

BCMA Bullytin

Newsletter of the Bulldog Club of Metropolitan Atlanta



April 2010



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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you are as excited as I that spring has arrived! Much of this issue is devoted to spring and summer safety. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control website has much to offer regarding safety for our pets so I've included some of their info in this issue.

I have exciting news. Beginning in May, Joel Thomas and Traci Bloodworth are going to be helping with the newsletter! For the time being you will still send news, ideas, etc. to me.

Annette Nobles



Congratulations to the winner of the BCMA AKC Sanctioned Match on 4/19. Imperious Hamit Up Mirror Image owned by Rick Franz.

ATTENTION AKC CHANGE

The show season is in full swing. Remember that as of January 1, 2010, all dogs must be fully registered by the day of the event you want to enter and compete for all competitions

CLUB NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to 2010 BULLDOGGER OF THE YEAR, Alison Palmer. Alison received this recognition for her many years of devotion to our club and to the Bulldog breed.

Great fun was had by all at the Spring AKC Match this past Sunday. Thank you again to member Joyce Keeton who allowed us to meet at her boarding and training facility, THE DOG SPOT, located in Loganville, GA.

Get well wishes go out to club member Traci Bloodworth who has been “under the weather” lately.

MEETING NOTICE

**May 12, 2010
Wednesday
Dekalb Animal Hospital
4070 Lawrenceville Hwy.
Tucker, GA**

Please notice we are back to the original meeting times. Officers and board members please meet at 6:30 PM. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

DOGGY HUMOR



“The red bits are touching the brown bits!”

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Our quote this month is dedicated to the memory of Clyde and Anna. Clyde was a part of Phill and Vanessa Mosher’s family for over 12 years. An absolutely magnificent boy he is missed each day. Anna was a member of Ric, Rebecca, and Russell Turpin’s family. Her loss was unexpected and she is missed so much by her family.

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."

Unknown

BRAGS

Congratulations to Tim and Janel Gillis whose Avalons Blue Blood Bonny Belle was Winners Bitch on Friday of the Columbiana, AL shows (Birmingham Kennel Club).

Congratulations to Johnny & Bree Babb whose KABA'S KOSMIC ARACHNOPHOBIA was Winners Dog on Sat. of the recent Perry shows and Reserve Winners Dog on Fri. and Sun. of the Perry shows.

WARM WEATHER HAZARDS KEEPING YOUR BULLDOG SAFE

Submitted by Annette Nobles

Source of information
www.asPCA.org

Spring is here! Even though this is certainly cause to celebrate after a long, cold and very wet winter we must remember there are dangers for our Bulldogs associated with this time of year. The following warm weather hazards are listed on the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website. Some of these are things you usually do not think of so read on!

Animal toxins. Beware toads, insects, spiders, snakes, and scorpions. All live in the southeastern states. Keep Benadryl on hand for stinging insects and talk to your vet BEFORE something happens as to what action you should take.

Blue-Green Algae. This is a new one for me. Apparently not all blue-green algae are toxic; however, unless you are an algae expert, beware! Toxic algae is prolific in ponds, lakes, and slow moving rivers in the southeastern U.S. In times of drought, lowered water levels and low air circulation combine to boost production of algae into overdrive. Large blooms are often followed by large die offs. The gas produced by these die offs pushes the algae colony to the water's surface, creating a dangerous situation. From this point, even a gentle breeze will serve to push the algae into a concentrated layer of scum, often near the water's edge where dogs and other animals are likely to ingest it while drinking. Preventing blue green algae toxicity in dogs is easier than successfully treating it. The best advice is to not allow your dog to drink from stagnant ponds or lakes, especially if they have a bluish-green scum on the surface and around the edges. If you have contaminated water on your property, you should immediately fence the area off so your dog and other animals in the vicinity cannot drink there. The signs of algae toxicity in dogs vary, depending on whether they are triggered by nervous system toxins or liver toxins. Signs of the presence of liver toxins include: weakness and/or lethargy, pale mucous membranes, bloody diarrhea, mental instability, and eventual death.

Citronella candles. The only known side effect stemming from the citronella oil is skin irritation from putting the oil directly on the skin. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals lists citronella candles as poisonous to dogs because citronella candles can cause diarrhea and stomach cramping when ingested by animals who are attracted to their smell. Avoid putting citronella candles on the ground and on low lying areas to prevent curious animals from eating them and from burning themselves on the flame.

