

The Hounds' Bugle





THE HOUNDS' BUGLE

February

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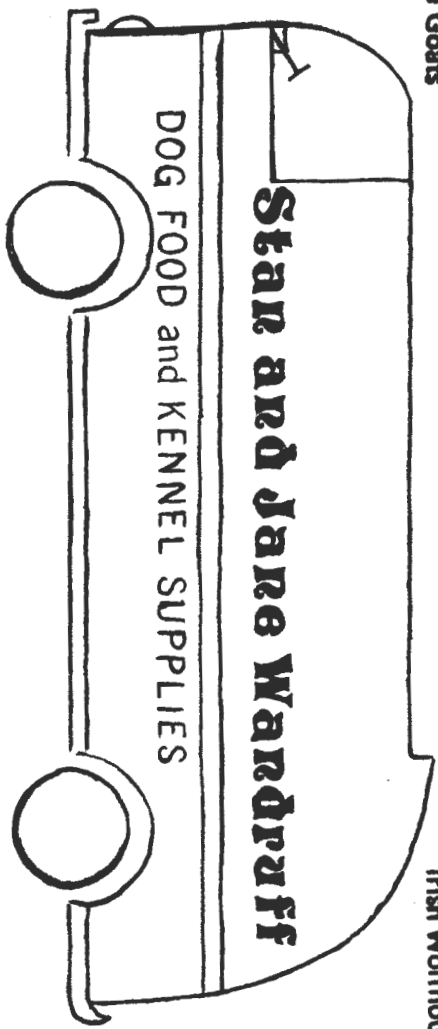
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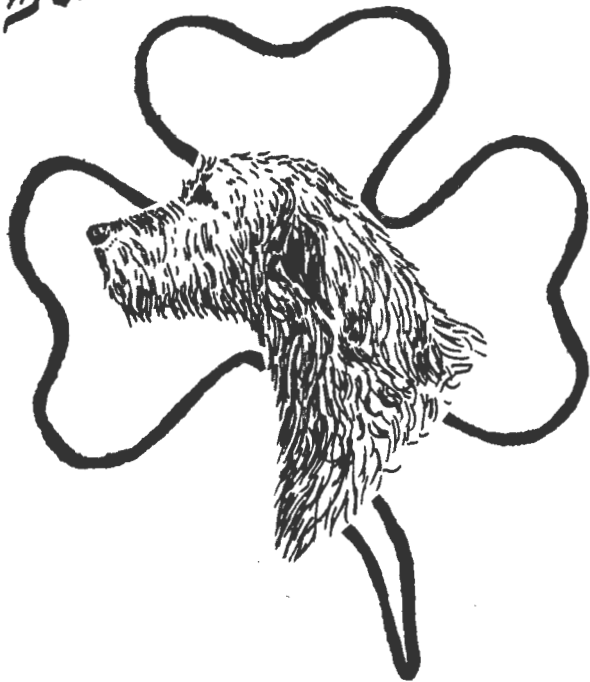
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE HOUNDS' BUGLE

FEBRUARY 1976

Features

Bloat Panel Report.....	14
Training.....	20
"Just a Pup".....	25
Is Commode Water Safe?.....	28

Departments

Roving Around.....	6
NCIWC Fun Match.....	8
Show Biz.....	11
Professor I W	12
Open Field Results.....	30

Anyone who wishes a copy of THE HOUNDS' BUGLE or a copy of NCIWC meeting minutes may do so by writing to the BUGLE or to the club secretary.

6. *Roving*

BOOK REVIEW!!!!!!!!!!

The Health and Happiness of Your Old Dog by George D. Whitney, D.V.M. is the first and only book on canine geriatrics. It is a helpful, hopeful, and readable guide to what you can do to help your dog live a long, pain-free, and active life.

MISSING PERSON!!!!!!

Ann Sweeney is trying to contact a Mr. Dinkus of Ft. Worth, Texas, who is a wolfhound owner. Ann has lost his address and would appreciate it if any of you who might know Mr. Dinkus could provide her with his mailing address.

WHAT IS A "WOBLER"?

