

# EMDC (UK)

## HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE



*H*ello again everyone, I hope everyone has been keeping safe these last few months.

Once again it has continued to be a strange year since the last newsletter. We were able to come out of lockdown and enjoy some nice weather for a few months before being back on lockdown number 2. We are now into December and we hope that with the new guidelines some of you will be able to spend Christmas with your families even if it's a smaller number than usual, and bring some normality back specially for those of you with kids.



**Jake the Pomeranian**

In Portugal not much has been happening with the breed as due to covid most shows were delayed or postponed such as the Estrela monografica which will now

be held as soon as its safe in 2021. We were lucky enough to be able to participate in some webinars about the breed during lockdown which were hosted by the CPC Jovem in Portugal through Zoom. It was very nice to see not only the Portuguese people participating but also many people from all over the globe.



**Zuki the Estrela Mountain Dog**

As it is a Christmas issue we thought we would in-

clude a few Christmas pictures of our dogs at Christmas and the issue will be full of Christmas fun which our committee members have been hard at work to produce for you.



**Trixie the Jack Russell**

If there is any specific articles or topics anyone would like us to include or discuss in our newsletters please don't hesitate in sending any topics, articles or questions to me at [aritausk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aritausk@hotmail.co.uk)

The secretary has some very exiting news in her report to bring to all our members which I am sure have long been waiting for.

**EMDC (UK) highlights**

Our officers and committee have all been working behind the scenes in updating our new website which is now live. Kelly Bailey our webmaster is still giving it a few last magic touches to make sure its all functioning correctly as some pages are still being updated.

**Our first Virtual Christmas Club Quiz will be held on the 17th December 2020 at 7.30pm on Facebook rooms.** I hope to see many of you there as we have some great prizes to be won and it will be a fun night for all.

Rebecca Roberts has made some fantastic Estrela calendars to help raise money for Estrela Mountain Dog Welfare & Rescue, and she has managed to raise over £500. Well done Rebecca for all your hard work.

We hope that our doggy Christmas pictures give you plenty of inspiration and that you are all able to take plenty of pictures of your dogs during Christmas as there will be a Christmas doggy competition in the new year.

Crufts have announced they will be hosting the show in July 2021, check out their website for more information.

Best wishes of a Merry Christmas and for the New Year!

Ana Vidal



# The Secretary's Report

**W**hat a year it has been, or rather.... has not been!

COVID-19 still reigns, and we are all just hoping that Christmas can go ahead in some sort of fashion. The dog scene has been deathly quiet, with no shows and very few training classes being held (certainly in Wales!). Many of us are suffering withdrawal symptoms from the lack of social events with our doggy friends and some of the dogs themselves are suffering from the lack of socialisation. We can only hope that 2021 is a better year, although I think it will still mean life is lived very differently for a good part of it.



Left to right: King, Sheira, Eevee and Lucky

Owned by our secretary  
Camille Lambert

Kelly Bailey is currently working on an updated website, which we hope to have up and running very soon. Unfortunately, our web hosting company had a catastrophic failure which has affected many of their clients, including us. Our club email addresses are now back up and running, and hopefully by the time you read this, the website will be looking fantastic!

We hope to have some exciting events taking place next year, keep your eyes on the EMDC (UK) Members Facebook group, and your email accounts, for further information as soon as we can get it to you.

We hope to see you all at the **Christmas Quiz** (taking place on the Facebook EMDC (UK) Members Group) on 17<sup>th</sup> December and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, New Year.

Best wishes

**Camille Lambert**

[Secretary@emdc-uk.com](mailto:Secretary@emdc-uk.com)

Tel: 07958 549778 (after 7 pm)



**Asti the Estrela Mountain Dog** owned by our secretary  
Camille Lambert

We were thrilled to receive the news from the Kennel Club, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, that our Club was successful in its bid for Kennel Club Recognition, on its first attempt! This is a huge achievement for our Club, and recognises the hard work, commitment, and dedication to the breed that our Officers, Committee and Members have. Without the support from many areas of the dog world, this would not have been possible. We look forward to a positive future for the Club and some new events that we are now eligible to hold.

Our membership has increased again, we now have **59 members**, and we welcome everyone to our Club and thank all members for your ongoing support. The committee is working hard on ideas for the upcoming year and, as always, are there to help anyone who needs it.

**Taran the Estrela Mountain Dog** owned by our secretary  
Camille Lambert



# Estrela Mountain Dog Welfare & Rescue

By Rebecca Roberts

**W**ell, what a busy couple of years it has been for our breed and its enthusiasts!

Unfortunately, this has also included our dedicated breed rescue. Our rescue group was founded by dedicated breed owners to assist with the specialist requirements of re-homing Estrelas.

