



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE CAMPER

In just a few short weeks, the 2008 AWMA National Championship will be underway in Olympia, Washington. The event is being hosted by the Cascade Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Club and the entire board would like to thank them for all the work they have done in organizing what promises to be a first-class event. A new twist this year will be the team competition, where competitors can partner and compete for a trophy. This will add another dimension to an event that is noted for friendly competition. I look forward to seeing you there and for sharing the experience of another year of memorable performances of top level dog/handler teams.

As part of the annual event, we will be holding the general board meeting. We have several issues to discuss, and there will be elections and voting on several revisions to the by-laws. The proposed revisions are focused on streamlining the ability for the organization to function as well as a few

changes that the board has voted to bring to the attention of the entire membership. Everyone is invited to attend, but voting will be restricted to the delegates submitted by the local clubs as well as the regional directors and the board.

As a reminder, at the annual meeting, we will be asking for clubs to submit bids for hosting the 2009 National Championship. The event should be held in the months of October or November. Please provide the board with a description of where the event would be held, proximity to tracking, etc. Please consider helping out the organization by taking on this very important responsibility.

In light of discussions of the National Championship, the board has voted to have the next host club add a fee of \$25 to the entries, which will be made available to the 2010 host club as seed money. This was done because we recognize that it is expensive to organize a national level trial, and that having up-front resources

will permit the club to reserve a stadium, purchase airline tickets for judges, etc. We hope that this will make it easier for the local clubs to consider putting in a bid to host the event.

As you may recall from the last newsletter, an ad-hoc fund raising committee was put together to investigate mechanisms for increasing revenue for the organization. We had proposed the implementation of banner ads, the solicitation of donations from the general membership during dues renewal, and the sale of AWMA apparel. This effort has proved to be successful and I am grateful to all of you for your support of the organization. The embroidered t-shirts and sweat-shirts are now being offered for sale, and you can access the order form at the top of the AWMA homepage. We would all like to thank Mohawk John Wiitanen for volunteering to receive the orders, arrange for the embroidery to be done, and for shipping out the shirts to those of you who order

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DOG DAYS OF FLEA AND TICK SEASON

BY DON CATES, DVM

If your dog could talk, he would probably tell you the worst thing about the dog days of summer are the biting fleas and ticks that make him itch, scratch, bleed and...well, just all around miserable.

Technically speaking, the dog days of summer are from July 3 to August 11. The days are named after Sirius, the Dog Star, in the constellation Canis Major. The star shines brightest through July and into August. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed Sirius was responsible for the seasonal heat and blamed the star for the periods of discomfort, drought, and illness. I'm sure the ancients would agree that although we can't blame everything on Sirius, we can get by with blaming the dog days and the heart of flea and tick season on him. After all, he is a dog.

Depending on where you live, flea and tick season may start around March, peak in July and August and last until the first frost in the fall. In the south, the season can last most of the year. Summer, and particularly the dog days, is when most dog owners are furiously dealing with these pests that not only torment our dogs, and us but also can carry diseases that can harm our best friends and us.

Female fleas can lay up to 2000 eggs before they die, and they can bite up to 400 times a day. Eggs can hatch within two days under optimal conditions of temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees and 50% or greater humidity. That means they can, and will, hatch and take up residence in your home and indoor surroundings. The complete flea life cycle can take between two weeks to eight months depending on conditions, with the life stages...eggs, larvae and pupae (a cocoon) surviving over the winter. The higher the heat and humidity the

more abundant the flea population. Thank you Sirius!

Ticks on the other hand, have a life span from six weeks to three years, depending on the species. There are four major species, and some ticks can survive for years without eating. Tick populations are affected by climate and the abundance of hosts (dogs, cats, deer, people, etc.). And yes, they too thrive in heat and humidity. So, we can also thank Sirius for tick season, which peaks around the same time as flea season.

I'm not sure how the Greeks dealt with the problem of fleas and ticks, but through the years everything from motor oil and garlic to voodoo have been used in an attempt to get rid of these little devils. Most recently, however, the market has been flooded with products that aid in the control of fleas and ticks and prevent infestation. By flooding, I mean we now have a plethora of products that are safe, effective and convenient. The problem is there are so many it's confusing to the dog owner and the veterinarians. (See list below)

So, how do you know what product to use? As a veterinarian, before I recommend a product, I consider the dog and the owner's life style and the environments to which the dog is exposed. Is the dog named "Fluffy" and her little feet touch the ground twice a day for eight seconds? Or, is he "Buddy" who is walked around the block on a leash? Or, is the dog a free spirit, romping through woods and fields?