Is it a little singing bird? A new dance step? A drunken sailor? No, it is a problem plaguing Great Danes and many other breeds of dogs, that was originally diagnosed in thoro-

bred race horses. There is always a reason for any movement problem and a "wobbler's" troubles begin in his spinal cord. The \$52 name for the disease is Spondylolisthesis which translates to mean pinching, even erosion of the spinal column, affecting the nerves that control movement. Thus a "wobbler" wobbles in varying degrees, depending upon the severity of his affliction.

Have you ever sat at ringside, or in your own backyard, and noticed the dog with a funny little hitch in his "get-along" that didn't quite fit into a neat classification of rear-end faults? At first you thought he lacked any drive, but on the diagonal he could be crossing over. As he is going away you'd almost swear he is dysplastic, but you can't really name it. Not

Around 7.

every dog with a bad rear is a "wobbler," but every "wobbler" has a bad rear! This problem has long been with us, but in the elusive pursuit of the perfect dog, careful breeders are beginning to uncover a hideous hereditary monster.

The "wobbler," in no matter what degree, has cervical vertebra malformation which triggers the spinal-cord damage that impairs his movement, and this, tragically, will inevitably be passed on to his offspring.

The "wobbler" expresses his ailment in varying degrees. His lesion may be minor; therefore, his impairment may only be slight, causing only a wiggle in his walk. Perhaps several vertebrae are involved, denoting major damage to his spinal-cord...

Signs of "wobblers" in your (dog) can be:

1. Severe incoordina-

tion;


2. A typically pinched rear.

3. An exaggerated roach of the back;

4. Collapse of the rear under pressure;

5. A tendency to "kangaroo-hop" instead of a natural gait;

6. Hackney gait in extreme cases.

The author, Sylvia Bonnet, is a breeder of Great Danes. 

IWAWC YEARBOOK

Irish Wolfhounds of the West will

see its second edition this Spring (1976). Reservations are now being taken for picture space by Pat Huntley.



1,2,3,4,...1,2,3,4...

All IW owners interested in marching in the San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade should meet at Montgomery and Pine in S.F., March 14th, 12:00PM. Bring your Wolfhound too!!!

NCIWC FUN MATCH

8.

The Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club held its first winter fun match on January 18, 1976, in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Despite competition from the Super Bowl, there was a large turnout of IWs who were rewarded with a perfect day, a ring the size every dog show devotee dreams of, and a thoroughly enjoyable gathering.

The puppies stole the show, as usual, with their antics, but there was also quite a bit of interest shown in the performance of the obedience dogs. Everyone had a chance to relax and talk over a spaghetti luncheon, which added to the fun atmosphere of the day.

Subscriptions to The Gazehound were contributed by Capt. and Mrs. James Ward and Ms. Nancy King Aiken to be awarded to the BOB puppy and BOB adult. The NCIWC is going to make a donation to support torsion research from the proceeds of the match.

Several people contributed to the success of the match: Ron Henson, our efficient and friendly ring steward; Nancy Aiken and Jeanne Blanchette, planning and preparing the lunch; Jim Locke, help in setting up; Betty and Boardy Moore, announcing equipment and obedience jumps; and Ken Gabriel and Harold Major, sale of raffle and lunch tickets. A special thanks goes to our judges, Don Rogers and Chuck Hayden, for donating their time and doing an excellent job.

Bruce & Kelly Cromer

Total dogs entered	-	31	
Total entries	-	32	
Conformation	28	-	Absentees 3
Obedience	4	-	Absentees 1

Fun Match Results

Puppies

9.

