

## BOO!!!!!!!

## Halloween is just around the corner...



The night of ghosts, goblins and ghouls is just around the corner. Halloween can be a lot of fun for people... young and old. But for dogs it can be a very stressful holiday. The following tips are provided to help you reduce the stress your buddy may experience.

On this night many of those creatures of the night will be knocking on your door or ringing your doorbell and holding out a very enticing bag of goodies right at mouth level for your furry pal. Many dogs find this to be a tempting treat that only requires one trick... grab the bag and RUN! This is a potentially lethal trick for your dog to do, especially as most dogs can be highly allergic to chocolate and raisins – two of the most popular ingredients in kids' treat bags. Sharing of candies with your four-footed friend is only one of the problems many dog owners encounter on this night of fright. If you notice any of these symptoms of chocolate poisoning, immediately take your dog to the emergency clinic because your dog's life may be in danger! Chocolate poisoning symptoms: excessive drooling, excessive urination, pupil dilation, rapid heartbeat, vomiting and diarrhea, muscle tremors, seizures or coma.

One way to help reduce the potential for danger and stress that your dog may feel is to exclude him from the activities. Many otherwise good-natured and friendly dogs may become nervous, irritable, and more likely to snap at kids in costume. Naturally protective breeds may mistake the jovial children or adults in those funny or scary costumes as genuine threats. It's nice that you want to include your dog in the festivities, but perhaps it would be better to leave him out of it. Many dogs prefer the quiet serenity of their own home. If you absolutely must include your dog in the trick or treating, do it only during the daytime. And make sure that an adult is supervising the dog on a leash. Children should not be allowed to handle the dog. Do not allow costumed kids to try to pet, hug or otherwise engage your dog. Most importantly, pay attention to your dog. If he shows signs of being stressed out, take him home and let him relax.

Not every dog understands the joy experienced by squealing youngsters in their finest and scariest costumes. Even the stout of heart dog can flee in fear with fifty or so little ones appearing in the darkness at your door. If your dog likes to greet people with a loud, ferocious bark he could scare the kids!

You should NEVER put your dog outside unsupervised in the yard, even a fenced yard on Halloween. Pranksters and kids who would otherwise be afraid of doing something may take advantage of the anonymity that costumes afford, and the darkness of night to tease, taunt, torment or otherwise cause harm to your dog. They may even just let the dog out of the yard. A scared and frightened dog may find himself feeling cornered when confronted by costumed kids and react with bared teeth... or worse, causing potential for big trouble for his owner, himself and anyone he feels threatened by! We hear, all too often, stories of animals that are stolen, injured or even killed by those with no conscience on Halloween. Don't let this year's top news story be about your beloved dog!

Dress-up Doggie??? If your dog is the kind who will allow you to dress him up, please remember these safety tips. NEVER leave your costumed dog unsupervised! Ensure his costume is loose fitting, yet not so loose that he may trip on it or get caught and tangled in trees, bushes or other things which may 'grab' him in the night. The costume should not impede your dog's ability to walk, breath, bark, see or hear. Make sure any elastic on his costume is accounted for when removing the costume at the end of the night. If he chews any of it off, he could choke or end up with a bowel obstruction that could lead to a quick and unpleasant result. If you absolutely must take your dog trick or treating, do it only when it's light outside and only if your dog obviously enjoys it. Again, if your dog shows any signs of stress take him home immediately!