Our rescue committee currently consists of 5 individuals: Julie Holt, Gill Douglas, Kelly Bailey, Karen Wells and myself; Rebecca Roberts. Our busiest year to date was 2019, with a total of nine rescue Estrelas being rehomed by our organization. 2020 has seen another four dogs come into rescue. Although this is a smaller number than the previous year, it has been just as challenging. COVID-19 restrictions meant we had to change the way we worked with home checks and dog character assessments, so we've all been very busy.

On top of these responsibilities, our team has also been working hard to fundraise in many ways, to support the financial needs of the dogs we assist. In March, we made the tough decision to postpone our first organised fun, fundraising dog show, that was set to be held in Lancashire. But not ones to be beaten, we set about organizing an online photographic version and raised an incredible £362.

We have also had some extremely generous donations from West Coast Martial Arts, Paws4Gifts and a wonderful few individuals. As a group, we

cannot express enough thanks for this. As some of you may have seen, or even got involved in, the latest fundraising project has been an Estrela Mountain Dog photo calendar for 2021. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the calendar will be in print production and I, like many others, look forwards to seeing the finished product. I estimate that after all the costs, we may raise upwards of £500 via this project alone! What an incredible way to not only bring our breed owners together but raise much needed funds for the future. Who knows what 2021 will have in store, but I hope the calendars will put a smile on everyone's faces on the 1st day of every month.

We would like to thank everyone that has joined in, including the EMDC-UK, for their support in a difficult 12 months!

All the best,  
Rebecca.



## Meet Jopa!

Jopa is a one year old Estrela x Alentejo Mastiff who came from Portugal with his owners. Due to a change in living circumstances, Jopa is in need of a new home.

Jopa is currently friendly with people and dogs and has been neutered. He loves the outdoors so would be suited to an active family who will take him on adventures. He is still quite puppy like and rather boisterous. He won't be fully mature for another 2 years, so will need a home who can continue his training. Due to his resource guarding tendencies, Jopa will need an experienced home, with no other dogs.

If you think you could offer this, please contact the EMDC (UK) rescue coordinator Peter Edwards or the Estrela Mountain Dog Welfare and Rescue via [estrelarescue@gmail.com](mailto:estrelarescue@gmail.com) for more information.



Left to right: Mowgley, Starr and River

Owned by our puppy co-ordinator

Rebecca Roberts



# Website and Social Media News

By Kelly Louise Bailey

**W**ell.... 2020 has seen very little happening event wise within the Estrela and even in the dog world too. After the successful launch of our facebook page (@estrela.uk), with an impressive 435 likes in a short space of time, we have been keeping you all up to date with any relative news from the Kennel Club and other sources. Not forgetting our latest milestone..... becoming a kennel club registered club. The facebook page continues to grow, we even have an Instagram (@emdc\_uk) page which is brand new too!

Our new webpage has been a bit of a battle and has a little story to go with it... we started creating a brand new up to date webpage at the beginning of the year to replace the one we had. However, before this was completed, our original host of our website had a catastrophic technical failure and lost all of their hosted webpages!!! Ouch. Luckily, we had already transferred some of our content, but there is still some way to go. We re currently working together to re-write whole pages, including backdating events, health, photos and information. [Https://www.emdc-uk.com/](https://www.emdc-uk.com/)

Our webpage is live, however we're continuing to develop and make it much more interactive and informative, but keeping it simple to navigate. We will be creating judges information pages, keeping you up to date via our blog, updating event results, more information about other sports with Estrelas, more meet the committee videos, and much more in the pipeline.

We have made it really easy to join our club with downloadable content: <https://www.emdc-uk.com/join>



**Codie and Diego**

**Owned by our webmaster**

**Kelly Louise Bailey**



# Top 10 Myths of Hip Dysplasia and Heritability

By Nichola Marshall

*P*s arthritis and hip dysplasia are the most common health issue in Estrela Mountain Dogs, I will be writing more about them over the next few newsletters. Before we start though, I thought it would be a good idea to address some of the myths and misconceptions that I regularly see bandied about the internet.

## 1) Congenital – you keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.

Congenital means 'born with' or present at birth. Many conditions that are genetic, are not congenital. For example; cataracts, Huntington's disease, how old you are when your hair turns grey etc.

So firstly we need to be clear that a condition can be not congenital and also genetic in cause.

Secondly, whilst the remodelling and bony growths associated with hip dysplasia, are not present at birth and therefore not congenital, hip laxity is. Hip laxity is congenital. It can be detected and measured in puppies at birth. Hip laxity is what causes hip dysplasia. If a dog has congenital hip laxity, it will develop hip dysplasia, proportional to that laxity.

