



Dear friends,

Welcome to our September Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com.

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We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

"Since I have taken to sleeping under the bed, I have come to know tranquillity I never imagined possible. You never really know when it might be cookie time. And that's what the dogs have taught me".

--Merrill Markoe

Recipe - Goulosh

Ingredients

500g (1lb) minced beef, chicken or turkey

2 cups cooked brown rice

3 cups vegetables (broccoli, asparagus, sweet potato, green beans, carrots, spinach, kale)

2 hardboiled eggs, chopped

1 small can of mackerel

Optional – 3 or 4 chicken livers

To Make

Chop the vegetables in a food processor. Then mix all ingredients together in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Cool, then place into freezer bags or fridge.

(This recipe is from the I Love Dogs recipe book available at [BestDoggieTips](http://BestDoggieTips.com)).

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Cats & Dogs

I saw a question in an online forum this month from someone who had seen a man walking his dog with 2 cats following them. It turns out the cats were his, and the person was asking whether this was unusual. I had to laugh, because most of the cats I have had always want to accompany me and the dog on walks.

Our current cat, Bahti, is not content with walking with Hamish & I - Bahti insists on running ahead and waiting for us to catch up, and then tearing off again. It didn't seem odd to me!

But I hadn't really thought about how unusual this may seem to others. It's quite unusual for dogs and cats to get along well. They both need to learn each others language for a start.

Just consider – for a dog, a moving tail is usually a sign of happiness (wagging), whereas with a cat, it is usually a sign of bad temper or annoyance.

According to research led by Joseph Terkel at Tel Aviv University , cats and dogs really can get along to the point that they'll play hard together, drink water from the same bowl, and cuddle on the couch. The recipe for success, he found, is to adopt the cat first and introduce a dog while both pets are still young.

In homes where the cat and dog are mates, the research suggests they've managed to correctly read each other's body cues.

"We found that cats and dogs are learning how to talk each other's language," Terkel said. "It was a surprise that cats can learn how to talk 'Dog' and vice versa".

Even more unusual is the story of Butchie, the bulldog, who is helping two rescued lion cubs learn to socialise:

Apparently the Canadian drug dealer who owned them thought he was one tough guy. Why else would he have bought two lion cubs to keep in his home?

There are likely 200 or so different reasons why each of the 200 or so carnivores currently living at the Wild Animal Sanctuary ended up there.

Cana and Dian, named for the country where they once lived, just so happen to be two of the most recent additions to the wide-open expanse of land in Weld County.

"We don't know why he had them," Casey Craig, the son of the founder of the sanctuary said about the former owner of the pair of cubs. "Maybe it was just a cool factor... maybe he thought he wanted to be like Scarface".

Either way, the two cubs were in need of some serious socializing before they were ready to join one of the two large prides that currently reside at the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

Craig and the rest of the staff called in the dogs.

Apparently cats and dogs can get along, or at least teach the cats how to better behave in a world where an angry lion can make a smaller lion regret he ever crossed his path.

"[The cubs] get to learn the whole social structure of the lion pride through the dog pack. They can get it from a much safer environment with the dogs than just by sticking them in the pride," Craig said.

Cana and Dian weigh approximately 100 pounds right now. The six-month-olds will likely weigh close to seven times that amount when they are finally done growing.

For now, they seem to have taken up a unique relationship with an English Bulldog named "Butchie."

Butchie is about half their size, but often times can be found going paw to paw with the cubs.

Butchie won't be joining the pair when they're formally introduced to the pride in the next few weeks. He's tough, says Craig, but he's not that tough.

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And the Winner Is

Labrador Retriever Ellie wins Veterinary Pet Insurance's Hambone award for most unusual claim



A LABRADOR retriever who ate a beehive – bees included – has been named winner of this year's "Hambone Award" - an insurance company's annual tribute to the pet with the most unusual insurance claim.

Veterinary Pet Insurance Co. (VPI), the US oldest and largest provider of pet health insurance, chose 12 nominees for the honour - all selected from claims filed by clients. More than 3000 people voted online to pick the winner.

Ellie lives in Santee, California, and the beehive was just the latest in a long line of items she has consumed in her young life – from wooden toy train tracks to laptop computer keys.

