



NEWSLETTER



Summer 2010

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Summer is here and July is half over. Wow, time is really flying. The authors wrote some very good articles in last year's newsletters. I encourage you to take a look at them when you get a chance. For example: Our friend Patty's dog went into heatstroke last summer. Patty remembered the article on heatstroke in the July 09 issue. The tips in the article helped Patty save her dog from serious harm. The Skye and the frog article gave a good chuckle about the encounters of a dog with a toad. What to do about loose dogs was featured in June 09. There are so many great articles for your reading pleasure.

We would love your help for upcoming newsletters. This month we are asking for volunteers to help us with three topics for the next newsletter.

1. We would like to hear from those of you that have dogs fearful of storms. An old, very old, suggestion was to wipe your dog down with a dryer sheet before a storm comes in. This can reduce and sometimes eliminate their fear response. The dryer sheet removes the static the dog feels in the air. This in turn reduces their fear response. I have one report that putting liquid fabric softener on a towel and wiping their dog worked. I would like for all of you that have a dog with storm fright to try this and send us your results. This will not work with dogs afraid of the noise. For those dogs, see Jennifer's article about the Ark Naturals Happy Traveler. If you try them, please let us know how they worked. The results sent to us will be posted in the next newsletter.

2. We would also like to hear from those of you that have had a DNA test done on your dog. We need a picture of your dog, the test results and the product used or lab used for testing. Some of the ones we already have will be in this newsletter. All others will be added to the next issue.

3. Send us pictures of your vacations with your dogs. Many people have asked where they can take their dogs so show us where you went. We will feature it in the next issue.

The Hiking Club has been growing in popularity. If anyone wants to join us, please check the website for dates, times and locations.
<http://hikingclub.lovingpawslc.com>

We are changing the sign up format for all specialty classes. If you are interested in a specialty class (trick, trick II, freestyle, refresher, shy & fearful, reactive dog etc) you are to contact me to be put on a sign up list. Once the list is full, we will put the class into the schedule. For all other upcoming classes please look at the home page on the website www.lovingpawslc.com. The very last of the outside level III classes are listed on the website. Take advantage of these while you can. The next ones will not take place until spring of 2011.

Wish me luck in my search for a new place. Agility classes will start up again when I find a spot big enough to hold them. We have had some awesome outside classes this spring. Great dogs, great people and lots of fun. Look at the website for all new class listings www.lovingpawslc.com.

Until next time, enjoy the summer and stay in touch. We love hearing from you.

Odds & Ends

Poisonous Plants To Dogs

by Laura Yurchak

Many people have asked me to provide a list of poisonous plant to dogs. There are so many different lists available. There isn't one that contains the information everyone would like to see.

Some include all or some indoor plants, outdoor plants, shrubs, wild plants and trees. Some are categorized by the plant and its toxic parts, some by how they affect the internal organs and others just list the plant, shrub or tree. I felt that the only way to give everyone the information they want is to give you the best links to the sites I found. If you are looking for something specific, I suggest looking at all of the sites.

I thought I had a pretty good idea about the things that are toxic to dogs. I didn't realize that Rhubarb leaves, raw or cooked can cause convulsions, coma, and death. Maybe that's why I never liked Rhubarb! Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, difficult breathing, abnormal urine (color, smell, frequency, etc.), salivation, and weakness. Some plants may just cause vomiting or diarrhea but others can cause organ failure or death. If you think your dog may have eaten a poisonous plant, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinarian immediately. Take a sample of the vomit, stool, and suspected plant with you. Your quick response could save your dog's life.

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants>

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/plants_poisonous_to_pets.html

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/dogs/index.html>

New Kong Wobbler is a Hit!

By Amy Wence

I recently purchased the new Kong Wobbler from Petsmart in Kenosha. It was a big hit in my house! Both of my dogs had a blast batting it around trying to get the treats. Ella likes to smack it around with her paws, while Comiskey prefers to push it with his nose. It keeps them occupied and makes feeding kibble more fun! I like to mix it up and add some almonds, cheerios, marshmallows and various doggie treats.

