

Canine Distemper Surfaces Again May Prompt Client Questions

This email has been distributed to CVMA and DAVMS members.

Several media outlets in metro Denver have aired stories about raccoons and dogs being euthanized due to canine distemper, including coverage of an outbreak at the Colorado Humane Society (CHS) in Englewood. Because of these cases and the subsequent media attention, veterinarians are likely to experience an increase in the number of client questions about distemper. The talking points below may help you and your staff respond to questions from clients. If you receive a call from a member of the media please notify Michaela DeGraw, our manager of public relations, at 303-318-0447.

The CHS shelter is presently closed. CHS personnel contacted the CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for guidance in addressing the outbreak. Of the 50 dogs in the shelter at the time of the outbreak, 30 tested positive and were euthanized while 20 tested negative and were quarantined. The dogs that tested negative will be re-tested on Friday, April 10 and the shelter plans to resume operations shortly thereafter if the test results continue to be negative. CHS advises that any dog adopted in the last 60 days can be returned to the shelter for an eye swab and testing.

Veterinarians should update clients on the status of their dogs' vaccinations, and encourage vaccination of dogs within their communities. Veterinarians should also be on the lookout for situations where infected animals may be imported into Colorado, and be ready to advise pet stores and animal shelters on the control of this disease.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has produced a client education brochure. It is available at http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/canine_distemper/distemper_brochure.asp.

For more information on distemper contact:

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Distemper Talking Points

Distemper is an infectious (contagious) disease caused by a virus (canine distemper virus, or CDV). The virus can be spread many different ways - it is good at getting around.

Because of widespread vaccination of dogs, canine distemper is uncommon in the general dog population; it almost exclusively affects unvaccinated puppies.

If your dog has been vaccinated for distemper, it is very unlikely to develop the disease - vaccine protocols are very reliable. If your dog has not been vaccinated for distemper, it may be at risk, especially if it is a puppy - ask to review your dog's vaccine history to make sure he/she is protected.

The virus that causes canine distemper is related to the virus that causes measles in humans, but the symptoms of distemper in dogs are different than measles in humans. Symptoms of canine distemper: Initially, dogs may sneeze, cough, and have a large amount of mucus production. Some dogs may experience vomiting and diarrhea. Late in the course of the disease, dogs may have seizures, may be wobbly, weak, or paralyzed, or they may have muscle tremors.

Canine distemper is a serious disease that can cause death, but about 50% of affected dogs survive with treatment, if the disease is identified early.

Distemper is present in wildlife like raccoons and foxes. If you encounter a raccoon, skunk, or fox that is active during the day or is doing anything other than running away from you (day or night), call animal control immediately - do not try to handle the animal yourself. It's not worth being bitten or exposed to rabies!

Canine distemper is not a risk for domestic cats, humans, birds, or most small mammals. Ferrets can contract distemper, but usually are not in situations of exposure; many ferrets are vaccinated for distemper.

The current outbreak at the Colorado Humane Society (CHS) is sad, but not isolated - Shelters are especially susceptible to distemper because they typically take care of animals that have not been cared for before they reach the shelter - many are young and unvaccinated when they arrive. CHS is in a tough position - but they have been quick to act, taking the painful appropriate steps to manage the situation. The Metro Denver Shelter Alliance, CSU, and other

community partners will continue to share expertise and resources with CHS as they navigate this crisis.

If you have adopted a dog from Colorado Humane Society in the last month, watch for symptoms like nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, vomiting, or diarrhea. Although these symptoms do not necessarily mean that your dog has distemper, the sooner your dog is seen, the better.

CVMA and DAVMS would like thank Dr. Jed Rogers of Firehouse Animal Health Centers for helping create these talking points.

Cami Cacciatore

Director of Communications

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Increased Scrutiny of Flea and Tick Control Products for Pets

Tuesday, April 28th, 2009 Reprinted from: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html>

Due to a recent sharp increase in the number of incidents being reported from the use of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for pets, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is intensifying its evaluation of whether further restrictions on the use of these products are necessary to better protect pets.

Incidents with flea and tick products can involve the use of spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of the potential incidents reported to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back.

EPA-registered spot-on, topically applied flea and tick products have an EPA Registration Number on the label (look for EPA Reg. No. XXX-XX).

