



SEPTEMBER 2024



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THE CORNER

Fun Day is September is Sunday, September 15th! This is our biggest fundraiser event.

Location: 5519 Old Frederick Pike, Frederick MD

Time: starts at 11 am

Food: potluck, bring something to share

CGC testing: \$20, minimal training required

Fun Classes: \$5

Rally demo and show-like matches for all aged dogs/hounds

Yard Sale: bring new and gently used items to donate, no pricing needed, A donation jar will be set up and profits go to the club, (if you have a fold up table bring that also, please)

Bring your friends and their dogs/hounds, camp chairs, whatever you need for your canines and yourselves to be comfortable. We will be in a field. Don't forget the potluck.

All dogs/hounds should be socialized with canines/people and on leash! Bring your own poop bags!

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.

THE CORNER continued

October: Wolfhound Bling! (on Facebook) is hosting an online auction for our club to help raise funds for our spring Specialty Show! If you have any items to donate, please email Susan Montgomery with GOOD photos of your item(s), your minimum bid requirement, and whether you or receiver will pay for shipping. Any IW or other item is fine! Contact Angie Bixler@ Wolfhound Bling! on Facebook or our own Susan Montgomery at shadowsrider6749@yahoo.com

Listeria Outbreak and Dogs: What to Know About the 2024 Listeria Outbreak

By Melanie Haid, Published: Aug 05, 2024 **AKC**

When your dog gives you those big puppy dog eyes, it's hard to say no to giving them high-value treats. People food like cold cuts and deli meats are a popular special snack for owners to give their dogs.

If you frequently give your dog deli meat, you may want to put it on hold for a while. Listeria outbreaks have affected many cold cut brands recently, raising the question of how listeria affects dogs, if at all, and if owners should be worried.

Listeria Outbreak in Deli Meats

Listeria is an infection caused by a bacteria called *Listeria monocytogenes*. Oftentimes, Listeria outbreaks occur when foods are contaminated with soil fertilized with infected manure. Both animals and people can become infected if they've eaten food that have been contaminated with the bacteria. Those infected also act as carriers of the bacteria and can spread it to other people and pets.

On July 29, 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled over seven million pounds of products across multiple brands of deli meats due to possible contamination with Listeria. This current Listeria outbreak has spread across at least 13 states, resulting in over 30 hospitalizations, with two deaths directly linked to Listeria contamination.

These meats include, but aren't limited to, beef, bologna, ham, liverwurst and salami. The FDA released a full list of recalled products from the listeria outbreak.



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Can Dogs Get Listeria?

Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC Chief Veterinarian, says that while it's possible for dogs and cats to get Listeria, it's much more common in rodents and rabbits. Dogs that eat contaminated food often don't show any signs of carrying the bacteria, but can become carriers of the disease that can spread to others.

"In my experience, the most Listeria-related FDA recalls are in regard to raw dog food that is contaminated," Dr. Klein says. "As stated by the FDA, after ingesting Listeria-contaminated food, dogs usually don't become as ill as people. The recalls are most significant for people handling these contaminated foods."

Listeria Symptoms in Dogs

When infected with Listeria, Dr. Klein says that dogs typically only have mild gastrointestinal signs, like vomiting or diarrhea. If you notice either of these symptoms, especially if you've given your dog deli meat that may have been contaminated, consult your veterinarian. While less common, there can also be more severe signs of Listeria in dogs, such as breathing problems, fever, muscle pain, and pregnancy loss in pregnant dogs. It's rare, but in the most severe cases, Listeria can lead to death.

Can Dogs Give People Listeria?

Though possible, it's rare for dogs to give Listeria to humans. This is because when someone, person, dog, or any other animal, eats something that has been contaminated with Listeria, they carry the bacteria and can

infect others with it. The good thing is that, while possible, Listeria infections from dog to human or human to dog are very unlikely.



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Unlike some other bacterial infections, Listeria isn't contagious through air or touch. However, pets can spread Listeria bacteria through the home environment by shedding the bacteria. Dogs that are carriers of the bacteria can shed it in their stool, even if they appear healthy. Other pets, like cats, for example, can spread Listeria through shared litter boxes or walking on countertops. Dogs, on the other hand, are more likely to spread the bacteria by having poop accidents in the home. Both sick and healthy pets' poop can be a source of infection for people if they carry the bacteria.

How to Keep Your Dog Safe From Listeria

Most human Listeria infections come from eating contaminated food, which can include meat, dairy products, or raw vegetables. Besides taking care to avoid giving your dog contaminated foods, it's important to maintain good hygiene practices when caring for your dog. Taking precautions like washing your hands thoroughly after handling raw pet food or cleaning up dog poop can help reduce potential infection. These are good practices regardless, but are especially important if you or your dog has been infected with Listeria.

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that may result, including but not limited to economic loss, injury, illness or death.

Types of Dog Allergies and How to Treat Them

By **AKC** Staff, Updated: Mar 14, 2024 (photos removed from article, same were used in Apoquel article)

Have you heard someone tell you that their dog has allergies? Has your veterinarian suggested that allergies could be a problem for your dog? Do you suspect that your dog has allergies? If so, then you've probably realized that allergies in dogs are not quite as simple as we might wish. For starters, there are several different types of allergies that could be causing your dog's symptoms.

Allergies are a misguided reaction to foreign substances by the body's immune system, which, of course, people and pets can suffer from. There are quite a few different types of allergies in dogs. Skin allergies, food allergies, and environmental allergens all pose challenges for dogs and their owners, and to make things more complicated, the symptoms of all these different types of allergies can overlap.

Symptoms of Allergies in Dogs

The symptoms of allergies in dogs may vary depending on the cause. A dog that goes into anaphylactic shock, for instance, will have a drop in blood pressure followed by shock, which is very different from a skin condition.

