



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2021

## A Dog Who Kept Sneaking into a Dollar General for a Unicorn Toy Gets His Plush and a New Start

By [Michelle Boudin](#)

March 26, 2021 02:25 PM



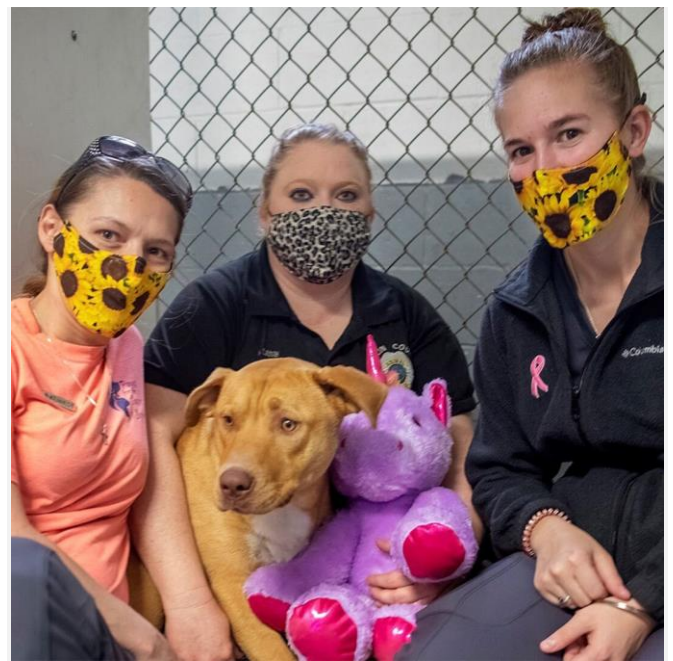
Dogs may be man's best friend, but apparently, a unicorn — a stuffed purple one at that — is a dog's best friend.

Animal control officers were called to a North Carolina Dollar General store after a stray dog kept coming into the store and beelining for the toy aisle. "He went straight for the unicorn, the same one every time," says Joe Newburn, a supervisor at [Duplin County Animal Services](#). "It was so strange, one of the strangest calls I've ever dealt with," Newburn adds.

Workers at the Kenansville store (about 80 miles from Raleigh) told animal control officers that they caught the Lab mix darting into Dollar General every time a customer exited. Each time the stray dog

made it in, he went to grab the same plush purple unicorn toy.

"Finally, they had to lock the door and called us," Newburn tells PEOPLE about how animal control became involved in this playful pooch's story.



Samantha Lane, the officer who responded to the Dollar General store's call, was so taken with the dog's devotion to the unicorn that she bought the \$10 toy for the dog. According to Newburn, the canine was happy to head off with Lane once he had his beloved stuffed animal.

Lane brought the dog to a Duplin County Animal Services shelter, where workers named him Sisu after the dragon cartoon character in Disney's new film, *Raya and the Last Dragon*.

"The only thing we can think is that he came from a home where he had a similar stuffed animal or kids in the home did," Newburn adds.



according to a Friday [Facebook post](#) from Duplin County Animal Services, Sisu and his stuffed animal have an adopter and will be moving out of the shelter soon.



Shortly after Sisu arrived, the shelter [posted a picture of the pup](#) and his unicorn on their Facebook page with a caption that read, "This is what happens when you break into the Dollar General consistently to steal the purple unicorn that you laid claim to but then get animal control called to lock you up for your B & E and larceny but the officer purchases your item for you and brings it in with you."

Dollar General spokesperson Crystal Luce tells PEOPLE that Dollar General plans to send a "few extra purple unicorns for the adoptive family," a thank you gift to animal control officer Lane, and a pet food donation to Duplin County Animal Services.

"We are glad to see Sisu is happy with his new toy!" Luce added.

Sisu is currently considered a stray intake at the shelter because no one has come forward to claim him, but the pooch obviously loves affection. He spends every night curled up with his unicorn at the shelter.

