawfed.com/myths/index.html> - myths about raw feeding

[Raising Cats Naturally](http://www.blakkatz.com/)- Michele Bernard-<http://www.blakkatz.com/>

Getting to Know You

Colleen Ventre

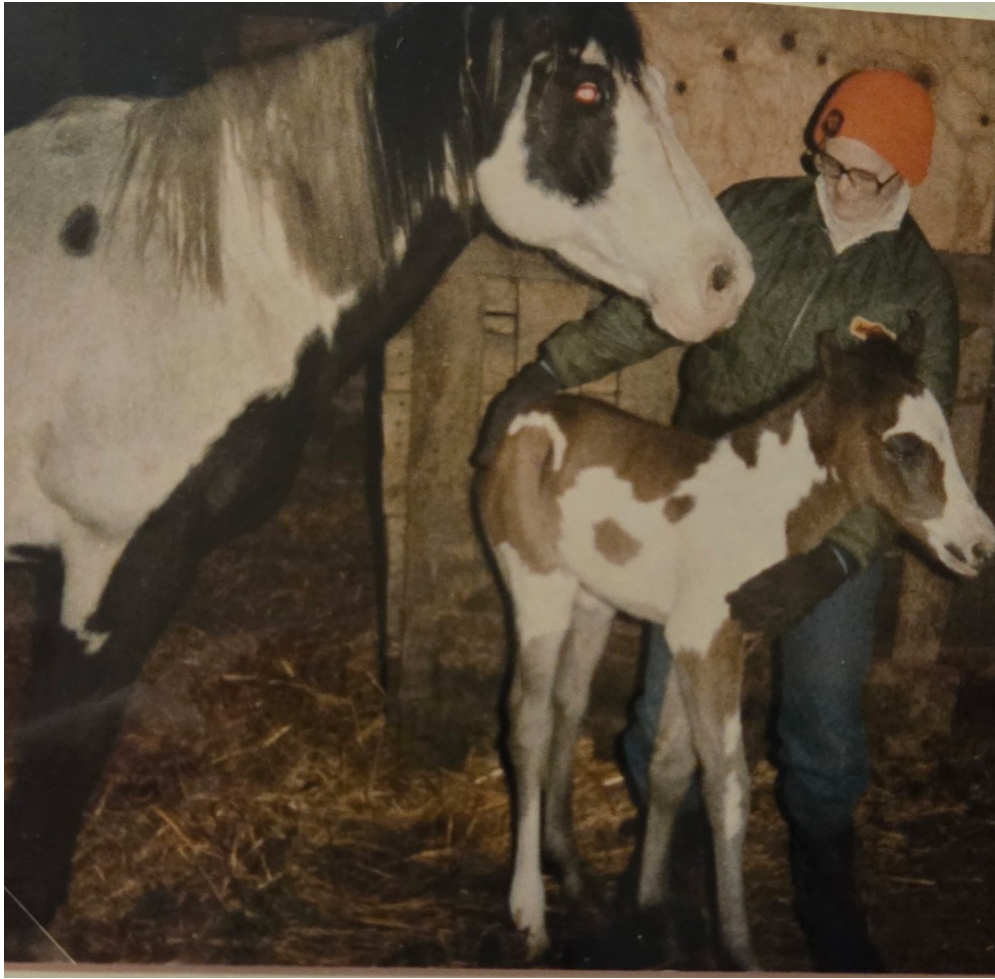
My name is Colleen Ventre, and I'm from a small, rural farming community in central Illinois—the kind of place where just a name, town, state, and zip code suffice on an envelope. I grew up with many dogs throughout my childhood, but my first—a Cockapoo named Jaws—left an indelible scar on my heart. He was tragically hit by a car as a young pup when I was just seven. It shattered me so deeply that I was unable to closely attach myself to another dog for many years. It wasn't until a special Great Dane taught me to once again be open to heartbreak that I realized big love is worth any amount of grief.

Some of my most treasured childhood memories are from my grandmother's horse farm. She bred, trained, and showed paint horses, and boarded them well into her 80s. She even stayed competitive in barrel racing well into her 50s. Her entire life was devoted to her horses. I was lucky enough to have access to a pony she kept for the grandkids named Buster. It was wonderful to learn not only how to ride but also how to truly connect with animals through good communication. I loved following her around as we completed all the daily chores while she taught me everything I could absorb.

