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An outreach e-communication from Papillon Haven Rescue

5726 Sagebrush Trail • Arlington TX 76017 • [www.paphaven.org](http://www.paphaven.org) • Issue 21 – February 2008

## VOLUNTEER TEAM HAS NEW LEADER

**K**ay Nackers from Little Suamico, Wisconsin has accepted the position of PHR Volunteer Team Leader (VTL).

“Thank you all for the congrats on the VTL position. I look forward to speaking to each and every one of you in the future.

I am very excited about taking a more active part in this awesome group. I met some of you at Mingle and had an absolutely



wonderful time there – in fact I can't wait until the next one! If you have any questions, ideas, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at any time and will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner. I'm the accountant for a financial institution and work during the day, so if you need me, you can email me there or try me on my cell phone.”

**Home:** 920-826-4243 **Cell:** 920-639-9267  
[kay@prettypaps.com](mailto:kay@prettypaps.com)  
**Daytime:** [knackers@pcmcu.com](mailto:knackers@pcmcu.com)

## PAP-OF-THE-MONTH: GAMBLER

**H**owdy! My name is Gambler and I am about 18 months old. I weigh 15 pounds and am about 11” tall. I was found wandering near a busy highway in the Houston area. I was very dirty (my coat was very matted so the fur had to be cut very short) and hungry. Someone took me to a wonderful family who nursed me back to health. They loved me a lot but couldn't keep me because they had other dogs, so they asked PapHaven to find me a good home.

I am an active young dog (quite muscular and strong) who loves to play and take walks. I am very healthy, eat well, sleep through the night in my crate, and I love to bark at the other dogs in the neighborhood. I also bark at any strangers coming into my home so I am a good watch dog. My favorite toys seem to be squeaky ones and my foster mom laughingly says that she always know where I am in the house by where the squeaks coming from. My foster mom keeps a belly band on me just in case I forget my manners and “mark”... whatever that is. I am learning not to that but I do forget and slip up sometimes. I understand “NO,” but my foster mom says I am well behaved, so she hasn't had to say it very often.

### As name says, I am a BETTING man ... I BET that:

- there's a furever family out there who could love me
- they will call PapHaven very soon to adopt me
- they will be very glad that they did.

He would do well with older children but may be a little too enthusiastic to be around small children. He loves to play with our small dogs but can be a little rough; but appeared nervous when he introduced to a larger, playful dog. Gambler has not yet been introduced to cats. He would be a great addition to an active family and is really ready for a permanent home.



# A MATCH MADE AT MINGLE!

Lexie, a beautiful black & white pup, came to Mingle with Sandee Jordan, Kay Nackers, and their crew. A shy, tiny little girl had been rescue from a kill shelter and would've been put to sleep the next day. Lexie bunked with Liddy-Ann Everett and her gang while in Kentucky.

Then arrived Mary and Paul Fournier, in the world's greatest RV! Mary had contemplated getting a dog for her mom, Cynthia, for quite some time; but could never find a good "match."

As Mary became more acquainted with Lexie, the more she felt she had found the dog for Mom. A lively but quite little thing that she felt would add much needed companionship to Mom's life as well as someone to help "get Mom moving" ... because she would need to be walked regularly. So Mary and Paul discussed it at length – it would add to Mary's workload. She would take responsibility for Lexie's vetting, etc. and, of course, she would go home with them. Then Mary called Mom. Cynthia was hesitant ... would it really work out? Would Lexie be too much for her to handle? As the ladies discussed all possibilities that came to mind, Cynthia began to look forward to the idea of her own little companion. And Mary's mind was made up. During the morning of Oct. 22 as she prepared for her new life in Maine, Lexie was bathed in the bathtub at Liddy-Ann's cabin with sweet smelling shampoo – we didn't ask permission & we didn't tell Dona!

Then the trek home began. Breezey, Bella, and Annie were fine with the new addition, they'd had a few days to become acquainted at Mingle. And as Paul drove, Mary began to bond with Lexie.