The opening isn't very large, so kibble or small treats work best. It's very easy to clean and wipe off. The bottom is weighted to keep it from rolling all over and the top unscrews for easy cleaning and filling. It is a bit large and would probably be best for medium to large dogs. Kong has a great video of dogs having fun with the Wobbler.

Check it out:

<http://www.kongcompany.com/kongwobblevideo.html>



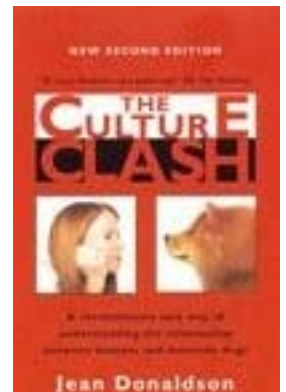
LOVING PAWS FLEA MARKET

<http://www.lovingpawslc.com/flea-market>

I wanted everyone to know that we have a page on our website for clients to post items that they want to sell. It must be animal related. It can range from gifts for a pet or gifts for a person.

If you are interested in something, just contact the person and make the deal.

Only Loving Paws clients can post items there. Anyone can buy. Here is a sample of what we have on it now.



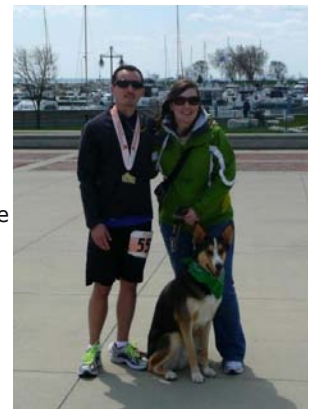
Safe Harbor Marathon Fundraiser Update

Thank you so much to everyone that pledged their support for Jose and donated to our Safe Harbor Marathon Fundraiser in May. We raised about \$1,600 for Safe Harbor Humane Society in Kenosha! They were so happy to receive the check and all of it will go towards helping animals in need. Jose completed the marathon in 3 hours and 18 minutes. He tied for 28th place out of the 800 people that finished.

Unfortunately, it was not enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon so he will attempt to do that in October when he runs the Chicago Marathon.

Thanks again!

Amy, Jose, Ella, & Comiskey Wence



P&G Acquires Natura Pet Products

by Amy Wence

Procter & Gamble (maker of Iams & Eukanuba) recently acquired Natura Pet Products. Natura manufactures the pet

food brands: Innova, Evo, California Natural, Healthwise, Karma, and Mother Nature. The acquisition took effect in June. To read more about this, please visit:

<http://www.pginvestor.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=104574&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1422726> &

<http://www.naturapet.com/news/letter.asp>

What Dog Breed Is It?

By Laura Yurchak

"What breed do you think my dog is?" I get this question often. I answer this question with another question. What does your dog do? Do they hunt, herd, chase, or observe? A dog's play pattern and behavior tendencies can give you an indication of what type of breed they may be.

Now we have DNA tests that can give us information on a dogs breed. Amy Wence did a great job explaining her experience with the test in the August 2009 newsletter article "Mixed Feelings about Mixed Breed Analysis" <http://www.lovingpawslc.com/newsletters>. I am asking those of you that have had the test done on their dog to share their finding with us. We will print your results in the next newsletter. Here are a couple results we would like to share with you now.

HARLEY YURCHAK



Testing Lab: BioPet Vet Lab – mouth swab – February 2010
Results: Level 2 : 37-74% Border Collie Level 4: 10-19% Labrador
Level 4: 10-19% Poodle



Harley has some brown coming out on his sides and floppy ears, which are not traits of a Border Collie. He also lacks the Border Collie "eye". I did some research on the Border Collie. The Book of Job, in the Old Testament, briefly mentions dogs working sheep. The first mention of dogs working sheep in a similar way to the Border Collie was in 1570. The first reference to the word "collie" wasn't until 1617. (Border Collies by Margaret Collier) There are no breed records of how this breed evolved. There is only speculation as to what breeds may have contributed to their existence.

GINGER McLAIN



Testing Lab: Mars Veterinary – May 2008
Results: Akita German Shep Mastiff (Entlebucher) Samoyed



When we first received Ginger's Wisdom Panel results, we could definitely see the GSD, possibly the Samoyed and the Akita but Mastiff was just off the charts.