**At any given time, the urge to sing "The lion sleeps tonight" is just a whim away a whim away, a whim away, a whim away.**



"It's so sweet. It's amazing. I mean, he's obviously super smart, and even when we got him to the animal shelter, he's been very obedient. He sits, shakes. Someone should be looking for him," Newburn says. "I don't know of any other reason why he would focus on the unicorn other than he had one at home. If the store had called and said he tore open dog food, that would make more sense but not hunting for a purple unicorn."

Newburn says the shelter has received numerous calls from people interested in giving Sisu — and his beloved unicorn — a forever home. And it looks like it's time for the pair to pack their bags because,

## Kuranda Bed Update

By Debby Beaufort

As the Kuranda beds were being delivered to my house, Jean and I took some to the FOCAS office, then took some more so that all but two deliveries had arrived and been moved to the office. Then Darcy, Scott and I did a 'put together party'. I hereby declare that Darcy and Scott are the King and Queen of Kuranda bed putting together.

I had put one cat bed together at home but Queen Darcy and King Scott put 9 beds together in two hours! That was a total of 10. Two cat beds and 8 dog beds. so hip-hip-hurray to King Scott and Queen Darcy for their super Kuranda skills. (believe me they are not easy).

Previously Tim and Dana Davis had taken a Cat Tower (a real challenge) and one dog bed and did those so we had a total of 12 all done. Then of course, Murphy's Law, jumped into the mix and 1/2 hour after I got home the final cat bed order arrived.

I finished putting those together and we were awaiting the last dog bed. King Scott had dibs on doing the last. Please join me in thanking Scott and Darcy for doing all the hard work, while I just wrote on the beds who donated them.

Also, if it were not for Darcy putting the Kuranda challenge out there we would not have had need of the fun Kuranda putting together party. Thanks for everything Darcy.

Thank you, thank you, thank you Darcy and Scott and all those who donated:

Janet Baechler  
Michelle Griffen  
Penelope Johnson  
Dora Robinson  
Katherine Gill  
Kristen McPerson  
Kim deArrillaga

Cheers and happy Kuranda bed day!



## Health tips by Doc Hopper



## Dental Care Is Preventative

### Care

March 5, 2021 / [General Health](#) / By Hemopet

We get it. Brushing your companion dog's teeth is not the most pleasant activity. We also get it that routine veterinary dental cleanings done properly can be expensive. To dispel any myths, dental cleanings are *NOT* a ploy by veterinarians to increase their revenue.

Both practices – brushing your dog's teeth and routine dental cleanings – are important preventative care, as periodontal disease in all species can lead to many other systemic disorders, if not controlled.

How do you know brushing and dental cleanings are preventative care? From published and ongoing research.

Research has shown that periodontal disease in dogs is linked to increased risks of liver disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, obesity, heart disease and even cancer in dogs.

A 2009 study compared 59,296 dogs with periodontal disease to the same number of dogs with no history of periodontal disease. The study revealed that cardiovascular conditions such as endocarditis and cardiopathy were linked to the severity of periodontal disease.

A similar comparative study from 2011 demonstrated a significant association between periodontal disease and chronic kidney disease.

Compared to humans, dogs are even more prone to periodontal disease. Why? Because their mouths are less acidic, which promotes plaque formation. Compounding that, many dogs are not having daily brushings, or regular preventive dental care starting in early adulthood.

If you think your dog is in the clear, look at the prevalence. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 80% of dogs over 2 years of age have [periodontal disease](#). Additionally, many dogs with periodontal disease do not express oral pain, although they often have foul smelling breath.

### Preventative Measures

Yes; there are specially designed chews, treats and raw bones, as well as a variety of Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) approved dental products, that can help reduce plaque and tartar buildup. While these products are not replacements for a daily brushing and dental cleanings, the VOHC listed products are proven to be helpful in reducing the biofilm buildup and plaque on the teeth.

A practical choice is the VOHC-approved water additives and gel products that are specially designed for dogs and cats.

