



Dear reader

Another year has rushed past and most of you are probably making plans for the Christmas holidays. Please remember our four-legged friends and make certain they are well looked after when you are away! It is also time again for our summer Newsletter. We have some interesting articles again:

- Ever wondered why your dog bark or howl? Why they lick or pant? We have listed a few interesting questions and answers you will surely enjoy to read!
- We have then also a list of symptoms you need to be on the lookout for as your dog grows older – things like reduced activity and a change in eating habits. An older dog's conditions can progress very quickly; it is important to know when to take action right away!
- Lastly we have included an interesting article on whether DNA testing alone is enough for breeding healthy pedigree lines.

I was very fortunate that I was invited by Ute Füglistner to attend the ATIBOX Health Committee meeting in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, in May this year. One of the big health concerns discussed at this meeting was Juvenile Spondylosis. This is a degeneration of the spine and as this seems to have become more prevalent in young dogs. We would like to find out how prevalent Juvenile Spondylosis (and kidney disease) is in South Africa and ask you kindly to let us now if your boxer suffers or suffered from either one. I myself have a dog who has got Juvenile Spondylosis and the first signs I picked up was that he would lift one of his hind legs while eating and that he started to refuse to jump. A spinal X-ray showed Juvenile Spondylosis. We are now about five years further and he is not in any pain but still refuses to jump.

Then just a reminder that the process of puppy registrations is now also available as an online process! For those of you that would like to try out the new Logix system, you are welcome to register a username and password on Logix to see the information of your own dogs. Just go to www.logix.org.za and register! If you need any assistance with the Logix system, please don't hesitate to be in contact with our Logix secretary Mrs Karin Schoeman (KarinS@bpl.za.com)

Last but not least the Breeders Panel wishes those will be traveling in the coming weeks a very safe journey! We also would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Happy reading!
Els Sporen
Secretary: Breeders Panel 2015



Information requested

The international ATIBOX Health Committee has requested all members (of which the FBCSA is one) to supply them with information on the prevalence of (i) juvenile spondylosis (a degenerative disease of the spine) and (ii) kidney disease in our Boxers. They welcome any information that we could provide of known cases and also the registration certificates of affected dogs to assist them in their research. The Breeders' Panel is putting information together in this regard. Can we please ask Breeders to contact us should your Boxer have been diagnosed with either spondylosis or kidney disease? Please be in contact with: Prof Marinda Oosthuizen (marinda.oosthuizen@up.ac.za) or Mrs Els Sporen (els.sporen@gmail.com)



Note from our FBCSA Secretary, Mrs Pam Zeiler:

Breeders please note that I am experiencing more and more **INCORRECT POSTAL ADDRESSES**. Please ensure that you obtain the correct information from the new owners of your puppies. The onus is on the Breeder to supply the FBCSA with the correct information. There is a fee of R111.50 for Duplicate Registration Certificates to be issued. This is payable by the Breeder. I currently have a number of "returned by the Post Office", registration certificates. It is not for me to now follow up on these so I await for either the Breeder or the New Owner to contact me enquiring about the certificate. The most common reasons are: Unknown, Unclaimed, Box Closed and Address Incomplete. Please make every effort to get the correct details from the new owners. Thank you. FBCSA Secretary.



Why dogs do things?

(http://www.facts-about-dogs.info/Why_Dogs_Do_Things.html)

Why Do Dogs Pant?

Dogs pant to cool themselves off. They have almost no sweat pores over the body, therefore they open their mouths, let the tongue hang out and pant to cool off their body when they are hot, usually after exercising or in weather that is too warm for their comfort level.

Why Do Dogs Lick?

Dogs will lick themselves either to clean or to nurse an injury such as broken skin. Self-licking may be done as the human equivalent to scratching sores or other ailments.

Dogs lick people for two main reasons:

1. Affection – they learned this from their mother.
2. A human's skin has a salty taste and some dogs lick to pick up that taste.

Why Do Dogs Mark?

It is done to say, "This is my territory". Not a big deal if he or she is outside. It IS a big deal if they are doing it in the house. When done **indoors**, this means that there is a power struggle going on between owner and dog, even if the owner is not aware. Dogs live in packs, in today's world the pack is their human family members. Each pack needs a leader. If a dog is not sure if he is the leader or the human is the leader, they will test, test and test some more...and marking is a way of saying, "I'm the leader here!"

