



OCTOBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Recently our club faced an issue which required board action and in the interests of transparency, I want to make sure that everyone in the club knows about it. A new club has recently formed in Ohio, The Heart of Ohio Irish Wolfhound Association. We are thrilled to welcome them! The creation of more clubs means there are more Wolfhound enthusiasts which can only be good for the breed! However, the club chose a date for their new specialty show less than a full week after our specialty.

As you know we are going back to a single day specialty this year, hoping to increase entries while decreasing expenses. What you may not know is that a good percentage of our entries for the past few years have been from exhibitors in or near Ohio. We felt that HOIWA having a specialty so close to ours would have a significantly adverse effect on our entries. Therefore, we took the rather unprecedented action of writing to the Irish Wolfhound Club of America, our parent club, who grants permission for all clubs to have their specialties under AKC rules, to request that they not allow HOIWA to hold their specialty on that date.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER continued

We all love specialties and as one board member commented, "if it were not right after ours, I would go but I don't have the money or the time when they're that close." As president, it is my responsibility to make the club and especially our specialty show, as successful as possible. This year we face the challenge of an Australian judge whose airfare is expensive! We need every entry and every donation we can get! I have to say that needing to do this and following through on it was emotionally very conflicting. I love the idea of a new club and have personal friends in the club but I must keep our club's best interest at the forefront.

Jodie



Aulfynn's Favorite Things:

I could probably fill the newsletter with things that I have found that we have come to use and could not do without for Aulfynn. Below are a few things.

Starting with the collar we use. Our first one was a gift from our daughter for our first

Wolfhound, Ronan. We have used them ever since. They are very durable and last for years.

[Northwind whippets and Northwind Designs, AKC whippets whippet goodsNorthwind | Northwind Whippets and Northwind Designs \(northwindcatalog.com\)](http://northwindcatalog.com)

Large Breed Martingale Collars –

This wide martingale collar is fully two inches wide on the neckpiece and are constructed of smooth nylon webbing. 2" brass or silver slides are used to attach the neckpiece to the center loop. This large collar adjusts from 15 inches to 21 inches. The XL adjusts from 20 to 25". It's appropriate for any breed with a long, smooth neck such as Irish Wolfhounds.

Plain leads with matching brass or silver hardware are available.

Weather Tech Feeding system

The Double High Pet Feeding System includes a specially designed stand and mat. The elevated bowl stand (18 inches), raises your pet's bowls off the floor, providing them with a more comfortable eating and drinking experience. The protective mat features a raised outer lip, ensuring that any spills or mealtime messes are kept off your floors. Includes two stainless steel or BPA-Free plastic bowls that are NSF-approved and human food grade. The unique shape of these bowls ensures your dog won't have to strain its neck to get every last morsel of food or drop of water. The entire feeding system was designed, engineered and manufactured right here in America using only the safest and highest-quality materials!

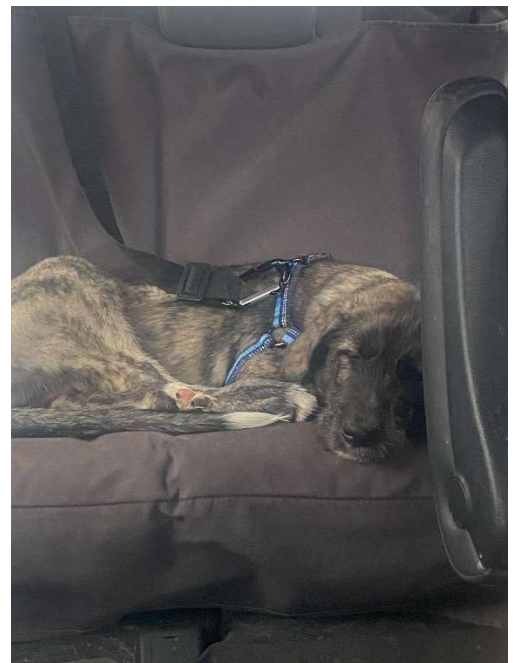


Of course, there is a more cost-efficient way to raise food and water bowls for better use. A 5-gallon bucket with a large metal mixing bowl works well for water. Use a large dog bowl on a 5-gallon bucket for food. I do have this outside for Aulfynn's water.

Weather Tech also provides a wonderful Seat Cover for your vehicle.

WeatherTech Seat Protectors are the perfect accessory for those vehicle owners needing an extra layer of protection for their front and rear vehicle seating. A much needed accessory for your Wolfhound companions to prevent scratches, damage or spills from ruining the seat surface.

The Seat Protectors are made from a



polycotton twill fabric that features a durable water-repellent finish that'll combat any juice box spill, cereal crumbs or pet mess! It's also engineered with an extra layer of nylon lining, which helps to further protect the covered seat. The Seat Protector stays in place with the help of durable straps, specialty inserts and a non-slip bottom. Semi-custom to fit the size and type of vehicle. Quick and easy installation, as well as easily removable for cleaning. The Seat Protector is machine washable, making it an easy accessory for any family.

This product is designed to fit most bench and bucket-style front and rear seats. If your vehicle is equipped with a center seatbelt, it will not be accessible.

