



Canine Capers

A Publication of the Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club

Divine K-9

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Dog Disease Threatens Sumatran Tigers

<http://news.discovery.com/videos/how-a-genetic-mistake-can-save-white-tigers.htm>

Deadly canine distemper virus doesn't limit itself to dogs and their kin anymore. By 2000, the disease had been reported in all families of land carnivores from racoons to hyenas to lions. Now, the disease threatens the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera sumatrae*), a critically endangered species.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/15966/0>) estimates the viable breeding population of the Sumatran tiger numbers only 176 to 271 individuals out of a total population of 400 to 500 on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Troubling

signs of an outbreak of canine distemper virus (CDV) may threaten those surviving Sumatran tigers, reported the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22812914>).



Connecticut Outlaws Breed-Specific Laws!

(Tuesday, June 04, 2013)

This alert can be viewed online by clicking here: www.akc.org/press_center/article.cfm?article_id=5016

Yesterday, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy signed House Bill 6311, which will prohibit municipalities from enacting breed-specific dog laws.

The AKC thanks the many Connecticut dog owners who took the time to contact their legislators in support of this issue as well as the efforts of the Connecticut Dog Federation in assuring the success of this bill. Please consider taking a moment to contact the

Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Malloy and let them know you appreciate their support of this important law that will protect the rights of responsible dog owners and ensure that dogs are not unfairly targeted based solely on their breed or appearance. Click here to find the name and contact information for your state legislators. The contact information for Governor Malloy can be found here. The bill will take effect on October 1, 2013.

Making Pet Beds from Re-purposed Items

By Ruthie Bently

I love going to auctions and yard sales; they are a great place to find inexpensive items you can repurpose or reclaim and use with your pets. Repurposing, which is different from recycling, means to give a new purpose or use to something. Reclaiming is the act of making something available for use or to rescue it from an undesirable state. If cash is limited, you don't even need to go out to find these reusable items. You can make pet beds (including stuffing) out of your old blankets, pillow cases, mattress pads, sheets, towels, quilts and clothing.

If you have the time, you can sew your pet bed by hand. For large beds, you may want to use a sewing machine. You don't have to be an expert with a sewing machine – knowing the basics and being able to sew a straight stitch is all you need. You shouldn't need a heavy duty sewing machine, but it's good to have several sturdy needles suitable for sewing heavier fabrics or multiple layers. Thread, a stitch ripper and sturdy pair of scissors round out the supplies list.

If you are totally helpless around a sewing machine, Velcro® is a handy thing to have. The fabric you choose will depend on how roughly your pet treats things. If it's for a dog, their digging ability needs to be considered, as dogs will dig to adjust their bed to their liking, especially if it is used in their crate. Cats scratch things and while dogs don't scratch in the same manner, you want to stay away from fabrics that have an open weave. Your pet's toenails may get caught in it.

Some of the items you choose can be cut with scissors to fit your purpose. You may choose to sew items instead, depending on what you intend to use them for. If you're making a simple mat for a small dog or your cat's favorite sleeping spot, a mattress pad or quilt cut into four to eight pieces works well. Trim the elastic edge off the mattress pad, fold it in half and cut the halves apart. Take the remaining two pieces and cut again. If it is still too large, fold and cut the remaining pieces until you have the desired size. A simple whip stitch or straight stitch will keep the edges from raveling. If you want a thicker pad or more substantial bed, you can use a pillow case as a cover for the layers you have just cut. You can stitch thin pieces of Velcro to the inside edge of the pillow case's opening to use as an easy closure.

If you're using a quilt or a mattress pad to make a pet bed for a larger dog, folding in half and folding again creates a good size. Tacking the corners will hold it flat, but may make it harder to wash. If you just want a flat mat, folding in quarters and cutting as above works well. You can find dog bed patterns you can make online. Though some suggest using old couch cushions, I wouldn't, since you don't know what may be lurking in the foam of the cushion. Over time the composition of the foam tends to break down. You don't want your dog to chew it up and ingest it either.

