



Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

How & Why To Prepare For Your Dog's Final Days NOW!

Regardless of your dog's current age, you need the report I just wrote. It contains insights into the importance of starting to build your dog's memorial now. Also covered is an insight into dog euthanasia, how to tell children, and how to deal with a grieving surviving pet. It discusses ideas for celebrating your dog's life and much more. Don't wait until it's too late, as I did.

[Click Here To Get The Details](#)

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Welcome to another issue of Dog Talk Weekly.

In this issue, I talk about a rather painful topic. We don't like to think about putting our dogs down, but it often becomes a reality. I've tried to cover the main points in the article, with some basic tips on how to proceed.

It's not the type of depressing article I want to do in Dog Talk Weekly, but it was suggested by one of my members. My plan for the ezine is to provide fun tidbits and helpful advice. Sometimes, we just have to talk about unpleasant things.

When you're done reading the article, you might want to take a look at the report I wrote on this topic. It provides more on the positive side of the topic. Also, stop by the blog and read the article I posted there. It talks about the reality of euthanasia – it's not as bad as you might think.

It also provides an insight into how to handle this situation from the viewpoint of someone who didn't handle it well the first time around.

Enjoy the issue!

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Did you miss an issue of Dog Talk Weekly? You can access all issues in the archives here: <http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/archives.htm>

Have you visited the blog lately? <http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/>

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## **Feature Article: Dog Euthanasia - Making The Difficult Decision**

Probably one of the toughest decisions you'll ever have to make in life is deciding when it's time to have your dog put down. We love them so much, that we tend to choose ongoing treatment instead.

One of the first questions to ask is what your vet would recommend. Does the dog have a good chance of surviving to a life of comfort? Or will he or she be in constant pain and never-ending treatment? Or is it just a matter of time before your dog dies?

The latter case is probably the best because you know death is inevitable anyway. By euthanizing your dog, it can avoid the painful, agonizing or distressful period prior to death.

The other two are less easy, but that's not to say that any situation is easy. When your vet tells you that your dog can live an indefinite period of time, the next thing to consider is the quality of that life.

It is indeed an extremely agonizing decision for any dog owner. That's when it's best to talk it over with the family to get their views and feelings.

No doubt you will be thinking about the cost of delaying the decision. Vet bills can mount up quickly. For many, however, this is not an issue. They will do anything possible to keep their dog with them as long as possible.

At some point, you have to consider the dog. This part comes with its own difficulties because dogs can look a lot sicker than they really are. They slow down, they go quiet, they stop eating – and as can happen in so many cases, they bounce right back in a week or sooner.

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The best time to discuss this topic with the family is while the dog is healthy and before you have to make that immediate decision. This is when you will be able to think more logically as opposed to doing it during the emotional turmoil when your dog gets sick.

Remember too that dogs can die at any age. They can have genetic problems that take their lives early on. They can get sick just like we can, and it can come out of the blue. Also, they can have accidents that maim them for life, leaving them to suffer for years.

By finding out each other's feelings now, you will be as ready as you can be when the time comes. And it will come, if not now, then sometime in the next 5-15 years.

You also might want to consider how you will dispose of the body. Sorting these issues out now will put your mind at ease.

I've just written a 27-page report on this issue. It talks about what to do now to begin building your dog's memorial. You don't want to wait until it's too late and then regret it when your dog's time comes – much sooner than you expect.

The report also shares my stories, along with important topics including euthanasia, finding a safe place to bury your dog, how to talk to your children about your dog's pending demise, how to celebrate his life – things you can do in his or her memory, and how to cope with grief in the family and eventually move on.

If you love your dog (and I know you do), you'll want to have something to remember him or her. You'll want to be sure that you are comfortable with all of your decisions.

[Click Here To Get The Details](#)

## **Personal Story: Tyler's Neighbor Friend Returns**

Those of you who have been with me for some time now will recall my story of our new neighbor – the German shepherd puppy named Tyson. Remember? The owner's girlfriend discovered that she is allergic to dogs so he gave him to a trusting friend.

The weather has improved immensely here in Canada – the snow has melted (except for a few patches in my back yard. The tulips and hyacinths are sprouting. I love spring and can't wait to see those first blossoms.

It seems that I might not get that opportunity this year – not in the back yard anyway.

Tyson had returned for a visit. He's big now, almost as big as Tyler and he's only 6 months old. He was playing in the yard with his owner when Tyler's ears perked up.

"Play? Yeah! Yeah! I want some!"

And off he went, sailing over my iron fence and into my garden to get to the chain link fence to say hello. At first, I didn't bother to stop him because I knew he was excited to see his long lost friend, not to mention the neighbor who had played with him last year.

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In winter, we don't spend much time socializing over the fence, so this was a treat for him as well.

He repeatedly jumped back and forth over the rail fence, stomping my tulips and hyacinth sprouts. They're all bent over now, so whether they actually reach the blooming stage is in question.

I suppose seeing Tyler so happy was worth it.

He had several "losses" lately. He lost contact with the boys out back when I built the fence to keep him home. He lost association with the puppy next door. He was sad when the tenant who played with him moved away.

He's gotten sad with each "loss". I'm seriously thinking he needs a permanent playmate – another puppy, perhaps. The question remains... do I really want TWO of them tromping my flowers? Tyler's certain to teach him how to do that.

We'll see.

## Dog of the Week: Hybrid Wolves

I don't have a photo for you this week, but I wanted to write a bit about the hybrid wolves. A few weeks back, a television show discussed the issue of making wolves household pets.

