

# BOYKIN SPANIELS FOREVER

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## Going Postal

Our dog Abbey died Aug. 23, and the day after Abbey died, my 4 yr. old, Meredith, was SO upset. She wanted to write a letter to God so that God would recognize Abbey in heaven. She told me what to write, and I did.

Then she put 2 pictures of Abbey in the envelope. We addressed it to God in Heaven, put two stamps on it (because, as she said, it could be a long way to heaven). We put our return address on it, and I let her put it in the drop box at the post office that afternoon. She was absolutely sure that letter would get to heaven, and I wasn't about to disillusion her.

So on Labor Day, we took the kids to the museum in Austin, and when we came home, there was a package wrapped in gold on our front porch. It was addressed to Meredith so, she took it inside and opened it.

Inside was a book, "When Your Pet Dies" by Mr. Rogers (Fred Rogers). On the front cover was the letter we had written to God, in its envelope (opened). On the opposite page was one of the pictures of Abbey taped on the page. On the back page was the other picture of Abbey, and this handwritten note on pink paper:

"Dear Meredith, I know that you will be happy to find out that Abbey arrived safely and soundly in heaven. Having the pictures you sent to me was a big help! I recognized Abbey right away!

You know, Meredith, she isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me (just like it stays in your heart) young and running and playing. Abbey loved being your dog, you know.

Since we don't need our bodies in Heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep things in-- so I am sending you your beautiful letter back with the pictures--so that you will have this little memory book to keep.

One of my angels is taking care of this for me. I hope this little book will help. Thank you for your beautiful letter. Thank your mother for sending it. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.

God blesses you every day and remember, I love you very much. By the way, I am in heaven and everywhere there is love.

Signed, God, and one of his special angels (who wrote this letter after God told HER the words)."

How wonderful is that! I never knew there were angels working the post office!

**THE BOYKIN SPANIEL HAS  
BEEN APPROVED TO ADVANCE  
TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL  
CLUB MISC. CLASS, EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 1, 2008.**

## Tuckered Out

by Danny O'Driscoll



**For information about this print, which  
features Hollow Creek's Chocolate Mouse &  
GRCH Hollow Creek's Alli-gator,  
contact Danny O'Driscoll  
<http://dannyodriscoll.com>**

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**COVER PHOTO:  
"HOLLOW CREEK'S ROEMER'S BEAR"  
OWNER: HAL ROEMER OF TEXAS**

**For Upcoming  
Boykin Spaniel Events go to  
American Kennel Club • [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)  
United Kennel Club • [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)**



## Editorial

With recent and nationwide pet food recalls of many top brand pet foods, we must begin to ponder the question of "just what are we feeding our pets? What are we requiring them to consume?" It seems that each week a new food is added to the recall list. Some of us buy inexpensive brands to save money....rather than researching what food is best for our pets.

Months ago my 15-year-old Boykin named Dixie...began to have serious health issues. She was not eating, was losing weight, her coat thinned out and looked dull... and she just slept or moped around all day. Remidyl apparently wasn't giving her any pain relief and she was unable to jump onto the couch as she had been doing all her life. Medical tests revealed no illness. Apparently, it was just old age. She had lost her spirit and I feared she was dying. She had a stroke a couple of years ago and had some sight and hearing loss because of it.

For years I have fed Purina Pro Plan Performance to my Boykins. (It was expensive as I had 13 Boykins! However, I believe in feeding high quality dog food regardless of the cost). I had tried all the foods my vet recommended for Dixie with no success. So, I began preparing food for her in the hope that she would eat it.... but she seldom

ate very much...and what she ate one day, she would not touch the next.

During this time I was building a commercial boarding kennel and was researching what I would feed the boarding dogs. I felt that Pro Plan would definitely be too expensive. To my surprise, I found that many boarding kennels are feeding very inexpensive feed...inexpensive brands like you would find at Wal-Mart or PetSmart! Yuck! So I began to check out "Natural" foods. I spoke with many reps of various brands. I spoke with the rep for Canine Caviar specifically about my Dixie girl. She strongly suggested that I try Canine Caviar Special Needs Diet. Long story short...Dixie loved it. She began to gain weight and her coat is again beautiful. She is again playful and has bounce in her step. She has resumed jumping on and off the couch at will without Rimadyl!!!