In general, however, the following symptoms could be a sign of an allergic reaction.

- Itchiness
- Hives
- Swelling of the face, ears, lips, eyelids, or earflaps
- Red, inflamed skin
- Diarrhea

- Vomiting
- Sneezing
- Itchy ears
- Chronic ear infections
- Itchy, runny eyes
- Constant licking

Some of these symptoms could also be a sign of another condition. Make an appointment with your veterinarian if you notice changes in their behavior to get an accurate diagnosis.

Types of Allergic Reactions in Dogs

Allergic Dermatitis in Dogs

Skin allergies in dogs, known as allergic dermatitis, is the most common type of allergic reaction in dogs. Skin allergies in dogs are mainly caused by one of three things: fleas, food allergies, and atopic—or environmental—allergies. Flea allergy dermatitis is an allergic reaction to fleabites, and some dogs are allergic to flea saliva, which can cause their skin to become red, inflamed, or scabbed because their skin will feel extremely itchy. It's the easiest type of allergic dermatitis to treat, since you can apply flea medication for dogs to help heal their skin.

Another cause of skin allergy in dogs is from food allergies and sensitivities. Just like humans can be allergic to certain foods or ingredients, dogs can be allergic, which can cause itchy skin. Dogs with food allergies usually have itchy ears or paws, sometimes along with gastrointestinal symptoms. Dr. Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC, says that food allergies are not as common as you might think. True food allergies result in an immune response, which can range in symptoms from hives, facial swelling, and itchiness to gastrointestinal signs like vomiting and diarrhea – or a combination of both.

Environmental allergens can also affect the skin and be the cause of allergic dermatitis. Things like dust, pollen, fungus, and mold can cause these reactions, but in most cases, these allergies are seasonal. As with food allergies that affect the skin, the most commonly affected areas are

the paws and ears (but also include the wrists, ankles, muzzle, underarms, groin, around the eyes, and in between the toes).

All skin allergies pose the risk of secondary infection. As your dog scratches, bites, and licks at his skin, he risks opening up his skin to yeast and bacterial infections that may require treatment.

Urticaria, or Hives, in Dogs

Also known as urticaria, hives on dogs are very itchy but are not life-threatening. Hives appear as a reaction anywhere from 6 to 24 hours after exposure to allergens. This consists of itchy, swelled skin, that usually looks like a red rash. It's easiest to spot hives on dogs that are hairless or have short coats. Dogs with longer hair can get them too, but it's more likely that you'd be able to feel the hives rather than see them. Your vet will prescribe an antihistamine in order to treat urticaria in dogs.

Edema of Face or Throat

Swelling of the throat or face looks severe, but it's actually almost never fatal. This area of swelling, which can also include swelling of the eyelids or ear flaps, is known as angioneurotic edema. It's actually pretty easily treated, and despite how it looks, it's a good sign in terms of allergic reactions.

If your dog has edema of any of these areas, the time for a fatal allergic reaction has most likely passed, and they aren't in as much danger. Angioneurotic edema occurs anywhere from 30 minutes to a few hours after exposure to an allergen, and can also come with hives. A veterinarian will often give dogs with this reaction an antihistamine injection. Untreated, it may take a day or two for the swelling to subside.

Anaphylactic Shock

Perhaps the most alarming of all the types of allergic reactions in dogs is anaphylactic shock. Like people, dogs can go into anaphylactic shock if they have a severe reaction to an allergen. This happens when antibodies produced by the host react negatively to the allergen, dropping your dog's blood pressure rapidly and sending them into shock. This can be fatal if not treated, but luckily, anaphylactic reactions are rare in dogs.

This can be a response to any allergen, most commonly bee or wasp stings, or vaccine reactions. Because of this, your vet will always recommend keeping a close eye on your dog after they've been given any new vaccine, drug, or food item, as they might be allergic.

If a dog has had a past incident and survived, the owner may carry an epipen, but sometimes the first occurrence can lead to death. Fortunately these reactions are very rare in dogs.

In some rare cases, a severe food allergy reaction resulting in anaphylaxis can occur, similar to severe peanut allergies in humans. The best way to diagnose and treat a food allergy is to work with your veterinarian to manage your dog's symptoms and discover the ingredient causing the reaction.

Diagnosing Allergies in Dogs

Flea allergy dermatitis is typically the easiest allergy to diagnose. It is usually diagnosed by identifying fleas on your dog's body and applying a product that kills fleas before they can bite to see if that solves the issues.

The first thing your veterinarian will do in allergy testing is rule out any other condition that could be causing your dog's symptoms. If your veterinarian feels that an allergy is a likely cause, they may propose allergy testing to try and determine the cause of the allergen that is causing the reaction. However, keep in mind it may not always be possible to determine the cause of an allergy with testing.

If you have ever undergone allergy testing, then you know that diagnosing allergies is often complicated. It's the same for dogs, but it's worth it to understand what to stay away from when it comes to your dog. Food allergies are often diagnosed using an elimination diet. A food trial consists of feeding a dog one source of protein and carbohydrate for 12 weeks.

Treating Allergies in Dogs

The best way to treat an allergy is avoidance of the cause and allergen, which may not always be possible. The type of treatment depends on the type of allergy your dog has. For example, the best way to treat flea

allergy dermatitis is to kill the fleas, whereas the best way to treat a food allergy or food intolerance is a change in diet.

Depending on the cause and severity of your dog's allergic reaction, your veterinarian will prescribe different things. For hives, they might suggest antihistamines, cortisones, medicated shampoos, whereas with food allergies they might suggest fish oil or other Omega-3 fatty acid supplements. For skin allergies, they might prescribe dog-safe anti-inflammatory wipes or shampoo on skin to provide irritation relief.