2-4 mos. Puppy Dog

1. Connemara's Devlin - Wandruff
2. The Deacon of Connemara - Wandruff
3. Major Acres Simon of Engerth - Engert & Major

4-6 mos. Puppy Dog

1. Danny Boy of Tara Hts. - Tara
2. Catch the Winds Bay Wolf - Flagg

6-9 mos. Puppy Dog

1. Lord Murphy McCool - Gural & Walters
2. Briar Rihail Finn Bran - Gural & Walters

9-12 mos. Puppy Dog

1. Timberlane Finnbar Ui Neill - L. Moore
2. Major Acres Xcaliber - Gabriel & Major

2-4 mos. Puppy Bitch

1. Major Acres Stubby of Engerth - Engert & Major
2. Connemara's Dana - Kolb
3. Connemara's Dusty - Wandruff

4-6 mos. Puppy Bitch

1. Major Acres Everstar Puffin - Major

6-9 mos. Puppy Bitch

1. Major Acres Etiquet Engerth - Major & Engert

9-12 mos. Puppy Bitch

1. Timberlane Martha Corey - Shaw
2. Timberlane Pooka T'Yeer N'An Og - L. Moore
3. Major Acres Lady Xantha - Susoiev

BOB Puppy - Timberlane Martha Corey

BOS Puppy - Timberlane Finnbar Ui Neill

10. Fun Match Results (cont.)

Adults

Novice Dog

1. Major Acres Red Warrior - Rockwell
2. Cormac O'Maghnus of Pendragon - Henson

Bred by Exhibitor Dog

1. Major Acres Ulaid - Major

American Bred Dog

1. Majestic Prince of Tara Hts. - Tara

Novice Bitch

1. Catch the Wind's Minella - Tara & Flagg

Bred by Exhibitor Bitch

1. Major Acres Blessemall - Major

Open Bitch

1. Major Acres Miss Universe - Locke
2. Timberlane Oona Ard Ri - L. Moore

BOB Adult - Major Acres Blessemall

BOS Adult - Majestic Prince of Tara Hts.

Obedience

Novice Y

1. Major Acres Xcaliber - Gabriel & Major

Novice A

1. Viva's Megan O'Shea of Pern - Cromer &
Rothwell

Open A

1. Ch. Major Acres Just Plain Calvin CD - B.
Moore & Major

12.

Professor I. W.



Dear Professor I. W.,

I have just taken home an I.W. puppy, and I am very happy to have him part of my family. But one thing worries me. I have been to several dog shows and have watched I.W.'s being shown. I am amazed at the obvious variation in weight among mature males and females. My question is how do I know what weight is right for my dog? Should I keep him as lean as some dogs I've seen or should I let him carry "a little extra" to make sure he has a substantial lock?

Sincerely yours,

A Concerned Owner

Dear C. C.,

Personally, I prefer to stay in hard, muscular shape. I do this with a proper diet and as much exercise as I can possibly get. If my owner runs his hand down my back, he can feel my vertebrae, yet they do not protrude when I stand. My hip bones are also easily felt, and they are not covered with any noticeable amount of padding. Last, my Vet told my owner to feel around my ribs and the deepest part of my brisket or chest. If my ribs show, I am too lean. But upon feeling them, my ribs and chest should be covered with firm, muscled flesh. Finally, I'm usually overweight when my loin (waist) is missing. This is obvious when my loin, rib cage, and hips all appear to be equal when viewed

13.
from above. When I am in this condition,
I very often "roll" when I move.

Yours,

Professor J.W.

Dear Readers,

If any of you have any ideas about correct weight, please send them in care of the BUGLE. I know there is considerable debate over the proper weight in growing puppies. Some keep puppies slender, while others keep puppies "hefty" to "give them something to grow on." On the other end of the scale are our geriatric dogs. Proper weight is especially important as the dog grows older, and so many owners keep their older dogs "fat and happy."

Professor I.W.

I'd like to comment briefly on the article in the last issue of the Bugle which advocated first aid home treatment for bloat. The dog owner's response to this kind of emergency should be the same as the parent's response to poison ingestion by a child. Get to professional help immediately. The current medical opinion is that the time spent by inept, ineffective treatment of life-threatening conditions is better spent travelling toward real help. Unless you are out in the Rockies with your hound there is no reason to subject him to the procedures recommended in that article.

As for stabbing your hound in the abdomen with a "suitable hollow object," DON'T DO IT. Get him to a vet. This well-intentioned first aid may result in an injury just as serious as the bloat it was meant to alleviate.

Bruce Cromer

Morris Animal Foundation, 531 Guaranty Bank Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado 80202

CANINE BLOAT PANEL

A panel discussion of acute gastric dilatation (bloat) in dogs was held at the annual meeting of the Morris Animal Foundation June 7, 1975, at Stouffer's Denver Airport Inn. Members of the panel were:

- Dean Charles E. Cornelius, D.V.M., Ph.D., University of Florida, Gainesville, Chairman.
- Priscilla K. Stockner, M.S., D.V.M., consultant to the American Kennel Club, Puyallup, Washington - "Problems as seen by the Breeder."
- Mike D. Levitt, M.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis - "Experiences in Man."
- Erie E. Bartley, Ph.D., Kansas State University, Manhattan - "Experiences with Ruminants."
- William D. DeHoff, D.V.M., Animal Medical Center, New York City - "Clinical Observations."
- Jordan R. Dann, D.V.M., Ridgefield Veterinary Hospital, Connecticut - "Clinical Observations."
- Herbert J. Van Kruiningen, D.V.M., Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs - "Pathological Considerations."
- Wayne Wingfield, M.S., D.V.M., University of Georgia, Athens - Pathophysiology."