And the rest is rescue history ...

**24 Oct. 2007** – from Mary

I have been spending a lot of time at Mom's helping take care of Lexie, before and after work. She is MUCH better, eating noodles and chicken well, tho still coughing and has a bit of a snotty nose. I'm hoping it's the END of kennel cough, and not the beginning!

She hasn't had diarrhea for the last day and a half. She had a good vet visit, clear lungs, great heart, no parasites. She

was so good there. Greeted everyone – dogs, cats, humans – with a wagging tail and smiling face. The vets and tech loved her, she was so good.

She's on meds and a bland diet. They also gave her fluids. She didn't eat for the first 2 days (I syringed baby food into her) but now she is chowing her noodles and boiled chicken. Mom fed her small amounts 4 times today. We'll start adding a small amount of really good quality dog food as soon as her digestive system is back to normal.

Mom adores her, and Lexie is getting lots of love and attention. It's a match made in heaven!

**3 DEC '07** –  
**LEXIE'S FIRST SNOW**

When I called Mom this morning (our morning routine) I got a joyful rendition of Lexie in the new snow. I just wish I could have been there to see her!

Lexie is using her new doggie door to access her yard. Mom can watch her from the kitchen window. I guess Lexie went wild in the new snow: leaping (definitely her specialty); twisting in the air, catching snowflakes over and over!! Then she went wild with the zoomies.

She then came back into the house, only to ask to go out again, and the show started over again! I guess it's been quite entertaining for Mom (she called all her kids to tell them the story). I don't know how many times Lexie has gone out so far, but at least 5 times according to Mom. Thank goodness for the new doggie door! (Mom still has to let her out into the entry way, which is attached to the kitchen)

I told Mom to get the camera out and take some pictures! But I think her camera has been lent out, phooey.

Obviously a lot of fun for Mom and Lexie, too.

**1 JAN. 2008** – *Just a cute story I thought you'd enjoy.*

Mom was out shopping recently (she does that alone now, and drives... some-

thing she was not doing before Lexie came along) My sister Judy called and invited her to dinner, expecting Mom to come right along.

Mom took quite a long time getting there, and Judy was getting concerned. Mom arrived and Lexie hopped out of the car with her. When Judy asked why it took so long to get there, Mom said "Well I had to go home and get Lexie first!"

I have to say, this dog has made many changes in Mom's life that none of us expected. Not only is she company for Mom, but she seems to have given her confidence to do some of the things she had given up. I don't understand the reasoning behind that, but I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth.

Lexie is a source of pride for her. She calls us often to tell of some brilliant thing Lexie did that day. She is a topic of conversation and a reason to call her brother in Montana, and sister in Rockland.

I had hoped Lexie would work out for Mom. It was a bit of a gamble, a very young, very active dog and a senior of 83 (admittedly a healthy senior). But I didn't dream she would cause these wonderful changes in Mom's life. Also, Mom seldom mentions her aches and pains any more.

And, more people visit her, because Lexie is such fun to be around. All of these wonderful things happened because a little dog who was going to be euthanized the next day was rescued by PapHaven. *Can you imagine?*

**7 JAN. 2008**

We are thinking about how to teach Lexie to retrieve things for Mom. I know Lexie can do it, but I need to figure out how to teach her! She's attending obedience classes (we are going tonight) so I'll ask for some direction from the teacher. I have some ideas, too.



Cynthia & Lexie – who looks more content?



Mary Fournier & Bella



Lexie with Mom's silk poinsettia – no poisonous plants in her house!



# MY PAP CAN'T HOLD ITS LICKER!

From *The Dog Behavior Answer Book*, Storey Publishing, ©2006 by Arden Moore, ISBN 978-1-58017-644-6

*I adore my dog, but she showers me with affection. She is constantly licking my face, my hands, even my toes! Why use the bathtub when she's around? How can I tone down her greetings and still let her know I appreciate her?*

You have what's called a "Licky Lou" type of dog. When I first adopted Chipper, she was a sloppy, persistent kisser as well! I'm happy to see that you are concerned about not snuffing out her enthusiastic joy for you. That is very important. Don't worry, it is possible to teach her other ways to show her affection.

