



Better late than never for the Stoney Plains Kennel and Cremations winter news letter. This has been a very busy winter at the kennel for both boarding and grooming and we are patiently waiting for the spring to arrive. But patience is getting short with another snow storm happening as we write this.

What's New

Winter does not allow us to do much outdoors but it does allow us sit and plan renovations and more improvements. New this year we will be replacing our existing small dog kennels with a Shore Line kennel system that is up to standard for Manitoba boarding kennels. Because Manitoba does not currently do inspections on boarding kennels, due to staffing issues many boarding kennels go un-inspected. Because of previous employment experience boarding kennel owner Celina Dunfield held with the Provincial Animal Protection Office and now currently Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association we have made plans to bring the kennel up to standard with the Provincial Boarding Guidelines.

We are also excited to getting a little plumbing done this spring with the long awaited full service grooming building located on the property known as Hangin Bar J Grooming. New plumbing and a state of the art groom tub will be added in the spring to allow Jill to take on more clients.

Pet Cremation Service

Before we took over the boarding kennel the previous owners had a dedicated and reputable cremation service that was offered to private parkland residence and veterinary clinics. Stoney Plains Kennel and Cremations (as the name implies) believes that;

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated in death"

Our cremation service offers two options. Ashes are returned in an urn of your choosing or ashes are spread on the internments located on the property. Pet ashes are precious and handled respectfully and a prayer is offered at each spreading. Your pet's remains are handled with great care and our pet only crematorium is and always will be dedicated to our loved pets.

Our facility is in cooperation with the Dauphin and St. Rose Vet Clinic, we also will pick up your pet from any veterinary clinic upon your request and deliver your pet back to you in a very timely fashion. We are capable to go to your home if a pet has past on and pick up their remains for cremation and return them to you as well.

We have an ever revolving supply of new urns for the choosing for that special pet. Just ask our personal for a picture of urns up for selection.

We no longer bury on the property but do maintain all existing burial plots and allow owners to visit at business hours.

Fun and Games

Once the cold weather set in and the snow started to fly Jill and Celina decided to bring the fun and games indoors to the Rotary Arena. With the importance of a small window to socialize puppies, waiting for warmer weather was not beneficial to the health and wellbeing of a growing dog. The rotary arena allowed us to invite owners with young growing dogs of any size to spend an hour learning basic puppy obedience and then having some fun time learning how to play with other dogs. We seen scared or otherwise over excited puppies come the first day and after 4 to 5 visits make a great improvement and enjoy playing the proper way.

The dates are not mandatory and run from 12-2 on Sundays. It is there for owners who know the importance of providing proper socialization for a puppy who might not have learned proper puppy etiquette at home. Visit our Facebook page for weekly event announcements.



Meet the Trainer



Crocus Obedience & Kennel Club (COKC) is a non-profit dog training club located just outside of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. COKC's facilities include a training building and two fenced outdoor rings.

We promote a balanced training method – “positive but not permissive” – based on operant conditioning. This method

allows you to have control of your dog while maintaining trust. Without trust you cannot gain true respect from your dog.

Classes we offer include basic training classes – Puppy, Manners 1 and Manners 2 – as well as various classes for rally, competition obedience, agility, disc dog and flyball.

We also host a variety of events such as agility trials, disc dog trials, flyball tournaments, conformation shows, obedience trials and rally trials.

Visit their web site for class information and trials. <https://www.crocusdogs.com/>

Importance of Crate Training your Dog

By Juliana Weiss-Roessler

There are many reasons you might want to crate train your new puppy. A crate can be invaluable while you are potty-training or teaching your dog the rules of the house, it's a great way to transport your four-legged friend, and it can serve as a safe place for your pup to escape to once he comes to accept it as his space.

Unfortunately, even though dogs are den animals and they like having an area that's all theirs, most won't automatically take to crates — and your pup can even come to fear them if you don't handle crate training in the right way.

The good thing is that puppies don't have any preconceived notions about anything. As long as you follow the below tips, your new canine family member should come to love her crate and may even start going into it on her own when she wants to rest or relax.

Introduce it casually

The worst way you can introduce your puppy to the idea of a crate is to bring it home and lock him inside it immediately. People don't like being trapped against their will, and neither do dogs. Instead, you should initially treat the crate like it's just another piece of furniture — but one that he can enjoy.

