



Howls & Growls

Dec - 2016

EDITOR'S CORNER

Reminder:

Club Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10th at 3:00

Chris and Mike's home in North Tustin

We hope you will join us!

This issue of the newsletter is full of excellent educational articles that have been provided by Sue Carnall. Enjoy!

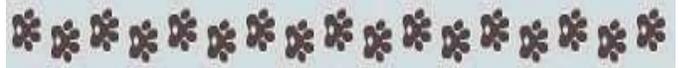
And one more thing. During the holidays, when so many of us have friends and family visiting our "dog homes", keep in mind there may be some "little" (and big) folks who may want to "feed" the dogs. Please help ensure your dogs stay out of the veterinary clinic by making certain they are not given excessive "treats". Keep chocolate, onions, avocado, alcohol, unbaked bread dough, sugar and sugar substitutes, raisins and grapes away from the dogs. Happy New Year!



<http://www.scamc.org/>

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The SCAMC Newsletter is distributed electronically and will be available on the SCAMC website. Please send submissions to: 1chris.weimer@gmail.com



SCAMC Officers & Committee Positions for 2016 - 2017

President:	Steve Starks
Vice-President:	Sherri Taylor
Treasurer:	Chris Weimer
Secretary:	Patricia Starks
Membership:	Tina Dunn
Working Director:	Mike Wheaton
Ways & Means:	Karen Ulfig
Education:	Sue Carnall
Rescue Coordinator:	Tina Dunn
Newsletter Editor:	Chris Weimer
Pet Expo Coordinator:	Tina Dunn



EDUCATION

Sue Carnall

As your Education Director, it's up to me to pass along articles with new information so that's what I'm doing. I don't agree with this study especially when you're building drive in a dog. It's worth reading so you know what's out there. Not sure I would change my training method based on a study of 13 dogs.

There's a New Study Out on Dog Reward Behaviors, and Guess What It Found?

November 11, 2016

By Dr. Becker

If your dog were offered the choice of a tasty treat or warm praise, which would she choose? You might think food right off the bat, but a new study published in the journal Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience is challenging this notion.

1. Since the early 1900s when Ivan Pavlov conducted his classical conditioning experiments, many people have viewed dogs as “Pavlovian machines.”

2. That is, the theory that dogs are primarily driven by food and respond to and interact with their owners simply as a way to get fed.

“Another, more current, view of their behavior is that dogs value human contact in and of itself,” Emory University neuroscientist Gregory Berns, Ph.D. said in an Emory University news release.

3. Indeed, growing evidence suggests dogs are not only food motivated but also desire strong relationships with humans for reasons that are only now beginning to be explored, like receiving praise.

New Study: Dogs May Prefer Praise Over Food
Dogs are uniquely integrated into humans’ social structures, making them a perfect choice to study cross-species social bonding.

Researchers from Emory University decided to look into the novel question of whether dogs prefer praise or food, using analysis of both behavior and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of the dogs’ brains.

This first required the dogs to learn how to enter the fMRI scanner without being restrained or sedated, and to keep still while the scan took place. Then a series of experiments involving 13 dogs took place.

First, the dogs learned to associate a pink toy truck with a food reward, a blue toy knight with verbal praise from their owner and a hairbrush with no reward (the control). While in the fMRI scanner, the dogs showed stronger neural activation for the reward objects than the control item.

Further, four of the dogs had particularly strong neural activation for the praise reward while nine dogs had similar activation for both food and praise. Only two dogs seemed to prefer food over praise.

In the next experiment, the dogs went through a Y-shaped maze multiple times. At one end was a bowl of food; the other led to the dog’s owner and when the dog arrived, the owner praised the dog.

The neurological profiles obtained in the prior experiment fit with their maze choices, such that dogs that showed strong neural activation for praise chose their owners over food most of the time. Berns explained to Emory University:

4. “We found that the caudate response of each dog in the first experiment correlated with their choices in the second experiment. Dogs are individuals and their neurological profiles fit the behavioral choices they make.

