



# WAG-N-TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUNGSTOWN ALL BREED TRAINING CLUB  
11801 MAHONING AVE. P.O. BOX 397 NORTH JACKSON, OH 44451-0397  
[HTTP://WWW.YABTC.COM](http://www.yabtc.com) 330 538-2907

December 2009

## Lure Coursing in Austintown



Austintown Township Park was the setting Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 for an AKC Lure Coursing Field trial sponsored by the Northcoast Coursers of Ohio and greatly assisted by Mahoning Shenago Kennel Club members. Lure coursing is an AKC field event where Sighthounds participate in simulated rabbit hunting using tall white kitchen garbage bags in lieu of real rabbits. The bags are attached to triple woven nylon string and then to pulleys in the ground to guide them around a previously laid out course, powered by a Ford starter engine and a generator.

66 hounds ran on Sat and 59 on Sunday. Despite the rain and mud (after all this is an outside sport) the trial went on. At the end there was a fun run for local area dogs. A black and white, adorable Portuguese Water dog got a green participating ribbon. 3 Greyhounds from Austintown ran and one of them won Best in Field!!!

Special thanks for the support of Joyce Gottron, Park Supervisor. Also present was the AKC Senior Field Representative, Bob Mason from Oklahoma.

There were dogs from Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Chicago, Michigan, etc. And Austintown and Canfield too!!

MSKC members Shari Yuhas and Kris Yoder were hospitality hostesses. Terry Yoder lends his mechanical expertise also - much appreciated. Kathy Bowman kindly brought us hand warmers. Very thoughtful.

Dr. Dan and Vilma O'Neill were 2 of the 4 judges. Joyce Katona from Cleveland also judged. And Shelley Hennesey from Toledo.

Dog nanny Mary Lou Henneman of Boardman made the silver satin blanket with hearts on it for the Spirit Run in memory of all our dearly departed hounds who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. The name of each dog that was being honored was printed on one of the hearts. A silver Afghan Hound from Ravenna wearing the Spirit Blanket ran the course alone in memory of the dogs that live on in our hearts. Colman Lalak from Madison, Ohio read the poem, "All Creatures Great and Small" and the roll call names of the dogs being remembered. There was not a dry eye.

It was nice to see dogs doing what they were bred to do.

Tally ho !

Vilma O'Neill

*More photos on page 3*

December Happenings: Sunday, December 27, we will have our annual awards dinner. Instructors and members of the Board may opt to get a free meal.

<b>President:</b>	Perri Graf	330 547-2384	<a href="mailto:perri@embarqmail.com">perri@embarqmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Lori Baker	330-792-7975	<a href="mailto:SteLorBuls@sbcglobal.net">SteLorBuls@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Stacy Judge	330 533-0748	<a href="mailto:HearComesDaJudge@aol.com">HearComesDaJudge@aol.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Deb Harper	330 638-5232	<a href="mailto:pearlharp@neo.rr.com">pearlharp@neo.rr.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Judy Drotar	330 637-4875	<a href="mailto:jdrotar@neo.rr.com">jdrotar@neo.rr.com</a>
<b>Training Director:</b>	Dale Burrier	330 872-3277	<a href="mailto:dbairedale@aol.com">dbairedale@aol.com</a>

**Board Members are as follows:**

Mary Mignogna • [mimarakitas@gmail.com](mailto:mimarakitas@gmail.com), • Sharon Phillips [Sharon14870@hotmail.com](mailto:Sharon14870@hotmail.com), • Elaine Shively • [emshively@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emshively@sbcglobal.net) • Lynda Tushar 330-296-2642

# Braggs

## Best Puppy In Show



Snow Angel's Heaven Scent, "NEVAEH" won Best Puppy In Show at Carnation Kennel Club on September 6, 2009. This was her very first show! Pictured here at 3 months old, she is already taking after her mother – Way To Go "Baay-Baay"!

Respectfully,

~ Shelley Kacenski  
Snow Angel Siberians

## Gipsy Earns CD



My 9 year old rescue Collie finished her CD on November 1st. I am so proud of her finishing with one first place and two seconds. On the first trial she earned a score of 195! Such an accomplishment for a 9 year old dog. A big thank you goes out to Sharon and Tammy for all their help and support.