By the way, we do not recommend using [rawhide](#) chews at all.

### Products

We, at Hemopet, do not recommend or suggest specific products. To be completely transparent, Dr. Dodds has helped with the testing of [products](#) that meet and have been accepted by the VOHC.

If anything, we recommend that you make sure the product you choose is an accepted product by VOHC. Products have to meet certain requirements and complete dental trials to meet VOHC's rigorous standards.

Do we use and prefer all of the VOHC-accepted products? No, but please remember that the VOHC program requires companies to demonstrate that their products help control plaque or tartar by completing two trials that are reviewed in support of this claim. We support the standards, thresholds and testing protocols established by the VOHC.



## Rabies and Microchip Clinics

The April 3rd rabies and microchip clinic was a great success, with Dr. Ginnie Ringuette vaccinating 88 dogs and 19 cats. William did 66 microchips.

Herman and Hector were stars and collected \$501.46. Once again thanks to Cindi and Val Garringer for providing Herman and Hector to work with us.



The May 1st clinic saw Dr. Ginny Ringuette helping out again, this time vaccinating 118 animals. There were 63 microchips provided and 21 people obtained new or renewal dog licenses!



Herman and Hector received \$350 in cash and we were presented a check for a whopping \$5,000! Everyone was so generous and appreciative of the efforts to help take care of their animals.

Debby wanted to give super duper gargantuan thanks to all the volunteers who worked the clinic.

Per Debby, “We never ever know how many clients are going to turn up so it is always a flip of the coin. Thanks so very much to all of you.”



## Dog Stats

(by Ed and Dolores Ransom)

| Month        | Volunteer Hours | Adoptions |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Feb          | 225.5           | 13        |
| Mar          | 220.0           | 5         |
| April        | 255.3           | 11        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>700.8</b>    | <b>29</b> |

Foxes do not prey on domestic pets. Their main diet is rodents , eggs, birds if they can catch them, eggs and ground birds. And even road kill. Please don't hurt them or trap them. It is illegal!  
There will be kits soon. Show mercy. Watch. Learn. Live in peace with nature.



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## Back on the Road with Oregon Humane Society

By Kathleen Morse

Prior to the pandemic, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) had received and adopted out many kitties from FOCAS. However, during the pandemic, OHS needed to attend to situations within their own state rather than taking pets from out of state.

In 2020, spay and neuters were halted for a period in Oregon leading to many more kittens than in a normal year. In addition, many residents left Portland due to joblessness and surrendered their pets to shelters. OHS, operating on a smaller staff than normal, took these pets in and rehomed them.

Starting this year, OHS began taking FOCAS kitties again for adoption! To support this effort, a FOCAS supporter Ira Chapman lends out his Sprinter to assist in animal transport. So far, over 50 kitties have been rehomed in Oregon this year.

Ty and April Wilcox, both experienced and retired Long-haul drivers, are doing the animal transports.

Thank you to all those who support this effort!



### HOW TO GIVE YOUR CAT A PILL:

1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As

cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.

6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

8) Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill inside end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

9) Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink 1 beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

10) Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door onto neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot.

Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12) Call fire brigade to retrieve the \$#%\*^!! cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

13) Tie the little %^&##%'s front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of steak filet. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14) Consume remainder of Scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and remove pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15) Arrange for RSPCA to collect "mutant cat from hell" and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

#### HOW TO GIVE A DOG A PILL:

1) Wrap it in cheese.

#### Please Leave Them Alone ~



This fawn was on our porch and I thought its mom had died... called animal control and they said what this article says:

Dear Friends, we just received our first phone call regarding newborn fawns, therefore it is the time of the year to post this. Deer deliver their newborns in the strangest of places! Residents will find them and be concerned about a newborn deer on their lawn, in their garden, under the azaleas, etc.

