



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2020

Do You See What I See?



Do you see what I see? This picture could very well be the precursor to a bite. Maybe not that day, but at some point. Most people don't see their dogs' discomfort in this type of situation. Most people think it's cute when babies and dogs interact. Most times nothing remarkable or tragic happens.

But let me tell you what I see.

- -the whites of the dog's eyes
- -the dog's ears pinned back
- -tense "grin", tense corners of the lips pulled back
- -head turned watchfully
- -tension in the neck and shoulders
- -front legs in a position that would enable a quick push toward baby's face
- -panting
- -the adult sitting relaxed and smiling, thinking they are "supervising", obviously

unaware that if this dog snaps at the baby, it will be too quick for them to do anything but feel guilty on the way to the ER afterward.

Don't get me wrong. I do think kids should be able to have animals. I grew up with animals. The vast majority situations just like this one will pass without incident.

But situations like this is how kids get bitten. Situations like this is how beloved family dogs get taken to the vet for euthanasia because they bit "without warning". Dogs who have bitten someone, especially a kid, will almost never be rehomed. It's generally a death sentence for them.

Which isn't fair. It isn't fair to the kid who has no idea how uncomfortable they are making that dog. And it's not fair to the dog, who was probably trying to be a "good dog", who was probably screaming with their body language that they are absolutely uncomfortable with the situation. But when they are pushed past their limit, it is the kid left with life long scars, and it is the dog who will likely end up dead.

People always think their own dog would "never do such a thing". But it happens. It happens more than you know.

If you are going to have kids and dogs (or any animal) learn to read that animal's body language. Invest the time to keep the kids safe, and the dog happy and alive. And obviously teach the kids to interact appropriately and with care. And learn not to cross thresholds you may never be able to uncross.

#PSA #veterinaryPSA



RTF at Gold Strike Mobile Home Park

By Debby Beaufort

We have completed our part in RTF at Gold Strike Mobile Home Park. The results are in and we did 14 spays and 13 neuters.

I really, really want to thank everyone who participated in this roundup. It was a super effort with lots of driving back and forth to the vets, mostly to Modesto. So, thank you, thank you, thank you, all the long-haul drivers.

Thanks for getting up at o-dark hundred. Shelter staff and early drivers were in the dark.....hee-hee. Kathy Bandy did a marvy job coordinating with the Gold Strike Mobile Home Park to make sure the kitties got to the shelter.

We got two new Veterinarians out of this project, thanks to Michele Cody and Chris and I think we will be sticking with them.

Kathy Arentz deserves all the credit for teaching us how to do everything. She is the Master Trapper and the best in the world in every way. FOCAS would not have known where to start with ferals without her expertise 🐱🐱🐱🐱

Per Kathy, we prevented 168 future births! So happy dance to all.

Cheers, Debby

New Pack Leaders!

We want to give a big welcome to Lisa Medina, appointed 9-15 as the new Environmental Management Agency Administrator/Air Pollution Control Officer. Lisa has been serving as the Interim since May 30, 2020 and is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the State of California as well as a Certified California International Code Council (ICC) Underground Storage Tank Inspector with over 25 years of experience in all Environmental Health programs.

During the Butte Fire in 2015, she was deployed from San Joaquin County to Calaveras County, where she worked side-by-side with staff from the Environmental Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Services, the Planning and Building Departments, as well as other Calaveras County and State representatives.

During the Butte Fire Response and Recovery, Lisa worked in the field conducting hazardous material risk assessments and later served in the Emergency Operations Center as a Public Information Officer.

In 2016, an opportunity arose in Calaveras County for a management position within the Environmental Management Agency. She wholeheartedly accepted the job offer and now continues to enjoy her work in Calaveras County.

She is always enthusiastic about opportunities to engage collaboratively with colleagues, the public, business operators, and stakeholders to provide them with educational and technical information so that they can make the best decisions for their business and personal success while protecting public health and the environment.

