

EMDC UK NEWSLETTER



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Hello everyone

Since the last newsletter again a lot has changed but this time it was with our lives and the normal way in which we were used to living has changed drastically.

At the EMDC UK we hope that you have all been able to cope with the Covid-19 lockdown as best as you can and that your four legged friends have kept you company and entertained in these unprecedented times.

If you are feeling lonely at all please do visit our club page and engage in discussions, competitions and keep up to date of when we might be able to all meet again in person for our AGM and fun day.

Please remember to stay alert, control the virus, save lives

As a club we have also been busy with the new committee members all settling in very well and already doing really great work for the club and the breed. In the coming months keep checking our Facebook page so that you can meet them all by viewing their personal videos. They have all been busy making amazing videos to introduce themselves. A big thank you goes to Kelly Louise Bailey for all her hard work in changing our website and Facebook she has done an amazing job.

We hope you all had fun taking part in our lockdown competition and as you know the winner is featured here in this newsletter.

As usual I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Don't forget to contribute any articles or photos to the newsletter at anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk

UK CLUB NEWS & ARTICLES

SECRETARY REPORT

The last time I wrote for the Newsletter it was almost Christmas and life were quite different. I have been in lockdown now, at the time of writing, for 7.5 weeks and as a vulnerable person will remain in lockdown until 15th June (if not longer)! To be honest, I am loving it as I get to spend a lot more time at home with my dogs!

Our membership has increased again, we now have **54 members** and we welcome everyone to our Club and thank you for your ongoing support. We have co-opted 4 new Committee members into the fold and welcome them with open arms.

Nichola Marshall (Health Co-ordinator)

Gill Douglass (Short-Coat Co-ordinator)

Kelly Bailey (Webmaster)

And **Rebecca Roberts**

(the truly knowledgeable youngster who keeps us all on our toes!)

Thank you for all the work these members have carried out already for the club, especially to Kelly, Rebecca and Gill for all the work they have done regarding the new club Facebook Page, updates to the website and making our EMDC (UK) Facebook group for Members only. Nichola has also completed the Kennel Club's Health report that they requested and has some fabulous health related plans. **WELL DONE ALL!**

HOT NEWS!! On 1st May, our Application for the Registration of Title was sent to the Kennel Club, this is our bid for Kennel Club recognition. This will be a long process, is likely to take at least 12 months, and may not be successful. We ask all our members to keep their fingers, legs and toes crossed for a positive outcome. It has taken us 9 years to get to this point, now it is in the Kennel Club's hands and we can do no more – we need to be patient. I will keep the Membership informed of any developments as and when they happen.

Unfortunately, due to Lockdown, our AGM had to be postponed. We hope to hold this later in the year, but only when it is safe to do so. We have several members who are highly vulnerable (including me), and we must put the safety of ALL our members at the top of our priorities. Information on the rescheduled AGM will be sent to Members as soon as we are able.

On the same theme, our usual Picnic is on hold until we find a suitable date. It may be possible to hold both events together, so please keep your eyes on the EMDC (UK) Facebook Group and your emails for information regarding developments regarding these two events.

Hopefully by the next newsletter, life will be returning to normal and Christmas will be celebrated by all together. It is going to be a long road to recovery and back to normality, but we will get there! Thanks to you all, stay well, stay safe.

Camille Lambert

Secretary@emdc-uk.com

Tel: 07958 549778 (after 7 pm)

CRUFTS 2020 - 05TH TO 08TH MARCH

The Estrela Mountain dog had a total of 17 entries this year, a slightly lower number of entries than last year. The EMDC UK would like to congratulate all the exhibitors that participated and promoted the breed in the ring one more year. Lets hope for a great 2021 Crufts show for the Estrela Mountain Dog breed.



