



Summer Newsletter

Bud's Rescue

The call came in: Gold Bar firefighters were en route to PSCVM with a dog that had been in an intense truck fire.

Bud, a 14-year-old German shepherd-husky mix, was pulled from the burning cab of a long-haul truck belonging to his owner, Malcom Rose of Baring, Washington. Bud was unconscious and nearly dead from smoke inhalation. Rose started mouth-to-nose resuscitation and the Fire District 26 firefighters provided oxygen for Bud.

The red SUV showed up at PSCVM while several of the firefighters gave Bud oxygen. Carrying Bud in a blan-

ket to the treatment room table was not the end of their concern. As Dr. Kettering examined Bud, the fire fighters learned what they could do for the next possible victim.

For any pet that has been in a fire the concern is about possible damage to the lungs from intense heat and smoke. In Bud's case, we took x-rays to monitor the lung damage, and gave fluids and drugs to ease the coughing. The emergency clinic and Bud's local veterinarian monitored him for the next several days.

For more information on the heroic rescue, Bud's story was published in the Snohomish Herald on July 14th.

Consider your Pets

The slugs are here! The most common way to control slugs are with chemicals, but there are ways to control slugs and snails without the risk of poisoning your pets. They include removing the slugs by hand, copper barriers, and beer traps. The most common chemical control is slug bait. There are two chemicals currently licensed and formulated into slug and snail baits for use on home gardens, metaldehyde and iron phosphate.

Products containing varying concentrations of metaldehyde include "Cory's Slug and Snail Death," "Deadline," and "Slug-Tox." Slug bait tastes good to pets but results are deadly! Early symptoms of slug bait poisoning are trembling and seizures followed

by hyper salivation, dilated pupils leading to vomiting, blue or gray gum color and diarrhea. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, take the pet to the vet immediately.

Products containing iron phosphate include "Sluggo," "Escar-Go!" and "Worry Free" slug and snail bait. Iron phosphate baits have proven to be relatively non-toxic for pets compared to those containing metaldehyde. Slugs and snails will become less mobile and begin to die within 3-6 days. Infected snails/slugs often crawl away to secluded places to die.

Use caution with all pesticides and read the label carefully. This is not intended to endorse any products

Bee Stings are a Pest

Summer days bring the danger of bee stings. Most pets have enough thick fur to prevent bees from being able to sting. The most common places for a sting are around the mouth as the pet tries to bite the bee or on the legs where the hair is usually shorter.

If bees are attacking your pet try to get the animal away from the bees without endangering yourself. Call your animal inside your house or car. Do not attempt to approach an animal being stung without some protection for yourself, because the bees are likely to

attack you. Covering the animal with a heavy blanket may discourage the bees. Remember to be cautious because an injured animal may bite or attack unexpectedly.

Once the animal is away from the bees, look for stingers. Honeybees leave behind a venom sac and stinger. The honeybee dies after it stings, however, the stinger may continue to inject venom for two to three minutes. Do not pull the sac and stinger out with tweezers or fingers because you may squeeze more venom into the animal. Instant removal by a quick side-

ways movement with a fingernail of the stinger and sac usually reduces the harmful effects. Clean the wound with soapy water and apply ice to the sting immediately to minimize discomfort and prevent swelling and itching.

The most common symptoms of a sting are local areas of pain and swelling with redness and itching for several hours. As with people, some animals may be allergic to the bee venom and have a severe reaction known as anaphylaxis. (Even if they've never had an allergic reaction to a sting before). The symptoms

of a severe anaphylactic reaction include generalized swelling, wheezing, and difficult breathing, vomiting and possible death. These symptoms may happen within a few minutes and require an emergency medical treatment. Call your local Veterinarian immediately for instructions.



When is it time to let go?

Sometimes a pet is so sick or severely injured that he or she will never recover normal health. In those situations, one of the kindest things you can do is to have your veterinarian induce its death quietly and humanely through euthanasia.

Your relationship with your pet is special, and you are responsible for its care and welfare. A decision concerning euthanasia may be one of the most difficult decisions you will ever make regarding your pet.

The decision is a personal one, but it need not be a solitary one. Your

veterinarian and your family can assist and support you. Consider not only what is best for your pet, but also what is best for you and your family. Quality of life is important for pets and people alike.

The right time may be when your pet can no longer do the things he or she once enjoyed. If your pet cannot respond to you in the usual ways, or if there is more pain than pleasure in his or her life, you may need to consider euthanasia. Likewise, if your pet is terminally ill or critically injured, or if the financial or

emotional cost of treatment is beyond your means, euthanasia may be a valid option.

Your veterinarian understands attachment to pets, and can examine your pet's and evaluate it's condition. Your vet can estimate your pet's chances for recovery, and discuss potential disabilities and long-term problems. He or she can also explain the medical options and possible outcomes. Because your veterinarian cannot make the euthanasia decision for you, it is important that you fully understand your pet's condition. If there is any part of the diagnosis or the implications for your pet's future that you don't

understand, ask to have it explained again. Rarely will the situation require an immediate decision.

Usually, you will have time to review the facts before making your decision.

As you make your decision, you may wish to discuss the care of the remains of your pet's body with your family and veterinarian. You have several options, and your veterinarian can provide information about burial, cremation, or other



Kid's Corner

Shannon Goes to the Veterinary Clinic

I remember my mom waking me up in the middle of the night. She was saying something about Sadie, my new puppy, being hurt. Next thing I knew she was buckling my seatbelt in our car. I saw Sadie lying in the front seat. He looked back at me to try to comfort me, but I could see the pain in his eyes.

We got to the vet and a few people came out and lifted Sadie gently, yet quickly out of the car and into the hospital. It scared me because I didn't know where they were taking my best friend. I sat cuddled with my mom for a long time. Asking her questions through my tears.

"He was hit by a car, but he'll be okay," my mom told me. "These people are going to help him get better." I finally calmed down enough to play with the hospital's toys and I found a picture that looked like Sadie. I colored it all black except for the white spot on his chest. Then when I was showing my mom my artwork, one of the women who had carried Sadie in, came out from the back. She introduced herself as the Veterinarian. She said Sadie had a broken leg. She reassured us everything else was fine and his leg should heal in about 6 weeks.

I was so excited; Sadie was going to be okay! My mom paid the bill and talked to

the doctor for awhile longer. Then they brought my puppy out. He was really excited to see us. He tried running but the heavy green cast and the nurse holding his leash slowed him down. I gave him a big kiss and told him never to run out in front of a car again.



Meet Kink

While signing in at PSCVM, you may notice a tabby cat with a broken tail cruising by. You may even find him sitting in your lap. Then it's official; you just met "Kink", a much loved resident at PSCVM. His job is to greet clients, entertain staff, and donate blood to feline patients in need of a transfusion. We think he's pretty special.