

# Canine Courier

Volume 16, Issue 3

May/June

## Protect Your Dog From These Hidden Hot-Weather Hazards

Mara Bovsun, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

aug 11, 2015

Summer means ice cream, hikes in the woods, swimming in ponds, running through fields, and, generally having a ball while soaking up the warmth. All that fun in the sun can have a downside, though. Most people are aware of the more obvious hazards that come with long, warm days—heat stroke, drowning, disease-spreading mosquitoes, fleas and ticks. But here are some others that may not be on your radar screen:

\* “Mean seeds,” is a term that has been coined to refer to foxtails or any number of plants, which include Canada wild rye and cheatgrass, that have barbed grass awns. Dogs may pick up a grass awn on an ear, paw, eye, or nose. They can be particularly dangerous, causing pneumonia, if inhaled. The barbs allow the seed to continuously move forward, spreading bacteria that cause infections. Grass-awn disease is a growing problem among hunting dogs, but any dog could come in contact with these plants. Here are a few measures that might prevent the worst outcome.

- If possible, avoid areas where you see foxtails.
- After walking through any area where foxtails are growing,

*continued on page 2*

## .Scientists Study the Wet-Dog Shake

Liz Donovan, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

march 20, 2015

Anyone who has had a wet dog shake nearby has suspected he ends up wetter than the dog. There’s a reason why dogs shake dry rather than drip dry.

Researchers at Georgia Tech used high-speed cameras to film dozens of wet animals, from mice to bears. Watching them shake in slow motion revealed they shook 70 percent of the water off their coat in just a fraction of a second.

Although fur is great for keeping animals insulated, when it gets wet, surface tension traps water next to an animal’s skin. In cold weather, that can lead to hypothermia. Shaking is more efficient at getting the water off than evaporation, researchers found.

And not all shakes are created equal. Turns out, furry mammals of different sizes adjust their shaking speed to get as dry as possible using the least amount of energy. That means the smaller the dog, the faster it shakes to dry. Additionally, researchers found that the loose skin that whips around as the animal changes direction is crucial to the efficiency of the shaking.

There is a reason behind the research: Scientists think their findings can lead to technology for instruments like camera lenses or solar panels that need to stay dry but are in hard-to-reach places.

*continued on page 3*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Protecting your pet from hidden hot weather hazards
- 1** Scientist study the wet dog shake
- 3** Calendar/Presidents Message
- 4** Brags

check your dog for visible seeds, especially between the toes.

- If your dog starts to exhibit strange symptoms of illness, especially sneezing or breathing problems, see your vet and mention that you've been in a place where foxtails were growing.

- Learn about the plants and the pathology. A good site is [The Grass Awn Project](#).

#### \* Poison Pond Scum

Algae is a normal part of the ecosystem of ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water. Some varieties of blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are toxic, causing damage to skin, liver, and the nervous system. The good news is that they are most dangerous in a form called a "bloom," which is easy to spot. Blooms will have a horrible odor and a distinctive appearance, looking most often like green paint or pea soup, according to the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#). The agency has a **photo gallery** of toxic and non-toxic green and blue-green algae.

Most people will avoid a dip in a swimming hole that looks like a pot of stinky pea soup, but dogs love that kind of stuff and will dive right in. Here are some tips to prevent blue-green algae poisoning:

- Keep your dog leashed around bodies of water.
- Rinse off immediately if the dog comes in contact with blue-green algae.
- Don't let your dog drink out of ponds and lakes;
- Watch for symptoms, which include vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, jaundice, and rashes.

Sea Grant New York offers a very helpful [brochure](#) on **Dogs and Harmful Algal Blooms**.

#### Myiasis

This is the scientific, and polite, way to describe an infestation of maggots. This is not just a condition of neglected dogs who are tied up outside. It can arise so quickly—less than 48 hours for larvae to hatch and reach a size of about a grain of rice—that it's not unheard of for well-loved and cared-for pets to get an infestation. Elderly and incontinent dogs, or those with open wounds or bacterial skin infections are most susceptible, because certain odors will attract flies. These will land and lay eggs. When the larvae emerge, they'll hook on to skin and start to feed, resulting in serious lesions.