First, recognize that your dog is doing what come naturally. Puppies instinctively lick their mothers' chin and faces in their constant quest for chow. (*Hey, these are fast-growing critters!*) Many experts suggest this behavior dates back to the days when female wolves would hunt and devour their prey before returning to their litters, because it was easier to travel on a full stomach than lug a heavy rabbit home.

Their hungry pups would lick their faces to cause them to regurgitate this barely digested food.

But face licking goes beyond the need to eat. Puppies are conveying that they recognize and honor the elevated stature of adult dogs. Pay attention the next time you go to a dog park or other place with friendly dogs. Notice the ones who come up to others, lower their posture a bit, and gently kiss the muzzle of the other dog. It is their way of saying, "Hey, you rule. Now, wanna play chase?"

When it comes to licking people, sometimes the motivation may be a bit of leftover gravy that draws the attention of our dogs. However, the main reason some dogs shower their owners with kisses is what Aretha Franklin sings about: **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**. Even as they age, many dogs regard their people as leaders of their pack, the two-legger who deserves admiration. Take it as a canine compliment. Your dog is seeking your attention and approval.

The amount of canine kissing depends on a dog's personality. Strong-willed and adventure-seeking dogs tend to dole out kisses less frequently than sociable, happy-to-meet-all dogs who lick to acknowledge that you outrank them. Some breeds are very mouth-oriented and express themselves by unleashing a kissing barrage.

So, how to stop impromptu doggy baths? Forget about pushing your dog away after that first "kiss." Odds are this will only motivate her to deliver more licks because she thinks she failed to communicate her message the first time. Or, she may perceive it as a signal to play and heap on more sloppy kisses.

Your best options are to teach your dog the kiss and stop commands. Your goal is to acknowledge your dog's strong desire to display her feelings toward you while maintaining your rank as top dog. You also need some backup aids, such as chew toys, to offer as appropriate distractions for "oral-minded" dogs.

Conduct mini-training sessions during quiet times, such as when your dog just wakes up, after a long walk, or any time when she and you are in a calm mood (not when you've just walked in the door!). Allow her to lick your face or hand once, say *good kiss* and give her a small treat. Repeat a few times. Now, you're ready to teach her the *stop* command. When she moves toward licking you, put your hand in front of her face like a traffic cop halting cars and say *stop*. If she doesn't lick, dole out a treat and praise her.

It can be tough to try to bottle the enthusiasm of a tailwagger who is happy to see you after you've been gone for way-too-many-hours, so you need to teach your dog a more acceptable greeting than a face bath. Teach her to shake paws or perform a trick, such as fetching a favorite toy or sitting up when you come in the door. In time, she will learn that the big payoffs – a tasty treat and your affection – occur when she has licked her licking habit.

## MINGLE 2008 PREP/PLANNING HAS BEGUN!!



Are you gonna come? Did you have as much fun as I did? **Mingle 2008** planning is in full swing! And the committee is looking for information.

Do you know of any cabin resorts/hotels in your area that will allow dogs? ALL locations are in the running – at the time the list includes:

- Last year's event site – Lost Lodge
- One in Missouri, in Lake of the Ozarks area
- Two others, one in Maryland and another in Pennsylvania

Everyone needs to be looking around – no part of the U.S. is out of the question.

If you find a spot you like, be prepared to present your idea along with

room rates, amenities, nearby attractions, available transportation, etc., by March 1. To make a presentation it would be good if you had at least talked to the proprietor – better yet if you have visited. As Joyce Young will tell you, last year we thought we had THE PLACE – 'til she got there and discovered the vast majority of the beds were **bunk** beds!

Any and all suggestions (that come with complete information) will be given equal consideration by the committee. If you find a place that looks promising, get your information together and relay it to Mingle chair Liddy-Ann Everett.

