



GGRR Newsletter

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September 2013

September 2013 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
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Come see GGRR at the Greentree Festival in Kirkwood Sept. 13-15

August Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President, Mike S. Paul S. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Julie G. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

President's Report

Mike S. reported on our brochures that we had printed. Tracie G. will order the holders and bring them to the next meeting. We will distribute these to veterinary offices and other animal facilities around the St. Louis area to get more information out on our organization and hopefully more volunteers.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy D. gave her report from July.
Beginning Balance: \$422.92
Income: \$75.00 (\$27.12 e-script)
Expenses: \$1,974.09
Ending Balance: \$50.95
(Transferred \$1,500.00 from Flash Fund to pay bills this month.)

Membership Report

Judy S. sent an email to board members stating that she had to resign as membership coordinator. Mike S. is going to talk to a few members to see if someone will take her position for the next term.



Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had zero dogs come in in the previous month.

Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that we had three dogs adopted in the previous month.

- 13-008 Nika
- 13-005 Sadie
- 13-003 Daisy

Michelle also reported that we need a foster home for Lou. He has minor seizures but they are controlled with his meds. We also still need a lot of home visits done. Please talk to Penny M. if you can do a home visit.

It was also announced that we need help with the Adoption Line on Wednesday through Saturday. Online applications also needs another person to contact these applicants. Julie M. and Michelle F. will help. If anyone can help in any of the areas listed above, please let Penny M. or Mike S. know.

Website Report

Paul S. gave his report on our website traffic from the month of July.

- Page Views: 17,710
- Visitors: 10,599
- Hits: 77,883

GRR Events

Upcoming Events

Next GRR Meeting

Thursday, September 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

Greentree Festival in Kirkwood Park 2013

The Greentree Festival will be held on September 13, 14, and 15 at Kirkwood Park. We usually have three booths and share with the Golden Retriever Club. Our booth will be in the same place as it has been in previous years. Julie G. had a sign up sheet at the meeting. Volunteers are needed for the night shift on Friday, day and evening on Saturday and the same on Sunday. Please notify Julie G. if you can fill a spot. Please bring your dogs to have in the pen. The dogs are what draws people to our booth! All volunteers are needed to work a shift at the Greentree Festival.

The Scottish Games at Forest Park

The Scottish Games will be held on Saturday, September 27th and 28th. We will have a booth there with the Golden Club and will be passing out infor-

mation only. This event is held near the Tennis Courts, south of the History Museum.

APA Carnival in Tillis Park in Rock Hill

The APA Carnival will be held on Sunday, October 6th. We will have a booth at this event. If you would like to help with our booth, please let Julie G. know.

Tri-County Agility Club

They are having trials on November 14th through the 17th at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis. We have an opportunity to set up a vending booth these days. Please talk to Julie G. or Penny M. if you would like to help out with our booth.



Old & New Business

Old Business

Some of the old business talked about was touched upon in other areas of our meeting including the GRR information flyers, many home visits that need to be completed, the phone lines being covered Wednesday through Saturday and the Adoption Application phone calls. If you are interested in helping with any of the above, please talk to President, Mike S.

New Business

We had a special guest at our meeting in August, Miss Leah Egan. Leah has organized a bake sale to help GRR every year for the last FIVE years. This year she made a whopping \$615.00 for GRR from her bake sale. GRR is ever grateful to her, her family and her friends that help make this bake sale possible. GRR presented Leah with a thank you card, a gift card and a Golden Retriever cookie cutter for her to use at her next bake sale. Thank you Leah for all of your hard work!

Mike S. announced that the Membership Coordinator position was available. There were no takers at the meeting so Mike will contact other members to see if anyone is interested.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Kathy D. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

9 Reasons Dogs Lick Excessively www.petsbest.com

By Dr. Fiona, a veterinarian and blogger for pet insurance provider, Pets Best Insurance

All dogs lick, but some dogs lick in excess. In these situations, there is often a medical or behavioral reason for the licking. Here are nine reasons dogs lick excessively.



If a cause is thought to be medical, a consultation with your veterinarian is needed find a solution that helps your dog.

