

LABEST OF TIMES

The Stages and Facts Of Fleas...It's Not Just A Summer Thing

There are 5 molt stages

Flea eggs (eggs cling to fiber type of materials like grass)

Larva

The Pupil Stage

Pre adult - heartiest, thrive for food source most of all.

Adult Flea

Flea's reproductive procurer is based on the environment and temperature. 65 to 80 degrees and humidity is the perfect climate for reproduction of the egg to the adult. Eggs can lay dormant for up to a year if the environment is not right. Each stage can range 2 to 3 weeks to develop before the next stage.

A lot of people think that in the winter time the fleas are killed off by the harsh weather. Adult fleas only live 3 months but they will lay billions of eggs. When it is 32 degrees or below fleas will lie dormant unless they are on a warm body source. A mild winter could create a large population for the next season. With nearly 2,000 species and subspecies, fleas thrive in warm, humid environment and feed on the blood their hosts. All animals like dogs and cats are host to fleas.

Symptoms of fleas: scratching, hair loss, sores around the rump, tail and head. Pets will become restless and irritable and can develop dermatitis from just one bite!

Fleas can be on anything that has a blood source (rabbits, dogs, cats, squirrels, mice and sometimes people.)

People bring them in on their clothes. When working in your yard or being in the wilderness people can carry fleas back to their home.

Flea eggs are transparent (see through) and they do not cling to dog's coats but, will cling onto fiber material

The black crusty type of flakes is flea dirt- manure--- when you wet a dog down and the dog has flea poop on him it will look like the dog is bleeding.

When a flea bites an animal it pulls the blood in and puts a toxic type of poisonous serum back into the animal, it may take up to 6 weeks for the serum to work its through the body. Fleas become contaminated because of the pesticides we use on our yards/gardens that absorbs through the shell of the egg. Fleas will build up a tolerance to the chemicals to the point that the chemicals you use on your yard will not get rid of them.

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To Shave or Not to Shave.. Does It Really Help Beat The Heat?

In the summer, many people get their hair cut short to help them stay cooler. Many people also then feel that their pet would be cooler in the hot summer months with long, thick coat removed by clipping them down.

The “scientific” side of not having your pet shaved or clipped short in the summer is simple. Heat is transferred by radiation, evaporation, conduction and convection. Humans dissipate heat through our skin via sweat and it’s evaporated. Dogs and cats don’t sweat through their skin. Instead, they pant. So air circulation to their skin isn’t going to make a huge difference.

In extreme environments where it’s warmer outside than your dog’s body temperature (normal body temperature for a dog ranges from 99.5 to 102.5 F), the hair actually insulates the dog against the heat. Dogs cool themselves by panting.



Secondly, scientific studies have shown clipping dogs with light skin pigment make them substantially more prone to sun burn and UV skin damage. Have you ever wondered why your skin become tanned when exposed to sunlight? It’s because the melanocytes produce more melanin granules in an effort to protect the normal skin from the effects of the UV rays. When the skin is over exposed, the tissue can burn and become damaged. People respond to increased exposure to sunlight by an increased production of melanin granules causing the skin to tan. Since dogs normally have an abundance of hair which serves to protect them from repeated exposure to the sun, canine skin does not react in the same manner as our skin does. As a result, canine skin that has been repeatedly exposed to the sun can sustain damage to the melanocytes causing them to divide and reproduce in greater numbers. The end result can range from skin irritation to the formation of a tumor. The natural hair of a dog offers significant and necessary protection against UV rays. And this is not just applicable to the lightly -pigmented dogs, (Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Collies, and mixes there of, etc.) dogs with dark hair and skin are also at a high risk.

If shaving your dog causes them to actually be warmer and more prone to sun damage, what are concerned pet owners to do during the sweltering summer days? Brush, Brush, Brush. Dog's have 2 types of hair, growing from one follicle. These consist of one primary hair and 7 to 22 secondary hairs (undercoat). the Primary hairs are thicker than the secondary hairs. By just removing the secondary hair, this will allow the primary hair to act as an umbrella for the skin. Brushing out your dog’s undercoat as well as frequent grooming trips for a **Shedless Treatment** will ensure that the micro environment of our dog’s coat is at it’s best. Also, provide shade and plenty of cool water for your our pets if they spend time outside and make sure that there is a cool surface on which they can lay on is available.