**Here's wishing PHR another Mingle success in 2008!**

**BECOME A  
VIRTUAL FOSTER!**

Click here to see how you can make a difference in a rescued Pap's life!

Welcome to  
**PapHaven's  
Westminster Drawing!**



**How it works:** Instead of getting a boring raffle ticket number you instead get a group of dog breeds. If one of the breeds you hold wins a **Group One** you will be entered into a drawing to receive a **Group** level prize. If your breed takes **Best in Show (BIS)** you will be entered into a drawing with the other **BIS** winners for the Grand Prize. The number of players holding **Group** and **BIS** winners depends on the number of games we sell.

The show will be telecast live on Monday, Feb. 11, and on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 8-11 PM on your local **USA Network** station. As you watch the show check your breeds and see if you may be one of the winners! This game is great as it gives us an inspiration to learn about and cheer for different breeds. The great thing about Westminster is that it can be very unpredictable which adds to the excitement.

**OK... Ready to Play?????**

**Here's what you do:** Each Group of 5 breeds is randomly grouped by the computer and are assigned in the order that offers are received to be absolutely impartial. No unfortunately you cannot choose a breed.

**Each group of 5 breeds will be a \$10 donation or you can choose 3 groups (15 Breeds) for \$20.**

Please email Chris at **Landersc2@yahoo.com** with your donation amount. She will mail you a confirmation along with the breeds you are assigned.

Then just watch the Show!!!!

If you are a lucky winner the postage is also included!!



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!\*\*** – This Fundraiser is open to persons in the continental U.S. only. A purchase of one or more blocks is considered a commitment to donate that amount. *This Fundraiser begins at 8 AM Monday, Jan. 21, 2008 and closes at the start of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.*

**Your donations are what makes it possible  
for us to help Papillons in need find  
their own Forever Home!**



Click below to view all the terrific prizes that have been donated.

**Visit the  
prize page!**

**Check out  
PapHaven Rescue!**

# ONLINE SHOPPING THRU GOODSHOP & I GIVE

Here is an article about the ideas behind *GoodShop/GoodSearch*. Hope this helps to clarify some people's questions.

**FORTUNE SMALL BUSINESS MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTOR, BY ERIKA RASMUSSEN JANES**

ct, 10 2006 – NY (FSBM) – Attention would-be philanthropists: Ken Ramberg knows you're busy. He knows that you mean to write checks to help hurricane victims and you want to raise money for your kid's school. He also knows that those good intentions don't always materialize into cash for worthy causes.

To make charitable giving easier, Ramberg, 41, and his sister, JJ, launched

an Internet search engine that aims to make philanthropy as easy as surfing the web – *GoodSearch.com*.

*GoodSearch.com* is powered by *Yahoo!* and raises money for charities using a model similar to paid searches on *Yahoo* or *Google*: Advertisers pay a fee whenever Internet users click on a given link. Last year search engines generated almost \$6 billion through such searches. In the *GoodSearch.com* version, a sliver of that goes to a nonprofit the computer user designates.

Ramberg estimates that each search sends about one cent to a given charity. That may not seem like much, but if 500 supporters pledge to raise money for a school, and each

searches the web five times a day, that comes to \$9,125 a year.

*GoodSearch* is the latest socially minded venture by Ramberg. In 1988 he and his mother, Connie Ramberg, co-founded *Jobtrak*, a resume database and job-listing site for college students. The company didn't give any of its revenues to charity, but it allowed nonprofits to post their job listings free. In 2000, Ramberg and his mom sold the company to *Monster.com* for an undisclosed sum.

A year later Ken and JJ lost their mother to cancer, an experience that helped spark the idea for *GoodSearch.com*. "We dealt with a lot of hospitals and cancer-research organizations and became aware of how desperately they were in need of funding," Ramberg says.

He began looking for ways to combine his passions for the Internet and charity. He got the idea for *GoodSearch* in 2004 and started hiring programmers soon after. In its first week the company was contacted by some 500 nonprofits; today the *GoodSearch.com* site lists more than 800,000. Ramberg set the company up as a for-profit, though he takes no salary and donates 50 percent of annual revenues to charity.