I urge you to consider going "All-Natural"...I am feeding only all-natural cuisine at my boarding kennel .... I want the best for everyone's pet ...not just mine. I pay a lot more...but, I don't worry about the safety of what I am feeding.

The brands I recommend are **Canidae All Life Stages** (Canidae.com), and **Canine Caviar** (canineCaviar.com). You

can go online to find out who sells these products in your area. You will NOT find them at Wal-Mart or Pet Smart. I retail all three at the boarding kennel and everyone has had great results with them. I even slice up rolls of Natural Balance and use pieces as a treat ... or you can shred it up to sprinkle on the dry food. Some of the canned foods are all meat and I don't feed them alone.... I use the canned meats mixed with water to make gravy to pour over the dog's dry food.

Try feeding an all-natural diet...no wheat, artificial colors or preservatives... and I can assure you that you will see a difference in your pets. I am now checking out a fourth all-natural food...Flint River Ranch...so I'll tell you about that later.

Happy Hunting,

Pat





## Dog Training

By: Hal Roemer



These are some tips I've given to my friends, who, after seeing my dogs work, seem to ask the same questions over and over. So I put it into a word document that they could take home and read. None of it is very earth shattering, nor is any of it new, it's from my experience and things I've picked up from trainers and books over the

years. Pat asked me to clean it up a bit for the newsletter. Here goes:

The thing we want to do is in every training situation with a young dog, is set the pup up for success. Every drill needs to be easy for the dog to understand, and easy for the dog to succeed at. Using a leash or check cord gives us control, and the dog a measure of security that he will be corrected.

I compare the training a dog receives to when I was memorizing my multiplication tables as a kid. I'd be able to nail the 7's or 9's one day, but for some reason a day or two later, I couldn't recall what the heck  $7 \times 8$  was.

I think I see the same thing in my young dogs. They learn a basic command and have it nailed for a day or two, but later may not be able to remember exactly what that command means. Our patience and understanding as owner / trainers is what makes the difference. Primary ingredients in training a pup are (just like the multiplication tables when I was in school) repetition, repetition, repetition, and praise.

I use the with-holding of praise as opposite of praise. That may sound strange, but compare that to someone who severely scolds or even hits a dog in lieu of using praise. Believe it, when you with-hold praise, the dog gets the message. When you overly scold or strike a young dog, you can cause confusion in the animal; he didn't understand in the first place, and now he's being yelled at... what the heck?

It's incredibly important to be in the right frame of mind when training a dog. You've got to be able to control your temper, and keep a positive attitude. You've also got to be able to use simulated anger and stern correction, and mean it, with out actually being angry. You've got to understand, that when the dog does not work correctly, it's your fault. You are not pre-

senting the drill or instruction so that the dog can succeed, or you are not recognizing some thing that your doing wrong, or you are trying to advance faster than the dog is ready, or you are pushing too hard, or, or, or....

If you feel yourself getting angry, stop the drill and take a break. If the dog is not working correctly and you or both of you are getting frustrated, stop training. When ever possible, end on a positive note, with a success or a drill the dog has down pat.

I do not use treats for rewards, but that's me. Some people use treats with good results. Praise is the only reward my dogs receive. Once the dog starts retrieving, is introduced to birds, and starts putting it all together, the work is it's own reward.

**SIT**

Put at least a 6' lead on the dog, a 10' check cord is OK too. I buy a bunch of light cheap cotton clothes line, works as well as the expensive check cords.

Give the dog the 'sit' command, and point down with your index finger in front of the dog's face, while pulling back slightly on the lead. If the dog resists, repeat the 'sit' command, and while pulling back on the lead, push down on the dog's back.

If the dog sits, but it takes pulling on the lead, and pushing on the back, and / or you have to repeat the command more than once, pet the dog and give light praise.

Once the dog sits on one command, with only slight pulling, lay the praise on a little heavier.

Once the dog sits on one command with no leash pulling or back pushing, make a huge fuss over the dog. Really go over the top. Then stop. Your done for now. Just play with the pup, or let him just be for a while. From now on, alternate the 'sit' command with one blast on the whistle. Very soon the pup will understand that a single whistle is 'Sit' or 'Stop'.