"Fluffy" and "Buddy" might be able to get by with a flea only preventative, as they most likely won't come in contact with ticks. But dogs that have free reign to run and play, or working dogs that work and train in and around a multitude of environments need the most comprehensive control

and prevention, including tick control.

All products currently on the market kill adult fleas, but some fail to kill the other stages of the life cycle. In addition, not all kill ticks. Personally, and professionally, I prefer Frontline Plus for my three Malinois. "Bocca", "Kela" and "Solo" train and play in tick and flea infested environments everyday, and they swim and are bathed frequently, so I need a product that's waterproof and kills fleas and ticks. "Kela" has had two litters and using Frontline allowed me to protect her during her pregnancies and while nursing. Frontline is approved for breeding, pregnant and lactating bitches while some others are not.

It's best to get your products from your vet who is familiar with all of the products and knows you, your dog, your environment, and your lifestyle. If you're buying over the counter (OTC) products from the Internet or feed store to save money, realize they may be counterfeit and they aren't guaranteed by the manufacture. In addition, in many cases, the OTC product is no less expensive, and in fact, sometimes the product may even be more expensive than what is available from your vet. Most importantly, only your vet understands your individual situation and needs, and can determine what is best for your particular dog.

If you've been using products based on your veterinarians' recommendation, and you are still having a problem with fleas, chances are you need to treat the environment for an infestation by using a product that treats the premises. These products can be found at most home improvement and garden stores. Remember, fleas can lay thousands of eggs, and the eggs and other life stages can live in your carpet, furniture and yard. In the case of the working dog, the same can survive in

A COLLECTION OF PET POETRY

A Dog's Best Friend

O Lord, don't let me once forget,
 How I love my trusty pet -
 Help me learn to disregard
 canine craters in my yard.
 Show me how to be a buddy
 even when my sofa's muddy.
 Don't allow my pooch to munch
 postal carriers for lunch.
 Shield my neighbor's cat from view,
 guide my steps around the doo.
 Train me not to curse and scowl
 when it's puppy's night to howl.
 Grant I shan't awake in fear
 with a cold nose in my ear.
 Give me patience without end -
 Help me be "A DOG'S BEST FRIEND."
 —Author Unknown

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Farm/3627/doglovers_poems.html



'Tis sweet to hear the watch dog's honest bark
 Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home;
 'tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark
 Our coming and look brighter when we come.
 —Lord Byron
<http://www.dogquotations.com/dog-poems.html>

My sunshine doesn't come from the skies,
 It comes from the love in my dog's eyes.
 —Unknown Poet
<http://www.dogquotations.com/dog-poems.html>



Why own a dog?

There's a danger you know,
 You can't own just one, for the craving will grow.
 There's no doubt they're addictive, wherein lies the danger.
 While living with lots, you'll grow poorer and stranger.

One dog is no trouble, and two are so funny.
 The third one is easy, the fourth one's a honey.
 The fifth one's delightful, the sixth one's a breeze,
 You find you can live with a houseful of ease.

So how 'bout another? Would you really dare?
 They're really quite easy but, oh, Lord the hair!
 With dogs on the sofa and dogs on the bed,
 And crates in the kitchen, it's no bother, you've said.

They're really no trouble, their manners are great.
 What's one more dog and just one more crate?
 The sofa is hairy, the windows are crusty,
 The floor is all footprints, the furniture dusty.

The housekeeping suffers, but what do you care?
 Who minds a few nose prints and a little more hair?
 So let's keep a puppy, you can always find room,
 And a little more time for the dust cloth and broom.

There's hardly a limit to the dogs you can add,
 The thought of a cutback sure makes you sad.
 Each one is so special, so useful, so funny.
 The vet and food bills grows larger, you owe BIG money.

Your folks never visit, few friends come to stay,
 Except other "dog folks" who live the same way.
 Your lawn has now died, and your shrubs are dead too,
 But your weekends are busy, you're off with your crew.

