



Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

NOT A MEMBER? If you have not yet subscribed to **Dog Talk Weekly**, you might want to do so and get your own copies delivered to you via email. It's a free publication. No obligation. **Sign up here:** www.dogtalkweekly.com

Issue 10.10.2 – Oct. 30, 2010

Welcome back to another issue of Dog Talk Weekly. This week, I share with you a story about my neighbor's new puppy and how Tyler has responded. Read the article on wild animals interacting with your dog and what you absolutely **MUST** do to ensure your dog's safety as well as that of your family.

If you have any questions about dogs that you'd like me to answer, simply send them to me via my contact form here and I'll do some research:

<http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

Thank you.

Enjoy the issue.

=====

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **Feature Article: Protect Your Dog From Wild Animals**
2. **Personal Story: Tyler and the New Puppy**
3. **Dog of the Week: German Shorthaired Pointer**
4. **Regular Sections:**
 - Dog Nutrition
 - Dog Training
 - Dog Trivia
 - Dog Talk Weekly News

~~~~~

## **Feature Article: Protect Your Dog From Wild Animals**

One huge threat to the health and safety of your dog, you and your family is wild animals. They spread serious diseases, some deadly. It is crucial that you take steps to protect your dog.

First, let's take a look at a few common problem – Raccoons and Skunks.

This time of year, they are scavenging for food. They tend to move around more at dawn and evening when they can hide in the shadows. If you have bird feeders, as I do, you are sure to attract these undesirable animals as well as birds, squirrels and chipmunks.

If possible, place these feeding stations as far away from your house as possible, for a number of reasons.

1. To keep these animals away from your door and house. Once your house has been targeted, raccoons can claw holes into your roof to nest. This can be very expensive to repair. Plus, bird seeds also attract small rodents like mice, which will soon find their way into your building.

2. It places them at a distance so they can escape before your dog gets to them.

3. It helps deter them from leaving body fluids near your door. Some contagious diseases are transmitted through saliva. If raccoons are dining near your door, they will leave a trail. The fresher it is, the more dangerous. Your dog is sure to investigate it and could ingest the fluids and contract the disease.

Make sure your dog has his shots up to date and that they are good for the common diseases in your area. This usually includes rabies, parvovirus, and distemper. Parvo is almost as dangerous as rabies in that it cannot be cured in most instances.

If your dog comes in contact with a raccoon or skunk (if he gets sprayed), immediately rinse his face and mouth with clear cool water for a good 5 minutes. The chemicals in these sprays and protective odors can burn your dog's eyes and mouth. Plus they don't taste very pleasant.

The other day, Tyler met up with either a raccoon or a skunk in my back yard. I couldn't tell which it was because it was dark outside. Tyler came running to me when I called. He was frothing at the mouth and pawing his face, sneezing and shaking his head.

Fortunately, if it was a skunk, he didn't get sprayed very badly because he didn't smell too much. Still not pleasant, though.

I haven't been able to find information on raccoons when it comes to their defensive odor mechanism. I don't believe they can spray like a skunk, but they do smell bad when afraid. Tyler might have grabbed him in the back end and got this chemical in his mouth. Either that, or it really was a skunk and we just got lucky.

I immediately took him inside to the tub and ran cold water over his face and into his mouth. He wasn't too happy with this treatment, but I'm sure he was grateful for the after effects.

Now, the best way to protect your dog from wild animals is simply to prevent them from meeting. Unfortunately, that's not always possible.

Know what diseases put your dog at risk and keep his shots up to date. What they don't always tell you is that the shots are strongest in the first 6 months. After that, they weaken and your dog becomes less protected over time.

They used to suggest getting shots once a year, but during my recent visit to the vets, I was told they now have a 3-year vaccine. Even so, do not wait until the last minute. Find out from your vet exactly how much protection your dog will have and when is the best time to get the next shot.

It only takes a second for your dog to come in contact with a wild animal. I let Tyler out at around 9 p.m. and hadn't even left the room when I heard the commotion outside.