Crufts 2020 Results

[Return to Main Results Page](#)

BREED & CLASS RESULTS

Estrela Mountain Dog

Judge(s): MISS E A INGRAM [IRELAND]



PORT/LUX/BENELUX/DT CH (VDH)/NL CH ODI DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EW'16

[View larger image](#)

BEST OF BREED

PORT/LUX/BENELUX/DT CH (VDH)/NL CH ODI DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EW'16

Dog

Owner: MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI

BEST PUPPY

J'URSA DA ACINOMAGRICULTURA [ATC AW02108PRT]

Bitch

Owner: MS J A HASLETT

BEST DOG

PORT/LUX/BENELUX/DT CH (VDH)/NL CH ODI DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EW'16

Dog

Owner: MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI

BEST BITCH

NL CH RAINHA DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EJW'16

Bitch

Owner: MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI

RESERVE BEST DOG

ESSANELLE THE RED MUSKETEER

Dog

Owner: MRS L V GODDERIDGE

RESERVE BEST BITCH

MILAGRE GOT A FEELIN AT ESTJAK

Bitch

Owner: MS S & MR A MCKINLAY & JOHNSON

BEST VETERAN

MILAGRE GOT A FEELIN AT ESTJAK

Bitch

Owner: MS S & MR A MCKINLAY & JOHNSON

Classes

Junior - Dog Entries: 1 Abs: 0	1st WITHHELD ()
Post Graduate - Dog Entries: 2 Abs: 0	1st GARREGDDU VENTO (<i>MR S A OTTAWAY</i>) 2nd ESSANELLE DARTAGNAN (<i>MRS L V GODDERIDGE</i>)
Open - Dog Entries: 3 Abs: 0	1st PORT/LUX/BENELUX/DT CH (VDH)/NL CH ODI DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EW'16 (<i>MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI</i>) 2nd ESSANELLE THE RED MUSKETEER (<i>MRS L V GODDERIDGE</i>) 3rd BAMCWT FIRST KNIGHT (<i>MRS K L BAILEY</i>)
Veteran - Bitch Entries: 3 Abs: 0	1st MILAGRE GOT A FEELIN AT ESTJAK (<i>MS S & MR A MCKINLAY & JOHNSON</i>) 2nd INT CH/MULTI CH HAIA DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) SHCM BW'LUX'17 (<i>MISS L J & MRS S A BERMINGHAM & KENDRICK</i>) 3rd MILAGRE ICE ICE BABY (<i>MISS G C REID</i>)
Puppy - Bitch Entries: 1 Abs: 0	1st J'URSA DA ACINOMAGRICULTURA(<i>MS J A HASLETT</i>)
Junior - Bitch Entries: 1 Abs: 0	1st TALIA DA QUINTA DO GANHAO [ATC AW01460PRT] (<i>MR J & MRS P BUCKLEY</i>)
Post Graduate - Bitch Entries: 3 Abs: 0	1st GARREGDDU AGUA (<i>MISS T & MISS R J ROBERTS</i>) 2nd BAMCWT FIRST EDITION (<i>MISS L J & MRS S A BERMINGHAM & KENDRICK</i>) 3rd ASTEREL KAA AT GARREGDDU (<i>MISS T & MISS R J ROBERTS</i>)
Open - Bitch Entries: 1 Abs: 0	1st NL CH RAINHA DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EJW'16 (<i>MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI</i>)
Good Citizen Dog Scheme - Bitch Entries: 2 Abs: 1	1st NL CH RAINHA DA CASA DE LOAS EM BAMCWT (IMP PORT) EJW'16 (<i>MISS L J, MRS S A, MR J & MRS F BERMINGHAM, KENDRI</i>)

Save the date for Crufts 2021 from the 11th March to the 14th March. Pastoral group being on

FUN COMPETITION MAY 2020
ESTRELAS DURING LOCKDOWN

AND THE WINNER IS.....

**Sturtmoor Nia No Nonsense
(The Netherlands)
Entered by Antonia Zoutman**



ANCIENT BREED OF SHEEPDOG IN FRONT-LINE OF EFFORTS TO BRING WOLVES BACK TO PORTUGAL

BY NICK SQUIRES AND JAMES BADCOCK
THE TELEGRAPH

Conservationists hope to expand Portugal's population of around 300 Iberian wolves

An ancient breed of sheepdog is being recruited to protect livestock as part of a campaign to encourage the return of wolves to the mountains of Portugal.

Dozens of Serra de Estrela mountain dog puppies are to be trained as sheepdogs to help farmers ward off attacks from wolves, as the species makes a comeback.

The idea is that shepherds who have dogs that can fight off wolf attacks are less likely to want to kill the predators.