Lisa looks forward to her appointment and is prepared to fully engage in her duties and responsibilities as the Environmental Management Agency Administrator/Air Pollution Control Officer.

And meet William Oglesby, the new Animal Services Manager for Calaveras County. His experience in animal welfare and veterinary medicine spans over 24 years. He has worked in two of the largest shelter systems in Phoenix, Arizona, owned a small business for 13 years in the field, managed high volume spay/neuter clinics for community cats in Los Angeles, managed an animal shelter in the Bay Area, and taught high school classes in Animal Diseases and Clinical Veterinary Techniques.

His passion for saving lives is centered around quality of life for both the people and animals involved. He feels it is very important for people who own pets to be able to keep them in their homes.

As an agency, we should be here to support this process. Preventing animals from entering the shelter is important for the community and animals involved. The more animals we prevent from entering our shelter through education and spay & neuter, allows us to focus our limited resources on those who have no choice but to be here.

This is accomplished through community education, more spay & neuter services, and listening to those who are needing help. Saving lives is not a black and white process, the complexity associated with unwanted and homeless animals in our care creates a spectrum of colors.

We have to look at the path of individual animals and their role in the larger picture beyond our walls. Every possibility should be considered to ensure the animals in our care have the best option at happiness and quality of life. The animal shelter in a community should not be considered a first

choice or dumping ground - it should be the very last resort if an animal cannot stay in a home.

William believes that pet owners need to take personal responsibility for the lives in their care. This includes love, compassion, fresh food and water, and be able to make choices related to medical issues and end of life.

Although many do not want to think about an end of life plan, it is not dark to make a choice that is in the best interest of your loved pet. He also believes in helping people and their pets through community support services like a Pet Food Bank and partnerships with nonprofits and other agencies.

Animal welfare is a piece of the puzzle in all communities and affects everyone in the community. It is time to stand together and start changing the way people view the shelter workers, field officers, and the shelter itself. The only way anything will change is through hard work, hard choice, and unwavering support of the lives called unwanted and homeless.

In closing, we are here as stewards to provide love, compassion and care to those who cross our path. Finding ways to solve community issues is a team effort, we all have a role to play. We can do this together.

You are encouraged to come by the shelter and speak to William. Your opinion and thoughts matter, share what you know. #SaveALifeSpayALife



Animal Services Halloween Event

By Lisa Medina & Kathy Bandy



We started off our first Annual Animal Services Halloween Event with a group picture! We wanted to share this special moment with you. The picture also includes a few of our wonderful FOCAS volunteers and our shelter pups!

Thanks everyone for participating this morning!
Lisa Medina, REHS



Dog Stats

(by Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer	
	Hours	Adoptions
August	62	0
Sept	60.25	0
Oct	217	5
Totals	339.25	5



And a HUGE thank you to Val and Cindy Garringer for creating Hector and Herman (dog & cat) and making us such a wonder donation sign!!

Hey People! Use a Leash!



An Open Letter to People Who Walk Their Dog Without a Leash

By Keith Higgons, May 2018 (from The Bark)

Dear neighbors who walk their dog unleashed,

Hi! I'm the guy with the tan pit bull mix named Rufus. I want to take a moment and ask you to walk your dog with a leash.

No, I get it. Your dog is amazing and well-trained. You've been through extensive training and your dog knows a slew of verbal commands. Your dog is a service animal and visits children's cancer wards and retirement communities and is the best-behaved dog you've ever had. I get that.

The truth is, I don't care about your dog. When I'm walking Rufus leashed and you're walking your dog unleashed, my concern is for my dog, not yours.

While I understand you're 100% convinced that your dog won't do anything spontaneous, I get it. Neighbor, the truth is that your dog is an animal and any claim that you're 100% certain your dog won't do anything is incorrect. They MAY not, but you can't be certain. It's simple; dogs are animals and react instinctively.