In addition to any lifestyle changes that might be necessary, your veterinarian may also prescribe an allergy relief medication for your dog that will help control the signs associated with the allergic reaction, such as itching and any secondary skin infections that might have developed as a result of the irritant.

If your dog has a severe allergic reaction, your best course of action is to get them to an emergency veterinary hospital as quickly as possible.

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Apoquel® for Dogs: Uses, Side Effects, and Alternatives

By Gemma Johnstone, Updated: Apr 18, 2024, **AKC**



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If your dog has allergic dermatitis or atopic dermatitis, your vet might prescribe Apoquel®. Allergy-related itching in dogs is common, and something veterinarians deal with daily. Most allergies in dogs aren't curable. However, with the right diagnosis, management, and treatment, controlling the uncomfortable symptoms is possible. Apoquel is especially useful in treating atopic dermatitis or environmental dermatitis, such as allergies to pollen or grasses, etc. which you can't control the source of. Read on to learn more about how Apoquel for dogs works and its benefits and limitations.

What Is Apoquel, and How Does it Work?

FDA-approved Oclacitinib (sold under the brand name Apoquel) is an oral medication used to manage the inflammation and itchiness associated with allergies in adult dogs, says Dr. Karyn Wesley, assistant professor of practice in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Arizona.

The fast-acting drug inhibits specific proteins (called Janus kinase enzymes), which trigger the itch response resulting from allergic skin diseases and atopic dermatitis in dogs. "With Apoquel, the immune system's signaling cascade is halted before it can send the inflamed, itchy signals," Dr. Wesley says.

When Do Vets Prescribe Apoquel, and When Won't They?

Apoquel is a well-tolerated and effective alternative to antihistamines and steroids, the traditional options for allergy itch relief. "Only about 30% of dogs with environmental allergies will respond to antihistamines," Dr. Wesley says. "Moreover, multiple antihistamines are available to try, and one cannot predict which, if any, will be of help to each individual."

Apoquel won't provide relief for all dogs either, but it tends to be more effective for more patients than antihistamines.



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Dr. Wesley says that steroids work hard and fast (within one to two days) to relieve itchiness, but some dogs experience less-than-desirable side effects from these drugs. "Moreover, steroids may not be safe for some dogs, such as those with heart disease, kidney disease, and/or certain liver problems," she says. Apoquel rarely has serious side effects and is safe to use alongside other medications such as antibiotics, antiparasitics, antifungals, anti-arthritis, thyroid, and seizure drugs.

While Dr. Wesley says that Apoquel is one of her favorite allergy treatments in her toolbox for itchy dogs, it isn't right for every allergy-related diagnosis. "This product is labeled for use in dogs one year of age or older; therefore, I may consider alternative treatments for puppies," Dr. Wesley says. "The manufacturer also advises against its use in breeding dogs, pregnant dogs, or nursing mothers."

Dr. Wesley explains that studies show dogs using Apoquel haven't shown any consistent increase in new cancer development when compared to control populations. "I avoid this medication in dogs for whom cancer is a concern based on their history or my exam findings," says Dr. Wesley.

Dr. Diana M. Simões is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology and owner of Dermatology Pet Care. She says that caution and discretion are necessary in patients with severe secondary infections, untreated parasitic or fungal disease, and autoimmune disease.



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“Because Apoquel alters the way the immune system may respond in some scenarios, it may increase the risk for certain infections in some dogs,” Dr. Wesley says. She says that, for this reason, your veterinarian may recommend lab work and an updated exam before starting treatment with Apoquel and periodically if your dog receives long-term medication rather than just to offer relief during an allergic flare-up.

The drug may also increase a dog’s susceptibility to the Demodex mite. Dr. Wesley says Apoquel isn’t a good option if your dog has an active Demodex infection.

Efficacy and Limitations of Apoquel

Dr. Simões says many robust studies show Apoquel can be a safe and effective treatment option for many allergic patients. It doesn’t work for every dog, though. “Efficacy depends on the underlying cause of the allergy, proper diagnosis, patient response, degree of severity, and more. No allergic patient is ever ‘one size fits all,’” she says.

According to Dr. Wesley, there is research to support that the large majority of dogs with environmental allergies (reports of about 70%) will experience a reduction in itchiness when using Apoquel. She says it works hard and fast when it’s effective, with some dogs seeing a significant decrease in itchiness within the first day. For others, it may take longer.

“Apoquel may control the itchiness elsewhere on the body better than it controls ear itchiness,” Dr. Wesley says. If your dog has super itchy and inflamed ears, she says they may need additional care to keep them as comfortable as possible and the ears free of secondary infection.



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For food-related allergies, Dr. Wesley says a specific diet prescribed by your veterinarian may be the best option to relieve itchiness. "In some cases, Apoquel may help support the work of the food," she says, but it won't be the primary treatment.

How to Administer Apoquel?

"Apoquel comes in oral tablet form, as well as a chewable treat-like form to make administration to pets even easier," Dr. Wesley says. You can give the tablets with or without food. If the medication is effective, you should see your dog's itchiness diminish within 24 hours.

Your veterinarian may prescribe Apoquel twice daily for up to two weeks and then reduce the dose to once daily. In other cases, starting with one dose a day will be sufficient. Because the effects of Apoquel wear off within 12 to 24 hours, a daily dose is necessary to maintain your dog's comfort levels. A twice-daily dose isn't recommended for long periods as it can increase the chance of side effects.

Never give more Apoquel than your veterinarian recommends. Overdoses can lead to immune suppression and side effects, such as gastrointestinal upsets, skin inflammation or growths, and enlarged lymph nodes.