## 2) Heritability estimates show that HD is 40% environment, no 45%, no, wait 95%....

This may offend a few people but pretty much every person / blogger I've seen or heard throwing these percentages around, clearly has no idea what they actually mean – including a journalist in the Guardian newspaper! If you want to know more, try this link.

<http://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/Estimating-Trait-Heritability-46889>

Don't want to read the whole thing? OK I'll bullet point a few things:

- (Visscher et. al., 2008). Heritability is not the proportion of a phenotype that is genetic, but rather the proportion of phenotypic variance that is due to genetic factors.
- Heritability is a population parameter and, therefore, it depends on population-specific factors, such as allele frequencies, the effects of gene variants, and variation due to environmental factors. It does not necessarily predict the value of heritability in other populations (or other species).
- Genetic variance can change if:
  - ◇ allele frequencies change.
  - ◇ new variants come into the population (e.g., by migration or mutation)
  - ◇ the variances become a function of age.
  - ◇ the heritabilities are manipulated by changing the variance contributed by the environment

Put more simply, these studies are NOT saying that HD is ...% genetic or environmental. This is why Estrela Mountain Dogs have a HD heritability of 80% compared to Labradors at around 50%. These studies are more about trying to work out how complex a condition is so the number of genes or alleles involved, the proportion of recessive or co-dominant and the frequency of these alleles in the population. Yes environment does influence hip health (and I will be writing more about it) and it is a factor in the final percentages in these studies but you would need to read the individual papers to know how much that has been controlled for and I'm going to repeat this because it is important:



**3) Puppies are born with 'normal' hips so HD must be environmental.**

*I think we covered this in under 'congenital'. I was born with 'normal' eyes but now I wear glasses; thanks Dad! I'd also dispute that all puppies are born with 'normal' hips because as previously said hip laxity can be identified in puppies at birth.*

**4) Two parents with good hips can have dysplastic offspring therefore hip dysplasia must be environmental and / or there is no point in hip scoring.**

*Seriously? SERIOUSLY?*

*You mate two black dogs and get a blue puppy. Do you blame it on the environment? No, you look back at the pedigree to try to identify where it came from. You try to identify carriers or those at risk of being carriers to either avoid or increase your chances of doubling up. HD isn't that simple but breeders make these assessments all the time. Size would be a better comparison perhaps. Two standard size dogs produce a small puppy. Do you blame the owner for not feeding it properly? If we can breed for external conformation, we can breed for internal conformation too.*

*There are also Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) which allow for much better prediction of outcomes but these do require hip scores, preferably of as many of the family as possible so as an owner, do consider hip scoring, even if you are not breeding and report severe cases to your breeder and breed health co-ordinator or the Kennel Club health team.*

**5) Hip scoring has not resulted in dramatic decrease in incidences of HD therefore it doesn't work.**

*What I can say for sure is that in countries where hip scoring has been rigorously applied, the improvement has been exactly what was predicted (and this is actually where heritability estimates come in). In a recent paper, authors concluded "...alleles of these polygenic disorders [HD and ED] could be successfully purged out of the population with long term selection."<sup>1</sup>*

*Hip scores themselves don't magically make things better, improvement depends on multiple factors such as participation, breeder's choices, breed and original allele frequency in the population.*

*For example if a breed has become 'fixed' for poor hip alleles, meaning there are very few or not enough 'good' hip alleles in the gene pool then progress will be slow to nonexistent and an outcross would probably be required. We are definitely not in that situation with Estrela Mountain Dogs thankfully.*

*Or if breeders score but are still using high scoring dogs and/or ignoring when relatives of the dog have HD, then there will be little or no improvement.*

*The previously mentioned EBVs can really help speed up progress and, I know it can be controversial as some don't like the process for getting the x-rays, but PennHIP scoring shows greater heritability as it focuses on laxity rather than malformation.*



**6) Playing fetch causes HD therefore it's not genetic.**

*Anyone who plays a high impact sport knows the potential damage it can do to your joints. Hardly a shocker to find the same is true for dogs. So whilst it is useful information for taking precautions to safeguard our dogs well being, this argument does not reverse into proof that abnormal amounts of impact are required to produce HD, or that HD isn't genetic.*



**7) Kronveit showed puppies get HD from stairs so it's not genetic.**

*As above. You don't need to be a physicist to predict that a large breed puppy under 12 weeks is probably going to undergo some abnormal levels of impact by climbing up and down stairs. This still doesn't preclude HD occurring in puppies that haven't climbed stairs, played fetch etc...*