Most of the dogs alternated between food and owner, but the dogs with the strongest neural response to

praise chose to go to their owners 80 to 90 percent of the time.

It shows the importance of social reward and praise to dogs. It may be analogous to how we humans feel when someone praises us.

... Out of the 13 dogs that completed the study, we found that most of them either preferred praise from their owners over food, or they appeared to like both equally. Only two of the dogs were real chowhounds, showing a strong preference for the food.”

Do Dogs Experience Similar Emotions As Humans?
The study raises intriguing questions about the way we view dogs (sometimes as property instead of as individual, sentient beings).

Berns’ work training dogs to willingly go into the fMRI scanner has been instrumental in uncovering previously unanswered questions about canine emotion and behavior, particularly in relation to activity in the caudate nucleus brain region.

The caudate plays a role in human anticipation of enjoyable things (like food and love) and is activated accordingly. Previous research by Berns and colleagues revealed remarkable similarities in caudate activation in dogs.

Activity increased in response to hand signals indicating food, the return of an owner who had stepped out of sight and other scenarios that would similarly activate the caudate in humans. Berns wrote in *The New York Times*:

5. “Do these findings prove that dogs love us? Not quite. But many of the same things that activate the human caudate, which are associated with positive emotions, also activate the dog caudate. Neuroscientists call this a functional homology, and it may be an indication of canine emotions.

The ability to experience positive emotions, like love and attachment, would mean that dogs have a level of sentience comparable to that of a human child. And this ability suggests a rethinking of how we treat dogs.”

Is Your Dog Food Motivated or Praise Motivated?

You may already know the answer to this question, as some dogs (like certain Labrador retrievers) do tend to be more food motivated than others.

In Berns’ featured study, only one dog — Ozzie, a short-haired terrier mix — chose food over his owner’s praise every time, suggesting once again that every dog has a mind of his own.

If you’re curious to know what your dog is thinking, the Dog Project in Emory’s Department of Psychology, which is led by Berns, is looking for doggy participants in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

6. If your dog can learn to hold his head still in the MRI, he could participate in the project and you could gain a whole new perspective into what's going on in your dog's mind.

Another fun tool is Dognition, which allows you to conduct an online assessment of your dog to gain insights into his intellect and motivations. The assessment can be done at home and involves playing games with your dog and reporting his results.

Then he'll be assigned one of nine different profiles based on a combination of characteristics that shape the way he approaches daily life. The more you understand about your dog, the deeper and more rewarding your relationship can be.

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*I don't know about the rest of you, but my Malamutes seem to have selective hearing with recalls. I will say, however, when your Malamute is ten years old, his recall is much better. Here are some quick tips to help with recalls.*

## **HOW TO TEACH YOUR DOG NOT TO COME WHEN CALLED**

By [Kim Dean](#)

**Pet owners will learn more from this lesson than anything the trainer may teach, guaranteed to work!**

- Say 'come' and not be willing or able to enforce it.
- Expect your dog to know what come means without teaching it.
- Call your dog to you when you are going to correct (punish) him for something.
- Correcting your dog when he finally does come to you.
- Run after your dog, chasing him, yelling come, sit, stay, etc.
- Calling your dog to you and immediately doing something unpleasant like trimming his nails, giving him medication, or putting him somewhere when you leave.
- Only calling your dog at the end of a walk to put his leash on and go home.
- Never calling your dog during walks just for the fun of it.
- When your dog steals something, chase him, preferably yelling.
- Let your dog go 20 feet away before he's mastered coming to you at 19 feet.
- Let your dog bolt through doors or gates without thinking.
- Let your dog play with other dogs in the park without being able to call him back and only calling him at the end of the play session to be leashed and taken home.
- Catch your dog when you are mad and let him go thinking you're still mad.
- Not calling your dog when he is looking at you.
- Calling your dog away from something he is enjoying and not rewarding him enough.