The panel recommended a special working committee be appointed to implement the specific activities and evaluate developments in the study of the disease. The committee should include: (1) epidemiologist, (2) physiologist, (3) representative of the breeders, (4) nutritionist, (5) veterinary surgeon, (6) veterinary internist, (7) neurologist, (8) pathologist.

It was recommended that such a committee:

1. Work with the University of Georgia to set up guidelines for practitioners and provide equipment necessary to treat bloat, based on present knowledge.

2. Study feed-flora interaction and the relationship of diet to bloat.
3. Study the physiology and mechanics of gas production and elimination.
4. Study the anatomy and physiology of large-chested dogs vs. small-chested dogs.
5. Continue to study surgical and medical approaches to treating bloat.
6. Meet and function on a regular basis.

Summary of Discussion

Acute gastric dilatation, or bloat, is a poorly understood canine disorder that takes the lives of thousands of dogs per year in the United States. Most of its victims are among the large-chested breeds — Great Danes, German Shepherds, etc.

In an attempt to lay the groundwork for a coordinated study of this disease, the Morris Animal Foundation sponsored a panel discussion by representatives of several areas of research.

Dr. Stockner began the discussion by stressing the concern of the dog breeders. Of paramount importance to the breeder, she said, is the need for three things:

1. An accurate statistic, giving the incidence of bloat: the breeds affected, the families or lines of dogs that seem to have a predisposition to the disease.
2. A collection of clinical data and case histories about the disease. These records could be computerized and meaningful information possibly obtained from this centralized bank of knowledge.
3. A definition of heritability patterns, if they exist, so breeders could foresee problems and could work to eliminate the disease through careful breeding.

Dr. Dann then described the symptoms and mechanics of the disorder, and stressed the need for immediate knowledgeable intervention. He said bloat usually follows a big meal and the consumption of large amounts of water. If there is a torsion (twist of the stomach along a head-to-tail axis) or a volvulus (twist on a vertical axis), it is always clockwise. The stomach is closed off and its contents cannot escaped. Gases produced by the digestive process inflate the stomach, possibly to basketball-size. The dog is in intense pain and cannot vomit.

The twisting interferes with the flow of blood from the other digestive organs, causing the dog to go into shock from lack of blood reaching the heart. The pressure from the swelling against the diaphragm makes breathing difficult.

Dr. Dann said all cases of bloat do not necessarily include twisting of the stomach. For unknown reasons, bloating can occur in a normally positioned stomach.

He recommended that, in every case, a needle be inserted into the stomach to release trapped gas, allowing the dog to breathe more easily and gaining time for further treatment. If a stomach tube can be passed, surgery often can be avoided.

Dr. Dann devised a simple stomach pump, using a vacuum cleaner, five-gallon jar, clear vinyl stomach tube and an automotive vacuum gauge. The dog is treated for shock, then given antacid after the stomach is pumped. Then an X ray is taken to determine whether the stomach is twisted.

If the tube cannot be passed, the organs must be realigned surgically.

An operation should also be performed to weaken the muscle regulating the passage of food from the stomach to the small intestine. This permits material to pass rapidly through the stomach and may help prevent further episodes of bloat. In cases successfully vacuumed, this should be done about two weeks after the attack.

But recurrence is still frequent. Dr. Dann said prevention is the only answer.

Dr. Bartley explained bloat in cattle, which are susceptible due to the nature of their digestive systems. Materials in high-protein legumes, such as young clover, cause dense foam to form in the rumen and the animal is unable to expel the foam by eructation. Other factors, such as the amount of salivation and the type of bacteria present, also are involved. An antifoaming agent is on the market.

