

# Paws for Danes



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If we have inadvertently left any donors off of the list or have misrepresented any information, our sincerest apologies. Please let us know and we will correct the information in the next newsletter.



## It Was a Dark and Stormy Night:

American Kennel Club Offers Tips on Easing Your Dog's Fear of Thunder

When the thunder rolls in, do you find your dog running for the hills? Fear of loud noises, especially thunder, is a common issue that dogs have. Dogs can develop sensitivity to sounds between the ages of two and four, and the problem tends to get worse with age. To help owners calm their dogs' fear of thunder, the American Kennel Club (AKC®) offers the following tips.

- Desensitize: Try desensitizing your dog to the sound of thunder. Make a tape recording of the sound and introduce the noise at a very low level, slowly and gradually increasing the volume and giving praise when your dog does not run and hide from the noise. This requires a great deal of time and patience on your part.
- Create a diversion: Divert your dog's attention from the noise by playing a fun game with her before the thunder starts to turn the bad triggers into positive ones.
- Give treats: Try giving your dog her favorite treats during the storm. If she'll eat them, then give her one to help keep her engaged when the thunder begins.
- Consult your vet: Your veterinarian may suggest giving your dog tranquilizers or herbal mixtures before a storm approaches if she has severe anxiety. Sometimes these work, but they are not guarantees.

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## What Will Happen to Your Pets When You Die?

This article is intended as information only, not as legal advice. Estate planning can be complicated. Consult with an attorney to ensure your plan to protect your pets is properly carried out. Written for Dane Outreach by Edith A. Bowler, Attorney-at-Law. Copyright 2014

## How To Leave Money to your Pet—and your Pet to the Right Person!

Animals are legally "personal property." So they are part of your "property" that gets divided up at your death. Without a will, your pets will be given to your spouse, children, parents, or siblings (in descending order, see RCW 11.04.015). To choose who gets your pet when you die, you must ACT NOW. Either make a Will, or own the pet in a "joint tenancy" type of ownership:

- Make a WILL to leave your pet to a person you choose.

If you have a Will but didn't have a pet at the time, or want to make a change, you can do it through your Will by simply putting it in a letter. RCW 11.12.260 (sometimes called the "little list" law) allows you to leave your "tangible personal property," (pets), to someone without specifically putting it in your Will or making a "codicil." You do have to write it somewhere—a letter or a list will do. But REMEMBER, this "letter" only works WITH a Will. It just means you don't have to keep formally changing your Will as your pets, or choices, change. (You cannot leave money through this "letter"—to leave money to or for your pet, you have to use a "Trust" described below.)

Or You Can Choose Your Pets' Future Through An Ownership Agreement:

- CO-OWN your pet with someone, in writing, as "joint tenancy with right of survivorship." Owning "JTWROS" means that "your half" of your pet goes immediately to the other owner the instant you die, whether you have a Will or not. NOTE: AKC and other registration "papers" are merely that – registration. Although registration can help prove "ownership," pets don't have "titles" like a car or house. So you and your co-owner need to write and sign an agreement that you own in JTWROS.

## How to Leave Money To a Pet

Some years ago, Washington law wouldn't let you leave money directly to a pet. You could leave money to a trusted human "to be used for Fido's care." But there was nothing that kept that human from spending it any way he/she pleased. Even if that person intended to use the money for your pet, things could go wrong. It could be

taken by a spouse, or through a lawsuit, garnishment, or an IRS lien, because it legally belonged to the person you left it to, not to your pet. Pets had no “rights” to the money.

RCW 11.118 changed that by making it legal for a pet owner to leave money in trust to a pet, through your will, just as you could for a child. You name a Trustee, who is legally bound to use the money for the pet, as you direct in the Trust. The Trust also protects the money from other people seizing it, just as Trusts for people do. Some points to remember about an Animal Trust:

1. You can leave your pet to one person, and the money for the pet to another. IF you do that, be sure you pick two people who can and will work together for your Pet’s benefit.
2. Consider leaving the remainder of the Trust (the money left after your Pet’s death), to a charity or someone other than the “guardian” of the pet, or the Trustee of the pet’s money. That avoids anyone in charge of the pet benefitting from the “early death” of your Pet. But if you’re confident of their love and care of your pet, you can certainly leave the remainder to one or both of these people you chose.