~ Lori Wilkoff

## Weim earns Rally Title



Jaeger earned his Rally Novice on October 23, 2009 at Youngstown. "Jaeger and Randy thank Mary Mignogna who provided the training and the motivation to put the paws into the ring and go for this title."

~ Randy Simmons

## The First & Only Ridgeback

Ariel finished the Lure Courser Excellent 6 at the UCBCS field trial Sun. Nov. 28 in Hanover, Pa. She is only 3 years and 3 months old. Mom Tempest is proud.

Good DNA will take you far.

~ Dan & Vilma

## Showman Poodle Earns CDX

Standard Poodle "Daisy" (Farleys D Quite a Lady CD RA), trained and shown by Jeff Showman, completed her CDX title on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at the Westmoreland County Obedience Training Club trials. Daisy made her Open debut at the end of September and managed to wrap up the qualifying legs for her new title in relatively short order ... now it's on to Utility!







# Health

In 2008, the Animal Poison Control Center (ASPCA) handled over 140,000 cases pertaining to pets that were exposed to toxic substances, and many included everyday household products in and around their own homes.

In response ASPCA put together the top 10 list of pet poisons in 2008, and it's important that you become familiar with this list to help prevent any mishaps at home.

## The Top 10 Poisons of 2008

### 1. Human Medications: 50,000 cases

It's easy for pets to snatch pills from counters and bed-side tables, or quickly eat them if you've dropped a couple on the floor. Both over-the-counter and prescription medications including painkillers, antidepressants and even dietary supplements can be problematic.

### 2. Insecticides: 31,000 cases

One of the most common exposures involved using chemical flea and tick products incorrectly, such as applying a topical product for dogs on a cat.

### 3. People Food: 15,000 cases

Grapes, raisins, avocado and certain citrus fruits can all be dangerous for pets, but one of the worst offenders was chocolate, which contains large amounts of methylxanthines. If ingested it can cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination and hyperactivity, and in severe cases abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures.

### 4. Rodenticides: 8,000 cases

Rat and mouse poison can contain inactive ingredients that are attractive to pets. Aside from eating the poison itself, pets can also become sick from eating a rodent that's ingested poison. Exposure to rat and mouse poison can cause bleeding, seizures and kidney damage.

### 5. Veterinary Medications: 8,000 cases

Drugs meant for animals can still cause side effects, especially when they are misapplied or improperly dispensed. Some of the most common toxic exposures involved non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements.

### 6. Plants: 8,000 cases

Azaleas, rododendrons, sago palms, lilies, kalanchoe, and schefflera are common houseplants that can be toxic to pets. Lilies are especially toxic to cats and can cause kidney failure even in small amounts.

### 7. Chemical Hazards: 5,500 cases

Many chemicals around your home can symptoms ranging from gastrointestinal upset and respiratory difficulties to depression and chemical burns in your pets. Examples include antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals.

### 8. Household Cleaners: 3,200 cases

Bleaches, detergents and disinfectants contain chemicals that can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory tract in your pets.

### 9. Heavy Metals: 3,000 cases

Metals such as lead, zinc and mercury can all poison your pets. Lead is especially widespread and pets can be exposed via paint chips, linoleum and lead dust that's produced when surfaces in old homes are scraped and sanded.

### 10. Fertilizer: 2,000 cases

If your lawn has been sprayed with a chemical fertilizer it's essential to keep your pet off of it. Prevention is the best tip for avoiding accidental exposure to these potentially toxic chemicals.

## What to Do if Your Pet is Poisoned

If your pet becomes poisoned, don't panic. If your pet is showing symptoms, go to an emergency vet in your area immediately. Otherwise, if you think your pet may have gotten into a toxin but you're not sure, collect any remaining toxic product and call Poison Control (888-426-4435), which comes with a \$60 consultation charge. Have your pet's age, breed, sex, and weight information, along with any remnants of the toxin, on hand to provide to the toxicologist.

You may also be asked to specify what the potential toxic substance was, about how long ago your pet was exposed and about how much your pet consumed.

But, again, if your pet is already showing symptoms of poisoning, such as respiratory distress, seizures, or loss of consciousness, go to your emergency vet immediately so your pet can get the urgent help he needs.

## Which "Human" Foods are Toxic for Pets?

People food was the third top poison to pets in 2008, and while certain human foods can be very healthy for dogs and cats -- and it's certainly preferable to feed your pets fresh, species-appropriate human-grade food as much as possible -- there are some foods that are toxic to pets.

