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Rover Retreat News and Tidbits:

*** Hot Weather Reminder ***

During the summer, the temperature inside a vehicle rises rapidly. In full sunlight during the middle of the day, the temperature can reach 125 degrees within 20 minutes and 140 degrees in about 40 minutes. Whether the car is light or dark colored doesn't make much difference, and cracking the windows won't help much.

Do not leave your dog in a hot car—not even for “just a minute”, as that one minute often turns into 5 or 10 minutes.

For more information, visit <http://www.injuryprevention.org/states/la/hotcars/hotcars.htm> or http://www.mydogiscool.com/x_car_study.php.

*** 3 Reasons to License Your Dog **

Most counties require dog owners to license their dogs. Many owners do not comply for whatever reason. We'd like to encourage you to take the time to license your dog for the following reasons:

- **Avoid a ticket and fine.** If your dog is unlicensed, you may be ticketed and fined . . . and the fine is likely to be more than the cost of the license.
- **The fee may benefit pets in general.** For example, in Jefferson County the licensing fee helps pay for the new animal shelter. Your county may use the funds for something similar.
- **Help your dog return home quickly and safely.** Often, if your dog is picked up and he or she is licensed, the police will not impound, but will take care of him or her until you can pick up (as long as it's within hours, not days.) One of our clients in Jefferson County recently had this experience.

*** Quick Doggie Facts ***

- Weimaraners are born with tiger stripes that disappear as they get older. Dalmatians are born pure white and their spots appear later.
- The Saluki is the oldest dog breed.
- Nose prints are as unique as our fingerprints and can be used for identification.
- Seeing-eye dogs have been helping humans since 1938.
- Dogs respond to your energy, and whether you're sad, mad, or glad, your dog will pick up on it and will respond accordingly.

Rover Reports: Eye Ulcers in Dogs

Dogs can injure their eyes in many different ways. The most obvious ways would be playing with sharp sticks or getting dust in the eye. Sometimes their own eyelashes rub an eye, scratching it and causing an ulcer. Trees, bushes or weeds are also possible candidates for injury. For senior dogs, it doesn't even have to be something that dramatic.

Most people think eye ulcers happen only to dogs with eyes that tend to be rounded and bulging, such as Bulldogs or Boxers. However, eye ulcers can happen to any dog at any time. While it is still called a Boxer ulcer, an ulcer that won't heal without extensive treatment can happen in any breed, especially after the age of about 7 years old. Here are some symptoms to watch for:

- Excessive blinking and tearing, with or without colored discharge
- Pawing at the eye
- Redness or inflammation
- Sensitivity to light
- Uneven pupils

If you see any of these symptoms, call the vet immediately. Ulcers can easily worsen if the dog is uncomfortable and is pawing or rubbing its eye on furniture or the ground. A prime concern is that the ulcer can become infected, so the earlier the dog is treated, the better.

The bad news is that an ulcer that will not heal can result in removal of the eye. The good news is that most veterinarians can prescribe a course of treatment that will prevent that outcome. Since Therese has Boxers, she knows more about this than she would like! Last summer, her dog Chanel had an eye ulcer that required a month of wearing an e-collar and a regimen of 4 different eye drops 4 times per day. At one point, the dog's third eyelid was sewn shut to keep the irritation to a minimum. Chanel came through it fine and seems none the worse for wear.

This summer, Therese's other Boxer, Chief, went through the same thing, although it wasn't quite as bad. We did have to visit a veterinary ophthalmologist this time, which was actually a great experience. See our "Friends of" section this month for more information about them!

Ask Rover:

Dear Rover,

Since she was a puppy, Tasha has always held a toy in her mouth when she gets up or when we get home. She literally wakes up and finds the nearest toy to hold for a minute or two. She doesn't tear it up, she just holds it gently in her mouth or squeaks it. It's cute, but I'm wondering why she does that and whether she'll grow out of it. --Becky

Dear Becky,

During teething, you probably had all kinds of toys and things for Tasha to put in her mouth and chew on to soothe her gums. So it's become a habit for her to have a toy in her mouth. For some dogs, it's like a pacifier. I know an older Retriever who keeps a paper plate in her mouth, and always has, so Tasha may or may not grow out of it.

In short, don't worry about it.



I see a squirrel! Later!
Rover

If you have a question for Rover, please send it to info@roverretreat.com.

Recipe of the Month:

Adapted from *Pamper Your Dog: 130 Recipes for Your Canine Friend*, Anonymous.

Doggie's Icy Delights

1 ripe banana, mashed
1/2 cup peanut, almond, cashew, or other nut butter (smooth)
1/4 cup wheat germ

In bowl, mix banana and peanut butter, then add wheat germ.

Place in refrigerator for about an hour until firm.

With your hands, roll mixture into small balls and place on cookie sheet in freezer.

When completely frozen, pack into containers and store in freezer.

***Do you have an icy treat recipe to share? Please send it to info@roverretreat.com, and we'll feature it next month.

July Friend of Rover Retreat:

Our friend this month is Dr. Bradley P. Graham, DVM, MS, DACVO from The Eye Clinic Veterinary. While our regular veterinarian did the majority of work to get Chief's eye healed up, it was great to discover we have such a great resource so close! Dr. Graham was very thorough and

obviously practiced at keeping a dog calm while examining the eye. He has a very calm demeanor and explained everything in terms Therese could easily understand.

The mission of their practice is to provide veterinary ophthalmology service for the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disorders in the dog, cat, horse and other animals. All they do is eyes, which truly makes them experts. Their practice is not limited to injuries. They also deal with other ailments, such cataracts or glaucoma. If your dog (or cat, or horse, or other!) is having problems with their eyes, discuss a referral with your regular veterinarian to The Eye Clinic Veterinary.

Their address is 7360 W. 39th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO, phone number is 303-422-7444, and their web site is <http://www.eyevets.info/index.html>.

On Our Best Friends:

“My friendship with Mitzi was like the friendship that many children have with their pets. My mother and father thought it was ‘good for me’ to have a dog for a companion. Well it *was* good for me, but it was only many years after she died that I began to understand how good it was, and why.”

--Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers)

From <http://www.dogquotations.com/dogs-and-friendship-rs.html>



Referral Coupon

Name:

Referred by:

Date:

Please give this coupon to anyone whose dogs might like to stay with us. When they give us the coupon and complete their trial day, you get your choice of a free bath or day of daycare.

One Last Bark:

We hope your summer has been full of fun and relaxation so far. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the newsletter, please feel free to let us know at info@roverretreat.com.

Thank you,
Therese & Staff
Laura, Wendy, & Staff