I did a little bit of internet hunting on the Mastiff breed and found that the Entlebucher is Mastiff derivative. When looking at the photos of the breed, I could see quite a bit a Ginger in there, especially as a puppy. They are herding dogs, so that would also explain a lot. She is definitely a herder, that's why we all thought she had border collie in her.

LANCE CHALLAND



Testing Lab's name: – Wisdom Panel Insights
Results - At least 25% Pembroke Welsh Corgi and at least 12.5% Irish Setter



If you would like to send us your results to post in the next newsletter please send the following to Laura@lovingpawslc.com

- Your Dog's Name
- Testing Lab's name
- Results
- Picture of your dog and a picture of the dogs that make up your dog's DNA.

Plastic, BPA and Your Dog

By Jennifer Lueck

What is BPA?

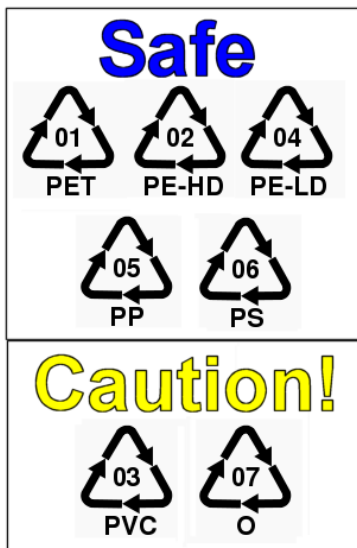
Bisphenol A, or BPA, is a chemical building block that is used primarily to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. It is commonly found in plastic bottles and food can liners.

Is it safe?

There is a lot of controversy about whether BPA is safe for humans. It has been shown that more than 90% of Americans have detectable BPA in their bodies. The FDA issued a draft assessment in 2008 saying that BPA was safe. Shortly thereafter, the National Toxicology Program disagreed, saying that exposure during critical times may lead to certain health effects, including behavioral problems like ADD and ADHD, diabetes, reproductive disorders, developments of certain kinds of cancers, asthma and cardiovascular disease. The FDA now agrees there are some health concerns with BPA and are advising Americans to take "reasonable steps" to avoid BPA. The January 2010 update on the FDA website states that low level exposure to BPA is safe for humans, but they have "concerns" about the "potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior and prostate gland in fetuses, infants and young children."

How can you tell if plastic has BPA in it?

The easiest way is to look at the recycling symbol. Types 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE), 4 (LDPE), 5 (polypropylene) and 6 (polystyrene) do not use BPA during polymerization. Type 3 (PVC) can contain BPA, but is limited to "flexible PVC." Type 7 is the catch-all for all other kinds of plastic. Some type 7 plastics, such as polycarbonate and epoxy resins are made from BPA monomer. If you are buying a plastic product and it has a 3 or 7 recycling code on it, look for the words "BPA-Free" before you buy it.



If you find that you have plastic food or beverage containers of type 3 or 7 and want to continue to use them, do not put very hot food or liquid in them because BPA levels rise in food as the chemical in the plastic is heated and comes into contact with food. Discard all plastic containers or bottles that have scratches because they can harbor bacteria, and if they contain BPA, the scratches can lead to a greater release of BPA.

BPA and your dog

It appears that no studies have been done on the exposure level of BPA in dogs. It stands to reason, however, that if humans have detectable levels of BPA in their bodies, dogs do as well. Just think of all the plastic dogs come into contact in their lives: plastic food and water bowls, water bottles, plastic dog toys, plastic doggy doors, the white epoxy lining in canned dog food, etc.

One very easy way to limit your dog's exposure to BPA is to switch from plastic food and water bowls to stainless steel or ceramic. I went to several stores where plastic dog bowls are sold and checked the recycling symbols. Not one bowl had a recycling symbol on it! My feeling is, unless the bowl specifically says it is BPA free, don't risk it.

Another reason to avoid plastic dishes is that some dogs can develop plastic dish dermatitis, which is an irritation of the skin, particularly of the nose. Some dogs also get pimples from eating and drinking from plastic dishes.

If you store your dog's kibble in a plastic container, it is best to store the food in the bag it came in inside the container.

Doing so will limit the contact the food has with the plastic and also prevent spoiled food that might be in the container from contaminating the new food. In addition, keeping the dog food bag means you will have the manufacturing and contact information if there is a recall or if your dog gets sick.

