



Happy Thanksgiving!

What's inside this issue?

- Special feature article by Dr. Paige Lorimer DVM from Pet Kare Clinic in Steamboat Springs, Colorado – Canine Flu
- My dog has C.L.A.S.S!
- Link for foods toxic to dogs
- Tuki – The Therapy Dog
- A Very Special Story

We would like to wish all of our amazing clients, students, friends, colleagues, and canine buddies a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. We are so grateful for the opportunity to know each one of you! Thank you!

Special Feature

We're going to be featuring articles written by our local Veterinarians on subjects of interest. A special thank you to Dr. Paige Lorimer DVM for providing this information!

What You Need to Know about the Dog Flu Virus

By: Dr. Paige Lorimer

Pet Kare Clinic

P.O. Box 881295 Steamboat, CO 80488
970-879-5273 ~ www.petkareclinic.com



Canine flu is different from kennel cough or bordatella infection. It was first identified in January 2004, when there was a sudden outbreak of respiratory disease among 22 racing greyhounds at a Florida racetrack. Most of the dogs developed a mild fever followed by a cough that lasted about 14 days, and then recovered. But slightly more than one third of the dogs died after developing hemorrhaging in the lungs. Within six months, the virus turned up in other racing greyhounds at tracks in six other states- then at 20 tracks in 11 states, and now the virus has affected pet dogs in over 30 states. However, it is most prevalent in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Colorado.

The canine flu virus actually mutated from a virus that has affected horses for over forty years. And since there has never been a case of the equine virus affecting humans, experts are fairly certain that the canine influenza virus will not infect humans either. But with the recent news and hype about the human swine flu, the canine influenza virus will continue to be monitored closely.

Canine influenza should be considered in dogs presenting with a cough and a recent history of exposure to other dogs. The biggest predisposing factor would be the pet's lifestyle. If within the last 10 to 14 days, the dog was at a shelter, rescue facility, pet store, boarding facility, groomer, or doggie day care, canine influenza is a possible diagnosis. This new virus is easily transmitted between dogs in much the same way that flu spreads among humans, but not all dogs get sick and not all dogs who get sick will die. However, because this is still considered a new virus, all dogs are considered susceptible to infection because they have no naturally

acquired or vaccine induced immunity. Another problem is that the canine flu virus may initially be misdiagnosed as another respiratory disease in dogs known as “kennel cough” which could further cause the rapid spread of the disease.

Dr. Cynda Crawford, University of Florida Veterinary School veterinarian and researcher, in a scientific paper when the virus was first identified said, “Canine influenza is really the new kid on the block for vets to consider in the differential diagnosis for kennel cough.” She further cautions veterinarians that while 80 percent of flu-stricken dogs will have a mild form of the disease, even dogs who are not overtly sick could be contagious. When asked why we haven’t heard much about this disease in recent years, she states, “I think when it was first reported in 2004 it was a very newsworthy item. I think the virus has now become commonplace in many communities throughout the United States and so it has lost its newsworthy glamour.” There is currently a new wave of cases in New York and it has gotten more attention.

Dog owners should take heed that if their dogs are coughing, sneezing, or have runny nose, they should not “shrug it off” as just kennel cough, “a little cold” or even allergies. Canine influenza usually starts out with coughing or gagging that may last as long as three weeks. Symptoms typically appear within 7 to 10 days post exposure. Clinical signs in dogs include coughing, runny nose, lethargy, depression, and a fever as high as 103-107 degrees. In the acute and severe form, a viral pneumonia can develop.

While highly contagious, some good news is that the virus is easily killed by soap and water, disinfectants and 10 percent bleach solutions. Transmission can be prevented by isolating all suspected dogs, thorough cleaning of all cages and exposed surfaces such as floors, kennels food dishes and bedding. Animal caretakers should be diligent about wearing disposable gloves or washing hands in between handling dogs and any urine, stool, or saliva, and before entering or leaving any facility that houses dogs.

In September 2008, the AVMA News Update stated, “The AVMA believes there is an urgent need for an effective canine influenza virus vaccine to improve the health and welfare of animals and reduce the financial impacts of the canine influenza.” Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health has developed a vaccine for the Canine Influenza Vaccine (H3N8).

Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health developed “this new vaccination (to) aid in the control of the disease associated with canine influenza virus infection. It has been demonstrated to reduce the incidence and severity of lung lesions as well as duration of coughing and viral shedding.” Pet owners will want to discuss the new vaccination with their veterinarian and decide if it is right for their pet. The initial series is two vaccinations given two (2) to four (4) weeks apart. It can be administered to pet’s six (6) weeks or older. Annual vaccination is recommended.