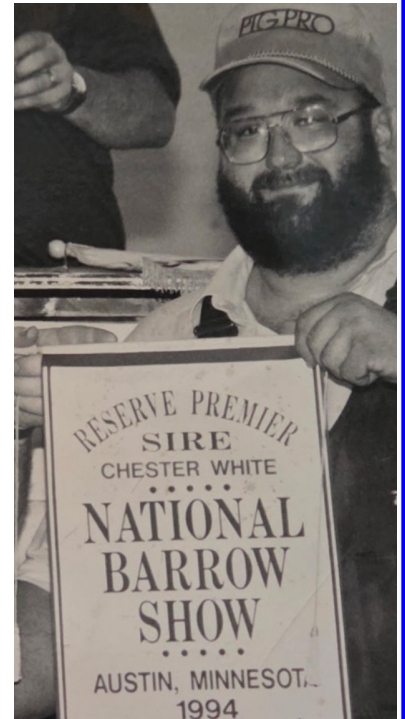


Buster the pony

There were times I felt like I lived a storybook life—especially after my mom married a pig farmer and I suddenly became a teenage Fern from *Charlotte's Web*. Like Fern, my parents traveled to state fairs, proudly showing off their prized Chester Whites. I was not a fan of pig chores, especially in farrowing houses—they were different from the enjoyable horse chores. Eventually, I left farm life and the flat Illinois cornfields behind to move east and become a flight attendant. My first stop was New York City, but then settled in Boston as the Big Apple was just too big.



Gramma Betty and her favorite colt



Step Dad Winning Big

I didn't meet my first Great Dane in person until the 1990s in Winthrop, MA. I had always been interested in learning everything I could about dogs. Since it was before the internet, most of my breed knowledge came from the local library. When I first met my new neighbor's ginormous fawn Dane, I already knew all about them. She was impressed with my knowledge and asked if I'd like to care for "Kitty" while she was away for extended periods (she was also a flight attendant). Of course, I said yes. However, my lack of handling skills made for some entertaining comedy. When I finally—miraculously—managed to stay upright more often than not, the adventures began. Kitty and I hung out at my house, walked the beach, and even ventured into busy downtown Boston to the Esplanade. Kitty was definitely a lot of dog, a huge attention-getter, and very much a lifestyle. I knew exactly what I was getting into when, 25 years later, I decided to get one while my three kids were growing up.

We initially had a Shih Tzu-Cavalier-Poodle mix named Cleo when the kids were younger. I lasted four days without a dog after she passed in 2017 before I began the search for another. I desperately needed to fill the void of not having a family dog feeling families must have a dog to be complete. Now was the time for "my dream dog." At the time, Sue Shaw had an adorable female harlequin puppy from Pippa's litter available, but she ended up heading to Washington with an established breeder.



Topsfield fair 23 years ago - With my daughter @ Service Dane Project exhibit



Dewey My Favorite Horse

Instead, my Dane journey began with a seven-year-old foster named Alex from a rescue, who was riddled with health issues. I quickly learned the importance of finding the healthiest Dane possible for longevity and manageable vet bills. After much research and attending the Great Dane National in Chandler, Arizona, and Westminster in NYC, I chose a female fawn Bujo puppy from Mari Jones in Texas—where everything is bigger. She had a litter of eight from Stella (sister to Odin, who I had seen win the Top 20 in Chandler), and Journey's Commish, who sired Lennox—my Westminster favorite that year.

I was delayed a day in picking up Sassy due to a Nor'easter in March 2018. I flew to Houston early the next morning, picked her up, and flew her in the cabin to Boston that same evening. She went from perfect 70-degree weather to below-zero temps and snow taller than her withers. Potty training was a challenge, as I had not preplanned potty spots. After shoveling a patch for her, she figured it out quickly and willingly froze to get the job done.



Sassy



With Mari's guidance, I was eager to join the show world. Many of my school classmates had shown animals in 4-H and claimed it was fun. My family had shown horses and pigs and seemed to enjoy it, too. I needed a new mid-life hobby as my kids became more independent. To prepare for my big show debut, I traveled to observe shows in Maine, attended conformation classes, watched YouTube videos, and picked Mari's brain. I was prepared—or so I thought.