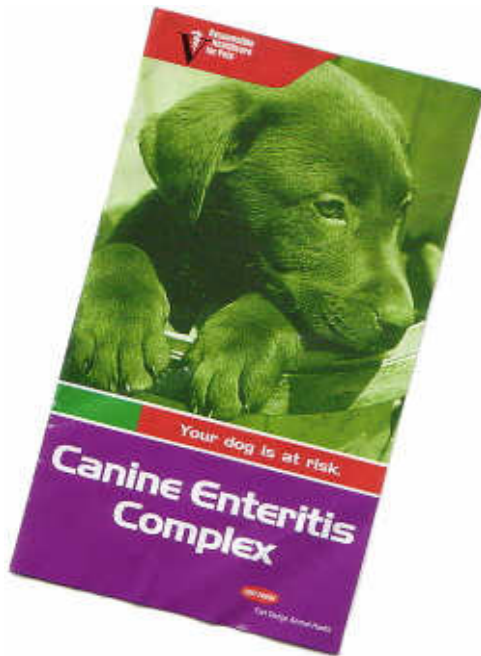
One of the most dangerous places for your dog is the front door. Most people will be opening and closing the front door many times on Halloween night. The best tip for those of you who have a storm door is to remove the upper glass or screen. That way you can hand out the goodies to the little tricksters who come calling and provide additional insurance that your dog will not run out an open door. You can also distract your dog by giving him something good to chew on. Give him a rawhide treat, bone or a toy stuffed with something tasty like peanut butter or other treat that he likes. Not only does this give him something to chew on distracting him from the commotion at the door it will also reduce his stress levels.

If you host a Halloween party at your home extra precautions are needed. Keep decorations, food, candy, purses and other things that can be chewed on up high and out of reach of your dog.

Remember... the best thing you can do is to make sure that your dog has his collar and ID tags on at all times. Halloween can be a fun time for everyone, even your furry friends. Just take a few extra minutes to make sure your home is safe and stress-free. So enjoy, but be safe!

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## **Another day, another marketing campaign masquerading as health information**



So, today I went to the vet with one of my dogs, and while I was waiting, I looked at the pamphlets in the little rack in the otherwise barren exam room. I picked up one that I'd never seen before.

It was from Fort Dodge, and it was a pamphlet about something called Canine Enteritis Complex. And I'm all, what the heck? I do tend to keep up on canine health issues, dear readers, and I had no clue what this dread new disease was.

That would be because it's not a disease and it's not new. "Many disease agents," it said, frighteningly, "can cause Canine Enteritis Complex, a potentially deadly inflammation of the small intestine. Some common enteritis-causing pathogens in dogs are parvovirus, coronavirus, and giardia lamblia, a microscopic protozoan that can severely damage the lining of the small intestine."

It goes on to tell us that "These pathogens are highly contagious and can be spread between dogs." What's more, "A published study"... will wonders never cease? A published study!... "showed a dual infection with parvo and corona was fatal in 90 percent of cases." And hey, they had a footnote, which I'll get to in a minute.

They also added that "Pre-existing Giardia infection can make disease from parvovirus more severe," and guess what? Another footnote!

So, after the obligatory advice to ask your veterinarian (or, as I'm sure Fort Dodge thinks of them, their marketing partners) "about a vaccination program that includes protection against enteritis-causing pathogens such as parvovirus, coronavirus, and Giardia," we get to the footnotes.

Now, you'd think for something I've never heard of before, this newly discovered trifecta of canine intestinal doom, we'd have some pretty cutting edge science. They must surely cite some new studies, hot off the presses, for me to not have seen them before. Right?

Wrong. Because those footnotes cite one study that is 19 years old, and another that is 25 years old. No, dear dog lovers, the diseases are old, the citations are old, even the vaccines being promoted are old. The only thing new is the marketing campaign.

So, what is this campaign trying to get you to do? First, they want you to answer a few questions to determine if your dog is at risk -- although the cover of the brochure has already told you he is. "At risk", they say, would be any dog who drinks from puddles, is around other dogs, or is less than six months of age. So, "Don't take chances. Make sure your dog is protected from Canine Enteritis Complex by vaccinating routinely against parvo, corona, and Giardia."

Well, should you? Before asking if you should vaccinate your dog with this combination of antigens, ask about each one on its own -- starting with canine coronavirus.