- Repeating calls over and over again until your dog is bored.
- Not calling your dog for dinner, walks or good times.
- Make it hard for your dog to be successful, making it easy for him to fail.
- Ignoring your dog when he comes to you.
- Only rewarding your dog with "good dog" when he comes to you (TREATS!!!).
- Not rewarding your dog on walks when he turns around to look at you.

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Here is another one - Easy to read with good information and a reminder for me what to do.



September 7, 2015

10 RULES FOR TRAINING YOUR DOG

A quick internet search will produce about a million different tips, tricks, and opinions on how to train and get better behavior from your dog. I'd wager that just about all of them have worked for someone, and for some dog, at some time. Rather than tell you, "This is how you teach a dog to... xyz," here are ten rules that should be ubiquitous across any training methodology:

1. Your Dog Needs A Leader, If It Can't Find One, It Will Try To Do The Job Itself

We put our dogs in a world that they can't possibly comprehend completely. We make them follow rules that don't make natural sense to them. The least we can do is be a good guide and mentor for them. This means we let them know who's in charge. Don't project negative feelings on me because of that last sentence just because you might have a crappy boss at work. When you know there is someone who knows what they are doing, is confident in their abilities, and is able to do the job in a leadership position, it sets you at ease. The same goes for your dog. If your dog does not find you to be a meaningful leader, it will assume that role itself because, well... somebody's gotta do it. But they'll make choices that make sense to them, which are incompatible with the world we have them live in. Out in the wild, it would make sense to guard your resources as a matter of survival. It would make sense to pee and poop wherever you want so long as it's not where you sleep or eat. It would make sense to run away from things that are a bit scary and to fight off things deemed a threat. None of these behaviors are compatible in our society. If you want your dog to conform, you better be ready to show them.

2. Make It Exactly What You Want, From The First Repetition To The Last

Practice doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect. When placed in a situation where your choices

are to make an exercise easier or lower your standards for performance, you should ALWAYS pick the former. Whether you are looking for a straight sit at the end of a recall or working through growling and lunging on walks, find the point where your dog can do it right and move forward from there only as quickly as they are able to maintain the standards of the exercise.

3. Fix One Problem At A Time

Small issues build up to bigger ones. Most problems on walks and anywhere else, are solved before you leave the house. If your dog can't sit still while you put their leash and collar on, they won't wait nicely at the door. If they can't wait nicely at the door, they won't walk nicely at the beginning of the walk. And if they can't walk as nicely during that first block, the rest of the walk won't be any better. Well, maybe after they're exhausted, the walk gets easier, but a TIRED dog and a TRAINED dog are not equal.

4. If It's Not Right At Your Side, It Won't Be Right Anywhere Else

A dog that can't sit still by your side will never be able to walk nicely by your side. Reactivity, over excitement, aggression... the solution for EVERY. THING. starts with being able to do nothing. A dog that can't do nothing won't be able to do much. Tethering, benching, place, sit on the dog, crating... there are many exercises that can help teach a dog to find internal and external comfort, to self-calm, and that they don't need to respond to every little thing that happens in front of them. Dogs, like people, need a clear mind to learn.

5. If It's Not Right On Leash, It Won't Be Right Off Leash

Does your dog jump on guests, get on the furniture, not come when called...? "Are they on leash?" is the first question I always ask.

Go to meet someone at the door, have the dog on leash, step on the leash so that there is enough slack that the leash won't get tight unless the dog's front feet come off the floor. Now open the door. The dog will be restricted from jumping. Wait until they stop trying and then ask for a sit. Allow your guest to pet them once (and only as long as) they are seated. Rinse and repeat.

Dog jumps on furniture. Dog doesn't listen when you tell them to get off. Just grab the end of the leash, and pull them off. Don't sling-shot them across the room, just turn and walk with leash in hand and take the dog with you. Rinse and repeat.