It is unclear at this time just how serious the threat to our health BPA really is.

Until we know for sure if it is truly safe or dangerous, I believe we should follow the advice of the FDA and take reasonable steps to avoid BPA exposure to the humans and dogs in our families.

Sources:

<http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publicheal/focus/ucm064437.htm>

<http://www.hhs.gov/safety/bpa/>

<http://www.webmd.com/diet/news/2010115/fda-on-bpa-some-concern-no-ban>

Product Review: Ark Naturals Happy Traveler By Jennifer Lueck



My dogs Gabe and Casey are very frightened by fireworks, which makes the 4th of July an unhappy day for us. This year I decided to try to give them something to help them with their anxiety: Ark Naturals Happy

Traveler. According to the bottle it is an "All Natural Calming Product" that "helps anxiety and nervous behavior."

Its main ingredients are Valerian, German Chamomile, L-Tryptophan and St. John's Wort.

The bottle says to allow 20-40 minutes for Happy Traveler to be effective so I gave both dogs the recommended dosage for their weight (2 tablets) at 7:30 pm. I gave them a third tablet an hour later, as the bottle recommended.

By the time the fireworks were going off steadily in my neighborhood, my dogs were both quite relaxed. Casey got a little upset by the loudest fireworks, but she settled down quickly each time. I don't think Gabe even noticed them. This Fourth of July was much less stressful for my dogs than ever before!

I recently tested Happy Traveler with a storm, too. I knew we were expecting a storm during the night so I gave Gabe two tablets before bed. I didn't give any to Casey because storms don't usually bother her. The storm hit at 1:30 am and Gabe handled it very well. He was awake during the storm but didn't bark, pace or pant. Casey, on the other hand, was a nervous wreck, but it was too late to give her any Happy Traveler. She was anxious, wouldn't settle down and panted through the whole storm. I gave her Rescue Remedy, but she was still quite anxious.

Happy Traveler has definitely helped my dogs and I highly recommend it for anyone who has a dog that is scared of storms or fireworks!!!

You can buy Happy Traveler at Petco and online at www.mothernature.com and www.amazon.com.

Flea & Tick Treatments: Are They the Best Option?

By Amy Wence

Fleas and ticks are the number one foe to dogs, cats, and pet owners everywhere.

They are not only a nuisance, but can transmit diseases to both pets and humans alike. If you've never experienced it, a flea infestation can be a nightmare to deal with, especially when multiple animals live in the home. Flea and tick preventatives seem like the obvious choice and simplest approach for dealing with such unwelcome pests. While many of these products are effective in killing fleas and ticks, their toxicity to humans and animals should be taken under serious consideration before using. Veterinarians commonly recommend flea and tick preventatives, but this does not imply that they are totally safe. Veterinarians prescribe many medications that have risks or side effects involved and flea and tick treatments are no exception. So, what is a pet owner to do? The goal of this article is to present facts, discuss options, and educate owners so that you can make an informed decision when it comes to flea and tick treatment and prevention.

Get the Facts

The most common topical flea and tick preventatives on the market today are EPA registered pesticides. These include: Frontline, Frontline Plus, Advantage & K-9 Advantix; just to name a few. For a complete list, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/health/prodname-reg.pdf>. In April of 2009, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) began investigating these monthly "spot-on" flea and tick treatments after a significant increase in the number of adverse reactions and even deaths being reported.

"Incidents reported by consumers who used the products on their pets rose from 28,895 in 2007 to 44,263 in 2008, an increase of 53 percent in one year. Most of the problems were minor, such as skin rashes, but about 600 dogs and cats died in the incidents reported in 2008, EPA records show"

(<http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/is-frontline-safe-0318>).

After a year-long investigation, the EPA reported: "The main organ systems affected were the dermal, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. Clinical signs included such effects as vomiting, diarrhea, salivation, itching, hair loss, skin ulceration, lethargy, nervousness, ataxia, tremors, and seizure. Although most incidents were classified minor, all products had some deaths and/or incidents classified as major"

(<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480abc643>). The EPA investigation also found that small dogs (<20lbs) were most at risk for an adverse reaction from the spot-on pesticide. In response to the findings, the EPA plans to place further restrictions on

dosages and labels, as well as impose tighter regulations which include standardized reporting, pre-market clinical trials and post-market surveillance.