I have found making a bed from blue jeans to be an easy project. I rip the inseam leg stitches out up to the crotch, and stitch the fronts of the legs together at the center creating a new seam. I then sew a new seam by stitching the backs of the legs together. To make a bottom seam, I stitch the bottom of the pants closed where



the feet would have exited. You can then stuff it with cotton towels or the items you created above if you want more layers. A blue jean skirt works well for a bed too, you only have to sew one seam. I would not suggest using Velcro on more than one seam if you have a dog that likes to shake things; you may come home to find stuffing all over the room.

Whatever item or items you choose to repurpose or refurbish to suit the needs of your pet's bed, you are only limited by your imagination. You may never look at an old pair of blue jeans the same again. Not only are you keeping something from ending up in a landfill, you are giving new life to an item that still has life to give.

The Brag Box!

- **From Guy Long:** Glory (Sheltie) placed 2nd at the club's AKC match at the equestrian center on April 7th and was honored at a volunteer tea hosted by Calvert manor Nursing Center in Rising Sun.
- **From Juanita Snyder:** Spirit's Summer Jubilation took Best of Opposite Sex at the Lum's Pond show on April 19th and 20th.
- **From Joan Taylor:** Goldridge The Dream Keeper (Golden Retriever) took Best of Winners for a 5 point major at Gunpowder Golden Retriever Club's show, and Best of Winners for a 4 point major at the Chesapeake Golden Retriever Club show. He finished his Championship with 4 majors, 3 from specialties, in 3 months.
- **From Debra Warfield:** At the Cherry Blossom Cluster in Timonium, Kalabria Tawney Tiger CGC, BN, CD, RE (Sheltie) got two more legs towards his RAE title. Smiley Acres Handymans Hurry qualified in both of his Rally Novice classes. Oak Hill White Christmas CGC, BN, CD, RA received his CD title. All three shelties also did well in obedience at our match on April 7th with Oak Hill White Christmas taking High Scoring Dog in Trial.
- **From Juanita Burkhart:** Happy (Sheltie) had 3 boys on April 10th.
- **From Debbie and Ed Heydt:** CH Angerbraten Baron Lokkei de Grace finished his AKC Championship at the Maryland Fair Grounds, Timonium, MD on Monday, April 22, 2013 at the Cherry Blossom Cluster. He completed his Championship in one month. GCh Surluv Licking Larrgo de Grace, our Westminster 2013 Veteran, continues to earn GCh points and is rated y AKC as Top Dog for Havanese in Maryland.
- **From Kay Bleineberg:** Medea's Argosies of Magic Sails, CD, RA "Sailor" (Golden Retriever) got his CDX on April 19th with 1st place. Sailor accomplished his CDX in three out of five trials.
- **From Chris Saint:** Shogun's Count Your Blessings, CD, BN, "Charlotte" (Clumber Spaniel) took Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex for 2 points to finish her Championship. At the Cluber National Specialty she won the wildcard Novice class with a 189.5 and took 3rd place in Rally Advanced with a 92 for her first leg towards her RA title.

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ANALYSIS: Seeing Tiger Stripes Across Sumatra (<http://news.discovery.com/animals/sumatran-tiger-map-gives-hope-to-conservationists.htm>).

Brain damage from CDV can cause the cats to lose their natural fear of humans. The cats will then wander into villages or fail to flee from illegal hunters. In either case, the tiger usually ends up shot. A few cases of this behavior have been noted in Sumatra, but veterinarians haven't been able to test for CDV in these wandering tigers.

"The big threats facing tigers are habitat loss and degradation and poaching, but I think the third big threat now is likely to be disease, particularly one like CDV," John Lewis, director of Wildlife Vets International, told the BBC.

In September, Lewis will work with a team of Indonesian veterinarians to develop a system to monitor for CDV and find a laboratory where samples can be analyzed.

"Once we have got that nailed down then we start work and try to design some sort of mitigation strategy, and that won't be easy," said Lewis.

VIDEO: How a Genetic Mistake Could Save the White Tiger (<http://news.discovery.com/videos/how-a-genetic-mistake-can-save-white-tigers.htm>).

