

New On NCRAOA Website

Brochures & Handouts: New flyer *Dealing with Breed Specific Legislation* has been added that we believe you will find very useful.

Animal Rights vs Animal Welfare – do you know the difference?

We expanded the “Animal Rights vs Animal Welfare page into a section. There are now three additional pages, one with opinions and editorial links; and a page with information on animal rights groups. Another new page contains articles and explanations of the animal rights proponents use of the legal system to advance their goal of changing the legal status of animals.



2006 Canine Vaccine Guidelines

American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) released their 2006 Canine Vaccine Guidelines. The report is available as a PDF on their website http://www.aahanet.org/About_aaha/About_Guidelines_Canine06.html. The 2006 AAHA Canine Vaccine Guidelines include detailed recommendations on the use of available vaccines, which are classified as core (universally recommended), non-core (optional), or not recommended. Revised sections of the document include those addressing serologic testing, vaccine adverse events, the vaccine licensing process and the medical and legal implications of vaccine medicine.

The 28-page document contains a new section of guidelines that addresses vaccination of dogs entering or residing in animal shelter environments. Some of the core vaccination recommendations for shelter environments are slightly more aggressive than the guidelines presented for general veterinary practice. Vaccine name, type, initial administration age, and booster requirements are formatted in a chart for easy reference, and include comments on core and non-core vaccine effectiveness.

Diabetic Cats and Dogs

Abbott announced AlphaTRAK™, the first complete hand-held blood glucose monitoring system designed specifically for diabetic cats and dogs. The AlphaTRAK allows veterinarians and pet owners to test pets' blood sugar rapidly, conveniently and accurately with a very small blood sample, without relying on blood glucose meters designed for humans, which can produce widely variable and inaccurate results in pets. In head-to-head clinical evaluation, human glucose meter use in diabetic cats and dogs resulted in measurements that were off by as much as 39 percent compared to lab testing and the AlphaTRAK meter.

Approximately one in every 200 dogs and one in every 400 cats suffer from diabetes. Like humans, these animals are susceptible to both Type I diabetes, or the inability to produce insulin, and Type II diabetes, an insensitivity to insulin. However, Type I is more prevalent among dogs and Type II is more common in cats. Pets with these diseases typically require daily injections of insulin to metabolize dietary glucose.

Cancer Risk in Cats

No matter how well cared for and protected, all cats are at risk for cancer. However, many feline cancers are manageable and sometimes curable if the signs of the condition are recognized early and the patient is given prompt and expert veterinary care. Symptoms that would signal a trip to the vet for examination include an unusual lump or swollen area that doesn't go away; an open sore that doesn't heal; difficulty breathing; difficulty urinating or defecating; sudden weight loss; becoming unusually lethargic; lump in the oral cavity.

The most common cancers in cats are:

- Lymphoma, a malignancy affecting certain types of white cells called lymphocytes. Many cases result from infection with feline leukemia virus (FeLV); it is likely that infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) also induces lymphoma. Both young and old cats can contract lymphoma, with outdoor cats more susceptible than indoor cats. Typical early signs of feline lymphoma include enlarged internal organs, diarrhea, vomiting and weight loss.
- Cancer of the skin and underlying tissue usually emerges in the form of small growths that spread uncontrollably and invade other tissues and organs. One common type of this disease is squamous cell carcinoma, which affects the cells in the outer layer of skin and is most often the result of prolonged exposure to sunlight. At high risk for squamous cell carcinoma of the skin are white or light-colored cats; their noses, eyelids and ear tips are the areas most often affected. Outdoor cats that habitually bask in bright sunlight and are thus excessively exposed to potentially damaging ultraviolet light rays are at greatest risk.

Vaccine-associated sarcomas originate under the skin at sites where certain injectable vaccines have been administered. These malignant cancers are rare, but very serious. The Vaccine-Associated Feline Sarcoma Task Force (VAFSTF) was formed in the mid 1990's to address this issue; for more information, see www.avma.org/vafstf.

- Oral cavity cancer, which produces tumors that affect the superficial lining of the mouth as well as the bony components of the upper and lower jaw. Signs of this condition include lumps in the oral cavity, bleeding from the mouth, foul breath, loose teeth, apparent pain in eating and drinking.
- Mammary gland cancer, which is most often a disease of older, unspayed female cats, is the fourth most frequently seen type of cancer at CUHA, accounting for about five percent of cases. These tumors generally develop beneath a nipple and may eventually spread to the lymph nodes, lungs, liver, adrenal glands, kidney and other areas of the body. The earliest signs of mammary cancer are noticeable lumps in an animal's breast area, which can often be detected by means of a veterinarian's or owner's routine palpation of a cat's underside. Of all cancers, mammary gland cancer is the most preventable, since its occurrence can be avoided by spaying a female cat at an early age.