Here are some human foods you absolutely should not feed your pets:

- **Grapes and raisins**, which can sometimes cause kidney failure in very low amounts
- **Chocolate** contains theobromine and caffeine, which are both classified as methylxanthines; these can cause hyperactivity, increased heart rate, tremors, and potentially death (the more bitter the chocolate, the more toxic it is for your pets)
- **Onions and members of the onion family**, such as leeks and chives; these can cause damage to red blood cells that could result in anemia in both dogs and cats. The exception is garlic, which is metabolized into a different metabolite than onions that is not toxic to pets. A small amount of fresh garlic fed to pets daily actually has some great health benefits.
- **Macadamia nuts** may cause problems including weakness, depression, vomiting, ataxia, tremors, and hyperthermia.





- **Rising bread dough can be life-threatening**  
– The bread dough itself is not toxic but the animal's body heat can cause the dough to rise in the stomach, doubling or tripling in size and leading to impaction. The dough can also produce ethanol, which causes animals to stumble and become disoriented, lethargic and depressed.
- **Xylitol**, a sugar substitute common in sugar-free chewing gum, can cause life-threatening hypoglycemia and liver damage in dogs; if your dog has ingested gum, bring your dog to the emergency vet immediately!

Again, if you know your pet has ingested a toxin and is showing signs of distress, take him to your emergency vet immediately. If your pet is not showing any symptoms yet, but you suspect he may have ingested a toxin, call Poison Control at 888-426-4435 to find out the next best steps to take.

[www.NaturalAnimalLLC.org](http://www.NaturalAnimalLLC.org)

[www.RemediSussexSpaniels.org](http://www.RemediSussexSpaniels.org)

4 Generations Natural Reared

[www.HeartofOhioSussex.org](http://www.HeartofOhioSussex.org)

~ Sent in by Pat & the Ohio Westies

## FYI

### Member Directory

Please check your entry in the member directory. If you have changed **anything** in the past year, or you need to have a correction made, please let Stacy Judge know by Dec 20, so that your entry will be correct in the 2010 directory. The Club has several member address databases, *all different*. Please be that broken record or that squeaky wheel, so that your entry is correct.

### Electing Board Representatives

Our annual elections were held after the November geneneral meeting. The membership has elected:

President:	Perri Graf
Vice President:	Lori Baker
Treasurer:	Stacy Judge
Recording Secretary:	Debbie Harper
Corresponding Secretary :	Judy Drotar
Board Members:	Mary Mignogna
	Sharon Phillips
	Elaine Shively
	Lynda Tushar

### Instructors and Assistants

We need you. Agility and obedience classes are in need of instructors. If you would like to get started by training to be an assistant, let Dale Burrier (obedience) or Lotta Shafer (agility) know. You can be the 3<sup>rd</sup> wheel until you become comfortable enough to be the assistant.

## Hotel for Dogs: How to Find the Best Boarding for Your Dog

It's sad but likely that your furry best friend can't come along with you on holiday travel. In these instances, you'd probably both prefer that a trusted friend, family member, or pet sitter look after her. Easier said than done, right? Well, if no one can help you out, you'll need to consider finding accommodations at a local kennel or doggy motel. You may feel a bit uneasy about it, but there are good boarding options out there. Keep these things in mind as you scope them out:

**Ask around.** See if your vet or any of your dog-owning friends have places they recommend.

**Take a tour.** Pay a visit to all the places you're considering boarding your pooch; while you're there, ask to see *everything*. Home in on the areas where the dogs sleep and play to make sure the accommodations are clean and well-maintained.

**Use your senses.** Is the temperature inside the facility about what your pup is used to at home? Give it the sniff test, too. Any unpleasant odors -- even doggy smells -- should be a big turnoff.

**See some ID.** Many states require that kennels pass regular inspections. If yours does, look for posted licenses or other documentation verifying that all kennels meet the state's standards. It's also a good sign if the facility belongs to the Pet Care Services Association, a nonprofit trade association for kennel operators that requires members to follow a well-outlined code of ethics.

**Do a background check.** It's a good idea to search the Better Business Bureau to see if the business has had any bad press or complaints filed against it.

**Ask questions.** Be sure to ask at each place what vaccines your dog must have in order to stay there. Also check to see which vet services they have available on site, if the need arises.