Another form of ruminant bloat, grain bloat, is caused by chains of bacteria, which produce a slime that traps fermentation gases. A quaternary ammonium compound similar to the active ingredient of some mouthwashes does apparently prevent the formation of this slime, but has not yet been approved for use.

Dr. Levitt then explained the problem of bloat in humans. In man, acute gastric dilatation is extremely rare. A bigger problem is the passage of intestinal gas formed by bacteria in the large intestine. The presence of these bacteria is apparently determined by environment. Dr. Levitt theorized that they may be acquired from the mother early in life.

Next, Dr. DeHoff described the steps he takes in treating bloat cases. The first thing is to determine whether the bloat is caused by a simple dilatation or by a volvulus. If a stomach tube can be passed, it is assumed to be a simple dilatation. If not, surgery is performed immediately. The organs are realigned, the pyloric muscle is cut and, in some cases, the stomach is fastened to the body wall to prevent excessive movement. If the blood flow was impaired too drastically, parts of the stomach could be dead and require removal. In addition, the spleen may have been damaged and may have to be removed.

Summing up, Dr. DeHoff said a combination of surgical techniques is more effective than simply repositioning the stomach.

Dr. Van Kruiningen sought to demonstrate the bacterial origin of canine bloat. He said analysis of stomach contents of dogs that had died from bloat revealed that the trapped gas was carbon dioxide and hydrogen, and that these had been formed by bacterial action. Microscopic examination, he said, showed large numbers of bacilli and clostridia (gas-producing bacteria). He said most dogs have clostridia in their stomachs and, given the right conditions, could develop the condition. A diet containing soybean meal or predigested cereal foods could cause these microorganisms to proliferate and become fermentative.

Dr. Van Kruiningen stressed that many factors must come together to produce the condition, and attempts to artificially induce bloat generally fail.

Dr. Wingfield outlined the various changes that take place in the dog's body as a bloat condition progresses. Apparently, dilatation takes place first, often followed by torsion. Volvulus, the final, most dangerous stage, may or may not develop.

In an experiment, Dr. Wingfield inserted a balloon into the stomach of an anesthetized dog and gradually inflated it, simulating dilatation. The blood supply from the heart to the abdominal organs was not affected, but the venous return to the heart was decreased. The blood vessels of the stomach and spleen became massively congested.

As inflation continued, the stomach began its clockwise twist, carrying the spleen with it until that organ occupied the entire right side of the abdominal wall. Dr. Wingfield expressed concern that passing a needle into the stomach to release the gas might damage the spleen.

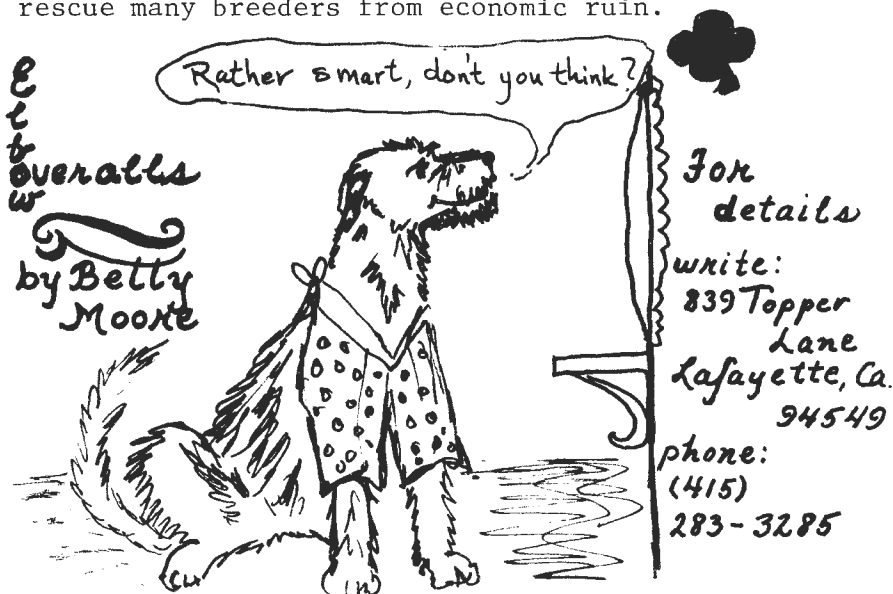
The blood swelling the pinched-off vessels of the stomach sought a secondary route through the veins of the vertebral column, which themselves became swollen. Shock set in. The portal vein, which carries blood from the digestive tract back to the

heart, was unable to adequately function and toxins built up in the blood. Dr. Wingfield said stoppage of the portal vein, and the resulting toxic conditions, are probably the major cause of death in bloat cases.