**8) HD is a problem of size so hip scoring is irrelevant.**

*By all means keep your dogs slim and trim but large breed dogs, including Estrela Mountain Dogs, without HD, do exist and not just by some miracle of the environment.*

*If scientists ever show that biomechanically the canine hips cannot sustain a load greater than ...Kg without developing HD, then we should stop breeding dogs that big. However the existence of far larger mammals such as the bear (and the dire wolf which was thought to average 68Kg) would suggest it is perfectly possible to have large dogs without HD if we can breed out the genetic weaknesses.*

**9) HD is caused by nutrition.**

*Yep you can cause arthritic changes and exacerbate HD by making your dog fat, yep you can mess up your puppy's skeletal development with incorrect nutrition (if you try really hard) and should be wary of feeding fads and fashions but, as above, this does not reverse to mean that a dog with genetic hip laxity won't develop HD if you feed it right or that dogs with HD, wouldn't have it, if they had been fed differently. Sorry.*

**10) Dingoes have HD so it is normal for a dog to have HD – they're quite happy living with HD.**

*I feel obliged to point out the utter ignorance of the people misquoting this study.*

*Firstly the study found wild dingoes don't have HD, most likely due to natural selection.*

*Secondly, the dingoes with HD had been captive bred for forty years with no selection other than trying to avoid inbreeding (which adds weight to the argument for active selection against HD: whilst high COIs might exacerbate the problem, low COIs are not going to solve this one).*

*Thirdly, hip scoring is now used in this, and other, captive dingo breeding programmes.*



**References**

*1: Ács, V.; Kövér, G.; Farkas, J.; Bokor, Á.; Nagy, I. Effects of Long-Term Selection in the Border Collie Dog Breed: Inbreeding Purge of Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia. *Animals* 2020, 10, 1743.*

*Sorry I don't seem to have the link to the dingo study anymore, if anyone comes across it, please send it to me.*

# The EMDC (UK) Journey

By Marcia Dovey

With the amazing news that the Kennel Club have granted our club Kennel Club Recognition I thought that I would give a little history to the club being formed.

I resigned as Secretary of the EMDA in June 2009 for personal reasons and decided that it would be my last Estrela club post. I was happy to help the breed in any way I could but I did not want committee involvement. I settled down to enjoying our lovely import girl's great successes and the fun of shows.

It soon became clear that some of the members of the original club felt that it had become much more a show club with the new committee and within months they were asking me for a new club that included all Estrela owners. I resisted at first as I really wasn't sure but with the persistence of a few people myself, family and friends started to look at a new club. I was a little unsure about my involvement

but as plans started being made I soon joined in. We decided at the start that it would be a club for all and that one day we would like to apply for Kennel Club recognition. As I said at the Inaugural Meeting, "When I resigned from the EMDA the last thing I expected was to be starting a new club."

As Millie Lambert, who was the first Treasurer said at the Inaugural Meeting, "We aim to make this club for friends and family of the Estrela Mountain Dog, a happy, friendly club" This became our mantra and hopefully we have achieved it. No club can please all of the people all of the time but we do try.

This club has evolved and changed and we now have a dedicated and enthusiastic Committee who can agree and disagree, every opinion is considered. The granting of the Kennel Club recognition on the first application was very unexpected in such a small breed but we are all delighted.

We will now be able to hold Shows and encourage our members to give showing a try in a safe and supported atmosphere at Club Shows and then maybe get the bug to try a bigger show. We can also hold Judges training with knowledgeable speakers who are involved with the Estrela and can give a correct picture of our lovely breed. This will hopefully allow us to give our breed show judges a working understanding of the breed with which to judge.

We hope that we will also be able to represent the breed at Discover Dogs which is a great way to win new friends to the breed.

We have a host of possibilities open to us now but it will take time to achieve them

One of the big highlights we had as a club was to be able to celebrate 40 years of the breed being in the UK.



all. As a Committee we would welcome suggestions or requests from our members and each one will be considered by the Committee.

It has taken nearly 10 yrs to reach this point so we will now move forward with our single being purpose being the Promotion, Protection and Welfare of the Estrela Mountain Dog which we love so much, also to serve our members in an honest and open manner.

I wish this club every success and have every confidence that this committee will do their very best for the breed and the members.

May I wish you all as Happy a Christmas as possible and a much better 2021 in which we can all look to the future again.