Once I figured out how to navigate Infodog, I enthusiastically signed my natural-eared, petite beauty up for our first show in Vermont in July 2018 when she was 6 months old. Initially brimming with confidence and excitement, I quickly and "humbly" excused my mile-high expectations and my very "Sassy" puppy leaving the judge speechless. It was the first of many life lessons Sassy would teach me.

Before envisioning the word "humble" scribed in a corner spiderweb, I was convinced I'd naturally walk away with a prized ribbon that day—because that's what you get after endless training, right? I didn't yet realize I had only put in a sliver of the effort needed for a seasoned show dog. I naively thought my happy, playful puppy with four months of conformation classes would magically behave like a pro in the ring. It became glaringly obvious that I was a green, naïve rookie in a detailed, nuanced world full of pride and tradition. Frustration got the best of me that day.

But all beginners have to start somewhere. You just have to embrace not knowing. Sassy and I persevered through the trials, tribulations, and thrills of showing—until COVID hit. My youngest son, Jack, even made a brief debut as a junior handler, taking a few laps around the ring and participating at the local Specialty, armed with pro tips from the one and only Jeff Lawrence. Though he later got too busy with year-round swimming, he enjoyed the experience, made friends, and learned a lot.



In 2020, Sassy took on the role of foster mom/sister to many beloved puppies. We raised a litter of Pyrenees–Anatolian Shepherd mixes together. It was such a

Left—Sassy's Puppies



Above—Coleen with Rescue litter

wonderful experience that I decided it was time for her to have a litter of her own. Embarking on what I thought would be my life's purpose, I joined GDCNE and GDCA, completed all health testing, and received a CHIC number. In 2021, she was bred through a TCI procedure using a perfectly timed shipment of frozen sperm from Castle. She delivered three perfectly healthy, beautiful pups via emergency C-section.

Everyone knows the truth about nerves traveling down the leash—but I was unprepared for their effects in the whelping box. Whelping a litter was one of the most challenging and stressful experiences of my life—if not *the* most. If there's a takeaway, it's to trust a single competent source during intense stress, rather than becoming overwhelmed by a swirl of conflicting advice. I discovered that I was not going to be the successful horse breeder my grandmother was, nor the pig breeders my parents were. Instead, I learned valuable lessons about myself through failure.

Being a good breeder requires honed husbandry and handling skills, drive, boundless energy, and resilience to power through sheer exhaustion. Unexpected issues *will* arise—either the first time or eventually. I wasn't mentally prepared to tackle those situations in such a tired state. Maybe I was already depleted from years of parenting. Either way, I've shown myself grace and forgiveness. I know I won't become the expert Great Dane breeder I once aspired to be. But Sassy and I will foster another rescue litter when the time is right.

Since that trying experience—when Sassy didn't take to her own pups, mostly due to my poor mentoring—she has successfully raised over 20 foster puppies. Her last foster pup was returned to the rescue due to a mix of under-socialization, PTSD as a parvo survivor, littermate syndrome, and instability from multiple homes (at least five) in his first year. With nowhere else for him to go, we became a two-dog household—and proud members of the “foster fail” club. We're currently on a fostering hiatus while he continues to settle in.

We retired from conformation shows when Sassy was only two. Now she spends her time patiently tolerating her brother's wide array of maladaptive behaviors. Together, we're slowly sorting him out. She's an incredible and patient teacher.



Sassy and her brother



In 2020, during an 18-month leave from the airline due to COVID, I pursued certification as a dog trainer. I trained at the same facility where Sassy earned her CGC working under Kim Palermo, owner of Blue Dog in Lawrence, MA while completing the CATCH program. I then earned my CPDT-KA credentials and became a certified Control Unleashed instructor as well. I'm currently teaching advanced classes at Blue Dog, volunteering to walk reactive shelter dogs at the MSPCA in Methuen, and continuing to foster for several rescue organizations. While I don't currently compete in AKC dog sports, I thoroughly enjoy the training process. Sergeant, our newly adopted “foster fail,” absolutely loves agility—he's fast and impressively agile. I'm working to improve my own fitness so I can keep up with him, and perhaps one day we'll return to the ring.

It's my hope to always have a Great Dane in my home.

