



ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2024

A Great Reminder

by Erica Kutzing, via Facebook

Room one is a euthanasia. You've known this dog since she was a little puppy. You'll never forget that day, when the new owners excitedly burst through the door to show off their new baby. It was so many years ago but the feeling was electric. While she isn't yours, you still love her. There was always an audible cheer through the staff when we saw her on the schedule.

Room two is a client upset about the wait time. It's 30 minutes past their appointment time so, we get it, what an annoyance! But we struggle to tell the family in the other room to hurry up while saying goodbye. We just can't do it. So, we will take the brunt.

The phone rings. We are being blamed over the high prices we charge. Prices that aren't within our control. We are told we are only in this for the money. The money we make that doesn't cover our bills. They're going to switch to another vet and tell the community that we are money hungry.

The phone rings again. Switch gears to pure joy because this person is booking an appointment for a new kitten they adopted! You beam with excitement because you know you'll be able to be in this precious kitten's life for its entirety.

Another appointment enters just then. Someone else with a beautiful kitten. But this kitten's gums are white. Hematocrit is below 15. You and the staff struggle to pull blood because her pressure is to the floor. This kitten won't survive the night.

A client with gratitude in their eyes comes in. A tray of homemade cookies and a really meaningful card. We diagnosed their pet with a treatable disease and are finally able to manage the pet's symptoms. We can tell they're so appreciative.

The door swings open. Dog attack victim rushing in with wounds covering her body. Hurry and rush her into the back and escort the frantic owner into the bathroom to wash off the blood. This is definitely going to be an emergency surgery, it's a shame we are already short staffed. These clients waiting are going to be SO mad! Well, prepare to be yelled at after prepping the dog for surgery. Comes with the territory.

Bill out, restrain, make appointments, clean, keep up with the work flow, answer the phones, smile, cry, no time for a breather.

This wasn't our day today but it is not uncommon when it does happen. At least two of these scenarios take place daily, and sometimes we are hit with it all at once.

A reminder, human doctors make an average of \$280,000 per year, while veterinarians make an average of \$99,250.

The average salary for an RN is \$93,000 in NY. For a licensed vet tech it is \$46,000.

We take a lot of abuse for very little money. But we still come to work every day because of the thank you's, both by the grateful clients and also from the silent patients who say it with their eyes.

Suicide rates of veterinarians are double or more those of dentists and doctors. Our field is drowning and the numbers don't lie.

Owning pets is expensive, we know. Most of us have more than we can handle, too. And their care, despite our jobs, isn't free.

But we are working every day because through the sea of abuse we endure, there are those bright moments that you try to place above the rest.

Thank you, Erica, – that was SO well-written and a great reminder to check our attitudes at the door. And if you know of any vet or vet tech struggling, there is a website Not One More Vet – please refer them to that organization for help. NOMV.org

Dog Stats


(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
February	560	10
March	637	7
April	667.0	6
Total	1,864.0	23

CAT Stats

(By Cynthia Pino and Anne Dasch)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
February	104.7	14
March	99	7
April	71.4	4
Total	275.1	25



Did your human break a treat in half and try to pass it off as a whole treat?

You may be entitled to compensation.

FIDO BONA ESQ
Pawfirm Owner

Our attorneys have seven times the experience chasing down treats owed. Paw us today to schedule a consultation

HOUND, WOLFE & CHASE
Attorneys at Paw



PSA
for cats owners.

It's never an unexpected litter.

If your cat is not spayed, you can absolutely expect it.



This dog never wants to hear anyone complain about his barking ever again.



Health tips by Doc Hopper



6 Ways Ginger Will Help Your Dog

- Jessica Peralta
- Dogs Naturally
- 2021-12-10



Post At A Glance

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There's a good reason why you instinctively reach for ginger ale whenever your stomach feels off. It's because of the ginger in it.

And it turns out that **the properties that make ginger good for you can help your dog as well.**

Asian and Arabic cultures have used ginger root as a spice and medicine for thousands of years.

Ginger's function as a digestive aid for stomach upset and nausea is most likely the best-known benefit. But it's far from the only one. In fact, its potential benefits extend way past the stomach.

Ginger is also helpful for more serious conditions like [osteoarthritis](#) and even [cancer](#).

That's why many holistic practitioners recommend this powerful root for dogs.