With a young pup, do this drill about 3 to 5 repetitions. As the pup advances, continue until the pup makes at least three good sits with none or a minimum of slight leash pull; unless the dog refuses. If the dog refuses, back off and move on to some retrieve play for a few minutes, then make one more sit drill, but make the dog do it right, and give praise.

**STAY**

Once the dog will sit, even with slight leash pull, you can move on to 'stay'.

Keep the leash on the dog. Put your hand out in front of the dogs face with a Cop's "STOP" signal, and say in a forceful voice "STAY".

While standing (don't crouch down, that's an

invitation to break) back off about 3', repeating the "STAY" command / hand signal. Now move back to the dog, repeating the STAY command / hand signal all the way back in, and lay on the praise, saying "Good Stay".

If the dog breaks do not praise, do not scold, do not say any thing (with-hold praise). Simply lead the dog back to the original starting point and begin again.

Repeat the STAY drill several times, backing further out, or until the dog stays to where you can back off to the full 6' length of the lead.

Go out to the length of the 6' lead, repeating the STAY command / hand signal over and over, then move back in to the dog, repeating the STAY command / hand signal all the way back in. Once the dog has stayed while you go out and back, lay on the praise, over the top.

Eventually you'll be able to move on to the 10' check cord, and repeat the drill out to 10'.

Once the dog is staying with the 10' check cord, back out to the end of the 10', lay the check cord on the ground, and back off at about 5' increments till you can back off to about 20'.

**HERE / COME**

Some people like "Come" some like "Here". I use "Here", because a professional trainer explained to me that you can draw the "Here" command out with more emphasis in the field: HEEEEER!!!! As opposed to COME! I tend to agree with that.

The "Here" command can be taught to the dog, without the dog even knowing he's being trained: When your playing with a puppy, get down low while he's in the yard or house away from you. Getting low on your butt or haunches is an invitation to the dog to approach (standing is not as inviting). Wait for the pup to see you and commit to coming, but make sure he's committed. Once the pup is committed to coming slap your thigh, clap your hands, make a big silly fuss, and say "Here". The pup will run in to you. Once the pup is in your lap, give over the top praise, saying "Good Here" several times. I feel the combination of the praise word "Good" with the command word "Here" helps to reinforce the command.

For yard drills:

You need the 6' lead or 10' check cord on the

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*Dog Training Continued from page 4*

dog. There are lots more distractions in the yard for a pup, so a leash or check cord helps to keep him focused.

What we want is for the dog to WANT to be with you, which you've started with the play training.

The "Here" command is one of the most important commands we can teach our dogs, in order to keep them safe from danger and help them work properly. An alligator he doesn't see, busy roads, other dogs, snakes, chasing running pheasants, Nutria rats, etc.

Remember, we are training the dog all the time. For instance, if the dog is out in the yard, and we give the dog the "Here" command, and the dog does not obey, and we don't do anything about it, we've just taught the dog that "Here" doesn't have to be obeyed unless he wants to.

Make the dog Sit and Stay. Back off several feet, feeding out the check cord or leash, holding up the "STAY" command cop's hand.

If the dog breaks, slap your thigh and give the "Here" command, give no praise, and return the dog to the starting point. This time don't go out quite so far. Remember, if the dog broke to come to you, that's actually a good thing: the dog wants to be with you.

If you give the "Here" command, and the dog does not come in, give him a slight pull on the check cord or leash, saying "here" the whole time. If the dog resists, keep reeling him in, all the way. When he gets to you, give him plenty of praise. The next time, make the range a bit shorter. You may have to shorten up to the 6' leash to keep the dog focused on you. Also, check your body position; remember, standing is less inviting than squatting or sitting.

When the dog sits, stays, and comes in to you with the "Here" command, without breaking go way over the top with praise. From this point on, alternate the "Here" command with three whistles.

If you slip and give the dog the "Here" command when the dog is out of range, and the dog does not obey, you have to act on that. With a young dog, still learning, scolding won't be beneficial. Get closer to the pup, and get low; squat down and approach slowly. The lower you get and the closer you get the more inviting you will be. When the pup commits, give the "Here" command, clap hands, slap thigh; and when the pup gets in, lots of praise. Then immediately do a couple more sit/stay/here drills, at very short range.

