

The Jolly Dog School

(Affiliated to K.U.S.A.)



PO Box 9
FERNDALE
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Secretary
Ingrid Dinsmore
011 022 5327

<http://www.jollydogs.co.za>

JUNE 2012

Dear Members

Please would members refer to the Welcome to Jolly Dog School brochure and take note of the long weekends during 2012 on the website (www.jollydogs.co.za).

Please remember that if you cannot locate your newsletter in order to confirm times and dates of functions please refer to the website which is constantly updated.

Pet Health

Please see the article on Teeth Problems in Dogs at the end of the newsletter.

WINTER WALK – 16 JUNE 2012 – 09H00

A reminder that the Winter Walk will take place on Saturday, 16 June 2012 at 09H00.

Once again we have arranged to walk on Melville Koppies. This would normally be a training day but as the public holiday falls on the Saturday training will be replaced by a refreshing cool walk for owners and dogs.

Agility Work Party

The committee will be holding a “work party” on the afternoon of 16th June (12h30) in order to repair the agility equipment. We ask our members for assistance if possible. If you can drill a hole, use a screw driver or swing a paint brush - WE NEED YOU.

There will be chicken rolls and drinks provided at lunch time. All materials needed will be provided just come along in your work clothes (NO DOGS PLEASE) and join in the fun and meet other “Jolly” members. Give Ingrid a ring on 083 260 8801 or 011 022 5327 to let her know you are coming so that we can cater for you.

Letter from Dale

Please see the email from Dale below.

Barking dogs

A reminder to members that they are to keep their dogs as quiet as possible.
Incessant barking annoys the neighbours.

Refreshments

For the humans there are cold drinks for sale under cover near the main parking lot.

For our furry friends there are fantastic biscuits for sale. Please contact Peter Dinsmore to purchase/order the dog biscuits. The dogs love them.

Email addresses

We prefer to communicate by email in order to keep costs down, but understand not every one has this convenience, so will provide hard copies to those without email at training.

If you have an email and have not had a communication from us or are not getting our monthly newsletter please can you email Shirley (etebbutt@worldonline.co.za) so we can pick up your correct address.

Contact numbers

Website: www.jollydogs.co.za

Head trainer:

Ingrid Dinsmore - 011 022 5327

Secretary:

Ingrid Dinsmore - 011 022 5327

Agility - Trainer

Ettiene van der Merwe – 082 600 5668

Obedience – Trainers

Ingrid Dinsmore - 011 022 5327
Rhea Holdstock - 083 953 8092
Fiona Quirk - 082 902 8825

Shirley Tebbutt - 011 787 6303
Peter Dinsmore - 084 025 2650

Fun Class - Trainers

Cody Hewitt – 084 900 0609

Enjoy your training

“The Jolly Team”

Dear Jolly Dogs,

I have finally spent that wonderful gift which you gave me last year – together with my 2010 gift – on a Kenwood Chef mixer. I am so excited at the baking possibilities my new toy opens up to me - biscuits, cakes, meringues ... with minimal effort. When I left Jo'burg, I finally laid to rest my grandmother's Kenwood from the 1950s, after it had limped along for years. So thank you very much: my fantastic fourteen years at Jolly Dogs are well remembered in my kitchen.

Cape Town has been the right move for me though I miss the many great people I left behind in Jo'burg. My teaching load at UCT has been less than at Wits, so I have been able to make PhD progress, though inevitably not as fast as I would like despite working really hard. However I have just written the conclusion chapter, which is why I'm getting to do fun things like spending money on myself!

I do miss Jolly Dogs but I've recently started the beginner agility and flyball classes of the Western Province Dog Club with my delightful new dog, Buck. I've enjoyed being on the other side of teaching for a change. Thembi also gets to run around an agility course, which she still so enjoys.

Jolly Dogs is a very special club, which for me was a weekly oasis in my (at times chaotic) life. I wish all committee, trainers, handlers and dogs many more years of sunny Saturday afternoons full of happy people and dogs.

Lots of love

Dale

TEETH PROBLEMS IN DOGS

Your dog's happy, carefree life should be unbothered by dental concerns, right? Think again. Vets say 85 percent of canines over age 4 have some form of gum disease. Other frequent problems include crooked, cracked or loose teeth, an infection or an abscess.

You may not even know when your dog has oral discomfort. This is part of his ancestry — in the wild, showing pain would make a dog vulnerable to attack. Today's domestic canines maintain this instinct, so you have to do your best to watch for signs: changes to eating habits or loss of appetite, unusual night awakenings, rubbing the face against things or facial swelling.

Any time you suspect a problem, check with your vet, who may refer you to a veterinary dentist. If your dog's problem requires a procedure — such as a tooth extraction or professional cleaning — he'll probably be given a general anesthetic to make him more comfortable during the procedure. When he wakes up, he'll be happy to be relieved of that nagging ache in his mouth!

Without further ado, here are five common dental problems dogs face (and five ways the two of you can prevent them).

Loose Teeth

For puppies, loose teeth aren't a problem. Just like humans, their first set of teeth, called deciduous teeth need to fall out at about 4-6 months to make space for the permanent ones.

Visit your vet if your adult dog has a loose tooth. She may do an X-ray to examine the tooth's root or conduct an overall exam to screen for health issues. In almost all cases, a loose tooth won't correct itself, so your vet may suggest an extraction

Misaligned Teeth

Of course your dog is perfect in every way. But what about his teeth? Sometimes the adult teeth are crooked, or he may have a malocclusion — a misalignment of the upper and lower jaw. Some breeds are known for their trademark bite, but if it's extreme, your dog may have difficulty chewing.