The project, organised by the conservation organisation Rewilding Europe, involves up to 100 Serra de Estrela mountain dogs being entrusted to farmers in the Serra de Montemuro region of northern Portugal, where wolves are making a comeback.

In Portugal there are around 300 endangered Iberian wolves – a sub-species of the grey wolf – and conservationists want to expand the population, while trying to manage any conflict with landowners.

That is where the dogs come in - if introduced to sheep flocks when they are puppies, the powerful breed forges strong protective bonds.

The dogs were used by shepherds until the early 20th century, when shooting and poisoning came to be regarded as a quicker and easier way of combating the wolf threat.



The wolf has been a protected species in Portugal since 1988 but that has not prevented many animals from being killed.

Between 1999 and 2008, for instance, 64 wolves were killed, according to a report by the National Institute for Conservation of Forests. Of those, 21 died in traffic accidents, 11 were trapped with snares, 10 were shot, three were poisoned, two were strangled and one died from an infection.



“This is a breed that has been used in the region for centuries,” Deli Saavedra, a regional manager for Rewilding Europe, told The Telegraph.

“The wolf population in the region is small and scattered at the moment but when it grows there will be the potential for conflict. The dogs are big animals and they are capable of protecting the sheep.”

The conservationists are also trying to boost the number of roe deer in the region, to provide the wolves with a source of wild prey rather than livestock. “If wolves have a choice, they always go for wild animals rather than domestic animals,” said the ecologist.

The first Estrela mountain dog puppy to undergo training is called Leão, meaning lion in Portuguese.

He is just a few months old now but once fully -grown, at 18 months, he will spend his days and nights protecting sheep from wolves. “The target is to eventually embed 100 dogs with flocks and herds in the project area,” said Sara Aliácar, from Rewilding Portugal.



“A shepherd with Serra da Estrela dogs can guard against wolf predation far more effectively than one without.”

Wolves were once numerous in Portugal but now occupy less than 30% of their original range. In the past, stone-built, circular pits were commonly used to trap wolves in northwestern Spain and northern Portugal, called fojo in Portuguese and foxo in Galician.

With large tracts of the region in north-eastern Portugal abandoned by farmers over the years, Rewilding Europe wants to return hundreds of thousands of hectares to their natural state. That would encourage the return not just of the wolf but other signature species such as the Iberian lynx, black vulture and imperial eagle.



The organisation is promoting rewilding projects across Europe, from Italy's central Apennines to the Rhodope Mountains of Bulgaria and the Southern Carpathians in Romania.

MY LOCKDOWN DOGS

BY GILL DOUGLAS - EMDC (UK) SHORT COAT COORDINATOR

Like many other dog folks I usually spend a lot of my weekends competing in various disciplines. I don't show much these days, my show dogs are getting on a bit and it's a rare judge who takes a second look at a veteran. My younger dogs are more sporty in nature and not suited to dog showing so we tend to partake in Rally O and Scent work among other things. The lockdown hit us all hard. I found myself suddenly unemployed and with no courses, seminars, training days and trials to look forward to, so I began searching for online activities. The Estrela Mountain Dog Welfare and Rescue fun day was due to take place on 29th March, and we cancelled ahead of time, so the first task was to collaborate with the rest of the EMDWR committee and organise an online fun show. The show was a great success and raised over £360 to help Estrela's in need.



I was still searching for a physical activity for the dogs though and I discovered Parkour UK. Parkour is a physical activity which involves the dog and handler interacting with the environment. For the basic title the dog must be able to perform certain behaviours such as 'in', 'up', and 'under'. We had to make use of items within the garden and house to complete our tasks, and it involved Root getting into a washing basket and up a step ladder! But we did it and Root became the first Estrela to gain a Parkour UK title. I felt she had done enough and at £25.00 a title it certainly wasn't cheap, especially with me being out of work. We looked at other online courses and trails and found some to be more expensive, some were free

and we joined in, but with no actual feedback from trainers or judges it has been difficult to stay motivated. Dogs find licking and chewing very soothing. I like to stuff the interactive toys with grain free wet food and freeze it.. I find raw food too high value for my dogs as they are resource guarders, something not unusual for guardian breeds. The lick mats are not suitable for dogs who want to chew everything. They are made from silicone which is easy to destroy for power chewers. My young boys have black Kongs, the red ones were too easily damaged by them. Another good activity I found was filling a small box or egg box with dog treats and letting the dogs shred it.