Except in very young puppies -- puppies too young to be vaccinated -- coronavirus does not cause clinical disease in dogs. Researchers cannot induce disease with it in the laboratory. Many, perhaps most, dogs have coronavirus in their intestine all their lives. (Schultz, "Emerging Issues: Vaccination Strategies for Canine Viral Enteritis," 1995.)

Texas A&M University's "Vaccine Protocols and Schedule" tells us, "(T)here are no studies that show that use of the vaccine reduces morbidity or mortality." (Mansfield 1996.) That means it neither makes vaccinated dogs get sick less frequently, nor get less seriously ill, nor die less frequently. I would guess that's why this one is so often called a "vaccine in search of a disease."

Perhaps the presence of coronavirus does make parvo more deadly, but -- and you can call me crazy -- if this virus doesn't cause illness on its own, but only if the dog also gets parvo, it seems that the proper response to that threat is to prevent parvo.

The problem, of course, is the second vaccine being promoted here, the one for parvo. That pesky vaccine is just too good. Apparently once a dog is immune to parvo, he's immune for years and years, probably his whole life.

So, hey... it's tough out here for a drug company, in this post-annual vaccination age!

Fortunately, the third piece of this marketing puzzle, giardiasis, is a vaccine for a protozoal disease, and, like all vaccines for protozoal diseases, this one totally sucks! That means you have to give it over and over and over, like, every single year!

In fact, the giardia vaccine sucks so bad at preventing giardiasis that it's not even licensed or labeled to prevent giardiasis! It's only supposed to be used as part of a total treatment plan.

The manufacturer doesn't even state that it cures or prevents giardiasis, simply that it decreases the shedding of cysts. One study showed "there was no significant difference between the (vaccinated and unvaccinated) groups. Vaccination was, therefore, not an effective treatment for asymptomatic canine Giardia infections in this setting." Of course, that study was not absolutely dripping with cobwebs of antiquity like the ones Fort Dodge used, being only from 2004. ("Impact of Giardia vaccination on asymptomatic Giardia infections in dogs at a research facility," Canadian Veterinary Journal, Nov 2004.)

The 2006 AAHA Vaccination Guidelines list the giardia vaccine in the "not recommended" category.

If canine coronavirus is a vaccine in search of a disease, I would have to say that Canine Enteritis Complex is a disease in search of a marketing campaign. And it's found one. So if you do decide to ask your vet about it, as Fort Dodge advises, these are the questions I suggest you ask:

What evidence do you have that this vaccine protocol will actually protect my dog from any disease?

What is the benefit of this combination over vaccinating for parvo by itself? If my dog is immune to parvo already, is there any benefit in re-vaccinating him for parvo, or giving any of these vaccines at all?

Why isn't the giardia vaccine licensed to prevent giardia?

Why doesn't the AAHA recommend the giardia vaccine?

Why does not one single vet school in the United States recommend the canine coronavirus vaccine?

Advertising campaigns and marketing brochures from a company trying to sell you something are not good places to get medical advice. Not if you're a pet owner, and not if you're a veterinarian either. Because given the facts, you have to ask yourself: Was this protocol designed to treat and prevent canine disease, or treat and prevent a diminished bottom line for the vaccine manufacturer?

I don't need to ask my veterinarian to know the answer to that.

<http://www.doggedblog.com/doggedblog/2007/09/another-day-ano.html>

**\*\*Note from the Editor of NewSpots\*\*** While I have made a valiant effort to find a particular citation for the above opinions and information in a verifiable print publication, I could find none. The article as it appears above is directly quoted from an online blog by Christie Keith; the link above is to that blog entry. Ms. Keith's credits and professional citations are listed on her blog site. This article has been provided as a service to our readers and you may draw from it whatever conclusions you may and use this information however you see fit. The main goal is to get you to think before acting on something you read... maybe not take everything at face value on first glance.