He doesn't doubt that his mom would approve. "She was very proud of what we accomplished at *Jobtrak*," he says. "And I think she'd be even more proud of what we're doing now."

If you are interested in seeing the chart of percentages, please contact [nora-jl169@yahoo.com](mailto:nora-jl169@yahoo.com) and I will forward the list to you.



## HERE, IN THIS HOUSE...

I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there.'  
I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed.  
I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat.  
I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat.  
I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness, and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose.  
My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

### Here in this house...

There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level.  
I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand,  
I can enjoy the warmth of the words.  
I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many.  
My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

### Here in this house...

I will never be a substitute for anything I am not.  
I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves.

by Author Unknown

I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be.  
I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity.  
I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all.  
If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame.

### Here in this house...

I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch... knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me.  
If I am ill, I will be doctored.  
If scared, I will be calmed.  
If sad, I will be cheered.  
No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and thought to be of value.  
I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough.  
My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought.  
I will learn that humans can almost be as kind and as fair as dogs, sometimes.

### Here in this house...

I will belong.  
I will be home.

## PERSONALIZED STATE BUTTONS

Click on the button and give Bonnie the details (state, color, name – as you want it to appear, and a photo of your furkids), **for a \$5 donation to PapHaven.** (Use as identification at all events.)



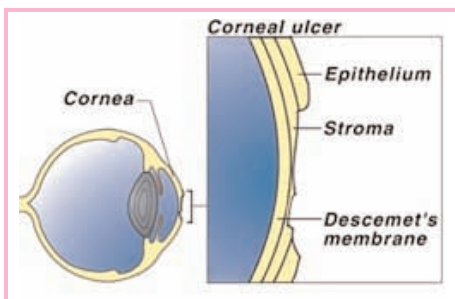


## BE AN 'EDUCATED-OWNER'

### CORNEAL ULCERS

A corneal ulcer, or ulcerative keratitis, is an inflammatory condition of the cornea involving loss of its outer layer. It is very common in dogs and is sometimes seen in cats. In veterinary medicine, the term corneal ulcer is a generic name for any condition involving the loss of the outer layer of the cornea, and as such is used to describe conditions with both inflammatory and traumatic causes.

#### CORNEAL ANATOMY OF PETS



The cornea is a transparent structure that is part of the outer layer of the eye. It refracts light and protects the contents of the eye. The cornea is about one-half to one millimeter thick in the dog and cat. The trigeminal nerve supplies the cornea via the long ciliary nerves. There are pain receptors in the outer layers and pressure receptors deeper.

Transparency is achieved through a lack of blood vessels, pigmentation, and keratin, and through the organization of the

collagen fibers. The collagen fibers cross the full diameter of the cornea in a strictly parallel fashion and allow 99% of the light to pass through without scattering.

There are four important layers in the dog and cat cornea. The outer layer is the epithelium, which is 25 to 40 micrometers and five to seven cell layers thick. The epithelium holds the tear film in place and also prevents water from invading the cornea and disrupting the collagen fibers. This prevents corneal edema, which gives it a cloudy appearance. It is also a barrier to infectious agents. The epithelium sticks to the basement membrane, which also separates the epithelium from the stroma. The corneal stroma comprises 90% of the thickness of the cornea. It contains the collagen fibers organized into lamellae. The lamellae are in sheets which separate easily. Posterior to the stroma is Descemet's membrane, which is a basement membrane for the corneal endothelium. The endothelium is a single cell layer that separates the cornea from the aqueous humor.