To this end, place it in a part of the house that he frequents, add a blanket and a toy or two, and keep the door open. Then back off and give him a chance to explore it. Some dogs will immediately start sniffing around and going into the crate, which is a great sign. If your puppy isn't quite so bold, encourage him to check it out by placing favourite foods and toys near and inside the crate. The ultimate goal is to get him comfortable with going inside, and this is something that could take days. Be patient with the process.

Use it for meal time

After she's willing to enter the crate, your next goal is to get her comfortable with staying inside for extended lengths of time. One of the best ways to do this (and create a positive association with the crate) is to start putting her food in the crate.

If possible, you want to place the food at the back of the crate so that your dog goes all the way in. Some dogs may not be willing to do this, though, so you can start with the food just inside the crate and slowly move it back with successive meals.

Close the crate

As soon as your dog is eating his meals while standing all the way inside the crate, it's time to close the door. After he's done eating that first time, open the door immediately. You'll leave him in longer and longer with each meal, adding just a few minutes every time.

It's possible that your dog may whine. If this happens, open the crate immediately and don't leave him in as long next time. However, if he whines again, wait until he stops before letting him out or you will teach him that whining equals open door.

Extend crate time

Once your dog is hanging out in her closed crate without signs of stress, it's time to lengthen her stay. Use a favorite toy or treat to encourage her to enter the crate, then close it. Hang out by the crate for several minutes, then go into a different room for a few minutes so she gets used to the idea of staying in the crate alone. When you return, don't open the crate immediately. Instead, sit with her again for a few more minutes and then open the door.

Keep increasing the time as you do this until your dog is able to stay in the locked crate for half an hour without your presence. When she's able to do this, she's ready for you to leave her for short periods and possibly even sleep in the closed crate overnight. Make sure you keep the crate relatively nearby for overnight stays though. Puppies usually need to go to the bathroom overnight and you'll want to be able to let her out.

Leaving and returning

The key here is to make crating seem completely normal and avoid excitement. Encourage him to get into the crate and praise him when he does so, but keep it brief. When you come home, stay low-key and ignore any excited behavior that he shows.

Note from Stoney Plains Kennel

The boarding kennel boards many dogs of different training levels. We have found that the dog or pup that has had successful crate training at home settles well in the boarding kennel and thinks of the bedding area as a safe haven from outside. Dogs relax in the bedding area and sleep soundly during the nights, they are more relaxed and enjoy their stay at the boarding kennel. Dogs are less prone to destroying the fencing and injuring themselves when they are accustomed to crating.

Articles taken from

<https://www.cesarsway.com/dog-care/lifecycle/puppies/Puppy-crate-training-made-easy>

What is the Right Diet for My Pet?

I was asked to write an informational article on diet when requesting ideas for the news letter and as all my performance dog handlers know talking about pet foods and especially dog food is a touchy and most debated topic amongst everyone.

In general a food should provide the necessary calories a dog needs to live a healthy lifestyle and how they get it is up to their caregiver. I will not get in a heated discussion about vet brand foods, pet store foods or raw diets. I will though list a few very important items that should be considered when selecting a food and feeding plan.

- If you are feeding a store bought food ensure it does not say “For all life stages” because if you have a puppy or senior this diet is not meant for them. If you have a pet with chronic health issues this diet is not meant for them. Just like humans babies need more fats and seniors need less sodium. Same goes with our pets. All life stages is meant for the non growing, non sick and non senior but otherwise healthy adult dog
- If you feed raw food feed only on steel or paper plates. Throw the paper plates in the garbage after every use and only wash your steel in a dish washer. Heat is needed to kill bacteria and salmonella as well as any other disease causing substance. You do not want to be cross contaminating these dishes with your own or you childs or someone who is immune compromised.
- Soft vs. hard, it is proven hard kibble can help with the prevention of dental disease. But it does not provide enough water to a non water loving animal such as a cat. The key is moderation of both. Providing a large enough kibble to “brush” the teeth and enough soft to provide water to a non water loving animal such as a cat. Suggestion do both! If your going to only feed soft or moist get out the tooth brush or dental chews.
- Puppies and kittens need special care as they grow and a diet specially formulated for young animals should only be fed. Do not be fooled by the kitten/puppy picture on the front. If it says “for all life stages” it has not been balanced for young growing animals. There are different requirements for calcium on large breed dogs compared to small breed dogs. Basically, the range of calcium is now narrower for large and giant breed puppies. This is because they are more sensitive to an excess or shortage of calcium while their bones are growing (a Great Dane certainly has a lot more leg bone to grow into than a Chihuahua before they become an adult!). If you have a dog that you think will be close to or above 70 lbs as an adult, you should look for puppy foods that specify they have this more narrow range of certain nutrients. As a side note, AAFCO selected 70 lbs as the cutoff for defining a ‘large breed dog,’ but others would argue 50 lbs is a more conservative cut off. When fed an unbalanced food we can see bone deficiencies, dysplasias a deformities in our growing puppies.
- More money does not mean better quality food. From experience that \$80 food is no better than the \$40 food. Read the labels.
- Last but not least Obesity is an overwhelming epidemic in our pets. And it all comes down to calories. Just like people sure I can go to KFC and eat there daily but if I don’t run the marathon everyday to burn the calories I will just get “FAT”. No way to sugar coat it. Our pets are getting so many calories that they are dying at a young age. And our pug nosed breeds are slowly suffocating because there is too much fat. They are not meant to snort and wheeze and it’s not something cute when they snore. If your food says for performance, or high calorie, or lactating then your pet better be doing just those as they will not burn it off sitting on the couch and going for the one block daily walk. Our sedentary pets and cats included, need less calories and everything that goes in their stomach has