We use a safety seat belt and harness on Aulfynn when he is in our car. A 10-pound dog will exert around 500 pounds of force in a 30-MPH crash, which is more than enough to seriously injure your dog or anyone your dog crashes against. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog will exert 2,400 pounds of force. You can imagine what a 150+ pound wolfhound could do.

(The use of seat belts for dogs while driving can vary by state. In most cases, it is illegal to drive with an unrestrained pet that is not secured in some form of restraint such as a dog seat belt. To ensure the safety of your pet and compliance with the law, it is important to understand the regulations that apply in each state:

Maryland: *Maryland does not have any laws specifically addressing the transportation of pets in vehicles. However, drivers may be held liable should they cause an accident due to any existing distracted driving law resulting from unrestrained animals.*

Pennsylvania: *In Pennsylvania pets must be secured using a safety harness or carrier that is designed specifically for them. In addition, pets should not be allowed to ride unrestrained on any part of the vehicle, with the exception of seeing-eye dogs for those who are visually impaired. It is also important for drivers to ensure that their pet does not block their view of the road and cause a distraction while driving. Allowing a pet to roam freely in the car can lead to*

dangerous situations and put both the driver and animal at risk.

Virginia: *Virginia's dog laws require that all pets must be safely restrained within the vehicle. This is to prevent any distractions or harm from occurring when driving.*

That is the requirements for the states that we cover as a club,



One of my favorite websites is yappy.com. They have tons of things you can customize for you and your dog. Great for yourself or gifts.

- Aulfynn and Tyr before him have been certified as Therapy dogs. There are a number of organizations out there to be part of. We have belonged to KPETS based out of Lancaster, PA and My Caring Paws out of Westminster, MD. It is a great way to give back to the community. Being part of an organization covers liability insurance in case of an incident involving your dog.
- Another item to investigate is Blood donation. There are facilities that you can contact in your area to take your wolfhound to donate blood. [AKC Canine Health Foundation | Canine Blood Donation \(akcchf.org\)](http://AKCCanineHealthFoundation.org) Wolfhounds are great candidates for blood donations. Veterinary Hospitals are always in need of blood for surgeries similar to humans during surgery. A dog must weigh 90 pounds to donate a full pint of blood.
- I of course have an AKC account. Which allows me to see AKC newsletter and information. It does offer some relevant information. Even if you are unable to register your wolfhound as an AKC Purebred Dog, (such as a

rescue), you can still register them allowing you to participate in a number of AKC events. **ENROLL A DOG IN AKC CANINE PARTNERS**, For mixed breeds and non-AKC registrable purebreds. **ENROLL A PUREBRED ALTERNATIVE LISTING (PAL)**, For purebred dogs of AKC-registrable breeds not eligible for full registration

- Aulfynn and I take Rally Classes weekly. We have found a wonderful facility, (Breakaway Action Dogs in Frederick, MD). There are facilities in most areas for training for a number of activities and events. Do your research and check reviews.
- We are lucky enough to be close to Hanover, PA. Several Lure Coursing Clubs have a facility there and conduct trials. Coursing is a fun activity. It is for some wolfhounds but not all.
- I could list all the festivals, parades and events we attend. We enjoy participating in these. It is a wonderful opportunity for the public to see our wolfhound.
- Apps you should have on your phone –
 - Dog Pack – shows you where dog parks, dog friendly areas and dog friendly stores are. A must if you do any driving or traveling.
 - WoofTrax – Walk for a dog. In this app you sign up for a charity. Every time you walk use it to track where, how long and how far you walk. Money from sponsors and ads are divided up and given to the charities by miles. You do not need to provide any money or payment. It gives your favorite charity a few extra dollars a year. We walk for KPETS one of our pet therapy groups. Plus, I like that it tracks how far I walk.
 - Pocket Rally – AKC Rally app. Explains and shows signs, rules and regulations.

go



We taught Aulfynn to ring a bell to outside. He was only 10 weeks old and learned in a day.

Gentle leader. I do not go without it. Definitely gives you more control until they learn and are comfortable walking with you.





Aulfynn of course has his own Kilt.

There is so much more I could add that we use or Aulfynn loves.

I am always willing to talk and brag about our wolfhounds. We walk Gettysburg regularly. Our wolfhounds have become a known fixture in the area.

They have been part of a number of events. We volunteer with the National Park Service in Gettysburg. The wolfhounds have helped with traffic and crowd control. Visitors to the area returning each year for battle week look forward to seeing them.

I always say if I could charge for pictures, even a dollar, I would be rich.

We are so grateful we have been blessed with the 3 wolfhounds we have had in our lives and home. I do not know what we would do without one. So much of our time and activities center around Aulfynn. Participating in Club events, Therapy visits and shows and trials. Aulfynn goes with us almost everywhere we go. He travels with us on road trips. Our Grandchildren love our wolfhounds, and they have been so good with them.

Aulfynn is a part of our family as Tyr and Ronan before him. Our lives and home would be empty without him.