On top of the hive, and its thousands of inhabitants, Ellie also consumed pesticide – for the hive had recently been sprayed. On the plus side, that meant the bees she consumed were already dead. On the down side, the pesticide made her upset stomach even worse. She made a full recovery.

Ellie's owners, Robert and Sandra Coe, will receive a bronze trophy in the shape of a ham as well as a gift basket full of doggie toys and treats, VPI announced this week.

The VPI Hambone Award is named in honour of a VPI-insured dog that got stuck in a refrigerator and ate an entire Thanksgiving ham before someone opened the door and found the dog inside, with a mild case of hypothermia.

This year's second place honours went to Aubie, a border collie from Birmingham, Alabama, who wanted to meet (or eat) the mailman so badly he leapt through a closed living room window. The leap shattered the glass and left Aubie with a cut front leg that required 40 stitches.

"Aubie's never been enamoured with the mailman," said owner, Sharman Martin.

Third place went to a West Highland white terrier named Darci, who attacked her owner's running chainsaw. The chainsaw cut two small holes into Darci's muzzle and she underwent five hours of surgery.

Additional nominees for the 2010 VPI Hambone Award included a boxer that chased and caught a moving delivery van by biting into one of its tires, a standard poodle with a taste for dirty diapers, and a Jack Russell terrier that suffered injuries from wrestling with a lizard.

All pets considered for the award made full recoveries and received insurance reimbursements for their medical care.

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Dog Site of the Month - Shiloh's Space



Our recommended dog site this month is Shiloh's Space – a K9 Horoscope site. Shiloh's site has astrology blogs and a month by month forecast for our canine pals.

According to Shiloh's Bio:

"I'm a Border Collie rescue and for the first 5 months of my life I survived in an overgrown, fenced and abandoned field with my mother, siblings and approximately 30 other dogs of various ages. My misfortune began when our breeder, who had fallen on hard times following a fire which had destroyed her home, simply moved away and left a number of dogs to fend for themselves. Surviving wasn't easy!

As a matter of fact when rescuers finally came to our aid the carcasses of no fewer than 7 dogs littered the field. I guess that maybe I was lucky to have had a strong willed mom who was able to care for me and teach me the skills I needed to survive but survive I did. To see my rescue click here: [My Rescue Video](#). Today I have a loving, forever home which I share with my older feline sister Misty and my pawrents. My fondest wish is that all pups could share my good fortune and have a safe and happy home too."

You can even have your pooch join Shiloh's **StarGazer Barkday Club**. As a Barkday Club member you'll receive a personalized Barkday greeting card on your Special (birth date or gotcha date) Barkday. I don't care if your Barkday is a birth day or gotcha day it's a day to celebrate with a good loud bark and you get that with a personalized, astrologically inspired greeting card sent directly to your e-dress.

In addition, you may be the StarGazer Featured Pup of the Month and receive a charm in recognition of your achievement. To join the StarGazer Barkday Club send an e-mail to

K9Horoscope@Gmail.com. Please make sure that your message includes your name, birth date or gotcha date and an e-dress.

Shiloh's Space is at <http://k9horoscope.blogspot.com/>

[Visit Shiloh's Space!](#)

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Dogs & Ticks

Ticks are blood-feeding parasites that are often found in tall grass where they will wait to attach to a passing host. A tick will attach itself to its host by inserting its cutting mandibles and feeding tube into the skin. The feeding tube is covered with recurved teeth and serves as an anchor.

Physical contact is not the only method of transportation for ticks. Some species stalk the host from ground level, emerging from cracks or crevices located in the woods or even inside a home or kennel, where infestations of "seed ticks" (the six-legged stage of newborn ticks) can attack in numbers up to 30,000 at a time. Weak or elderly dogs, puppies, and cats are particularly endangered and can die from anaemia from a sudden influx of seed ticks. Seed ticks also attack horses, cattle, moose, lions and other mammals, causing anaemia, various diseases, paralysis and even death. Such infestations can be difficult to detect until thousands have attached themselves to an animal and eradication can be difficult.

Changes in temperature and day length are some of the factors signalling a tick to seek a host. Ticks can detect heat emitted or carbon dioxide respired from a nearby host. They will generally drop off the animal when full, but this may take several days. In some cases ticks will live for some time on the blood of an animal. Ticks are more active outdoors in warm weather, but can attack a host at any time.