The good news is that myiasis in an indoor dog will be quickly detected. The larvae feeding cause considerable discomfort, and they may be visible to the naked eye. If you suspect myiasis, get to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment will include manually removing the maggots, application of a topical insecticide, and oral medication. Prevention is the wisest route and it entails keeping a dog indoors if she has wounds or other obvious conditions that might attract flies. And if you see flies buzzing around your pet, shoo them away.

## Calendar of Events

### JUNE

1-5 RIBFEST CLUBHOUSE CLOSED  
6 AGILITY ENTRIES OPEN  
11 TDI TESTING CLUBHOUSE CLOSED  
11-12 RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL CLUBHOUSE ACCESS USE  
EAST GATE  
14 SEKC PICNIC SERTOMA PARK 6PM  
TBD SEKC BOARD MEETING 7 PM TBD  
25 INSANE INFLATABLE 5K CLUBHOUSE CLOSED TILL 2 PM

### JULY

6 SUMMER OBEDIENCE TRIAL ENTRIES CLOSE  
TBD BOARD MEETING 7PM TBD  
TBD AGILITY EQUIPMENT IS MOVED OUT OF BUILDING FOR  
OBEDIENCE TRIAL  
22-24 SUMMER OBEDIENCE TRIAL  
TBD FINISH CLOSING UP THE BUILDING AND HANGING  
PLASTIC FOR THE FAIR  
29 AGILITY TRIAL ENTRIES CLOSE

### AUGUST

TBD POWER WASH CLUBHOUSE AND MOVE BACK IN MORE  
INFORMATION TO FOLLOW  
12-14 SEKC AGILITY TRIAL AVERA SOCCER DOME

### SEPTEMBER

10-11 CONNIE CLEVELAND SEMINAR CLUBHOUSE 9-4 BOTH  
DAYS CLUBHOUSE CLOSED TO OTHER ACTIVITIES  
13 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CLUBHOUSE 7PM  
17 MEET THE BREEDS CLUBHOUSE

### PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The warm weather is here and being outside is great. The club will be taking a break after the Summer Picnic so I hope that everyone can be there to enjoy the food, company and of course great weather. Remember, we are doing a collection for Animeals so try to bring something. This is coordinated by Meals on Wheels and run out of Active Generations. Maybe because I am getting older the realization of how important keeping your best friend with you can be makes this great effort by Meals on Wheels mean even more. Remember, they are also looking for volunteers so if you have any free time this summer, I know that they would appreciate the help.

Don't forget we have the Summer Obedience Show coming up in July and the Agility Trial in August. They are both looking for volunteers and are both great fun to attend and to work. We are also putting together a raffle table for the Agility Trial and could use your help. It was such a great success last year and I know that we can do even better this year. You can put something together yourself and also ask those businesses that you support to contribute something.

Remember to check the schedule on the fairgrounds as there are times this summer that we cannot use the building.

Enjoy the summer and be safe in your travels. Come back in September refreshed and ready to go as we will be getting ready for our big Fall Show.

Paula Spielman

# Brags

Chimera's Talk Of The Town, Gabby, earned her first Preferred Novice Jumps with Weaves leg on April 30th, 2016, in Omaha , NE at the Go Dogs Agility Club trial. Gabby had a clean run and a first place finish. Gabby is loved and handled by Denise Erger.

On 4/20/16, Daisy received her TDIRVA (TDI Remarkable Volunteer Achievement) certificate for 250 Therapy Dog Visits. Proud of you, Daisy Dew! Daisy is loved and handled by Bonnie Ulrich

Hirdler Hill's Life in the Fast Lane CDX BN RA GN OA NAJ CGCU Rev earned is Canine Good Citizen Urban title. Rev is loved and handled by Brian Schaffer

**SEKC**  
**PO Box719**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**57101**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

