



Tribal Tales



The 2013 Summer Newsletter for the Chief Solano Kennel Club

As you know, there are no meetings (other than Training Classes on Wednesdays) that are held in July but this Newsletter will hopefully serve to keep us all together and informed. With the weather in the triple digits many days this month, let's all try to keep an eye out for dogs in distress due to lack of shade or water. Never take your dog shopping with you unless you plan to take the dog in the store also. Many stores accept well behaved dogs. Needless to say in the hot weather, never to leave your dog tied outside or in the car.



Diseases from Dogs

Although dogs can pass germs to people, you are not likely to get sick from touching or owning dogs. To best protect yourself from getting sick, thoroughly wash your hands with running water and soap after contact with dogs, dog saliva, or dog feces (stool).

Dogs can carry a variety of germs that can make people sick. Some of these germs are common and some are rare. For example, puppies may pass the bacterium *Campylobacter* in their feces (stool). This germ can cause diarrhea in people. Puppies and some adult dogs often carry a variety of parasites that can cause rashes or illness in people.

Less often, dogs in urban or rural areas can carry the bacterium *Leptospira* (lep-TO-spy-ruh). This germ causes the disease leptospirosis (lep-to-spi-roh-sis) in people and animals. Dogs can also carry rabies, a deadly viral disease. Rabies from dogs is rare in the United States.

Some people are more likely than others to get diseases from dogs. A person's age and health status may affect his or her immune system, increasing the chances of getting sick. People who are more likely to get diseases from dogs include infants, children younger than 5 years old, organ transplant patients, people with HIV/AIDS, and people being treated for cancer. Special advice is available at AKC.com for people who are at greater risk than others of getting diseases from animals.

BRUSHA BRUSHA



Every night before going to bed I sing my dog the **Brusha Brusha Song**. He knows the drill. He sits and 'lets' me brush his teeth as I continue to sing the song. Now you do not have to sing but brushing your dogs teeth is VERY important way to insure lasting good health, clean breath, and a pretty smile. It is not too difficult if you start them early and brush gently every night. Never use human toothpaste however as it can be toxic to dogs. There are many pastes and gels on the market that are very dog friendly.

From Cesar Millan

The best ways to manage your dog's behavior:

1. Create a schedule that includes a daily 30- to 45-minute power-walk in the morning, at the very least. This is critical for your dog's health, both physical and mental.
2. Set aside time every day to provide mental exercise by maintaining rules, boundaries and limitations. When these needs are met, the affection you give to your dog will be channeled as a reward.
3. Always walk out the door ahead of your dog when leaving the house. This will show your dog who is in the leadership role. On walks, make sure that your dog is not in front of you, pulling you down the street. Instead, keep your dog to your side or behind you. This will also demonstrate to your dog that you are the alpha figure.
4. Give your dog something to do before you share food, water, toys or affection. This way the dog earns his treat. For example, have him or her perform the "sit" or "down" command.

5. Dogs seek attention from you. But by paying them that attention when they want it, you're reinforcing the bad or hyperactive or anxious behavior that you're trying to avoid. Practice -- no touch, no talk, no eye contact -- and see how you fare. You might be surprised at how quickly the dog settles down and looks to you as his pack leader for direction.

It could be the law

States like New Jersey and California are considering a pet seat belt law. Within this law, the state requires that your pooch be securely buckled when going on a joy ride. Meant to keep dogs from being a driver distraction, this law would require up to \$1,000 fine and considered animal cruelty if ignored. Check your state for specific requirements about your pooch.

Distraction

Dogs are more of a distraction than your cell phone. With interest in the road and sitting in your lap, an unsecured dog could cause you to get into an accident. If Fido is buckled in a [safety harness](#) available on Amazon, your eyes can stay on the road and not on him.

Accident prone

The average weight of a male Labrador retriever is 65 to 80 pounds. Now imagine that flying! According to [Bark Buckle UP](#), a dog can weigh up to 2,700 pounds when flying at the speed of 35 mph. Not only will this hurt the animal, but also the people that the dog hits while flying. Keep your pooch buckled up with a [seat belt strap](#) from PetSmart for \$7 to help keep him restrained if you are in an accident.

Pet injury

Keeping your large pooch in a regular seat belt will aid in preventing his own injury. With sudden stops, standing dogs and the unknown conditions of the road, your dog can easily injure himself in the car. Not to mention, an accident, which could allow him to fly through the window if he is sitting shotgun.