Jaydee the Estrela Mountain Dog owned by our committee member Marcia Dovey

# Fun Games for your dog at Christmas

By Gill Douglas

*Everyone needs to be entertained and feel part of the fun at Christmas so here are a few ideas for some easy games.*

## HIDE AND SEEK

*Place a few boxes on the floor and hide a handful of treats in one box and ask your dog to find them. Using the nose and getting a great reward is lots of fun!*



## EGG BOX CHALLENGE

*Put some treats inside an egg box and tape it shut. Your dog must chew their way into it... Messy but great fun for your dog.*



## TREAT DISPENSING TOYS

*These are brilliant for getting your dogs brain working which will tire them out. Kong make a great range from the classic kong to the wobbler. You can make a quick dispenser with a plastic bottle, use small treats that will come out of the bottle neck easily.*

## WHICH HAND?

*Take a treat in one hand and show the dog both fists and ask the dog to show which hand... When the dog indicates on the correct hand give the dog the treat.*



## THE SHELL GAME

*Use three cups or cones and place a treat under one. When the dog finds the right cup, let them have the treat. Once they have mastered it you can try shuffling the cups.*

## TOP TIPS

*Use the treats the dog wouldn't usually get in daily life, to make the games more exciting. Play the games before the dogs mealtimes so they are hungry and more likely to be excited by the food*

*Have fun!!!*



**Root the Estrela Mountain Dog - owned by our short coat coordinator Gill Douglas**



# Coronavirus: Lockdown year 'worst ever' for dog thefts

By Amy Woodfield - BBC News, East Midlands 16th October 2020

**F**or many dog owners, the coronavirus pandemic has meant more time at home with their canine companions.

However, some experts are claiming the demand for dogs during lockdown has led to a significant increase in pets being stolen, with one - Wayne May from the organisation Dog Lost - saying: "I've been doing this for 30 years now and it's the worst ever year I've known". "Unfortunately, due to lockdown, people are at home more and they're looking for companion animals to take up their time. "Sadly the criminals capitalised on this. It's pushed the price of dogs and puppies up in general, which has inadvertently sparked a high rise in dog thefts."

His view is shared by Beverley Cuddy, editor of Dogs Today magazine, who said: "Unfortunately in lockdown everyone wanted a dog and the prices went up and up. "The criminals looked at those figures... and put two and two together."

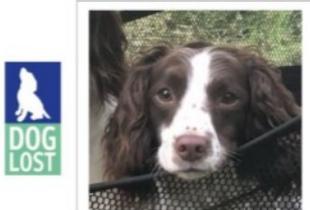
In July, Jessica Palmer had five puppies stolen from her back garden in Melton Mowbray. The sprocker spaniels were from a litter of seven that Ms Palmer's springer spaniel had given birth to eight weeks earlier. She said she was "devastated" and her three-year-old daughter was "absolutely heartbroken". Ms Palmer had listed the puppies for sale at £1,000 each. "I know they were going to go to new homes eventually anyway, but not like this. It's really traumatic for everyone," she said.

## 'Really traumatic'



## Angry, gutted and sick'

### STOLEN



JOH GAUNT

In May, Jon Gaunt had three female springer spaniels stolen from his garden in Brighton, East Sussex. He said thieves broke the padlock on his kennels to take them. "It wasn't until the next morning, when I went to exercise the dogs, clean them out and give them their breakfast, I saw the chain hanging down and I just had that horrible feeling," he said. Mr Gaunt, 46, said he felt "angry, gutted, upset and sick". "You have such a rollercoaster of emotions - you feel like somebody has just taken your legs out from underneath you," he said. One of his spaniels was found several weeks later in Kent. Mr Gaunt also suspects a dog recovered during a police raid could be one of his and he's working with authorities to get her back.

He believes "without a shadow of a doubt" there is a connection with dog thefts and the pandemic lockdown. "Everybody was at home, they were bored, and thought, 'Lets get a puppy'. "The demand for puppies was so high, it drove prices through the roof and that's why we're in this situation," he said.

The Kennel Club reported a 168% increase in people searching for puppies for sale on its website from the beginning of lockdown until the end of May, compared to the same period in 2019. Mr May said most of the dogs being stolen are female and are used for breeding, so criminal gangs can maximise their profits. "We've recovered several this year that have been pregnant," he said. This theory was also shared by Suffolk Police in July, when 17 dogs were stolen from a kennels in Barton Mills. Mr May said the theft of a dog can have a "massive" impact on owners, and some were now suffering from depression, anxiety and PTSD. "I [was in touch with] one lady recently that just never went to bed. She slept on the sofa with the back door open all summer, hoping her dog would walk home," he said.