Why Do Dogs Want to Sleep in Your Bed?

There are two reasons:

1. Most are very affectionate creatures. They give love and are so happy to receive love. Their humans are not just their owners...in the eyes of a dog, the owners are their family, part of the pack. So, to keep close is normal.
2. When a dog enjoys sleeping at the foot of a person's bed, this is most often due to that dog showing their protective side...being in that position, they are close enough to their humans to keep an eye on them and are in the perfect position to jump up should a perceived danger arise.

Why Do Dogs Bark?

Aside from body gesturing, this is their main way of communicating. Just as one must learn what a baby wants when he or she cries, a bark can mean anything from "I'm hungry" to "Play with me!" to "A stranger is coming close".

Why Do Dogs Howl?

Different from barking, howling is a dog's way of saying, "I am here". They are announcing their presence to any other dogs in the area and calling out for them to come.

Why Do Dogs Burp?

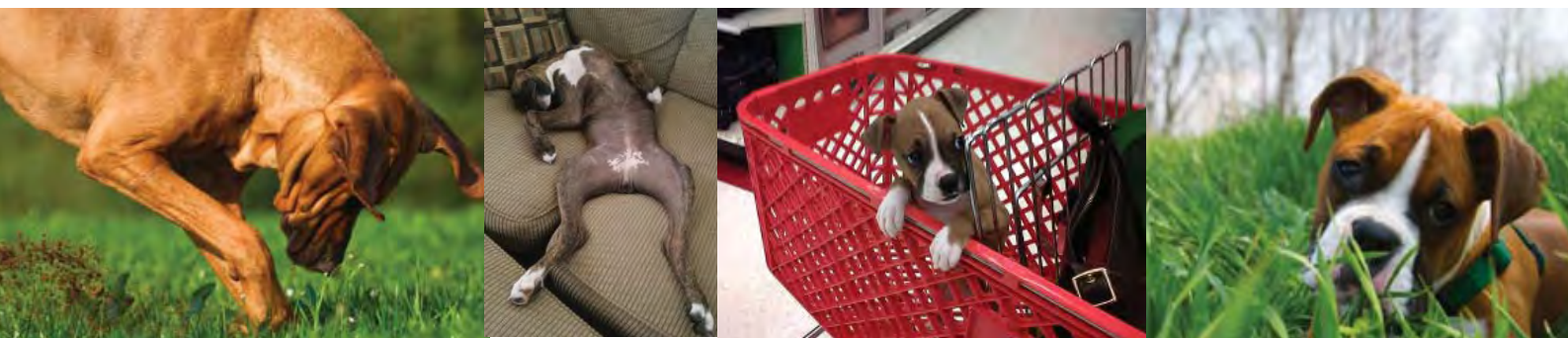
Basically for the same reasons that humans do.... As they eat, they swallow not only food but also a bit of air. As that builds up in the stomach, it is often released through a burp. Humans burp, on average, 6-15 times per day (they may not all be loud ones!)...and dogs are not that much different. One should take note, however, that burping with signs of discomfort could be a sign of bloat - a very serious condition that can occur when a dog eats too much and/or too fast. Some breeds such as the Boxer are more prone to this.

Why Do Dogs Have Whiskers?

Whiskers are sensing devices. If they are to enter a small space head first, the whiskers will let them know if they will fit through. They also are sensitive to vibrations and a dog can sense things with them that humans cannot.

Why Do Dogs Eat Poop?

The #1 reason is because their body is craving certain nutrients. Many manufactured foods have fillers. Fillers are just what they sound like...an additive that bulks up the food to make it appear as if there is more than there actually is. They are empty...zero calories, no nutrition. They enter the body and come out the other end quickly. This leaves many dogs not only hungry, but craving certain vitamins and minerals. A dog will then eat their own poop or the poop of other dogs in a vain attempt to ingest more nutrients.





Why Do Dogs Eat Grass?

This is one of the most commonly asked questions when it comes to “Why dogs do things”. There are two main reasons:

1. Their bodies are craving vegetables (dogs are NOT carnivores; they are omnivores and need fruit and veggies).
2. If their stomach is upset, they may eat grass in order to aid in purging the body of any food by vomiting.