Dog is in the back yard. You want to call them to come inside, and of course, they respond with "No." Attach a long line (15-20 foot leash) to the dog's collar and make sure you are holding the end of it before you call them. Give the leash a little tug and reel them in like a fish.

Give them something really good (their favorite treat, a game of tug, whatever they like) . Rinse and repeat.

Here's where people go wrong: they only do this for a week or so. Do it (every. single. time.) until you don't need to actually use the leash (you never have to pull them, stop them, reel them, guide them), and then keep the leash on for 100% of the time it took to get to that point (so if it took 4 weeks to get to the point where you don't ever have to use leash pressure, keep the leash on for every 4 weeks). Dogs are natural gamblers. If they "win" one of these exchanges once, they'll continue to place bets. Make the result inevitable until you are sure your dog isn't calculating the odds.

6. Always Have A Recovery Area

Another important thing I learned from Linda Kaim of [Lionheart K9](#)... Well, technically, I read about it in "The Koehler Method of Dog Training", but it didn't make quite as much sense until she illustrated the point for me. Dogs tie all kinds of feelings (which drive how they act) to a place where something happens. If you are working your dog through some kind of trouble spot, and they are stressing out or losing steam and enthusiasm, move to a different location and do something easy that you know they will get right to show them how easy it is to be successful. You don't need to get in your car and drive somewhere else. The first time Linda introduced this concept to me, I was working a dog on downs on a training table (pause table for you agility peeps) and the dog fought me a bunch, major resistance to any amount of leash pressure. She had me take the dog to another table less than 10 feet away and do a sit (something the dog 100% for sure knows and would respond to) and lavishly reward them for it. Went back to the first table and the dog melted into the down like buttah! This is seriously as close to magic as you'll ever come to in dog training.

7. Quit While You're Ahead

Always end your sessions before you've completely exhausted the mental capacity of your dog. Sometimes we drill something so much that our dog loses steam and we take offense. Really, it's the dog that should be offended, that you're a jerk who can't recognize they did their best the last 50 times you asked for something and now they'd really like to take a nap. Particularly when you're working on something that has been a real sticking point for your dog, when they nail it, stop. Don't "reward" that success by demanding 100 more of those things, whatever they are, in the same session.

8. You Have To Go Back To Go Forward

Remember rule #5 way up there? That doesn't apply only to the house, or the back yard. It applies to ANY new situation you put your dog into. This is particularly important when people are moving into the proofing

phase of training a behavior. So even if your dog is 100% perfectly reliable off leash in your yard, when you go to a new place or work around new stimuli, start on leash and make sure everything is just right before moving forward.

9. Under Stress, Animals Go Back To What Is Most Familiar

When a dog is aroused in any way they typically revert to whatever behavior is instinctual or the strongest habit. It does us no good to only train in relaxing environments, or by avoiding things that typically trigger them. We have to work through those situations. The only way to teach a dog to cope... is to make them cope. This doesn't mean throwing them into the deep end, but it does mean that you need to train behaviors to the point of habit, under the same circumstances where they would usually fall apart (once foundation work has been completed, and by working up to those situations methodically) if you want to really resolve issues. If you still have any second thoughts about how your dog is going to act in a situation, you have more work to do.

10. Do Not Give A Command You Can't (Or Won't) Reinforce

Going back to #5 again, where I said dogs are gamblers. People go through 6 weeks of a group class and think they're done. Their dog "knows" sit, and stay, so they use those words while they sit on the couch at the end of the day. The dog blows them off, but they are tired, so they let it slide. Congratulations! You just made 10 times more work for yourself.

Keep the dog on leash so it's easy to follow through. And think before you tell your dog to do something. If you aren't going to be willing and/or able to follow through, you'd be better served by crating them (managing their behavior by limiting their options and not allowing the opportunity for them to do something wrong).

And A Bonus...

