



New Leaf

The Official Newsletter of STOLA – Saluki Tree of Life Alliance

Summer, 2005

What is Your Saluki Eating?

By Cherie-Christine Fehrman

Remember the good old days when food was really food, before the introduction of chemical additives, synthetic “enhancements” and the great unknown of genetically modified foods? Today we all need to be well informed about what we feed ourselves and our dogs. If you’re not informed and selective about your Saluki’s food, your faithful friend may be subjected to antibiotics and drug residues, dyes from coal-tar derivatives, toxins, molds, powerful preservatives, pesticides, herbicides, heavy-metal contaminants and various wastes from slaughterhouses – including fecal waste. The animals used to make many pet foods are classified as “4-D,” which stands for Dead, Dying, Diseased or Down (disabled) when they arrive at the slaughterhouse. If the meat from an animal is acceptable for human consumption, it likely will not be used for commercial pet food unless you buy products which truthfully state that they use FDA-certified, food-grade meat.

Here are some typical ingredients as listed on the packaging of most commercial pet foods, and what they might contain:

Meat/Meat Based – When it reads “meat” on the label, it indicates the clean flesh from an animal. However, “meat-based” may also include blood vessels, sinew, organ meats, tendons and other parts of the animal.

Meat By-Products – These are often organs, bone, blood and fatty tissue. They may also include

brains, feet, heads, entrails, intestines, noses and stomachs. Unbelievably, byproducts can also contain cancerous or diseased tissue (including things like stomach flukes and other parasites).

Poultry By-Products – These are the cleaned, ground parts from poultry carcasses such as feet, heads, intestines, necks and undeveloped eggs.

Poultry By-Product meal – Rendered by-products with no feathers added.

Meat and Bone Meal – This is the rendered meal from meat and bone.

Tallow – This is hard white fat. Most animals find it hard to digest.

Animal Digest – This is animal tissue that has been broken down with chemicals.

Corn gluten meal – After the starch and germ have been removed from corn and the bran has been separated, the leftovers go through a wet milling process to make corn syrup or starch. The corn gluten meal is what is left over after that process.

Fiber. This can come from whole grains and vegetables, or it can come from peanut hulls, newspaper or hair.

Carbohydrates. This could be nothing more than sucrose (sugar), propylene glycol or corn syrup. Quality dog foods will contain complex carbohydrates derived from whole grains.

Supplements for Salukis

According to the ASPCA, if your pet is eating a healthful, balanced diet of high-quality food, then vitamin supplementation is not necessary. Even pets eating kibble are more likely to suffer from vitamin overdoses (due to the amount manufacturers add to the finished product) than vitamin deficiencies. Give your pets the extra boost they need by feeding them raw vegetables and fruits as treats.

The ASPCA also advises that it is not necessary to supplement unless a specific deficiency is diagnosed by your veterinarian. However, some people subscribe to the view that optimal pet health is more than just avoiding a marked deficiency, and that their pets may benefit from daily supplements. Here are the vitamins that dogs and cats need most, and why:

Vitamin A: For healthy tissues, inside and out. The best form is from fish oils, like cod-liver or fish body oils, and is beneficial to dogs.

B Vitamins: Promote growth and aid in healing. B Vitamins are also necessary for fat and protein assimilation, as well as metabolic processes. They are found naturally in eggs, yogurt and kefir (an

enzyme-rich yogurt-like product that stimulates digestion and peristalsis).

Vitamin C: An essential antioxidant that helps eliminate free radicals. Carnivores can produce their own vitamin C, but their need for it increases in stressful situations. The best form for dogs is calcium ascorbate, which is water-soluble and causes the fewest side effects (such as nausea or diarrhea).

Vitamin E: An essential antioxidant that promotes healthy circulation in the heart and arteries. It also helps protect the lungs from the effects of pollution. Senior cats especially can benefit from increased vitamin E intake to maintain their immune system responses.

Probiotics: Just as we need active, “friendly” intestinal flora to help us digest our food, so do dogs. Enhance your pet’s diet with active cultures, and treat them to kefir or plain yogurt on occasion. You can give them to your pet 4-7 times a week, to help restore and maintain a healthy digestive tract. The product *Missing Link* is a good source of probiotics and is an easy way to ensure your Saluki has all the nutrients he needs. Because *Missing Link* is derived solely from food sources, you can avoid oversupplementation.