Most call because they think the fawn is in peril and Mom is nowhere to be found. Well, Mom is actually off feeding and helping to keep predators away. Those who call ask what they should do for the fawn. Leave it alone, do not touch, move or attempt to feed it. Here's the scoop. Deer are NOT like horses. They do not have their legs under them immediately and need time to rest after birth. Horses get up and go that's the sign of a healthy horse. A healthy fawn will curl up, nap most of the day and move their heads.

They have no scent and predators cannot find them unless humans interfere. Mom leaves during the day for 2 primary reasons: to feed, and to keep her scent a distance from the fawn. Mom will come back (unless something tragic happens to her), but don't expect her until dusk and certainly don't expect her if humans are hovering around. If you are fortunate enough to have the gift of a fawn, please enjoy the experience, respect Mother Nature and let the Mom do what comes naturally. She will move the fawn daily so you may see it in different locations. Please share, thank you.



"Ears are straight, fawn is great. Ears are curled, fawn alone in the world." Look at the ears before picking up a fawn. It takes a few days of not eating for the ears to curl. Here's a photo of both scenarios. Deer on the left is healthy and was unnecessarily kidnapped. Deer on the right is in distressed and needs to see a rehabilitator immediately.

GANG VIOLENCE HAS TO STOP 😂😂



fingers under debris you are moving. Wear heavy gloves.

- If you see a snake, step back and allow it to proceed.
- Wear boots at least 10 inches high.
- Watch for snakes sunning on fallen trees, limbs or other debris.
- A snake's striking distance is about 1/2 the total length of the snake.
- If bitten, note the color and shape of the snake's head to help with treatment.
- Keep bite victims still and calm to slow the spread of venom in case the snake is poisonous. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- Do not cut the wound or attempt to suck out the venom. Apply first aid: lay the person down so that the bite is below the level of the heart, and cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

### William Oglesby

Animal Services Manager

County of Calaveras

(209) 754-6926 Direct

(209) 754-6509 Office

(209) 754-6815 Fax

[woglesby@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:woglesby@co.calaveras.ca.us)



And if you haven't checked out rattlesnake aversion training, I HIGHLY recommend it for your pups, especially if they have freedom on your property or you hike with them.

Trainings are sponsored by various dog clubs so check out [Natural Solutions K-9 Rattlesnake avoidance \(socalrattlesnakeavoidancetraining.com\)](http://socalrattlesnakeavoidancetraining.com) for dates and locations.

There are also other organizations that provide this training, but I have attended the training by Natural Solutions and they did an excellent job. The vaccine only buys you time – so avoid the bite completely if possible!

## Snakes



As all of you may know that spring time brings out the wildlife! With these hot spring days and summer right around the corner with the tall grass from the winter months. This leaves spots for snakes to hide in! So just a quick reminder to look out and down to the ground. Snakes can look like branches, twigs and leaves. Here is some information for your review for these squirmy reptiles that we all share these beautiful mountains with! Please take a minute and review this reminder from Cal/Osha below:

### Snakes

- Watch where you place your hands and feet when removing debris. If possible, don't place your



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## How to Get Rid of Skunk Stink on Dogs

By [Dennis O. Clegg](#) PhD, September 2009

Updated March 2021

Skunk spray is powerful enough to chase off a bear. If your dog comes up stinky, check him for scratches and bites, make sure his eyes didn't take a direct hit, then clean him up with a homemade potion developed by chemist Paul Klebaum. Plus, the science behind the smell.

Summer months, with their sunny days and warm nights, are prime time for critter activity. Cityside and countryside, animals are out and about, searching for food and a good place to raise their young. Skunks are no exception, and while they aren't looking for trouble, they know what to do when it finds them.

Skunks tend to mate in February and give birth to a litter of kits in May or June. So, by [late summer](#), young, inexperienced skunks are beginning to venture out into the world. (Skunk, meet dog.) If we're our dogs' best friends, the [striped skunk](#) has to be one of their worst. Even the skunk's scientific name—*Mephitis mephitis*, from the Latin word meaning "stench"—references the eye-watering odor of their defensive spray.

