



# Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

Issue 10.4.4 – April 26, 2010

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## A Dog's Sweet Tooth Can Be Dangerous

Have you ever given your dog salty foods, like potato chips? How about sweet things, like candies?

Some dogs take to salt, but it is not normal for them, whereas there are many wild animals that do like it. Deer is one example. Typically, dogs do not crave salt but there are some that enjoy it.

Some dogs have a sweet tooth and will immediately be attracted to anything with a sweet flavor. One problem with this is that sugar candies can damage a dog's teeth just as it can a human's teeth. But that's not the worst of it.

Since these dogs are attracted to anything that is sweet, it includes antifreeze. It has a sweet flavor, which makes it appealing but deadly.

One of the most common deadly substances, antifreeze is freely available. When a car overheats, the radiator will spew antifreeze-laden water over the ground. Spilled antifreeze can settle on solid surfaces in puddles. This can easily happen in Spring and Fall when people change or add antifreeze to their vehicles.

At other times of the year, it can leak from radiators, leaving deposits on garage floors, driveways and other areas frequented by dogs.

It doesn't take much for antifreeze to kill a dog. In fact, as little as 2 ounces can kill a medium-sized dog. According to surveys done in the United States, between 10,000 and

30,000 dogs die each year from ingesting ethylene glycol, a substance that makes up antifreeze.

If your dog walks through antifreeze and begins licking his paws, he can become very ill and likely will die, depending on how much he swallows.

You can spot antifreeze easily by the color of the puddles it leaves, which can be greenish or pinkish.

Dogs that spend time in the garage are at a higher risk because if it is on the ground, their feet will absorb more. Since antifreeze is usually kept in the garage, dogs can gain access to it and drink it. It is a big temptation for them because they are attracted to the sweet smell.

It is not easy to tell if your dog has ingested antifreeze, but some early signs include staggering as if drunk, depression, vomiting and diarrhea. Since the fatality rate is high, it is crucial that you take immediate action.

First, induce vomiting by mixing 3 tablespoons of salt into a half cup of warm water. The dose should be about 2 teaspoons for every 10 pounds of your dog's weight. Use an eyedropper or turkey baster to spray the mixture into the back of your dog's throat.

Seek veterinarian help immediately so that he or she can begin treatment. The treatment is effective if it is administered in the first 9-12 hours of your dog ingesting antifreeze.

Of course, prevention is the best medicine. Always be alert for antifreeze spillage around your property. Keep containers of antifreeze stored out of your dog's reach.

Even better, choose an antifreeze that is less harmful. Propylene glycol is much less toxic than ethylene glycol, but some danger still exists.

### **A Story: My Neighbor's Chihuahua**

Don't get me wrong, I think all dogs are great. But sometimes, you have to sit back and wonder when you see a dog and its owner. Like, my neighbor and his Chihuahua.

Several years ago, he was eyeing Tyler and hinting that he'd love to have him. He was always asking me when I was going to give him my dog. My first question was, "What would you do with him?"

"I'd take him to work with me," he said. He works for the local telephone company and drives around in a truck all day when he isn't out of the truck working.

This didn't seem like a very good lifestyle for Tyler, so I pointed out that you can't keep him in the truck in the heat. He'll die. He said he'd tie him outside the truck.

"But he'll need protection from the heat and sun," I said.

"He can lie under the truck in the shade, and I'll give him water."

Needless to say, I would not give him my dog, especially if that was the lifestyle he'd be living.

A few years passed and then, a few months ago, I saw him running up the street with a Chihuahua on the end of a leash. You have to imagine this. My neighbor is a big man –

about 6' tall and hefty, as in muscular. Seeing him running along with this tiny dog which was only about 6 months old at the time, was somewhat comical.

As it turns out, this little Chihuahua is probably the perfect dog for him. Joey is full of energy and can walk tremendous distances. I know, because we all went for a walk together last week for a total of about 3 km.

I used to have a Pomeranian and even he couldn't walk that far, so little Joey sure surprised me.

He's also quite the lap dog. While I leaned against the car, my feet out and crossed at the ankles, Joey walked up into my lap.

Joey is inquisitive, adventurous, energetic, comical, and, of course, cute with his huge ears and big brown eyes. He's even the same coloring as my Tyler.

When they first came together, I feared for Joey because Tyler is very strong and could crush him with one step, but they played together very well. Once Joey figured out where all the "exits" were, he would go nose-to-nose with Tyler and then scoot under the gate to safety.