They truly teach you everything you need to know about yourself, your relationships, and life in general. My dogs, the little truth tellers, know me better than I know myself. I learn from them every day, and I'll keep learning from their immense wells of intuition, emotion, and unconditional love. Mostly, they remind me to stay humble—and to laugh—especially during serious moments like our very first Vermont show.

If you'd like to follow our learning journey, you can find us on Instagram @WisdomofDogs.

I look forward to the National Specialty each year. It's been a highlight of my calendar since my unforgettable first one in 2017, and I never miss it. But this year is extra special, as I have the great honor of joining Sue Shaw as an evaluator for the Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog titles. Not only will I have the privilege of awarding ribbons and titles that represent the time, effort, and strong bonds built through training, but it also feels like a full-circle moment—a reminder that if you just *keep on keepin' on*, things tend to work out in the most unexpected, rewarding ways.

Hope to see you there!



Coleen and Sassy



Getting to Know You

Carol (McKenna) Urick

When I was just two years old, I was bitten by my great aunt's Boxer. Even at that young age, I was drawn to dogs and had crawled over to him during a family picnic. The encounter left me with 120 stitches across my face and the loss of a piece of my lip. I spent a significant amount of time in the hospital recovering, followed by years of ongoing doctor visits. Naturally, my parents became deeply cautious and didn't want their children anywhere near dogs—except for my grandmother's Fox Terrier, Rusty. But they had a hard time keeping me away from any dog I could get close to.

Every Christmas, I would ask for a dog. Instead, I received an impressive collection of stuffed animals—always dogs, never living ones. Finally, when we moved from New Bedford to the countryside, my dream came true. My parents brought home a Lab mix: my good boy, Butch.

Butch was followed by another favorite, Ivanhoe, a Collie mix, and several other mixed breeds, Howdy, Curt and Gowdy, all whom I adored. After graduating high school and marrying young, I bought a Malamute—my first dog as an adult. And then, I found my way to Great Danes.

Like many who've dedicated decades to this breed, my journey began with curiosity, passion, and a deep respect for mentorship. I was fortunate to learn from generous, established breeders who shared their knowledge, their litters, and their kennels with me. Lois Michaels and Marilyn Lovett were two such individuals. I soaked in everything I could.

During my children's younger years, I spent countless hours alongside Virginia Perry Gardiner. Her discerning eye for structure taught me so much. In the early 1970s, a deep friendship with Louis G. Bond and Robert E. Layne developed, and together we created what became not just a successful breeding program—but a lifelong bond.

I began my Dane journey married, then I divorced, and later remarried a kind man who loved animals. He passed away young and unexpectedly. I have three children whom I love with every fiber of my being, and three grandchildren who light up my world. I have been well—and not so well. Through it all, I've always believed that I never walk alone—God walks beside me.

My first Dane was from Marilyn Lovett. He was out of her Ch. Justamere Lovett dog and at that point, I knew almost nothing. So little in fact that when I registered him, I crossed off "Lovett" from the paperwork and wrote in "Gentleman Jake." I had no idea that Lovett was the kennel name. Marilyn was not well pleased. To her credit, she took it in stride and trust me, I never made that mistake again. We took Jake to a few matches and she decided he would be a better companion (back then we called them "pets") than a show dog. Next up was my beautiful Murlo Gypsy Rose. I struggled to get her bred but finally she had a small litter out of Ch. Dinro H. Lovett and one of those puppies was a real stunner, McKenna's Maggie Mae.



Rusty and Butch with my two grandmothers and my mom

Over the years, I've raised many litters—even having one on the ground before my twins could crawl. With Bob and Louis, we have many champions. And now with my daughter and Bob several more. From the beginning, I was taught to breed with the standard at the forefront. Type and movement were always paramount. And I learned a hard but important lesson: if a health issue arises in a dog, that dog must be removed from the breeding program—no matter how painful it may be. The future of the breed must always come first.

Each breeding begs the questions: Will this improve the breed? Am I correcting faults while preserving virtues? Am I moving closer to the standard?

I've never bred to a top-winning dog just because they were winning. I breed with a long-term vision—focused on pedigree, purpose, and the future. I've also never believed I had to be friends with the stud dog's owner. As Rose Roberts once wisely said—and as our dear friends John and Jessie Gerszewski often remind us—you're not breeding to the owner, you're breeding to the dog.