calories (except water). Feeding guideline on food packages are just that guidelines and should be adjusted according to their body score. Yes body score!!! this is something every owner of any warm blooded animal should know. Yes even our “pasture potatoes” the horse.

I encourage you to visit this website for more information on body scoring.

https://www.aaha.org/public_documents/professional/guidelines/weightmgmt_body_conditionscoring.pdf

More could be written on the topic of pet foods but it will always be a lifelong debate.

Hip Dysplasia in Dogs



I could not of done a better article than this one found on the ACK web site so We would like to post this and you can visit the site if you are wanting more information about this disease.

<http://www.akc.org/content/health/articles/hip-dysplasia-in-dogs/>

Hip dysplasia. These two words terrify large and [giant breed dog](#) owners, and with good reason. This condition can drastically reduce a dog's quality of life and is painful for owners to watch. The good news is that embracing the responsibilities of owning a large dog breed, and educating yourself about potential health conditions like hip dysplasia, can go a long way toward keeping your dog comfortable.

Here is what all dog owners should know about hip dysplasia, including the symptoms, treatment options, and preventative measures you can take to [keep your dog healthy](#), happy, and active.

What Is Canine Hip Dysplasia?

Canine hip dysplasia is a common skeletal condition, especially in large or giant breed dogs, although it can occur in [smaller breeds](#), as well. In order to understand how the disease works, owners first need to understand the basic anatomy of the hip joint.

The hip joint functions as a ball and socket. In dogs with hip dysplasia, this joint fails to develop properly, rubbing and grinding instead of sliding smoothly. This results in deterioration over time and an eventual loss of function of the joint itself.

What Causes Hip Dysplasia in Dogs?

There are several factors that lead to the development of hip dysplasia in dogs, beginning with genetics. Hip

dysplasia is hereditary and is especially common in large and giant breed dogs, like the [Great Dane](#), [St. Bernard](#), [Labrador Retriever](#), and [German Shepherd Dog](#). This genetic predisposition can be amplified by environmental factors, such as excessive growth, exercise, your dog's weight and [your dog's nutrition](#).

Large and giant breed [puppies](#) have special nutrition requirements and need specially formulated [large breed puppy foods](#). These foods help prevent excessive growth, which can lead to skeletal disorders like hip dysplasia, along with elbow dysplasia and other joint conditions. Slowing down these breeds' growth allows their joints to develop without putting too much strain on them, helping to prevent problems down the line. Keep in mind, hip dysplasia is not limited to large or giant dog breeds.

Improper nutrition can also influence a dog's likelihood of developing hip dysplasia, as can [too much exercise – or too little](#). Obesity puts a lot of stress on your dog's joints, which can exacerbate a pre-existing condition like hip dysplasia or even cause hip dysplasia. Talk to your vet about the best diet for your dog and the appropriate amount of exercise your dog needs each day to keep him in good physical condition.

Owners of small dogs are not off the hook either. Small and medium breed dogs can also develop hip dysplasia, although it is less common.

Symptoms of Hip Dysplasia in Dogs

Some dogs begin to show signs of hip dysplasia as young as four months of age, while other dogs develop it in conjunction with osteoarthritis as they age. In both cases, there are quite a few symptoms associated with hip dysplasia that larger breed dog owners should be familiar with. These symptoms may vary depending on the severity of the disease, the level of inflammation, the degree of looseness in the joint, and how long the dog has suffered from hip dysplasia.