Pascha is happily chewing her carrot.

Photo courtesy Gayle Nastasi

STOLA is Gearing Up for a Fall Auction

STOLA Needs Your Help

STOLA needs items we can sell on eBay to raise funds

for veterinary medical bills

Please donate items to STOLA

so we can continue to fund Saluki rescue operations

We are happy to accept any saleable item, but the following items are particularly wanted:

**Past issues of Saluki magazines
Saluki or sighthound craft items
Saluki or sighthound art work**

Jewelry

Books about Dogs

Paintings

Prints

Sculpture

Fancy dog collars

Fancy leashes

Dog coats

Snoods

Decorative Dog Bowls

Tiles or trivets with a dog theme

Interesting picture frames

Please send donations to:

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Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

HOW DO DOGS KNOW IT'S GOING TO RAIN?

By Dana Martin-Newman, Ed.D

My dog Diamond knows when it's going to rain. He immediately "tinkles" and "poops" in the garage, not outdoors as usual. He developed this annoying habit about 1 1/2 years ago for no apparent reason, or no reason we can discern. Before it even begins to rain, Diamond is "ready" in the garage. Because it has rained in California much more this year than previous years, we now know the garage "tinkle" signs.

So, how does Diamond know it's going to rain? According to Alex Lieber (Petplace.com), dogs have a sixth sense about rain. Long before we know it's going to rain, dogs may have felt it, heard it, or even smelled it.

Dogs, apparently, are more sensitive to drops in barometric pressure than humans. A drop in barometric pressure (pressure of the atmosphere), may mean that conditions are ready for rain. Dogs may have learned that a drop in barometric pressure is equivalent to "rain is near". Dogs may also sense a change in static electricity, or sense the subtle vibrations that precede rain. A small rumble may be imperceptible to humans, but not to dogs.

It's also possible that dogs can hear rain. Dogs can hear at much higher and lower frequencies than humans. Another possibility is that dogs may smell rain coming. Dogs' noses are so sensitive that they can detect concentrations of chemicals in the low parts-per-million range and are said to be more sensitive than a mass spectrometer. Lightning ionizes air and forms ozone, which has a metallic smell. Perhaps dogs can detect this odor or some other odor associated with rain.

Finally, Mr. Lieber writes that dogs may learn to interpret dark skies and cloud patterns with rain. For some dogs, rain with thunderstorms is a cataclysmic event, and the more anxious the dog, the more he may react before the rain actually arrives.

So what's a solution to Diamond's "garage rain problem"? Perhaps I can get him an agent who will find him a job reporting the weather on the TV news.



Here's Diamond, ready to do a weather report!

ZUZU'S STORY – A TALE OF COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

By Cindy Steiner

A few months ago, while on a trail ride with my beloved Saluki, Zuzu, and my also-beloved horse, Page, we had a horrendous accident. A dog from a neighboring barn started chasing Zuzu down the road. She was so terrified, that she ran straight into some deer fencing at about 20 mph, bounced back 10 feet onto the road, and stood there screaming in pain, holding her front right leg up. The dog who had chased her got very frightened and raced back home. My horse and I were both very upset seeing her screaming in pain and cut up by the wire fencing. I was hysterical and Page was all upset and prancing around. Two neighbors came to the rescue: one drove Zuzu and me back to our barn while the other lady walked Page back. Before Page got back, Zuzu and I were rushing off to the vet.

Long story made short: Zuzu had two surgeries – one to stitch up her cuts and the second one to amputate her shattered front leg! I was an absolute basket case – this dog is my soul mate and my “child”. I haven’t suffered such grief since my mother died 20 years ago. And, I hadn’t even thought about poor Page. For two weeks after the accident, I went to the barn alone to ride. Before the accident, I always had Zuzu with me. Zuzu eats carrots with Page and runs with Page and races Page between spurts of chasing bunnies.

After two weeks of Zuzu recuperating, I decided to take her to the barn. I lifted her out of the car and she hopped over to Page. Now comes one of the most touching moments I have ever experienced: Page bent her head down and with her muzzle, she touched Zuzu gently three times – once on the shoulder, once on the back, then they touched noses. It was as though Page was checking to ensure that Zuzu was okay. (After all, the last time she had seen her, she was screaming in pain and taken away for two weeks.) This communication

between the two of them brought tears to my eyes – it still does, even now as I write this. My girls!