11. Always Train, Never Test

Tests are fine for kids in school. Not for dogs. Whenever you are with your dog, get it in your mind that you are not testing them to see if they are going to do the right thing or the wrong thing. You are, instead, going to give advice and guidance... as much as necessary, but as little as possible... always. This is an important thing to get in your head. I've said this in front of group classes before and literally seen an immediate change, a softening in handling, a release of tension, and an overall more understanding attitude from clients. The actual actions (leash pressure, corrections, praise, everything) don't actually change. But the attitude and the vibe the person is giving off makes a major difference to the dog.

When Your Dog's Panting Might Mean Trouble

November 25, 2015

By Dr. Becker

If you've spent any time around dogs, you know they pant. In fact, many dogs pant a lot.

Panting describes a type of rapid, shallow breathing that speeds evaporation of water from your dog's tongue, and inside his mouth and upper respiratory tract. As the water evaporates, it helps your dog regulate his body temperature.

This is necessary because as his body temp rises, his skin doesn't sweat like a human's does. He's able to sweat a bit through his paw pads, but it's panting that allows him to circulate air through his body most efficiently.

The normal (non-panting) breathing rate for dogs is 30 to 40 inhalations and exhalations per minute, but a panting dog can take 10 times that many breaths per minute (300 to 400). You would think panting uses up a lot of energy, but it actually doesn't require much effort thanks to the natural elasticity of the lungs and airways.

Normal and Abnormal Panting

There are two types of panting: normal and abnormal. Normal panting typically occurs when your dog's body is overheating and is considered a natural, healthy response. Abnormal panting, on the other hand, may be a sign that your dog has a physical or emotional issue that needs further investigation.

You can tell the difference between the two types of panting by looking for these signs:

- Abnormal panting is excessive compared to your dog's normal panting behavior
- It occurs during times when your dog isn't overly warm and doesn't need to cool her body down
- It doesn't sound quite like normal panting – it may be louder or harsher, for example
- Your dog is exerting more effort than normal while panting

If your dog suddenly starts panting at inappropriate times or the panting seems heavier than usual, you should be concerned, but there's no need to panic. Make an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss your pet's symptoms and have him checked out.

Causes for Abnormal Panting

- **Overheating leading to heatstroke.** The more overheated a dog becomes, the heavier he will pant. Some of the other signs of overheating include excessive thirst, elevated body temperature, glazed eyes, bright or dark red tongue or gums, and increased pulse and heartbeat.

If your dog's body temperature gets to 109°F or higher, heatstroke is the result. The cells of the body rapidly start to die. The brain swells, causing seizures. Lack of blood supply to the GI tract causes ulcers. Dehydration leads to irreversible kidney damage. And all these catastrophic events take place within a matter of minutes.

It's important for pet owners to take every precaution to prevent overheating. By the time a dog is exhibiting symptoms of heatstroke, it's often too late to save him.

- **Breed predisposition.** Brachycephalic breeds, dogs with short or "pushed in" faces (e.g., Pugs, Boston Terriers, Boxers, and Bulldogs) tend to pant a lot because many have lifelong breathing difficulties. Due to the upper airway challenges suffered by these dogs, they often don't pant efficiently and are at significantly increased risk for heatstroke.

It's important to take precautions if your brachy has to travel by plane or even by car. A brachycephalic pet will have more difficulty in a hot vehicle than other pets.

If you have a brachy, it's important to be familiar with her normal breathing patterns so you can take quick action if the pattern changes. "Normal" for her isn't the same as it is for dogs with longer muzzles.

If you notice an increase, amplification, or some other change in your pet's respiratory sounds, it's important to take note of it.

- **Pain.** If your dog is feeling discomfort or is dealing with a painful condition, heavy or frequent panting can be one of the first signs of trouble. If your dog is panting for no discernible reason or at odd times, for example, at night when she's normally resting, you should make an appointment with your veterinarian. Keep in mind that your canine companion can't tell you she's hurting, so it's up to you to notice changes in behavior that signal she could be in pain.