We recommend this for dogs that our frequently boarded. Make sure to ask you boarding facility if this vaccine is required in addition to the bordatella vaccine.

While veterinarians do want dog owners to be aware and cautious of the canine influenza flu, they do not want people to panic. They warn owners to take their dog to their veterinarian at the first sign of any respiratory illness or problem. The virus has been identified in dogs of all ages. Dogs may be at higher risk if they are young, old, have an immune problem, or are undergoing chemotherapy. Diagnosing the Canine influenza virus is difficult based on the shedding periods and the onset of clinical symptoms.

Depending on the stage of presentation to the veterinarian, there are multiple tests that can be preformed. Blood testing during several phases of the illness may be the most common recommended by your veterinarian.

Dog owners should contact their veterinarians for more information and to stay current on news about this disease.

Dr. Paige Lorimer is a Veterinarian at Pet Kare Clinic in Steamboat. Visit our website at www.petkareclinic.com or follow us on facebook. Keep yourself in the know about the best care for your pet.





Skippy Goes to back to School Again My dog has C.L.A.S.S.

By Laura Tyler

Well, actually we both went back to school. Early this month Skippy and I drove to Grand Junction to meet with several other western slope instructors. We'd all just gone through the testing and application process to teach a new class developed by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). Our gathering was scheduled so that we could test each other and our dogs. We are all very excited to add these new classes to our curriculum. Starting in January we will begin testing our staff and others interested in attaining these new titles for our companion dogs.

In a newsletter that went out early this summer we asked our students and clients what other activities you would like to see Total Teamwork Training offer. We heard you! This new C.L.A.S.S. program is just the ticket! Canine Life And Social Skills was developed by the APDT. The C.L.A.S.S. program is designed to benefit pet owners and their canine companions, dog trainers and others who work with dogs such as animal shelters, and the community. The specific skills and testing application create a very positive environment in which dog owners and their dogs learn the skills to better adjust and relate to public activities. As with all of our training, the C.L.A.S.S. program is based on positive reinforcement and reward based training techniques.

The Objectives of C.L.A.S.S. are to:

- Promote reward-based training
- Strengthen dog/owner relationships through shared activity and fun, positive training
- Encourage dog owners to participate in ongoing training and activities with their dogs
- Value the real-life skills of dog/owner teams
- Educate pet owners in dog behavior



So, here's the challenge: For those of you that have completed our Family Dog Class or our Canine Good Citizens program, get to work! Go online to www.mydoghasclass.com sign up, download the student manual and brush up on your skills. You'll see when you go through the requirements that you can do this!

C.L.A.S.S. evaluators will assess the dog/owner team's core training skills, with options to test advanced training skills. There are three C.L.A.S.S. levels: The Bachelor's (B.A.), Master's (M.A.), and Doctorate (Ph.D.). Successfully completing each C.L.A.S.S. level is like earning an academic degree in real-life skills with your dog. Plus it's FUN!

We'll have our 2012 Winter/Spring training schedule out in our Christmas newsletter. YIKES! That's just a month away. Skippy earned her B.A. in an outdoor setting at a busy downtown café in Grand Junction. I'm very proud of her! We're headed back next month to earn her M.A.

Call or email us here at: dogs@totalteamworktraining.com and we'll get you on our list or answer any questions.



Company and holiday meals can lead to our dogs getting foods that they really shouldn't eat.
Here's a link for information on foods that can be toxic to your dog.

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/ask-the-expert/ask-the-expert-poison-control/people-foods.aspx>

Tuki and Me

By Carole Cohen

When Tuki was 6 months old he came into my life...

He was a pup that I fell in love with "on-line" and had to convince Burt that he could become a part of our family. He is still MY dog (although he has bonded with Burt) and has been training for several months to become a Therapy Dog with the "Heeling Friends" program.

I am pleased to let you know that after much training..... He/we passed the test given at the Yampa Valley Medical Center. He is now a member of the Intermountain Therapy Animals organization.

My goal to give back to the community was to participate in the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program. This means we will be part of a team going to the elementary school and the library as reading companions for children. We are looking forward to having a great volunteer job here in Steamboat Springs.

Tuki and Carole began their adventure in our Family Dog Class. We are so very proud of this great team!



This is a very special story written by Lisa Mason. Lisa is one of our instructors in Steamboat Springs. We are grateful she is a member of our Total Teamwork Training Team!