### New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Diane Amato-Slusher & Carman Slusher

## Canine Influenza Facts

- \*Highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a strain of influenza A virus known as H3N8.
- \*First reported in Florida in March 2003.
- \*Has since been reported in 30 states.
- \*Has not yet been reported in Missouri. (I believe it is now in Missouri)
- \*Is not contagious to humans or cats.
- \*Infection rate is 100%. 100% of exposed dogs will become infected.
- \*Morbidity is near 80%. 80% of exposed dogs will become sick.
- \*Mortality ranges from 5-8%. 5-8% of infected dogs may develop serious enough disease to cause death.
- \*Symptoms - the most common symptom is a persistent cough. Other symptoms may include fever, nasal discharge, lethargy, loss of appetite, and pneumonia.
- \*Canine Influenza is difficult to definitively diagnose.
- \*There is a new vaccine available to help prevent infection. The vaccine was granted a conditional license by the USDA in June of 2009. The initial trials involved 746 dogs with no adverse reactions being reported. Vaccination involves two injections spread 2-4 weeks apart. Each injection would cost about \$25.00.
- \*Dogs that are at risk include dogs that frequent boarding kennels, grooming salons, pet stores, dog parks, dog shows, and veterinary hospitals.
- \*We expect kennels in St. Louis to start requiring this vaccine in the spring of 2010.
- \*Some Boarding Kennels are now requiring vaccinations

~ Sent in by Barb Wilson

## Welfare

If you have any welfare information to report, please contact **Kathy Taleos** at [LabLady1020@aol.com](mailto:LabLady1020@aol.com).

Our condolences to:

- Becky Martin who lost her Bullmastiff, Daily – CH Bo-Beck's Daily (Nov 12). Daily would have been 9 years old on December 1

Daily was a great show girl and brood bitch. She was a group placing bitch and won BOS at the Westminster Kennel Club in 2003 and won an AOM at this year's National Specialty a couple of weeks ago out of the Veteran's class

Daily only produced one litter, but what a great litter that was - 6 puppies – 2 went to wonderful pet homes and the remaining 4 all became AKC Champions, including a former #1 bullmastiff and BIS winner and a National Specialty WB winner.

Daily will be very missed by everyone in the Martin household and by all of the owners of her children and grandchildren. You can send condolences to Becky at [bobeck02@aol.com](mailto:bobeck02@aol.com).

## In the Vicinity

### Northeast Ohio Labrador Retriever Club

The NEO Retriever Club is holding a Food, toy blanket, bed, paper towels detergent drive to help area Rescue groups. Donations will be taken until December 20. Donors are eligible to win a holiday basket if they leave their contact information at drop off places. For more information, including drop off places contact them at 330-538-2215 or at [dcpress@cboss.com](mailto:dcpress@cboss.com).

### Four Seasons K9 Athlete Center

Check out Four Seasons K9 for:

- Nov. 14-15, 09 APDT Rally
- Nov. 21 – 22, 09 ASCA Agility
- Nov. 28-29, 09 AKC Agility
- Dec. 31, 09 – Jan 3, 10 CPE Agility

<http://www.k9athletecenter.com/trials.htm>

### Splash 'n Dash

Presents Stuart Mah Seminars

Friday December 4 – Novice Intermediate  
Saturday December 05 – Excellent/Advanced  
Sunday December 06 - Motivation

\$180 for a working spot, \$55 for an auditing spot  
<http://www.pittsburgh-dog-training.com/index.html>

### Animal Welfare League

Your click daily to this Web site

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com> helps to raise money for the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County.

- After you vote, the next screen that comes up thanks you for your vote.
- Just above that, is a box that says **Vote Today**.
- Type in Warren, Ohio in that state and city fields in the next screen.
- Then, you can choose The Animal Welfare League

### Cleveland All Breed Training Club

Betsy Scapicchio & Linda Brennan

March 27 & 23, 2010

Working Spot \$200, Audit \$100

[www.cabtc.org](http://www.cabtc.org)

<http://oaa.org/files/leg1.html> Website of Ohio Association of Animal Owners



## Greyhound Rescue

Dairyland Greyhound Racetrack in Kenosha, Wisconsin will be closing on December 31, 2009. Up to 500 Greyhounds need to be adopted or they will be euthanized.