With humans, an orthodontist will correct crooked teeth to improve a person's smile or confidence. But in veterinary medicine, appearance isn't a factor; standard protocol dictates correcting these issues only if they are causing an animal pain or preventing him from eating or drinking normally. This protects dogs (even show dogs) from undergoing deciduous teeth; need to fall out to make room for their larger, permanent teeth. Between 4 and 6 months old, your pup will have frequent loose teeth. You may even find some cast-off ones in his bedding or around the house. By the time he's about 7 or 8 months old, he should well on his way to sporting a new set of 42 adult teeth.

While all this activity is going on, periodically check inside your puppy's mouth. Retained baby teeth are common — the deciduous tooth hasn't completely fallen out, but the adult tooth is coming in. If you see two teeth occupying one spot in your puppy's mouth, check with your vet, who can help get the baby tooth out of the way. Otherwise, the adult tooth may come in crooked, possibly causing later problems.

For an adult dog, a loose tooth is more suspect. It usually results from trauma to the mouth or from gum loss due to advanced periodontal disease. It may also be a sign of illness dental procedures solely for aesthetic purposes.

If your dog's bite seems to be causing him problems — perhaps a tooth is rubbing against the soft tissue, or eating seems to be a cumbersome, clumsy process — get him evaluated by a veterinary

dentist. He won't give your dog braces, but he has ways to realign the teeth or may be able to provide relief by extracting or capping a problem tooth.

If the veterinarian determines that your dog's oral condition is genetic, he may require that your dog also be spayed or neutered. This is another measure intended to protect dogs, to prevent future generations from experiencing the same discomfort.

Whether their teeth are crooked or straight, all dogs are at risk of periodontal disease

Periodontal Disease

Your dog's toys may carry a clue about her dental health. Does she leave spots of blood on them after she's enjoyed a chew toy or vigorous playtime? Swollen, bleeding gums are a symptom of periodontal disease, the most commonly diagnosed oral problem in dogs.

Problems begin when plaque builds up on your dog's teeth and transforms into a brownish substance, known as tartar. When this moves under the gum line, red, puffy gums develop, called gingivitis. Left untreated, this progresses into periodontal disease, causing the gums to recede and lose their function. This can eventually lead to tooth loss. Periodontal disease also introduces infection, which can travel in the bloodstream to affect other organs.

All dogs are susceptible to periodontal disease, but contributing factors include the reaction of the dog's immune system, age, diet and chewing habits. In any dog, your best defense is routine dental care — a combination of at-home tooth brushing, good quality chews and periodic dental exams by a professional. Starting this at an early age will help your dog accept mouth handling more readily and will give her a head start on prevention.

If she's leaving telltale spots of blood, has brown tartar on her teeth or if her gums look inflamed and sore, check with your vet. A professional tooth cleaning, done early, can remove the tartar and hinder the progression of gum disease.

Tooth Trauma

Keep an eye on what your dog chomps on. A hearty chew is great for his oral hygiene, but chewing the wrong object can leave him in dental distress. Rigid, solid objects can break or crack a tooth. A broken or cracked tooth can also result from an impact injury, tugging games or too-rough play.

A common type of broken tooth seen in dogs is called a slab fracture. This occurs if he forcibly bit down on a hard object, causing a section of tooth to flake off, ranging in size from a chip to a larger section.

With any type of cracked or broken tooth, the nerve of the tooth may become exposed, and that's painful. Sometimes, the nerve eventually dies, and his pain subsides. This isn't the end of his problems, though, because the tooth may become infected, resulting in a return of pain and the introduction of bacteria.

You can help your dog avoid a broken tooth by monitoring what he chews on and never giving him solid, rock hard objects for chewing. Avoid brittle bones or hooves, or letting him gnaw on rocks, crate railings or solid posts. Chew toys should always be somewhat flexible, with some give to the surface, as a hard rubber or nylon material has.

Check with your vet if you see a cracked or broken tooth, even if your dog doesn't seem bothered by it. Treatment will depend on how badly the tooth has been damaged, which usually requires an

X-ray to evaluate. Options include extraction of the tooth, root canal or a procedure called a vital pulpotomy, which is typically done in younger dogs if the tooth and root are otherwise in good health.

A broken tooth in a dog can be the gateway for a tooth root abscess, the last problem on our list

Tooth Root Abscess

One of the more agonizing oral problems your dog may experience is a tooth root abscess. This occurs if the root of the tooth became exposed to bacteria — perhaps from a crack or break, or from advanced gum damage due to periodontal disease — and an infection has set in.

Signs that may indicate an abscess might be difficulty eating — your dog may be dropping food, tipping her head to one side or may avoid eating at all. As the abscess builds up, you may notice facial swelling. Depending on which tooth is affected, it may look like her eye is infected or inflamed, due to the proximity of the tooth's roots to the eye.

A look inside your dog's mouth should reveal the culprit — a bump, swelling or a localized area of the gums that looks red and angry. An abscess may spread to surrounding teeth, so it may be difficult to pinpoint which tooth is affected.

Due to the pain involved, it's wise to get your dog to the veterinarian quickly, who will do an X-ray to determine the extent of the problem. He may try to save the tooth with a root canal procedure, or he may need to extract it. He'll probably also give your dog antibiotics to control the infection, and pain medication to help her feel better while she's awaiting the procedure and recovering.

Over the course of her life, your dog will probably encounter fewer dental problems than humans do. But when something suspicious arises, it's important to react quickly, both for your dog's comfort and to safeguard her overall health.