

# Paw Prints Newsletter

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## DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ The Greyhound is the fastest dog on earth and can run up to 45 miles per hour.
- ▶ There are over 701 different breeds of dogs.
- ▶ *Ailurophilia* is the "love of cats"
- ▶ The nose pad of a cat is ridged in a pattern that is unique, just like the fingerprint of a human.
- ▶ Cats can see in color.

## Bones are Unsafe for Your Dogs

The idea that it is natural for dogs to chew bones is a popular one; however, it is a dangerous practice and can cause serious injury to your pet. Giving your dog bones can make him a candidate for a trip to the veterinarian's office, possible emergency surgery, or even death.

Make sure that you dispose of bones from your meals in such a way that your dog cannot get to them, and do ensure that your dog does not eat objects lying in grassy areas around the neighborhood.

Here are 10 reasons why it's a bad idea to give your dog a bone:

- ▶ Broken teeth—this may require expensive pet dentistry.
- ▶ Mouth or tongue injuries—these can be very bloody and messy and require a trip to the vet's office
- ▶ Bone gets looped around your dog's lower jaw—this can be frightening and painful for your dog and potential costly to you.
- ▶ Bone get stuck in esophagus

(the tube that food travels through to reach the stomach). Your dog may gag, trying to bring the bone back up and will need to see the vet.

- ▶ Bone get stuck in windpipe—this can or may happen if your dog accidentally inhales a small enough piece of bone. This is an emergency because your dog will have trouble breathing.



- ▶ Bone gets stuck in stomach—it went down just fine, but the bone may be too big to pass out of the stomach and into the intestines. Depending on the bone's size, your dog may need surgery or upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, a procedure in which the veterinarian uses a long tube with a built-in camera and grabbing tools to try to remove the stuck bone from the stomach.

- ▶ Bone get stuck in intestines—and causes a blockage.
- ▶ Constipation due to bone fragments—your dog may have a hard time passing the bone fragments because they are very sharp and they can scrape the inside of the large intestines or rectum as they move along. This causes severe pain and may require a visit to your vet's office.
- ▶ Severe bleeding from the rectum—this is very messy and can be dangerous.
- ▶ Peritonitis—this nasty, difficult-to-treat bacterial infection of the abdomen is caused when bone fragments poke holes in your dog's stomach or intestines. Your dog needs an emergency visit to your veterinarian because peritonitis can kill your dog.

Please contact us if you need more information on what alternatives to give your dog to chew on instead of bones. Call us at 703-528-9001 or email us at [hospital@cherrydalevet.com](mailto:hospital@cherrydalevet.com).

## Poison Proof Your Home this Summer



Our Canine and Feline vaccine protocols are now available online.

Please visit [cherrydalevet.com](http://cherrydalevet.com) and click on the Pet Health Program Tab to review. Please call us with any questions or comments.

### Living Room

- ▶ Check out your plants—both inside and outside your home, lilies can be especially dangerous to cats.
- ▶ Keep home fragrance products out of reach, this includes open dishes of liquid potpourri and simmer pots.
- ▶ Keep ashtrays and nicotine replacement products out of reach.

### Kitchen

- ▶ Know what foods are poisonous to pets. Watch out for sugar-free chewing gum with xylitol, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, unbaked yeast bread dough, fatty foods and chocolate.
- ▶ Keep garbage can behind closed doors. Trash and compost bins can contain many pet toxins, such as cigarette butts, coffee grounds, moldy dairy products and chicken bones
- ▶ Keep alcoholic beverages out of reach.

### Bathroom

- ▶ Keep medications safely locked up in secure cupboards—don't leave them on countertops or tables or store them in plastic zippered baggies, which are easily chewed through. This includes inhalers, dietary aides and nutraceuticals
- ▶ Never medicate your pets with human products

without first contacting your veterinarian.

- ▶ Always check the container before giving medication to your pet to make sure it's the correct medication and store your medication separately from your pets.
- ▶ Keep pets away from cleaning products. Shut them out of the room while spraying bathroom cleanser and other products.
- ▶ Close toilet lids to keep pets from drinking the water, especially if you use automatic chemical tank or bowl treatments.

### Utility Room

- ▶ Keep rodenticides far away from pets
- ▶ Do not use insecticides around your pet without knowing their toxicity to the pet. Read labels. Never use dog flea and tick products on cats.
- ▶ Don't leave dead batteries lying around. Dogs enjoy chewing on them, and they can cause serious harm if ingested.
- ▶ Keep glues out of reach—they can be tasty but some may cause serious harm if ingested.

### Garage

- ▶ Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) products are extremely toxic to pets
- ▶ Keep all automotive products away from pets and clean up any spills.

### Outside

- ▶ Dogs like to eat some types of fertilizer such as bone meal or blood meal. Keep bags tightly sealed and use according to label
- ▶ Grub or snail killers—especially those that include metaldehyde—can be harmful to pets. Avoid them if possible
- ▶ Yard insecticides that contains organophosphates or carbamates can be very dangerous if ingested in high concentrations
- ▶ Keep pets off lawn until commercially sprayed herbicides are dry.



## Bon Voyage Ashley Domer

The Cherrydale family has bid farewell to Ashley Domer, a former technician who has now relocated to the tropical Caribbean island of Grenada, where she will be attending St. Georges University School of Veterinary Medicine and starting a D.V.M program later on this month. We wish her every success in all her studies, endeavors and careers. We miss you Ashley.