A Journey with Zoey

By Lisa Mason

She walks stiffly now, each step disconnected from her other steps, placed with conscious intent. Even in the soft lawns of summer, her movement is concentrated, cautious, as if she no longer trusts her balance and is uncertain about where her feet will land.

At 14, my Zoey is moving into new unknown territory, taking me with her on this journey called aging. Her world is filled with slowed, deliberate movements, hindered by the pains of growing old. My world is becoming one of improving patience, tolerance and acknowledgement of her changes...and forgiveness for not being the dog of my memories.

What is it like to live with a 14-year-old dog, one that you've raised and taught and learned from since she was a puppy? For me, it has been a time of re-learning, of allowing those memories of her as a younger dog to move aside to be replaced with the joy of watching and involving her each day in my life as she is ...today.

Perhaps one of the hardest, yet I find one of the most important lessons I am learning is that it is OK, it is necessary, actually, for me to "forget" those younger days and concentrate on what she and I can share right now. I need to be present with her changes, aware of her various limitations, and observant of her daily struggles, triumphs and pleasures. I need to lower my expectations and enjoy the moments we share, doing whatever it is we happen to do.

Everything is reduced, slowed and simplified. Because I believe in the importance of continuing her mental challenges, we still do a little training every day. These training sessions have each become a wonderful dance of little parts. Breaking everything down into the basics, into those tiny building blocks of learning that every new behavior consists of, I find I need to go back, to remember how it was teaching her as a puppy, when she was still unaware of the foundation cues and behaviors. I need to conquer my feeling of frustration when she seems not to understand or be able to do something she has done effortlessly all her life. She is helping me understand the beauty of the tiniest progressions and to remember the joy of rewarding her – and seeing her reaction to my joy - for any and all success.

She is teaching me patience and helping me hone my observational skills. For example: her tail. Once a beckon of nonstop waving and circling, I've now come to watch it as an indicator of how she is feeling physically, noting its stiffness or lack of swing as a message that she perhaps needs a bit more of her Tramadol today.



Her eyes still sparkle, despite the fogged nature of her lens. Her hearing is weak, so I've learned to be closer and to use hands signals to communicate with her. Her tender body reacts with a jump if you startle her or if the touch is too strong, so my hands are lighter on her, softer, slower. And yet, despite all this, she still smiles and does half-leaps when I first get home from work.

Mealtime is not as simple as it once was since her digestive system has slowed and is less efficient. As a result, I am challenged to come up with meals that are not only nutritious but also varied to keep her interested.

Because her rear legs are not as strong as they used to be, I have become her security when going up or down stairs, placing my hands gently on her hips and either guiding and supporting as we go up or slowing and holding back as we go down. Ramps and rug runners decorate our house, covering the always slippery wooden floors.

She paces now, legs on the same side moving together, instead of walking with the ease of four flexible, pain-free legs. Walks are no longer defined by miles, but each one, though much slower and shorter, is filled with simple pleasures, like the smells left by another dog or other creature. And there are those wonderful moments when through pure excitement, she breaks into a bobbing run - a motion rather like the movement of a child's rocking horse - having seen one of her neighbor friends.

What I am learning is that we, the lucky owners of older dogs, must try to remember and embrace the importance of letting go of the past, replacing it with the understanding that we have been given yet another gift by these dogs: **we have been given the opportunity** to learn even more from them, growing and improving as their caregivers. Zoey has given me so much through these 14 years, now it is my turn – my privilege - to give back to her.

Below, I've created a list of my promises to Zoey. You will, of course, have many of your own, but I hope you add the basics of mine as well.

1. For her overall health: a yearly wellness exam to help keep me aware and on top of any medical and/or emotional issues she may have.
2. For her mind: daily mental stimulations, be it brief training sessions, interactive treat puzzles, or games such as "find it".
3. For her emotional enjoyment: sensory stimulation, like walks in different locales, or even car rides, with the windows down, so she can take in the sights and smells of the world as we drive through it.
4. For her nutrition: I will become aware of and understand her changing needs, and will provide healthy, well-rounded, interesting meals and plenty of constantly refreshed water.
5. For fun: I will not forget to play with her...every single day...for though she is no longer a puppy, she still enjoys the release and pleasure play gives her.

So, for those of you who have older dogs now and for those of you who eventually ill, honor their aging with patience and respect, continually working on fine tuning your observational skills and your understanding of their aging process. Let them teach you.... An old dog **can** teach (you) new tricks.



From the crew at Total Teamwork Training LLC
Laura Tyler CPDT-KA
www.totalteamworktraining.com