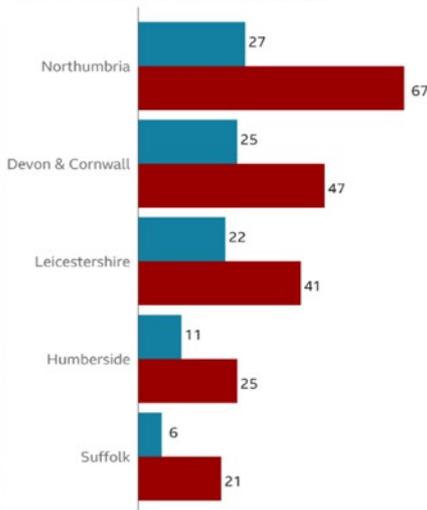


**More than 30 puppies, thought to have been stolen, were found in a van by police in Cheltenham in August.**

Dr Daniel Allen, an animal expert from Keele University, is campaigning for stricter sentencing guidelines for pet theft, via a petition which is due to be debated by MPs at Westminster Hall on Monday. He said the crime had changed dramatically over the decades. "Years ago, it was people nicking dogs from outside shops," he said. "Now it's people targeting breeders, taking the mum and the pups in one fell swoop." He said breeders were generally more rural-based, hence the rise recorded in police force areas such as Northumbria and Devon and Cornwall. "As well as breeding mums, working dogs, such as sheep dogs and shooting dogs also attract a high value - they are a ready-made, sellable product," he said. "During lockdown, people wanted that canine companionship but there is an increasing risk of our pets being taken away from us."

The results of a BBC freedom of information request showed that five policing areas saw a double-digit increase in the number of dog thefts reported between January and July 2020, compared with the previous year. Overall, about half of

**Dog thefts**  
Reports to police forces in five areas with largest change



Source: BBC freedom of information request



the 26 forces that responded to the BBC's data request saw an increase over the last seven months, while the rest saw fewer reports. Five forces had more reports between January and July 2020 than the whole of the previous year. There was a significant increase across Northumbria, Devon and Cornwall and Leicestershire - compared to the same period in the previous year. Northumbria Police saw the largest increase of reported dog thefts, rising from 27 to 67 reports. In Leicestershire, there were 41 reports compared to 22, which was also more than the total for the whole of 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The RSPCA said the figures were "really concerning". A spokesperson said: "We'd urge all dog owners to take extra precautions to protect their pets from thieves by neutering them, ensuring they are microchipped and ensuring they wear a collar with contact details." Police forces in the affected areas also urged owners to take extra precautions. "Dog owners are also advised not to leave their pets alone outside where possible and to ensure gardens are secure," a Leicestershire Police spokesperson said. A Northumbria Police spokesperson said the chances of pet owners being targeted remains "incredibly rare". A Devon and Cornwall Police spokesperson said: "We take all matters of animal theft seriously and we appreciate the distress and heartache that dog thefts cause."

### What to do if your pet is stolen:

1. Act quickly and make your dog too hot to handle.
2. Immediately inform your microchip database.
3. Make sure the number on the tag is active and some is able to man it for calls.
4. Report the theft to the police and ask for a crime reference number. Check the area for any CCTV footage that could help.
5. Contact other local services to make them aware or your pet has been stolen, such as: Neighbouring local council animal wardens, all local vets and all local rescue centers.
6. Use social media, and lost/ stolen websites.

### Key statistics

- Over 2,000 dogs are stolen each year across the United Kingdom
- Less than 5% of pet theft cases result in a conviction
- Approximately 22% of stolen dogs are reunited with their owner
- During lockdown, dog thefts in the Midlands increased by 65%
- 52% of dogs are stolen from gardens



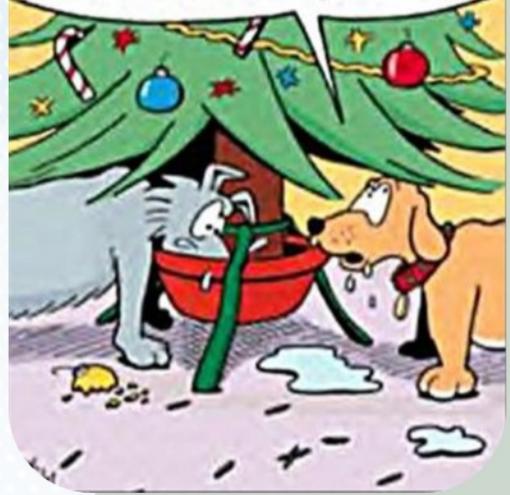
Source from the Kennel Club - up to date as of 16/12/2020

## Doggy Jokes

*Did anyone water the  
Christmas tree?*

*"I did!" exclaimed the dog.*

It possesses the same full-bodied  
flavor of the toilet bowl, yet has  
a distinctive woody taste...