Once we got the go ahead to exercise at our discretion and drive to walks, life became easier once more. I live in a busy tourist area and prefer quiet waks, as do the dogs. I'm still looking forward to when it's safe and sensible to go hill walking or visit the lakes or Yorkshire Dales.

All in all we survived the lock down, the limited exercise, the lack of training and competitions. I doubt there will be much going on before next year, trail and show wise, but I realised that all that is for me, the dogs have been perfectly satisfied with the one thing I had in abundance, my time.

NEW LOOK FOR THE EMDC UK ONLINE

BY KELLY BAILEY - EMDC (UK) WEBMASTER

2020 has already proven to be a very difficult year due to Covid-19 Pandemic, and for those who have been stuck in their home we hope we have brought Estrela's, both UK and Worldwide to your screens at home.

There have been a few updates and changes to the webpage <https://emdc-uk.com> and social media.

Our group, EMDC (UK) which was previously a private closed group for anyone to join, is now open only for fully paid members, to enable friendly member chats, sharing of photos and of course members are the first to see our news and updates.

We have created a fantastic new additional Facebook page where anyone in the world can keep up to date with our public notices and updates (estrela Mountain Dog Club UK/ @EstrelaMDCUK).

Webpage updates include: Meet the Committee, Show Results 2020, 2020 Event Cancellations, Newsletters and Show Information Pages.

- ⇒ Meet the Committee is a series of videos, each one featuring a committee member, their roll within the club and a little about themselves. The videos are planned to run from May right through to September 2020. These will be aired through our Facebook page Estrela Mountain Dog UK and will be available to view on our webpage shortly afterwards.
- ⇒ Show Results 2020 can be viewed from the show Info & Results drop down menu, there is also a 2020 event cancellations update page which includes a statement from the Kennel Club and some information regarding Covid-19 - We will try to keep this up to date as much as we can.
- ⇒ The Show Information page is brand new and can be found under the Show Info and Results tab. This is the ideal place to learn a little about showing and includes some of the following: Championship Dog Show List, New to Showing, Ringcraft, Entering a Dog Show, CRUFTS and how to Qualify and much more. There are a number of links to guide you through the process.

April-May 2020 saw the launch of our "Estrelas in Lockdown" fun photo competition. We saw entries come to us all over, judged on 23rd May by Gill Douglas, our winner is Sturtmoor Nia No Nonsense from The Netherlands, Entered by Antonia Zoutman.

Webmaster going forwards:


We plan to make all newsletters available for public viewing once they are a minimum of 3 months old. To be fully up to date, join our club. To bring more online interactive competitions for rescue, working alongside the Estrela Mountain Dog Welfare and Rescue, continue breed recognition, more health reports, presentations online and much more.

GRAIN FREE DIETS AND THE ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG

BY NICHOLA MARSHALL – EMDC (UK) BREED HEALTH COORDINATOR

Skin and ear issues such as ‘hot spots’ are a well known problem for many estrela mountain dogs (more on this topic at a later date), so it’s no wonder owners have this in mind when choosing their dogs’ food. There are also growing concerns around so called ‘boutique, exotic, grain free diets (BEGs) and their link to dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). So what is the discerning estrela owner to do?*

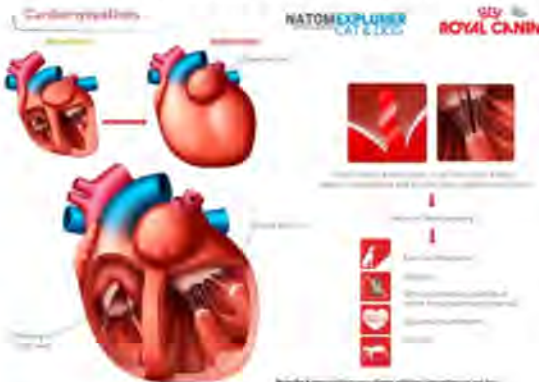
Reasons to feed grain free:

- 1) “Dogs evolved from wolves and should be fed accordingly.” Polar bears evolved from grizzlies approximately 11,000 years ago. Grizzlies are around 90% vegetarian – I don’t think a polar bear would be impressed with a grizzly diet! Dogs evolved... stop right there. They evolved. They are their own species. Dogs produce 11 times** more amylase than wolves. Amylase is the digestive enzyme for carbohydrates. There is evidence going back to at least the Bronze Age that dogs have always eaten what we do and if we look at people who are still living the nomadic shepherd lifestyle, their livestock guardian dogs are fed bread and the whey left over from making cheese. That’s it. The dogs might also eat dung, scavenge dead animals or hunt up the occasional rodent but the people themselves only eat meat about once a month if they are lucky so the dogs are rarely, if ever, fed meat. Coming back to Portugal, the dogs might get fed a soup of rice and leftovers, the shepherd might share his scraps but still the dogs are not fed a lot of meat – it’s too valuable! Be warned, if you try to tell me your dog is a wolf or should be treated like one, I will throw my banana at you.
- 
- 2) “Grains cause food allergies in dogs.” Except they don’t. Or at least very rarely. 87% of food allergies in dogs are allergies to meats. Every estrela I have heard of that has had a diagnosed food allergy, was allergic to specific meat(s). This might seem counterintuitive as we hear so much marketing about gluten intolerances etc but if your dog has a food allergy, a meat protein is the most likely culprit.
 - 3) “Grain free food is more nutritious.” Except grains *are* nutritious and our dogs can digest them because they have evolved to eat them. How nutritious a food is depends on its digestibility and the balance of nutrients. Being grain free doesn’t automatically make a food more nutritious.



Reasons not to feed grain free:

- 1) Food allergies. No, that's not a typo! One of the problems with BEG diets is that if a dog does actually have a food allergy, the first thing the vet will tell you to do is to switch to a novel food – one that your dog hasn't eaten before. If your dog pretty much lives on chicken and rice based food, that's easy, you just switch to salmon and potato or whatever. If your dog is eating venison, ostrich, kangaroo, duck, with peas, sweet potato etc etc, finding a novel food becomes increasingly difficult.
- 2) Nutrition. These grain free diets are developed almost exclusively by hobbyists. Whether we are talking about 'prey model' RAW feeding or Frank and Sally's natural garden kitchen holistic complete food for wolves, these diets have been developed, on the whole, by amateurs. No matter how good their intentions or how much reading they have done, that doesn't equate to being a qualified nutritionist. A nutritionist has also done the reading but they have had academic supervisors to check what reading they have done, for flaws in their logic and exams to check they actually understand that reading etc.
- 3) Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). This is a heart condition which can already affect estrela mountain dogs anyway. For some, as yet unknown, reason, there seems to be a link between these BEG diets and dogs developing DCM. When dogs are switched back onto a nutritionally



complete, grain inclusive food, the progress of the disease can be halted and even reversed – not something that happens when the disease is purely genetic in origin – adding weight to the conclusion that it is the diet that is causing the problem. It may be that the grains themselves contain or help the dog to process the nutrients needed for a healthy heart, or it may be that the alternative ingredients being used instead are causing the problem.

In summary, the claimed benefits of grain free foods are, at best, misguided and more cynically, marketing ploys. Unless your dog is diagnosed with a specific grain allergy, there is no reason to avoid grains in your dog's food, quite the opposite, the risk of DCM from feeding BEG foods, whilst not fully understood, is all too real. Make sure your dogs diet, whether homemade or complete, is made / designed by qualified nutritionists.

Oh, and give them a biscuit from me,

Nichola xxx

*This information was taken from the seminar by Dr Rosario Cerundolo, asst. prof. dermatology university of Nottingham and this fantastic summary of the currently available literature which can be found here: <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2020&context=honors&fbclid=IwAR0NUg318HITzE9ZFiqpi5tgdYzgKyFf7uvurrirY4IbOxlnxdgZXES5yPI>

** Less for some artic breeds where both people and dogs would have eaten less grains and more meat, although still

more than wolves.

WHY DOGS ARE THE PERFECT COLLEAGUES

BY PETPLAN

They say the people you work with become your family. But what about when your canine friends become your colleagues? With more and more of us working from home, the nation's dogs have risen to the challenge and left us wondering if we really need their human counterparts. Here's the evidence!