Susan Wine

How to Prepare Your Dog for 'Scary' Halloween Decorations on Walks

By Sassafras Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI; Updated: Aug 23, 2024 AKC

Around Halloween, houses start cropping up with tombstones, spiderwebs, and motion-activated zombies that are meant to scare you. Festive decorations might surprise your dog while you're out for a walk on your usual route, especially if they appear overnight. Here's how to make your dog comfortable when their familiar neighborhood appears to change unexpectedly.

Safety First

Many decorations are designed to surprise people with unexpected movements, sounds, or lights. It probably won't be a surprise if this decor spooks dogs, no matter how confident they are.

When walking your dog, make sure that they are on-leash (so they can't run off if they get spooked) and that they're wearing a properly-fitting dog collar or harness (so they can't slip or back out if they become scared). In case your dog does manage to escape, it's important for them to have up-to-date identification tags so they can be returned to you once they're found.



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Be on the Offensive

If a dog gets scared of Halloween decorations, try to proactively support that dog while out for walks. Pay special attention to your surroundings. When you spot new decorations, get your dog's attention, then praise and reward them as you go by.

Carry dog treats and toys with you so you can engage positively with them. If you notice decor that your dog might find intimidating, try to cross the street. This will put distance between your dog and a potential stimulus that could scare them.

Let Your Dog Explore

If you have decorations up at your house, you can work on building your dog's confidence. If your dog is calm, comfortable, and able to take and eat treats, attach the leash to their collar or harness. Make sure to keep your leash loose (since a tightened leash can accidentally cue to your dog

that there something upsetting is happening). Praise and treat your dog for looking at the decorations.

Continue to praise and treat your dog if they curiously or calmly approach the festive decor. If your dog shows signs of being stressed (like stiffening their body, barking, or lunging), get their attention. Move them back to a distance they are comfortable with, then praise and reward your dog for engaging with you at that distance.

Use Distance

When out for a walk, your dog may want to get closer to decorations they're comfortable with. You can let them approach if it's safe to do so.

However, if your dog is not able to take treats or engage with toys normally, this indicates they are closer to these stimuli than they are comfortable with. Try to stay at a distance where your dog can be relaxed, respond to cues they know, take treats, or engage with toys.



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Create New Associations

You can use positive reinforcement techniques to help your dog to form new and positive relationships with holiday decorations. Start at a comfortable distance from the decorations, then reward your dog for calmly showing any interest or engaging with the decorations (such as looking at them).

Your dog will start to make the association that glancing at the decorations will get them rewards. As a result, they will begin offering this behavior and expecting a treat. As your dog gains confidence while looking at the

decorations, you can slowly decrease the distance between your dog and the decorations.

Keep It Fun

While walking your dog around decorations, make sure that they are having fun by carrying treats and toys and rewarding and engaging them for being near the decorations. If your dog is particularly sensitive, it's fine to prioritize your their comfort and emotional well-being by staying home.

In this case, prioritize finding ways to meet your dog's physical and mental enrichment needs. Try taking your dog out on an alternative route, going for a hike, playing active games in your yard, or practicing AKC Scent Work until the decorations come down.

Halloween Safety Tips for Dog Owners

By Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO; Updated: Aug 12, 2024 AKC

Halloween is right around the corner, and, as any experienced veterinarian can tell you, there are all manners of Halloween hazards for dogs.

Each year, veterinary clinics care for dogs that get into trouble on and around Halloween. However, there are many easy ways for dog owners to take precautions ahead of the holiday.

Keep Candy and Dangerous Treats Away

Many of the food and treats we enjoy on Halloween are toxic to dogs, and some can be deadly. Unlike cats, who tend to be picky eaters, many dogs will eat anything – including the wrapper in which the treat is stored.

If you'd like to give your dog a special treat this Halloween, consider making your own pumpkin dog treats. You can also buy your pet treats for dogs that contain pumpkin.

The treats below are especially dangerous to your pets, so be sure to keep them out of reach:

Chocolate

Chocolate consumption in dogs is a top ingestion problem at Halloween. All types of chocolate contain theobromine, which can be harmful and sometimes fatal to your dog. Baking chocolate is exceptionally high in this chemical. The general rule of thumb is the darker the chocolate, the more danger it poses. If your pet consumes chocolate, contact your veterinarian, a veterinary emergency center, or the Pet Poison Helpline immediately. Quick treatment can minimize the danger to your dog.



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Candies and Gum

The biggest concern with candy is the risk of the ingredient xylitol. Xylitol is a sugar alcohol commonly used as an artificial sweetener. Xylitol is toxic to pets and is often found in sugar-free items. However, it's been showing up in more and more foods, even those that aren't labeled as sugar-free. Most often, xylitol is found in sugar-free gum, sugar-free candy, and sugar-free baked goods. It's sometimes found in toothpaste and peanut butter, as well.

Hard Candies

Hard candy can also present a problem for dogs. Large quantities of hard candies and gum can clump up in the stomach and cause a risk of obstruction.