If the dilatation is not corrected quickly, portions of the stomach could die and slough. The ability of blood to clot, as well as the functioning of cells and tissues may be seriously affected by a prolonged dilatation. Time is the crucial factor.

Discussion by the panel and the audience, composed of veterinarians and dog fanciers, covered a broad range of mysteries about this disease. Why does it show up in large-chested dogs, but rarely in smaller-chested breeds? What are the long-term effects of diet on a dog's predisposition to develop bloat? What effect does lack of exercise have on large dogs confined to apartment living? And why is it so difficult to artificially induce the condition.

The panel posed more questions than it answered, and it is hoped that the discussion will provide the impetus for an intensive study of this heart-breaking disease. An understanding of how to treat and prevent acute gastric dilatation could save thousands of dogs from suffering and death, and rescue many breeders from economic ruin.



Generally speaking, it is more difficult to housebreak a dog that must be left by itself during working hours. But this doesn't mean that the job is impossible or that working people shouldn't own dogs.

If the working dog owner takes a realistic approach to the problems that are involved in housebreaking a dog that must stay by itself for eight hours a day, there is no reason why the animal cannot be housebroken quickly and with a minimum of aggravation.

Age Is Important

It is important that the dog owner be realistic in his expectations. Very young puppies (under five months old) generally do not have the bladder control to hold themselves for an eight-hour period. It is not fair to expect any animal to perform beyond its physical capabilities. Therefore you can't expect miracles with a very young dog.

Basic Strategy

Your goal is to teach the dog that he is to relieve himself out of doors only. The way to accomplish this is by a program of frequent walks when you are home and confinement for the dog when you are not home. The confinement is crucial because dogs are naturally clean animals who do not like to foul the area in which they eat and sleep. By confining the dog you are conditioning him not to do anything until he leaves the confined area. Since the only time he will leave the area is when you take him outside, he will soon make the connection that going outside means that he can do his duty.

I would advise working dog owners to use the following schedule:

1. Walk the dog as soon as you get up in the morning.
2. Feed the dog; water the dog.
3. Walk the dog again before you leave for the day.
4. Confine the dog to one area of the house.
5. Walk the dog immediately upon returning home.
6. Feed the dog; water the dog; and walk the dog again.
7. Two hours later walk the dog.
8. Walk the dog before retiring for the night.

Important Points

With respect to the above schedule, the following points should be remembered:

Correction and Praise: Any housebreaking program is going to involve mistakes and accidents. If the dog has an accident when you are at work, don't bother correcting him. He won't know what you are talking about. Simply mop it up and deodorize the spot. Correction should only be used if you actually catch the dog in the act of doing something wrong. (*Pet News*, Oct. 75.)

When the dog does the right thing on one of his walks, it is very important that you praise him lavishly.

Confinement: It is absolutely essential that the dog be confined. Not only will it protect your home, but it will actually force the dog to hold it in because of his natural inclination not to foul his nest.

While confinement is a powerful training method, it should not be misused. If you have a very young dog it isn't fair to confine him to a very small space because he might not be able to control himself for eight hours. The pressure on the little dog caused by the small space is upsetting and

22.

counterproductive to your training effort. Give a young pup a larger space so if he has to go he doesn't have to sit in it.

As the dog gets older and better able to control himself the confinement space can be a little smaller.

I would suggest using a bathroom, part of a kitchen or a hallway as the confinement space and I feel that it is very important to confine the dog by using a see-through puppy gate rather than a solid door. The puppy gate softens the confinement because the dog can look out and won't be as alarmed or panicked when he is left alone.

Paper: Unless you are interested in paper training your dog in lieu of housebreaking (see below), don't use paper in the confinement area. Instead, make sure that the area you use has a hard floor that is easy to clean.

Water: There might be some temptation to withhold water from the dog in an attempt to keep the animal from urinating when you aren't home. Don't do it. It is important for a young pup's health to have fresh water available.