There's dog food and vitamins, training and shots.
 And entries and travel and motels which cost lots.
 Is it worth it you wonder? Are you caught in a trap?
 Then that favorite one comes and climbs in your lap.

His look says you're special and you know that you will
 Keep all of the critters in spite of the bill.
 Some just for showing and some just to breed.
 And some just for loving, they all fill a need.

God, winter's a hassle, the dogs hate it too.
 But they must have their walks though they're numb and
 your blue.
 Late evening is awful, you scream and you shout
 At the dogs on the sofa who refuse to go out.

The dogs and the dog shows, the travel, the thrills,
 The work and the worry, the pressure, the bills.
 The whole thing seems worth it, the dogs are your life.
 They're charming and funny and offset the strife.

Your life-style has changed. Things won't be the same.
 Yes, those dogs are addictive and so is the dog game.
 —Unknown Poet
<http://www.dogquotations.com/dog-poems.html>



DOG DAYS OF FLEA AND TICK SEASON

BY DON CATES, DVM
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your vehicle, crates and training facilities. Continual use of a product like Frontline Plus that kills adults, eggs, and larvae will eventually solve the problem, but if your dog comes in contact with more fleas, he will carry them home with him. Nothing repels fleas, so it's best to rid the environment, and stop the life cycle once the flea jumps on the pet by using a recommended product. In addition, with working dogs, a waterproof formulation is preferred due to the varied environments in which the dog works and trains.

If you're still seeing ticks while using a recommended product, your dog is obviously entering the environment where the ticks lay waiting for a host. The ticks will die when they come in contact with the product, but they may still attach, and you may see them before they die. As with fleas, no product will actually repel ticks, so the tick will jump on the animal. This does not mean your product is not working. In some infestations of fleas and ticks, the product is simply overwhelmed by a constant influx of the parasites. Time, patience and the right product will solve the problem.

Once again, it's best to use a professional product purchased through a veterinarian, based on a pet and vet relationship. Your vet will recommend a product that fits your life style and environment, the manufacturer will guarantee the product and your best friend will live parasite free.



Below is a list of the top professional products available through your veterinarian.

Frontline Plus

- Topical
- Kills ticks
- Kills adult fleas, eggs & larvae
- Approved for puppies 8 weeks and older
- Approved for use in breeding, pregnant & lactating dogs
- Waterproof

Advantage

- Topical
- Kills adult fleas and larvae
- Approved for puppies 8 weeks or older

Advantix

- Topical
- Kills ticks
- Kills adult fleas & larvae
- Approved for puppies 8 weeks & older

Advantage Multi

- Topical
- Kills adult fleas
- Approved for puppies 7 weeks & older

Revolution

- Topical
- Kills adult fleas & eggs
- Approved for puppies 8 weeks & older
- Approved for use in breeding, pregnant & lactating dogs

Promeris

- Topical
- Kills ticks
- Kills adult fleas
- Approved for puppies 8 weeks or older
- Waterproof

Vectra 3D

- Topical
- Kills ticks
- Kills adult fleas, eggs, & larvae
- Approved for puppies 7 weeks and older
- Waterproof

Comfortis

- Oral pill (once monthly)
- Kills Adult fleas
- Approved for puppies 14 weeks or older

WELCOME TO THE 2008 AWMA CHAMPION!

The members of Cascade Belgian Shepherd Club (AWMA) have been busy behind the scenes to make this a memorable event for competitors and spectators alike.

We hope you'll join us in Olympia Washington on September 26th—28th, 2008 and share in the experience we've created.

And, while you're visiting this site, please be sure to check out our supporters and sponsors. Without them, events like this are extremely hard for the hosting club to put together. We hope you'll show them thanks for their support by visiting their respective Web sites and supporting their businesses and kennels.

On a final note, a portion of all entry fees will be donated to the AWMA representatives to the Malinois World Championship (FMBB) next year. The expenses to travel with a dog to Europe are staggering. It is our hope that we will create a trend for future Championships to help support our World representatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to host the 2008 Nationals and hope to see you there!

Les Flores
President,
Cascade Belgian Shepherd Club

*For more information,
please visit:
www.awmachampionship.com*

NEW AWMA SHIRTS!

The new AWMA T-shirts are in and they are NICE!

The shirts are high quality, heavy cotton with the AWMA logo design embroidered on the left chest.