Tina, when she was young, with Murlo Ahab

My friendship with Eddie Lyons began when I was showing (quite unsuccessfully) Murlo Ahab, a very large fawn dog that I bought from Lois. After a show in New Jersey, Eddie approached me and said, "If you want to finish that dog, give him to me." I did. That was the end of my handling career and the beginning of a long friendship. He too was a wealth of knowledge and, of course, rumors and stories! (The Eddie sagas could be made into a book or even better, a lifetime movie with all the intrigue and suspicion!)

I've long been active with the Great Dane Club of New England, holding nearly every office more than once. I served as Show Secretary and Chairperson for many years—back when we hosted independent specialties. I remember shopping for trophies, typing and printing the catalog, creating the judges' books, etc. It was a tremendous amount of work, but deeply rewarding. The trophy table was enormous. Our whole club came together to mow the grass, set up rings and tables, prepare food, sell lunches—it was a team effort. I still picture Bob, Norm, Eddie and others hard at work, with Louis supervising every step. The open classes were sometimes 20 dogs strong, and at times, we would have to circle cars around the ring to finish judging under their headlights.

Bob, Louis, and I were also involved with the parent club. When Diane Taylor stepped away from Futurity responsibilities, I stepped in. This was back when five-generation pure color pedigrees were required, so a lot of research was involved. Later, in 1987, Louis and Bob launched the Top 20, sponsored by their company J. Lu-Rob Enterprises for its first five years. I was deeply involved in its planning and execution, and served as chief ring steward for many of those years. I'm thrilled to see it continue today under the auspices of the GDCA.

Even when we weren't actively showing, we always had Danes at home. My children were raised with puppies underfoot; they helped at matches and specialties. As they grew, my girls had Danes of their own. Tina had a beautiful brindle bitch, Athena, from Anita Langevin's breeding. Jayme had several—including Mercedes, a sweet show-marked Harlequin from Sue Davis Shaw, and a wonderful black male, Zeus.



Jayme and her twin, Shawn



Right, Tina, my granddaughter's mom, Ginny and Athena dressed for Halloween.



Left, Jayme and Mercedes



My parents welcomed retired champions into their home. My father, a lifelong dog lover, asked if one or two could come live with him once they were finished—Ch. Dinro McKenna's Aaron and Ch. Dinro McKenna's Amen—were two of them.

As my girls got into horses, Danes travelled with us to horse shows. My son came along, too—although he much preferred motorcycles. At one point, we had 11 horses in our barn.

When Jayme was ready for another Dane, she reached out to Cindy Hardy. That's when Louie came into our lives. Tina encouraged Jayme to show him, and Jamie Donaldson stepped in to handle him with help from Paul Levesque. Jamie had two Dane specials, so once Louie was finished, Paul agreed to special Louie. Though purchased as a companion, Louie did quite well—winning working group placements and earning Select Dog at Westminster. Sadly, cancer cut his career short. Crediting Jayme's dedication

coupled with modern medicine, we were given extra time with him. Paul was with us the day we said goodbye—a moment of shared grief and gratitude between dear friends and a Dane we all adored.

Jayme eventually decided to purchase a show puppy and asked Bob and me to co-own with her. We were honored. I knew immediately what we should consider and after much thought and discussion, we purchased Kiki. Paul showed Kiki to her championship. We tried to special her, but she didn't enjoy the ring at all. We then wanted to bring a dog into the family that would compliment the pedigree. That dog was Cash. He was an amazing dog. He was as kind and sweet as he was correct. He finished in three weekends with 4 majors.



Kiki and Paul

GCH Divine Acres Lemaire's Kiki Do You Love Me



Stevie and John

Eventually, Kiki and Cash were bred producing a lovely litter. We kept Pink, Adele and Stevie. All three finished as puppies and Pink and Stevie earned a place in the Top 20 for 2024. Stevie made her mark in the ring in her short life and will be in the 2025 Top 20. Adele has yet to make her debut as a special. Our newest champion—Jagger is home growing up.

Those of us who choose this path know it isn't easy. It stretches your finances, tests your relationships, costs you time, sleep, and peace. It's a double-edged sword—it can lift your soul and break your heart. Yet the rewards are profound. The unconditional love of a Dane, the joy of a meaningful win, or watching a puppy you bred grow into something wonderful—there's nothing like it.