Dr. Kenneth Rassnick, assistant professor of oncology at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine says owners can play a significant role in reducing the chances that their cats get cancer by:

- Keeping them indoors in order to minimize sunlight and exposure to viral infection;
- Avoiding regular exposure to tobacco smoke;
- Having females spayed at an early age;
- Refraining from feeding them tuna fish;
- Limiting vaccinations to those that their veterinarians consider essential.

Caution Is Advisable Using Chew Treats

Chew treats are extremely popular with dog owners. The purpose, of course, of chewing the treats is to help keep teeth clean by scraping food debris and plaque from the teeth, minimizing tartar buildup. Dogs enjoy the chewing while at the same time exercise important chewing muscles. The chew treats are designed to be chewed into small pieces; however, some dogs will try to ingest them in a few bites or soften them enough to swallow whole. In that case the material can lodge or stick in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract causing an obstruction.

Pet owners should remember to monitor their dogs when given chew treats, and not leave them unattended. If you want to leave the dog with something to do while you are away, toys that are strong enough to not be chewed into smaller pieces while flexible enough not to injure teeth, such as durable rubber Kong toys or chew ropes, should be a safe bet for most dogs.

Mixed Breed vs Purebred – the ongoing debate

“Mixed-breed dogs are healthier. They aren't as likely to have these inherited problems”, says Stephen Zawistowski of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Mixed-breed dogs have hybrid vigor is another statement often heard. The theory of hybrid vigor suggests that dogs of mixed ancestry will be healthier than purebreds as coming from a more diverse genetic pool they are less likely to have certain genetic disorders.

Dog breeds were created, selected and bred to perform specific functions. Selecting desirable traits and eliminating others, breeders created their ideal appearance and behavior. Isn't it therefore logical that mixed-breeds resulting from purebred crosses carry the same faults and virtues, and to some degree the same inherited disorders?

All animals carry genetic defects, and all genetic departures from health are not equal. All are not life threatening; some genetic faults can be corrected with minor surgery or controlled by good management and medication.

A dog is the product of its genes, and there are four basic methods of inheritance that cause most of the genetic problems in dogs: autosomal recessive, autosomal dominant, sex-linked recessive, polygenic.

- Autosomal or simple recessive means a matched pair of the abnormal gene; both parents of the affected offspring were carriers (had the gene but did not display the trait).
- Autosomal dominant means the trait or problem is expressed even though the genes are not matched; only one parent needed to have the defective gene and pass it to the offspring.
- Sex-linked genes can be either dominant or recessive and are carried by females.
- Polygenic traits are controlled by multiple genes, each adding incrementally to the total trait. These are very complex because multiple genes and also environmental factors are involved.

Jerold Bell, DVM, a canine genetic counselor at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, says “Defective genes were not created by breeders. They are due to mutations, bottlenecks and founder effects in the development of breeds. A genetic bottleneck occurs when a breed is reduced to a limited number of breeding stock from which to repopulate.”

If a defective gene is found to be a recent mutation, isolating it within a specific population could control or possibly eliminate it; crossing to another breed would only disperse it into a wider genetic population.

George Padgett, DVM, a leading canine geneticist, wrote in *Dog World* in January 1997 that mixed breed dogs can have the same genetic diseases as the breeds crossed to produce them. Padgett said that his files include information on 102 genetic defects identified in mongrel dogs, more than double the number identified in the Cocker Spaniel, one of the country's most popular breeds. [Source *Dog Owners Guide*]

A simple search provides information, studies and statistics on a variety of canine disease seen in both mixed-breed and purebred dogs.

- Carol S. Foil, DVM, MS, Diplomate A.C.V.D. a Board-certified specialist through the American College of Veterinary Dermatology writes: Canine atopic dermatitis (allergic dermatitis, canine atopy) is an inherited predisposition to develop allergic symptoms following repeated exposure to some otherwise harmless substance, an "allergen," such as dust mites or pollen. Most dogs begin to show their allergic signs between 1 and 3 years of age. Due to the hereditary nature of the disease, several breeds, including golden retrievers, most terriers, Irish setters, Lhasa apsos, Dalmatians, bulldogs and Old English sheep dogs are more commonly atopic, but many dogs, including mixed breed dogs can have atopic dermatitis. The incidence is increasing both in man and animals.
- In a clinical evaluation of 230 dogs by Werner, Brown & Halliwell, canine autoimmune skin disease (AISD) was confirmed in 84 of the suspected cases. The highest percentage of cases were mixed-breeds, followed by shelties, collies, german shepherds and poodles. The most common diagnosis was pemphigus foliaceus, a type of autoimmune skin disorder where the immune system produces antibodies that combine with the action of white blood cells to damage the "glue" that holds skin cells together.
- Epilepsy is a disease that can affect any breed of dog and likely to be inherited. However, there is a higher incidence in pure breed dogs regardless of size than in mixed-breed dogs.
- Von Willebrand's disease (vWD) is an inherited bleeding disorder. In all forms of vWD there is a reduction in the amount or function of von Willebrand factor (vWF), which inhibits clotting action causing prolonged bleeding. The vWF factor is a blood protein which binds platelets to blood vessels when they are injured. Absence or deficiency of the factor can, therefore, lead to uncontrolled bleeding episodes. vWD has been diagnosed in at least 50 breeds of dogs, including mixed breeds. The disease also appears in cats, pigs, horses, and humans.