Here are 6 ways ginger may help your dog ...

1. Nausea

There are many reasons why a dog might be [nauseous and vomiting](#).

Perhaps he's a little under the weather? Or has [motion sickness](#)? Maybe he's undergoing [cancer treatment](#)?

Whatever the reason, there's a very good chance some fresh ginger (or even ginger tea or the powdered spice) can help. Always keep some handy for when you suspect your dog has an [upset](#) stomach.

One study **compared ginger to a common nausea drug – dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)**. It was [as effective as dimenhydrinate](#) in humans and had fewer side effects. Veterinarians also [prescribe this same drug to dogs](#) to treat nausea and motion sickness.

Ginger's anti-nausea effect is because of gingerol and shogaol. These compounds give ginger its taste and help speed up the digestive process.

Ginger also acts as [an anti-inflammatory](#), soothing the digestive tract to reduce nausea.

Give your dog some ginger when you notice signs of nausea ...

- Panting
- Excessive drool
- Loss of appetite
- Drinking less water
- Lip licking or smacking
- Odd facial expressions

Your dog may also [eat grass](#) when his stomach's upset but there should be other signs as well. Otherwise, he may just be eating grass for fun ... or because he's looking for extra nutrients.

If your dog gets [car sick](#), **give him ginger about 30 minutes before he gets in the car.**

(I'll talk more about how to give your dog ginger a bit later.)

RELATED: [3 Reasons Your Dog Eats Grass And When To Be Worried ...](#)

2. Bloat

Bloat is when your dog's stomach expands from built up air, food and fluid. Pressure builds up and expands your dog's stomach.

Bloat often **progresses to [gastric dilatation-volvulus \(GDV\)](#), which is life-threatening**. So, if you think your dog is bloating, you need to get to the vet urgently.

The first stage is dilatation. The stomach will expand and put pressure on other parts of your dog's body ...

Blood flow will slow between the heart, abdomen and hind legs. And so will blood flow to and from the stomach lining. Pressure on the diaphragm will make it difficult for your dog to breathe. Without proper air and blood flow your dog's cells may begin to die.

The stomach can then twist from the amount of pressure. It will close off the entrance and exit to your dog's stomach. Nothing will be able to move in or out. This is the *volvulus* stage.

If the stomach twists, blood circulation becomes compromised. Organs won't get the blood and oxygen they need to function and your dog will go into shock. **Dogs can die from bloat or GDV in a matter of hours.**

If your dog has bloat, you may see these symptoms

- Enlarged abdomen
- Excessive drooling
- Restlessness
- Abdominal pain
- Retching
- Pale gums

As it worsens, you'll begin to see ...

- Increased heart rate
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness
- Collapse

An exact cause hasn't been scientifically confirmed for GDV. But there are plenty of [risk factors](#) including poor diet and genetics.

There are also **steps you can take to prevent bloat** such as ...

- Feeding a raw diet
- Feeding bones
- Proper exercise
- Non-elevated bowls (feed your dog at ground level)
- Smaller meals

Ginger may help at early stages of bloat. I mentioned before that ginger can stimulate movement in the stomach. This can help move the contents of the stomach out quicker and prevent build ups. It can also help reduce gas build up, which I'll talk about next.

3. Flatulence

As stinky as it may be, sometimes your dog has to pass gas. Gas builds up in your dog's digestive system for two major reasons ...

- He swallows air while eating and drinking
- Digestive gases release as food breaks down (think beans and cruciferous vegetables)

A little bit of gas is normal. But when your dog has a buildup, it can get uncomfortable. And as you now know, it can cause major issues (like bloat).

Ginger is a [carminative herb](#). This means it **can help prevent and expel gas from your dog's digestive tract**.

4. Arthritis

Arthritis is an [inflammatory disease](#). And ginger is a [natural anti-inflammatory](#).

So, it should come as no surprise that **adding ginger to your dog's diet could help ease arthritis symptoms**.

There aren't any studies that look at the effect of ginger on joint pain in dogs. But human and animal studies do show promise.

One study showed ginger could [reduce symptoms in osteoarthritis](#) of the knee.

In another study with rats, ginger helped reduce inflammation associated with [rheumatoid arthritis](#).

5. Cancer

Yes, ginger has even shown benefits as a cancer fighter in some studies.