Why Do Dogs Wag Their Tails?

Communication and/or involuntary bodily reaction. When scared or about to attack, a dog will automatically move its tail into a certain position, tucked under when afraid and stiff and alert when faced with a possible fight. When happy, it is relaxed and wagging.

Why Do Dogs Sneeze?

A random sneeze is usually due to a slight irritation in the nasal passages. It may be a reaction to something inhaled through the nose or just a build-up of irritations that have built up in the mucous membranes. Quite a lot of sneezing is often a sign of allergies - which can be very serious. Can a dog sneeze because of a cold? No...Dogs do not and cannot get colds per say, however they can develop nasal infections which most often will need to be treated with antibiotics.

Why Do Dogs Hate Vacuum Cleaners?

They do not dislike the machine, they dislike the noise. Their hearing is so amazing; they can hear ultrasonic frequencies that we humans cannot. The noise from the vacuum can be painful to their ears...therefore they will bark at it and sometimes “attack” it in an effort to stop it from making noise.

Why Do Dogs Bury Things?

It is an instinct buried in them (no pun intended) from long ago. Dogs of yesteryear buried food to keep it safe until they needed to have access to it later. Pets of today will bury bones, food and sometimes favourite toys in an attempt to hide and save them.

Why Do Dogs Take Naps?

Canines require more sleep than humans, particularly puppies that need to sleep about 20 hours a day during the first few weeks. In general, dogs sleep from 12-16 hours a day. Part of this is due to napping. A dog will nap more if they are bored or lack sufficient exercise.

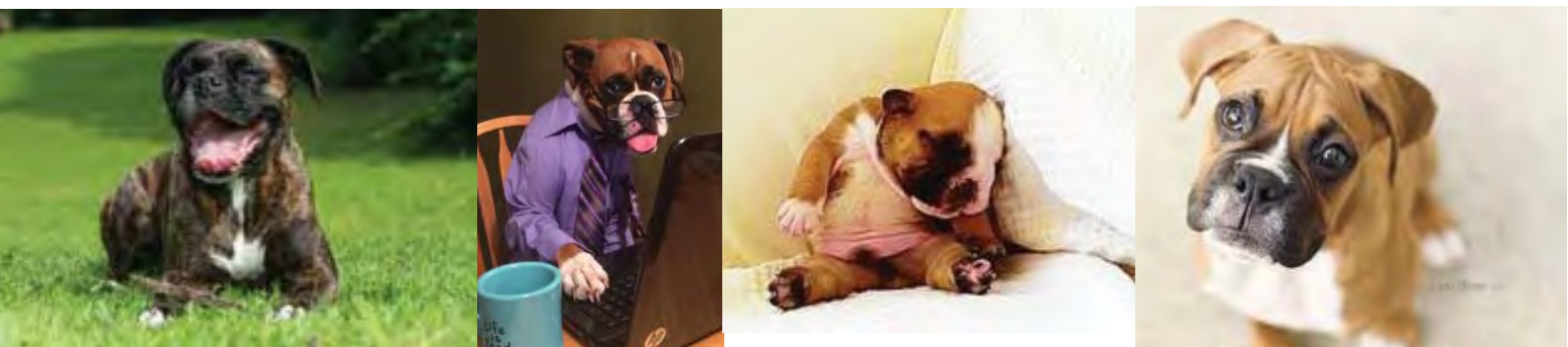
Why Do Dogs Bite?

There are three main reasons:

1. They are protecting themselves, their human family members and/or their property from what they perceive as a threat.
2. Out of fear...when cornered or feel that they are being confronted in a threatening manner, a dog may bite as an instinct (fight or flight).
3. A dog bite can happen when a dog is in pain...When they are hurt or ill they often feel vulnerable and this can cause them to nip or bite even those whom they are close to and are normally very affectionate with.

Why Do Dogs Shed?

Fur comes a-flyin’ because it is the body’s process of getting rid of old, unhealthy hairs to make room for new, healthy hairs. Fur, of course, is very important for a canine to keep warm and for protection



When to see the vet?

(<http://www.pedigree.com/PedigreeCenter/Articles/Health+Care/Health+Check/When+to+see+the+vet.asp>)

Dogs go through a number of changes as they grow older. Things like reduced activity and a change in eating habits are often par for the course with senior dogs, but you may not always know what's normal and what isn't. How do you know that your dog's change in appetite is due to a more serious problem, and not just because his sense of smell is lessened because of old age.