1. They're always camera-ready

Ever thought about taking a cute snap of a workmate snoozing at their desk? Probably not. And even if you have, you probably didn't have the best intentions when you shared it on Facebook. When your beautiful pooch is snuggled under your desk, though, you're well within your rights to pause that conference call and capture the moment! You might even have a 'Petfluencer' like @jiffpom, the pup with 10 million followers on Instagram.



2. They're always up for a tea break


**HAVE A
BREAK
HAVE A
KIT-KAT**

When your dog's the only one watching, you'll never have to justify a trip to the fridge or an impromptu playtime. Just glance in their direction and they're ready to get involved with your procrastination plans. Regular breaks will also boost your energy and break the monotony for you both. It's also important to keep your dog mentally stimulated to help avoid unwanted behaviours, so why not use the time to teach him something new?

3. They make you focus when it counts

Having a colleague that follows you everywhere does have its less obvious advantages – like making you think twice about leaving your desk unless absolutely necessary. Picture the scene... he's finally nodded off in that sunny patch by the door. Your deadline is looming. Are you really willing to risk it all for the sake of a third custard cream? When it comes to staying healthy and productive, we're yet to find a better motivator.



4. They keep you accountable

If you're new to working from home, it can be hard to find a routine and set boundaries between your work and personal time. Even if you're a veteran, it can be tempting to ditch your daily rituals on an off-day. Thinking about skipping your morning walk or spending an extra hour in bed? You can count on your furry alarm clock having something to say about it! A regular routine will help your dog feel settled, too.



5. You'll never lunch alone

Working through lunch or taking breaks at weird times? While human co-workers will ditch you almost instantly for their favourite burrito, your canine companion is guaranteed to be by your side whenever you grab a bite.

6. They make hilarious yogis

Ever tried doing yoga with your dog? We suggest you start immediately. Even if you're a total newbie, some light stretching throughout the day will improve your circulation and help prevent issues such as tendonitis and repetitive strain injury.



7. Dogs don't read the news

No matter what's going on in the world around us, we can always count on our dogs to greet us with the same delighted eyes and wagging tail. You won't find your doggy co-workers discussing current events or sharing morbid stories in the staff room. Instead, their eternal optimism helps us stay grounded and maintain a sense of wellbeing. They're just as happy as they were before – if not happier, because their best friend is always around.



SPRING TIME DANGERS

INFORMATION FROM THE KENNEL CLUB WEBSITE

After the long winter's months of mostly staying indoors, many of us like to clean our homes and get back outside. Although these activities can be good for both our physical and mental well being, they also increase the risk of your dog coming into contact with a number of springtime dangers, such as lungworm, adder bites, ticks and certain poisonous spring flowers and bulbs.

Adders

These are the UK's only native poisonous snake and are found in a wide range of different habitats. Adders hibernate over winter and emerge in spring; this is the time when the likelihood of being bitten is highest. These snakes often bask in the sun and inquisitive dogs that stumble upon them are most often bitten around the face, muzzle and front paws.



How to tell if your dog has been bitten by an adder

Signs that your dog has been bitten may appear quickly and can include:

- Small puncture wounds
- Swelling
- Bruising
- Pain
- Lameness
- Dribbling
- Being sick
- Increased temperature
- Bleeding
- Changes to the heart beat, blood pressure and breathing rate

What to do if your dog is bitten?

Dogs that are bitten should be taken to a vet as soon as possible. It's important that until you see the vet, the bite should be left alone. No tourniquets should be applied and you should not attempt to suck out the poison, as this may cause further complications.

If you see an adder in your garden, or when out for a walk, leave it alone. Adders are a protected species and it is illegal to harm or kill them.

Lungworm

Wet spring months usually mean you'll see a fair few slugs and snails around and they've all got the potential to carry the dangerous lungworm parasite. When your dog rummages through the undergrowth, drinks from puddles, eats grass, or generally sniffs around outside; they can end up eating or licking slugs, snails or their slime trails, increasing the risk of becoming infected by lungworm.

Signs that your dog may be infected by lungworm include:

- Coughing
- Breathing problems
- Tiredness
- Taking a long time for cuts to clot
- Changes in behaviour

If you're concerned your dog has been infected speak to your vet immediately.



Ticks

Ticks can carry dangerous infectious diseases that can be passed on to both you and your dog.