Put in motion detectors for added protection. Point them as far down your garden as you can and always check for wild animals before letting your dog out, especially at night.

## **Personal Story: Tyler and the New Puppy**



***Cute, or what? Let me introduce Tyson, a true German Shepherd puppy bred from descendants that the breeder brought to Canada from Germany.***

---

This week, my neighbor's new puppy arrived. Who doesn't get excited on these special occasions?

I couldn't wait to meet the 8-week old German Shepherd puppy. He's just as cute as I expected.

His owner has named him Tyson – after the famous boxer.

The first night in his new home was a scary one for the little guy. He spent the night in a blanketed crate with a bunch of toys for company, but it probably didn't help much. He wanted his mother.

Apparently, he cried during the night. When he was in the yard the next day he was afraid of Tyson and his new surroundings. He kept whimpering and heading to the corner of the yard, near the house where he must have felt safer.

I felt so sorry for him. Poor little guy, taken from his familiar surroundings and family. He must have felt abandoned and confused.

Can you imagine what it must be like? I can't, but I have a pretty good idea.

His owner was very good with him, making sure he had lots of attention and good food.

They tried to take a walk, but Tyson was reluctant so they didn't get off the driveway. Next day, he was feeling a little braver and was soon hovering near the fence where Tyler was bouncing around with excitement. He still whimpered, but he was wagging his tail and didn't go far away before he returned.

The day after, his owner was heading out for another walk, but Tyson was still wary of the idea. He had gotten over a lot of his shyness, however, and readily came to me to be fussed. I'm sure he was looking for the nurturing that his mother would have given him.

We headed down the driveway and I noticed that Tyson was more comfortable having this other person along. I guess it felt more like a pack with three of us. We made it almost a complete block until a car went by and scared him. He whimpered and pulled back on the leash.

We decided he'd done very well and took him home.

Since then, he's met Joey the Chihuahua from the house next door. They got along splendidly. Tyler wanted in on the action, too, so the day after, he decided he was going over the fence.

I wondered where the heck he went until I heard my neighbor's father playing with the ball. I knew immediately. Tyler loves balls. If you've read the earlier issues of Dog Talk Weekly, you might recall the story of my back neighbor's boys who repeatedly enticed Tyler into their yard to play ball. It didn't require much encouragement. He easily soared over the back fence, and now the side fence.

The great thing is that he's fabulous with the puppy. I was afraid he might try to hurt him, but he was so happy to spend time with him and to play ball with the father.

The problem now is keeping Tyler in my yard.

Hop over to [The Blog](#) for more pictures. Click on the **Photo Gallery** page.

## **Dog of the Week: German Shorthaired Pointer**

I decided to do this dog today because of a new TV show I discovered. It's called "Pick A Puppy" and this is the breed the family chose over the Husky and the Shepherd. They were looking for a high energy dog that was affectionate and playful for their large family of 5.

They also wanted it to be a protector, since the children spend a lot of time playing in a wilderness area behind



their house. They felt this breed would ward off any dangers they might face from wild animals that frequent the area.

The German Shorthaired Pointer is a versatile hunter that doesn't just trail and retrieve, but it also points, ergo its name. After locating the prey, it will stop and point its body in the direction of the animal so that his owner can retrieve it.

The breed, which combines the Spanish Pointer, the Hannover Hound and the English Pointer, was introduced into America in the late 1920s, gaining AKC recognition in 1930.

It has the reputation of being an ideal dog for hunting that is also an obedient and loyal companion.

It lives for the day it can hit the fields hunting, only to curl up beside his owner in the evening. This active nature means that this dog requires a lot of daily exercise or he will become frustrated and anxious.

One downside to this breed is their whining or barking.

It thrives on mental and physical stimulation which are made available through hunting exercises, long hikes or lengthy play periods. Although it can live outside in warm weather, it is better designed to live indoors with access to a good yard.