*How do chihuahuas say  
Merry Christmas?*

*!Fleas Navidog!*

**It's ok, they will just  
think Santa ate them.**



*How do dogs decorate for  
Christmas?*

*They deck the paws with  
bows of collie.*



*Who delivers Christmas  
presents to pets?*

*Santa Paws*

My feet are  
just freezing!

BLIMEY!!  
You think you've  
got troubles!



## Doggy Jokes

*What do you do when it's raining cats and dogs?  
Nothing, as long as it doesn't reindeer.*

*What did the dog put on his Christmas list?  
Nothing, dogs can't write.*

*What do you call a wet dog with a bell on his collar?  
Jingle smells!*

*What did the dogs say to the Christmas tree?  
Bark*



Calling all dog owners

## 21 dangers that could ruin your dog's Christmas

If you'd rather avoid a trip to one of our out-of-hours pet emergency clinics or 24/7 hospitals this festive season then beware of these:

### FOOD AND DRINK



# 1.

#### Chocolate

**Danger:** Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine, a bit like caffeine, that's poisonous to dogs.

**How to avoid:** Never put chocolate treats, or presents that may contain chocolate, on or under your tree



# 2.

#### Christmas pudding and mince pies

**Danger:** All grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas, as well as foods that contain them, are toxic to dogs.

**How to avoid:** Keep well out of reach and carefully dispose of leftovers



# 3.

#### Macadamia nuts

**Danger:** Can cause weakness, tremors, vomiting and hyperthermia within 12 hours of ingestion

**How to avoid:** Keep locked away in a cupboard and never leave lying around



# 4.

#### Onions

**Danger:** Can cause stomach irritation and lead to red blood cell damage and anaemia

**How to avoid:** All forms of onion can be a problem, even if an ingredient in stuffing or gravy, so make sure all leftovers are properly disposed of



#### 5. Alcohol

**Danger:** Alcohol is significantly more toxic to dogs than to humans and may cause vomiting, diarrhoea, difficulty breathing, tremors, coma and even death

**How to avoid:** Clean up spillages as they happen and never leave leftover drinks lying around



# 6.

#### Artificial sweeteners

**Danger:** One sweetener in particular, xylitol, is found in many foods, including some cakes. Ingestion can lead to potentially fatal hypoglycaemia, acute liver disease and blood clotting

**How to avoid:** Even small amounts can be extremely dangerous so avoid at all costs



# 7.

#### Blue cheese

**Danger:** Seen by many as a festive treat, blue cheese is at its best around Christmas because that's when it's made with the last of the rich summer milk. Most contain a substance called roquefortine C, which dogs are sensitive to

**How to avoid:** Keep well out of reach and dispose of leftovers



# 8.

#### Cooked bones

**Danger:** Once cooked, all bones become brittle and splinter easily which can pierce your dog's digestive tract or cause an obstruction

**How to avoid:** When preparing Christmas dinner, ensure all meat is kept on the kitchen surface and dispose of leftover carcasses in the outside bin



# 9.

#### Mouldy foods

**Danger:** Mouldy dried dog food and mouldy human food, particularly dairy products, bread and nuts, contain lots of toxins that may make your dog ill

**How to avoid:** Make sure your food recycling bin is well sealed or keep outside



# Winter Dangers

10.



## Christmas trees

**Danger:** Pine needles can cause mild stomach upset, cuts to the mouth and, in severe cases, even perforation of the intestines.

**How to avoid:** Vacuum daily and keep trees watered or buy an artificial tree.



## DECORATIONS

11.

## Glass baubles

**Danger:** These tend to smash into shards when eaten, causing irritation, perforation or blockages.

**How to avoid:** Opt for shatter-proof baubles or decorations made of pet-friendly materials.



12.

## Tinsel

**Danger:** Dogs eat tinsel like we eat spaghetti. It can cause blockages or, even worse, work its way through the gut and into the intestine, which can be extremely serious.

**How to avoid:** Use pet-friendly alternative decorations.



13.

## Fairy lights

**Danger:** Some dogs will try to eat anything, including fairy lights. These may cause electric shock if chewed.

**How to avoid:** Use an extension cord that shuts off automatically when damaged and tape all loose wires to the floor.



14.

## Salt dough ornaments

**Danger:** Made by mixing flour and salt with water, these can cause potentially fatal salt toxicosis. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, and seizures.

**How to avoid:** Hang them high and well out of reach or avoid.



## PLANTS

15.

## Poinsettia, mistletoe and ivy

**Danger:** All are mildly toxic and can cause vomiting, drooling, diarrhoea and other symptoms.

**How to avoid:** Keep well out of reach.



16.