Incident report summary

Adverse reactions reported from the spot-on products range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and in some cases death. Over 44,000 potential incidents associated with registered spot-on products were reported to EPA in 2008. Pesticide registrants are required by law to submit information to EPA on adverse effects resulting from the use of any registered pesticide. The seven products in the table below represent about 80% of that total.

In reviewing the list of seven products, please note the following:

This information is subject to revision as new information becomes available;

This information does not account for the market share of these products;

This information does not reflect the severity of incidents;

This information does not reflect potential misuse of the products; and

If incidents are not reported by pet owners or registrants, this may affect the potential accuracy of this list.

In addition, a cause and effect relationship between these products and any individual adverse reaction or incident has not been confirmed. EPA is carefully evaluating all available data, including incident data, to help identify and if necessary, take prompt regulatory action to address risks. By collecting, compiling, and reviewing the incident data, EPA is able to make better decisions to reduce risks and target other regulatory activities.

For some of these products, the same product is distributed by another company under an agreement with the primary registrant. EPA requires that the label for the distributor product be identical to that of the primary product (in terms of uses of the product, precautions, etc.). Distributor products can be identified by having a three-part EPA registration number instead of a two-part number.

Note:

EPA has temporarily removed the list of flea and tick products previously posted on this page. The Agency is carefully reviewing the completeness of the list. Complete information will be reposted on this page as soon as this review is completed.

If you have questions or need additional information on this, please contact John Hebert in the Office of Pesticide Programs at hebert.john@epa.gov or 703-308-6249.

Regulatory agencies are taking action

Health Canada has identified similar concerns about the use of spot-on flea and tick products. Health Canada and EPA will be meeting with product manufacturers shortly to address this issue, including whether further restrictions are necessary to protect the health of pets.

With all the cautions and concerns with over-the-counter flea and tick product safety we thought that may be some of you have your own special 'brews' that you use to help with flea and tick control. So we got the bright idea that we would ask you, our readers, if you would share your homemade flea and tick treatments or remedies that do not harm your dog? Please send yours to us at dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net. Make sure to put Flea and Tick Treatment in the subject line. Thanks!

Ask The Trainer

Excitability Around Other Dogs

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Rather than responding to a question in this article, I will discuss one of my own dogs. I adopted a Smooth Collie in October 2001. He had a myriad of issues, including: a severe sensitivity to high-pitched noises, which included squeaky toys; fear of children, particularly several, noisy, and/or fast-moving children; fear of any and all types of balls; fear of anything dropping or flying through the air or moving over his head; excitability around other dogs to the point he was nearly unmanageable; stereotypic behaviors such as obsessively grooming/licking his front legs, particularly when stressed; general inability to completely relax; barking/stress response to anything in his environment that was novel or seemed out-of-the-ordinary to him. Whew! I think I covered all of it.

In this article, I will discuss his excitability around other dogs. We walked twice a day. Whenever we would encounter another dog, he was completely unresponsive to me. He shut out everything in his environment except for that other dog. He was not aggressive, but simply wanted to meet the other dog. He could put a lot of force behind his seventy pounds! Although he was friendly and an adult, his dog social skills were completely lacking and he behaved very much like an adolescent dog. Unfortunately, many dogs will react badly to these poor social skills, since they can be interpreted by other dogs as confrontational. His body, head, ears and eyes were all directed straight forward at the other dog and his weight was leaning forward as a result of pulling on the leash. From the other dog's perspective, this looks a lot like a dog who could be looking for trouble. It didn't matter that my dog didn't want a fight, because he could easily cause one to start depending on how the other dog reacted to him.

We started by working without other dogs around. He learned to check in with me, sit, and walk beside me. When we were ready, we started working at a considerable distance from the other dogs so that I could still maintain his attention. It helped that he was highly food-motivated! He learned to check in and focus on me, and walk beside me so there was no straining on the leash. As we gradually were able to approach other dogs, I used what he'd learned to help him make more appropriate approaches toward other dogs. Rather than walking straight at the other dog, we walked in an arc with his attention on me rather than staring at the other dog. Sometimes we sat with him facing to the side or away from the other dog, but never directly facing the other dog. When we were able to start greeting other dogs, I helped him to keep some focus on me as we angled in from the side, so they could sniff butts first and not meet face-to-face initially. Face-to-face contact can be a bit too much for many dogs until they've had a chance to check out the other dog first.