Raisins

Some Halloween treat-givers often choose to pass out small boxes of raisins. This option is great for children, but raisins and grapes are

dangerous to dogs and can cause renal failure. Be sure that you keep raisins out of your dog's reach at all times. If your dog consumes raisins, please call your veterinarian or veterinary emergency center immediately. Prompt action can be helpful in reducing the risk to your pet.



misscherrygolightly via Getty Images

Candy Wrappers

Toxicity with candy isn't the only concern. The wrappers can also be an issue, as they can become lodged in your pet's throat or intestinal tract, requiring surgery to remove. Wrappers that are foil or cellophane have the potential to result in gastrointestinal irritation.

Make Sure Any Costumes Are Safe for Your Dog

The trend of dressing dogs in costumes has increased over the years. It's quite simple to find costumes created specifically for dogs, however, that doesn't necessarily ensure their safety. Beads, snaps, buttons, ribbons, elastic, and fabric can all be intestinal hazards.

Look for dog costumes without dangling parts or pieces that can be chewed off. In addition, costumes on your pet can result in overheating, impaired vision, and even difficulty breathing if they cover the face or are too restrictive around the pet's neck or chest.

Never leave your dog unattended while they're wearing clothing or other decorative items. If you decide to dress your dog up this Halloween, be sure to check out these tips for dressing up your dog safely.

Watch Out for Glow Sticks and Glow Jewelry

Glow sticks are a fun Halloween trend and can help keep humans a little safer in the nighttime, but for dogs and cats, these items look like toys. Glow-in-the-dark items contain a liquid that if punctured, will leak the glowing content. If ingested, this fluid causes mouth pain, irritation, and excessive salivation. Keep these items away from your dog to ensure Halloween dog safety.



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Keep Halloween Decor Out of Reach

Since most people celebrate halloween at night, many households use candles and battery-operated decorations. Use candles with care. Wagging tails and sniffing noses can land on flames that may result in injury and burns. Keep all battery-operated toys and decor out of reach from curious pets, as they can be chewed or ingested, resulting in a visit to the emergency veterinarian clinic.

Address Any Behavioral Concerns

Even the best-behaved dogs can become skittish or overwhelmed during busy times. Know your dog and watch their body language to decide if they're best tucked away in a crate or a quiet room as opposed to joining the family, greeting the costumed neighbors, or participating in a Halloween party. To prevent your dog from running out the door, make sure they are under control as you open the door for trick-or-treaters.

Remember: Safety First

Walk your dog while it is still light out, if possible. Your dog may find candy, wrappers, and broken eggs on lawns and streets. Make sure that

these tempting treats stay out of reach. Don't leave your dog unattended outside on Halloween, even if they're behind a fence.

Keep in mind that all the activity and commotion can increase your dog's stress levels unnecessarily. Also, well-meaning neighbors may give unwanted treats to your dog, so make sure your pet doesn't eat anything they shouldn't.

Carole Silverthorne's Wicca was placed first in her Novice Class at the IWCC National in Welland, Ontario, Sep 21, 2024. Photo by Tina Sawicki.



Jodie Jeweler's Quigley earned his 1st CD leg on October 6th!



How Changes in Weather Can Affect Your Dog's Mood

By Anna Burke, Updated: Mar 14, 2024 **AKC**



©CJ Hammond

Have you ever noticed that your dog's mood shifts with the weather? Storms, heat, cold, and the changing seasons affect our dogs, just like they affect us. Most dogs can even sense when the weather is about to change.

But how does hot weather affect dogs, and how does cold weather affect dogs? Understanding the impact of these changes on your dog can help you prepare your canine companion for the forecast ahead.

Changing Seasons

How does hot weather affect dogs? When the temperature heats up, some dogs rejoice, while others seek out cool, shady spots where they can rest. Though all dogs can be susceptible to hot weather hazards, certain dog breeds may be less heat-tolerant than others.

Brachycephalic breeds, such as Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs, and Boston Terriers, do best when staying cool in hot weather because they can have difficulty breathing in extreme heat. Large breeds are also susceptible to heat, as are longhaired breeds like the Komondor, Afghan Hound, and Alaskan Malamute. If you own a breed like these, you may find that your dog is not as active in hot weather or as willing to engage in play and other activities.

Some dogs may even get snappish in very hot weather and may want more space and less petting. A group of researchers in Beijing, China found that the frequency of emergency room visits for dog bites in a major hospital increased when temperatures were highest. In very hot weather, you may want to minimize interactions between your dog and strangers, including children.



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How does cold weather affect dogs? Colder climates, on the other hand, are where Northern breeds like American Eskimo Dogs, Samoyeds, and Siberian Huskies thrive. Longhaired or double-coated breeds like German Shepherd Dogs, Saint Bernards, Great Pyrenees, and Newfoundlands typically enjoy cooler weather, too. They often become more active and playful during the winter months.

In contrast, some dogs, such as Italian Greyhounds, Greyhounds, hairless breeds, toy breeds, senior dogs, and dogs with conditions such as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, or arthritis, may become less active or playful during winter months.

Relocating to a New Climate

Seasons usually change gradually, giving your dog time to adjust. Relocating to an entirely new climate, however, can cause sudden shifts in your pup's mood. Depending on your dog's breed, you may notice that they become more or less active, and some dogs even show signs of irritation if the weather makes them too uncomfortable.