Please help me get the word out; there are only 6 weeks to get this task done.

Contact Joanne Kehoe, Operations Director, at (312) 559-0887, or contact the Dairyland Race Track Adoption Center direct at (262) 612-8256. This information is also located on our website [www.doctoresra.com](http://www.doctoresra.com)

Please help us find homes for these Greyhounds, Dizzy and Peter Pan

## Barb Levenson Dog Training Center

Nancy Gyes

January 9-12

Saturday & Sunday auditing spots are still available

Monday: Beyond Masters

Tuesday: Foundation & Groundwork

## Beaver County Kennel Club

George Alston Conformation Seminar

Our Next George Alston Seminar will be May 8, 9 2010.

Contact: Johnette Dinello (724)375-0837

## Keystone Canine

**Tracking Primer** -- So you want to get started in Tracking!

AKC Tracking Primer at KCTC (for Beginners only)

Saturday, January 23, 1 - 5 PM

Click here for more information and a registration form:

[Tracking](#)

**Agility Run-Thrus** -- Saturday December 19 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Nested courses for dogs at all levels, including beginners.

**Rally Run-Thrus** -- Sunday December 20 from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

**Obedience Run-Thrus** -- Sunday December 20 from 11:00 am - noon.

\$5 for the first run and \$3 for each additional run. Come and have fun with your dog!

412-833-2211

[info@keystonecanine.com](mailto:info@keystonecanine.com)

Keystone Canine Training Club

PO Box 921

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102-0921

The physical location is 2942 Industrial Boulevard.

# Youngstown Presents

## Deb Sacerich Seminar

Saturday, January 09

Morning Session: Distance & 2 x 2's

Afternoon session: Plan to cue & Q

Working spots open only to YABTC members until December 18. Auditing spots are open to anyone.

*Flyer & Entry form available in the building and online*

**YABTC contact person:** [Sandy Irish](#)

## Conformation Collaboration

Intro to Conformation Class and Run Thrus

- January through March 2010
- Class Cost is \$60.00 per person
- Registration for the class is a MUST !!

Our Beginner's Class is a 6 week course with your dog weekly, culminating with the finale at the puppy match held at YABTC on a Sunday in late winter or early spring 2010.

All Breed Conformation Run Thrus will be held weekly through March in conjunction with the Beginner's class. Cost is \$5.00 per handler.

For more information about dates & times the classes and run thrus are offered, or to Register call: 330-872-3277 or e-mail [trainingdirector@yabtc.com](mailto:trainingdirector@yabtc.com)

**YABTC contact person:** [Dale Burrier](#)



## The Maria Duthie Massage Seminar

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Learn 15 massage techniques, a general massage routine and pre- and post-event basics to warm up and cool down your dog as well as learning the routine to maintain your dog.

For information about Maria go to [Annisage.com](http://Annisage.com)

*Auditing: \$25, Working \$45 (member), \$55 (non-member)*

**YABTC contact person:** [Rae Reinhart](#)

## Jane Jackson Seminar

April 2010

*Flyer available in December*

**YABTC contact person:** [Perri Graf](#)

## Awards Dinner

Who can attend? Spouses and friends; anyone and everyone. You don't need to have earned a title, or ever entered a trial. This is a great way to meet and to congratulate your fellow members. All are welcome.

**Location:** 5th Season Catering – 1400 North Canfield-Niles Road, Mineral Ridge

**Date:** Sunday, December 27

- Time: 5:00, w/dinner at 5:30

**Reservations:** Contact Judy Drotar to make your reservation. If you were an instructor you are also entitled to a free meal at our Award's Dinner. You must still reserve a space; so that we can give 5th Seasons an accurate count. Reservation deadline is December 20.