Canine distemper virus kills most animals it infects. A paper in the *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* (<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1638/1042-7260%282000%29031%5B0441:CDITCA%5D2.0.CO%3B2>) noted that disease is second only to rabies in mortality rate and has been identified in all families of land carnivores: Canidae, Felidae, Hyaenidae, Mustelidae, Procyonidae, Ursidae, and Viverridae.

A study in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* (<http://news.discovery.com/animals/endangered-species/vdi.sagepub.com/content/6/3/277.short>) documented CDV infections that killed 17 lions, tigers and leopards in zoos. Vets believed the cats had contracted the disease after eating infected racoons. A similar study in *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology* (<http://cvi.asm.org/content/4/2/180.short>) determined that CDV had killed at least 19 lions and tigers in Switzerland over the past few decades.

Over 80% of Dogs Suffer from Hypothermia After Surgery With Anesthetic

May 21, 2013 — The research team from the Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera directed by Professor José Ignacio Redondo published in *Veterinary Record* the first global study that clinically documents the prevalence of hypothermia in dogs after surgery and after diagnostic tests that require anaesthetic. The 83.6% of the 1,525 dogs studied presented this complication, whereas in humans this percentage is between 30 and 60% of cases.

Research showed that hypothermia is a frequent complication of anaesthesia in the case of dogs. To reduce its prevalence, the researchers note that it is necessary to prevent heat loss in these animals before starting these veterinary interventions. Such prevention is particularly important in the case of dogs showing higher percentages of hypothermia, according to the study: smaller dogs and those undergoing thoracic surgery or diagnostic procedures requiring prolonged anaesthetic.

The researchers analysed over 1,500 cases of anesthetized animals in the University Clinical Hospitals of the CEU Cardenal Herrera and Cordoba. The variables directly related to hypothermia in dogs registered at the end of an operation include the duration of the pre-anaesthesia and anaesthesia, the physical condition of the animal and, also, their posture during surgery (sternal and dorsal recumbencies showed lower temperatures than lateral recumbency).

In a previous study, the same research team determined that this prevalence rate is even higher in the case of

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cats: 96.7 percent of cats suffer from hypothermia in procedures requiring anaesthetic. In this case, the study showed that abdominal and orthopaedic interventions generate a greater decrease in cat's body temperature. These two studies show that hypothermia is the most common anaesthetic complication in dogs and cats, even more than in human anaesthesiology. Therefore, the valencian researchers believe that temperature should be continuously monitored and vets should take preventive measures to avoid heat loss during procedures.

Dogs Help Improve Moods Among Teens in Treatment

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130603113618.htm>

June 3, 2013 — Lindsay Ellsworth is prescribing a new, mood-boosting therapy for teenagers in drug and alcohol treatment: shelter dogs.

On Friday afternoons, about four dogs from the Spokane Humane Society take a field trip to Excelsior Youth Center as a group of teenage boys eagerly await their arrival. Ellsworth, a doctoral candidate in animal sciences at Washington State University, organizes the meet-ups where participants can help brush, feed and play with the dogs.

"We found one of the most robust effects of interacting with the dogs was increased joviality," she said. "Some of the words the boys used to describe their moods after working with the dogs were 'excited,' 'energetic' 'and happy.'"

The relationship between dogs and humans is prehistoric, but Ellsworth's study is the first of its kind to demonstrate how dog-interaction activities improve mood among teenagers living in residential treatment centers.

A method to the gladness

Once a week, during the daily recreation time at Excelsior, Ellsworth breaks about eight participants into two groups. One group plays pool, video games or basketball provided in the treatment center. The other group interacts with the shelter dogs for about an hour.

Before the activity, participants identify 60 mood descriptors on a scale of one to five on what is known as the PANAS-X, a self-reporting method organizational psychologists use to scale and study emotion. After the activity, the participants fill out the same scale.

Those who spent time with the dogs not only showed an increase in joviality, but also positive affect (in psychology, the experience of feeling or emotion), attentiveness and serenity. Meanwhile, overall sadness decreased, Ellsworth said. Many participants are also being treated for ADHD, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I was surprised, during the trial period, how calm the boys were around the dogs and at how outbursts and hyperactivity diminished," she said. "It was something you could observe like night and day."