### HOW DO SKUNKS SPRAY AND WHY DOES IT SMELL SO BAD?

It's only natural that our pooches would be interested in a critter that goes by the name of "polecat," but woe to those who get too close—a single encounter can leave them stinking to high heaven.

Skunks are armed with dual scent glands, one on either side of the anus, each of which holds almost an ounce of malodorous organic chemicals strong enough to repel a bear. They also get points for distance; powerful muscles surrounding the glands can propel the musk several feet from their body. The odiferous, oily liquid is extremely volatile,

meaning, it vaporizes quickly and soaks into everything it touches.

Fortunately for canine victims, the total volume of spray is small and permanent injury is rare, although there have been reports of serious consequences, and even death, from severe exposures. The thiols in skunk spray can remove an electron from the iron atom in hemoglobin, resulting in an anemia that causes lethargy, black feces and brown urine. According to Mary Thrall, DVM, MS, DACVP, "[Life-threatening anemia](#) doesn't happen very often, but owners should be aware of this possibility, and have their animal checked following a direct spray."

### HOW TO GET RID OF SKUNK SMELL ON DOGS

Several over-the-counter deodorizing products, most of them featuring enzymes, are available in pet supply stores and online. Here's a good, [science-based recipe](#) for a homemade remedy that breaks up the oils and tamps down the odor, developed by chemist Paul Krebaum in the early 1990s. *Note: This mix is relatively mild but must be kept out of the dog's eyes, ears and mouth!*

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- A clean plastic bucket in which to mix the ingredients.
- 1 quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide. (Other strengths are not recommended. Peroxide is usually sold in pint bottles, so you'll need two. Use fresh peroxide from unopened bottles.)
- 1/4 cup baking soda. (*Do not use washing soda, which is much stronger and will burn your dog's skin.*)
- 1 to 2 teaspoons of a liquid detergent. (Softsoap and Ivory Liquid are preferred)
- Latex gloves are also a good idea.

#### HOW TO USE IT:

1. Apply to the DRY dog, working well into the fur.
2. Let stand for about five minutes.
3. Rinse with tepid water.

4. Repeat if necessary. (And yes, it's likely to be necessary.)

Do not store this mixture; it loses its effectiveness and, more importantly, it releases oxygen gas, which could cause a closed container to explode. It may bleach the dog's fur (but better that than the smell!). And remember, the sooner you deal with the skunking, the better. Left alone, the smell sets and is harder to eliminate.

### Why It Works

This de-skunking mixture contains hydrogen peroxide, a strong oxidizing agent that reacts with the thiol (SH), removes electrons and adds oxygen atoms to generate an odor-free sulfonic acid (SHO<sub>3</sub>). Baking soda buffers the acid, and detergent helps remove the oily, hydrophobic (water-repelling) sulfonic acids.

### HOW TO REMOVE SKUNK SMELL FROM YOURSELF

If you're the one who got skunked, your first step in neutralizing the odor is to bathe. Wash your entire body with deodorant soap or a grease-cutting dish detergent. Wash your hair with a shampoo made for oily hair.

You can also take a baking-soda bath. Pour 2 to 4 cups of baking soda into hot water, soak for 15 to 20 minutes, then rinse well under the shower to remove the residue from your skin.

If you spot a skunk while out walking with your dog, immediately stop and maintain your distance. Leash and/or keep your dog close and slowly retreat, encouraging your dog to follow you. When you're beyond the 10- to 15-foot spray range, move away and continue your walk in open areas, avoiding brush and the wooded areas where skunk encounters are most common. Or, if your dog is already "on point" and close to the skunk, call her to come and quickly walk in the opposite direction, urging her to follow you. This is when a solid recall really pays off!

Despite their odoriferous reputation, skunks are [generally easy-going animals](#) and do not bother people unless harassed. They use their powerful

defense only when they or their young are threatened and they cannot escape. Dogs, following their curious nature, may heighten the "threat" from the skunk's perspective. If you find yourself with a skunk problem, the Humane Society offers some [compassionate advice](#).