One study showed that ginger could [slow the rate of breast cancer growth](#) in mice. Another study demonstrated that ginger could [kill lymphosarcoma cells](#) in a test tube. It also had a positive effect on rats with [liver cancer](#).

And since inflammation plays a role in cancer development ... **ginger can help prevent cancer**. That's because it's an anti-inflammatory and [an immune booster](#).

Ginger can also help ease the side effects of cancer treatment. This is because it can ease nausea.

A common chemo drug used for dogs is cisplatin, which causes nausea and vomiting. A study showed that ginger reduced vomiting in [dogs on this drug](#).

6. Heartworm

[Heartworm](#) is a scary disease that can lead to ...

- Lung disease
- Heart failure
- Organ damage
- Death

But when it comes to prevention, **conventional options are a risky choice**. They're [full of neurotoxic chemicals](#) that can harm your dog. And **conventional treatments are also risky and hard on your dog**.

Not to mention the preventatives don't actually stop your dog from getting infected. It just kills the larvae before they become adult worms.

The good news is **there are more holistic approaches to prevent and remedy heartworm.**

RELATED: [Why I Don't Give My Dogs Heartworm Medicine \(And Why You Shouldn't Either\) ...](#)

One of these remedies may be ginger.

In one study, ginger showed promise in managing [heartworm disease in dogs](#). Injections of alcohol extracts of ginger root reduced microfilariae by 83 to 98% in infected dogs.

How To Feed Ginger To Your Dog

Ginger comes in a variety of forms, including powder, capsule/pill, tincture, tea and raw root.

Fresh organic ginger root:

Cut the skin off with a knife and finely mince the yellow part of the root.

Demian Dressler DVM ([Dog Cancer Vet](#)), recommends the following dosages to help prevent nausea from cancer treatments ...

10 lbs or less ... ¼ tsp, 3 times daily
10 to 35 lbs ... ½ tsp, 3 times daily
35 lbs or more ... ¾ tsp, 3 times daily

Always start slow and work your way up to the full dose.

For other forms, [Ottawa Valley Dog Whisperer](#) recommends the following dosages:

Powdered ginger:

1 to 10 lbs ... up to ⅛ tsp
10 to 20 lbs ... ⅛ to ¼ tsp
20 to 50 lbs ... 1 tsp
50 to 100 lbs ... 2 tsp
Over 100 lbs ... up to 1 tbsp

Ginger tea:

You can buy ginger tea or make your own from fresh ginger root.

1 to 10 lbs ... less than ¼ cup, 1 to 3 times daily
10 to 20 lbs ... ¼ cup, 1 to 3 times daily
20 to 50 lbs ... ¼ to ½ cup, 1 to 3 times daily
50 to 100 lbs ... ½ to 1 cup, 1 to 3 times daily
Over 100 lbs ... up to 1 cup, 1 to 3 times daily

Capsule:

1 to 10 lbs ... ½ capsule, 1 to 3 times daily
10 to 20 lbs ... ½ to 1 capsule, 1 to 3 times daily
20 to 50 lbs ... 1 to 2 capsules, 2 to 3 times daily
50 to 100 lbs ... 1 to 2 capsules, 3 to 4 times daily
Over 100 lbs ... adult human dose

Tincture:

1 to 10 lbs ... 1 to 3 drops, 2 to 3 times daily
10 to 20 lbs ... 3 to 5 drops, 2 to 3 times daily
20 to 50 lbs ... 5 to 10 drops, 2 to 3 times daily
50 to 100 lbs ... 20 drops, 2 to 3 times daily
Over 100 lbs ... adult human dose

Cautions

Ginger can thin the blood, so avoid it if your dog is on blood thinning medication, or will be undergoing surgery or going into labor. It may also lower blood sugar and blood pressure. Talk to your vet if your dog has diabetes or has any kind of heart condition. Also consult with your vet if your dog is pregnant, on any medications or is being treated for a condition.

So ... Can Dogs Eat Ginger?

Ginger is safe for dogs to eat. And it can offer many health benefits from digestive relief to heartworm and cancer prevention.

So, add ginger to your list of natural remedies for your dog and grab some the next time you're at the store



March Rabies & Microchip Clinic

Our first drive through rabies and microchip clinic provided 188 rabies vaccinations and 126 microchips. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, and vets, Cathy & Steve Gatlin.