Apoquel Side Effects

"Apoquel is generally well tolerated in most dogs with few side effects when used appropriately," Dr. Simões says. However, she explains that Apoquel can have bone marrow-suppressing side effects at high doses. This is another reason why it's important to administer only the prescribed amount.

While side effects are rare, the most common of these include:

- Vomiting

- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Blood work changes



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Sometimes, side effects will be mild and resolve over time, but always let your veterinarian know if you observe anything abnormal, including changes to your dog's skin, energy levels, appetite, breathing, or urination. It's normal for your veterinarian to conduct periodic blood work analyses to monitor for any atypical side effects while your dog takes Apoquel.

Other Allergy Treatment Options

Don't worry if your dog doesn't respond to Apoquel or your veterinarian determines it isn't the best option. "Apoquel is one of several treatment options available for allergic patients, and a good veterinary dermatologist is the best equipped to assess which are best suited for each individual allergic patient," Dr. Simões says. She explains that prescription and over-the-counter options include allergen immunotherapy, other non-steroidal allergy medications, steroids, and topical therapies (such as medicated shampoos or creams).

Depending on your dog's type of allergy, their symptoms, and their severity, your veterinarian may use a combination of treatments. Dr. Wesley says that some "trial and error" can be involved to determine the best combination for your dog.

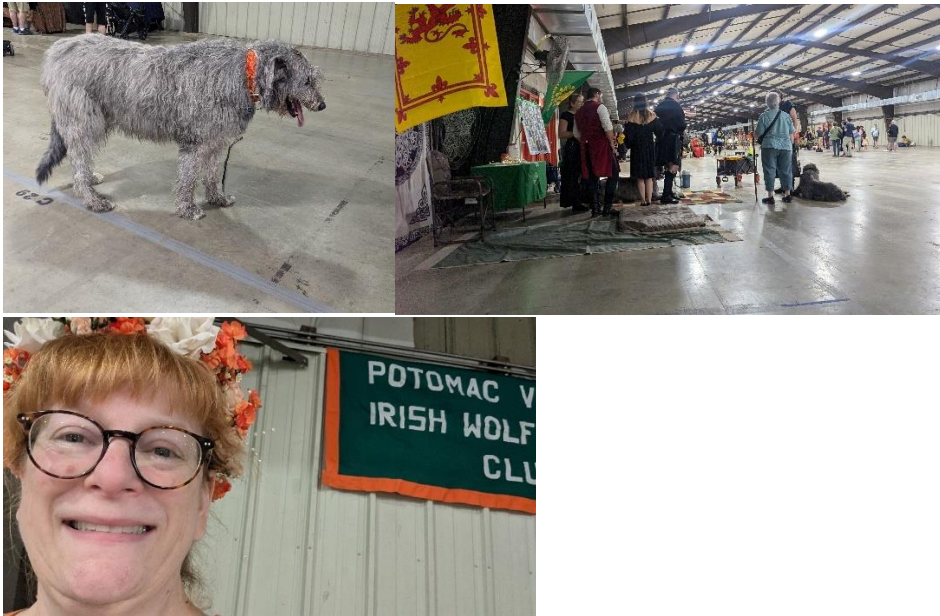
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August 17th

Oakenmist Renaissance Faire





Dog Drooling: When Is It Cause for Concern? – American Kennel Club

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT, Updated: Aug 09, 2024 **AKC**

Drippy, slobbery, and sloppy, drool is a fact of life for certain dog breeds. In fact, all dogs drool occasionally. Just like barking or chasing squirrels, it's part of the canine package. But what should you do if there's a large amount of slobber? How do you know when it's healthy or if there's something more serious going on?

Typical Drooling

Drool, or as it's known in the medical field, ptyalism, is an excessive flow of saliva that has accumulated in the mouth/oral cavity. It is seen commonly in breeds such as the Bloodhound, Saint Bernard, and Mastiff, whose head/lip conformations cannot retain the amount of drool they produce. These dogs have extra skin around their lips and muzzle, which allows saliva to collect in the folds. Then, it either drips from their flews (large, pendulous upper lips) or is flung into the air when they shake their heads. Water can also get trapped in all that loose skin after they take a drink.

This condition doesn't require medical intervention, but owners of these slobbery breeds quickly learn the value of a drool rag. Keeping a washcloth on hand makes it easy to regularly wipe your dog's muzzle before the drool hits your floor or furniture. It's also important to mop your dog's face

whenever they eat or drink. A handkerchief or bandana tied around your dog's neck can help absorb the drool.

Even dogs that don't slobber all the time can drip a bit of drool when they're anticipating something delicious. Saliva plays an important role in digestion. The thought of exciting food, like a piece of steak, can get your dog's mouth-watering. A disagreeable taste, like that of some medications, can also cause the same result. But when is drool something to be worried about? There are several conditions that can lead to an inability to swallow normal amounts of saliva or to the production of excess saliva.



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Mouth and Throat Issues

Anything that prevents your dog from swallowing normally can lead to drool, as the saliva will build up until it drips from their mouth. The problem could be a fractured tooth or tumors inside the mouth, esophagus, or throat. Tartar buildup and irritation of the gums can also lead to drooling, as can an infection in the mouth. In addition, a foreign body can lead to slobbering. Anything caught between your dog's teeth or lodged in their throat, such as a sliver of bone, could be a potentially serious problem.

Make sure you're brushing your dog's teeth daily and having their dental health monitored with yearly veterinary checkups (twice yearly for senior dogs). Keep an eye on the inside of your dog's mouth for yellow or brown plaque deposits on their teeth or red and inflamed gums. Both of these signs would indicate the need for a dental cleaning. Any sign of a foreign body or lump should lead to an immediate appointment with your veterinarian.