With an older dog, that has learned the "Here" command, and simply ignores you, well quite often you just got flipped off, and that requires a response. A few things that work for me: crowd in over the dog till he

breaks over in submission, Sharp scolding and harsh voice / threatening waving of my hat, putting a leash back on the dog and going back to basic obedience, restriction (chain gang) while other dogs are worked. All these corrections include or are followed by constructive drills and praise as with puppy training. Stay in control, and keep your temper in check.

Chasing a mature dog that does not obey the "here" command is usually not effective. Same as the pup, move in closer, get low and wait for the dog to commit. If that doesn't do the trick, try running away from the dog, usually they will chase. If all else fails maybe bring out a training dummy or toy to entice the dog in. If the dog comes in with these tricks, with-hold praise, and remember: keep your temper in check. Where appropriate use simulated anger and scolding in a controlled manner. Soon as the point is made, back off and do a few sit/stay/here drills on a lead, with praise after every one done correctly. Even with a mature animal, I still do not strike my dogs. One more thing to consider: if the dog is well trained, and not behaving at all, there may be some thing physically wrong, and your best friend may be having a bad day, he may be asking for help.

### HEEL

Dogs don't like Heel. Well, I don't know if they don't like it, but I think they probably feel about Heel like I thought of geometry. I didn't see any reason in the world that I'd ever need Geometry in my life... and now I work in an industry (offshore oilfield) that is made almost exclusively of geometric shapes.

Heel is the start and stop point of the dogs work. Heel is where the dog needs to be when he walks next to us. Heel is how the dog is going to line up on the bird or the shot. A dog at Heel just looks good.

With the dog on a leash or check cord, say "heel" and put the dog at the heel position. It's the trainer's choice of right or left side. Once the dog is at heel, lightly praise the dog and say "good heel".

Give the command "Stay", and take a couple steps away from the dog.

Give the "Here" command.

When the dog starts coming to you, say "heel" and guide him to the heel position at your side.

When the dog is at heel, praise and say "good heel"

When the dog comes in to Heel on his own with minimal guidance, lay the praise on heavy.

For a pup, do this about 3 to 5 times, and quit. Eventually it'll click.

Walking at Heel:

A 10' (or longer) check cord works best for this. Give the dog the "heel" command, and slowly start walking. Most likely, the dog will try to walk ahead of you. Give him a couple slight tugs and the command "Heel". He probably won't come back completely to heel.

As he starts ranging ahead of you, give him some slack from your check cord, do an about face, hold tight to the check cord and start walking (not fast, don't want to jerk him too hard) in the opposite direction. Don't give any commands or say any thing. The dog will have to turn around and come along. When he's back at the heel position, praise with 'good heel'.

Now you're starting to make him wonder. Just to make sure, he'll try ranging out a couple more times, when he thinks he knows where you're going. Do the slack off, about face and walk away. Every time he's at heel whether by accident or on his own, give him praise.

Walk near a sign post or pole in the yard. This is a dirty trick, but it lets him teach himself. He's going to most likely go on the opposite side of the pole and get wrapped up. Don't say anything, just let him stay stuck there until he clears himself. Then continue walking, praising him when ever he's at heel. By now, you should notice that every other step, he's glancing at you to see where and what you're going to do next. And that's what you're looking for. Stop, have the dog sit at heel one more time, praise, and quit.

If the dog lags behind, walk slower, and encourage the dog with praise.

If the dog resists, and pulls back, stop the walking heel drill, and go back to standing heel for several repetitions.

Our dogs want to please us. They'll nearly kill themselves to hear "good dog". Our job is to help them learn what it is that we want them to do, to please us. It's a win / win situation.

Like I said, this is nothing new, and lots of other folks know more than me, and have better ways of doing the same things. These are some techniques that have worked for me over the years, and I hope they help.





## YOUR WHOLE PET/Bigger than you think: The story behind the pet food recall

By Christie Keith, Special to SF Gate

The March 16 recall of 91 pet food products manufactured by Menu Foods wasn't big news at first. Early coverage reported only 10-15 cats and dogs dying after eating canned and pouched foods manufactured by Menu. The foods were recalled -- among them some of the country's best-known and biggest-selling brands -- and while it was certainly a sad story, and maybe even a bit of a wake-up call about some aspects of pet food manufacturing, that was about it.