## “The Journey” by Dr. Jackie Keenan

My hobby for the last 42 years has been training my English Springer Spaniels and showing them in obedience. In the world of obedience, Springers are called an “off breed” as they are not natural obedience dogs. Although my Springers have always done well, the highest title any of them had won was Utility Dog Excellent (UDX). UDX is a difficult title because the dog must pass both open and utility classes in the same day. This means not only passing 14 different exercises but successfully doing this ten times.

Most dogs never even get a Utility title (UD), which requires passing seven exercises in one day and doing it three times. Utility is popularly called “futility”. Above that is the Obedience Trial Championship (OTCh) that requires at least three firsts with one from each class getting 100 points, beating OTCh dogs and professional handlers. I had never even thought about getting an OTCh, until Nate.

By the fall of 2006 Nate had his UD and we went out to get another UDX, or so I thought. By the sixth show, Nate had no UDX legs (qualifications) but had three OTCh points. I explained to him that we did not have the

time to train and show for an OTCh, but if he would just qualify twice in one day we could get a UDX.

The next day he not only got his first UDX leg, but 24 more OTCh points. For the next seven months though, he lay dormant while I struggled to survive Lymes disease. Then with four weeks of practice we went to three shows, getting OTCh points at each and two more UDX legs. That got him into the AKC National Invitational Obedience Trial in California where he placed 38th out of 97 dogs.



Since he seemed to think he was an OTCh, I took him to Podunk to get our open win thinking he might not win at a big show. Open is easier, so winning takes a very high score. He got his open win

and then won open seven more times.

By December he had his UDX: 10 wins and 88 OTCh points. On December 13 we were supposed to be at the National Invitational again, but Nate had been ill. I would not risk his health by flying him but since he was doing better, we had gone to Durham instead.

The day before, we failed twice. On December 13 the utility ring was wet. I had a sense that we needed to finish that day, but it seemed impossible, because Nate had been failing Utility and the conditions in the ring were so bad. We needed to win utility to finish. I had always considered our journey a gift during difficult times, and I would never ask for a win. But that day I did say that although I did not expect anything, it would sure be nice if we could finish.

When he won open, I was so grateful, yet I could not see how we would win utility. But Nate decided to turn in the performance of a lifetime. When he was done, he had a 199 (out of 200), his highest score, and the OTCh. One of us always had vision and knew we could do it.

This spring he was awarded Obedience Springer of the

Year by our National Springer Club. Then two days before we could have been going to our first spring show, had we needed more points. He went out into the yard and came in limping. He had a bone chip in his hock. Although he will recover, he is unlikely to be up to the jumping and perfect soundness needed for upper level obedience, but he has already done more than I ever imagined or even hoped was possible.



Space is limited. Make your boarding pass reservations as early as possible.

## Acupuncture: A Brief Synopsis

Acupuncture is the insertion and manipulation of needles into the body to achieve a therapeutic effect. Traditional Chinese acupuncture revolves around the use of 12 channels, or meridians, through which chi flows. However, as we begin to study acupuncture points with a western medical perspective, we find many points coincide with major arteries, veins and nerves, which then affect the region, the spinal cord, and even the brain, resulting in decreased pain, decreased inflammation, changes in blood flow and muscle trigger point relaxation.

Dr. Catbagan has been certified in Veterinary Medical Acupuncture at Colorado State University. Dr. Catbagan has seen the effects acupuncture treatments have had for her two aging dogs, and wanted to offer the same benefit to all of her patients



## Cherrydale Welcomes

### Dr. Davina Catbagan



Dr. Catbagan was born and raised in Carson City, Nevada, then moved to Colorado where she completed her B.S in Microbiology, her M.S in animal anatomy, and her D.V.M from Colorado State University. Professionally, she greatly enjoys cardiology, internal medicine, surgery, and pain management.

In her spare time, she loves to be outside: running, camping, rock climbing and skiing. She and her husband Aaron have two very spoiled Alaskan Malamutes: Bear and Nala.

### Dr. Leslie Meko



Dr. Meko was born in Texas, but raised in Russell, KY. After high school she majored in Animal Sciences at Ohio State and then attended the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Her professional interests include Soft Tissue surgery, Dentistry, and Dermatology.

Her hobbies includes reading, running and spending time outdoors with her husband and their beagle mix, Bonnie. Her husband Tim is a graphic artist and designer for a local non-profit organization.



#### Clinic Hours

M-F: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm  
 Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sun: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic

4038 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207

Phone (703) 528.9001

Fax (703) 243.8586

Email [hospital@cherrydalevet.com](mailto:hospital@cherrydalevet.com)

#### Our doctors

Robert C. Brown, DVM (Director)

Farid Boughanem, DVM (Medical Director)

Jackie Keenan, DVM

Sunny House, DVM

Dharati Szymanski, DVM

Davina Catbagan, DVM

Leslie Meko, DVM

*Serving the community since 1972*

DOG	HUMAN
3 months	5 years
6 months	10 years
1 year	15 years
2 years	24 years
4 years	32 years
8 years	48 years
10 years	56 years
15 years	76 years
20 years	98 years



Pets age faster than humans. To keep them healthy and disease free, have them examined twice a year.