- **Diseases of the heart and lungs.** One of the symptoms of a heart condition such as dilated cardiomyopathy in dogs is excessive panting.

Other signs include reluctance or decreased ability to exercise, tiring quickly, increased respiration, and coughing. There may also be sudden episodes of weakness or fainting. Some dogs with heart disease have enlarged abdomens and heavy breathing due to fluid accumulation.

A diseased heart can't efficiently pump blood around the body, so the tissues become deprived of oxygen. Your dog's body will increase its rate of respiration to try to compensate for the lack of oxygen, and the result is panting.

As the heart's ability to pump declines, blood pressure in the veins behind the heart can increase. Congestion of the lungs and fluid accumulation are common, and when the lungs can no longer transfer oxygen to the bloodstream, oxygen deprivation causes the dog to breathe more rapidly and with greater force. The result is excessive panting.

- **Cushing's disease.** A dog with Cushing's disease, or hyperadrenocorticism, has adrenal glands that are releasing too much cortisol. Cortisol is a diverse hormone that in excessive amounts can create wide-ranging symptoms, one of the first of which is increased panting.

Other symptoms include increased thirst and urination, weight gain (often in spite of a reduction in calories),

thinning skin, and a change in skin color from pink to grey or even black, bruising, hair loss, and irritability or restlessness.

- **Anemia.** When a dog has an abnormally low volume of red blood cells and insufficient hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the body's tissues, he experiences oxygen starvation. As in the case of heart and lung disease, one of the signs of oxygen deprivation is panting.

Other symptoms of anemia include weakness, lethargy, exercise intolerance, an elevated heart rate, pale mucous membranes (usually noticed in the mouth – the gums and/or tongue become pale pink to white), mental confusion, loss of appetite, rapid breathing, and collapse. If the animal is passing a large amount of digested blood from the GI tract, there will be a black tarry stool as well.

- **Laryngeal paralysis.** This is a disorder in which the muscles and cartilage that open and close the larynx malfunction. When a dog with the condition breathes in, the laryngeal cartilages do not open properly, making breathing difficult. Restricted airflow and loud, raspy panting is the result.

- **Anxiety, stress, fear, and phobias.** Dogs who are anxious, stressed, or have noise phobias often pant. This is considered "behavioral panting" and there are usually other signs of discomfort, for example, repetitive yawning, pacing, whining or crying, lip licking, trembling, hiding, and in extreme cases, loss of bladder or bowel control.

Short-term reactions to stressful or unfamiliar events allow your dog to prepare to fight or take flight if necessary, and are entirely normal. However, a chronic and prolonged fear response can cause both physical and emotional disorders that can potentially shorten your dog's life and negatively impact his quality of life.

If you notice abnormal panting in your dog, even if she seems fine otherwise, it's important to make an appointment with your veterinarian. As with all health conditions, the sooner the problem is diagnosed and treated if necessary, the better the outcome for your four-legged

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## **Five Reasons to Consider Fish Oil Supplementation for Your Dog**

**by Nancy Kay, DVM**

Fish oil is certainly a popular supplement these days for health conscious people. There are many proven benefits, and we now know that many of these same benefits also apply to our canine companions.

### **What is fish oil?**

As the name implies, fish oil is derived from marine animals and is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids. Animals cannot manufacture these fatty acids on their

own; they must be consumed in the diet. For this reason they are often referred to as “essential fatty acids.”

Mackerel, tuna, salmon, sturgeon, mullet, bluefish, anchovies, sardines, herring, trout, and menhaden are all loaded to the gills (pun intended) with omega-3's, and they are common sources of fish oil supplements. The fatty acids with the greatest health benefits are docosaxaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). Both are ingredients found on the labels of fish oil supplements.

### **Five known benefits of fish oil supplementation for dogs**

Based on the documented benefits of fish oil, veterinarians recommend its use as a nutraceutical (a food that provides medicinal benefit) for the following common canine maladies.