A move to a cold climate can be shocking for dogs that are not used to chilly temperatures. Some pups seek out warm places, like heating vents,

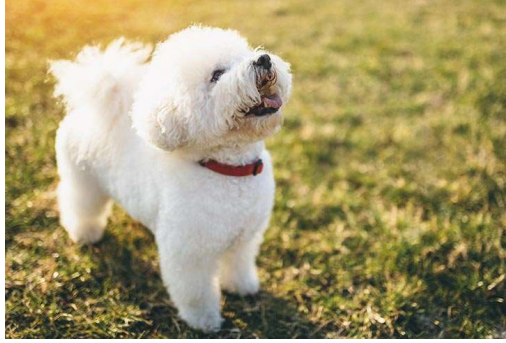
blankets, or your bed, and you might notice your canine companion becoming cuddlier in the cold.

Whether it's hot or cold, understanding the cause of your dog's sudden lethargy or increased activity level can help you determine if the change in mood is circumstantial or medical. Lethargy is a common symptom of many illnesses and should be taken seriously, so make sure your dog is not exhibiting any other abnormal signs. If they are, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Helping Your Dog Adjust

If your dog gets grumpy in the heat, don't worry. There are things you can do to make them more comfortable and lower their risk of heatstroke.

- Avoid taking your dog for walks during the hottest parts of the day.
- Make sure they have plenty of fresh water and shade available at all times.
- Raised canvas platform dog beds offer a cooling alternative to traditional beds, and you can even invest in cooling mats or dog-friendly swimming pools for particularly heat-intolerant dogs.
- If you don't have air conditioning, adjust a fan so that your dog has access to a nice, cool breeze.
- Never leave a dog unattended in an enclosed vehicle or in a warm environment that does not have good air circulation.
- Beware of walking your dog over hot sidewalks, streets, sand, or other hot surfaces.
- Although swimming is a great way to get exercise on a hot day, and most dogs can swim, never leave your dog unsupervised around a pool or in any body of water.



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You can also help your dog acclimate to the cold. Put a limit on outdoor time, and be sure to clean the salt and ice balls off of your dog's paws when you come inside.

Depending on your dog's coat type, you might also want to dress them in something warm. With so many dog sweaters, jackets, raincoats, and booties to choose from, keeping your dog warm is easier than ever. However, it's important to note that you should never leave an item of clothing on an unsupervised dog. And anything you do put on your canine companion should fit properly (not too tight or too loose).

Antidepressants for Dogs: Uses, Side Effects, and Alternatives

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT; Updated: Aug 02, 2024 **AKC**

You are likely familiar with antidepressants for humans, but their use in dogs is less commonly understood. We tend to think that dogs live in the moment and find joy in the simplest of things. Why would they need drugs to lift their mood? In fact, antidepressants aren't usually used to treat depression in dogs. Instead, they're most often prescribed for canine anxiety and can serve as an important component of a behavior modification plan.

If your dog is nervous or fearful, antidepressants could be a beneficial part of helping them feel more confident and comfortable with the world.

What Are Dog Antidepressants?

According to Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinarian for the American Kennel Club, veterinarians use a wide range of drug classes (anxiolytics, antipsychotics, antidepressants, and mood stabilizers) to treat behavior. "These types of drugs are recently being used more commonly in veterinary medicine as adjuncts to behavior modification therapy and training on some difficult or challenging dogs where training and therapy alone have not achieved the desired behavioral change," he says.

There have only been a few veterinary clinical studies on these drugs, so the guidelines for veterinary use are based on therapeutic applications in humans. Therefore, although some of these medications are approved for dogs in specific situations, such as clomipramine for canine separation anxiety, many are used off-label. That means they don't have FDA approval for that specific use. However, they can still be safe and effective for treating your dog when properly prescribed by a veterinarian.

Some of the more commonly prescribed behavioral medications for dogs include:

- Tricyclic antidepressants, such as clomipramine or amitriptyline
- Serotonin antagonist and reuptake inhibitors (SARIs), such as trazodone
- Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), such as fluoxetine (Prozac) or paroxetine
- Benzodiazepines. such as diazepam (Valium) or alprazolam



cunfek/Getty Images Plus

Why Are Dog Antidepressants Prescribed?

Veterinarians prescribe certain canine behavior medications as anxiolytics, or anti-anxiety drugs, for dogs with behavior issues. The medication can help a dog cope in the moment or help with training and behavior modification, like counterconditioning and desensitization. Some common reasons a veterinarian might prescribe antidepressants to a dog include:

- Noise phobia, such as fear of fireworks
- Fear of places the dog rarely visits, like the vet's office
- Upcoming car rides or airplane travel
- Separation anxiety
- Reactivity around other animals or people
- Any behavior that can harm the dog, other members of the household, or the environment

In some of these situations, the goal of medication is to get a dog through a stressful event, like a flight or fireworks display. Veterinarians also often use medication as part of a broader treatment plan. "Different medications can be used individually or in combination when methods of basic training and desensitization are not working or have reached a plateau," Dr. Klein explains. "These medications are often, and should be, utilized as an adjunct with proper training and desensitization."

How Do Dog Antidepressants Help?