After quite a bit of work, he became my demonstration dog in my training and behavior consulting business. He was the dog who came with me to work with clients whose dogs also had poor social skills or were even aggressive toward other dogs. He would not react to aggressive displays by dog-aggressive dogs. I could call him away from a group of class dogs. I could ask him to come, stay, and walk nicely with me among other things in a class setting with several other dogs watching him. They all thought he was such a well-behaved dog that had no issues with other dogs. Little did they know how he started out!

Sometimes the issues we face with our dogs seem overwhelming. There is so much work to be done that it seems easier to just keep them away from other dogs, strangers, or whatever other issues they have trouble handling. But if we build a positive, loving relationship with them, and do not resort to punishment out of our own frustration, we can accomplish great things. And they will love us all the more for it!

This article is dedicated to Joxer. Due to his rapidly deteriorating health, we said goodbye on August 9, 2008.

(This "Ask The Trainer" article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, owner of Love My Dog Training and a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. Love My Dog Training is located in and services the Denver Metro Area.

<http://www.lovedogtraining.com/index.html>.)

*******Be A Pal, Save A Dal*******

PLEASE – They 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 the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closet to where you now live, so they can save lives like they saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog who can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and get ready for a new home. PLEASE help rescues 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 are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to LIVE until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for rescue and for them?

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

Bits & Pieces

Taste of Colorado... and A Note From Our Prez

Hi everyone:

We need to respond to the Taste of Colorado by May 15 whether or not we want to work a booth as a fund raiser. In the past several years we raised \$500-\$600 so it is really worthwhile. So far only one person has responded to Carie so, please, please, look at the calendar and see if you and/or any of your friends might want to work a shift and help us out.

Recently we paid nearly \$2,000 to save one little dog's life dying of pneumonia. Recently we had one of our foster dogs attacked to the tune of \$450. We also have outstanding bills of nearly \$1,000 on care of several seniors that had never received care apparently in their life. And, this doesn't include the normal day to day spays, neuters, vaccinations, boarding, shelter expenses, etc. We are very happy to take care of our friends, but we need more income to pay the bills. Simple as that.

So, please if you can, let Carie know if you can attend the Taste of Colorado next Labor Day weekend. We need to know how many there will be in your "party" and the preferred shift or day. Of course things can change between mid May and late August, but at this moment, we just need to know that you want to participate. Those who have in the past have generally had lots of fun. The Taste of Colorado is quite an institution in Denver and quite an experience too. If we don't have enough response, then we'll have to decline the invitation.

If you have questions, contact Carie at Carie.Moen@denvergov.org. My original post is below. Thanks guys! Feel free to ask friends, relatives, neighbors, workmates, etc. if they'd like to have a little fun and make a big difference!

Thanks,

Beth White

President, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc.

A Special Note from Connie Mays:

To all of my "dog" friends who are thinking about participating in the Taste of Colorado, I wanted you to know that it is one of the most fun ways ever to raise money. When I lived in Denver, I never missed the TOC, as it was very well attended, the weather was always good, and everybody was in a great mood! Then my Lions group decided to work a booth to raise money for our club. It was an absolute blast - we worked a beer and soda booth, never had time to rest, and the shift went very quickly. And we still had time to go out and enjoy the rest of the fair. The food is fantastic, the prices reasonable. It is held in downtown Denver and the streets are closed off. We raised almost \$1000 for our club in just one day. I now live two hours from Denver and work in a "seasonal" business, so it is impossible for me to take that weekend off. But I certainly would if I were able. You will laugh, drink beer, and enjoy the crowds and the sunshine - please, if you can, help our dogs in need by volunteering for this very fun event. – Connie Mays, Divide, Colorado.

Ideas For Collars

We've told you before about making sure that your dog's collars have their identification attached. But now, here are some other ways to make sure that someone has the ability to find your dog's name and phone number. While we are not specifically recommending any of these products we are simply providing them as an additional informational source for our adopters, fosters and supporters. Please follow the links to view the specifics on the products and "how to" article.