Now, more than two months after the accident, the two of them are racing through the fields as though nothing ever happened. My three-legged Saluki can still keep up with my horse! We can learn a lot from our animals – so very much if we are open to the lessons they teach us. I shall never ever forget that most tender moment between them.



Zuzu, Page and Cindy

GETTING INTO DAY CARE IS BECOMING HARDER FOR TODAY'S DOGS

By Dana Martin-Newman, Ed.D

The Wall Street Journal, May 25, 2005, had an endearing front page article by John Hechinger about the lengthy admission process that is now required for acceptance into many doggie day cares. Doggie day cares are multiplying as more two-career families do not want to keep their dogs at home alone. The North American Dog Daycare Association has 1,100 US members today as compared to 100 in 1999.

If you think getting into the ivy leagues is difficult, more doggie day cares have started to institute rigorous standards as they try to put together compatible classes or play groups. One doggie day care in Boston requires two letters of reference from a trainer, camp counselor, veterinarian or family friend, as well as a seven-page "dog personality profile" and an extensive "peer session".

For example, Cousteau's owner thought a doggie day care in Houston might help her Great Dane become less "socially challenged". First, she had to fill out a four-page dog personality profile, revealing that Cousteau barks at the mailman, "dislikes bums with shopping carts" and is aggressive sharing toys with other dogs. Second, Cousteau had to participate in a peer session with other dogs to see whether his temperament met the doggie day care's standards. Before the peer session began, though, Cousteau tinkled on the day care carpet.

Cousteau redeemed himself when he met Zeb, a Rottweiler/bloodhound mix. At first Cousteau, who weighs 165 lbs and stands 6' 4", tried to mount Zeb. They had to be pulled apart. Then Cousteau, the gentle giant that he is, gave Zeb a few licks on his "privates", showing his friendly nature, and within seconds, Cousteau was matri-

culating at the doggie day care. His owner stated, "I feel like we're trying to get Cousteau into college here".

Ghillie, a Wheaton Terrier, at first showed promise at her peer session, sniffing a Beagle in a friendly way. But then all heck broke loose as Ghillie stuck her nose into the face of a miniature Dachshund and refused to unstuck it even when the Dachshund barked fiercely. Later, Ghillie charged onto the doggie day care lawn knocking over a 13-year old Tibetan Terrier, thereby arousing the other 22 small dogs. Ghillie managed to change the atmosphere from mellow and ambling around to running in snarling circles nipping at one another. Ghillie was rejected. Her owner stated, "She's not gifted".

Tale of Yeti: The Things She Carries

by Jan Priddy (with apologies to Tim O'Brien)

Yeti picks up things delicately, gently. Given the chance, she would carry rabbits by their long soft ears, the cat by the tip of her tail. Our imagination. She would groom the garden the way she does her front feet, lick and nibble people's hands as if they needed a manicure and she had all the latest skills. She carries the private objects of some of her human family, but nothing of person who feeds her.

She carries things which might be eaten including pieces of cheese, puppy biscuits, walnut halves to chew into bits and spit out someplace else so as not to hurt anyone's feelings, a bar of soap, greenies, chew toys, rawhide, corn chips, cookies, and open cat food cans.

She carries things which are playful or which may be played with. She carries tennis balls, socks, rubber toys, her stuffed animals until she learned to unstuff them. After careful search on the beach she carries the wings of long-dead birds and the scapula of a sea lion by the smallest corner like a trophy. She carries things which she knows perfectly well she should not, but she might need later on. Bull kelp longer than herself, seaweed, sand dollars and razor clams, flagella though it tastes nasty, socks, plastic bags, glasses (that was expensive), knitting needles, toilet paper rolls, paper towels, yarn, mussel shells longer than her muzzle, and did we mention socks?

She carries her ears forward and out like the spread wings of a bird, slicked back low to make herself small and humble, and drawn nearly touching over her forehead when she is seriously hunting. She carries herself with grace and dignity and with a terrible rush and joy into and against the wind. Yeti flies. When she isn't sleeping.



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Mr. Bark says.....

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