Behavior modification is a powerful tool. However, it's only effective when dogs are below threshold, meaning when a dog isn't reacting emotionally to a situation. For a reactive dog who lunges at other dogs, for example, that might be when the other dog is 20 feet away. Unfortunately, when a dog is over threshold, it's impossible to teach them alternative behaviors or change their emotional response. And for certain triggers, like another dog in the house, it can be extremely difficult to prevent a dog from reacting. That's where behavioral medications can come in.

When a dog's anxiety is so severe that they can't avoid their triggers or stay below threshold, the addition of behavioral drug therapy can allow the dog to learn. That improves their response to training and behavior modification. Drugs are also useful when a dog is dangerously over-reactive, such as when they experience fear-based aggression. Medication can make the situation safer for all involved and, again, allow the dog to learn new associations and behaviors.

Depending on the medication used, results may be almost instant or take up to a month. Certain drugs take effect in only one or two hours. Some dog owners use these drugs as an option to sedate their dogs, such as during fireworks for a dog with noise phobia. Other drugs may take several weeks before you'll notice any behavioral change in your dog.

Dr. Klein emphasizes that this type of treatment takes time, persistence, and patience. "Unfortunately, too often in today's world, people want an instant result and may not be able to offer the time and effort required," he says. "In this instance, a certified behaviorist or trainer should be consulted."



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How Safe Are Dog Antidepressants?

Overall, behavioral medications are safe and effective for dogs. However, side effects can occur and depend on the drug used and the underlying history of the animal. Some frequently seen side effects include central nervous system depression, vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, constipation, hyperexcitability, changes in heart rate and blood pressure, reduced tear production, and weight gain. If your dog experiences side effects, your

veterinarian can reduce the dose or try a different medication. Dogs undergoing long-term use of these drugs should see their vet for regular health monitoring.

Never change, increase, or decrease your dog's antidepressants without your veterinarian's direction. If stopped cold turkey, some behavioral medications could cause potential danger to your dog. And, of course, never give medication to your dog that a veterinarian didn't prescribe for them specifically. Only a veterinarian should diagnose your dog's condition.

"Any dog exhibiting changes in behavior, lethargy, or a decrease in appetite should not be assumed by the owner to be 'depressed,'" Dr. Klein says. "Instead, dogs exhibiting those signs should see a veterinarian at once for a thorough examination which may include lab work and other diagnostics to rule out any underlying medical condition."

Do Dogs Sniff to Get Their 'Social Media' Fix?

By Gemma Johnstone; Updated: Oct 05, 2022 **AKC**

A recent TikTok trend shows owners joking that their dog stopping to sniff is their version of social media, which changes owners' perspective of allowing their dog to abruptly stop the stroll and actually allow them to "see what's up." While sniffing a tree isn't the same as reading a tweet, sensory walks do offer dogs many benefits without the online pressure of putting your best life on display.

Benefits of Sniff Time for Dogs

You might find it frustrating when your dog wants to stop and sniff every landmark while going for a walk. However, when dogs sniff, they are gathering vital intel about their territory and four-legged neighbors. Whether it's discerning the scent of a male rival, a notification that a bitch is in heat, or that a critter they'd like to chase took a pause in that spot, sniffing offers a wealth of enriching information.



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Staci Lemke, CPDT-KA, RVT explains that sniffing is how dogs gather and process information to interpret the world. “Imagine someone taking you to an art gallery, then blindfolding you. You wouldn’t get much out of it, would you? I imagine that’s how it is for dogs that are rushed along on walks without the opportunity to stop and sniff,” she says.

When you look at the science, it’s no surprise dogs love to sniff everything. Dogs’ noses have more than 200 million scent receptors—compared to a measly six million in humans. Plus, dogs sniff five to 10 times a second, which we only do once every 1.5 seconds.

Studies even suggest sniffing makes dogs feel more optimistic. Sniffing offers your pet the chance to make more of their own choices and engage in naturally enriching behaviors.

What Makes a Sniff Walk Different?

Penny Leigh, CPDT-KA, is a certified dog trainer and director of the AKC GoodDog! Helpline. She explains that “sniff walks are especially important for urban-dwelling dogs that do not have yards or opportunities to be loose in a safe, fenced environment where they can sniff and meander at their pleasure.”

When Lemke takes her dogs on a sniff-centric walk, she lets them choose where they want to go and how long they’ll linger at each smell, covering very little distance slowly. She reminds us that “humans are more about the destination, dogs more about the journey.” Rather than planning to reach a particular place in a set time while on a sniff walk, pick a safe,

peaceful spot and allow your dog to take the lead and explore at their own pace.



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All you need is a well-fitting harness and a long line (rather than a retractable leash) measuring between 10 and 15 feet. “Putting your dog in a harness and on a long line will enable your dog to not feel pressure on their neck and also get ahead of you and set the pace—just take care to keep your dog out of harm’s way and be ready to reel in the long line,” says Leigh. “The best locations offer a lot of grass, trees, bushes, and natural terrain.”

