

THE DOGS' LETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LAZY DOG CRAZY DOG



Lessons From Her Tummy

by Maude Augney

Our girl, Jelly, loves to keep things exciting. One of her favorite ways to treat her dearest parents is to consume large quantities of surprise items while she is home alone. Oh, what a fun game it is to arrive home after a long day to see your bloated, sick kid, and have to solve the mystery of what it is she got into and how exactly it is going to affect her. While your vet is always your best resource when it comes to animal health-related concerns, we thought we would share some of the toxic food facts and tips that Jelly has been so gracious to teach to us.

It is well known that chocolate is dangerous to our companion animals. Is a chocolate chip cookie or a bag of M&M's really going to cause catastrophe? Theobromine and caffeine are the toxic components in chocolate. Depending on the type of chocolate, the concentration of these properties varies. A simple way to evaluate whether it is going to be an upset stomach or an overdose is to remember that every 1 oz. of milk chocolate to every 1 lb. of body weight can be toxic. With semi-sweet chocolate, the rule is 1 oz. to every 3 lbs. With baking chocolate, it is 1 oz. to every 9 lbs.

A lesser-known toxin for Dogs is Macadamia nuts. While I suspect that most homes do not have a 5 lb. box of these premium nuts sitting on the floor of the kitchen, I will give the warning anyway. Macadamia nuts, even in very small quantities, can be an unfortunate find as they can cause temporary paralysis, general weakness, vomiting, and tremors. Fortunately for Jelly and Dogs with similarly expensive taste, the effects generally resolve without treatment (not recommended) in about 24 hours.

“ Macadamia nuts, even in very small quantities can cause temporary paralysis, general weakness, vomiting, and tremors. ”

Jelly taught us our most important and frightening lesson about the dangers of unsupervised snacking when we came home one afternoon to find the floor strewn with bits of onion skin, banana peels and cantaloupe seeds. She had helped herself to the contents of the compost bin. Almost immediately we saw that she was not well. Decomposing food contains tremorgenic mycotoxins, which can cause symptoms such as drooling, panting, extreme sensitivity (to light, sound and touch), severe tremors and seizures. We made our first visit to the emergency vet clinic where she quickly received a mouthful of charcoal, an injected fluid pack, some muscle relaxers and a damp compress for her weary head.



In subsequent routine visits, we learned that she has maintained quite a reputation as the little Dog that ate heaps of compost. While the myriad of things Jelly has consumed (including those unmentioned such as dry lentils, uncooked rice noodles, protein powder, mashed potato mix and most recently, a bar of soap) has been perplexing at times, the lesson is entirely straightforward. As we continue to count the days, weeks, and months without a health incident, we know that the best advice is to keep human food out of reach at all times, even the supposed healthy, premium and organic variety.

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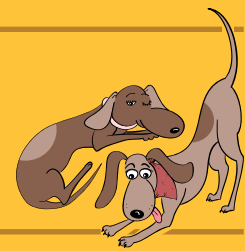
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A Handler's Note

by a LDCD Pack Leader

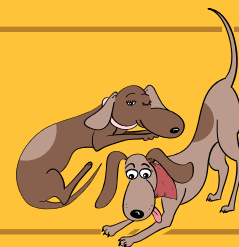
When I wake up on the morning of a workday, it does not feel like a workday anymore. That is because I am a pack leader! I had heard the cliché about doing what you love a thousand times but it just went in one ear and out of the other like a quick breeze shooting through a teaser ball. I initially became a pack leader so that I could be with my kids (Dogs) and partner every hour of every day. This and of course, I am infatuated with Dogs. I have to say that I got a little more than I bargained for. I am actually 50% pack leader and 50% cleaner extraordinaire. I am always on my feet, always moving swiftly and always on high alert.

As I walk through the doors in the morning at LDCD, I am greeted by our boarding clients and overnight staff member. The kids greet me with shrieks and hoots and hollers until they realize that I am one of their Taddies (temporary Daddies). I wait a few minutes for them to settle down and then I enter the back play area that we refer to as "Crazy 2 ". When I enter, the kids give me a rock star welcome. I sleep in a different building with a roof, a bed and other living stuff in it but this is home. Just as I am petting and rubbing kids behind the ears like a softball player gives "high fives" while crossing home plate after a home run, I see my first puddle from Cotton the Yellow Lab. Time to grab onto my coworker and dear friend, "Marty the Mop", the primary tool of my trade besides my heart.

I sneak my love in when I can, usually in between all the cleaning and play area monitoring. It is not uncommon for me to have "Marty" in one hand and Lady, Porter, Stella, Chelsea, Amber and Ruby waiting patiently to share some love and affection. Every single time I hear the front gate open in the lobby, I look up excitedly to see whom the next piece of perfection is that I get to share life with that day. Witnessing the state of euphoria come over them when they are greeted by their friends at the "Crazy 1" fence still makes me get teary and choked up at times.

What is really rewarding is when some Dogs say hi to me first before they burst through the gate to smell, be smelled and rub and play with each other. I see my position as pack leader at LDCD as a sport because of the need to perform at a very high level to ensure safety. As I patrol the perimeter looking for presents on the floor and keeping the pack in motion, I am always on the balls of my feet with my head on a swivel. I have been playing sports since I was 5 years old. It seems like it was all just practice to play and perform in the biggest and most important game of my life- Dog Pack leadership!

