



June July
2008

The Dog-Gone News

Official newsletter of the **Specialty Show: August 8, 2008**

Our Specialty Show is right around the corner. Entries close Wednesday, July 23, at 6:00 PM.

Maximum entry is 50, so get your entries in ASAP. Contact Debbie Connell, or Tom Jagielski, if you would like a Premium. 847-537-6803.

If you can donate a basket for the raffle, or other raffle items, please contact Debbie Connell, 847-537-6803 or Debbie Lewandowski at 262-679-1057.

You may also advertise in our Catalog. Contact Thomas Jagielski for ad info. Full page ad with or without photo: \$25.00; Half page, no picture: \$15.00.

GMBC Picnic, July 13th at Ottawa FT Grounds

GMBC Members: The picnic is this weekend and we need your RSVPs so we know how much meat and beverages to buy. So if you show up and didn't RSVP you may not get a delicious brat or burger, (but I am sure you will get plenty of fruit and vegetables)!

Hunting training will start at about 8:00 AM. Let Dale Hartner know if you are participating so he can plan for birds. Phone: 414-358-1740.

General Membership Meeting will probably start around 11:00 AM. Lunch will take place during the meeting or immediately thereafter.

I will not be in attendance this year because I have to work. Bev Thomas will be in charge of the cooking and meat and beverage buying, so please RSVP us ASAP if you will be able to attend. If any one has any donations for the show raffle, contact Debbie Connell or Debbie Lewandowski, They will be at the picnic and you may bring your donations to the picnic if you are not planning to attend the Specialty Show in August.

Bring your family and your dogs---here is your chance to work a dog over birds.

Only 12 members have signed up so get your RSVP in ASAP.

Julie Asmus, 2nd VP

920-674-9623

THE AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB 2008 SPECIALTY SHOW IS LOOKING FOR TROPHY SPONSORS. IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN SPONSORING A CLASS OR CLASSES AT THE SHOW, YOU MAY SPONSOR AN ENTIRE CLASS FOR \$75.00, OR AS FOLLOWS:
1ST PLACE: \$27; 2ND PLACE: \$21; 3RD PLACE: \$16; 4TH PLACE: \$11.
JUNIOR PARTICPATION BAGS: \$15 EACH (19 STILL AVAILABLE)

CONTACT TOM SHRANK AT ABCNSTROPHY@HOTMAIL.COM. OR SEND YOUR DONATION MADE OUT TO ABC NATIONAL SPECIALTY; SANDRA AND TOM SHRANK 802 SHADY HOLLOW; GEORGETOWN, TX 78628

Cocoa Mulch—Dangerous to Dogs

Cocoa Mulch is made by Hershey's and they state that it is true that if dogs eat the mulch, it may make them ill. There is no warning on the mulch bags. It may be true that 98 per cent of dogs will not eat the cocoa mulch, but if the dog does, it is likely to get really sick and possibly die. You may read about cocoa mulch on the Snopes.com website. It is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and Target, as well as other garden centers nationwide.

It smells like chocolate and it seems to really attract dogs. Please be aware that this can be lethal as it contains theobromine, the ingredient which is used to make all chocolate, particularly Baker's and Dark Semi-sweet Chocolate. As we all know, chocolate can be fatale if ingested by dogs.

Please be aware of what is going into your flower beds. And make sure your gardener is not putting cocoa mulch in your flower beds.

This info was brought to your attention by Chris Sennott.

Another Warning from Animal Poison Control

Did you know that Xylitol, a sugar substitute (artificial sweetener) that's found in chewing gum, hard candy, gum drops, sugar-free pudding, jello, diabetic foods, baked goods and toothpaste, can be fatal to dogs?

(I certainly did not!) Even a very small amount of Xylitol can be potentially life-threatening. Xylitol causes mass insulin release in dogs, leading to sudden hypoglycemia, a drop in blood sugar levels. Dogs can show symptoms within 20 minutes to twelve hours. Symptoms include: ataxia (staggering gate), depression, lethargy, confusion, seizures and in some cases, death,

If you suspect your pet has eaten a food or candy containing Xylitol, call your local emergency vet immediately to let them know you are on your way.