Tummy Trouble

Anything that upsets your dog's stomach may lead to slobbering. Motion sickness is a common cause of nausea, which is why a lot of dogs drool in the car. In this case, the drooling should stop soon after the motion is over. If your dog has carsickness, you can desensitize them to car rides and talk to your veterinarian about nausea treatments.

If your dog eats something they shouldn't, like a sock or the stuffing from a toy, that can also lead to stomach distress and drooling. Additionally, toxic substances can cause drooling. For example, if your dog gets into a poisonous plant in the garden or cleaning chemicals under the sink, you may see slobbering along with other symptoms such as vomiting, shaking, or lethargy. Be aware of possible toxins in your home. If you suspect your dog has ingested something dangerous, contact your veterinarian immediately.



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Other Conditions

There are other health conditions where drooling is one of the symptoms. Heat stroke, for example, can lead to drooling as your dog pants in an attempt to cool off. After suffering a seizure, your dog may drool. Nose, throat, or sinus infections, or a neuromuscular condition (palsy, tetany, botulism, etc.) of some kind can also lead to slobbering. Kidney disease, liver disease, and even rabies all share drooling as a symptom.

Although these illnesses will likely show other signs, as well, it pays to take any change in your dog's drooling seriously. In some cases, such as bloat, the situation can be life threatening, and a visit to the emergency clinic is essential. Be particularly aware of any changes in appetite or behavior; neurological symptoms such as seizures or difficulty standing; retching and throwing up saliva; and changes in your dog's saliva, such as foul smelling

saliva, thicker saliva, or blood in the saliva. Talk to your veterinarian immediately about any new or increased drooling.

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Taking Your Dog to the Beach: Tips & Safety

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT, Updated: Jun 21, 2024 **AKC**

A visit to the beach is an ideal way to spend a summer day, and it can be tempting to take your dog along. But be aware the beach isn't the best option for all dogs.

However, for the right dog, the beach can provide new sights, sounds, and smells to experience as well as opportunities for exciting games. However,

there are doggie dangers, too. Maximize your fun by trying these activities, training these behaviors, and watching for these hazards.

Beach Activities You Can Do With Your Dog

You can do many of your dog's favorite backyard activities at the beach. For example, you can play tug-of-war or provide your dog with their favorite puzzle toy. But don't miss out on all the opportunities for beach-related excitement. Here are some activities to try on your next beach outing:

- Go for a walk. Explore the shore and let your dog soak in the new experiences like sniffing seaweed, watching scuttling crabs, or chasing seagulls. But don't let your dog eat the seaweed or sand, both of which are dangerous for dogs to consume.
- Play fetch on the beach with a ball or flying disc. Just be sure to choose a quiet spot so your dog's enthusiasm for the game doesn't disturb other beachgoers.
- Play fetch in the water. Choose a brightly-colored floating toy so your dog can spot it on top of the waves. Be sure to play this game in relatively shallow water, as a bad throw can send your dog too far out from the shoreline.



rebeccaashworth/Shutterstock

- Frolic together in the water. Splashing through the waves is a fun game, but your dog can easily overtire. So, stay close to shore and don't leave your dog's side.
- Go swimming. If they are new to the water, teach your dog to swim. Let them go at their own pace and fit them with a life jacket to provide extra confidence. Remember, even experienced dogs need constant supervision while they're in the water.

- Teach your dog to surf or boogie board. If your dog is a confident swimmer, see if they might enjoy balancing on a board and surfing the waves. Learning to balance is also great for dog sports, such as agility.
- Play in the sand. This is great for dogs who love to dig. Alternatively, you can build sandcastles and then let your dog destroy them.
- Go boating together. If the water is calm enough, get your dog's life jacket and try a canoe or kayak ride together.

Whatever activities you decide to pursue, always supervise your dog. It's important for your dog's safety, but it's also part of responsible dog ownership. Don't let your dog disturb wildlife, damage vegetation, or become a nuisance to other people or dogs on the beach.



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Training Your Dog Ahead of a Beach Outing

To ensure a safe and enjoyable beach day, there are certain behaviors your dog should know. First, your dog should have a reliable recall. Many beach activities require letting your dog off-leash, so you need to be certain your dog will come back to you when called. In fact, all your dog's basic obedience behaviors should be under your control with either a hand signal or verbal cue. If your dog isn't ready for that kind of freedom, stick to on-leash pursuits like walks along the shore.

"Leave it" is another important cue for your dog to understand. Leave it means your dog can't eat something which could be garbage on the beach, a dead fish at the water's edge, or food in somebody else's picnic basket. With enough practice, this cue can also tell your dog to ignore something like wildlife or other beachgoers.

Your dog should also be well-socialized and comfortable sharing toys with others. Beaches can get busy, and your dog might encounter loads of people and other dogs. For a social butterfly, that's all part of the fun.

However, if your dog is uncomfortable around people or other dogs, choose quiet times to visit the beach, such as earlier on a weekday morning, rather than times of peak attendance.



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Bulldog wading in a lake.

What to Watch for When at the Beach With Your Dog

There are some obvious dangers at the beach like rough waves, but you might not be aware of other hazards like drinking salt water. There are also rules to follow like leash laws and scooping up your dog's waste. The following list will help you know what to watch for at the beach:

- Check the rules. Not all beaches and swimming areas allow dogs. And some locations only allow them on certain days or at certain times. It's also important to follow the leash regulations. Your dog might be allowed off-leash in some areas but not others.
- Watch for heatstroke. Provide your dog with shade and plenty of chances to rest. You might also have them wear protective gear, like a sun hat or cooling vest. Consider limiting your beach visits to early or late in the day when the sun isn't as strong.
- Apply sunscreen to your dog. Dogs can suffer from sunburn, so use pet-safe sunscreen on your dog's nose, ears, and any other areas with sparse fur.
- Provide lots of fresh water. Your dog can easily dehydrate in the heat of summer, so bring an insulated dog bowl and frequently offer cool water to drink. Try to limit the amount of salt water your dog may drink as it can make them sick.
- Prevent your dog from eating sand. It can block your dog's intestines, causing an impaction.