Considering its short coat, grooming is minimal to remove dead fur and keep the coat shiny and free of dirt and debris. This is especially important if he has been running the fields, getting into burs, brambles and various grasses that can cling to his coat.

The biggest health concern is lymphedema, with potential minor problems including gastric torsion (common in deep-chested dogs), OCD and hypothyroidism. Recommended tests are hip, eye, vWD, cardiac and thyroid.

The life expectancy of the German Shorthaired Pointer is between 12 and 14 years.

Hunters love this breed for good reason. They make excellent working Gundogs, combining agility, power and endurance.

Its coloring gives the breed the camouflage it needs when hunting and tracking prey. Common colors are liver or a combination of liver and white. Some have a more dark than white while others have more white than dark.

This athletic breed's strongest qualities are high energy, high exercise requirements, and good watchdog ability. It is playful, affectionate, and relatively easy to train.

## **Regular Sections:**

### **- Dog Nutrition**

In light of the arrival of my neighbor's new puppy, I wanted to add something here about feeding a puppy and the problems you might face with an adoptee.

Whenever you get a dog, whether it's from a breeder as a very young puppy or as an adult dog (adopted or otherwise), it will help the dog's transition into the new home if you feed him the same food he's been getting.

In the case of Tyson, he had diarrhea his first night in his new home. The owner did continue with the same dog food he'd been getting, but in this case, something else came into play. Stress.

When a dog changes homes, he will experience a certain level of fear and stress. In a puppy, it's more severe because everything is new. Diarrhea and stomach upset is very common.

Do not change the food this early. Give the dog a chance to transition into your home first. The digestive upset should go away in a day or two. In Tyson's case, it was just the one night. He's been fine ever since.

If the diarrhea persists more than 3 days or is very severe, immediately take the dog to the vet. Diarrhea and vomiting can lead to dehydration which can make the puppy very ill quickly and can even be life threatening.

Add water to the food to make it more appetizing for a nervous dog. This also will ensure that he is getting fluids.

Keep in mind that certain medicines can cause diarrhea or vomiting. If you've had reason to give your dog medication, ask the vet about possible side effects.

Take extreme care with over the counter medicines as they are not designed for dogs and can cause kidney and liver damage. In some cases, it can be fatal. **Never** give your dog Advil or Motrin (ibuprofen) or Aleve (naproxen).

Other medicines to watch include:

**Pain relievers** (aspirin, Rimadyl (carprofen), Metacam (meloxicam), Deramaxx (deracoxib), EtoGesic (etodolac), and Butazolidin (phenylbutazone)

**Antibiotics** (amoxicillin, Clavamox, cephalexin, Antirobe (clindamycin), Flagyl (metronidazole) and tetracycline.

**Steroids** – used to treat spinal cord inflammation and paralysis.

**Digoxin** or digitoxin for heart disease.

**Only give your dog medicines that your vet recommends.**

If you think your dog has ingested any of your medication, see the vet emergency clinic right away. Take along the medication containers to show the vet what your dog swallowed.

## **- Dog Training**

### **Dominant Dog Behavior**

This is a biggie for me because Tyler is a dominant dog. Despite all my efforts, I have not been able to fully break him of his dominance, especially on the leash. In other areas, I do have more control now but it requires constant attention. Part of the problem is that he came to me when he was over a year old.

He'd already learned the thrill of being dominant and free-willed. He'd escaped from his first owner and roamed the countryside before he landed at the pound. There's no way he's going to give up that freedom without a struggle.

But... he's around 5 now and is starting, finally, to settle into his age.

If your dog shows dominant behavior, here are some things you can do.

### **Demanding Attention**

Such dogs are constantly demanding attention. Your job is to change this behavior, like jumping up or pestering for attention at that moment.

For very strong willed dogs, like Tyler, you will need specific training methods and equipment. The Haltie head collar is the one that finally worked for him. It fits lightly over his muzzle. When he pulls it tightens over his jaw. He soon learned that not pulling takes the pressure off. It also enables you to turn his attention from whatever is attracting him, by gently turning his head.