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## **Canine Rabies Eradicated in the United States!**

### **U.S. free of canine rabies virus**

Maggie Fox, Health and Science Editor of Reuters News Service, reported on Friday, September 7, 2007 that the United States no longer has canine rabies. While this is great news, it does not mean that rabies is not a concern for pet owners in the U.S. Domesticated dogs and cats are still susceptible to the other viral strains of rabies most common here from skunks, raccoons and bats. So, while canine rabies is gone, we must still continue to vaccinate our dogs and cats against rabies. To read the story in its entirety on the Reuters website, please follow this link: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN0741162020070907>

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# Bits & Pieces

Ever wondered which notable people throughout history have been companions to Dalmatians? This is an interesting look at some of the more famous people who have shared their lives with Dal pals.

<http://www.rainbowsedge.us/dals/notables.pdf>



And don't forget to continue using <http://www.goodsearch.com> for all your internet search needs! Every search conducted earns more for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!

**To date we have earned \$19.10!**

## Well Made WARM Dog Coats

Anyone see the forecast yet? Winter is coming! If you want to be prepared for your short haired pal, I can personally recommend the custom coats from [www.dogcoats.com](http://www.dogcoats.com). I bought my dog coats many years ago, and although we didn't need to use them much the previous five years of warm winters, we sure used them last winter with the awful cold and deep snow!

The coats are worn like a horse blanket with a Velcro front for easy opening, and buckles that wrap under the belly. On my winter coats, the outside material is a very tightly woven nylon that repels water and wind very well and the inside is man-made fleece. I see that now they also have Polar Tec for even more warmth and wind resistance. These coats wash easily and well too. The coats are custom made just for your dog and they are so warm! Your dog will be almost hot when you remove it after being outside. Because they are so warm, I only use mine when it is 20 degrees or less or if the wind is really blowing. But, dogs run in the field so they generate lots of heat, but city dwellers that walk their dogs more probably would use them more.

When I ordered my dog coats, I measured my dogs so the sides were long enough to wrap under the belly and not quite meet in the middle. Remember to allow room for the dog's front legs to reach forward when he is walking or running as well. Don't make the front too restrictive. Too often coats you buy in stores don't cover the stomach where there is little hair and where snow and mud splash the dogs, so remember to cover that area by measuring down the side. I also measured my coats to come well down over the hind legs. I know my backend appreciates it when I cover it in the cold! If you're going to get a good winter coat for your dog, cover him so he'll be warm everywhere. This company doesn't make ear muffs but they do make dog scarves (see Greyhound page) that go over the neck and can be pulled up over the ears if necessary. You'll have to remember to talk to your dog in a



louder voice!

I neglected to put the neck collar on my coats and wish I had. When the dogs walk with their heads down sniffing, the cold air and wind go right down their spine underneath the coat, so I recommend getting the collar portion too for extra warmth. I highly recommend the style, material and quality of the coats at [www.dogcoats.com](http://www.dogcoats.com). The company has already started gearing up for fall production, so don't wait to order. You might want to beat the rush and get your coat before the cold is here!

Beth White, President  
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

These wonderful folks have adopted from us, and have kindly offered to donate a percentage of the profit to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado from their sales!! So we're happy to do a little shameless promotion for their business, can you blame us?

## BLUE HERON SAND ETCHING STUDIO

20 % of all sales donated to help our friends at Dalmatian Rescue.

Custom pet portraits carved into granite, \$75 each.

Carved name and paw print on river rock, \$20 each.

Set of 4 custom etched wine glasses, \$45 per set.

Will ship anywhere in USA

To see LOTS more stuff, please visit

<http://www.blueheronsandetching.com>

They make wonderful Christmas gifts!!!!





## The Tired Old Dog...

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home.

He followed me into the house, down the hall, and fell asleep in a corner.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out

The next day he was back, resumed his position in the hall, and slept for an hour. This continued for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar:

"He lives in a home with ten children -- he's trying to catch up on his sleep."