#### COMMON CAUSES

- Rough contact with plants, thorns, or bushes
- Scratches from another animal (note: the cat scratch wound can be especially serious as the wound quickly heals over, sealing infection within the eye)
- Self trauma (rubbing or scratching at a painful ear or even at the eye due to

some other eye problem can lead to an inadvertent scratch to the eye)

- Chemical irritation (getting shampoo in the eye during a bath)
- Foreign body injury (plant material can get stuck under an eyelid and can scrape the cornea)

#### CORNEAL HEALING

An ulcer of the cornea heals by two methods: migration of surrounding epithelial cells followed by mitosis (dividing) of the cells, and introduction of blood vessels from the conjunctiva. Superficial small ulcers heal rapidly by the first method. However, larger or deeper ulcers often require the presence of blood vessels to supply inflammatory cells. White blood cells and fibroblasts produce granulation tissue and then scar tissue, effectively healing the cornea.

#### SUPERFICIAL &/OR DEEP

Corneal ulcers are one of the most common eye diseases in dogs. They are caused by trauma, detergent burns, and infections. Other eye conditions can cause corneal ulcers, such as

- entropion (*a medical condition in which the eyelids fold inward*),
- distichiae (*an eyelash that arises from an abnormal spot on the eyelid*),
- corneal dystrophy (*a group of disorders, characterised by a noninflammatory, inherited, bilateral opacity of the transparent front part of the eye*), and
- keratoconjunctivitis sicca (*dry eye*).

There have been at least two cases where corneal ulceration was caused by canine herpesvirus.

Superficial ulcers involve a loss of part of the epithelium. Deep ulcers extend into or through the stroma and can result in severe scarring and corneal perforation. Descemetocoeles-type is an ulcer that has penetrated through the cornea completely except for the last thin membrane. This type of ulcer is especially dangerous and can result in perforation.

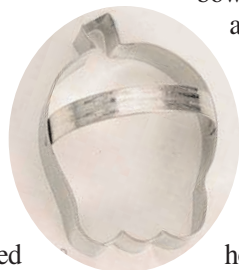
The location of the ulcer depends somewhat on the cause. Central ulcers are typically caused by trauma, dry eye, or exposure from facial nerve paralysis or exophthalmos (*a bulging of the eye anteriorly*).

## INSIDE THE BAKERY WINDOW ...

### "AN APPLE A DAY" DOG TREAT

#### Ingredients:

- 3/8 cup water
- 1 egg – beaten
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup unbleached flour
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar, packed
- 1 apple – chopped or grated



#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray cookie sheet with vegetable oil spray. Lightly dust work surface with flour.

Blend flours and cornmeal in large mixing bowl. Add apple, egg, brown sugar, oil, and water; mix until well blended.

On floured surface, roll dough out to 7/8-inch thickness, cut with cookie cutters of desired shape and size. Place prepared sheet. Bake in preheated oven 35 to 40 minutes.

Turn off oven. Leave door closed 1 hour to crisp treats. Remove treats from oven.

Store baked treats in airtight container or plastic bag and place in refrigerator or freezer.

Makes 2 to 2 1/2 dozen

(continued on pg. 7)

## CORNEAL ULCERS

(continued from pg. 6)

orly out of the orbit). Ulcers in the inferior nasal cornea may be caused by foreign material trapped under the third eyelid. Entropion or distichiae may cause ulceration of the peripheral cornea. Immune-mediated eye disease can cause ulcers at the border of the cornea and sclera.

### SYMPTOMS

Corneal ulcers are painful due to nerve exposure, and can cause tearing, squinting, and pawing at the eye. There may also be signs of anterior uveitis, such as miosis (small pupil), aqueous flare (protein in the aqueous humour), and redness of the eye. An axon reflex may be responsible for uveitis formation – stimulation of pain receptors in the cornea results in release inflammatory mediators such as prostaglandins, histamine, and acetylcholine.

### DIAGNOSIS

Through direct observation of the ulcer with the use of fluorescein stain,



which is taken up by exposed corneal stroma and appears green (as above), a specific diagnosis can be made. With descemetoceles, the membrane will bulge forward and after staining will appear as a dark circle with a green boundary, because it does not absorb the stain. Other tests that may be necessary include a Schirmer's test for keratoconjunctivitis sicca and an analysis of facial nerve function for facial nerve paralysis.