- Speak to a lifeguard about the water conditions. Situations such as rough waves or strong currents can make the water too dangerous for your dog.
- Be on the lookout for dangerous sea animals, like stingrays and jellyfish, that could be near the shore.
- Avoid hot sand. Especially midday, sand can get blisteringly hot and can burn your dog's paw pads. Consider booties to protect their feet or stick to walking along the water's edge.

Can Dogs Eat Seaweed?

By Sassafras Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI, Published: Nov 15, 2022 **AKC**

Seaweed is an increasingly popular ingredient in recipes. A source of iodine, it contains antioxidants and is vitamin rich. Seaweed sheets also have a satisfying crunch and delicious natural flavor.

But is seaweed good for dogs? Can dogs eat seaweed sheets while you snack?

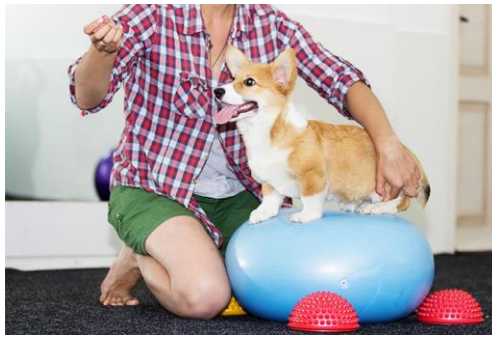
Can Dogs Have Seaweed?

In moderation, it is safe to share some types of seaweed with your dog. Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC, explains "dogs can eat processed sheets of seaweed or nori, as long as it does not contain added salt or garlic."

If you want to share seaweed with your dog, make sure to read the ingredients list to make sure it doesn't have added seasonings. You can share these prepackaged seaweed sheets and other edible nori with your pet.

Is Seaweed Good for Dogs?

"Seaweed is nutritious and contains protein, iron, iodine, magnesium, and Omega-3s," advises Dr. Klein. Iron is good for your dog's red blood cell health, The Omega-3s in seaweed can support canine brain development, aid immune system health, and even alleviate arthritis symptoms by reducing inflammation in your dog's body. Magnesium supports various immune and nerve systems.



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Kelp is a term often used interchangeably with seaweed; however, these sea plants are indeed different species. Like seaweed, kelp is also safe for dogs to eat plain and in limited quantities. Because of seaweed and kelp's positive health effects, they will appear in many supplements. Dr. Klein advises that these supplements are safe, so long as they don't contain added garlic, onions, or similar seasonings. If you want to start introducing supplements into your dog's diet, be sure to consult with your veterinarian first.

How to Feed Your Dog Seaweed

Only feed your dog seaweed if it's plain, unseasoned, and in small amounts. Specifically, soy sauce has high salt content, which can be dangerous for your dog if eaten in concentrated amounts. You also shouldn't feed your dog sushi made with raw fish, which can make your dog sick. Like any snack, too much seaweed can upset your dog's stomach. Too much iodine, which is present in seaweed, can have an impact on your dog's thyroid.



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Avoid Wild Seaweed

Keep an eye out for your dog while at the beach so they don't eat wild seaweed. This can contain excessive amounts of salt, which could put your dog at risk for salt toxicosis. In addition, Dr. Klein advises that the "long

strands can become lodged in the intestines or even carry hidden animals or parasites.”

Wild seaweed that is dry can also expand in your dog’s stomach. Sometimes referred to as seaweed poisoning, this condition can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, lethargy, and other symptoms of a bowel obstruction. If your dog does consume seaweed on the beach, consult a veterinarian right away.

Is Salt Bad for Dogs?

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT, Updated: Oct 26, 2022 **AKC**

You’re likely aware that certain foods, like chocolate or grapes, are toxic to dogs. But can dogs eat salt? As an electrolyte, salt is an essential part of your dog’s health. It helps keep body fluids in balance and plays a role in muscle and nerve function.

But too much salt is dangerous for dogs and can lead to salt toxicosis. How do you know if your dog has had consumed excessive amounts of salt? And are there certain foods you should prevent your dog from eating? Read on to learn more about salt poisoning and how to keep your dog safe.

What is Salt Toxicosis?

Salt toxicosis is also known as hypernatremia. It’s the presence of high levels of sodium (salt) in the bloodstream. The levels of sodium, an electrolyte, are normally in balance in the body. But when the sodium amount in the blood becomes too high, it draws water out of the cells and into the bloodstream to restore the balance. That harms the cells and can affect the brain and nervous tissue.

Dr. Jerry Klein, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer for the American Kennel Club, warns that although salt toxicosis is rare, it’s dangerous and potentially deadly. However, excess sodium isn’t something that builds up over time. Rather, it happens over minutes or hours. Dr. Klein explains, “Salt toxicity typically occurs after a single significant dose of salt is ingested over a short period of time.”

How Do Dogs Consume Too Much Salt?

But how does a dog consume a significant dose of salt? According to Dr. Klein, the most common causes of hypernatremia in dogs taken to veterinary hospitals include:

- Drinking large amounts of salt water without access to enough fresh water
- Consuming homemade play dough or salt dough
- Ingesting paintballs
- Eating rock salt (de-icing salt)



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Dogs can also suffer from salt poisoning if they get into enema solutions, which contain sodium, or eat excess quantities of table salt or soy sauce. And although feeding your dog salt to induce vomiting was once a suggested practice, it's no longer recommended, as it can lead to salt toxicosis as well.