When Ellsworth asked the boys what they like most about working with the dogs, some of their written responses included, "giving dogs treats and showing a lot of love to the dogs" and "I like to have time with the dogs because (it) lets me get my mind off things" and "I loved playing with Junior."

Robert Faltermeyer, executive director of the youth center, and the staff are hopeful this kind of science-based program could be established as part of treatment centers' structured activities.

"It's an opportunity for kids in a real chaotic life, making unhealthy choices, to focus in on a specific task with an animal," he said. "It empowers them to make positive changes even on the simplest scale of correcting the animal's behavior."

"I think those exposures build some internal capacity for them to say, 'Hey, I think I'm capable of changing my life,'" he said.

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A chemical response to companionship

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is actively looking for science-based behavioral interventions to help those struggling with drug abuse, and the accompanying lack of affect, respond more fully to the stimulus of day-to-day activities, Ellsworth said.

She hypothesizes that dopamine, a natural feel-good chemical human brains produce, is released in the boys' brains as they anticipate the dog interaction. Social companionship with the dogs may also stimulate opioid release.

Using natural stimuli like dogs, she said, could help restore the normal function of these critical chemical messengers after the brain's chemistry has been altered through drug use. Animal behaviorist Ruth Newberry, Ellsworth's doctoral advisor at WSU, agrees on the potential for treatment.

"It could be a really novel, cost-effective and beneficial complement to traditional treatments. This could be a win-win innovation for everyone involved," Newberry said, "including the dogs."

Ellsworth hasn't been able to scientifically track the impact on the dogs, since so many are adopted over the course of the trials. However, she said research has shown dogs in a limited social environment, like a shelter, are more responsive to humans.

"Any sort of activity that provides an opportunity for shelter dogs to socialize with humans and other dogs outside of the kennel environment is great, and that is the value that the shelter sees in these dog-interaction activities, too." Ellsworth said.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, more than 5 million animals enter shelters annually in the U.S. With more than 5,000 independent shelters nationwide, Ellsworth believes these types of behavioral therapy programs could be widely implemented.

Ellsworth's interest in the dog and human connection emerged through her work with the University of Washington Conservation Canine Program, the Smithsonian Zoo and adolescent medicine at Seattle Children's Hospital.

The WSU alcohol and drug abuse research program helped fund the dog-teen interaction study.

Starting this summer, Ellsworth is increasing the number of visits to Excelsior to twice a week. In this phase of her research, she's also interested in understanding how dogs can influence teenagers' engagement in group therapy and cooperation in structured activities. She hypothesizes that the more compliant and engaged teenagers are with structured programs, the more likely they are to reap the benefits of treatment.

A Tiskette a Taskette, a Great Big Picnic Basket!

The annual NEMKC members' picnic was held on Tuesday, June 4th at the Churchville Recreation Center under the pavilion. It was a beautiful evening with picture perfect weather. Joe grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and there were several yummy side dishes and desserts to go along with the main course. I remember deli salads, watermelon, cantaloupe, fruit salad, blueberry J-ello salad, brownies, cookies, and cakes. So much to choose from, I'm sure I have forgotten many. Lots of camaraderie and fun was had by humans and pets alike!



PA Update: Animal Seizure Bill to be Considered on Tuesday, June 11

(Thursday, June 06, 2013)

House Bill 82, which could violate the rights of responsible animal owners, is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, June 11. While several positive amendments have been made, the measure could still force owners to relinquish their animals when they are *accused* of cruelty, regardless of whether the charges are ultimately dismissed.

Pennsylvania residents are strongly encouraged to contact the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee prior to Tuesday's hearing, thank them for the amendments, and express your concerns with House Bill 82. *Scroll down for committee hearing and contact information.*

Summary:

House Bill 82 addresses the seizure and care of animals when the owner has been *accused* of cruelty. The AKC strongly supports the humane treatment of dogs and believes that no dog should be kept in circumstances where its needs cannot be adequately fulfilled. The AKC also agrees that those *convicted* of animal cruelty should be held accountable, including paying for the costs of caring for the animals they mistreated.