This item is really to be used for training your dog to heel. It's taking a long time for Tyler to obey, even though he fully understands the command. I merely have to stop, point to my right and without my speaking a word, he'll come to my side and stand beside me. Perfect! Ah, but when we start to walk again, he pulls ahead. At least he's not bolting now like he was, unless he wants at another dog.

It's a struggle, as you can see. He knows he's stronger than I am and he takes advantage at every opportunity.

The biggest keys to changing this behavior is to be patient and persistent. Never let him get away with pulling on the leash. Give specific instructions and in time, he will learn.

If your dog jumps up on you, do not give him the attention he demands. Fold your arms across your chest and tell him no. Walk away. Repeat this every time he climbs up on you and he will get the message.

Always stop your dog from getting on the furniture. While many dog owners enjoy having their dog on the sofa or on their lap, it really means your dog has control over you. He is putting himself at your height, which means you are no longer the superior member of the pack.

I can tell you that it will take time to turn your dog's behavior around, but it will make your life much easier when it happens.

### **- Dog Trivia**

When your dog shakes a toy, he's really replicating his instincts to attack and kill prey. This is the same reason they enjoy hide and seek, or go find the toy.

Setting a limit on how long your dog can have his toy puts you in control. If he always maintains possession, it empowers him.

### **- Dog Talk Weekly News**

You've been reading Dog Talk Weekly for some time now and you probably have a pretty good idea what types of things it includes.

How about participating? I'd love to receive your short dog-related stories. Did your dog do something cute? Funny? Did you overcome a problem together?

How about photos? Do you have some cute shots of your dog? I'd love to see them.

Send them to me through my contact form and if they are suitable, I'll add them to an upcoming issue of Dog Talk Weekly. <http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

**- Product Recommendations**

I have created several products that might be helpful to you. Check them out.

**Dog Nutrition** is vital to your dog's life expectancy and quality of life. I've written a book on how to make sure your dog gets a healthy, nutritious diet and avoids many of the dangers that come with certain foods. Find out more at <http://healthydognutritionsecrets.com/healthydogPP1.htm>

**Puppy Parenting Course:** Are you drowning in a sea of questions about raising your puppy the right way? This 24-week course feeds you all the information you need in bite-size portions that you can use during your puppy's early years. Get a free trial today. <http://www.dogownersu.com/FreeTrial.htm>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

-----  
By submitting material to Dog Talk Weekly, you understand that you are giving me the rights to use them for Dog Talk Weekly projects (ebooks, videos, ezine). If you do not want to make these rights available to me, please do not send them in.

NOTE – As the original owner, you will still hold the copyright to anything that you send to me for Dog Talk Weekly.

~~~~~  
PLAGIARISM IS A VERY SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Please DO NOT send any material that you have not created and for which you do not own the copyright. Anyone violating the copyright laws can be sued. If you have created something for a client, be sure that you still own the copyright. In most cases, the copyright goes to the client. Images from the Web are not always free to copy and use.

To protect yourself and me, please only send in your own work. That way we will be absolutely sure. I appreciate your help in this regard.
~~~~~

That's it for this issue. I hope you enjoyed it.

Until next week...

Get out there and have fun with your dog. Take some great photos.  
Collect wonderful memories.

Sylvia

P.S.: Don't forget to send me your stories and ideas for upcoming issues of Dog Talk Weekly. Just send them to me through my contact form here: <http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

What? You haven't visited the blog yet?

<http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/>

Did you know you can view Dog Talk Weekly in PDF format online? Simply go to the Archives page where all previous issues are listed. The online version might contain images and other content that is not included in the email version.

~~~~~

Classified Ads:

Do you have something to sell? Advertise it here. Special Rates for Members: \$5 per insertion (regular \$15): 4 lines / 250 characters.

Please send your ad queries to me at

<http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php> .

Please put "Ad Query" in the subject line.

~~~~~