

Fall Newsletter

Bud's Rescue

The call came in: Gold Bar firefighters were en route to PSCVM with a dog that had been in an intense truck fire.

Bud, a 14-year-old German shepherd-husky mix, was pulled from the burning cab of a long-haul truck belonging to his owner, Malcom Rose of Baring, Washington. Bud was unconscious and nearly dead from smoke inhalation. Rose started mouth-to-nose resuscitation and the Fire District 26 firefighters provided oxygen for Bud.

The red SUV showed up at PSCVM while several of the firefighters gave Bud oxygen. Carrying Bud in a blan-

ket to the treatment room table was not the end of their concern. As Dr. Kettering examined Bud, the fire fighters learned what they could do for the next possible victim.

For any pet that has been in a fire the concern is about possible damage to the lungs from intense heat and smoke. In Bud's case, we took x-rays to monitor the lung damage, and gave fluids and drugs to ease the coughing. The emergency clinic and Bud's local veterinarian monitored him for the next several days.

For more information on the heroic rescue, Bud's story was published in the Snohomish Herald on July 14th.

A Small Amount is Lethal

As winter approaches, many people will "winterize" their automobiles, including a change of antifreeze. Take care to keep both new and used antifreeze in a sealed container, out of reach of pets. Clean up any spills of antifreeze on driveways and other hard surfaces. Dogs and cats find antifreeze quite tasty and if they find antifreeze they'll drink it. Antifreeze is extremely toxic causing kidney failure that is often fatal in just a few days.

Very small amounts of antifreeze can be fatal. If a cat walks through a puddle of antifreeze and then licks its paws, it can ingest enough antifreeze to cause death.

About five tablespoons can kill a medium sized dog. If you see your pet drinking antifreeze, or are at all suspicious that your pet may have had access to antifreeze, contact a veterinarian immediately.

Signs of antifreeze poisoning depend upon the time after ingestion. In the first few hours after ingestion the pet may be depressed and staggering and may have seizures. They may drink lots of water, urinate large amounts and vomit. The pet may appear to feel better but in a day or two get much worse as the kidneys fail. Signs of kidney failure include depression and vomiting. The amount of urine they pass will often decrease to a

Consider your Pets

The slugs are here! The most common way to control slugs are with chemicals, but there are ways to control slugs and snails without the risk of poisoning your pets. They include removing the slugs by hand, copper barriers, and beer traps. The most common chemical control is slug bait. There are two chemicals currently licensed and formulated into slug and snail baits for use on home gardens, metaldehyde and iron phosphate.

Products containing varying concentrations of metaldehyde include "Cory's Slug and Snail Death," "Deadline," and "Slug-Tox." Slug bait tastes good to pets but results are deadly! Early symptoms of slug bait poisoning are trembling and seizures followed

by hyper salivation, dilated pupils leading to vomiting, blue or gray gum color and diarrhea. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, take the pet to the vet immediately.

Products containing iron phosphate include "Sluggo," "Escar-Go!" and "Worry Free" slug and snail bait. Iron phosphate baits have proven to be relatively non-toxic for pets compared to those containing metaldehyde. Slugs and snails will become less mobile and begin to die within 3-6 days. Infected snails/slugs often crawl away to secluded places to die.

Use caution with all pesticides and read the label carefully. This is not intended to endorse any products

very small amount.

The diagnosis of antifreeze poisoning is made by blood and urine tests although some of these tests become negative by the time kidney failure develops. Antifreeze poisoning should be considered in any free-roaming dog or cat with consistent signs. Treatment must be started very soon after drinking antifreeze. Treatment for antifreeze poisoning needs to be started as soon after ingestion as possible to be effective. The earlier treatment is started, the greater the chance of survival. Once kidney failure develops, most animals will die. The best treatment is to prevent any chance for poisoning.

PREVENT ANTIFREEZE POISONING

- Keep new and used antifreeze in a sealed, leak proof container
- Take used antifreeze to a service station for disposal - don't pour it on the ground
- Check driveways for puddles of antifreeze that may have leaked from the car
- Consider the use of alternative antifreeze products that are less toxic to pets
- If antifreeze is placed in toilets make sure the lid is down and the door to the room is closed

When is it time to let go?

Sometimes a pet is so sick or severely injured that he or she will never recover normal health. In those situations, one of the kindest things you can do is to have your veterinarian induce its death quietly and humanely through euthanasia.

Your relationship with your pet is special, and you are responsible for its care and welfare. A decision concerning euthanasia may be one of the most difficult decisions you will ever make regarding your pet.

The decision is a personal one, but it need not be a solitary one. Your

veterinarian and your family can assist and support you. Consider not only what is best for your pet, but also what is best for you and your family. Quality of life is important for pets and people alike.

The right time may be when your pet can no longer do the things he or she once enjoyed. If your pet cannot respond to you in the usual ways, or if there is more pain than pleasure in his or her life, you may need to consider euthanasia. Likewise, if your pet is terminally ill or critically injured, or if the financial or

emotional cost of treatment is beyond your means, euthanasia may be a valid option.

Your veterinarian understands attachment to pets, and can examine your pet's and evaluate it's condition. Your vet can estimate your pet's chances for recovery, and discuss potential disabilities and long-term problems. He or she can also explain the medical options and possible outcomes. Because your veterinarian cannot make the euthanasia decision for you, it is important that you fully understand your pet's condition. If there is any part of the diagnosis or the implications for your pet's future that you don't

understand, ask to have it explained again. Rarely will the situation require an immediate decision.

Usually, you will have time to review the facts before making your decision.

As you make your decision, you may wish to discuss the care of the remains of your pet's body with your family and veterinarian. You have several options, and your veterinarian can provide information about burial, cremation, or other



Kid's Corner

Shannon Goes to the Veterinary Clinic

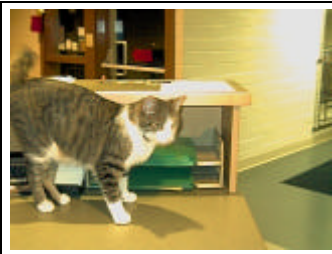
I remember my mom waking me up in the middle of the night. She was saying something about Sadie, my new puppy, being hurt. Next thing I knew she was buckling my seatbelt in our car. I saw Sadie lying in the front seat. He looked back at me to try to comfort me, but I could see the pain in his eyes.

We got to the vet and a few people came out and lifted Sadie gently, yet quickly out of the car and into the hospital. It scared me because I didn't know where they were taking my best friend. I sat cuddled with my mom for a long time. Asking her questions through my tears.

"He was hit by a car, but he'll be okay," my mom told me. "These people are going to help him get better." I finally calmed down enough to play with the hospital's toys and I found a picture that looked like Sadie. I colored it all black except for the white spot on his chest. Then when I was showing my mom my artwork, one of the women who had carried Sadie in, came out from the back. She introduced herself as the Veterinarian. She said Sadie had a broken leg. She reassured us everything else was fine and his leg should heal in about 6 weeks.

I was so excited; Sadie was going to be okay! My mom paid the bill and talked to

the doctor for awhile longer. Then they brought my puppy out. He was really excited to see us. He tried running but the heavy green cast and the nurse holding his leash slowed him down. I gave him a big kiss and told him never to run out in front of a car again.



Meet Kink

While signing in at PSCVM, you may notice a tabby cat with a broken tail cruising by. You may even find him sitting in your lap. Then it's official; you just met "Kink", a much loved resident at PSCVM. His job is to greet clients, entertain staff, and donate blood to feline patients in need of a transfusion. We think he's pretty special.