The stitching is very well done and really "pops."

These shirts are a fundraiser for the AWMA organization. Show your support and superb sense of style by ordering your AWMA shirt today!

<http://www.workingmalinois.org/shirts/index.shtml>



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello again,

I hope everyone is preparing for the 2008 AWMA Nationals! Whether you compete, watch, or cheer from home it is an exciting time. Competitors work hard for this event. If you are thinking about entering make sure your AWMA membership is up to date, don't wait till the last minute either! 😊 Think about supporting your breed club by competing with an AWMA scorebook or new AWMA apparel (see the advertising section for apparel)!! More and more of you are as the number of scorebooks issued so far this year is thirty-one.

Please remember if you the president of your AWMA member club to submit the information of your club's delegate to the Nationals' to the secretary (me) by the end of August. If you have any questions please contact me at dezireeshaw@yahoo.com.

This has been crazy summer weather wise huh? In Maine our hot weather started early and hasn't let up. It feels so humid some days I think I am in Florida! I am so close to jumping in the dog pool right along with the dogs. 😊

Summer is fun but we all have to pay close attention for ticks and fleas. A veterinarian, AWMA member, and friend of mine was generous enough to offer his professional advice on flea and tick prevention. No matter how much or how little experience we have with the different medications we can always stand to learn more.

As always, please feel free to contact me with **any** ideas, pictures, comments or complaints regarding this online newsletter. The entire AWMA is held together with the volunteered time of its members. It is never to late to get involved; we would love to have **your** help!!

Happy Training!

Desiree' Shaw

AWMA Secretary
AWMA Online Magazine Editor



**Desiree's Dogs Cita & Carma
Ready for summer!**





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE CAMPER

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them. Fundraising will continue to be an important issue for us, and if any of you have suggestions for donors or other mechanisms for allowing us to keep our dues low while increasing our revenue to support club events and international competitors, we welcome your input.

There are several other volunteers that I would like to thank. Dana Miller had been responsible for the website for several years. She implemented many beneficial changes to the site and made sure that things were up to date. A few months ago Dana had asked to be relieved of these duties, and Dara Hunt graciously volunteered to take it over. This has been a seamless transition and I would like to thank both of these talented women for their service to the organization. In terms of the newsletter, Desiree Shaw continues to collect the information and articles. After the last annual meeting, Danny Craig had volunteered to do the formatting. He has done so for the last two issues, but recently asked if he could step down due to other time commitments. Shari Lipski has volunteered to take this on, and I know that she'll do a great job. An example of her newsletter skills is evident in the special FMBB edition of the newsletter that she wrote and formatted. This edition is also being done by Shari. Thanks are due to both Danny and Shari for their help.

In the near future, you will be seeing the implementation of a stud dog section to the website. Jim Downey has volunteered to organize this and to collect the information. He has suggested a format that has been discussed by the board, and the board has also agreed on a reasonable fee (\$35) that will be charged to non-members for this service; it will be free for members. This will serve as a mechanism for all of you to post information on your stud dogs while also giving those

who may be looking for information on a particular dog a central site to find it. Dara has already put together a link that will go live when the first submission is received. You can anticipate getting the call for the information in the near future.

There are a few other developments on the horizon. We are working with the US Mondio Ring Association (USMRA) to select a Malinois team to represent the AWMA at the FMBB competition next May in the Czech Republic. Along with the inaugural agility team last year, which is a partnership with the American Belgian Malinois Club, this will allow us to field teams in three of the major performance events at this international competition. Long term positive relationships between the AWMA, USMRA, and the ABMC are to our collective benefit, and I am personally very gratified to know that the Malinois community can pull together to field competitive teams to attend this highly visible and important event.

As a reminder to all local clubs hosting an IPO trial, there are forms and procedures available on the website for your use. You need to authorize the use of a judge with our Director of Judges, and then send the information on the titles to be offered, location, judge, etc. to the president so it can be approved for posting on the AWMA website. After the event, be sure to send in your trial paperwork and fees to the secretary for recording and filing. We would also appreciate receiving a brief write-up on the event including scores to be included in the "event" section of the website.