**Your pets love you – love them back by making sure they are cared for after you’re gone.**

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## **CANINE INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY DISEASE (CIRD): Nothing To Sneeze At!**

Written by Georgia Hymmen

After every National, with every breed—it happens. Dogs come down with some sort of respiratory disease frequently described with the catch all term “kennel cough”. It’s inevitable. You have a large number of dogs from various parts of the country together in one confined location for a relatively long period of time. Dogs are exposed to strains of CIRD’s they normally have never been around so have not had a chance to build immunity. Veterans and young puppies with weakened or immature immune systems are present. Dogs are present who may be carriers and present no signs of illness, or even worse, brought to the show ill. Whatever the reason, dog owners need to be familiar with CIRD and understand that not every coughing dog simply has “kennel cough”.

As with many people, I too had a blasé attitude about “kennel cough”. Simply a canine cold, I thought. And, as with human colds, it simply needs to run its course with little or no veterinary intervention and the dog would be fine. Certainly, some individuals might get pneumonia, but those dogs were far and few in between and were generally compromised in some manner. Going to dog shows was like sending the kids to school—they were certain to come down with “something” at some point but that “something” rarely was serious.

My first inkling there might be more to “kennel cough” than I thought was after the GDCA National in Arizona. A number of dogs came home and got very sick and some sadly died. There was a lot of conjecture on what it was; I don’t recall hearing if a PCR test was done to identify the disease in question.

In August 2014 CIRD hit home; unbeknown to the owner at the time, an ill dog was brought to a show. Dogs crated in close proximity to the ill dog became sick themselves. First signs were the classic “kennel cough” hacking, but the illness very quickly progressed to the dog presenting a very high fever and pneumonia. Thankfully, because the owner of the affected dog shared information to other exhibitors once she realized her dog was ill, all the dogs that became ill at the show were immediately treated (no “wait and see” attitude) and recovered fully. Sadly, there were two deaths occurring in dogs prior to the show. A PCR test was done on one of the affected dogs, but due to lab error the sample was not prepared correctly and was of no use. What seemed odd to some of us was the very short incubation period—some dogs became ill two-to-three days after contact—and how extremely fast the dogs got VERY ill. There was discussion as to whether it could be canine influenza.

Now, after the GDCA National in Huron, Ohio, a significant number of dogs have become ill with a CIRD. As with other cases, the first sign was the classic cough. Owners, breeders and exhibitors were outraged when they heard sick dogs had attended the National. It should go without saying that an ill dog should never attend a show. In fact, the AKC has a rule that addresses the issue of bringing sick or exposed dogs to a show. However, intentionally or not, it happens—and it will continue to happen.

To properly understand CIRD, dog owners need to familiarize themselves with the various diseases. Many of these diseases are “new”, having only been identified in the last decade or so. The old description “kennel cough” should be replaced by the term CIRD. Kennel cough itself is a disease (bordetella) but it seems now any dog that is coughing is classified as that. JP Yousha kindly several links on CIRD and it would be strongly suggested owners, breeders and handlers read them. It will give you valuable insight on the various diseases and their incubation period. I myself did not realize that a dog can start off with kennel cough and then end up with some other CIRD after the kennel cough had weakened the dog’s respiratory system. And I did not know that one of the diseases was contagious before the dog showed any symptoms. Nor did I realize non-CIRD’s like canine herpes can cause a cough. The links help provide understanding on CIRD and offer vaccine and prevention protocol.

I think one of the biggest challenges is making sure the owner who has never had a dog with CIRD recognizes what is going on when the first signs present themselves. All too frequently, the deep hacking cough is not recognized for what it is. Many owners unfamiliar with CIRD think the dog is gagging, choking, or had something caught in their throat. While experienced dog owners recognize the cough and immediately take action, new people may wait several days before taking appropriate action (veterinary care and confinement). Certainly, not every cough is a CIRD but it should go without saying ANY dog exhibiting ANY cough should be examined by a veterinarian. Whether it be a CIRD, a problem with tonsils or any other reason, the dog will most likely need treatment.

## **Living with Senior Great Danes**

Written by Georgia Hymmen

When we welcome a new puppy into the household, we rarely think about that happy, exuberant youngster slowing down, growing old and becoming a frail senior. Sure, we get into this breed knowing Danes have a short life span—but even so, the average age range of seven-to-ten years seems a long time in the future. And, puppy rearing takes a LOT of work so the focus is on the here and now, not what’s going to happen many years down the road. After all, there’s housebreaking, socializing, ring training and all the other stuff a new puppy needs to learn to be a well-rounded adult; no time or desire to focus on the inevitable end.