## Does your buddy crave a lot of exercise?

Well, here's a way you can both get a good workout that won't wear you out. It's like riding a bike in fact that's just what it is!! With SPRINGER you can take your pal with you and keep both hands on the handlebars and your buddy won't get under the wheels. Check out the SPRINGER at <http://www.springerusa.com>.



BIZARRO



## Find A Vet At Your Travel Destination

Many people travel with their pets... but most have no idea where they would go should their fur kid require medical care while traveling. Here's a place you can go to find AAHA certified veterinary hospitals nearest to your travel destination or even along the way. Using the HealthyPet.com online search tool, you can locate hospitals all over the United States and Canada. Visit their search page at [http://www.healthypet.com/hospital\\_search.aspx](http://www.healthypet.com/hospital_search.aspx).



### Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Picnic

Photo from the Dalmatian Rescue picnic at Judy's house, Sept 22, 2007. A great time was had by all who attended. The people enjoyed getting to know one another and the four footed kids had a ball playing and romping around with each other!

## \*\*\*\*\* FOSTER HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED \*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE**, we need **YOUR** help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes you probably would not have gotten your dog. **PLEASE** think about fostering a dog for Rescue so we can save lives like we saved your pet's life!! **PLEASE** give a warm home to a dog that can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and be ready for a new home. **PLEASE** help us and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained, and ready to love. **PLEASE** think about this.... Dalmatians are everywhere and literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to be until their forever home comes along. **PLEASE** be a spot for us... and for them?

**We thank you and you know any dog you help us save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help us and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!**

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# In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

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## Piper1

9 years old, female, stray  
In Foster Home

Piper is a mature lady found when she wandered into someone's yard and tried to help with their yard work. She is friendly and good with dogs and cats. She has good house manners too. How could someone not find this girl??? Piper is a real sweetheart and a total lap dog and she has an absolutely darling personality that anyone could enjoy. She is a petite girl and appears to have had several litters in the past, and although a little hard of hearing, Piper has adapted well to her foster home in Edwards.



## Phoebel



6 years old, spayed female, stray  
In Temporary Foster Home

Sweet Phoebe was found as a stray in MO. She nearly died of pneumonia right after she was put into a temporary foster home, while waiting for her ride to CO. BUT following treatment she bounced back amazingly well! This girl has guts!! She was in deplorable condition and the vet said she was in severe protein deficiency. Today this little girl is a different dog! She may not be the youngest girl on the block but she is the sweetest! She only weighed 38lbs when she arrived, but Phoebe has gotten a lot of TLC and is now at a healthy weight, but her years of neglect have left her with fused hips so she has a very unique but cute walk. She loves to shadow her

foster parents and just hang out. She is great with cats, dogs and children old enough to not be too rough with her. She is a great companion and loves walks, if they're not too fast or long. She also loves car rides. She will need a very understanding and patient family and a dog door if you don't want accidents. So if you're looking for a small, low energy, very loving girl this may be your new friend. This special case girl deserves to finally have that forever home. Phoebe is in Ft. Collins.

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## Featured Happy Beginning Story

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### Riley (formerly Token)

My life started out rough until Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado came along and saved me. With their help, I found a family that really loves me, helps me to grow, and provides me with a relationship that will last for my lifetime. One day a family of five saw my picture on the Dalmatian Rescue website, and, well, I guess they fell in love with me because I am now part of their family. They have three kids that love me very much and I love them. They play with me all of the time and take me for long walks through a beautiful canyon every morning and evening. I also have 4 acres that I love to smell and explore with my family and a big fenced area alongside the house. I love to bark at the deer and elk that come up to my fence. If I get scared, I can always run inside the house! I love sleeping in the afternoon sun when the kids are napping and playing ball with them when they wake up. I feel really lucky to have found a good home. My name is Riley Rusak and I am a success story.



 Riley Rusak 

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**Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!**

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NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

**Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!**

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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>

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