Here's a heads-up on two important competition dates for next year. Next year's FMBB will be held May 7-10 in the Czech Republic and the AWDF

event will be May 23-25 in Pennsylvania. It is unfortunate that these two dates are so close together, but the AWDF host club was limited by availability of tracking, etc. The AWDF realizes that this will cause some difficulty and necessity for making a choice of competitions to attend for AWMA members. I wish there was an easy solution for this sort of conflict, but the reality is that there are limitations imparted by conflicts with a variety of events, weather conditions in different parts of the country, ability of host clubs to access the venue, etc.

And finally, all of us extend our congratulations to Joker and Mark for winning the North Americans and we wish them the very best at the upcoming FCI Championship September 11-14.

Sincerely, Anne Camper.

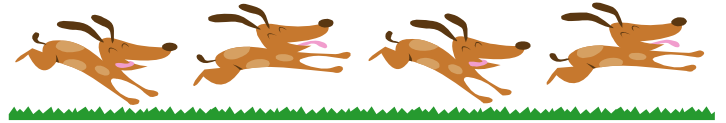
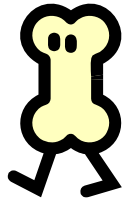


Anne with 'Bekqa' d'Ile du Chien, IPO 3.



Anne with Bazouka ("Zouka") van de Trinekesdreef, IPO 3

FUNNY BONE



A wife says to her husband one weekend morning, "We've got such a clever dog. He brings in the daily newspapers every morning." Her husband replies, "Well, lots of dogs can do that."

The wife responded, "But we've never subscribed to any!"

—<http://www.doggiesparadise.com/dog-jokes.shtml>

During break time at obedience school, two dogs were talking. One said to the other... "The thing I hate about obedience school is you learn ALL this stuff you will never use in the real world."

—<http://www.doggiesparadise.com/dog-jokes.shtml>.

You know you are owned by a dog when...

- ◆ You have a mental list of people you would like to spay or neuter.
 - ◆ Running out of paper towels is a household crisis.
- ◆ You stick fake reindeer antlers on the dog and photograph him for your Christmas Cards.
 - ◆ Not only do family and friends think you go overboard with doggie holiday decorations, they have never seen the holy family depicted by dogs.
 - ◆ Your checks show a dog.
 - ◆ You pray they will someday manufacture Teflon furniture.
- ◆ You absentmindedly pat people on the head or scratch them behind their ears.
 - ◆ You not only allow dogs on the couch, guests have to sit on the floor because the dog has "territorial issues."
- ◆ You and your vet are on a first name basis.
 - ◆ You tell your children to "heel!" in a grocery store.
 - ◆ You know all the characteristics of a good "stool".

—<http://www.doggiesparadise.com/dog-jokes.shtml>

MEMBER ADVERTISING



Are you an AWMA Member who has a dog related business?

Do you have a litter of Malinois you would like to advertise?

Take advantage of your membership and advertise for free in the AWMA Online Magazine!

The Magazine is available for viewing to everyone who visits the AWMA website.

Please feel free to contact Desiree' Shaw (dezireeshaw@yahoo.com) to get your business in the next issue.

Why doesn't Mohawk John have anykids?



...because he is a bad influence!

2008 AWMA Board of Directors

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What is the strangest/funniest urban myth you have heard about dogs?

"How 'bout the one that says a dog that walks around in circles while they poop has bad hips."

—Warren Jones

"I've been told that the Doberman is aggressive because its skull is too small to accommodate its brain."

—John Haudenshield & Z'Jazz of Vitosha SchH1



"Black on the inside of a dog's mouth means he's a mixed breed (or has Chow in him)."

Feeding a dog gunpowder or raw meat will make him mean.

Doberman's brains swell as they get older, making them mean.

Doberman puppies should be put in a box and shaken to make them mean. (Yes I have Dobermans too!)

When a dog eats grass, it means he's sick.

A dog is sick when his nose is dry."

—Mary Chrusciel

"Quite a few years ago when Rottweilers were becoming the media sensation I was doing a SAR {search and rescue} demo with one. This usually involved setting up a booth. While I was at the booth I had someone come up to me and wanted to ask me if it was true that when a Rottweiler got old that their brain would shrink and they would go mad."

—Allen Rossi

"Malinois "come from" German Shepherds.

Malinois are a new breed in US law enforcement. (NYPD had the first police dogs in the US and they were all Belgian Shepherds, 1912)"

—Christopher Smith