At first, that was it for me, too. But I'm a contributing editor for a nationally syndicated pet feature, Universal Press Syndicate's Pet Connection, and all of us there have close ties to the veterinary profession. Two of our contributors are vets themselves, including Dr. Marty Becker, the vet on "Good Morning America." And what we were hearing from veterinarians wasn't matching what we were hearing on the news.

When we started digging into the story, it quickly became clear that the implications of the recall were much larger than they first appeared. Most critically, it turned out that the initially reported tally of dead animals only included the cats and dogs who died in Menu's test lab and not the much larger number of affected pets.

Second, the timeline of the recall raised a number of concerns. Although there have been some media reports that Menu Foods started getting complaints as early as December 2006, FDA records state the company received their first report of a food-related pet death on February 20.

One week later, on February 27, Menu started testing the suspect foods. Three days later, on March 3, the first cat in the trial died of acute kidney failure. Three days after that, Menu switched wheat gluten suppliers, and 10 days later, on March 16, recalled the 91 products that contained gluten from their previous source.

Nearly one month passed from the date Menu got its first report of a death to the date it issued the recall. During that time, no veterinarians were warned to be on the lookout for unusual numbers of kid-

ney failure in their patients. No pet owners were warned to watch their pets for its symptoms. And thousands and thousands of pet owners kept buying those foods and giving them to their dogs and cats.

At that point, Menu had seen a 35 percent death rate in their test-lab cats, with another 45 percent suffering kidney damage. The overall death rate for animals in Menu's tests was around 20 percent. How many pets, eating those recalled foods, had died, become ill or suffered kidney damage in the time leading up to the recall and in the days since? The answer to that hasn't changed since the day the recall was issued: We don't know.

We at Pet Connection knew the 10-15 deaths being reported by the media did not reflect an accurate count. We wanted to get an idea of the real scope of the problem, so we started a database for people to report their dead or sick pets. On March 21, two days after opening the database, we had over 600 reported cases and more than 200 reported deaths. As of March 31, the number of deaths alone was at 2,797.

There are all kinds of problems with self-reported cases, and while we did correct for a couple of them, our numbers are not considered "confirmed." But USA Today reported on March 25 that data from Banfield, a nationwide chain of over 600 veterinary hospitals, "suggests [the number of cases of kidney failure] is as high as hundreds a week during the three months the food was on the market."

On March 28, "NBC News" featured California veterinarian Paul Pion, who surveyed the 30,000 members of his national Veterinary Information Network and told anchor Tom Costello, "If what veterinarians are suspecting are cases, then it's much larger than anything we've seen before." Costello commented that it amounted to "potentially thousands of sick or dead pets."

The FDA was asked about the numbers at a press conference it held on Friday morning to announce that melamine had been found in the urine and tissues of

some affected animals as well as in the foods they tested. Dr. Stephen Sundlof, director of the Center for Veterinary Medicine, told reporters that the FDA couldn't confirm any cases beyond the first few, even though they had received over 8,800 additional reports, because "we have not had the luxury of confirming these reports." They would work on that, he said, after they "make sure all the product is off the shelves." He pointed out that in human medicine, the job of defining what constitutes a confirmed case would fall to the Centers for Disease Control, but there is no CDC for animals.

Instead, pet owners were encouraged to report deaths and illness to the FDA. But when they tried to file reports, there was no place on the agency's Web site to do so and nothing but endless busy signals when people tried to call.

Veterinarians didn't fare much better. They were asked to report cases to their state veterinarian's office, but one feline veterinary blog, *vetcetera*, which surveyed all official state veterinarian Web sites, found that only eight had any independent information about the recall, and only 24 even mentioned it at all. Only one state, Vermont, had a request on their site for veterinarians to report pets whose illnesses or deaths they suspect are related to the recall. And as of today, there is no longer a notice that veterinarians should report suspected cases to their state veterinarians on the Web site of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The lack of any notification system was extremely hard on veterinarians, many of whom first heard about the problem on the news or from their clients. Professional groups such as the Veterinary Information Network were crucial in disseminating information about the recall to their members, but not all vets belong to VIN, and not all vets log on to VIN on the weekend (the Menu press release, like most corporate or government bad news, was issued on a Friday).