Outside conditions

Your pet can get even more injured when he's in the bed of a truck — increment weather and people can easily hurt the pup hanging in the back. [Buckle-Up-Pup](#) offers a harness system ranging from \$55 to \$70 that will keep your pooch restrained to the bed of the truck. With a variety of colors, this will keep your pup from moving (or hitting) side to side when riding in the back.

Small details

Little pets can get injured the most in a moving vehicle. In a SUV, there are a lot of places your littlest pet can hide. Keep petite pups restrained in a [dog car seat](#) available from Doctors Foster and Smith for \$70. Not only will your pet be restrained, you won't forget about or lose it.

PET INSURANCE

Protecting your pet with pet insurance is a smart decision. Who wouldn't want to be reimbursed for veterinary bills? Many plans are easy-to-understand and can be customized to meet your budget and your pet's needs. They often are able to help reimburse common and costly vet bills. Veterinary bills can catch you off guard. We never know when

you dog might develop allergies, or eat the entire contents of the kitchen garbage can. Pre-planning how you will pay for these unexpected accidents or illnesses could be life-saving for your pet. Pet insurance is a safety net for many pet parents, and allows them to focus on getting treatment for their pet, and not having to make the tragic decision not to treat due to high costs. It is much easier to budget a known monthly pet insurance premium than an unexpected veterinary bill that is thousands of dollars.

Keep Your dog Fit and Sharp:

'Find It'

At our house we play a fun game to keep Charley from being 'bored'. We send him into another room, make him sit and close the door. Then we take a scented treat and hide it somewhere in the room...or near the cat bed... We open the door dramatically and say "FIND IT!". Charley becomes 'Super Tracker' until he finds the treat...or the cats eat it.

The 'Bungie Jump Game'

Another game that is so much fun to play is "BUNGIE JUMP." This game is better with small dogs inside. Larger dogs do well outside unless you have enough room inside. To play,

tie a [Kong](#) or [Donut](#) toy to a strong cord and hang it in a doorway on from a bar strung between two supports. Place a treat in the toy and encourage your dog to jump up and retrieve the treat. As your dog gets better at jumping, 'raise the bar' to encourage more and more exercise training. You may also consider using an elastic cord to make it more interesting. The trick for some would be to use low calorie treats too insure the exercise is building muscle instead of fat.

The 'Muffin Tin Game'

This is a fun and easy game for any size dogs but especially fascinating to Labs and Golden Retrievers. You need at least 6 tennis balls (but 12 is even better) and a muffin tin. Put some treats in a few of the spaces and cover them and as many others as you have tennis balls too fill. Have you dog sit and stay until you release him and watch him figure out how to sniff out the goodies. Is especially fun to watch ball lover dogs play this game because they so LOVE the balls they often get sidetracked playing with and chewing the balls and forget the treats. Two issues to note...after the dog finds all the goodies...they get to play with a dizzying selection of BALLS! Warning...If you have a clever dog...you may have to nail the tin to a large board.....

THANK YOU SUSAN!



This finale page is a tribute and Thank You to the skill and dedication of our Tireless Trainer...Susan Sakala. For more than a year now, I have watched her every Wednesday night at 6:30 at the Elmira Fire Station, train class after class with a wide variety of dogs, young, old, large, small shy, loud and sometimes very stubborn. Round and round they go heeling, sitting, laying and staying put. Somehow Susan has the patience to deal with both dogs and owners that makes both feel encouraged and successful. Both Karen Glover and Christy Smith often help demonstrate 'How it is done' in a very low key and non intimidating way that makes it look so easy and natural that everyone believes they can achieve the same behavior with their dogs. When I encourage people to come to our classes, all I can promise them is that with their participation and

Susan's guidance...**IT WORKS!**

AND THERE IS MORE!

Every Wednesday night Susan trains for CGC, Canine Good Citizen at 6:30 and STAR Puppy at 6. Now, there are many members that are also interested in practicing for Rally and Obedience Trials.



Miraculously, Susan has stepped up to the plate again. Susan and Karen often set up a Rally Ring on Monday Nights behind the Police Station. They take all dogs and owners who show up through a variety of directions to prepare both dog and handler to be successful in many Rally and Obedience situations. **It is nothing short of AMAZING!**



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Well, while I'm at it, I will mention how impressive our attendance at the Confirmation Classes has been now that Roger

Wendorff and Cynthia Cool have teamed up to offer

'hands on' tips, guidance and practice to all those interested in gaining 'points' in the Show Ring. **Outstanding!** Confirmation class instruction is also held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 right after training classes.

With such examples of the quality and caliber of our members, not to mention the many other benefits of being in the **Chief Kennel Club**, it is no wonder our membership is growing.