**★ HOW TO GET RID OF ★ SKUNK SMELL**

DID A SKUNK SPRAY YOUR DOG, CAR, HOUSE, OR EVEN YOU? HERE'S HOW TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THE ODOR!

**THESE TACTICS WILL NOT WORK VERY WELL:**

- Bath in tomato juice
- Spray with lemon or orange citrus
- Masking agents like perfume or Fabreze

**↓ HERE IS THE SECRET RECIPE THAT WORKS ↓**

- 1 QUART** 3 percent hydrogen peroxide
- 1/4 CUP** baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)
- 1 TEASPOON** liquid soap or dish detergent

Mix these together and bathe ("shampoo" in or rub down) the spray victim thoroughly.

Be sure to use this mixture immediately after it is created, as it is unstable.

Let sit for five minutes and rinse with tap water afterward, and repeat if necessary.

For spray in the eyes, flush with water as soon as possible.

**YOUR DOG (OR YOU) WILL NOW BE ODOR FREE! SO LONG, SKUNK SMELL!**



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## Read this Before You Shave Your Dog!

As summer and the warmer weather arrives, many people consider shaving their dogs in an attempt to keep them more comfortable. But there are some dogs that should not be shaved as their coats provide protection. The following article is an excerpt from

<https://www.puppleaks.com/should-you-shave-your-dog/> and provides some great information to be considered before making that decision.

### What You Need to Know Before Shaving Your Dog

With the summer fast approaching many of us will be spending more time outdoors with our dogs. And to keep them cool in the summer we provide them with plenty of fresh water, lots of shade, and some of our dogs may even get a nice summer haircut.

Have you ever considered shaving your dog for the summer? I did it years ago under the assumption that it would help keep him cool, but unfortunately it had the opposite effect.

Before you decide to shave your dog remember this: **double coated dogs should not be shaved.** Shaving a double coated dog will not help keep him cool, and it often ends up making things much worse.

**Single coated breeds** (such as Poodles) can have their fur clipped or shaved down to the skin and it will grow back the way it was, but this is not the case for double coated breeds.

### Why Double Coated Dogs Should Not be Shaved

When deciding whether or not to shave your dog you need to determine what kind of coat your dog has – single or double.

Double coated breeds are those that have two layers of fur. The top layer is made of tough guard

hairs and the bottom layer is a thick layer of fur called an **undercoat**. The undercoat is a layer of fine hairs close to an animals' skin that help keep them cool in the summer and warm in winter. In the spring they go through a major shedding period known as blowing their coat when much of that undercoat is released to make way for their lighter summer coat.

Common **double coated breeds** include Huskies, Chows, Labradors, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, and Pomeranian's. Most of the herding breeds have a double coat, as well as the Spitz type breeds and a majority of Terriers.

Shaving a double coated dog can permanently damage their fur, and contrary to popular belief it does not help keep them cool in the summer. Shaving a double coated dog should only be done in extreme cases of matting or with certain skin conditions.

### Shaving Will Not Help Cool Them Down

The reason I shaved my dog was to help keep him cool in the summer. It didn't, in fact it made him even less tolerant to the heat. Your dogs coat serves as a natural insulation from both hot and cold weather. The hot sun will warm your dog up more if they don't have that layer of insulation protecting them.

*When the coat does grow back it produces a **thicker undercoat** with a mix of short guard hairs. This new coat is thicker and softer than the old coat. Why is this bad? A dog's shaved down false coat acts as a sweatshirt. Its softness soaks up the water and attracts burrs and hitchhikers. The thickness of the coat is extremely hot in summer. – Blue Cross Animal Hospital*

Shaving Increases Sunburn and Skin Cancer Risks  
The top layer of your dog's fur helps protect them against bug bites and the sun's harmful rays. By shaving your dog you're leaving them more exposed to the sun, increasing their risk of developing **sunburn** or **skin cancer**.