### REFRACTORY CORNEAL ULCERS

Refractory corneal ulcers are superficial ulcers that heal poorly and tend to recur. They are known as indolent ulcers or Boxer ulcers. They are believed to be caused by a defect in the basement membrane and a lack of hemidesmosomal attachments. They are recognized by undermined epithelium that surrounds the ulcer and easily peels back. Refractory corneal ulcers are most commonly seen in middle aged or older dogs and often occur in the other eye later. They are similar to Cogan's cystic dystrophy in humans.

### MELTING ULCERS

Melting ulcers are a type of corneal ulcer involving progressive loss of stroma

in a dissolving fashion. This is most commonly seen in Pseudomonas infection, but it can be caused by other types of bacteria or fungi. These infectious agents produce proteases and collagenases which break down the corneal stroma. Complete loss of the stroma can occur within 24 hours. Treatment includes antibiotics and collagenase inhibitors such as acetylcysteine and blood serum. Surgery may be necessary.

### TREATMENT

Treatment of corneal ulcers includes topical antibiotic therapy to prevent infection, and pain medications, including topical atropine to stop spasms of the ciliary muscle. Atropine may decrease tear production and interfere with corneal healing. Superficial ulcers usually heal in less than a week. Deep ulcers and descemetoceles may require corneal suturing, soft contact lenses, corneal transplant, or conjunctival grafts or flaps. Some vets say topical corticosteroids and anesthetics should not be used on any type of corneal ulcer because they prevent healing and will often make them worse. Check with your vet for his/her opinion.

Refractory corneal ulcers can take a long time to heal, maybe months. Topical antibiotics are used continually to prevent infection. Pain medications are given as needed. Loose epithelium is removed with a dry cotton swab under topical anesthesia. This is in order to allow production of normal basement membrane and division of normal epithelium. Often further treatment is necessary, such as a keratotomy, which is superficial cutting or piercing of the

cornea. There are two main types used in dogs: grid keratotomy (GK) and multiple punctate keratotomy (MPK). MPK involves making small superficial punctures into the cornea with a needle. GK is more commonly used and involves making parallel and perpendicular scratches in the corneal surface. Usually only topical anesthesia is necessary. By scoring the corneal surface, anchoring points are provided for attachment of new epithelium. Of course, procedures should only be performed by a veterinary ophthalmologist. Complete healing takes about three to four weeks.

### RE-CHECK IN ONE WEEK

It is important that the eye be stained again after one week of therapy. Most ulcers will have healed in this time but some will require an additional time. If the ulcer has not healed after two weeks, it is no longer considered routine and some special procedures may be needed. If the inflammation associated with the ulcer goes deeper into the eye, the situation becomes more serious; it is very important that the one week re-check not be skipped. If there is any question about the eye's healing progress, the eye should be rechecked sooner.

It is very important for the owner to observe the progress of healing at home. If the eye is doing well but suddenly becomes painful, a discharge develops or changes color, or the eye simply doesn't look right, be sure to have your vet recheck sooner than the planned one week appointment.

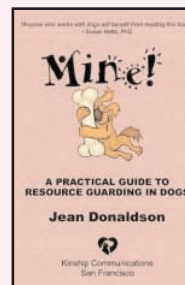
### BOOK REVIEWS –

## “WE’RE ALL EARS!”

**MINE!** A Practical Guide to Resource Guarding in Dogs

by Jean Donaldson

This practical how-to guide gives helpful details about resource guarding in dogs and about kinds of resource guarding: aggression basics, (food, object, location, owner), working with resource guarders, treatment for and prevention of resource guarding.



## The Doctors Book of HOME REMEDIES FOR DOGS & CATS:

by *Prevention Magazine Health Books*

In this useful guide, the top animal experts and veterinarians across the country offer more than 1,000 effective tips for treating common pet problems, such as: bad breath, allergies, fleas, ear mites, itchy skin, paw problems, teething pain, weepy eyes, and wounds. This book also provides solutions to some of the toughest behavior problems.

