



ZOO SITTERS, LLC

Volume 3

Professional Pet, Farm and House Sitting for the Cape May Area

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Pet Dander Issues?

Pet allergies often prevent people from enjoying the company of furry friends. They often don't realize the main problem is not the hair itself but the dander (dead skin much like dandruff), and as well as allergenic dust and pollen that collect in the hair.

There are several ways to reduce pet allergens in the home:

- Keep pets off furniture and beds.
- Wash all bedding and slip covers in hot water at least 2x per month.
- Wash pet bedding and toys regularly.
- Vacuum regularly using HEPA filters.
- Use a HEPA air cleaner.
- Use allergen air filters in your furnace.
- Cover air vents with vent guards that trap dander and keep it from circulating.
- Clean your home with a chemical-free, vapor steam cleaner.
- Brush pets outside daily.
- Bathe pets with an allergen-reducing shampoo every week.
- Feed pets a good diet supplemented with vitamins and fatty acid supplements to keep skin healthy.
- Wash your hands after handling pets.
- Use anti-allergen sprays and detergent.

The Laws of Cat Physics

*** The Law of Cat Inertia.** A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force- such as the opening of a can of cat food.

***The Law of Cat Motion.** A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.

***The Law of Cat Magnetism.** All blue blazers and black sweaters attract white cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of fabric

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Is Your Dog at Risk for Bloat?

There are generally two types of bloat: gastric dilatation and gastric dilatation- volvulus (GDV). Volvulus means a "twisting of the stomach or the intestine". Both require immediate diagnosis by a vet. Bloat is the filling of the stomach with air, with or without stomach twisting. The twisting cuts off blood supply and can make this life-threatening situation deadly.

While research has been dedicated to the cause of bloat, the exact trigger is not known. Some believe severe exercise prior to or after eating and the amount and type of food given can lead to bloat. It's also been suggested that raising the pet's food dish may help with prevention. What we do know is that GC/GDV happens to large breeds with deep and/or narrow-chests. This includes (but is not limited to): Bernese Mountain Dog, Setter – Irish and Gordon, Great Dane, Retrievers – Lab and Golden, Saint Bernard & Standard Poodle.

Signs of bloat may include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Head thrust forward
2. Unproductive vomiting with retching. Do not confuse saliva for vomitus.
3. Abdominal region can be distended (bloated or swollen) hard and rigid. It may be painful to the touch and the dog may appear guarded of the abdominal area.
4. Capillary refill time (rate at which blood refills empty capillaries, checked at the gums) is prolonged with possible red gums (unless gums are normally pigmented black). Gums will become white/pale as shock progresses.
5. Lethargy (weakness characterized by a lack of vitality or energy), restlessness (unable to get comfortable), anxiousness, pacing or lack of movement.
6. Rapid heart rate. (As time passes, a slowed heart rate may be observed.)
7. Straining to defecate
8. Collapse

If you suspect your pet may be experiencing Bloat, they should be taken immediately to the vet for diagnosis.

~Information for this article taken from Thom Somes at Pet Tech

Ways to Possibly Prevent Bloat

Even if you do everything right for your dog, it may still succumb to bloat. However, there are some things you can do if you have a dog at risk of bloat to reduce the likelihood of occurrence.

1. Feed the highest quality food you can afford.
2. Feed your dog two or three times per day instead of one big meal.
3. Use bottled or filtered water.
4. Do not give food within one hour before or after vigorous exercise.
5. If you must change your pet's food, do so over a period of several days. However, if this is not possible, start the pet with two or three small meals of the new food throughout the day

~Information for this article taken from Thom Somes at Pet Tech

What's in a Name

In 2008, the ASPCA conducted a survey of veterinarians to find out what people are naming their pets. Here are the top 10 Pet Names:

1. Max
2. Sam
3. Lady
4. Bear
5. Smokey
6. Shadow
7. Kitty
8. Molly
9. Buddy
10. Brandy

Want your pet's name to have a unique ring to it? Check out www.pet-net.net and click on "Pet Names." Do you have a pooch who absolutely loves the water? You might want to name her Taura, which is Japanese for "many lakes" or "many rivers."

Information for this article was provided by Pet Owner's World

5 Way to Ensure You're the Boss

If you are to have a well trained dog, you must establish that you are the leader and he is the follower. Your dog has to know in his heart that you are in charge.

- 1. You Go Through the Door First:** Who walks through the door first can reinforce your position as the "dominant dog". Leaders lead. Followers follow.
- 2. You Eat Before Your Dog:** Food is a powerful motivator that can demonstrate who is the ruler of the roost.
- 3. Don't Walk Around Your Dog:** If your dog is lying in the middle of the hallway or in front of the chair you are trying to sit in, make him move.
- 4. You Determine Attention:** Dogs that demand attention are asserting dominance; when you're ready to give him attention or affection, ask him to sit first.
- 5. Don't let Your Dog Sleep in Your Bed:** When you let your dog share your bed, you are making him an equal to you.

Helping your dog recognize you as their leader has nothing to do with harsh discipline but rather changing the way he views you. Small changes like this can have an enormous impact on the social hierarchy in your home.

~Information for this article taken from Charlie Lafave: The World Mag. PSI

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Insured, Bonded and Certified
Serving Cape May County

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The greatness of a nation and
its moral progress can be
judged by the way its animals
are treated. ~ Ghandi