Several positive amendments have been offered to address concerns with the bill, including:

- Preventing the animal from being sterilized during the trial unless the defendant's ownership rights are forfeited or the owner surrenders ownership or consents to the surgery in writing. A written opinion could also be obtained from a licensed veterinarian stating that the procedure is medically necessary for the health of the animal.
- Preventing the accused from having to pay for unnecessary medical care if medical records signed by a licensed veterinarian are produced to demonstrate the costs were not necessary.
- Allowing for reimbursement of all payments if the charges are ultimately dismissed.
- Providing an indigency clause for accused who have only one animal seized and can prove that they are unable to pay the costs required to cover the care of the animal.

AKC remains concerned, however, that ownership rights can be forfeited if payments are not made in a timely manner. Although there is a cap on the amount required to be paid each day, this amount is per animal and could prove very costly in a lengthy trial. While the owner can get the costs reimbursed if the charges are ultimately dismissed, they would still have been forced to forfeit their animals if payments could not be made during the proceedings.

What You Can Do:

- **Attend the June 11 committee hearing and respectfully express your thoughts and concerns on House Bill 82:**
Senate Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, June 11, 2013
11:30 am
Pennsylvania State Capitol, Room 8E-B
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- **Contact the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Let them know that you appreciate the positive amendments, and respectfully request they protect ownership rights in the bill.**

The Judiciary Committee contact information is as follows:

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, Chair
Phone: (717) 787-6599
E-mail: sgreenleaf@pasen.gov

Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr., Vice Chair
Phone: (717) 787-1398 E-mail: jr Rafferty@pasen.gov
Senator Daylin Leach, Minority Chair (Continued on page 8)

Phone: (717) 787-5544
E-mail: senatorleach@pasenate.com

Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III, ex-officio
Phone: (717) 787-7084
E-mail: jscarnati@pasen.gov

Senator Richard L. Alloway II
Phone: (717) 787-4651
E-mail: alloway@pasen.gov

Senator Lisa M. Boscola
Phone: (717) 787-4236
E-mail: boscola@pasenate.com

Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr.
Phone: (717) 787-5490
E-mail: jeichelberger@pasen.gov

Senator Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.
Phone: (717) 787-5662
E-mail form

Senator Wayne D. Fontana
Phone: (717) 787-5300
E-mail: Fontana@pasenate.com

Senator John R. Gordner
Phone: (717) 787-8928
E-mail: jgordner@pasen.gov

Senator Dominic Pileggi
Phone: (717) 787-4712
E-mail form

Senator Michael J. Stack
Phone: (717) 787-9608
E-mail: stack@pasenate.com

Senator Randy Vulakovich
Phone: (717) 787-6538
E-mail form

Senator Gene Yaw
Phone: (717) 787-3280
E-mail: gyaw@pasen.gov

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) will provide updates as they become available. For questions or more information, contact the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs at pennfedlaw@verizon.net or AKC GR at (919) 816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

If you have photos from an NEMKC event that you don't mind sharing please email them to Dawn at: phoenixrottweilers@yahoo.com

What Tomorrow May Bring...

Upcoming NEMKC Events

- General Meeting July 2nd 7pm
- Independence Cluster - June 4th-7th

Upcoming Non NEMKC Events

- Carroll Co. Pet Expo 06/15 *Westminster*
- Workshop w/Dr. Ian Dunbar 6/22 - 6/23 *Columbia*
- Dawson's Doggy Dip 6/22 *Rockville*
- Pets on Wheels Pet-a-Paw-Looza 07/113-07/14

- UKC Agility Trial (*K9 Konnection*) 08/17 – 8/18 *Beltsville*
- UKC Conformation show (*K9 Konnection*) 08/31 - 9/1 - *Beltsville*
- UKC Conformation show (*Old Line State United Dog Club*) 10/19 - 10/20 - *Bel Air*
- UKC Agility Trial (*K9 Konnection*) 12/14-12/15 *Beltsville*