Whether purebred, mixed-breed, or the trendy new cross bred designer dog, none are produced from an assembly line, preprogrammed for health with regimented quality assurance checks. Dogs are living creatures with a varied genetic makeup. Even the healthiest dog can still face problems such as arthritis which has been around since the age of the dinosaur.

Buyers should always do their homework, not only based on health issues but on traits that make the dog compatible with their lifestyle. A mixed-breed dog can be a great companion, although the purebred has the most predictable traits.

Whatever the decision, foremost is to remember that "a dog is for life". Good care and nutrition, attention to diet, and vet checkups are essential for a healthy pet.

Basic Training May Alleviate Pet Behavior Problems

Office of Public Engagement [University of Illinois/](#) [College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

Do you know the biggest reason for pet euthanasia in this country? Is it incurable disease? Injury? The truth is that more companion animals are euthanized for behavior problems than for any other reason. Some animals are euthanized because they are aggressive and dangerous, but many are euthanized for behavior problems that could have been avoided.

Linda Case, an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, owns and operates Autumn Gold Dog Training Center in Mahomet, Ill. One of her goals is to raise awareness among dog owners in order to prevent behavior problems. "One of the biggest problems we see is that people underestimate how much time caring for a dog requires. Many dogs do not have all of their needs met, and many are horribly under-exercised," says Case. "Unfortunately, since crate training became popular, the crate has sometimes been used as a place to stow the dog rather than being used as the housebreaking tool as it was meant to be. Many dogs spend far too much time in their crates."

Dr. Christine Merle, a veterinarian formerly at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, agrees. "Another problem people have with dogs is a basic lack of manners. Because they have not been taught manners, many dogs engage in undesirable activities, such as jumping up on people and not coming when called. When people take the time to educate themselves about the needs of their pet, behavior issues such as these can be prevented. Unfortunately, owners often assume that the dog should somehow be aware of basic rules of behavior without ever having been taught."

If bad behavior continues for an extended period of time, pet owners sometimes attribute very human characteristics to the dog, as if the pet is engaging in the unwanted activity on purpose. Despite what some owners think, their pet is not defecating in the house or digging up the garden in order to exact some sort of retribution.

Most likely, undesirable behaviors that occur within a home are due to some need that is not being met by the owner. "Unruly behaviors such as digging and barking excessively are called attention seeking behaviors," says Case. "The challenge of dog training is often to discover why the dog is engaging in those behaviors. Instead of looking at training as something that is done to the dog, the best way to solve these problems is to approach dog training from a human-animal bond standpoint, which involves looking at how the owner lives with the dog and how that lifestyle is affecting the dog's behavior."

One of the best ways to avoid behavior problems before they start is to enroll in a dog training class early, ideally when the dog is young. These classes not only teach good manners, but can help the dog become more comfortable around other dogs and people. For dogs with a problem with aggression, there are private trainers who can help owners and pets on an individual basis. Certified veterinary behaviorists can help with problems that are insurmountable through regular training.

Matching the animal to the owner's lifestyle is very important, and many behavior problems can be avoided by choosing a pet carefully. Before you decide to get a pet, research the needs of that animal and find out about breed-specific characteristics that need to be taken into consideration. Remember that most of the time, getting a pet on a whim is a very bad idea.

If you have a dog that has a behavior problem or you would like to enroll your pet in a training class, contact your local veterinarian and ask for a list of dog training clubs in your area.

PAWS and the discussion draft

The long awaited discussion draft from Senator Rick Santorum (PA) appeared on March 17th. This is exactly what it says, a draft, and nothing more. It is not an amendment to S1139 or a new bill. Thanks to the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) for providing the integrated version of this draft with the current AWA regulations. The draft and the integrated version are posted on the NCRAOA website. Several items of interest should be noted concerning the draft. Cats have now been included with dogs to be covered by new import regulations, and Senator Santorum now feels the need to involve Homeland Security in the implementation of these regulations. It appears small animals sales have been clarified and given a higher dollar exemption. Regulated dog and cat sales are still being determined by use of numbers which is unacceptable.