Apparently, there are breeders who specialize in hybrid wolves and in some cases, purebred wolves. They are gorgeous creatures so it's easy to see why they would be popular with dog lovers.

The show brought forth some extremely important points that many of you will already know. Basically, it boils down to the fact that these are **wild animals**, something people often tend to forget. Even though they are being bred in a domestic setting, you can never take a wild animal like this and tame it. At least, not to the point that you can trust it 100%.

They maintain their natural instincts. They can be extremely dominant and protective, more so than a domestic dog. They are far more focused on survival and will do whatever is necessary to protect themselves and their offspring.

They are hunters. If you have any other animals around the house, or even small children, "tamed" wolves can be very dangerous. At any given moment, they can revert to those wild traits.

Many people have suffered extensively from owning or knowing someone with a hybrid wolf. They can do a lot of severe damage. Perhaps most crucial is that they can turn in an instant if something sets them off, and you can't always know what that will be.

Then there's the problem for the owners. Not only in medical claims when your wolf attacks and maims someone, or worse, but in having to part with this pet. When owners experience the true nature of this animal and how dangerous they really are, they must

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make the decision to get rid of it. Or in some cases, having it put down by the authorities as a danger to society.

Unfortunately, not all countries have the same rules that we do in Canada. Here, it is illegal to own a wild animal unless it has been injured or abandoned and cannot be returned to the wild. I'm unfamiliar with the law as far as breeding them goes, but it should be illegal by any other than animal protection agencies who do so to save the species.

While it is quite possible to find a wolf that is easy to tame and readily accepts this role, it's not worth the risk. There are many great dog breeds out there that can serve your needs. Let the wolves stay where they belong – in the wilds.

## **Regular Sections:**

### **- Dog Health**

Alternative remedies has become quite popular in the past 20 years or so. Companies are popping up all the time offering various treatments that involve chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, and herbal remedies.

You might think that any herbal is safe because it's natural, yet this can be a dangerous assumption. We can't know if dogs can tolerate certain herbs. Just because they work for humans doesn't mean they will work for our pets.

Acupuncture and massage therapy are the only safe options because they are non-invasive, however you should still talk to your vet first to get a proper diagnosis and treatment advice.

Let's look at one example of giving your dog the wrong treatment.

You might think that a dog urinating in the house indicates dog separation anxiety. You provide an herbal remedy that claims to treat this condition. In fact, your dog might be suffering from diabetes mellitus, which can be threaten your dog's life if not treated quickly and properly.

If you are thinking of using herbal and other alternative remedies, follow these guidelines:

1. Tell your vet about your plan. If you object to giving your dog traditional medicines such as antibiotics, he might recommend medicated baths or a hypoallergenic diet for skin rashes, or time in a steamy bathroom for resolving kennel cough.
2. Always talk to your vet first before stopping traditional treatments. He can best advise you on how to wean your dog off the medication and onto the alternative therapy. He also can advise you on potential danger signs.
3. Ask your vet to recommend someone who specializes in alternative treatments for dogs. As these methods become more popular, more vets are utilizing this approach along with traditional treatments.

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4. Question the alternative medicine specialist about their training and expertise in this area. You want to be sure the person knows about treating dogs and not just animals in general. All species have their own quirks and what works for one can devastate another.

5. Find out what results you can expect from their recommended treatments. Ask about possible side effects and if you should be concerned about them. Ask him how effective the treatment might be for this condition, and how long it might take to see significant results.

## - Dog Care

### Pain Relief

When it comes to our dogs, we like them to be comfortable. We don't like to see them suffering in any way. Sometimes, we can't seem to get a handle on why our dogs seem to be suffering. A trip to the vet reveals little, or a lot. Knowing what the problem is will help because it can be treated professionally. Such treatment can include acupuncture.

Most people know what this is, but basically, a professional acupuncturist inserts hair-like needles under the skin at certain points along the dog's energy pathways. These correspond to the internal organs.

The treatment is proven to increase blood circulation and release natural pain-killing substances that are produced by the body. It is a helpful alternative for treating chronic pain as that associated with arthritis. It is also effective in treating dogs with seizures and many other illnesses.

Sometimes, acupuncture is combined with the use of Chinese herbs.

Some acupuncture specialists are trained by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Association. For a list of IVAS-certified acupuncturists, go to [www.ivas.org](http://www.ivas.org). In the U.S., the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture (AAVA), which is an affiliate of the IVAS, also maintains a directory of veterinary acupuncturists. [www.aava.org](http://www.aava.org).

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## Professional Dog Training Advice

Who **can't** use input from someone who knows all the secrets to developing a cooperative and abiding dog? I know I sure could. In my travels, I came across a program that has received high praise for its effectiveness. It was created by a professional dog trainer. I like that his instructions are so easy to follow.

Shortly after opening the package, I discovered what I needed to do to stop my dog from pulling on the leash. Admitted, it's not a permanent solution because Tyler is so demanding, energetic and dominant. He KNOWS how to heel. He just refuses to obey. And I'm not physically strong enough to stop him. It's probably me, but I did make huge progress with this advice. At least he doesn't drag me off into the bushes any more.

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Take a look at [Secrets To Dog Training](#) by Daniel Stevens. Dogs love to play catch, fetch things and in general, please their owners. In his book, he demonstrates how to train your dog to do all these things, and more.

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**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>

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