It was an amusing afternoon, watching him prance along beside us on the walk, dancing back and forth in play, and racing up my legs to my lap just to lick my face and stare into my eyes with those big brown ones of his.

### **Thinking of getting a Chihuahua?**

If you have little space but still want to enjoy having your own dog, a Chihuahua might be just the ticket.

Here's what else I just learned about Chihuahuas.

They are bred from the fox. They love being pampered. They are the smallest dog in the world with irresistible eyes. They love to be the center of attention.

Their weight can range from 3 lbs to 11 lbs, but the limit, according to the American Kennel Club, is only 6 lbs.

They have apple or deer shaped heads, and a soft spot on the head like babies. Their large ears help them to identify prey and cool themselves. The ears lie flat when they are puppies and become pointed naturally.

Chihuahuas are loyal to one person, loving, sweet and protective. They are very attuned to their owners and can sense stress and health problems (as explained in the A Story above).

Be careful when they are outside because they can become prey to large birds like hawks, falcons and owls who do not see him as a pet. Also beware of other dogs because it won't take much if they decide to attack.

They generally have low body fat, which makes it difficult for them to adapt to cold temperatures. They much prefer warm environments. Their main health issues are diabetes and kneecap problems.

They can be high maintenance because of their energy, but low maintenance in terms of grooming and care.

Chihuahuas are a long-lived breed, reaching 15-20 years of age, which means they can outlive their senior owners, so keep this in mind when choosing one.

### **Regular Sections:**

#### - Dog Trivia

Dogs can crave comfort foods. When they are under stress, such as a sudden change in environment or a fearful event, illness or injury, a dog can revert to familiar foods. When he is threatened psychologically, he can develop food cravings. These are usually associated with earlier times when the dog felt safe. This is not unlike how people will turn to certain types of comfort food when they are stressed.

If a puppy is taken from its litter too soon and put through an ordeal of being transported to his new home, he might reject all foods offered to him. He will crave whatever his mother fed him. Should you encounter this problem with a new puppy, contact the seller and find out what the puppy's mother ate and feed that to him. Chances are that he will begin eating.

#### - Member Submissions

Don't forget to send in your personal dog stories!

#### - Dog Talk Weekly News

When sending images to me for the Dog of the Month competition, be sure to follow the guidelines regarding image size. Before submitting them, please resize them to 3"x5" at a resolution of 72 dpi. Photos taken with your camera are likely very large, as much as 22" and 2 MB. This is well above the size I need and takes a lot of time for me to download.

If you ever miss an issue of Dog Talk Weekly, you can read back issues in the archives. The latest issue will be posted within a week of publication. Here's the archives page: <http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/archives.htm>

#### - Competitions

What's wrong? No one has entered the Dog of the Month competition that was announced last week. In case you missed it, here are the details.

- Image Size: (Max.) 3"x5" – 72 dpi
- Caption: Include a couple of sentences that describe the photo, including the dog's name, age and breed.
- Send them to me as an attachment to: [sjennings@book-titles.ca](mailto:sjennings@book-titles.ca)
- If the photo is on your own site, you can give me the link to it, but you will still need to send me the caption you wish me to use. In this case, also include an explanation of the photo so I can identify it.
- NEVER send someone else's work unless they are from your friends or family and you have their permission.
- NO abuse, pornographic or sexually explicit images.
- NO racial overtones or violence
- Don't humiliate your dog.

#### - Contests

**Send Your Photos!** Throughout the rest of April and all of May, I invite you to send me your dog photos – the cuter, the better. At the end of May, the members will have a chance to vote on which one they like the best. The winning photo will become the "Dog of the Month". The photo will be displayed on a special "Dog of the Month" page at [http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog\\_photo\\_of\\_month.htm](http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog_photo_of_month.htm)

Be sure to include a small caption (about as long as that paragraph) giving a few fun details about your dog / photo.

This "Dog of the Month" contest will continue every month throughout the year. At the end of the year, members will have a chance to vote and name the "Dog of the Year" (More details to come)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

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By submitting material to Dog Talk Weekly, you understand that you are giving me the rights to use them as I see fit, including on my web site, in ebooks and in videos. If you do not want to make these rights available to me, please do not send them in.

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To protect yourself and me, please only send in your own work. That way we will be absolutely sure.

I appreciate your adhering to this law.

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 here: [siennings@book-titles.ca](mailto:siennings@book-titles.ca)

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