The whole idea of the above program is to make the connection in the dog's mind that going outside means that he can relieve himself. You can aid your program significantly by praising the dog when he responds correctly.

Indoor Toilet Facilities

It is incorrect to assume that every dog has to be housebroken. There are many reasons both ecological and personal which would make a dog owner want his or her pet to make use of indoor toilet facilities.

This method consists of teaching the dog to relieve itself on newspaper in a specific spot in the home. It is a method that will appeal to dog owners who cannot walk their dogs easily, who are not at home on a regular basis or who feel that folding up a few sheets of soiled newspaper is more convenient than the rigors of taking the dog to the curbside.

It goes without saying that this method is much tidier to implement for smaller dogs.

A Paper Program

Paper training is relatively simple because it doesn't involve a feeding and walking schedule. Here's a recommended procedure:

1. Select an area that will serve as your dog's indoor toilet. Use a little foresight and pick an out-of-the-way spot where use of the facilities won't be embarrassing or esthetically displeasing to you or your guests. A bathroom or hallway are good possibilities.
2. Paper the area completely.
3. Confine the dog to the area by using a puppy gate.
4. Keeping the dog in the enclosure will force him to go on the paper. Many dogs will tend to pick a single spot by themselves. If not, you can take some of the soiled sheets of paper and position it in the desired spot within the confined area. The dog will soon get the idea and then you can take away the rest of the paper, leaving only the single spot covered.

Praise the dog lavishly when he uses the spot and correct him if he misses the paper. If you let him out of the confined space, watch him closely and if he makes a mistake correct him with a good firm "NO."

Also, be sure to deodorize all spots off the paper where accidents have occurred.

While mistakes are inevitable, don't allow them to get out of hand. If you find this happening, confine the dog to his area more often.

There is the additional problem with male dogs when they begin to raise their legs to urinate. This can best be solved by placing their paper next to a wall and tacking up plastic sheeting. Take care that male pups don't take aim at drapes or curtains instead of the plastic target you provide. If they do, give verbal correction immediately and use Nilodor to deodorize the spot.

Feeding Schedule for Paper Training

There is no special feeding schedule required if you are paper training your dog. Give food whenever it is convenient. In fact, if you are away during the day, it is possible to purchase devices which will feed the dog automatically at preset times.

Make Up Your Mind

Some people ask about training a dog to be both paper trained and housebroken. While it is possible, it is difficult and I wouldn't recommend that the average dog owner attempt this type of training. The best plan of action is to determine which method of toilet training is best for your dog and your style of life and work toward that goal.

Matthew Margolis is President of the National Institute of Dog Training.

JUST A PUP

I'm just a little fellow, I'm only six weeks old,
And I'm trying awfully hard, to do the things I'm told.

My sense of understanding, is not as great as it
might be,
But I'll be patient with you, if you'll do the same
with me.

When I do the things I shouldn't, I trust that you'll
forebear,
And instead of whipping me, you'll pick me up
with care.

You're going to be my master, for many years on end,
So treat me with loving kindness, and I'll always be
your friend.

If at night I cry a bit, Oh, Master see me thru,
I miss my mama awful much, while I'm getting used
to you.

Sometimes I may cry loud, and it's really not a fake,
If you gave me something I shouldn't have, and I've
got a belly-ache.

Or maybe something you forgot, to feed me when you
should,
If your mother did that to you, would you smile and
just be good?

The only way that I can tell you, when things are
not just so,
Is with my eyes, my tail and bark, so they will let
you know.

When I start to smell the rug, and quickly run around,
Just pick me up fast as you can, and put me on the
ground.

26.

I really don't mean to be bad, and it will help alot,
If every time you take me out, it's to the self same
spot.

Don't try to teach me tricks, that I'll learn when I
grow up,
Just remember I'm a little guy, in fact, I'm just a
pup.

When I get past six months in age, this is time enough,
To start to teach me obedience, and then it won't be
tough.

Don't slap a paper at everything I do, or lay it on
my fanny,
Just scolding me when I do wrong, will bring results
uncanny.

Remember I should eat four times a day. My tummy is
awful small,
Don't give me too much at a time, for I just can't
eat it all.

You'll hear of lots of fancy foods, they claim that
pups should eat,
But Master, please listen now to me, most of all give
me plain red meat.