After going for walks in the countryside always check your dog for ticks. Thoroughly run your hand over your dog's body checking for lumps or bumps (don't forget to check inside their ears).

Ticks should be removed quickly and carefully, but if you're unsure how to do this then you should always ask your vet for advice.

Never try to burn the ticks off or smother them in lotions or petroleum jelly, as this can increase the risk of being infected by the diseases ticks carry.



Spring cleaning

Cleaning products themselves are likely to taste unpleasant and so may not be particularly attractive to dogs. Brightly coloured packaging or interestingly shaped bottles on the other hand may appear interesting to them, or seem like an excellent toy to play with. Make sure that all cleaning products cannot be accessed by your dog and that dogs are kept away from areas that are being cleaned, or have recently been cleaned.

Tips:

If you leave bleach down a toilet, remember to put the lid down and close the bathroom door so that your dog can not get in.

Oven cleaners and drain cleaners can be especially harmful. Keep your dog out of the room when using these products.

If your dog consumes any cleaning products DO NOT try to make them sick. Their vomit may be frothy and foamy and could get into their lungs.

Spring Flowers

There are many different plants commonly found in gardens around the country that could make your dog ill. Some of these are highly poisonous, while others may only cause a mild tummy upset. Incidents of poisoning from spring bulbs are most likely to occur from dogs eating the bulbs in autumn when they are planted, or in spring when they begin to flower.

Daffodils: Effects from poisoning can include vomiting, stomach upset and dribbling, but can escalate to dogs appearing sleepy, wobbly on their legs, or collapsing. In more serious cases fits and changes to heart rate, body temperature and blood pressure may occur. Dogs can also become unwell if the flowers are eaten, or if water from a vase containing daffodils is drunk.



Tulips: The toxins found in this plant cause irritation to the mouth and gastrointestinal tract and only usually result in drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea. Serious cases are rare, but effects could include heart problems and breathing difficulties.

Spring crocus: These flower in spring and are said to be of low toxicity and may only cause a mild stomach upset if eaten. These bulbs are not to be confused with autumn crocus, which flower in autumn and can cause severe stomach upset, kidney and liver problems and bone marrow depression.



Weedkillers

The types and toxicity of chemicals used to kill plants vary dramatically. Most cases of poisoning occur from dogs that brush up against, chew or lick recently treated plants, or from dogs playing with or drinking from containers.

Clinical effects vary dramatically depending on the type of herbicide, but can include vomiting, dehydration, blood in the stools or in the vomit, ulcers in the mouth, breathing problems, heart problems, kidney and liver failure.

Slug bait

These substances are most often found in the form of pellets and are very attractive to dogs. There are a number of different types of slug bait which vary in toxicity, some of which are said to be relatively safe to mammals. Some slug baits contain a substance called metaldehyde that is highly toxic to dogs. This chemical can quickly cause dogs to develop tremor, twitching and fits, which can go on for a number of days. If using slug pellets, make sure they are scattered around the area you wish to treat, rather than left in piles where they are more easily eaten by your dog.

**Dogs in hot cars**

Dogs should never be left in the car unattended, even on a mildly warm day. Dogs can die this way, even if the car has been left in the shade and car windows are open. If you are travelling in the car with your dog for a long period of time, make sure you take the necessary precautions, such as taking plenty of stops, having lots of water and an appropriate shady space for your dog.

How to use this information

The information is intended to be used to prevent poisoning by raising awareness of certain poisons, rather than as a document to be used in an emergency. If you think that your dog has been poisoned, or has come into contact with potentially poisonous substances, contact your local veterinary practice immediately.

Think your dog may be affected?

If you're worried about your dog's health, always contact your vet immediately!

We are not a veterinary organisation and so we can't give veterinary advice, but if you're worried about any of the issues raised in this article, please contact your local vet practice for further information.

WALKING A DOG SAFELY FOR SOMEONE DURING COVID-19

INFORMATION FROM THE KENNEL CLUB
WEBSITE

Given the rapidly changing situation, please regularly check the latest government advice and continually assess your own situation based on this information.

The government guidance on how to help others safely can be found here, alongside advice for those who own pets, but below is more specific guidance for those walking dogs for owners who can't during lockdown.