Personalized Collars from SafeTPet: <http://safetpet.com/product.php?pid=4>

Personalized Collars from J-B Wholesale Pet Supplies, Inc.: <http://www.jbpet.com/personalized-dog-collars.html>

"How To" Create Your Own Personalized Collar: <http://www.k911.biz/Petsafety/DogCollar.htm>

WARNING!! DO NOT USE COCOA MULCH **In Your Yards Or Gardens!**

As we begin working on making our yards beautiful once again, we felt it a good time to remind everyone to use caution in selecting and using mulch in areas accessible to your dogs. Unfortunately, there are still many stores selling COCOA mulch. Cocoa mulch contains a potentially lethal ingredient called 'theobromine'. This mulch smells like chocolate and can really attract dogs who may then ingest some of the mulch and could then become ill or die.



In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatian

Scotty1



5 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Deceased
Larimer Humane Society
6317 Kyle Avenue, Fort Collins, CO
(970) 226-3647
Mon-Fri 11-7. Sat-Sun 10-5

Scotty is a handsome Dalmatian x Lab mix that is a GENTLE GIANT. His dad died in January and no one in the family could keep him, but they did tell us that he is wonderful in every way. He is good with kids, cats, dogs and in the house, on the leash and in the car. His dad (was 83 yrs.) took him and the other dog for rides all the time. Scotty is currently in boarding in Ft. Collins and he would make an ideal pet for just about anyone. Scotty does weigh 97 lbs but he is not really fat, just a

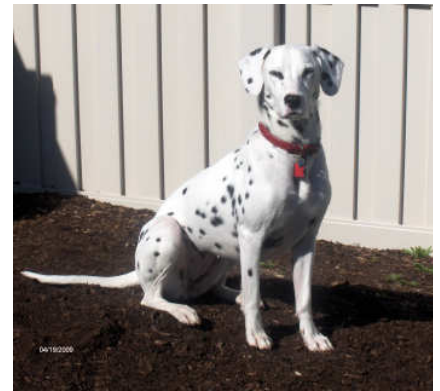
big, mellow fella. We were told mom was a lab mix and dad was apparently a Dalmatian. This big ole boy is a genuine doll!

Happy Beginning Story

Rain

Thanks to the wonderful folks at Dalmatian Rescue - Beth and Preston - for getting Rain out of animal control and helping rescue this sweet girl. My daughter got to know Beth and the group in December when she adopted her dog, Maggie (Megan). Maggie is a delight and everyone in the family loves her dearly. My daughter decided she would like to help Beth's group out with rescue and that is how Rain came into our lives. It was a cold and windy day that we drove to the Utah border to pick up Rain - my daughter's first foster dog.

Thanks to Preston for his commitment to rescue and for meeting us halfway to deliver Rain safely. We were quite surprised by how she was, just a wisp of a girl. The only thing obvious at first was that this poor girl had been underfed and underloved. The drive home was uneventful, but once we arrived - it was clear she was struggling to breathe. We rushed Rain to the emergency veterinarian where she was initially diagnosed with kennel cough. Home with meds, some food and a warm bed and family ready to love her, she soon fell asleep. The next day, we woke anticipation a more active young dog and were disappointed to find her condition deteriorating again. It was thought to take her back to the vet's, but she seemed to know how sick she was. Rain had pneumonia. She was malnourished and dehydrated to boot. Her little body just wasn't strong enough and everything seemed to be breaking down her health at once. She spent 30 long hours in oxygen and started on a series of new medications. The two weeks were long and tiring, trial and error with medications, treatments and visits to the veterinarian. The experience was also very rewarding for both my daughter and me. Given Rain's condition she needed 24 hour care and as a retiree, I was there to provide it. Steam treatments, special foods to entice her appetite, numerous meds and therapies got her through the illness and created a strong bond for me with my patient. While I knew she was supposed to be with us temporarily, I could not imagine her not staying with us forever. With everyone's support I pursued my adoption of Rain. While I may be out of the foster side of things, it is a pure delight to have this dear little girl and be her forever family. It took more than a month to get her health back, but Rain is now healthy and happy. She loves to play with her big sister, Maggie - who she worships and follows everywhere. Thank you again to everyone who helped rescue Rain!



Barbara
Meridian, ID

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!!

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 25th of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Send submissions to the Editor at: spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!
6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 **Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963** Fax: 970-377-9509

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>

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 dog'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 are 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!