Weigh the Risks

According to Merial, the manufacturer of Frontline, "When you apply FRONTLINE, fipronil, the active ingredient, is stored in the oil glands under your pet's skin. It is then distributed continuously to the skin and hair of your pet through the hair follicles."

(http://frontline.us.merial.com/prd_how.asp) This statement taken directly from Merial's website is misleading because it gives the impression that the pesticide does not migrate further into the body affecting other organs. However, an EPA study that used radio-labeled fipronil demonstrated that it is indeed absorbed systemically in dogs.

(<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/chemical/foia/cleared-reviews/reviews/129121/129121-85b.pdf>)

That is a major concern considering the hazards pesticides pose to the body.

Topical flea and tick treatments may use low concentrations of pesticide, but one should question the cumulative health effects from a lifetime of small doses of poison. Chronic diseases can take years to manifest and it may be impossible to pinpoint the cause. Furthermore, the EPA does not require cumulative effects of the products to be tested before it can be registered and made commercially available. Therefore, we may never know the chronic effects such products can have on our dogs (or cats). However, at higher concentrations we know from laboratory animal studies, that Fipronil (used in Frontline products), Imidacloprid (used in Advantage and K9 Advantix), and Permethrin (used in K9 Advantix and BioSpot) are carcinogens (cancer-causing agents), neurotoxins, teratogens (reproductive damage), and are capable of causing organ damage. These products are not only a concern for your pet, but also for the other members of your family.

Kids are especially a concern because they often play and come into close contact with pets and can accidentally ingest these pesticides. Also, children's nervous systems are still developing, so doses that may be safe for adults are not safe for children and can cause lasting damage. To learn more about the dangers these products pose to young children, please visit:

<http://www2.nrdc.org/health/effects/npets.asp>

Ok, so fleas are more of a nuisance, but ticks are a little more worrisome because of the nasty diseases they carry. If you feel it necessary to use pesticides for fear of ticks alone, consider this: Many of the tick-borne diseases, including Lyme and Anaplasmosis, are transmitted within 24-

48 from the time the tick attaches to its host. Frontline Plus does not repel ticks or even prevent them from attaching.

Instead, it kills ticks within 48 hours of contact (http://frontline.us.merial.com/hlp_fa.asp); which means ticks still have an opportunity to transmit disease before being killed. Also, the more common tick-borne diseases can be caught early with testing or annual screenings and can often be treated successfully with relatively safe and inexpensive antibiotics.

Know Your Alternatives

Although harsh pesticides are probably most effective in killing fleas, there are safer alternatives to explore. They may require a little more effort on your part, but the upside is that they do not pose any health risks to you or your pets. Natural ways to keep fleas and ticks at bay include: frequent grooming with a flea comb, use of a tick removing device such as Ticked Off

(<http://hikingclub.lovingpawllc.com/gear>), bathing your dog regularly, vacuuming frequently, washing pet bedding often, and keeping outdoor areas trimmed. There are also safe and effective lawn treatments, such as EcoSmart Insect Killer that can be used. (carried at Lowes & Walmart) Essential oils can be useful as well, but be aware that not all essential oils are safe. Some, such as clove and pennyroyal oil may cause severe allergic reactions and should be avoided. Herbal or natural products that contain cedarwood, lemongrass, peppermint, rosemary and thyme are safest.

Make a Choice

Now that you have the facts and are aware of the risks and alternatives, it's time to decide what's right for you and your pet.