As time marches on, the active and sometimes crazy puppy morphs into the stubborn teenager who tests our boundaries and frequently our patience. Once past that stage, they then morph again into the most wonderful creature—the fully adult Great Dane. The adult Dane who has received the proper human guidance during puppyhood is, in my opinion, the absolutely best canine companion.

Then, seemingly overnight our vibrant active Dane gets old. We notice more grey on the face, a slower step, and some stiffness is evident. Our beloved Dane has reached his senior years.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

## **Fostering**

Written by Rachele Lunde, Heather Barlow, and Dena Cassell

Whether it's plain "kennel cough" or some other CIRDC, prompt action should be taken to assure the health of the dog and that of others. The affected dog should be examined by a veterinarian and monitored carefully and if there is any rise in temperature or a decline in health, the vet should immediately be contacted. The dog in question should be confined through the incubation period to prevent exposing other dogs. Households with multiple dogs may find all in the household get ill—even if an exposed dog does not get ill, it should be confined until the incubation period is over. If a dog who attended a show becomes ill, information should be immediately shared with the other exhibitors so they can be prepared if their dogs fall ill. If multiple dogs become ill, a PCR test should be done to determine what they are dealing with. Again, the links provided give information on the PCR test. Also, should a dog die of the disease, there is protocol for your veterinarian to follow regarding preservation of samples.

Many owners think if their dog has had "kennel cough" (bordetella) vaccine, they are immune to CIRDC. That is incorrect. As with the human flu, there are various strains, and the vaccine hopefully will protect against the most common ones. A bordetella vaccine does NOT protect against canine influenza or other CIRDC's. However, in one of the articles, it was shown that vaccinated dogs, if affected with true kennel cough, have milder cases.

In closing—life is a risk. Those of us who show ARE going to have our dogs exposed to diseases. But, so are those who take their dogs to dog parks, day care and boarding facilities. The bottom line is, make sure your dogs are properly vaccinated, in good health with a healthy immune system, use good kennel management and operate on your own comfort level. If you are concerned about your dog getting sick at a show, simply do not enter. And, if your dog becomes ill, of course do not bring your dog, but also do NOT bring any exposed kennel mates to the show.

To all of those who had dogs become sick at the National, I wish them a speedy recovery.

Thank you to JP Yousha for sending the links about CIRDC and vaccinations.

### **CIRDC Links**

#### **Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Information**

[https://www.zoetis.com/products/pages/bronchicine/pdf/cird\\_technical\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www.zoetis.com/products/pages/bronchicine/pdf/cird_technical_bulletin.pdf)

<http://www.vetinfo.com/canine-infectious-respiratory-disease.html>

[http://www.akcchf.org/assets/files/Cohn-CIRDC\\_Editorial-Review.pdf](http://www.akcchf.org/assets/files/Cohn-CIRDC_Editorial-Review.pdf)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine/?mobile=nocontent>

#### **Canine Flu Information**

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/dog-care/canine-influenza-virus/canine-flu>

<http://www.doginfluenza.com/>

#### **PCR Testing Information**

<https://www.idexx.com/smallanimal/reference-laboratories/testmenu/innovative-tests/real-pcr.html>

#### **Vaccination Protocol**

[http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/small\\_animal/internal\\_medicine/newsletters/vaccination\\_protocols.cfm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/small_animal/internal_medicine/newsletters/vaccination_protocols.cfm)

#### **Kennel Cough (Bordetella)**

[http://m.petmd.com/dog/general-health/evr\\_dg\\_kennel\\_cough\\_an\\_indepth\\_look](http://m.petmd.com/dog/general-health/evr_dg_kennel_cough_an_indepth_look)



Ruger (formerly known as Gunner), a DO-placed foster Great Dane

Do you love the Great Dane breed, but don't know if you could make a full life-time commitment? Have you ever thought of Fostering? Fostering is a wonderful and rewarding experience. The joy you receive from placing a Dane in a home, that you know in your heart is the perfect fit, is the most amazing gift! Our Foster Homes are the "backbone" of Dane Outreach. They are the beginning and end of our efforts to find good homes for our rescued Danes. They take the Dane into their loving homes, care for them, assess them, and interview potential adoption candidates. They are involved in the follow-up placements and take an active role in the well being of the Dane and their new family. To be a Foster Home for Dane Outreach is the single most important role that can be played by anyone seeking to volunteer with our group. If you are interested in fostering, please visit our website and go to the "How You Can Help" page (scroll down to find the section on Fostering), or click [here](#). Send us your name, e-mail address, and a brief message on why you would like to foster.