Decreased activity

Decreased range of motion

Difficulty or reluctance rising, jumping, running, or climbing stairs

Lameness in the hind end

Looseness in the joint

Narrow stance

Swaying, “bunny hopping” gait

Grating in the joint during movement

Loss of thigh muscle mass

Noticeable enlargement of the shoulder muscles as they compensate for the hind end

Pain

Stiffness

Diagnosing Hip Dysplasia in Dogs

At your dog's regular checkup, your veterinarian will most likely perform a physical exam. Sometimes this exam is enough for your veterinarian to suspect hip dysplasia. In other cases, it is up to you, as the owner, to let your veterinarian know that your dog is experiencing discomfort.

If you or your veterinarian suspects hip dysplasia, one of the first things that your veterinarian will do is perform a complete physical exam. He or she will test the flexibility of the joint. He or she will manipulate your dog's hind legs to test the looseness of the joint and to check for any grinding, pain, or reduced range of motion.

The definitive diagnosis usually comes with a radiograph (x-ray). Your veterinarian will take radiographs of your dog's hips to determine the degree and severity of the hip dysplasia, which will help him determine the best course of treatment for your dog.

Treating Hip Dysplasia in Dogs

There are quite a few treatment options for hip dysplasia in dogs, ranging from lifestyle modifications to surgery.

If your dog's hip dysplasia is not severe, or if your dog is not a candidate for surgery for medical or financial reasons, your veterinarian may recommend a non-surgical approach. Depending on your dog's case, the vet may suggest the following:

Weight reduction to take stress off of the hips

Exercise restriction, especially on hard surfaces

Physical therapy

Anti-inflammatory medications (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs ([NSAIDS](#)), [aspirin](#), corticosteroids)

Joint fluid modifiers

If your dog is a good candidate for surgery, there are more options. While there are quite a few different [surgical strategies](#), the most common surgeries veterinarians use to treat hip dysplasia in dogs are:

Double or triple pelvic osteotomy (DPO/TPO)

Femoral head ostectomy (FHO)

Total hip replacement (THR)

DPO/TPO

DPO/TPO surgery is usually performed in young dogs under 10 months old. In this surgery, the surgeon improves the function of the ball and socket joint by selectively cutting the pelvic bone and rotating the segments.

FHO

FHO surgery can be performed on young and mature dogs. The surgery involves cutting off the femoral head, or "ball," of the hip joint, which results in the body creating a "false" joint that reduces the discomfort associated with hip dysplasia. FHO does not recreate normal hip function, but it can be a successful pain management strategy.

THR

The most effective surgical treatment for hip dysplasia in dogs is a total hip replacement. The surgeon replaces the entire joint with metal and plastic implants, returning hip function to a more normal range and eliminating most of the discomfort associated with hip dysplasia.

Preventing Hip Dysplasia in Dogs

Not all cases of hip dysplasia can be prevented, but there are some things that you can do to reduce your dog's risk of developing this disease.

Keeping your dog's skeletal system healthy should start when your dog is young. Feeding your puppy an appropriate diet, especially if you have a large breed puppy, will give her a head start on healthy bone and joint development and prevent the excessive growth that leads to the disease.

As your dog grows, providing her with appropriate levels of exercise and a [healthy diet](#) will prevent obesity, which is a major contributing factor to hip dysplasia. Obesity also causes many other health problems in dogs, from diabetes to elbow dysplasia, so hold off on the table scraps and other fatty foods.

[Large breed and giant breed dog foods](#) often contain joint supplements like [glucosamine](#), and you can also purchase additional glucosamine supplements for dogs that might be prone to developing arthritis and hip dysplasia down the line. While the research is limited, these supplements may help reduce the symptoms of hip dysplasia.

The best way that breeders can prevent hereditary hip dysplasia is to [screen their breeding dogs](#) for the disease. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) [health testing](#) can help breeders determine the condition of their dogs' hips, ensuring that they only breed dogs with [normal grade hip joints](#).

Prognosis For Dogs With Hip Dysplasia

Dogs with hip dysplasia often lead long, full lives, especially with treatment. If you think that your dog has hip dysplasia, or if your dog has recently been diagnosed with hip dysplasia, talk to your veterinarian about the treatment options and lifestyle changes you can make to keep your dog comfortable well into old age.

For more information visit our website www.stoneyplainskennel.ca



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