Behavioral Reasons Dogs Lick

- 5. Boredom and/or anxiousness
- 6. It's calming and soothing to them
- 7. It's a sign of affection to the person or animal they're licking
- 8. Out of habit – They may associate getting pet with licking
- 9. They like the taste of what they lick – For instance salty human skin

Medical Reasons Dogs Lick

- 1. Allergies – A dog may lick their skin because it itches from allergies
- 2. Infections – Infections with bacteria, fungus or parasites are itchy and can make dogs lick excessively
- 3. Pain – Underlying pain from arthritis, for example can make a dog licks its joints
- 4. Gastrointestinal issues – Occasionally dogs that lick strange surfaces (but not usually itself) will have underlying GI issues

If it's behavioral, responding to your dog's licking with predictability and consistency and avoiding punishment can occasionally help. Try redirecting their focus by giving alternative activities and outlets that keep them occupied at times when they might be likely to lick.



Can you help out with a home visit or the phone lines? If so, contact President, Mike S.

Lumps and Bumps on Dogs www.petmd.com

There are very few surprises that will startle you more than discovering a lump or bump on your dog. As your hand wanders over your canine pal in affectionate scratching or petting, your fingers just may chance upon a lump that "was not there before."

It will scare the biscuits out of you ... GUARANTEED! With that nagging "C" word drifting about the back of your mind, your first fear is that your dog might have cancer. Setting in motion your search for an answer as to what this lump is you make a quick trip to the I hope that lump isn't serious.

"How long has this been here?" the veterinarian asks. "Just found it yesterday, doctor," you respond.

"Let's see if we can find any others," says the doctor as experienced and sensitive hands work the dog over. Sure enough, "Here's another one just like it!" says the doctor as she places your hand right over the small, round, moveable soft mass under the skin of the dog's flank.

"I think these are what we call Lipomas, just fat deposits under the skin. They are very common and usually present no problems," says the doctor. Your relief at hearing the good news is cut short as the doctor continues ...

"However, we honestly do not know what these lumps truly are unless we examine some cells under the microscope. So I'd suggest that we do a simple needle biopsy, place some cells on a slide and send the slides to a veterinary pathologist for a definite diagnosis."

The doctor in this case is being thorough and careful. How true it is that a definitive diagnosis of "what it is" simply cannot be made without microscopic examination of the lump's cells. A veterinary specialist in pathology is the final authority and judge when it comes to shedding light on these lumps and bumps that we too often find on our canine pals.



The lipoma is one of the most commonly encountered lumps seen by veterinarians during a physical exam. These soft, rounded, non-painful masses, usually present just under the skin but occasionally arising from connective tissues deep between muscles, are generally benign. That is, they stay in one place, do not invade surrounding tissues and do not metastasize to other areas of the body.

They grow to a certain size and just sit there in the tissues and behave themselves.

Most lipomas do not have to be removed. Occasionally, though, lipomas will continue to grow into huge fat deposits that are a discomfort to the dog and present a surgical challenge to remove. And even more rarely, some lipomas will be malignant and spread throughout the dog's body.

Is it a tumor?

And therein lies the true challenge in dealing with lumps and bumps on dogs -- we simply cannot predict with 100% accuracy just what any of these foreigners will do. So we do the best we can by removing them when indicated or keeping a close guard over them so that at the first sign of change they can be removed.

Not every lump or bump on your dog will be a tumor. Some superficial bumps are due simply to plugged oil glands in the skin, called sebaceous cysts. Skin cysts can be composed of dead cells or even sweat or clear fluid; these often rupture on their own, heal, and are never seen again. Others become chronically irritated or infected, and should be removed and then checked by a pathologist just to be sure of what they are. Some breeds, especially the Cocker Spaniel, are prone to developing sebaceous cysts.

And yes, the sebaceous glands in the skin do occasionally develop into tumors called sebaceous adenomas. According to Richard Dubielzig, DVM, of the University of Wisconsin-

Lumps and Bumps on Dogs *(continued)*



sin, School of Veterinary Medicine, "Probably the most commonly biopsied lump from dog skin is a sebaceous adenoma. This does not mean it is the most commonly occurring growth, just that it is most commonly biopsied." Fortunately this type of skin growth rarely pre-

sents trouble after being surgically removed.

So how are you to know which lumps and bumps are dangerous and which can be left alone? Truthfully, you are really only guessing without getting the pathologist involved. Most veterinarians take a conservative approach to the common lipomas and remove them if they are growing rapidly or are located in a sensitive area.

However, caution needs to be observed because even the common lipoma has an invasive form called an infiltrative lipoma. For example, when a nasty looking, reddened, rapidly growing mass is detected growing on the gum aggressive action is indicated. Also, keep in mind that not all lumps and bumps are cancerous, and some are fairly innocent and do not warrant immediate surgery.

Types of Lumps and Bumps

Non-cancerous lumps

Cysts, warts, infected hair follicles, hematomas (blood blisters) and others do cause concern and can create discomfort for the dog, though non-cancerous lumps have less health impact than cancerous growths.

