

News From the DogHouse

It's Our Birthday!



June 23 is our sixth birthday! Thank you for being a part of our growing family. We couldn't do what we do without you! By purchasing unique gifts for dog lovers from OurDogHouse, you help us to support rescue events throughout the year.

Rover Goes to Work!

Pack up your pooch and a doggie bag! Friday, June 26, is Take Your Dog to Work Day. First celebrated a decade ago in 1999, Take Your Dog to Work Day was created to celebrate the great companions dogs make and to encourage their adoption from animal shelters and other rescue groups. This annual event encourages employers to experience the value of pets in their workplace for this one special day and promotes pet adoption.

National Disaster Preparedness Month

June is National Disaster Preparedness Month for Animals. According to Dr. Arnold Goldman, president of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Foundation, the number-one reason people refuse to evacuate their homes during an emergency is because they do not want to leave their pets behind.

The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) has created The Disaster Preparedness Guide for Pet Owners, a free, 19-page guide that assists pet owners in developing their own disaster preparedness plan, as well as to provide advice on how to work with their pet sitters to be prepared for both natural and man-made disasters. [Click here](#) to download your free copy of the disaster guide.

Featured Product

Shhh . . . it's not a secret, but we don't want to say it too loudly in case the dog is listening. June is Adopt-a-Cat month, so we thought this would be a great time to showcase our doggie t-shirts. We have a variety of sayings, including Don't Look At Me, the Cat Did It and The Cat Told Me I'm Adopted. [Click here](#) to paw on over to OurDogHouse!

An Ounce of Prevention

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Did you know that 90 percent of older dogs have osteoarthritis in one or more of their joints? The percentage is even higher in humans. Therefore, both doctors and veterinarians need a way to diagnose the disease early and accurately.

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative disease that causes inflammation, breakdown of cartilage, and loss of motion in joints. It is also commonly diagnosed in late stages when the damage is irreversible. Researchers at the University of Missouri are investigating potential biomarkers in dogs for early diagnosis of osteoarthritis. This could help identify patients who have an increased risk of developing the disease. In the study, researchers examined synovial fluid, which is the fluid that lubricates joints. It is known to change in response to joint injury. Taking samples from dogs, researchers found that synovial fluid quantity and quality were altered in dogs with

injuries to the joint in the hind leg, the equivalent of the joint in the human knee. Dr. James Cook, a professor of veterinary medicine and surgery reports that his team is making tremendous progress in developing simple tests on blood, urine, and synovial fluid that show great promise in diagnosing impending osteoarthritis prior to the onset of clinical disease for people and their pets before it is too late to help the patient in an effective manner.

By developing methods for earlier diagnosis, preventative or curative treatments to manage the disease would be more realistic. If osteoarthritis is detected before pain and swelling occur, owners could take preventative measures such as modifying activities, helping their pets to lose weight, and strengthen their joints to reduce the chances of their dogs developing osteoarthritis.

The Look of Guilt

By Timothy Glass

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For many dog owners, training one's pet is an important part of co-existing in a happy household. Therefore, things like potty training and eliminating destructive behaviors are vital ingredients to a successful partnership between human and pet. However, many times a pet's body language can be misleading to us. Body language is oftentimes an expression of what we are feeling. For a human, the slumping of one's shoulders can mean we are depressed, or a bright smile may reveal that we are happy. However, before we become doggie detectives and pass judgment on to our pooches, there is research study we should be aware of. At Barnard College in New York, Alexandra Horowitz, Assistant Professor, looked into what is really behind a dog's guilty look. We might be surprised to learn that in the study, the pooches that were scolded—though they were innocent—displayed a more pronounced look of guilt than those that had been disobedient. The study indicated that the owner's body language and tone of voice prompts what we humans call the look of guilt. Certainly in multi-dog households, looking for the guilty culprit may not be as simple as looking for the one with the guilty look.

Training your dog can be a journey for both of you. Nonetheless, the happiness you and your pup will gain from proper training will make all the effort worthwhile.

Until We Bark Again

For new subscribers to our newsletter, we welcome you! To our long-time readers, thanks for your continuing support! We hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter and invite you to forward this issue to anyone you think 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 you can follow our paw prints on [Twitter](#) or visit our Twitter update page on our [website](#).