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## *Their Fur Can Become Permanently Damaged by Shaving*

When a double coated dog is shaved there's no guarantee the top guard coat will grow back. And the older a dog is the less likely it is to grow back normally. The undercoat continues to grow, but for some dogs the guard hairs never do. These dogs are left with a coat that has a patchy, frizzy, dull appearance. Shaving your dog can alter their coat permanently.

This is what happened to my dog Carter. His backside, belly, and legs never grew any top hairs back. It became nearly impossible to groom him on my own. The undercoat became so wild, frizzy, and unruly that it felt just like harsh wool.

*The undercoat is all that is left when you shave a dog, and as it grows faster than the outer coat, it takes a very long time for the outer coat to catch up, if at all. This means that there is no outer coat to protect the under coat, which becomes brittle and breaks off, and that there is no shiny, glossy hair on your dog. – EKC Gr*

## *Shaving Your Dog Will Not Help With Allergies*

Will shaving your dog help with allergies? Not at all. The dander on your pets skin and fur is what [causes pet allergies](#), not the fur itself. And that dander is a collection of dead skin cells that sits in the undercoat of double coated dogs. So when you shave your dog you're actually going to be exposing yourself to more irritants.

Shaving your dog will allow more of these allergens to become airborne, leading to more chances for direct contact.

*These allergens become airborne during the animal's natural shedding process, and end up everywhere: on carpet, drapes, blinds, furniture — even on clothes. – [Dr. Karen Halligan](#) director of veterinary services at SPCALA*

## *Shaving Your Dog Will Not Decrease Shedding*

Shaving your dog does not [decrease shedding](#). Your dog will still shed, and after shaving it will just be shorter hair that they're shedding. Because their top guard layer has been removed (the part that doesn't shed), the undercoat is allowed to grow uninhibited which can lead to more shedding.

## *There Are Better Ways to Manage Your Dogs Coat*

Double coated breeds require regular grooming. In the spring and fall they go through their shedding process which can be a lot to handle if you're not prepared. Hair will [get everywhere](#) – not just little bits and pieces either, huge tufts at a time will come out.

Maintaining a regular [grooming schedule](#) for double coated dogs is necessary. You can get a de-shedding tool like the [Furminator](#) (which is great for my German Shepherd mix, but it may not be the best choice for some breeds since it can pull too much hair), or you can take a trip to the groomer and let them do the heavy work.

Regular brushing does more than just remove extra fur. It helps keep your dogs hair in good condition by removing dirt, preventing tangles, and keeping their skin clean and irritant free.

## *Please Don't Shave Your Double Coated Dog*

Shaving a double coated dog does not help cool them down, it will not decrease shedding, it will not prevent allergies, and it permanently damages their coat. Shaving your dog in the summer seems like common sense, why wouldn't it help keep them cool? That's probably why I didn't think twice before paying a groomer to shave my dog. But that one shave damaged his coat forever.

His top coat never grew back. He had to endure long grooming sessions as I tried to manage his unruly wool like fur. It's something I'll always regret. Lots of us make this assumption about a

nice summer shave for our pets. It's so easy to do, and it's hard to imagine that it could do any harm. But please think twice before shaving your dog, don't make the same mistake I did.

If you have a double coated breed remember that his outer layer of fur is there for a purpose. It serves as your dog's **heating and cooling** system, developed and designed by mother nature herself. Please think twice before shaving your dog – in this case **nature knows best**.



## Bits and Pieces

Check out the last page – what a difference in the last 6 years, even with the shelter having to limit intakes as of 3/16/20, due to the COVID outbreak. Such great progress!!

Have a wonderful summer and as always, you're welcome to attend any of our meetings next door to the Animal Services office, typically held the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00.

See you next issue, which will be August – Have a great summer.