MBISS GCHS Lemaire's Setting the World on Fire—"Pink"



CH. Lemaire's One and Only—"Adele"

Some dogs stay with us forever. Desire—Ch. Dinro Desiree McKenna—and our extraordinary Brother—MBISS, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Canadian, Champion of the Americas, Ch. Dinro McKenna's Against All Odds—will always be in my heart. And most recently, our amazing Cash—MBISS, GCHS Old Mission's Lemaire's Know When to Hold 'Em, AOM—and our oh so beautiful Stevie—MBISS, GCHG Lemaire's Go Your Own Way, AOM—are stamped in our hearts and minds forever.



*Eddie and
Brother*

Dinro Desiree McKenna



Over the years, I've learned a few important truths:

- This life demands diligence, lifelong learning, and devotion to the breed's betterment.
- No dog is perfect—not even your own. Progress comes through honest evaluation and hard choices.
- Even with the best plans, breeding outcomes can surprise you.
- Critics will always exist. Wish them well and move on.
- Don't be mean spirited or jealous, rather choose grace.
- Support newcomers—they are the future.
- Appreciate our judges. I know how much time and personal dollars these folks put into becoming a judge and learning new breeds and I also know that many times they come out of pocket to judge our dogs.
- Supporting our clubs is non-negotiable. Without them, there are no shows. Without shows, there is no community. Join a club. Serve it. Support it with your time, energy, and contributions.
- Celebrate others. Say "congratulations."
- Be seen more than heard at ringside.
- You go home with the same dog you came with—the one you love—regardless of ribbons.
- The hole left in our hearts after losing one of our Danes is never filled. Over time, the pain becomes bearable as we lean on their memory for healing.

As I continue this journey, my role in breeding and showing more than likely will change, but my commitment never will. I'm proud to be an honorary member of the Great Dane Club of New England and remain involved with the Great Dane Club of America—a group of passionate individuals united by their love for the breed.

I'll always appreciate a judge who knows our standard, recognizes breed type and doesn't forget about movement, who runs a well-organized ring, and treats exhibitors with courtesy. I'll always cheer for worthy competitors and welcome newcomers. Because in the end, while we all want to win, this isn't about wins or losses.

It's about something greater.

It's about ensuring the breed we love not only survives—but thrives.



4 generations of bitches

From left to right

Ch. Dinro Desiree McKenna great-grandmother

(pictured at 10 years)

Ch. Dinro Yenta McKenna grandmother

Ch. Dinro McKenna's Of Course mother

Dinro KcKenna's Absolute daughter

*Eddie pictured with all three bitches and
photographer's assistant with the puppy.*

Bragg

Divine Acres Earth Wind and Fire @ Lento



Raina was BIS Beginner Puppy 4-6 month class in Marshfield Wisconsin
on Sunday July 20th under Mrs. Ellen Hardin.

Then, Saturday July 26th at Waukesha Kennel Club, BIS Beginner Puppy 4-6 month class under
Mrs. Kalen M. Dumke Voogt.

The following day under Mr. Mark Russo Raina did it again taking BIS Beginner Puppy.
These wins were out of a beautiful lineup of exceptional puppies.

Win pictured above, Raina was handled by Andrew Bills at the Marshfield KC

Raina is co-owned by Theresa M. Lento and Joan Mrkvicka and Carolyn McNamara

She is futurity nominated

Handled by her breeder and co-owner, Carolyn McNamara

Brags

BARBIE

Trila N Journey Davisdane's Ultimate Cool Kid



Barbie is rolling along towards her championship, needing three singles to finish.

In Davisdane tradition, she will be working towards putting titles on both ends.

Davisdane Great Danes

Sue Davis Shaw

Braggs

Sterling's Bluebonnet V Krw CD RA AX AXJ NF



Busy in the rally and agility rings.

She earned her rally advance title and has picked up qualifying legs towards her master agility titles.

Bred and Owned by Sterling Moffat

Braggs

Sterling's Black Teasel V. Mgckngdm RN



**Teasel now has 5 championship points and her rally novice title.
She is 12 months old.**

Bred and owned by Sterling Moffat

Bragg

New Champion

Stargazn Lemaire's Heart of Stone

"Jagger"



Jagger was shown four weekends, one of which was the National where he was awarded Best Puppy in National by Breeder/Judge, Judy Harrington.