## Lilies

**Danger:** Can cause convulsions and are potentially fatal when eaten in large quantities.

**How to avoid:** If you're keen on a Christmas bouquet, opt for red roses or white orchids instead.



17.

## Potpourri

**Danger:** Can cause serious gastrointestinal problems which can last several days even after the material has passed through.

**How to avoid:** Keep well out of reach.



18.  
Toys

**Danger:** Some dogs will swallow anything that looks appealing, including children's toys, even if it's likely to put them at risk.

**How to avoid:** Monitor the opening of gifts and keep new toys out of reach.



## PRESENTS

19. Batteries

**Danger:** Ingestion of batteries is more common at Christmas and can cause chemical burns and heavy metal poisoning.

**How to avoid:** Never leave batteries, or small toys including batteries, lying around.



## Winter Dangers

### 20. Wrapping or crepe paper

1/5  
Risk rating

**Danger:** While toxicity is low, eating a large amount of paper may cause an obstruction in the stomach

**How to avoid:** Don't leave wrapped gifts lying around and dispose of old paper in an outside bin



1/5  
Likelihood of harm

### 21. Silica gel

1/5  
Risk rating

**Danger:** Commonly found in packaging and typically non-toxic, these can cause blockages in the gut

**How to avoid:** Monitor the opening of gifts that may contain these sachets and dispose of carefully



2/5  
Likelihood of harm

#### RISK RATINGS EXPLAINED

- 1 Monitor your dog carefully and if you suspect a change in condition seek advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 2-3 If you suspect your dog has consumed any of the items listed seek urgent advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 4-5 Contact your vet immediately or, out of hours, call your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#) as your dog may require urgent emergency treatment

Unsure whether your dog needs veterinary treatment?  
[Book an online video consultation with our vet](#)

#### WHY DO SOME DOGS EAT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?

- They are natural scavengers
- They explore with their mouths
- Like humans, they eat when they're bored
- Binging is instinctive to dogs
- They may have a medical condition such as diabetes
- Constant begging may be a learned behaviour
- They may not be getting enough nutritious dog food

## FESTIVE STATS TO GIVE YOU PAWS FOR THOUGHT

40%

increase in alcohol consumption in December



256m

£s spent on confectionery in the two weeks leading up to Christmas



420

average £s spent on presents by people in UK

25m

Christmas puddings eaten every year

230k

tonnes of Christmas food that is thrown away

8.5m

DOGS IN THE UK

92%

of pets will experience an emergency situation during their lifetime

2.4bn

£s wasted on uneaten, discarded food and unwanted gifts

61%

of owners let their dogs join them for Christmas dinner



51%

of households have a pet

40%

increase in emergency calls to Vets Now at Christmas

83sq km

wrapping paper sold in the UK every Christmas

70%

of dogs get Christmas gifts from their owners



1 in 5

toxic plant cases in pets are due to lilies



9 in 10

poisonings happen while pets are in their own home



300m

mince pies eaten over Christmas

750g

of milk chocolate may cause a Labrador to have seizures

5.5m

dog owners unknowingly feed their pets harmful food at Christmas

15%

of dog owners have sought emergency help on Boxing Day

Your pet emergency service  
[vets-now.com/christmas](http://vets-now.com/christmas)

**vetsnow**

Worried about your pet? Video chat with our vet between 8am and 11pm Book now at [vets-now.com/videochat](http://vets-now.com/videochat)

# The Club and how to get involved

## **Present committee Members 2020**

President: Carla Molinari (Portugal)

Club Patron: Jeronimo Augusto (Portugal)

Hon. Chairman (Pro-tem): Peter Edwards

Hon. Secretary (Pro-tem): Camille Lambert

Hon. Treasurer (Pro-tem): Ana Rita Vidal

## **Committee:**

Pedro Silva

Marcia Dovey

Gill Douglas

Nichola Marshall

Kelly Bailey

Rebecca Roberts

## **Other positions:**

Rescue: Peter Edwards working alongside Estela Mountain Dog Welfare & Rescue

Puppy Co-ordinator: Rebecca Roberts

Short-Coat Co-ordinator: Gill Douglas

Health Co-ordinator: Nichola Marshall

Newsletter: Ana Rita Vidal (contact: [anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk))

Club Shop: Marcia Dovey

Webmaster: Kelly Bailey

You are welcome to contact us at any time if you would like to be more involved with the club.

Any help is very much appreciated.

We also want you to feel you can contribute to the newsletters with stories, experiences, photos, articles etc. We want to hear from you :)