While you should be taking your senior dog to the vet at least twice a year for a check-up, you might notice some particular symptoms that are not normal for your dog. The key to noticing any changes in your dog is to be well-tuned to his normal habits. Taking action right away is especially important when you have an older dog as conditions can progress very quickly.

Here is a list of symptoms and situations that would require a veterinarian's immediate attention:

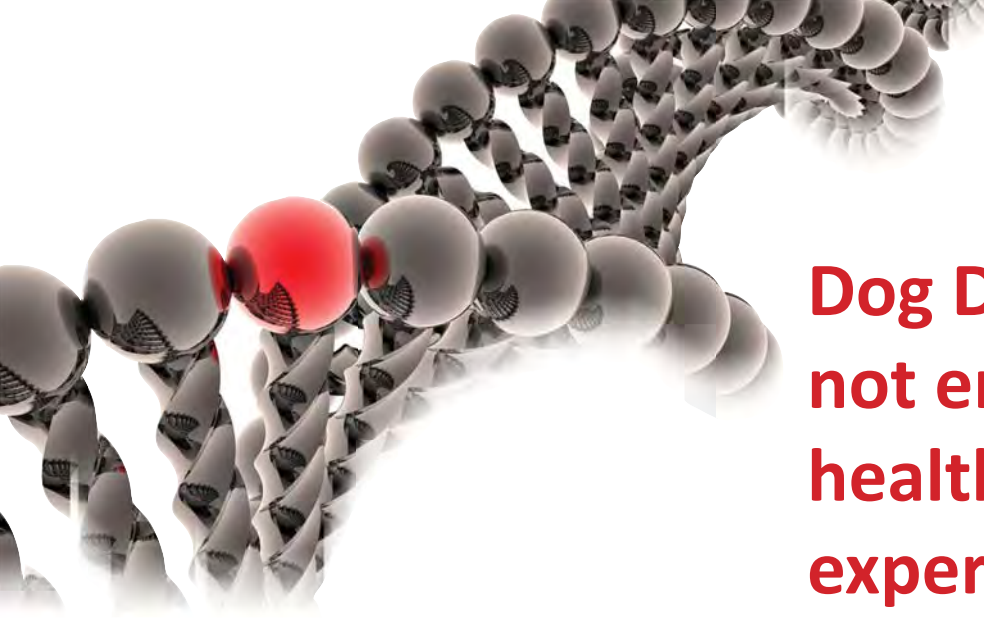
- Any unusual lumps or bumps on your dog's skin. Older dogs often get lumps that end up being benign, however, you should always bring them to your vet's attention. Make it part of your regular grooming routine to inspect your dog's skin. Don't forget to check the mouth - tumours there tend to be the most serious. Other warning signs of cancer tumours include foul odours or unusual discharge or bleeding.
- If your dog is experiencing shortness of breath, it could indicate a heart problem.
- A sudden change in appetite is often a sign of kidney failure or other serious problems.
- Sudden weight loss or weight gain.
- A dog that is drinking more water than usual and urinating more frequently could have kidney disease or diabetes.
- Sudden changes in temperament. If your dog is normally very gentle and suddenly becomes aggressive, it could indicate a medical problem.
- If your dog is lethargic for 24 hours or more.
- Continuous vomiting
- Abdominal tenderness or swelling are signs of bloat.
- If you notice lameness when getting up, or a limp in your dog's walk.

- Diarrhoea for more than twenty-four hours or diarrhoea with blood should be an alert to call the vet.
- Rashes, falling out fur, excessive shedding or chewing at spots on the body should be brought to your vet's attention.



- Should the eyes look hazy or your dog seem to have trouble seeing or there is an abnormal discharge from the eye, call the vet.
- Bad breath and yellow teeth indicate dental issues - though not an emergency should be addressed. However, if the breath smells sweet, there could be other problems. Pale gums can be signs of a serious problem.
- Anything that seems out of the ordinary for your dog should be cause for concern.