Yes, I'm personally invested because Rufus wasn't socialized prior to arriving with me. So, he's not good with other dogs, he loves people, tolerates children but doesn't like other dogs ... and squirrels, he hates squirrels. You've probably noticed we cross the street when we notice another dog.

While I've trained Rufus to ignore other dogs, if your dog starts barking, he'll respond. If your dog isn't leashed and decides to act instinctively (*again, they're dogs*) and runs towards us, Rufus will react. My fear is that would be bad.

Despite my efforts to avoid your unleashed dog and the fact that your dog ran towards my dog and he defends himself, rest assured, we would be considered at fault.

You're putting MY dog in jeopardy because YOUR dog is unleashed. That's uncool.

Yes, I'm hyper aware of the many stigmas around the pit bull. I find breed specific bias, and legislation, deplorable and don't think they can, or should, be universally applied. But yea, I'm aware. It's why I've trained Rufus to be a responsible canine citizen and I'm a responsible canine owner and use a leash. I'm unwilling to put my dog, or yours, in a position where he may feel threatened and call upon his instincts.

To be fair, I was once like you. I used to have a dog that I walked without a leash. When confronted, I defended my dog like you do, saying "He won't do anything" "He's friendly" and my personal favorite "Relax" (*when has anything good ever come from someone saying "Relax" in a heated situation?*). When I think back now, I'm ashamed of my behavior. I was wrong.

Please take this letter under consideration. The advantages to keeping your dog on a leash far outweigh the potential consequences of not. It's also considerate of your neighbors. If you're still unconvinced, it's safe to presume your state has some type of leash law.

Thanks for reading.

See you on the sidewalk,
Keith & Rufus

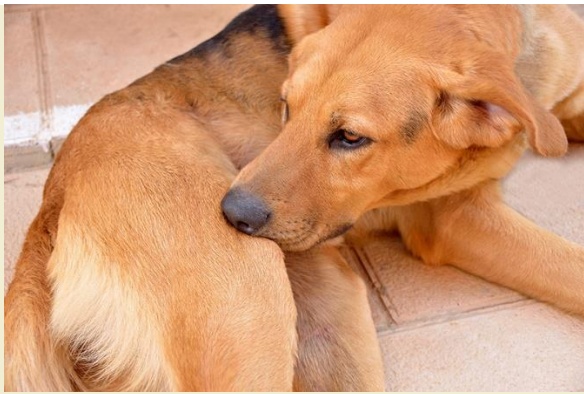


Health tips by Doc Hopper

How to Get Rid of Fleas on Dogs, Naturally!

Home remedies for treating fleas on dogs and around the home.

By [Sue Faust](#), The Bark, November 2020



Fleas are a nuisance, both to your dog and to your household. To combat, you have a choice between commercial chemical products and natural remedies. In this article, you'll learn the benefits of natural home remedies, many of which you can make from ingredients you probably already have in your pantry.

Regardless of where they live, what their daily lives are like or what breed they are, many dogs are afflicted by fleas. These small pests, whose bite provokes an itching sensation, irritate dogs no end, resulting in what seems like endless scratching.

Scratching is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg, however. [Dogs who are allergic](#) to flea saliva can develop skin redness, welts and swelling, not to mention [skin lesions](#) from constant licking. Flea bites can also cause anemia, and—if fleas are ingested during the dog's non-stop grooming—tapeworm infestations.

Then there's the housework. A dog's constant scratching spreads loose hair and dead skin. Adding to the challenge, [fleas lay eggs](#) in inaccessible and difficult-to-clean areas of your home, including along baseboards, under furniture and in cracks in floorboards.

Clearly, you need to fight back, both for your dog's sanity and your own. Here are some home remedies to get rid of fleas.

On Your Dog ...