#### **1. Arthritis**

The anti-inflammatory properties of omega-3 fatty acids are responsible for their therapeutic benefit for dogs with arthritis. In a study of 127 dogs with arthritis, those fed a diet supplemented with omega-3 fatty acids showed significant improvement in their abilities to rise from a resting position, play, and walk. Prescription diets made specifically for dogs with arthritis are heavily supplemented with fish oil.

#### **2. Inflammatory skin disease**

Allergic skin disease and other inflammatory skin conditions have the potential to benefit from the anti-inflammatory effects of fish oil. A study was performed on 16 dogs with itchy skin. Compared to the placebo group, those receiving fish oil demonstrated significant improvement (less itching, less self-trauma, and improved hair coat).

Another study performed on dogs with varying stages of skin allergies demonstrated that fish oil was more effective for dogs who were in the earliest stages of their skin problems compared to those with more advanced disease.

#### **3. Treatment of canine cognitive dysfunction**

Canine cognitive dysfunction is a well-recognized syndrome of older dogs that, in many ways, resembles human dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The omega-3 fatty acid, DHA, has been shown to improve cognitive dysfunction in affected dogs. Interestingly, DHA appears to slow the progression of human dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

A study was performed on 142 older dogs with a variety of behavioral abnormalities (disorientation, disrupted sleep patterns, altered interactions with family members, altered activity levels, and loss of house training). During the 60-day period, dogs fed a DHA-supplemented food showed significant improvement in every one of these behavior categories.

#### **4. Treatment of heart disease**

Profound weight loss is a common symptom in dogs with chronic heart failure, and is associated with decreased survival time. Fish oil has been shown to reduce this profound weight loss. A study was performed on dogs with heart failure, some of whom were fed fish oil. The dogs receiving the fish oil supplementation experienced longer survival times and less weight loss compared to those on a fish oil-free diet.

#### **5. Treatment of kidney disease**

Fish oil supplementation has proven benefit in dogs with glomerular disease, a kidney disorder resulting in excessive protein loss in the urine. Glomerular disease is often associated with kidney failure.

In a study of dogs with glomerular disease, dietary supplementation with fish oil was shown to significantly slow the progression of the kidney damage. Additionally, fish oil has been shown to have a protective effect against acute injury to the kidneys. For this reason, fish oil supplementation is reasonable to consider for any dog with compromised kidney function.

#### **Fish Oil Precautions**

Let the buyer beware. Not all over the counter fish oil supplements are created equal. In a study of 51 best-selling fish oil products in the United States, 21 of them varied in their DHA and EPA concentrations by more than 10 percent compared to their label claims.

Careful attention to the dose of fish oil for a dog is important. Too much fish oil can produce adverse side effects such as diarrhea, blood clotting abnormalities, delayed wound healing, vitamin E deficiency, weight gain, and altered immune system function. Lastly, fish oil has the potential to produce problematic interactions with some other medications, particularly nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications.

#### **Questions for your veterinarian**

Thinking of getting your dog started on a fish oil supplement? Before you do, I encourage you to discuss this idea with your veterinarian. Here are some questions to be sure to ask.

- Does my dog have a disorder that might benefit from fish oil supplementation?
- What dosage should I give?
- What brand of fish oil do you recommend?
- Is fish oil supplementation compatible with the other medications I am giving my dog?
- Do you give a fish oil supplement to your dog? If so, what is the reason?



## *dddddeadline*

The deadline for submittals to the next newsletter is  
**January 15, 2017** – please send your articles / pictures  
/ Brags&Cries / cartoons / odds & ends to  
[1chris.weimer@gmail.com](mailto:1chris.weimer@gmail.com)



<http://www.scamc.org/>

check out our club website.  
We have photo galleries to which you may  
add pictures, updated links and info and  
lots more. If you would like to see  
something added on the website, please  
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