Hypernatremia is also tied with access to water. Dogs can tolerate fairly high salt levels if they are able to drink a lot and therefore flush the salt from their system. But if there is no fresh water available or dogs can't access their fresh water supply, then the pet will be at higher risk.

Should Your Dog Avoid Salty Foods?

The most common way dogs get hypernatremia involves them getting into things they shouldn't. Puppy-proofing your home to prevent your dog from accessing dangerous substances will go a long way toward protection. And if you take your dog to the ocean, stop them from drinking excess amounts of salt water and instead provide lots of opportunities to drink fresh water.

But what about salty foods like potato chips? Are they safe to feed your dog? Yes, in limited amounts. Dr. Klein explains, "The feeding of salty foods in moderation should not cause salt toxicity. But in small dogs with metabolic issues, it may cause more concern if there is no access to fresh water. Generally, the feeding of excessive salty foods is not good for dogs, especially for those that have certain medical issues such as heart disease because it can cause fluid retention."

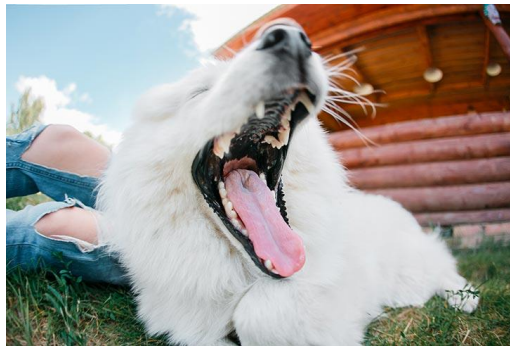
What Are the Symptoms of Salt Poisoning in Dogs?

The size of your dog can affect the danger of salt poisoning, with smaller breeds having a higher risk. Dr. Klein says, "Since most toxicosis is based on the amount of the substance ingested compared to the weight of an animal, it would figure that a smaller dog would need to eat a smaller amount of a toxic substance to become ill than a larger animal."

According to the American College of Veterinary Pharmacists, salt toxicosis can occur when a dog eats as little as two to three grams of sodium chloride for every kilogram of body weight. That means a toy breed like a Chihuahua could become ill after eating less than a teaspoon, whereas a giant breed like a Great Dane would have to consume over four tablespoons.

Be aware of the following signs your dog may have consumed too much salt:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy
- Lack of coordination or being wobbly on their feet
- Excessive thirst or urination
- Tremors or seizures



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What to Do If You Suspect Canine Salt Poisoning

If you suspect your dog has consumed too much salt, contact a veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline immediately. If caught in time, it's possible your dog's body fluids can be brought back in balance. But recovery is not an immediate process. Dr. Klein explains, "The diagnosis of hyponatremia is performed by a veterinarian after assessing clinical signs and history and performing appropriate diagnostics such as bloodwork or urinalysis. The condition may be reversible with intensive care, usually involving hospitalization, intravenous fluids of a specific type, repeat bloodwork, and close constant monitoring over many hours and possibly days."

Just in case the worst happens, keep emergency numbers programmed into your phone and posted somewhere easy to access. Include your veterinarian's contact info, the local emergency veterinary clinic, and the Pet Poison Helpline on your list. Then, if you suspect your dog has ingested salt or other poisonous substances, you can access help as soon as possible and give your dog the best chance at recovery.

Did You Know...?

Butternut squash will make your pup less moody and less constipated because of all the fiber.

Adding salmon to their diet will promote healthier skin because of the high Omega-3.

Coconut meat will get rid of stinky dog breath naturally, in just a few days.

Adding blueberries to their meals will support immune function because of their antioxidants.

Fresh chamomile eliminates dog anxiety boosts dopamine 150%. Can be easily grown in your garden.

Liquid collagen is essential for a glossier coat and will help reduce shedding of your puppy.

And now you know!

Pythiosis in Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, and Treatment

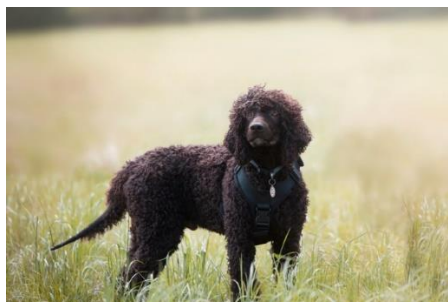
*By Micaela Erickson, Published: May 02, 2024 **AKC***

A rare but emerging infectious disease is sparking concern for dog owners. Pythiosis, a disease caused by an algae-like fungal organism called *Pythium insidiosum*, can make dogs extremely sick. There are two types of pythiosis that can occur in dogs, one more common than the other. Being aware of where, why, and how pythiosis can be contracted can help you keep your pet safe and healthy.

Pythium insidiosum thrives in ponds, swamps, wetlands, and bayous. It's most prominent in the fall and early winter. Dogs typically contract pythiosis through swimming, wading in, or swallowing infected water. The pythium zoospores in the water may also enter the dog's system through small cuts on their paws or skin.

The fungus has been identified in parts of California, Arizona, and Wisconsin, but is most commonly found in swampy areas of the southeastern United States.

Here's what to know about pythiosis in dogs, including signs, symptoms, treatment, and prevention.



What Are the Symptoms of Pythiosis in Dogs?