Ticks can be found in most wooded or forested regions throughout the world. They are especially common in areas where there are deer trails or human tracks. Ticks are especially abundant near water, where warm-blooded animals come to drink, and in meadows wherever shrubs and brush provide woody surfaces and cover.

In Australia, the most dangerous tick is the paralysis tick. Paralysis ticks can cause death if not found and removed quickly.

How to protect your dog from paralysis ticks



a) Avoid the tick habitat

During the tick season, don't take your dog walking in bush areas known to harbour ticks. Keep lawns and shrubs short and remove compost material from backyards.

b) Search pets every day for ticks

The most essential preventative measure is a thorough search of your dog's skin and coat at least once a day even if tick control products have been applied. This method gives you the best chance of finding a tick before serious tick paralysis occurs.



Be systematic with your search

Use the fingertips to feel through your dog's coat. Ticks or tick craters can be felt as lumps on the skin surface.

- Start at your dog's nose and slowly examine the face, ears, lips and eyes. Most ticks are found forward of the front legs, especially on the face, neck and ears. However, be careful to also check skin folds around the lips and ears.
- Search around the eyes and on top of the forehead carefully before checking the neck.
- Remove collar and search through the skin folds in the neck. Continue down the shoulders to the forelegs, remembering to check between the toes and under the armpits. Examine the chest, back, belly, around the tail and anus, and the back legs.
- If you find a tick, remove it and don't forget to search for more. Some dogs can be infested with many ticks at one time.



c) Remove ticks

As soon as a paralysis tick is found it should be removed. Quickly remove the tick without squeezing the engorged abdomen. Your veterinarian can do this or show you the best method. A special hook or tweezers may be useful.

d) Preventatives for Paralysis tick control

In addition to daily searching, application of products specifically intended for tick control can greatly reduce the risk of tick paralysis for your pet. Ask your veterinarian for advice.

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Fun Stuff

Two Scottish nuns have just arrived in the USA by boat and one says to the other, "I hear that the people of this country actually eat dogs."

"Odd," her companion replies, "but if we shall live in America , we might as well do as the Americans do."

Nodding emphatically, the mother superior points to a hot dog vendor and they both walk towards the cart. "Two dogs, please," says one.

The vendor is too pleased to oblige, wraps both hot dogs in foil, and hands them over the counter. Excited, the nuns hurry to a bench and begin to un-wrap their 'dogs'.

The mother superior begins to blush and, then, staring at it for a moment, leans to the other nun and whispers cautiously, "What part... did you get...?"

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The Weird & the Wonderful

Dog chews off owner's toe -- and may have saved his life

Dogs that bite are not ordinarily lavished with praise, but Jerry Douthett's little dog Kiko is being hailed as a lifesaver.

Kiko apparently sensed an infection festering in his master's right big toe -- and chewed most of it off after Douthett passed out in a drunken stupor.

Douthett awoke to find a bloody stump where his big toe used to be, and he and his wife rushed to Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Mich. There, they discovered Douthett actually had type 2 diabetes and was suffering from a dangerous infection in his big toe. Doctors finished the job Kiko had started, and amputated what was left of his toe.



Douthett's wife, Rosee, a registered nurse, had actually suspected her husband had diabetes and insisted he get checked out. But before he did so, he had a few beers. And then a few margaritas. After that, he went home, passed out, and Kiko got to work.

Douthett said he has sworn off alcohol. "For the better part of 48 years, I've had a good run," he said of his partying days. And as for falling asleep, Douthett said he's not taking any chances. "I don't think Kiko would do it again," he said, "but I wear shoes to bed now."

Dog seeks help from neighbor after owner collapses

A small dog who refused to return home until a neighbor followed her helped rescue her owner after he collapsed at home following heart surgery. Charles Mitchell said he was working in his yard last week in the Oregon wine country town of Yamhill when an 11-year-old dachshund named Missy scampered up and refused to leave.

Mitchell told the dog to go home, but she refused, and when he decided to follow her across the street to investigate, he found his neighbor, Charlie Burdon, had collapsed inside his home.

The police chief arrived with paramedics and Burdon was taken to the hospital. Burdon suffered an attack of vertigo and is recovering.

But Burdon and Mitchell, who have known each other for years, both said Missy is their hero.

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