Cancerous lumps

Cancerous growths can be either malignant or benign, and occasionally even share characteristics of both.

Malignant lumps tend to spread rapidly and can metastasize to other areas of the body. Benign growths tend to stay in the place of origin and do not metastasize; however they can grow to huge proportions (see such an example of inoperable tumor pictured on the right).

Mammary gland tumors, mast cell tumors, cutaneous lymphosarcoma, malignant melanoma, fibrosarcoma and many other types of tumors with truly scary names command respect and diligent attention on the part of dog owners and veterinarians.

Diagnosis

Below are the most common methods of finding out "what it is" ...

Impression Smears

Some ulcerated masses lend themselves to easy cell collection and identification by having a glass microscope slide pressed against the raw surface of the mass. The collected cells are dried and sent to a pathologist for staining and diagnosis. Sometimes the attending veterinarian will be able to make a diagnosis via the smear; otherwise, a specialist in veterinary pathology will be the authority regarding tumor type and stage of malignancy.

Needle Biopsy

Many lumps can be analyzed via a needle biopsy rather than by total excision. A needle biopsy is performed by inserting a sterile needle into the lump, pulling back on the plunger, and "vacuuming" in cells from the lump. The collected cells are smeared onto a glass slide for pathological examination. Usually the patient isn't even aware of the procedure. Total excision of the mass is attempted if the class of tumor identified warrants



Lumps and Bumps on Dogs *(continued)*

surgery.

CT Scans

Superficial lumps and bumps do not require that CT Scans be done, so this procedure is usually reserved for internal organ analysis. If a superficial malignant tumor is diagnosed, however, a CT Scan can be helpful in determining if metastasis to deeper areas of the body has occurred.



tumors. A combination of surgery and radiation/chemotherapy can help the veterinarian gain the upper hand in achieving a cure. Chemotherapy is often employed as an additional precautionary procedure after a mass has been "removed" via surgery.

Radiation

For invasive tumors that do not have well defined borders and for tumors that tend to spread rapidly, radiation therapy can be a lifesaver. Available at most veterinary medical schools and some veterinary specialists in radiology, radiation therapy is appropriate for certain types of tumors. Radiation is often employed in addition to surgical excision.

Experimental

Emerging science such as gene therapy and immunotherapy hold promise for some amazing ways to combat tumors. The future looks promising for these new methods of dealing with tumors.

Radiography

As with CT Scans, X-ray evaluation is generally reserved for collecting evidence of internal masses. Most lipomas are superficial and reside under the skin or skeletal muscles. There are other lumps that can be palpated by the veterinarian via manual examination; however, the extent and origin of that mass will often be best revealed via CT Scanning.

Treatment

Since every type of cell in the body potentially could evolve into cancerous tissue, the types and ferocity of tumors that develop in the dog are numerous and highly varied. Each case needs to be evaluated on its own circumstances and variables. For example, should surgery be done on a 16-year-old dog with what appears to be a 3-inch wide lipoma? Maybe not. Should that same dog have a quarter inch wide, black, nodular mass removed from its lower gum. Probably should! That small growth may be a melanoma that could metastasize to other areas of the dog's body.

Surgery

An important basic tool in eliminating a nuisance or dangerous lump is to surgically excise it.

Chemotherapy

Chemicals that are highly toxic to rapidly dividing cells make up an important mode of treatment for fast growing

According to Dr. Dubielzig, the best approach to understanding what to do about a lump or bump on your dog is to be vigilant and treat each situation individually. "In cases where vigilance for tumors is part of the animal's care, such as in animals where a malignant tumor has been removed and the veterinarian wishes to keep abreast of the stage of disease, then every lump should be submitted for histopathology," Dubielzig said. "In other cases where the clinician is sure of a benign diagnosis such as lipoma or a wart-like skin mass then it might be understandable to use discretion. The clinician also has to take into consideration the risk of surgery compared to the risk of health problems from a particular lump or bump."

Take a good surface inventory of your dog today, then at least once a month from now on. If you find any imperfections, take heart in knowing that modern veterinary medicine has some very effective remedies for almost all of these lumps and bumps.

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue

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Next Meeting

Thursday, September 12th 7:30 p.m.
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park

We love having happy healthy Golden Retrievers at our meetings! Please make sure your dog is up to date on shots and vaccinations please!

To Adopt or Surrender a Dog Call the GRR Phone Lines: (314) 995-5477

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