There are two forms of pythiosis: gastrointestinal and cutaneous. According to AKC Chief Veterinarian Dr. Jerry Klein, dogs more commonly contract gastrointestinal pythiosis. Any dog breed can develop pythiosis, but most dogs that are affected are young, and are often hunting or sporting dogs. It's important to note that affected dogs often don't show symptoms until they've been infected for a long time. Dogs with pythiosis may display the following symptoms:

Gastrointestinal Pythiosis

According to Dr. Klein, this form of pythiosis affects dogs' digestive tract and causes the tissues of the stomach and intestines to thicken, causing obstruction. Symptoms to look for include:

- Wasting (Involuntary weight and muscle loss)
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (often containing blood)
- Trouble defecating
- Abdominal pain
- Enlarged lymph nodes



AleksandarNakic/Getty Images Plus

Cutaneous Pythiosis

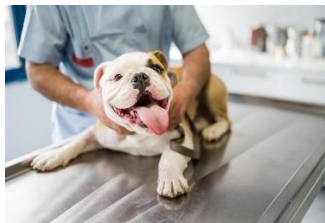
Cutaneous pythiosis develops as lesions on dogs' bodies, generally on the legs, tail, head, neck, rectal area, or thigh. Lesions are often itchy, and dogs can hurt themselves by scratching them.

“These swollen ulcerated pus-filled lesions appear on the dog’s skin as invasive masses of non-healing nodules,” Dr. Klein notes. “The tissue can then become necrotic with the affected skin eventually turning black and sloughing.”

Diagnosing Pythiosis in Dogs

There are two tests that your veterinarian may order for diagnosing pythiosis. One is a blood test, the other is a biopsy.

The blood test, known as a *Pythium insidiosum* ELISA test, will test for antibodies in the dog’s blood, indicating exposure to the fungal organism. The second test requires a biopsy sample obtained from skin lesions or abdominal masses, depending on the type of pythiosis.



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Treating Pythiosis in Dogs

There are limited treatments for gastrointestinal pythiosis. Prognosis is usually poor, especially if there’s no early intervention.

Hospitalization may be necessary for dogs actively infected with pythiosis. Dr. Klein explains that dogs with pythiosis will typically have the affected tissue surgically removed. In some cases, amputation may be necessary. Following removal of the tissue, dogs may be prescribed a lengthy protocol of antifungal medication. These treatments can last from 3 to 6 months, to reduce risk of recurrence.

Antifungal treatments are lengthy, and can cause severe side effects. The medications could cause severe liver and kidney damage. Regular blood tests throughout treatment are a necessity. Abdominal ultrasounds are also beneficial in monitoring intestine health during pythiosis treatment.

Excessive weight loss typically occurs in pythiosis. It’s important for dogs to receive high calorie, easily digestible food to counteract this. This will also help aid in the recovery process.

Dr. Klein notes that immunotherapy work is being conducted for pythiosis in horses. Currently, there aren't conclusive positive results for dogs.

Preventing Pythiosis in Dogs



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Knowing the signs and symptoms of pythiosis in dogs is also crucial as this disease continues to emerge across the United States.

Dr. Klein would recommend that dog owners take measures to keep their pets away from areas infected with spores of the fungal organism. Swamps, bayous, ponds, and wetlands are considered high-risk areas. They're ideal breeding grounds for pythiosis.

In hopes of helping vets consider a diagnosis of pythiosis, Dr. Klein also suggests using a journal to track when and where your dog could have been exposed to these environments.

If your dog exhibits any signs of pythiosis, tell your veterinarian right away. These include chronic wasting along with vomiting or diarrhea, or if they have lingering, non-healing wounds. Time is of the essence in diagnosing and treating pythiosis, so it's important to act quickly.

This article is intended solely as general guidance, and does not constitute health or other professional advice. Individual situations and applicable laws vary by jurisdiction, and you are encouraged to obtain appropriate advice from qualified professionals in the applicable jurisdictions. We make no representations or warranties concerning any course of action taken by any person following or otherwise using the information offered or provided in this article, including any such information associated with and provided in connection with third-party products, and we will not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, special, exemplary or other damages that may result, including but not limited to economic loss, injury, illness or death.



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2024

March 2024	<u>St. Patrick's Day Parades and Festivals</u>
March 31&April 1	<i>Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD</i>
April 12&13	Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA
April 20&21	Tell-Tale Steampunk Festival Pikesville, MD
April 21	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty</i>
April 27	Southern MD Celtic Festival
May 4	Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Crownsville, MD
May 4&5	Faerie Festival Marshy Point
May 19	Show Wrap Up Meeting
May 20-22	<i>IWCA National Specialty 300 Checkerboard Loop, Gray Summit, Missouri</i>
June 8	Carroll County Celtic Festival, Westminster, MD
June 9	Regular Meeting
June 15	Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA
June 21-23	Celtic Fling <i>(with a concert on Friday night)</i> PA Renn Faire grounds
August 11	Regular Meeting
August 17	Oakenmist Ren Faire Howard County Fairgrounds, Howard County Fairgrounds
Aug 31 & Sept 1	Virginia Scottish Games
September 15	Fun Day
September 21-23	PA Renn Faire
October 6 & 7	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty</i>
October 20	Regular Meeting
November 2	Lá Gaeilge (Irish Day), Front Royal, VA
November 8-10	Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium, MD
November 17	Regular Meeting
December 8	Holiday Party
December 14	Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler, Baltimore, MD
December 27	Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD

Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.

Need Volunteers to Host meetings.



FUN DAY
Sunday, September 15, 2024, 11am
“Highland Lodge,” The Reba’s.
5519 Old National Pike, Frederick MD
11:00 AM

FUN for EVERYONE and EVERY Dog!

FUN SHOW - Puppy 3 months to veteran.

Fun classes

NO Points awarded \$5/class

RALLY DEMO

COURSING DEMO

CGC Testing (\$20/dog)

FOOD

FRIENDS

Yard Sale Fundraiser!



Contact Susan (shadowrider6749@yahoo.com) for information



Non-Wolfhounds welcome!