Depending on where you live, fleas may be a seasonal or a year-round problem. Generally, they're the biggest menace during the [summer](#), when dogs spend more time outside. Fleas themselves are very tiny and move quickly, so a simple visual inspection isn't always enough. To find out if your dog has fleas, check for black specks on his coat and skin. These are flea droppings (gross!). Or, check for specks by rubbing a white tissue across your dog's fur. Following are some natural next-steps if your sleuthing turns up evidence.

FLEA COMB

An affordable and practical solution, a flea comb is a must-have for dog owners looking for a natural flea-killer. They come in various sizes, but all have closely spaced teeth that remove both eggs and fleas from the dog's coat. (Be sure to dip the comb in soapy water after each pass to kill the eggs and adults the comb picks up.) This is a great first step in your war on these pests.

LIME OR LEMON COMB/LEMON BATH

Dip your dog's comb in fresh lime or lemon juice and make multiple passes through his coat. (If your dog has a short or slick coat, you can also use a cloth dipped in the juice instead of a comb.) Another option is to dilute lemon juice with water (1:2 ratio) and add a splash of pet shampoo.

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR (ACV)

ACV's slightly acidic pH level creates an inhospitable environment for fleas. Mix six cups of ACV with four cups of water (6:4 ratio), add a pinch

of salt, and spray the mixture on your dog's coat and underbelly, making sure to avoid his eyes and any wounds he may have.

ESSENTIAL OILS

While [essential oils](#) can keep fleas away, they need to be used with caution, as some are harmful to dogs. It's best to consult with your vet before adopting this approach. That being said, some—including rosemary, peppermint and highly diluted tea-tree oils—are very effective flea remedies. Neem oil, derived from seeds of the neem tree, native to the Indian subcontinent, is also highly effective. Essential oils must be diluted in a carrier before being sprayed on or applied to your dog's coat. You can also add them to your dog's shampoo.

COLLARS

Dilute two to three drops of oil in one to three tablespoons of water and apply a few drops to your pet's existing collar or to a bandana. (You'll need to reapply this mixture regularly. See Barbara Fougère's book, [The Pet Lover's Guide to Natural Healing for Dogs and Cats](#), for more detailed instructions.) Lavender or cedar oil naturally repels fleas, but be sure to test them with your dog before using them on anything that that goes around his neck.

In Your Home (And Yard) ...

One of the first things to do when you notice a flea infestation is to launder (if possible, using hot water) all machine-washable soft furnishings your dog comes in contact with, including sofa and pillow covers, blankets, cushion covers and curtains, then tumble dry for about 20 minutes on high (or a little longer on lower heat if the material is subject to shrinkage). This will kill both adult fleas and larvae.

Even when you don't see fleas, it's a good idea to regularly launder anything your dog sleeps on, and to vacuum floors and furniture at least weekly; a monthly steam-cleaning can also help. A flea's life cycle—from egg to adult—is roughly two to three weeks, so weekly cleaning goes a long way toward

preventing fleas from settling in. Keep in mind that more than 90percent of the flea population in the home is not on the pet but in the home environment in the form of eggs, larvae and pupae. Flea larvae don't like light, so be sure to vacuum under furniture and around baseboards, too.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH

[Diatomaceous earth](#) is basically the fossilized remains of microscopic diatoms, broken down into a fine, white, silica-based powder. When fleas and other pests (ticks, ants, bedbugs) come into contact with it, it destroys their exoskeletons and they dry out and die. Diatomaceous earth comes in two forms, pool/filter- and food-grade; be sure to get the food-grade, which is low in crystalline silica and nontoxic to humans and animals. You should, however, wear a mask when distributing it, as it can irritate eyes and throat.

Sprinkle it in areas where you suspect high flea activity—carpets, for example—and leave it for about two days, then vacuum the area thoroughly. Empty the cannister or replace the bag outside. It can also be used outside on the lawn or on any area in which your dog regularly stretches out.