Why Sniffing Supports Anxious Dogs

“Dogs’ lives are nearly completely dictated by their owners—when they eat, when they go out, whether or not they are crated. Then they are taken on a quick walk to eliminate and hustled back inside. This can lead to growing anxiety,” says Leigh.

Fast-paced walks through hectic surroundings can pile on added pressure for fearful dogs. In contrast, meandering sniff sessions on a long leash can lower a dog’s pulse rate and release the mood-boosting chemical dopamine. “If we can find a safe place where these dogs can let their guard down and explore using their noses, it can greatly reduce the amount of stress in their lives,” says Lemke.

Just watch out for nervous energy being channeled into frantic sniffing. It’s all about ensuring their sniffing is calm and methodical, which you can do by reading your dog’s body language and behavior. A relaxed and happy

dog generally has an open countenance and no stress line around their face, and their body won't be carrying any tension.

How Long Is Too Long for a Sniffy Walk?

Even though a sniffing session is slower than the average dog walk, it's about quality, not quantity. Dogs sniffing is a great form of canine mental stimulation, and it increases their respiration rate, so it's a tiring activity. "I don't think the length of time is as important as the quality of the walk. Dogs can get a whole lot of sniffing done in 20 to 30 minutes and be just as tired as an hour walk without sniffing," says Lemke.



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So instead of always going out with the goal to walk for as long and as briskly as you can with your dog to heel, next time, remind yourself who the walk is for. Slow things down and let them stop and smell the roses—or that irresistible patch of fox poop-covered grass! You'll likely have a happier, more relaxed dog.

Is My Dog Ready to Be Off-Leash?

By Sassafra Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI; Published: Sep 21, 2022 AKC

Most dogs enjoy the chance to play freely. But before you take your dog off their leash, you must consider the location, situation, and your dog as an individual. Here are important elements to consider before letting your dog off-leash.

Breed and Safety Considerations

Evaluate your pet's temperament and level of training to determine when and how it is appropriate to let them off-leash. You'll also want to consider your dog's breed and the temperament and behavior typical of that breed. For example, Terriers and Sighthounds naturally have a high drive to chase and hunt, which can make them unreliable if off-leash in areas where they may see or smell small prey animals.



mikedabell/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Similarly, smells can easily distract many hounds, which can result in an unreliable recall off-leash. Also, learn to channel and control your dog's prey drive on walks. Even the best-trained dogs might still behave unexpectedly. Permitting your dog off-leash can increase that your dog could escape, become spooked, startled, or distracted, or get injured or lost.

Is Your Dog Ready To Be Off-Leash?

An off-leash dog should ideally come when called, no matter the distraction. Similarly, a dog who is allowed on an off-leash trail or area ideally wouldn't approach people or other dogs without being given permission to do so, though such behavior would be expected in a dog-friendly space like a dog park. Your dog might just want to play, but it's equally natural for dogs to be selective, wary, and uncomfortable when approached by strange dogs.



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Start with teaching your dog to come in an area of low distraction. Once your dog understands the recall cue at home, slowly build up to practicing this cue in more distracting environments while your dog is still on-leash; then consider transitioning to having your dog drag a leash and/or wear a long line. Avoid punishing your dog if they are slow to come when off-leash.

As you remove your dog's leash, praise and treat them for staying near you. When your dog is off-leash, you want to have a high rate of reinforcement, meaning you are praising and treating your dog frequently for engagement with you and recalling. To keep the recall cue strong, obeying you needs to be more valuable to your dog than the environment they have access to. After treating your dog, release them back to play off-leash; this allows them to build trust and engagement with you.

Using a Long Line

An alternative to letting your dog off-leash is to use a long-line leash. Made from materials like nylon and biothane, long lines can range in length from 10 to 50 feet. These leashes allow your dog to have an off-leash experience while also giving you an extra bit of safety in case your pet acts unexpectedly.

Attach a long line to a well-fitted back-clip harness to prevent your dog from pulling and straining their neck. When using a long line, make sure you are in an open area where your dog will have plenty of space to run

and play. Also be sure to check local ordinances, as some locations do not permit leashes longer than six feet.

Places Where a Dog Can Be Off-Leash

Places that you can allow your dog to be off-leash include:

- A securely-fenced yard
- A public park, beach, or other area where it's clearly posted that dogs are allowed to be off-leash.
- Fenced dog parks



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Places Where Your Dog Should Be On-Leash

Locations where dogs should be on-leash include:

- While walking on city streets and sidewalks
- In parks outside of off-leash areas or hours
- In your unfenced yard
- When visiting state and national parks
- While hiking on trails and on beaches (unless signs explicitly indicating otherwise are posted)

When to Put Your Dog on Leash

Consider temporarily reattaching the leash when your dog is visiting new and distracting environments, if they are no longer coming when called, or if they ever have a fight with another dog.

Take as much time with your dog on foundation skills like recall. In fact, you may decide playing off-leash outside of fenced areas isn't the right choice for your dog; there are plenty of ways to provide your pet with freedom and enrichment with a leash attached.

FUN DAY 15 SEPT 2024









PA RENN FAIRE 21 SEPT 2024





What to Do if Your Dog Eats Chocolate

By AKC Staff; Updated: Dec 12, 2023 **AKC**

Chocolate is toxic to dogs, and depending on the type and amount of chocolate consumed and the weight of your dog, it could cause a serious medical emergency. But what should you do if your dog ate chocolate?