### **Bloat in Great Danes: The Roles of Genetics and Gut Bacteria**

You are being asked for permission for your animal to participate in a research project: What is bloat? Bloat is a life-threatening, and all-too-common condition for many large and giant breeds of dogs. Gas gets trapped in the stomach, and the stomach twists on its axis closing off escape routes for the gas. These events result in rapid expansion of the stomach, causing severe compression of vital blood vessels. The condition can rapidly progress to shock and death, if not treated aggressively. Surgical re-orientation of the stomach can fix the immediate problem and suturing of the stomach to the body wall (Gastropexy) can prevent subsequent torsion events.

**Purpose of project.** We are studying the possibility that the dog's own immune system may play a role in bloat, by

influencing the bacterial population that flourishes in the gut. While most bacteria in the gut are essential for digestion, and optimal health, imbalances in the bacterial population can cause major health problems. The immune system plays a vital role in determining which bacteria flourish, and which are attacked as "invaders". In humans some diseases, such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), are caused by specific immune genes that cause specific imbalances in the gut microbiome. In dogs, IBD and bloat often occur together, suggesting a similar cause.

**Scientific approach.** We will test the possibility that dogs that have experienced bloat, also have a unique set of immune genes. This is done by extracting DNA from a small amount of blood (1 ml or about 1/5th of a teaspoon) and sequencing the genes of the so-called "Major Histocompatibility Complex" (MHC). A control group of dogs will also be tested; dogs that have never experienced bloat. We will also test the possibility that dogs that have experienced bloat, also have a unique population of bacterial species in their gut. This is done by extracting bacterial DNA from a small sample of feces shortly after the dog has defecated, and sequencing "signature" genes in the bacteria that allow us to identify the individual species of bacteria in the population.

**Potential value of study.** We expect to uncover any correlations between bloat and particular MHC genotypes and/or gut bacterial populations that would predispose animals to this condition. If such correlations can be established, then we would have the tools to diagnose at-risk animals. More importantly, this information could be used for selective breeding strategies to reduce the frequency of at-risk animals in the population, and for development of dietary and pharmaceutical methods to stabilize a more healthy gut bacterial population.

**How you can help.** We need to find owners that would like to enter their Great Dane in this study. We will need 75-100 healthy control dogs (no history of bloat or inflammatory bowel disease), and 75-100 "bloat" dogs (at least one episode of bloat, followed by Gastropexy surgery to prevent further episodes, and no gastric problems for the last 6 months). All dogs should be at least 3 years old. For each dog we will need a small sample of feces (about the size of two peas) and either a cheek swab or a 1 ml sample of blood. The cheek swab and the fecal sample could be collected at home. A blood sample would be preferable to a cheek swab, because the DNA content is more reliable. You should have your veterinarian collect the blood.

If you are interested in enrolling your dog in this study, please contact Dr. Michael

Harkey at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (206-667-3369 or [mharkey@fhcrc.org](mailto:mharkey@fhcrc.org)). We will ask some questions about your dog's health history and typical daily diet and exercise routine. You will then receive a sample collection and mailing kit with complete instructions.

Note that Dr. Michael Harkey will be giving a talk on Bloat and his study at the Dane Outreach Education & Fun event on March 15, and they are still looking for participants in the study.

### Upcoming Dane Outreach Events

- **SKC Dog Show Booths:** March 7th and 8th
- **Education & Fun Day:** March 15th

Please check our Facebook page and our [Education Events](#) page on our website periodically as we update our events calendar. Come visit us, ask us questions, and meet a Dane!

### How You Can Help

#### Office Depot Shoppers

Do you shop at Office Depot? Do you participate in their Rewards program? If you don't, and would like a very easy way to help Dane Outreach, then perhaps you'd like to "donate" your points earned with purchases there. Also, you can recycle your used ink cartridges there to earn points. Simply give the cashiers the Dane Outreach Rewards number at checkout. The number is the Dane Outreach voice mail phone number, 206-654-5111. Thanks for your help, and please pass this on!

#### Fred Meyer Shoppers

If you shop at Fred Meyer and have a Rewards card, you can link your card to Dane Outreach. You will still get points for your Rebate and for the gas discount. Go to <http://www.daneoutreach.org/help/> to find out how.

#### Amazon.com Shoppers

If you are shopping on Amazon.com, please use the smile.amazon.com site. A portion of your eligible purchases are donated to Dane Outreach. Go to <http://www.daneoutreach.org/help/> to find out how.



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For more information about events, volunteer opportunities, donations, adoptions, or to release a Great Dane.

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