When you pick me up, Don't chase me cuss and damn;
Just squat down low and tell me, 'Come' and I'll
be there, meek as a lamb.

When I do things you wish, Pat my head and let me
know
That you appreciate the effort made, and more fond of
you I'll grow.

To heel, to stay, to beg, and speak, I'll learn them
all in stride,
And if I don't grasp them all at once, Won't be
because I haven't tried.

No matter if you're rich or poor, Or black or white
or red,
I'll always be a faithful friend, Until the day I'm
dead.

Just treat me like one of your folks, Be kind,
whether down or up,
With one thought only in your mind, I'm only just
a pup.

Anonymous



IS COMMODE WATER UNSAFE FOR OUR CANINE FRIENDS?

by Dr. Persinger

It has been brought again to our attention that animal owners sometimes deliberately permit their dogs to drink from the bathroom commodes undoubtedly thinking that any recently flushed toilet would be free from infectious agents — which could produce diseases in the pets and also the owners through contact with the animal.

Water can be and is one of the best carriers of disease producing organisms. This is one reason why health officials are constantly checking water supplies being used for human and animal consumption.

In recent discussions with a Waukesha County Health Official, it was stated that city chlorinated water would have to stand at least two hours, (after flushing the commode), in order to make the water barely potable, or acceptable for human use. This, of course, would be under optimal conditions such as a recent disinfection of the commode with a highly germicidal agent such as phenol, and thorough mechanical cleaning with a brush that can reach crevices and bottom parts of the commode. It must be remembered that the water coming into the commode is not contaminated; instead, it is the residual fecal matter that remains in the commode, regardless if you can see any debris or not.

Since it is clear that commode water can be considered polluted or contaminated with organisms, it should be brought to mind what types of organisms can be present in commode water. Coliform bacteria which are normally found in fecal matter sometimes carry a highly pathogenic strain, which can produce gastric

and intestinal infections as well as severe diarrhea. The Salmonella, which are capable of producing Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever, and gastro-enteritis; minute protozoans capable of producing Amoebic Dysentery; viral tuberculosis could also stem from sputum expectorated into the commode from infected persons. Venereal disease causing organisms can also be found in the water after an infected person has used the commode.

The way that most of our canine friends show their affection towards theirs or children is by lapping with their tongue. Therefore, it is not hard to visualize a dog that has just satisfied its thirst with polluted water and soon after licking a child's hand or face or even the master's hands, thus leaving the unseen infectious organisms.

Luckily, most people have the feeling it is not nice for their pets to drink out of the commode, and in reality they are practicing good sanitary health measures. Others who do permit their pet to use the commode as a public drinking fountain are leaving themselves, children and neighbors exposed to possible acute infection which could lead to serious public health consequences.

Since we have taken the dog into our homes to live as one of the family, it behooves us to practice the same sanitary methods for our dogs as we would for ourselves. Clean fresh water from the tap, clean eating dishes and frequent bathing (using common sense) of the dog are necessary health measures. In addition the dog requires external and internal parasite control and vaccinations for Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis and Leptospirosis. In other words, all precautionary methods should be taken to provide for a happy, healthy human to canine relationship.



Once again the weather was with us as we marched out for our second breed hunt of the 1975-76 coursing season on December 7, 1975. Although the day began with fog, it soon cleared. After a last-minute change of location to Fairfield (including an unplanned sightseeing tour of the area), the hunt got under way. There was an abundance of rabbits, allowing the hunt to be completed in just an hour and a half with all entered hounds running twice. The judge was Chuck Gower and his placements from the eight IWs entered were:

1st	Pegeen	Cromer & Rothwell	32 pts.
2nd	Sorcha	Sweeney	24 pts.
3rd	Callahan	Rose	16 pts.
4th	Rosaleen	Cromer & Pilat	8 pts.
5th	Tina	Knipstein	4 pts.

The points reported for the first hunt on November 15 have since been amended to 36, 27, 18, 9 and 4.5. This was due to the failure of one of the owners to register an IW with the NOFCA. In the future, no entry will be accepted unless the hound is registered with NOFCA prior to the hunt date.

The third hunt is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, followed by the last breed hunt of the season on Sunday, March 7. Give your hound a chance to really enjoy himself and bring him out to a hunt.

Kelly Cromer

N.C.I.W.C. YEARBOOK

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