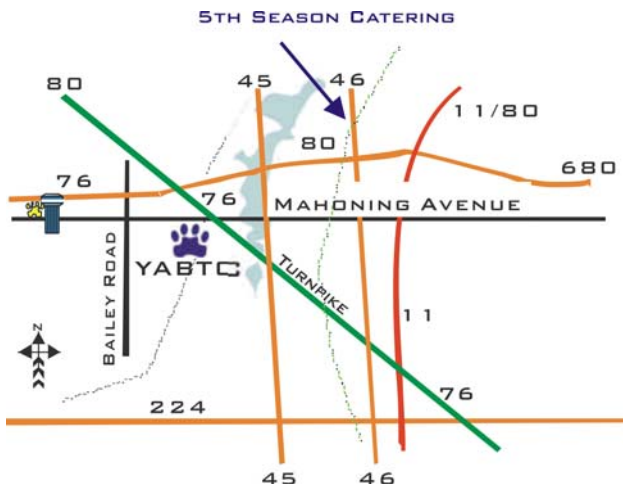
- Menu: Parmesan-Romano crusted chicken breast baked and topped with spinach alfredo sauce, broiled white fish, stuffed shells, sautéed garlic green beans, cheesy potatoes, tossed salad, soft dinner rolls with butter, Coffee, tea and soda pop
- Dessert: Feel free to bring in a small dessert to share.
- Cost: \$20 per person. If you qualified for a "free" meal but wish to pay for your meal anyway, your money will be a donation to YABTC and placed in the year end award's fund that helps to pay for the plaques and other award's presented at the banquet. Make your check or money order out to YABTC. **NO CASH.** Place your check or money order in the basket near the raffle tables.

## Games:

We will have two raffles. The first is one where you purchase tickets and place the ticket with your name on it, into a bag that is located in front of your desired prize.

The second is a West Virginia raffle. For this game, your name is selected from the hat, and you can select the prize of your choice from the table, or steal the prize of a person whose name was called before yours.

To participate, bring a new, wrapped item with a value of less than \$10 for either or both games. Contact Sharon Phillips for more information



## Local Charities

*Please keep local 501c3 clubs and organizations in mind as you make your year end donations. YABTC falls under this category, and while we appreciate any money you donate, there are also other entities in the area that could use your help in these trying times.*

**The Bummer Fund** – Helps those who can not afford to pay for extenuating pet health services

**Angel for Animals** – cares for, provides shelter, and finds forever homes for local cat & dogs that become homeless.

**K9's for Compassion** – take trained therapy pets to visit local hospitals, nursing homes and schools

**The Animal Welfare League** - cares for, provides shelter, and finds forever homes for local cat & dogs that become homeless.

**Animal Charity**

**Mahoning County Humane Society**

*If you would like to search online, try*

*<http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/forwardToSearch.do>.*

*Youngstown itself has over 1,000 listings, and it does not include YABTC, because we are listed in North Jackson.*

## YABTC January Agility Schedule

(All 8 week courses)

### Intro:

Jan 11 Mon 11:45am

Jan 11 Mon \*6:30pm

### Beginners:

Jan 16 Sat 10:30am

### Agility 1:

Jan 7 Thur 6:30pm

Jan 11 Mon 9:00am

### Agility 2:

Jan 7 Thur 7:45pm

Jan 11 Mon 9:00am

### Agility 3:

Jan 8 Fri 6:30pm

Jan 11 Mon 10:30am

### Advanced:

Jan 8 Fri 7:45pm

Jan 11 Mon 10:30am

\* Monday night classes may begin at 5:30pm on YABTC meeting nights (Instructor will notify class)

*Schedule subject to change*

*Obedience schedule not available at time of printing*





## Holiday Safety for Dogs

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



We want the holidays to be a happy time for

you and your pet, not a time for an emergency visit to your veterinarian. The food and decorations that make the holidays so much fun for us can be dangerous for your pet. We don't want this article to dampen your holiday spirits, but we do want you to be aware of the dangers and plan carefully to avoid these potential hazards.

### Dangerous Holiday Foods

Foods you eat or drink that you should never give your pet:

- Rich, fatty foods, like gravy or grease, can cause problems ranging from stomach upsets to pancreatitis.
- Alcohol can cause serious intoxications in pets, and many pets are attracted to the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog. Be sure to clean up and rinse all glasses after Christmas parties.
- Chocolate, coffee, and tea all contain components called xanthines that are dangerous to animals. Chocolate is especially a problem because pets love its flavor. Unsweetened baking chocolate and dark chocolate are the worst culprits, but all chocolate, fudge and other candy should be placed out of your pet's reach. A safe, chocolate dog treat is [Drs. Foster & Smith Cocoa Flavored Yogurt Drops](#).
- Bones from fish, meat or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed. Be sure to keep bones (other than those made for dogs) away from your pet. [Rawhides](#), [Dogzilla Chew toys](#), and hardened, [sterilized bones](#) are much better alternatives for your pet's chewing needs.