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People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets

Information Provided By: ASPCA

Chocolate, Macadamia nuts, avocados...these foods may sound delicious to you, but they're actually quite dangerous for our animal companions. Our nutrition experts have put together a handy list of the top toxic people foods to avoid feeding your pet. As always, if you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following foods.

Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine

These products all contain substances called methylxanthines, which are found in cacao seeds, the fruit of the plant used to make coffee and in the nuts of an extract used in some sodas. When ingested by pets, methylxanthines can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death. Note that darker chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. White chocolate has the lowest level of methylxanthines, while baking chocolate contains the highest.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and even death.

Avocado

The leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. Birds and rodents are especially sensitive to avocado poisoning, and can develop congestion, difficulty breathing and fluid accumulation around the heart. Some ingestions may even be fatal.

Macadamia Nuts

Macadamia nuts are commonly used in many cookies and candies. However, they can cause problems for your canine companion. These nuts have caused weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion and last approximately 12 to 48 hours.

Grapes & Raisins

Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure. In pets who already have certain health problems, signs may be more dramatic.

Yeast Dough

Yeast dough can rise and cause gas to accumulate in your pet's digestive system. This can be painful and can cause the stomach or intestines to rupture. Because the risk diminishes after the dough is cooked and the yeast has fully risen, pets can have small bits of bread as treats. However, these treats should not constitute more than 5 percent to 10 percent of your pet's daily caloric intake.

Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs and Bones

Raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli* that can be harmful to pets. In addition, raw eggs contain an enzyme called avidin that decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin), which can lead to skin and coat problems. Feeding your pet raw bones may seem like a natural and healthy option that might occur if your pet lived in the wild. However, this can be very dangerous for a domestic pet, who might choke on bones, or sustain a grave injury should the bone splinter and become lodged in or puncture your pet's digestive tract.

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If your dog is allergic to the flea bites and your dog is having a reaction from the bite you can check with your vet on the dosages to use when giving them benadryl. During this period of time that the dog is having a reaction the benadryl will calm the nervous system down and give them some relief. If the flea that is contaminated from chemicals the dog will itch, scratch, bite or chew on them selves after a flea bite. This can last up to 6 weeks before the serum has work its way out of the body.

Treat all areas- house, yard, vehicles and of coarse the pets. We do not use dips at Labest in stead we use natural organic treatments that are safe for us as well as for your pets. Anything that says you have to wear gloves or safety glasses to apply, we suggest not to use those products. If it's not safe for us then how can it be safe for them?

Garlic and or brewer yeast is know to ward off fleas. These products are all natural and work with the blood to create changes in the odor of the dogs' pores which deterrence the fleas from getting on the dog.

Nematodes are a live organism that eats all stages from adult to larva and pupil stage. This little microscopic creature lays dormant when it is dry and becomes active and spreads when it is wet. This will take time to spread around your yard so be patient for the next month or two.

Signs to watch for on your dog are excessive scratching, licking, chewing or biting at the skin, loss of hair, scabs or hot spots. Since fleas can consume 15 times their own body weight in blood, they can cause anemia or a significant amount of blood loss over time. This is especially problematic in young puppies, where an inadequate number of red blood cells can be life- threatening to some dogs. If the dog has had them for a long time they may be anemic, check their gum for paleness or lethargic behavior even cold body temperature. When a dog has a heightened sensitivity to the saliva of fleas, just one bite of a flea can cause an allergic reaction. This condition known as flea allergy dermatitis and can causes intense itching and discomfort for the dog.

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Xylitol

Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered sugar levels). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to recumbancy and seizures. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few days.

Onions, Garlic, Chives

These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a large enough amount is consumed. Toxicity is normally diagnosed through history, clinical signs and microscopic confirmation of Heinz bodies. An occasional low dose, such as what might be found in pet foods or treats, likely will not cause a problem, but we recommend that you do NOT give your pets large quantities of these foods.

Milk

Because pets do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), milk and other milk-based products cause them diarrhea or other digestive upset.

