

News From OurDogHouse

January Issue

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Featured Product



[I'm Pawstitive Mousepad](#)
\$16.99

In This Issue:

1. News from OurDogHouse
2. Fido Beware
3. All You Need to Nose

1. News from OurDogHouse

News from the DogHouse

The staff at OurDogHouse wishes all of you a Happy New Year and welcomes you back for another year of news and features from OurDogHouse!

This month, our featured product showcases our Puppy Paws section. We have several great designs, including a patriotic paw print design. These are fun and make great gifts for any dog lover because they are not breed specific.

The Vizsla is the latest breed to be added to OurDogHouse. Our designer is still adding to this section, but if you are owned by a Vizsla or know someone who is, please be sure to drop by and check out this new section!

Owner's New Year's Resolutions for the Pooch	The Pooch's New Year's Resolutions
Extend your daily walk just a little.	Sleep, walk and eat more.
Keep him or her well groomed; brush teeth and coat.	Roll in the grass or something that smells.
Take off a few pooch pounds.	Take up counter surfing.
Sign up for a new class; there are many to pick from including puppy training or agility and obedience classes. Check your local pet store for more information.	Train My Owner 101, including letting me in and out, chasing squirrels and never saying never to a snack for the pooch. Trashology 101, discovering the treasures inside one's own trashcan. Chew Crafting 101, turning your human's favorite slippers or shoes into a doggie work of art.
Enjoy a Fido hug a day.	Enjoy at least several Fido hugs each day.

2. Fido Beware

Fido Beware © Copyright OurDogHouse

With the holiday season behind us, many of us have vowed to workout a little more and eat healthier meals. Along with this new resolution usually come sacks of healthier food and treats into household pantries.

While grapes and raisins are excellent choices of snacks for humans, they are toxic to both dogs and cats. Veterinarians report pets eating as little as a handful of grapes or raisins can experience vomiting and diarrhea, stop eating and become lethargic. However, many pets go into kidney failure and can die.

The type or source of the forbidden fruits (grapes and raisins) does not seem to matter. Whether grown in the backyard garden or purchased at the local supermarket, the tiny fruits are still toxic for dogs. The sweet-smelling treats can be hard for some pets to pass up, even when on a pantry shelf or the coffee table. For this reason, they should be kept well out of your dog or cat's reach.

If your pet should ingest either grapes or raisins, call your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Your veterinarian will most likely want you to induce vomiting before you bring your pet in. This can be extremely vital so as to rid the pet's system of the toxins as soon as possible.

3. All You Need to Nose

All You Need to Nose © Copyright OurDogHouse

You most likely know that dogs have been used to sniff out escaped cons and missing children. What you may not know is that all kinds of new ways to use a dog's extraordinary sense of smell have been developed in recent years. Here are a few examples that you may know and some we bet you don't.

Drugs: Dogs are trained to sniff out all kinds of illegal drugs. Not only do they find them on people, but also in cargo containers, long-haul trucks and school lockers.

Explosives: Most of us are familiar with bomb-sniffing dogs, but did you know that they are now being trained to sniff out cell phones that could be used to detonate bombs?

Fruits and Vegetables: Since fruits and vegetables can carry insects and disease, dogs are used to detect food in the luggage of people coming through customs. Dogs can also sniff out invasive weeds in fields so they can be eliminated before they take hold.

Insects: Termites? No problem for Fido to sniff them out. Dogs are also being used to detect a return of bedbugs in big cities.

Mold: Dogs sniff out not only household mold, but also the mold that puts the vines at wineries at risk from the spread of disease.

Chemicals: Dogs have been taught to sniff out everything from mercury to the components used to make pirated DVDs.

Cancer: While this is still in trial stages, it appears quite certain that dogs can sniff out a malignancy. Just think! In the future when your doctor orders a "lab test," he may be referring to a Labrador retriever!

While most of us tend to associate scent work with certain breeds, such as Bloodhounds and German Shepherds, a wide variety of breeds and mixes can be trained to detect scents. Beagles are often used in airports by the US Department of Agriculture because of their keen noses and friendly disposition. A number of mixed breeds, including lucky dogs rescued from shelters, have been trained for other kinds of detective work.

All dogs have hundreds more scent receptors than humans. Therefore, the ability to do nose work relies more on enthusiasm, reliability and trainability rather than on the canine-common ability to differentiate among scents.

For those of you who are new subscribers to our newsletter, we welcome you! To our long-time readers, we thank you for your continuing support! We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter and 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](#)

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