But however difficult this recall has

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Your Whole Pet - Continued from Page 6

been for veterinarians, no one has felt its impact more than the owners of affected dogs and cats. While the pet media and bloggers continued to push the story, the most powerful force driving it was the grief of pet owners, many of them fueled by anger because they felt that their pet's death or illness wasn't being counted.

Many of them were also being driven by a feeling of guilt. At Pet Connection, we received a flood of stories from owners whose pets became ill with kidney failure, and who took them to the vet. The dogs or cats were hospitalized and treated, often at great expense -- sometimes into the thousands of dollars -- and then, when they were finally well enough, sent home.

For some, the story ended there. But for others, there was one more horrifying chapter. Because kidney failure causes nausea, it's often hard to get recovering pets to eat. So a lot of these owners got down on their hands and knees and coaxed and begged and eventually handed their pets the very same food that had made them sick. Those animals ended up right back in the hospital and died, because their loving owners didn't know that the food was tainted.

To many pet owners, the pet food recall story is a personal tragedy about the potentially avoidable loss of a beloved dog or cat. Others have a hard time seeing the story as anything more than that -- with implications

beyond the feelings of those grieving pet owners. Which brings us to the bigger picture, and questions -- not about what happened but about the system.

How did this problem, now involving almost every large pet food company in the United States, including some of the most trusted -- and expensive -- brands, get so out of hand? How come pet owners weren't informed more rapidly about the contaminated pet food? Why is it so hard to get accurate numbers of affected animals? Why didn't veterinarians get any notification? Where did the system break down?

The issue may not be that the system broke down, but that there isn't really a system.

There is, as the FDA pointed out, no veterinary version of the CDC. This meant the FDA kept confirming a number it had to have known was only the tip of the iceberg. It prevented veterinarians from having the information they needed to treat their patients and advise pet owners. It allowed the media to repeat a misleadingly low number, creating a false sense of security in pet owners -- and preventing a lot of people from really grasping the scope and implication of the problem.

And it was why Rosie O'Donnell felt free to comment last week on "The View": "Fifteen cats and one dog have died, and it's been all over the news. And you know, since that date, 29 soldiers have died, and we haven't heard much about them. No. I think that we have the wrong focus in the country. That when pets are killed in America from some horrific poisoning accident, 16 of them, it's all over the news and people are like, 'The kitty! It's so sad.' Twenty-nine sons and daughters killed since that day, it's not newsworthy. I don't understand."

In fact, Rosie didn't understand. She didn't understand that the same government she blames for sending America's sons and daughters to die in Iraq is the government that told her only 15 animals had died, and that the story was about a pet "poisoning accident" and not a systemic failure of FEMA-esque proportions.

Think that's going too far? Maybe not. On Sunday night, April 1, Pet Connection got a report from one of its blog readers, Joy Drawdy, who said that she had found an import alert buried on the FDA Web site. That alert, issued on Friday, the same day that the FDA held its last press conference about the recall, identified the Chinese company that is the source of the contaminated gluten -- gluten that is now known to be sold not only for use in animal feed, but in human food products, too. (The Chinese company is now denying that they are responsible, although they are investigating it.)

Although the FDA said on Friday it has no reason to think the contaminated gluten found its way into the human food

supply, Sundlof told reporters that it couldn't be ruled out. He also assured us that they would notify the public as soon as they had any more information -- except, of course, that they did have more information and didn't give it to us, publishing it instead as an obscure import alert, found by chance by a concerned pet owner, which was then spread to the larger media.

All of which begs the question: If a system to report and track had been in place for animal illness, would this issue have emerged sooner? Even lacking a reporting and tracking system, if the initial news reports had included, as so many human stories do, suspected or estimated cases from credible sources, it's likely this story would have been taken more seriously and not just by Rosie O'Donnell. It may turn out that our dogs and cats were the canaries in the coal mine of an enormous system failure -- one that could have profound impacts on American food manufacturing and safety in the years to come.