Cocoa mulch . The mulch is highly prized by gardeners for its dark, rich color and high nutrient content, not to mention the delicious aroma. Unfortunately, cocoa mulch contains high levels of theobromine, the same chemical that makes chocolate bars harmful to dogs. Ingesting even low doses of cocoa mulch can be risky for dogs. Dr. Hansen of the AVMA recommends that pet owners avoid use of cocoa bean shell mulch in landscaping accessible to unsupervised dogs, or at least use it cautiously around dogs with indiscriminate eating habits. The odds of dogs dying from eating the fresh mulch are low, but those suspected of ingesting it should be examined by a veterinarian.

Compost piles and fertilizers . Beware of hidden dangers. A few years ago when returning from a dog show we were delighted to find a beautiful private grassy area at a convenience store. After our dogs had "pottied" while I was dutifully cleaning up poops I THEN noticed a sign which said do not allow pets in this area it has been treated with, etc. The sign had blown over and was not clearly visible. Of course I was very concerned; fortunately nothing happened but, you never know. While some lawn fertilizers are generally of low toxicity, there are many lawn fertilizer products that can contain very high concentrations of iron or other toxic products such as herbicides and pesticides. When in doubt about the product's safety for pets, the manufacturer should be contacted directly. Most lawn fertilizer labels provide instructions that must be read carefully and followed properly. Many lawn fertilizer products recommend watering after each application while others might dictate to allow the lawn to thoroughly dry before allowing pets on it. Contact with lawn fertilizer chemicals can occur simply from skin absorption or from ingestion. Dogs in contact with lawn chemicals can develop the following symptoms: skin irritations, drooling, diarrhea and vomiting episodes, seizures or other central nervous system disorders, and in severe cases, even death. Water bowls, dishes and dog toys should be removed before applying chemical lawn products. Dogs should be kept away from the treated lawns for at least 24 hours. However, if exposure occurs, a veterinarian should be consulted immediately or the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center can be reached 888-426-4435, 24 hours a day (charges apply). Read all labels before using around your animals.

Flea Products. Recently there has been much controversy about the safety of using spot on treatments. Flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives are a must in the south; please talk with your veterinarian about these products.

Outdoor plants and bulbs. Beware, so many plants and bulbs are toxic. And many have thorns! Lantanas growing through a fence cost us a substantial vet bill several years ago. Fortunately the dog recovered. Research any plants that are accessible to your dogs and survey your property often to determine if your dogs are ingesting or have access to any plants that might be questionable. The best tip of all, try to plant only Bulldog friendly plants.

Swimming pool treatments and supplies. It should go without saying, these chemicals are killers. Always lock them away from your dogs and people too!

Fly baits, slug baits, and rat poison. Snail and slug baits contain methaldehyde, which can cause seizures in dogs. Dogs are also notorious for consuming mouse and rat poisons, which can produce a variety of fatal effects ranging from uncontrolled hemorrhage to paralysis or renal failure.

Garage hazards. If inhaled, paint thinners can cause severe inflammation of the lungs, and chemicals used as deck washes are alkaline corrosives, which can cause chemical burns in the mouth or esophagus. Even something as seemingly innocuous as windshield wiper fluid could be toxic. Methanol is an alcohol that can cause vomiting, intoxication, and some even contain ethylene glycol which is the very toxic ingredient found in some antifreezes. So, what can you do to keep your pet safe from all of these hazards found in the garage? The first step is to keep pets out of the garage if possible and make sure that all products are safely sealed and covered when not in use. One of the most important things that you can do to keep your pet and your family safe is to read the label on everything that you buy and avoid products that are particularly toxic.

Remember

Any websites, products, or books featured in this newsletter ARE NOT solicitations or endorsements by the BCMA. They are simply shared suggestions for products, sites, etc. that have been enjoyed by various members. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of its editor, the Bulldog Club of Metropolitan Atlanta, or its officers. The editor or BCMA takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in advertisements and reserves the right to reject or edit all material. As with any medical advice please consult with your veterinarian first.

A Tail Wagging Welcome to New Members

Robert Whitelaw of Atlanta, GA
Dean and Kristen Miller of Buford, GA
Martin and Telitha Blackwood of Remlap, AL



NEEDED: If you would like to share any information, pictures, interesting family info, brags shopping sites (web or otherwise), web sites, products, or books please contact me at anobles@aol.com, or 478-396-9772. Also, if you are interested in writing an article or doing research for the newsletter, assistance is appreciated. Remember I need for you to send me brags, even if I am at the show, I do not always have time to go back and look at results. Brags are not always show brags, submit any bully accomplishments you would like to share

Watch our website www.bulldogclubofmetropolitanatlanta.com for upcoming pictures of the April Puppy Match.