BAKING SODA AND SALT

Much like diatomaceous earth, baking soda and salt dehydrate fleas and their eggs. Liberally sprinkle the mixture around your house and use a broom to work it into carpet fibers or under furniture. Leave for a day or two and vacuum thoroughly. Clean your vacuum carefully afterward (salt can cause rust) and, as with diatomaceous earth, empty the cannister or replace the bag outside.

NEMATODES

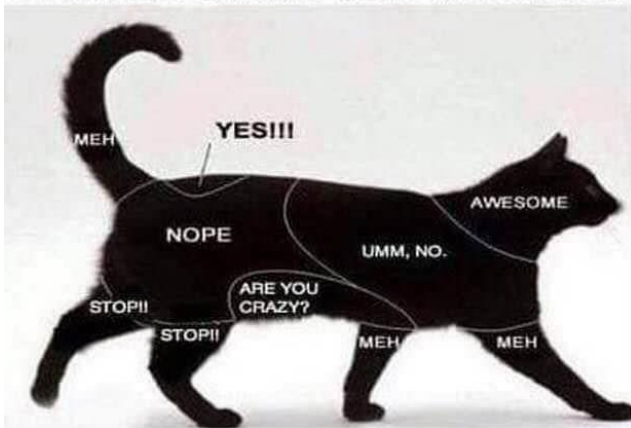
Small worms that eat insect larvae, nematodes live in the soil, and some types can be very helpful in the fight against termites, grubs and fleas. Mix the nematodes with water and spray throughout your yard. Read the packaging carefully; it's very important to use the correct amount of water.

ROSEMARY

Steep the needles in boiling water, strain and dilute. When the water reaches a comfortable temperature, pour it over your dog and work into his coat. Using a pestle and mortar, you can also make a fine powder with dried rosemary, fennel, wormwood and rue to sprinkle around your home. Make sure your dog is comfortable with the smell before using it as a dip or an ingredient in the sprinkling powder.

Finally, many sources recommend giving dogs [brewer's yeast](#) to help repel fleas; while the science behind this is slight, anecdotally, it seems to help, although it takes time to start working. (Check with your vet before trying this). Above all, feed your dog a balanced diet and be vigilant about his health. Fleas are less successful in setting up shop on healthy, well-fed dogs.

PETTING CHART FOR YOUR CAT



PETTING CHART FOR YOUR DOG



Dear Miss Penny Paws

Sometimes I scratch my neck fiercely. I don't know why. I don't have fleas. My owner starts digging through my fur, frantically looking for something that he never finds. How can I tell him what's going on?

Signed,
Itchy-scratchy

Dear Itchy,

Your owner should first have your vet give you a thorough exam to rule out allergies. There are many types of allergies that can affect animals in all sorts of ways. Scratching is one of the symptoms of an allergy, and stopping the itching only treats the symptom – not the cause. Licking of the feet is a typical manifestation of allergies as well.

Hot spots (pyotraumatic dermatitis) are a bacterial infection that can result from constant chewing and licking.

Maybe you're allergic to the type of collar you're wearing? Has your owner tried changing collars or washing the one you wear? Maybe there is still soap on it from your last bath? There are many reasons why you're itching all the time, but a good veterinary exam would be top on my list to rule out physical problems and/or causes. Besides, most vets give great treats!

If none of those solutions work, then let me know and I'll see if I can't find a good therapist for you!

Best of luck,
Miss Penny Paws



Free Pet Food!

Free Microchipping!

November 24th, 2020

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

- All dogs must be on leash, and cats in a cage for safety.
- Microchip will be registered for free. Donated by PetHealth!
- Free lifetime registration on all microchips
- Wet and Dry Food Available
- Toys & Treats Available
- Give-Away Items!

Calaveras County Animal Services
901 Jeff Tuttle Drive
San Andreas, CA 95249
209.754.6509

COVID-19 Protocols will be followed. Masks Provided if you need one to obtain services.



Check Us Out:
Animal.Calaverasgov.us

Support Homeless Animals:
FOCASweb.com