He finished with 4 majors.

He is home growing up.

Handled to his Championship by Jessie Gerszewski

Bred by Katie Scher

Owned by Jayme Lemaire, Carol Urick and Robert E. Layne

Braggs

CH. BRF's N America's Chasing Freedom New Champion!



One of our puppies from our Ruff x Ellie litter is a new champion!

Owners/Breeders: Betty & Ray Streeter, Rebekah Woodworth,
Mary Woodworth, John Mark Woodworth, and Rebecca Fuller



2025 GDCA National – East Division

Our East Division National will be upon us in no time. There is lots of information on line. Please go to www.gdca.org or on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/365674227310212>

Do not get your information anywhere else, as there is a bogus site that has stolen our logo and is actually selling merchandise. The official group does not send out friend requests. Be cautious!

Voting for Judges – The first-round ballots for 2027 (West Division) are out and due back by August 29th.



Three items of interest from the Trust

We are again sponsoring the Cardio Clinic at the National. We will be covering the expenses of the veterinarians who will be running the clinic and also subsidizing each echo at \$125, which will leave \$125 cost to the owner. Last year they did 113 echos, and we're hoping to have another successful year.

The Trust recently voted to subsidize holter testing with a \$50 rebate for those who holter their dogs. A flyer is elsewhere in this issue.

We have a brand new website that is separate from the GDCA website. We're very excited about it. It's very easy to navigate and to see what we've been up to. I hope you will take a look.

WE'RE LIVE

New website

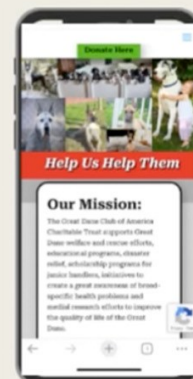
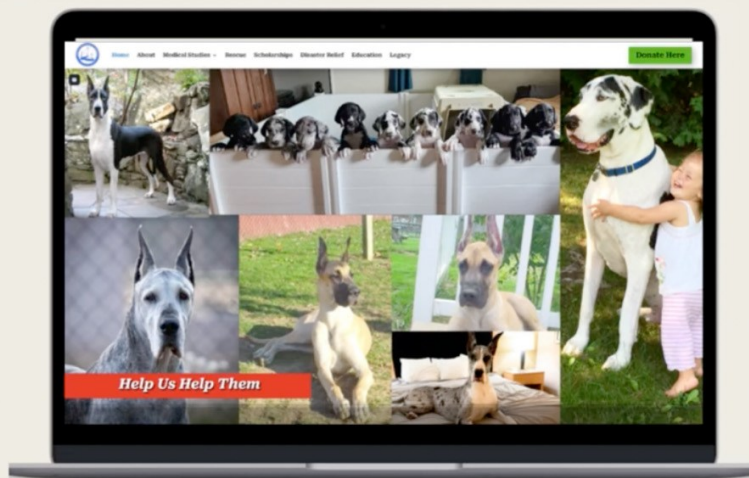


GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA CHARITABLE TRUST

The GDCA Charitable Trust is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 2002

CHECK IT OUT !

www.gdcacharitabletrust.org





HOLTER MONITOR TESTING



DID YOU KNOW

That 24 hours of at-home holter monitoring will allow Great Dane owners to check for underlying heart disease, help breeders make informed breeding decisions, and possibly save a life.

We are pleased to announce that the Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust will now reimburse \$50 toward Holter monitor testing for GDCA and Affiliate Club members for exams performed in 2025.

We would like to thank Darryl Pitts for serving as administrator for this program.

Guidelines for participating are listed below:

The GDCA Charitable Trust will reimburse (subsidize) Holter monitor tests for GDCA and Affiliate Club members in the amount of \$50.

Limited to ONE PER DOG PER YEAR for either INITIAL or FOLLOW UP Holter.

You will need to submit a receipt for holter testing that has the dog's name and the owner's information, email and cell phone number, as well as proof of Affiliate

Club membership if not a GDCA member. That receipt could be for the rental, the reading of the scan, and/or the cardiologist interpretation of the scan. Send a copy of receipt and mailing address for receipt of check, as well as the dog's registered name, to Darryl Pitts at GDCA.holter@gmail.com

Processing of all checks will be done quarterly. Please cash checks promptly.