If you know your dog has eaten chocolate, it's important to monitor them for signs of toxicity. Learn how much is too much, which types of chocolate are the most dangerous, and what signs to look for that may signal your dog needs treatment.

Why Chocolate Is Toxic to Dogs

Chocolate contains both theobromine and caffeine. If your dog consumes food or drink with caffeine or theobromine in it, these chemicals can speed up the heart rate and stimulate their nervous systems.

The risk of your dog becoming sick from ingesting chocolate depends on the type and amount of chocolate consumed and your dog's weight. The concentrations of these toxic substances vary among different types of chocolate. Here are a few types of chocolate listed in order of theobromine content:

1. Cocoa powder (most toxic)
2. Unsweetened baker's chocolate
3. Semisweet chocolate
4. Dark chocolate
5. Milk chocolate



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Knowing how much and what kind of chocolate your dog ate can help you and your vet determine if you have an emergency. You can calculate your dog's risk of toxicity with this chocolate toxicity calculator. In general, mild symptoms of chocolate toxicity occur when a dog consumes 20 mg of methylxanthines (including theobromine and caffeine) per kilogram of body weight. Cardiac symptoms of chocolate toxicity occur around 40 to 50 mg/kg, and seizures occur at dosages greater than 60 mg/kg.

In simpler terms, that means a very concerning dose of chocolate is approximately one ounce of milk chocolate per pound of body weight. Since an average milk chocolate bar may be around 1.55 ounces, consuming even one chocolate bar can have serious consequences, especially for small dogs. Eating a crumb of chocolate cake or a very small piece of a chocolate bar, on the other hand, probably won't kill your dog, especially if it is a larger breed.

But dogs should never be fed chocolate as a treat. Instead, offer your pet a dog-safe alternative (like a treat featuring carob), which is just as tasty for canines!

What Are the Signs of Chocolate Poisoning?

What happens if a dog eats chocolate? They may experience chocolate poisoning.

Signs of chocolate poisoning usually appear within six to 12 hours after your dog has eaten it. Older dogs and dogs with heart conditions are more at risk of sudden death from chocolate poisoning. The symptoms, which may last up to 72 hours, include the following:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Restlessness
- Increased urination
- Tremors
- Elevated or abnormal heart rate
- Seizures
- Collapse and death

What to Do if Your Dog Eats Chocolate

If you believe your dog ate chocolate, call your veterinarian immediately or call the Pet Poison Helpline (855-213-6680) for advice. Note that if your vet is not open, some services provide live chat and video options to connect

you with a vet. Based on your dog's size and the amount and type of chocolate consumed, your veterinarian may recommend that you monitor your dog for the clinical signs listed above and call back if their condition worsens.



FatCamera/Getty Images Plus

In other cases, the veterinarian may prefer you bring your dog into the clinic. If your pet consumed the chocolate less than two hours ago, your veterinarian may induce vomiting in your dog and give them several doses of activated charcoal, which works to move the toxins out of the body without being absorbed into the bloodstream. For more severe cases, veterinary intervention may be needed to provide supplemental medical treatment, such as medications or IV fluids, to resolve the effects of the poisoning. Dogs suffering from seizures may need to be monitored at the clinic overnight.

How to Prevent Your Dog from Eating Chocolate

To prevent your dog from sneaking chocolate, follow these tips:

Keep Chocolate Out of Reach

Make sure all chocolate items, including cocoa powder and hot chocolate mix, are stored where the dog cannot reach them, such as on a high shelf in a closed-door pantry. Remind your children and guests that chocolate should be kept out of the dog's reach and not left out for dogs on countertops, tables, or in purses. Keep this in mind during the holidays, too, making sure to place trick-or-treat bags, Easter baskets, Valentine's

Day candy, Christmas stockings, and Hanukkah coins (gelt), for example, in a place where a dog cannot get to them.

Teach Them to Leave It

The command “leave it” is extremely effective in preventing dogs from eating something that falls onto the ground or is left within reach during a walk. It’s also a very easy command to teach.



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Crate Train Your Dog

The safest way to ensure your dog doesn’t eat anything harmful while you’re not supervising them is to crate train them. Find a sturdy dog crate that is large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around in.

Make it a comfortable, safe place for them to retreat to when they want to be alone or when you can’t watch them. Offer items like a stuffed chew toy, favorite blanket, or treats to help them feel like the crate is their personal den.



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2024

March 2023	<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
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 12	Piney Run Fall Festival 10am – 4pm, 30 Martz Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784
October 20	Regular Meeting
November 2	Lá Gaeilge (Irish Day), starts 10am - 1190 Progress Dr, Front Royal, VA 22630
November 8-10	Maryland Irish Festival, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD 21093
November 16	Fairiefolk Family Festival, DoubleTree by Hilton 1726 Reistertown Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208
November 17	Regular Meeting
December 8	Holiday Party
December 14	Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5-Miler, 1 Safari Place, Baltimore, MD 21217
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.