Dog DNA tests alone not enough for healthy pedigree, experts say

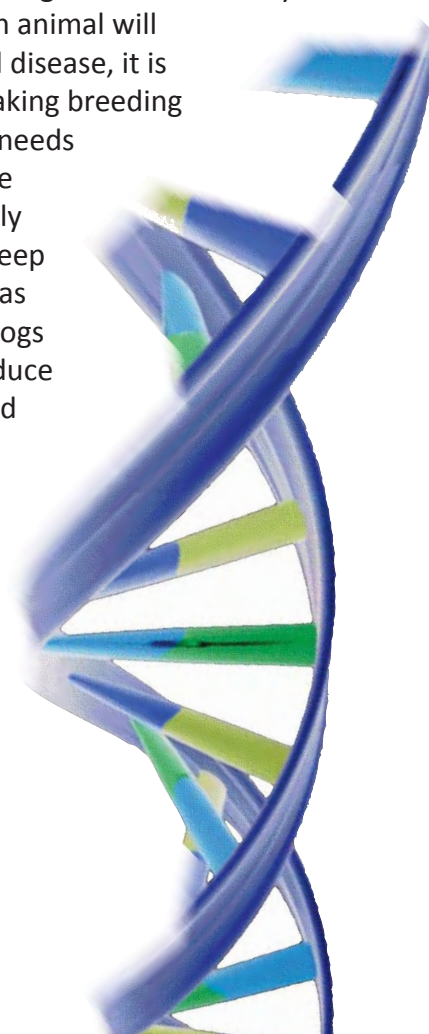
(/2015/03/dog-dna-tests-alone-not-enough-for-healthy-pedigree-experts-say/) by Vetscite (/author/vetscite/)

Breeding dogs on the basis of a single genetic test carries risks and may not improve the health of pedigree lines, experts warn. Only a combined approach that makes use of DNA analysis, health screening schemes and pedigree information will significantly reduce the frequency of inherited diseases. This approach will also improve genetic diversity, which helps to counteract the risk of disorders, researchers say. Scientists at the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute made the recommendations having reviewed the various approaches that are being taken to minimise potential defects in pedigree animals. Pedigree dog breeds are created for desirable physical and behavioural characteristics, which often stem from breeding between close familial lines over years and - in some cases - centuries. This approach means that inherited diseases can become more common in pedigree populations. Around half of all King Charles Cavalier Spaniels, for instance, are affected by an inherited heart murmur that can be life-threatening. Health screening dogs before selecting animals to breed from has already helped to reduce the prevalence of some diseases, such as floating knee-cap in the Dutch Kooiker breed.

DNA tests are now available to help identify dogs carrying gene mutations that are known to cause some severe illnesses. It is hoped that this technology will help to eliminate disease causing genes from pedigree lines. But ruling out breeding dogs solely on the basis of a single failed DNA test result will reduce the gene pool of pedigree lines and make inbreeding more common, researchers say. It could also inadvertently increase the prevalence of other genetic diseases which have not been tested for. The researchers recommend limiting the use of

individual stud dogs to promote more diversity in pedigree lines. They also recommend cross-breeding to introduce even greater genetic diversity. Breeding the offspring that result from cross-breeding with the original pedigree for ten generations can produce animals that share 99.9% of their genetic material with purebred animals, but that lack the gene faults that cause disease.

This approach has been successful in generating Dalmatians lacking a genetic defect that causes kidney stones, which is common in the breed. Dr Lindsay Farrell, of The Roslin Institute, said: "Although carrying a specific genetic variant may raise the likelihood that an animal will suffer from the associated disease, it is not guaranteed. When making breeding decisions, genetic testing needs to be considered alongside health screening and family history. That will help to keep as much genetic diversity as possible in our pedigree dogs and, at the same time, reduce the prevalence of inherited diseases." Professor Kim Summers, of The Roslin Institute, said: "Breeders are keen to embrace DNA testing to improve the health of their breed. We need to make sure that these powerful technologies are used to best advantage."





Who serve on the 2015/2016 committee?

Chairperson: Prof Marinda Oosthuizen

Secretary: Mrs Els Sporen

Committee members: Mrs Karin Schoeman (FBCSA Representative),
Mrs Ute Füglistner, Mrs Helen Rennie, Mrs Monica Roos, Mrs Pam Zeiler

We wish you a wonderful
Christmas and a
prosperous 2016!
from the Breeders panel