After the crazy morning winds down, the kids slow down a bit but we do not. As captains of cleanliness and soldiers of safety, the entire day is action packed. 4pm puts the action into high gear. Our 5,300-sq. ft facility needs to be swept and mopped all while we bring kids to the lobby for their reunion with their people. After a marathon of loving and cleaning, I get to hear the excitement in their voice when they pick up their kids, companions and soul mates. For many parents, this is their favorite part of the day. Besides sharing my life with your Dogs, witnessing your appreciation for them is just as awesome. It is magical and perfect. Thank you for trusting us with the care of your family members!



Some Information on Kennel Cough

Winter is almost here! With the change in season, kennel cough can be more prevalent in Dogs. Similar to a human cold or flu, Dogs can get a cough. Also similar to how human colds are spread in populated areas like a school or office, canine cough is more likely to occur in Dogs who are in close contact with each other, such as a kennel, daycare, grooming salon, training classes, veterinary clinic or shelter.

Kennel cough can be caused by multiple different bacteria and viruses and are transmitted through the air. It is commonly caused by the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and parainfluenza virus. Even with a bordetella vaccination, Dogs are not 100% covered as the vaccine only protects them from infections caused by the *Bordetella bronchiseptica* bacteria. However, the vaccine does help decrease the severity of infection and Dogs usually stop coughing in several days without having other symptoms.

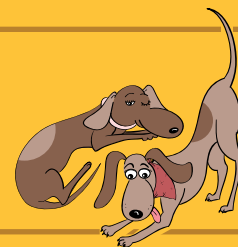
As kennel cough has an incubation period of 2-14 days, it is possible for a Dog not to show any symptoms or cough and be a carrier of the bacteria and/or virus that cause kennel cough, which means that they can still transmit it to another Dog even though they are not coughing.

Most Dogs who contract kennel cough will show minor signs of coughing that last up to a week and will not require medication. Coughing may occur more at night and in the morning after waking up, but the majority of Dogs will continue to eat, play and sleep normally. Treatment usually entails cough suppressants and antibiotics for Dogs who are showing other symptoms such as a fever, runny nose, loss of appetite and/or are lethargic.

If you notice your kiddo coughing or throat-clearing, especially during the night and in the morning, please keep them away from other Dogs.



THE DOGS' LETTER



George Musings

by Neil Kaiser

Sometimes you meet people who have a magical rescue story. They walked into a kennel or an adoption event, much like the one where I met the dog who would become George Jefferson Kaiser, and their eyes meet a formerly abused animal and they instantly click. The dog is an angel, with no issues, loves other dogs, does not mind being alone at all, brings the owner their newspaper, etc. This is not one of those stories.

George and I did not have love at first sight; in fact, I did not even really want him. My wife left on vacation before he arrived so it was just the two of us for 3 days. It was clear from the beginning that George is an anxious fellow and so am I. Therefore, we fed off each other's anxieties, and though now we are close as any two beings could be, for the first month or so we were not even sure we could keep him. If it

was not for the help of the adopting agency, Saving Great Animals, and the amazing people at his daycare, Lazy Dog Crazy Dog in Ballard, WA, we would not have been able to. His separation anxiety has affected every aspect of our life, socially, financially, and especially emotionally. However, we would not trade him for anything in the world.

George is my muse. I write a comic about us called, Co-Dogdependency, because we are very needy of each other at times (like from the time we are awake until we are asleep,) and I paint pictures of him to aide in my own therapy. Now, George will never be a traditional therapy dog, I mean we cannot even take him to a dog friendly restaurant, but he has taught me so much about putting others first and about unconditional love that no amount of therapy, and I've had a lot, could teach. I am grateful every day to Saving Great Animals and the village that made George and my bromance possible. Moreover, it is a bromance for the ages. Riggs/Mautaug, Batman/Robin, George/Neil.

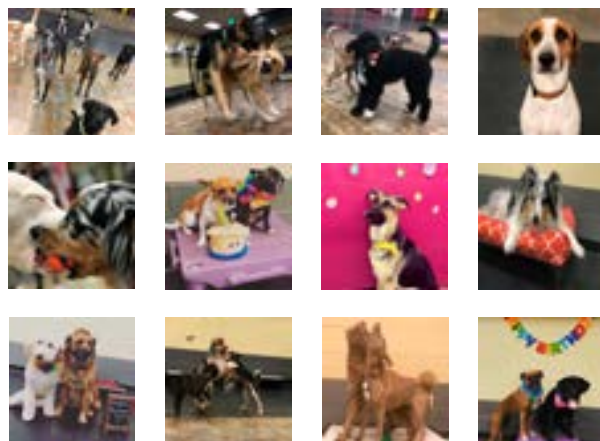


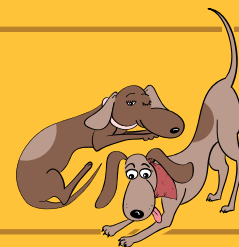
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How Many Dogs Does it Take to Screw in a Lightbulb...



Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

Border Collie: Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Dachshund: You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!

Rottweiler: Make me.

Boxer: Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark!

Lab: Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeease let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Can I? Huh? Pleeeeeease, please, please, please!



German Shepard: I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.

Jack Russel Terrier: I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.

Old English Sheep Dog: Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb.

Cocker Spaniel: Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.

Pointer: I see it, there it is, right there...

Greyhound: It isn't moving. Who cares?

Australian Shepard: First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle...



Poodle: I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will dry

The Cat's Answer: Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?



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