This info was brought to you by The Honest Kitchen.com

FDA Requests Seizure of Animal Food Products at PETCO Distribution Center

On June 30, 2008, the FDA requested that US Marshals seize various animal food products stored under unsanitary conditions at the PETCO distribution Center in Joliet, IL, pursuant to a warrant issued by the US District Court in Chicago.

Marshals seized all FDA-regulated animal food susceptible to rodent and pest contamination. The products violate the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act because it was allegedly in a container held under unsanitary conditions. FDA inspection of the PETCO distribution center in April found widespread and active rodent and bird infestation. A second inspection in May found continuing and widespread infestation. This distribution center services PETCOs in the Midwest, including Wisconsin. FDA advises consumers to wash their hands thoroughly in hot water after handling food bags purchased at PETCO, and to return any bags that show signs of rodent or bird infestation (droppings, holes in the bags, etc. If your pet becomes ill after eating food purchased at PETCO, take them to a veterinarian immediately and have the DVM report the illness to the FDA state consumer complaint coordinator.

Last but not least, on Pet Food: Illness and Death Linked to Nutro Pet Foods

June 23, 2008: A serious of mysterious illness and death has been linked to Nutro Pet Foods. Many pets became ill while eating Nutro products, but recovered after switching to different brands. At least six dogs have died in the last two months, according to complaints filed with ConsumerAffairs.com. The FDA recently investigated the April deaths of two dogs in Indiana. The FDA tested samples of the Nutro food those dogs ate, but did not find toxins; however, they did not test Nutro products fed to the other four dogs who died during the same period.

A pet nutrition specialist for Nutro confirmed she had heard complaints about the company's food making dogs and cats sick, but her concerns were ignored by her supervisor. She recently resigned.

There is an evident shortage of some varieties of Nutro dog food; the company says this is a supply problem, not a safety or quality issue.

Some consumers have sent their pets' food to Nutro for testing, but have not received any results from the company. Some pet owners plan to hire private labs to test their food and report their findings to the FDA.

For further info and all the details, go to consumer affairs.com. It may be worth it to research you pet food and stay updated on the latest.

DNA testing, as reported by Vicki Rittner, at dualbrittanys@yahoo.com

DNA testing is becoming pretty common now-a-days. There is a DNA test for nose and coat color for Brittanys! The cost is \$ 85. The company is HealthGene Labs in Canada), You might be interested in other types of DNA testing, so check it out: http://healthgene.com/canine/infectious_dna_testing.asp

The "Canine Lost Pregnancy Profile" requires a blood sample and a vaginal swab, and can be done PRIOR to breeding to determine the presence of the following infectious pathogens:

Brucella canis; Staphylococcus aureus; Streptococcus spp.; Mycoplasma spp.; Ureaplasma spp.; chlamydomphila spp; canine Herpesvirus.

Other labs can test for the presence of anti-bodies, but that only tells you whether or not the dog has been exposed to that pathogen. DNA testing identifies the presence/absence of the pathogen at the time of testing.

In the case of a pregnant bitch who re-sorbs puppies, aborts or whelps dead pups, this test can exclude those pathogens as the cause, or if the test is positive, provide some answers.

A Canine Semen Profile tests for:

Brucella canis; chlamydomphila spp; canine herpesvirus; mycoplasma spp; ureaplasma spp; Leptospira spp.

The test for bitches is \$100. The semen profile and other infectious DNA tests they do (for example, tick diseases) are under \$100. They also offer FREE breeder consultations. Vicki Rittner gave the HealthGene Labs in Toronto a call, and found them to be pleasant, responsive, and full of information.

With the costs in breeding and whelping litters these days, it may be worth it to DNA test your dogs prior to breeding.

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