## 10 Things Your Dog Would Tell You

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful: remember that before you get me.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me- it is crucial to my well-being.
4. Do not be angry at me for long, and do not lock me up as punishment.
5. You have your work, your entertainment, and your friends. I only have you.
6. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it is speaking to me.
7. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget.
8. Remember before you hit me that I have teeth that could easily hurt you, but I choose not to bite you because I love you.
9. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I might not be getting the right food, or I have been out too long, or my heart is getting too old and weak.
10. Take care of me when I get old; you too will grow old. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say: "I cannot bear to watch" or "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there, even my death. 🐾

## CCAS Euthanasia Summary

|  | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | 2021     | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|------|
| <b>January - March</b>                   |            |            |            |           |           |           |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized by owner request</i>  | 13         | 16         | 15         | 11        | 12        | 3         | 1        |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized for other reasons</i> | 12         | 8          | 10         | 10        | 6         | 3         | 2        |      |      |
| <b>Dogs euthanized</b>                   | <b>25</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>21</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>3</b> |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized by owner request</i>  | 4          | 4          | 2          | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0        |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized for other reasons</i> | 37         | 15         | 19         | 4         | 4         | 5         | 2        |      |      |
| <b>Cats euthanized</b>                   | <b>41</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>2</b> |      |      |
| <b>April - June</b>                      |            |            |            |           |           |           |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized by owner request</i>  | 8          | 16         | 6          | 10        | 10        | 1         |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized for other reasons</i> | 6          | 8          | 17         | 7         | 0         | 4         |          |      |      |
| <b>Dogs euthanized</b>                   | <b>14</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>23</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>5</b>  |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized by owner request</i>  | 2          | 23         | 10         | 6         | 3         | 1         |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized for other reasons</i> | 30         | 14         | 28         | 9         | 16        | 1         |          |      |      |
| <b>Cats euthanized</b>                   | <b>32</b>  | <b>37</b>  | <b>38</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>2</b>  |          |      |      |
| <b>July - September</b>                  |            |            |            |           |           |           |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized by owner request</i>  | 12         | 15         | 16         | 3         | 4         | 3         |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized for other reasons</i> | 0          | 7          | 9          | 6         | 5         | 1         |          |      |      |
| <b>Dogs euthanized</b>                   | <b>12</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>4</b>  |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized by owner request</i>  | 3          | 2          | 10         | 4         | 2         | 1         |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized for other reasons</i> | 18         | 36         | 15         | 18        | 18        | 4         |          |      |      |
| <b>Cats euthanized</b>                   | <b>21</b>  | <b>38</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>5</b>  |          |      |      |
| <b>October - December</b>                |            |            |            |           |           |           |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized by owner request</i>  | 10         | 28         | 6          | 8         | 3         | 4         |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized for other reasons</i> | 18         | 5          | 15         | 7         | 5         | 3         |          |      |      |
| <b>Dogs euthanized</b>                   | <b>28</b>  | <b>33</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>7</b>  |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized by owner request</i>  | 8          | 12         | 1          | 2         | 0         | 0         |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized for other reasons</i> | 70         | 15         | 76         | 6         | 12        | 4         |          |      |      |
| <b>Cats euthanized</b>                   | <b>78</b>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>77</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>12</b> | <b>4</b>  |          |      |      |
| <b>January - December</b>                |            |            |            |           |           |           |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized by owner request</i>  | 43         | 75         | 43         | 32        | 29        | 11        |          |      |      |
| <i>Dogs euthanized for other reasons</i> | 36         | 28         | 51         | 30        | 16        | 11        |          |      |      |
| <b>Total dogs euthanized</b>             | <b>79</b>  | <b>103</b> | <b>94</b>  | <b>62</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>22</b> |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized by owner request</i>  | 17         | 41         | 23         | 15        | 5         | 2         |          |      |      |
| <i>Cats euthanized for other reasons</i> | 155        | 80         | 138        | 37        | 50        | 14        |          |      |      |
| <b>Total cats euthanized</b>             | <b>172</b> | <b>121</b> | <b>161</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>16</b> |          |      |      |