The introduction of the concept of the private inspection entities reaffirms what we have said for months about the impossible burden inspection of retail sellers would place on USDA personnel and funds. The wording for certifying third party inspectors is carefully done: “the Secretary shall promulgate regulations under which the Secretary may certify nonprofit organizations (referred to in this sub-section as certified third party Inspectors that the Secretary determines to have standards and inspection protocols that are at least as protective of animal welfare as those promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with Section 13(a)(2).” Some of the problems with retail licensing/inspection remain the same with this addition as in the existing PAWS version. Small in-home breeders cannot comply with current USDA regulations written for large commercial facilities. Two sets of standards regulating the similar businesses - one performance based allowing small in-home breeders to continue raising puppies and the other engineering based requiring outdoor facilities, specified materials and kennels, temperature and sanitation controls - will be challenged.

PAWS breaches the traditional wholesale/retail line established by USDA as their criteria for licensing breeders. PAWS begins the federalization of small scale breeding.

PAWS has not been amended or changed as of this writing. Please continue to write and oppose. Animal welfare would be better served if USDA had more funds and inspectors to monitor their current workload rather than expanding regulations to cover puppies and kittens bred inside private homes on a small scale.

Banned in Long Beach

Cat breeding is now banned in the city of Long Beach CA. In a turn of legislative events during ordinance negotiations to lift the long ban on breeding dogs, city commissioners added a total breeding ban on cats. Despite AKC’s website announcement that Long Beach enacted “a more moderate breeder permit program”, dog breeding remains virtually eliminated. The revised ordinance allows one “approved” breeding per year per household for a \$500 permit fee. Approval by the city includes satisfactory registrations, health checks, **and** a background check on the owner - hardly a deal. Animal advocates objected to even this revision citing the 4,000 dogs brought into shelters. Where did these dogs come from in a city that has banned breeding for years? Could this be an owner responsibility problem and not a breeder problem after all?

The city is also scheduled to host the 2006 AKC Eukanuba Classic. AKC claims the show brings \$4 million in revenue to the area. This is an exceptional reward to a city that has for years banned dog breeding and now bans cat breeding.

HSUS Chronicles

Sharing founders and players.

Cleveland Amory, co-founder of HSUS also started the Fund for Animals in 1968. The main purpose of the new organization was to lead the movement to vigorously oppose sport hunting.

Amory expected that the Fund would reunite with HSUS after winning the hunting issue—but the Fund almost immediately took on an additional mission of providing hands-on care to rescued animals, first at the Black Beauty Ranch in Texas, and later also at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in California and the Rabbit Sanctuary in South Carolina.

HSUS until recently avoided becoming involved in hands-on care for animals, for reasons Amory himself articulated in early position statements: to focus on advocacy, to avoid any dilution of mission, and to escape philosophical compromises that might be driven by the need to raise money to feed and house animals.

By 1974, when Amory finally left the HSUS board, he had changed his mind. Amory had come to believe, as he told ANIMAL PEOPLE in 1994, that taking on at least a limited mission of hands-on care helped to keep an organization honest; that if an organization rescues animals, it has an obligation to care for them; and that having sanctuaries helped him to avoid hiring anyone who felt above cleaning litter pans or shoveling out a stable.

Chances of reconciliation with HSUS receded after HSUS three times hired away senior Fund personnel—executive director Patricia Forkan, now the HSUS executive vice president; Lewis Regenstein, who is no longer with either organization; and national director Wayne Pacelle, who took several other members of the Fund staff with him to HSUS in 1994.

Annoyed, Amory expressed hope that the Fund might instead eventually merge with PETA. PETA cofounder Alex Pacheco, an Amory protégé, debuted in animal advocacy as a volunteer for the Fund at a Cincinnati branch office. In 1986-1988 Amory and Pacheco led a hostile takeover of the then grossly mismanaged New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), whose former president, the late probate judge Robert Ford, was eventually stripped of his judgeship and convicted of related criminal offenses.

For almost a decade NEAVS operated under de facto Fund for Animals and PETA joint trusteeship. The arrangement was seen as a test of an eventual merger, but fell apart in disputed board elections and a lawsuit. Pacheco soon afterward left PETA.

*Source: Animal People. EDITORIAL September 2004
The Fund, HSUS, and merging packs*

Counting HSUS Members

Do you know someone who donated even a small sum to HSUS during Katrina to help rescue animals? Anyone who donated even the minimum \$10 automatically becomes a “member” in the eyes of HSUS. HSUS claims 188,000 members in North Carolina, and the next time HSUS speaks to a legislator trying to ban hunting or circuses or limit dog breeding, they are also speaking for all of their “members”.

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