Luna



Lola

And a big than you to Katie Orlopp for taking photos

April Rabies & Microchip Clinic

There are not enough thanks to ALL who worked our 2nd clinic because it was the first rainy, and I mean down-pour, clinic we have ever had.

Still our stellar volunteers and staff stood in the cold rain and did 116 rabies vaccines and 55 microchips. So thanks, thanks, thanks and a gazillion more thanks and warm hugs to you ALL.

This is Dr. Alissa Burnett(second from left) and her students all the way from U C Davis who Anne Dasch found for us. They were awesome and said they will come back to help at another clinic later this year.



Once again super duper gargantuan thanks to all who got soaked and braved the icky weather to make another successful clinic.

And a very special thank you to the Sheriff and Lt. Cheryl Manning for the use of the port a potty at the clinic it was a giant success. Lt. Manning has committed it to us for the rest of our clinics at the government center. So, a giant shout out of thanks for the potty. We will try and get a photo next time in the sun.

Cheers, Debby

AL RANDOM COMICS by Ryan Mason



AIRPORT DAYS

Also, on the same rainy day as our rabies clinic, was Airport Days. Kathy and Dom Nuccio ran an info booth at Airport Day while CCAS staff and dog walkers presented dogs available to be adopted at the first ever off site CCAS adoption event.



Wizard found a forever home and there was lots of interest so maybe it will bring folks in at a later date.



The lady with the green bag and dog on a leash is the new mom of Wizard! She also donated \$30 for five of the leash bibs 👍 ✨ 🐾 🐾 🐾 This forever family is totally wonderful. Lucky Wizard 🐾

Thanks to all the Airport Day volunteers and staff also. Also thanks to Terry Hayes for the use of her office.

Only a cat can be this exhausted from doing nothing.



< iRobot Roomba 880 Vacuum Cleanin...

Q: How many cats can ride at once? Does cat riding deplete the battery faster or diminish cleaning effectiveness?

A: The top is slippery and cats slide off. You can glue astroturf to the top, but the cats still get knocked off when the unit goes under a couch. Because of the curvature of the top, if you want more than one riding cat, you have to put velcro strips on the unit and give the cats velcro socks. They will try to take them off. Estimate 15% reduction of runtime for every 5 pounds of riding cat.

Scott Cusick | 8 months ago

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As you know, our drive through rabies clinics are quite active and take a large number of volunteers – from car hops passing paperwork to those in line, to people completing forms, and assisting with other paperwork.

We've had a fabulous group of volunteers to assist over the years, but a few have had to drop out for various reasons **and we're in desperate need of some more folks to help out.**

The most urgent is our next clinic on May 11th.

We are very short-handed for that clinic so if you can come and help out for a few hours (typically 8:30-1:00) then PLEASE contact Debby Beaufort at beadog1944@gmail.com.

The other clinics we need help at are 6/8, 9/14, and 10/12. Thank you.

THE REALITY OF DOG BREEDS

Everyone who is thinking of getting a dog should read this because you need to understand this reality:



***I am a 21st century dog. ***

I'm a Malinois. Over-skilled among dogs, I excel in all disciplines and I'm always ready to work: I NEED to work. But nowadays I get asked to chill on the couch all day every day.

I am an Akita Inu. My ancestors were selected for dog fighting. Today I get asked to be tolerant and I get scolded for my reactivity when another approaches me.

I am a Beagle. When I chase my prey, I raise my voice so the hunters could follow. Today they put an electric collar on me to shut up, and you make me come back to you - no running - with a snap of your fingers.

I am a Yorkshire Terrier. I was a terrifying rat hunter in English mines. Today they think I can't use my legs and they always hold me in their arms.

I'm a Labrador Retriever. My vision of happiness is a dive into a pond to bring back the duck he shot to my master. Today you forget I'm a walking, running, swimming dog; as a result, I'm fat, made to stay indoors, and to babysit.

I am a Jack Russell. I can take on a fox, a mean badger, and a rat bigger than me in his den. Today I get scolded for my character and high energy, and forced to turn into a quiet living room dog.