# Healthwise

## ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER Ten Most Common Poisonous Plants



### **Marijuana**

Ingestion of Cannabis sativa by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

### **Sago Palm**

All parts of Cycas Revoluta are poisonous, but the seeds or "nuts" contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

### **Lilies**

Members of the Lilium spp. are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

### **Tulip/Narcissus bulbs**

The bulb portions of Tulipa/Narcissus spp. contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

### **Azalea/Rhododendron**

Members of the Rhododendron spp. contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

### **Oleander**

All parts of Nerium oleander are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects-including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

### **Castor Bean**

The poisonous principle in Ricinus communis is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

### **Cyclamen**

Cyclamen species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, Cyclamen can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

### **Kalanchoe**

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

### **Yew**

Taxus spp. contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

### **Responding to a Dog Bite**

Despite the chaos, most dog owners know the basics when it comes to dog bites: Confine your dog as soon as possible, provide medical attention (call 911 if the bite is serious), pass along your contact info, and notify the authorities. In addition:

1. Show compassion. And remember, even a slight scratch or abrasion is considered a dog bite.
2. Avoid arguing, no matter who is at fault.
3. Offer to pay any medical bills.
4. Get the names and phone numbers of any witnesses. You may need statements from bystanders if you file a claim with your insurance company or you are involved in a lawsuit.
5. Let the victim know your dog's vaccinations are current, and offer to a copy of the records.

**Hollow  
Creek's  
Roemer's  
Bear**





# Waggin' Tails ...



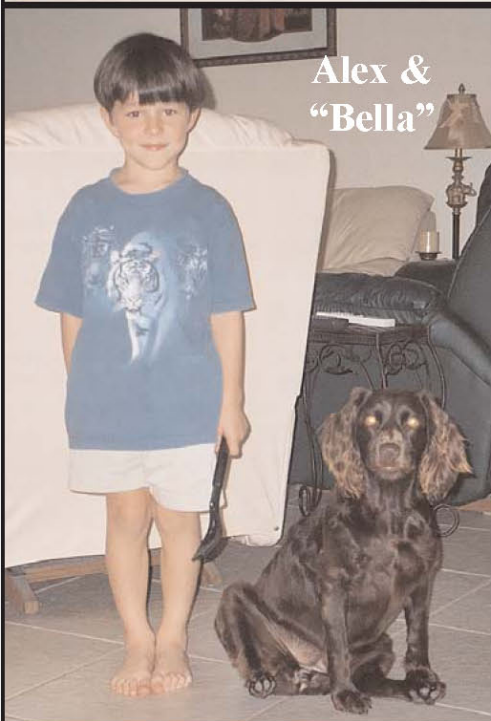
**Bella thinks this is her bed, she just lets us sleep with her.**



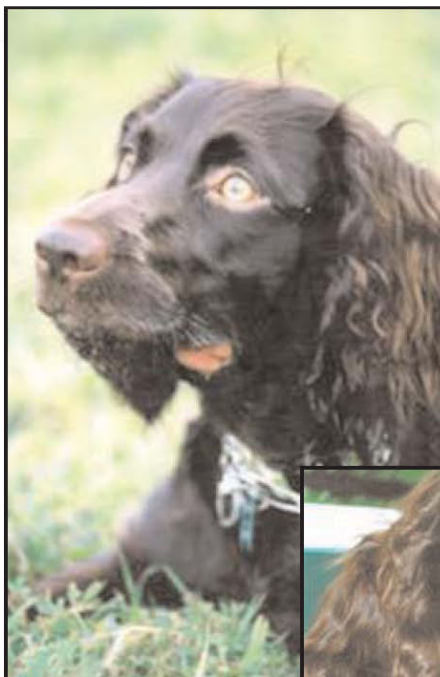
**Tina & "Bella"**

**According to Bob... His Bella loves to play in the back of the truck, "She rides in the cab of course. She loves to ride, if you just say the word ride, she goes to the back door and waits for you. We have to spell allot of words, we can't just say them, like you would for a toddler."**