Salt

Large amounts of salt can produce excessive thirst and urination, or even sodium ion poisoning in pets. Signs that your pet may have eaten too many salty foods include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, seizures and even death. In other words, keep those salty chips to yourself!

Spring Showers...How to Help Your Pet Deal with Spring Storms

(By Patty Khuly for USA TODAY)

It's the same thing every year. The spring/summer storms... they stress our dogs unduly. Vets call it "storm phobia." You call it your worst nightmare. (The howling, the hiding, the destruction!)

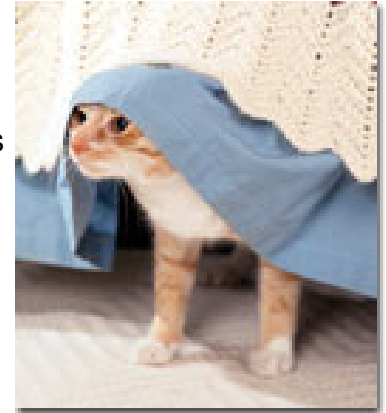
Either way, we all want the same thing: a calmer dog that doesn't have to suffer the psychological damage done by booming thunder, wicked lightning and plummeting barometric pressures.

And it's not just their psyche (and ours!) at risk. We all know that dogs are capable of doing serious damage to themselves during stormy times of the year. Fractured claws, lacerations, broken teeth and bruises are but a few consequences.

So how do you handle thunderstorm phobia? Here are my suggestions:

•Handle it early on in your dog's life.

Does your dog merely quake and quiver under the bed when it storms outside? Just because he doesn't absolutely freak doesn't mean he's not suffering. Since storm phobia is considered a progressive behavioral disease, signs like this should not be ignored. Each successive thunderstorm season is likely to bring out ever-worsening signs of fear. It's time to take action — NOW.



•Don't heed advice to let her "sweat it out" or not to "baby" her.

I've heard many pet owners explain that they don't offer any consolation to their pets because they don't want to reinforce the "negative behavior" brought on by a thunderstorm. But a severe thunderstorm is no time to tell your dog to "buck up and get strong." Fears like this are irrational (after all, she's safe indoors). Your dog won't get it when you punish her for freaking out. Indeed, it'll likely make her anxiety worse. Providing a positive or distracting stimulus is more likely to calm her down.

•Offer treats, cuddlings and other good stuff when storms happen.

This method is best employed before the phobia sets in — as pups. Associating loud booms with treats is never a bad thing, right?

•Let him hide — in a crate.

Hiding (as in a cave) is a natural psychological defense for dogs. Getting them used to a crate as pups has a tremendous influence on how comfortable they are when things scare them. Having a go-to place for relaxing or hiding away is an excellent approach, no matter what the fear. Another approach to try, whether he's a pup or not:

•Try the Thunder Shirt!

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Counter the effects of electromagnetism.

Though it may sound like voodoo, your dog can also become sensitized to the electromagnetic radiation caused by lightning strikes. One great way to shield your dog from these potentially fear-provoking waves is to cover her crate with a double layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Another method involves clothing her in a commercially available "Storm Defender" cape that does the same work. If she hides under the bed, consider slipping a layer of aluminum foil between the box-spring and mattress.

•Desensitize him.

Sometimes it's possible to allay the fears by using thunderstorm sound CDs when it's not raging outside. Play it at a low volume while playing him with positive stimuli (like treats and pettings). Increase the volume all the while, getting to those uncomfortable booming sounds over a period of weeks. It works well for some.

•Ask your veterinarian about drugs.

Sure, there's nothing so unsavory as the need for drugs to relieve dogs of their fears, but recognize that some fears will not be amenable to any of these other ministrations without drugs. If that's the case, talk to your vet about it — please. There are plenty of new approaches to drugs that don't result in a zonked-out dog, so please ask!

•Consider seeing pet behaviorist (DEBORAH WALKER!)

If nothing else works, your dog should not have to suffer. Seek out the advice of our behavioral counselor, and, if you've gone as far as you can with him/her, consider someone with unique training in these areas — perhaps a board-certified behaviorist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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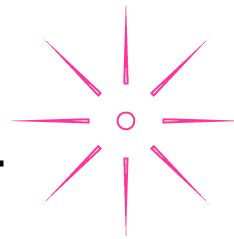
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