



PUPPY TALES

July 2009

Introduction:

We are proud to present our first newsletter. We hope to bring you lots of useful information each month regarding nutrition, supplements, training issues, health care, a question & answer column and the "Picture of the Month". Be sure to start emailing me your questions for my column and any great pictures with your dog and/or puppy.

Summer Safety

The sweltering temperatures have arrived throughout the country and there are a few things that we need to remember in keeping our dogs comfortable and safe in the summer heat. I'm sure everyone is aware of all the usual things to do such as keeping fresh water available at all times, never leave your dog in the car for even five minutes, be sure you can provide shade for him whenever you are outside, etc., but did you know some of the following helpful hints:

- A black or bi-color German Shepherd is typically going to absorb the heat faster and therefore overheat more quickly than a sable colored GSD.
- Because GSD's are so smart, they know they can cool themselves off by being wet. They will often dig in their water dish/bucket to splash water on themselves in an effort to stay cool. As a result, they muck up the water very quickly and often spill all of it, leaving them with nothing to drink. I always recommend clipping your buckets outside so they cannot be turned over or if you are using a dish, make sure it is a non-tip style dish. Another great idea is to pick up a plastic swimming pool from your local discount store and fill it up daily with fresh water. Your dog will love you for it!!! I swear these GSD's are part water dog!
- You may also find that your dog is consistently digging in the same area. They have found an area a few inches down where they know the soil is moist and cool. Either give in to them having their own favorite spot to dig or fence it off (but chances are they will just make a new hole elsewhere). A side note: if they are digging when it's not hot out, they are bored. They need more mind stimulating activities, toys and more time with you.
- I can't tell you how many times I have seen owners walk their dogs over the black top or concrete without regard for their dog's feet. Always put your hand on the sidewalk or road for a few seconds to check for heat. Even though our dogs' feet



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GERMAN SHEPHERDS



are padded, they can still burn their feet with the intense heat absorbed by the pavement.

- Be sure you can recognize the symptoms of heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke. If your dog/puppy is panting extremely hard with salivation, he is entering heat exhaustion. If he shows signs of weakness, staggering and/or muscle tremors, he may be having a full-blown heat stroke. Either condition requires immediate action. First, get him/her into the shade or a cool area. Next, hose down their body with cool water and particularly concentrate on the head, face and neck. Continue this process until he begins to show signs of improvement. If you do not have access to water, don't forget you can use ice and/or the ice water in your cooler. Soak towels and cover his head and neck with those. If he has had a heat stroke, you should take him to the veterinarian as soon as possible as they can suffer internal damage that only the vet can determine and attempt to treat.

Pictures of the Month



Questions & Answers

Q: My puppy has lost most of his baby teeth, but he still has one firmly attached next to the adult tooth. Should I take him to the vet?

A: This is not uncommon, but typically does not require veterinary care in our breed. Unlike some small breeds that would require the tooth be extracted, if you wait a week or two and have some good tug of war games with a plush toy, that tooth will be out before you know it!



Q: My puppy is five months old now. Should I cut him from three to two feedings a day?

A: When you find your puppy is consistently not finishing all of his meals, his growth may be slowing down slightly to where he does not need as many calories. This is a great time to cut him down to two meals a day, but do not increase the quantity at the two feedings. For most GSD's at this age, 1.5 to 2 cups in the morning and 1.5 to 2 cups in the evening are sufficient.

Q: How do I know when my puppy is too fat?

A: Your puppy should be nicely filled out, but never fat or "rolly-poly". Too much weight on them at any age can cause serious problems. You should still see a waistline and barely be able to see or feel their ribs. For a working dog or extremely active dog, he should be kept a little lighter.

Did You Know...

We now provide boarding for your puppy/dog. Since it is very personalized, space is limited so please make your reservations as early as possible. We charge \$12 a day for regular boarding (outdoor 10 x 20 covered runs with fans), \$25 a day for the guest suite (includes a regular carpeted room with a view, private bath, television and people bed). Add \$20 a day if we do private training while your puppy/dog is staying with us.

If you are looking for any kind of **supplements, training equipment, treats, toys,** etc., you can simply go to our website at: www.WachterEngelGermanShepherds.com

Scroll down and look for the various icons in the left hand column. You can click on any of these vendors and it will open directly to their website. If you follow this process and make a purchase, we will get credit for your sale, which we in turn will use toward rescuing and rehabilitating a German Shepherd. Check our website often for new vendors as we will be adding more in the coming weeks.

I hope you have enjoyed our first newsletter! I am anxious to receive your photos and questions and hear your feedback.

Give your puppy a hug for us!!!