Before you pick-up the dog, contact the owner ideally on the phone or online, or else speak at least two metres away, and:

- Ensure you're aware of the owner's circumstances, and they of yours, so you can both individually assess the situation.
- Ask the owner to check the contact details linked to the dog's microchip are up to date, so that it gets returned home as soon as possible if lost. This can be done online and over the phone for dogs registered with Petlog. You can also purchase a dog tag from the Kennel Club range here.
- Check if the dog has any allergies (there may be some treats it can't have), medical or behavioural issues, so you know how best to exercise it safely.
- Put the telephone number of the vets where the dog is registered in your phone. In an emergency always call ahead, as a different surgery may be better or nearer.
- Ask the owner what commands the dog knows, such as to sit, walk to heel and come back - using the right words will make the walk easier and less stressful for you both.
- Plan the time and ideally a route in advance.

When collecting the dog:

- Follow government guidelines – maintain social distancing measures and always wash your hands before and after handling the dog.
- Ideally use your own lead and avoid touching the dog, its collar or harness, as much as possible. Don't share a dog whistle and wear gloves if necessary, disposing of them afterwards.
- Make sure the dog's collar is not too loose, as otherwise it could back out if scared – you can check this (if wearing gloves) – you should be able to slip two fingers, but no more, between the collar and the dog's neck. A close-fitting harness is harder to escape from. Make sure the collar or harness carries the owner's name and address - affix a temporary label if need be.

When on a walk:

- Be very wary about letting the dog off the lead - only do so if, where and when the owner says it's OK. Even a normally well-behaved dog is more likely to run off in the current situation. It's less likely to be anxious when walked where it normally goes, but avoid popular times and places where you can't keep at least two metres from other people and dogs. Walk locally and don't travel unnecessarily, as per the government guidelines.
- Don't let any dog play with sticks, as they can cause serious injury. Also avoid any toys that are small enough to get jammed in the dog's throat; tennis balls can be too small for some larger dogs to play with safely. Always thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water after handling any dog, toys, treats, leads, harnesses etc.

- Always pick up the dog's poo wherever you are in town, coast or countryside; any public waste bin will do. As bins may become full at this time, ideally take the bagged poo home and place it in the general waste. Take hand sanitizer in your pocket so you can use this afterwards, then wash your hands with soap and water as soon as you get home.

When returning the dog:

- Follow government guidelines – maintain social distancing measures when returning the dog.
- Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, as well as any toys, leads or harnesses used on the walk, as soon as you get back to your home.

Pets and Coronavirus PROTECTING EACH OTHER

- 1 There is no evidence that pets can get sick from COVID-19.
- 2 Just like human hands, pet fur could carry the virus from one person to another.
- 3 Wash hands well with soap after touching any pets or their belongings and avoid pet kisses – them and you!
- 4 If your pet is sick or injured, call your vet before going to the surgery.



Pets provide invaluable companionship, let's take care of them too

To find out more visit: www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus



Pets and Coronavirus PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- 1 Each person in the household can walk your dog once a day, but...
- 2 Keep you and your dog at least two metres from others.
- 3 Avoid contact with other people's pets.
- 4 Ensure you have your pet's normal supplies for 14 days; make only essential trips to the pet shop.



Wash your hands, follow the latest Government guidance and play your part to protect others

To find out more visit: www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus



Pets and Coronavirus IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING

- 1 Think about how you can provide for your pet's needs.
- 2 Dogs can be let out into your garden, or just outside your home to toilet, but keep your distance from others and minimise time outside.*
- 3 Can anyone else care for your pet if you are sick or in hospital?
- 4 If your cat is used to staying in then keep them inside and clean their litter tray regularly. If an outdoor cat, try and minimise interactions with them.*



If you are sick, restrict close contact with your pets

*Advice on these specific points may be subject to change so please regularly check Government guidance.
To find out more visit: www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus



Pets and Coronavirus HELPING EACH OTHER

- 1 Can you safely help a vulnerable person in your community with their pet?
- 2 Can you offer remote help to your local animal charity?
- 3 Could you donate pet food to your local food bank?
- 4 All animal charities will be impacted by this crisis – please consider donating to support their work.



Pets are family – let's look out for each other

To find out more visit: www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus



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)
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 :)