

News From OurDogHouse

February 2008

February 7, 2008

In This Issue:

1. News From The Doghouse
 2. Sweet Attraction
 3. Nose-Tears
 4. From The OurDogHouse Bookshelf
-

1. News From The Doghouse

News From OurDogHouse

At OurDogHouse, we understand how important your pup is to everyone in the family; especially your parents. For this reason, we have designs just for the grandparents in your fur-kid's life. Our designer conceived the very first saying and design back in the late 1980s. While the design has evolved through many changes over the years, it remains very popular and is one of our bestsellers. If your parents love their grandpup, check out your breed today and some of the great designs and sayings, such as "Grand (breed) Leave Paw Prints on Your Heart," "Ask Me About My Grand (breed)," "Have You Hugged Your Grand (breed) Today?" and "Proud (breed) Grandmother/father." If you don't see the saying in your breed yet, email us and we will be happy to add it.

[Click here for our online store](#)

Happy Valentine's Day!

Our pets love us unconditionally. Who else greets us at the door with so much excitement; even if we've just taken out the trash or gone to the mailbox? They can erase a bad day with just a tail wag. Even when they hog the bed at night, spill the garbage or chase the neighbor's cat up a tree, we can't imagine our lives without them. So, this Valentine's Day don't forget to give your pooches a hug and take them for an extra long walk or run in the park!

2. Sweet Attraction

Sweet Attraction © Copyright OurDogHouse

With the bitter cold temperatures of winter upon us, many of us never give the liquid (antifreeze) that saves our automobile engines from freezing up a second thought. However, as pet owners we should. An estimated 10,000 dogs and cats each year become victims of poisoning from this sweet-tasting liquid that we fill our car radiators with.

Even during the warm months of spring and summer, we need to guard against pets and children ingesting antifreeze. The sweet-

tasting liquid can leak onto garage floors, streets and driveways as cars overheat and overflow. During the winter, many people change out and flush radiators, adding new antifreeze to their coolant systems.

The attraction for both pets and children is the taste and smell; antifreeze has a sweet taste and smell that draws both pets and children to it. However, the outcome of a pet or child ingesting the substance is anything but sweet. Most antifreeze on the market today consists of approximately 95% of a chemical called ethylene glycol, which is extremely toxic. In fact, the toxicity is so intense that even a few licks can be fatal for your dog or cat.

Your car's radiator is not the only culprit to keep a watchful eye on. Many people might be surprised to learn they have antifreeze right in their household where they least expect it to be. A snow globe, while beautiful to look at, contains approximately 2% antifreeze, which is toxic if the snow globe should be broken.

The poisoning from ethylene glycol (antifreeze) occurs in two stages. In the first stage, a pet can appear to be disoriented, lethargic, and almost drunken in appearance. This stage usually happens approximately 30 minutes to an hour after ingestion. However, the symptoms can last for hours. The second stage occurs as the pet's liver processes the chemical and, in doing so, actually converts it into a more toxic substance. By this time, the toxicity levels reach a point whereby the pet's kidneys cease to function and the pet goes into a coma.

If your pet should ingest antifreeze, even a small amount, you should get him or her to a veterinarian as soon as possible; time is of the essence.

As is the case in many situations, being proactive is still the best policy. With that said, there is a new, less-toxic antifreeze on the market. Next time you take your auto into your mechanic, request propylene-glycol antifreeze, which is less toxic. In addition, a handful of states have passed legislation requiring a bittering agent be added to any of the ethylene glycol antifreeze products.

Nonetheless, until a federal law is passed, pet owners will have to do whatever it takes to keep their pets from antifreeze's sweet but deadly attraction.

3. Nose-Tears

Nose-Tears **© Copyright OurDogHouse**

In last month's newsletter, we talked about the many different ways a canine's exceptional sense of smell can be utilized. This month, we thought we'd share just a little bit more you may not know about your dog's nose..why it's cold.

There are many stories around, but one of them attributes a dog's cold nose to Noah's Ark. This tale claims that the dog was the last to get on board and therefore spent 40 days and 40 nights exposed to the elements. By the time the floodwaters receded, the nose was permanently chilled. The truth, however, is much less whimsical!

In dogs, tears are continually produced to lubricate the movement of the eyes. This lubrication is critical to a dog's eye health, and as a result, the dog's body produces more tears than are needed. Excess tears flow through the nasal-lacrimal (literally means "nose-tears") duct and out the base of the nose. This is what people experience when they cry. As the tears drip down the dog's face, the dog licks his nose. This spreads the tears over the nose, which wets it. As the fluid evaporates, the nose is cooled. As a side note, the moisture also helps the nose to dissolve airborne chemicals, which, in turn, contributes to the dog's better sense of smell.

In addition, dogs have lateral nasal glands in their noses, which help regulate body temperature. Based on the surrounding airflow and the dog's body temperature, these glands produce a clear fluid that keeps the nasal passages moist when the dog breathes. Although your pet's nose is usually cold and wet, the lateral nasal glands are always adjusting. Many people believe a warm, dry nose means that their pet is sick. This is a myth. A nose that is warm and dry may be due to the amount of fluid being produced by the nasal glands. A better indicator is overall behavior. If your dog is alert, energetic and eating, then most likely he's healthy - warm nose or cold.

4. From The OurDogHouse Bookshelf

From The OurDogHouse Bookshelf



Purchase a unique gift and help out rescue at the same time! Our designer, Tim Glass, has a wonderful book series for children of all ages available.

In case you haven't already met the Sleepytown Beagles, let me tell you a little bit about them. Tim looked at what is going in our world today and realized it is becoming increasingly harder for people of all ages to go to sleep at night, especially children. Thus, Sleepytown was born out of a need for a peaceful, calm and secure place that children could visualize and use to drift off to sleep. He combined this visualization with the loveable characters of the Sleepytown Beagles.

Each book is a new adventure with a life lesson surrounded by a backdrop of this peaceful place called Sleepytown.

A portion of the author's royalties from each book sold is donated to rescue groups.

For more information on the series drop by his website.

[Click here to go to Sleepytown Beagle Books](#)

We hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. We welcome you to forward this issue to anyone else who might also enjoy it. If you have suggestions for future stories, we'd love to hear them! Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to [OurDogHouse](#)