I am a Siberian Husky. Experienced the great, wide open spaces of Northern Europe, where I could drag sleds for long distances at impressive speeds. Today I only have the walls of the house or small garden as a horizon, and the holes I dig in the ground just to release energy and frustration, trying to stay sane.

I am a border collie. I was made to work hours a day in partnership with my master, and I am an unmistakable artist of working with the herd. Today they are mad at me because, for lack of sheep, I try to check bikes, cars, children in the house and everything in motion.

I am a 21st century dog. I'm pretty, I'm alert, I'm obedient, I stay in a bag...but I'm also an individual who, from centuries of training, needs to express my instincts, and I am *not* suited for the sedentary life you'd want me to lead.

Spending eight hours a day alone in the house or in the garden - with no work and no one to play or run with, seeing you for a short time in the evening when you get home, and only getting a small toilet walk will make me deeply unhappy.

I'll express it by barking all day, turning your yard into a minefield, doing my needs indoors, being unmanageable the rare times I'll find myself outside, and sometimes spending my days sunk, sad, lonely, and depressed, on my pillow.

You may think that I should be happy to be able to enjoy all this comfort while you go to work, but

actually I'll be exhausted and frustrated, because this is absolutely NOT what I'm meant to do, or what I need to be doing.

If you love me, if you've always dreamed of me, if my beautiful blue eyes or my athletic look make you want me, but you can't give me a real dog's life, a life that's really worth living according to my breed, and if you can't offer me the job that my genes are asking, DO NOT BUY OR ADOPT ME!

If you like the way I look but aren't willing to accept my temperament, gifts, and traits derived from long genetic selection, and you think you can change them with only your good will, then DO NOT BUY OR ADOPT ME.

I'm a dog from the 21st century, yes, but deep inside me, the one who fought, the one who hunted, the one who pulled sleds, the one who guided and protected a herd still lives within.

So think ****very**** carefully before you choose your dog. And think about getting two, rather than one, so I won't be so very lonely waiting for you all day. Eight or ten hours is just a workday to you, but it's an eternity for me to be alone.

If you are a true dog lover, you will honor a dog for who they are, a dog, instead of treating them like a human.



Dog Greeting Etiquette

Pack Leader Dog Psychology
& Behavior

Many of my clients talk about how the biggest problem they have is other people, whether its family members, guests, or strangers, trying to touch, talk to, or give direct eye contact to their dog who isn't interested in meeting them that way.



Remember, a dog is nose first.

It's their best sense.

If I had met Paco, seen here, by excitedly saying "hiiiiiii," giving direct eye contact, and trying to pet him, I would have likely been bitten.

That would have been my fault.

I would have broken the laws of Dog Psychology and Nature by disregarding how the animal was feeling and trying to talk and touch a species that doesn't meet that way.

They meet through the nose.

Most humans are unaware of this, which is why so many people are sending dogs into fight state to protect themselves against humans who are approaching dogs in an unhealthy way.

Real dog lovers take the time to truly understand dogs and their psychology and put the well-being of the dog before their own personal needs.

That's the REAL dog lover!

To view the video, please visit their website at [Home - Pack Leader Dogs](#)



PASS ON YOUR OLD TENNIS SHOES AND RAISE MONEY FOR FOCAS

There is a program that will pay for your old tennis shoes and we can earn a little extra money with your donation.

It's called Got Sneakers and they will take tennis shoes as long as there are no holes, rips, tears, or separating soles. Shoes must also have laces.

They will pay \$7 per pair if in excellent shape, \$2 a pair if they are gently used, and \$1 per pair for moderate to heavily used shoes.

They provide the bags for shipping the shoes to them so there is no cost to FOCAS. If you would like to participate, please contact me to arrange passing on your shoes! Goldpup55@aol.com

Thank you!



FREE FREE FREE

RABIES VACCINE & MICROCHIP

DRIVE-THRU CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS

→ Open to Calaveras County Residents Only ←

No Breeders Please

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

with attending veterinarian Brookely Schamber, DVM

🦴 All dogs 🦴
🦴 must be 🦴
🦴 on leash 🦴



🐾 All cats 🐾
🐾 must be 🐾
🐾 in secure 🐾
🐾 carriers 🐾

👉 **Calaveras County Government Center** 👈
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

More upcoming 2024 clinics: June 8, Sept.14, Oct. 12



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Questions? (209) 754-6509
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