### Poisonous Plants

We all like making our homes more festive for the holidays. We enjoy the green foliage and colorful flowers of plants. Unfortunately, many of the plants we have in our homes during the holidays can be poisonous to pets. **Never** let your pet chew or eat any of these holiday plants:

- Holly
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettias
- Hibiscus

So when you brighten up your home, please place these plants well out of your pet's reach, or use imitation holiday plants.

### Gifts Under the Tree

Rawhide or other edible items left under the tree can be very tempting. And remember that companies (even Drs. Foster and Smith!) often package rawhide or other pet gifts wrapped in ribbon. Make sure to remove ribbons or ties before you present gifts to your pet. If played with and swallowed, yarn,

ribbon or string on gifts can cause intestinal obstruction, requiring surgery.

Batteries for toys or other gifts can be toxic and cause intestinal obstruction. Keep in a safe place until they are ready to be inserted in the gift.

### Christmas Trees

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how careful we must be. Christmas trees and their decorations can create hazards for pets.

Place your Christmas tree in a stable stand, and attach it securely to a window or wall. We've known others who have hung their tree from the ceiling! Consider using a [Scat Mat](#) to keep pets away, and make sure your pet is always supervised when in a room with a tree.

Tinsel's shininess is attractive. When eaten, it can cause blockages, which often require surgery to remove. This year, think about leaving it off the tree altogether.

Chewing on electrical cords can cause problems ranging from burned mouths, to electrical shock to death by electrocution. Unplug decorative lights when you're not there or spray cords with [Chew Stop®](#).

Place ornaments that are shiny, or could be swallowed or broken high up on your tree. Larger, less intriguing ornaments can go near the bottom.

Decorating trees with food is asking for problems. Candy canes and gingerbread people can be as enticing to your pet as they are to children. We know of one diabetic dog who ran into some problems with regulating her disease because she was stealing candy canes off of the tree. Popcorn, raisin, or cranberry garlands are beautiful, but can cause an obstruction when eaten, requiring surgery.

### Visitors

Some pets love visitors and behave very well. Others may be fearful or aggressive. If your pet tends to be fearful around strangers or in crowds, make sure she has a quiet room to sneak away to that has water, food, a place to rest, and if you have a cat, a litter box. When inviting visitors, make sure they know you have a pet. If these people have allergies, you can help them by using a product such as [Perfect Coat Bath Wipes](#) to make sure your pet's haircoat smells fresh and is

dander free when near the guests in your house.

### Pet Gifts and Treats

When choosing a holiday gift for your special friend, be sure it's safe - no small pieces that could come off and be swallowed. Choose healthy holiday treats for your pet and give them in moderation. Our [Premium All Natural Biscuits](#) make a great treat for almost any dog and are much healthier than human table food.

The holidays are a time of great fun and excitement for everyone. With a little planning and by following these precautions it can be a safe and fun time for your pet as well.



YABTC  
11801 Mahoning Avenue  
P.O. Box 397  
North Jackson, OH 44451-0397

*And people are worried about H1N1!*

*It really too late for me..... No Cure.....*

## **Urgent Notice: Potential Danger of Dog Hair.....**

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of dogs. This substance, called "amobacter caninii" has been linked with the following symptoms in females: Reluctance to cook, clean or do housework, a reluctance to wear make-up, good clothes or high heels. Reluctance to spend money on home or car repairs until after 'Baby' has new collars, leashes, beds, treats, food, blankets or toys.

"Amobacter caninii" usually results in long hours away from home and exhaustion which may lead to a loss of physical contact with other humans (especially husbands and boyfriends). "Amobacter caninii" is thought to be addictive, driving the need for additional sources - this may lead to a "pack mentality" or like the potato chip commercial, "you can't have just one". Beware! If you come in contact with a female human infected by this substance, be prepared to talk about dogs for hours.

**Surgeon General's Warning:** Dogs are expensive, addictive, and may impair the ability to use common sense.

*~ Sent in by Jay Wootten*

**The newsletter deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup>.** Send all of your news, photos, and brags to [Newsletter@yabtc.com](mailto:Newsletter@yabtc.com), or, leave your information in the mailbox at the Club  
Please let us know if you experience any problems with the Web site, or if anything needs to be added. Contact [Webmaster@yabtc.com](mailto:Webmaster@yabtc.com).