**- Bob Sanders, Foley, AL**

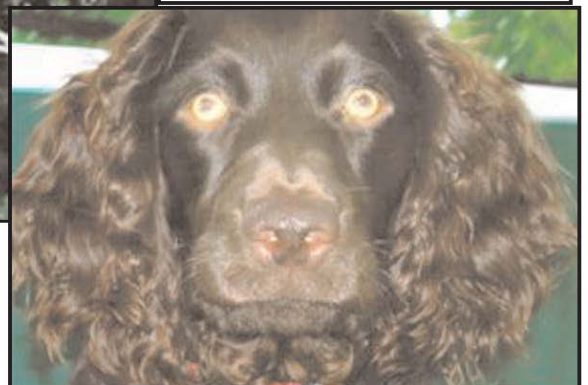


**Alex & "Bella"**



**I purchased a female Boykin Ohio. I try to walk with her 3 miles a day. Her name is "Camden Leigh Fowler" and she turned one year old on November 1st.**

**- Beth Fowler  
Burlington, NC**

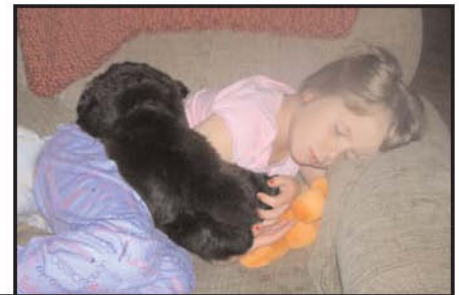




"Cookie" is wonderful - we all love her so much. She is a very happy dog. She is wonderful with the children and moves with me from bed to bed as I read to each one at night. - it is our little ritual - she hops on the bed and goes sound to sleep until I wake her up and go into the next bedroom. She also wakes all three of the children up in the morning by jumping up on their beds and licking their faces!

She is quite a runner also. We have several dogs in the neighborhood that she plays with in the park - and she runs circles around them. Today was a snow day for the kids and we went sledding in the park. This is our 3rd snowfall and Cookie is finally getting used to it. She romped around - chasing the sledders down the hill and jumping over them as they skid to a stop. It was hysterical.

- Evie McGee Colbert, NJ



Cooper is doing well...he's attempting to sleep with Casey tonight he's been sleeping with us. Steve gets up with him for pottie breaks (that was our agreement!) He didn't get up with the other babies! - Becky & Steve Grant, Virginia

Ronda, Samantha & "Beauregard" Schmidt, Florida

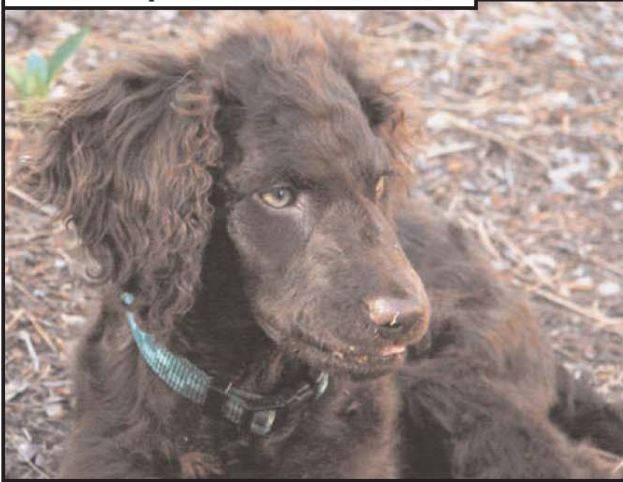


Becky, "Cooper" & Casey





"Jessie" at 8 months in the high mountains of New Mexico  
Mark Spiess, Las Cruces, NM



## *...& More Waggin' Tails!*

"Muddy"  
& "Sandy"

- Billy  
McClellan,  
SC



"Jumper"

Romping in our  
Nation's Capital  
Charlie & Maureen Griffin,  
Washington, DC



"BB"

"BB" is our little princess  
and "Rocky" is our hand-  
some boy! We love our  
Boykins! My sister and I  
grew up with a  
Boykin, and  
now we both  
have one.  
They are so  
wonderful, and  
I know we will  
never live  
another day  
without a  
Boykin in the  
house.  
- Katy  
Medrano  
Eatonton, GA



"Rocky"





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### Web Links:

American Kennel Club - [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) • United Kennel Club - [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)  
Boykin Spaniel Rescue - [www.boykinrescue.org](http://www.boykinrescue.org) • OFA - [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org) • CERF - <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>



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