If you'd like more help with your decision, the NRDC (National Resource Defense Council) has a wonderful site called www.greenpaws.org, which is dedicated to educating pet owners about various flea and tick treatments. The website has a nifty product guide which assesses the risk level of each product...rating it one paw for the safest and three paws for the most hazardous. And for a quick pocket guide to safer flea and tick treatment, please visit:

http://www.greenpaws.org/_docs/GP_pocketguide.pdf

Sources:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/petproductseval.html>

http://www.apnm.org/publications/resources/flea_chemfin.pdf

<http://www.greenpaws.org/>

<http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/is-frontline-safe-0318>

http://frontline.us.merial.com/prd_how.asp6

<http://www2.nrdc.org/health/effects/npets.asp>

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/chemical/foia/cleared-reviews/reviews/129121/129121-85b.pdf>

Lance's Little Adventure

by Stephanie Challand

The end of a long cold winter brings a relief and the start of many more outdoor activities such as yard work, extra walks and just relaxing outside with your dog. All of which are great fun for both of you, but can also lead to trouble should your dog find his or her way out of your yard. One day in late April, I was outside working in the yard. All three dogs were outside with me securely inside the fence. I was on the north side of our house, outside the fence, pulling weeds and going in and out of the gate occasionally. At one point, I came back through the gate to go inside for a minute to check on dinner, which was cooking in the crock pot. Lacey and Logan followed me in the house but Lance who loves it outside stayed in the yard, inside the fence, or so I thought.

About 15 minutes later, I went back outside and left Lacey and Logan in the house. I didn't even get off the first step before realizing something was not right. I noticed the gate was standing wide open and Lance was nowhere to be seen. I went out the open gate and around the side of the house to the front where the garage was open. Lance LOVES to go for car rides so I thought he might be in the garage by the car waiting for me to take him for a ride. No such luck. I walked back around the house the way I came from, yelling 'Lance Here'.

By this time, I was starting to get quite worried. The whole time I was walking, I was thinking what am I going to do? I decided to go back into the house, grab the whistle I used when starting to teach Lance his recall, Lacey his favorite little doggie buddy and my car keys to go looking for him. As I came around the

side of the house to the open gate, I saw Lance on the other side of the fence by the second gate, which was closed. He was standing there all wiggly and happy. I am not sure whether he was happy to see me or because he came back when called, or for some other reason and really didn't care. I was just so happy to see him!! I walked over and opened the gate to let him in. He walked back into the yard happy as could be. I rewarded him with all of the treats I had left in my pocket, petted and hugged him and threw his Frisbee for him for a few minutes. Jackpot city!!! I wanted to make sure he knew he was the BEST DOG EVER for coming back when called!!!

I will never know for sure where he went on his little adventure but it could have ended much worse. We have a really busy highway not too far away and I dread to think what could have happened had he wandered that way. Lance and I practice his recall quite often and he has always been really great at coming back when on a 50 or 100 foot leash, but for him to come back when he got out on his own was AWESOME!! Moral of the story having a way to get your dog back home could save THEIR LIFE! Should your dog ever get loose and not come back so quickly there are many things you

can do to help get them home safely.

Making sure your dog has proper identification on at all times is a must. An id tag and microchip are two of the best forms of identification your dog can have. Have a list of the local shelter numbers you can call to report your dog missing in case someone should bring him or her there. If your dog is known to be an escape artist have a stack of flyers ready to go so you can start handing them out immediately. Enlist the help of friends and family to help you search. Bring along your dog's favorite toy or doggie buddy to help with the search. Teach your dog a good recall and 'Chase me' before it is needed in a real-life situation. For more great ideas and tips see: Lost Dog: What to do if your dog goes missing by Amy Wence in our December 2008 Newsletter.



Elementary, My Dear Grammy

By Casey Lueck

Yesterday me and Gabester were playing by the shed and we smelled a mouse inside.

We knew my mom wouldn't want a mouse in there so we worked together to get the door open. The door on our shed doesn't stay closed when it's windy so Mom puts a bungee cord on the door to keep it from blowing open. Gabe used his paws to open the door and I held it open so he could squeeze in. But then there was a bird flying the yard so I had to let go of the door to go chase it. Oops! The door shut and Gabe got trapped inside! I went back to help him get out but then there was another bird flying in the yard so I had to go chase it. And then there was a noise so I had to bark. And then Grammy called me to come in the house because she doesn't like it when I bark.

A little while later Grammy started to wonder where Gabe was. I forgot all about him! She looked all over the house and the yard but she couldn't find him anywhere. She was about to call 911 but then she asked me to help her find him -- probably because I was Sherlock Bones for Halloween. Elementary my dear Grammy! I brought her right to the shed and she opened the door and there was Gabe, just finishing off the mouse.

