

The Lundehund Link

Newsletter of the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.

April 2007



- Ring that Bell!
- Chocolate and Dogs...When to Worry
- The Low-Down on Invisible Fences

A Real Bellringer!

By Donna Dunrud

In the last issue, My "Olle" (Cliffhanger Edoras) was shown hard at work helping us hot air balloon. Well, he has another talent as well.

As we all know it can take forever, if ever, to completely housebreak our beloved Lundies. After almost one full year of "accidents", Olle has trained us! At Christmas time we had a bell hanging on the door to the backyard. Olle quickly realized that when he stood up and tapped the Christmas bell, we would let him outside to do his business. We have not had any "accidents" since he rang the bell for the first time! Needless to say, we've kept the bell on the door where it's no longer the "Christmas bell" but rather the "tinkle bell".

Because he, of course, doesn't want to miss anything that we are doing in the house, he never rings the bell unless he needs to go potty. OK, well maybe he does ring the bell to let us know the cat wants in as well.

Chocolate and Dogs

You drop a chunk of chocolate on the floor while you're making brownies and your

Lundie snatches it up, swallowing before you can stop her. Since you know that chocolate is poisonous to dogs, you're immediately concerned. But then it was just one piece...How bad could that be? Does it really require an emergency trip to the vet?

Well, maybe. When it comes to chocolate and dogs, there are a number of factors at play.

Chocolate contains a compound called theobromine and in sufficient quantity it is toxic to dogs. It's the "sufficient quantity" part that causes confusion. On average, it takes a fairly large amount of theobromine to cause a toxic reaction, but it depends on the individual animal sensitivity, the dog's weight and the type of chocolate.

It takes one ounce per one pound of body weight of MILK chocolate to be toxic, whereas only 1/8 ounce of DARK chocolate per pound of body weight is enough to cause a toxic reaction. (With SEMI-SWEET chocolate it's 1/3 ounce per pound of body weight.) So one chocolate chip is probably not a problem, but more than a square of baking chocolate could be a serious problem.

If you're ever in doubt, consult your veterinarian.

Chocolate affects the nervous and cardiovascular systems, as well as peripheral nerves. Here are some clinical signs and symptoms to look out for:

- Extreme agitation
- Severe irritability
- Increased heart rate
- Muscle tremors
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Restlessness
- Increased urination

If you see any of these symptoms and you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate, take him to the vet immediately.

There is no antidote for chocolate toxicity, however there are treatment options. If the amount of chocolate your dog has ingested is unknown, then inducing vomiting is a must. Your vet may also give your dog activated charcoal in order to inhibit absorption. And further, depending on the severity, your dog may also receive an anticonvulsant, which is necessary if neurological signs are present. In order to help protect the heart, oxygen therapy, intravenous medications and fluids may be needed.

Bottom line: Be careful with chocolate around your dogs, especially dark chocolate. If you think your dog may have consumed anything approaching a toxic dose, see your vet immediately.

Cliffhanger To Host Their 8TH Annual Lundiefest

Year after year the gang down in Tomales has come through with their version of Lundiefest and 2007 will be no different. Put the date of Saturday, May 26th on your calendar, pack up the Lundies along with a potluck item and plan to spend the day talking Lundie-talk and walking the Lundie walk. Any questions or for directions please call 707/878.2646

Dog Haiku

Look in my eyes and
Deny it. No human could
Love you as much as I do.

Dig under the fence—why?
Because it is there. Because it's
There. Because it's there.

I am yours before,
Now, always and especially
While you are eating.



About Invisible Fences

An invisible fence is the common name for an electronic containment system which restricts a dog's movement to a yard without using a physical barrier like a traditional fence.

These devices work by giving the dog a low voltage or "static" correction when the dog tries to cross the fence. They can be used alone or in conjunction with a physical barrier and installed either above or below ground.

These fences allow dogs to run and play freely within the fence's boundary. Once the dog approaches the invisible fence, it receives a mild static energy pulse. The energy pulse is

uncomfortable, but not painful, similar to the shock one gets when touching a metal object after walking across new carpet.

After the fence is installed, the dog undergoes a training period of a week or two. During this time, the dog is regularly leashed and walked around the perimeter of the fence, but the dog will not receive a pulse, only a warning sound signal. Small flags are also placed along the perimeter during the training period so that the dog has a visual cue as well as the warning sound.

Once the training period is over, the flags can be removed. The dog will hear the warning tone as it approaches the fence, but will only receive the energy pulse if it actually attempts to cross the boundary.

The safety and effectiveness of some of these devices is supported by both The Humane Society and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Take time to locate a model that is properly endorsed.

These products are not recommended for dogs with existing fears or aggression problems. Also, remember that the barrier provides no protection from other animals coming into the yard.

Update from the AKC Liaison

By Sharon Pederson

The news is that our Breed Standard Committee has been diligently at work writing the standard to American Kennel Club specifications. We await word from North Carolina advising us once they review the current submission. When we receive approval of the format and wording, it will be sent to the board of directors for their approval, then on to you, the general membership, for final ratification. Along with

the breed standard you will also receive an updated version of our constitution and by-laws to be ratified. There were certain requirements specified by the AKC which now need your vote.

These are the two remaining details which need attending to before we can petition to move into the Miscellaneous Class. This will be a momentous occasion for the Lundehund so please look for these very important documents in your mail and attend to them promptly...let your vote be counted!

Puppies!



Monika Jansson's pups Zizzi and Zigge.



Judy Wallace's new baby, as yet unnamed.

Mind Games Dogs Play With Humans

After your humans give you a bath, DON'T LET THEM TOWEL DRY YOU! Instead, run to their bed, jump up and dry yourself on the sheets. This is especially good if it's right before their bedtime.

Hide from your humans. When your humans come home, don't greet them at the door. Instead, hide and make them think something terrible has happened to you. Don't appear until one of them is panic-stricken and close to tears.

Wake up twenty minutes before the alarm clock is set to go off and make the humans take you out for your morning pee. As soon as you get back inside, fall asleep. Humans can rarely go back to sleep after going outside, so this will drive them nuts.

Please Contribute...

Members have sent some great photos for the past and current issue—please keep it up! We love seeing your dogs! As always, please send news, stories, brags, tips, memoriams, jokes, photos to rwaldmann1@mac.com. If you change your e-mail address *please* let me know.

Beware of Dog

On the door of the little country store a stranger noticed the sign reading "Danger! Beware of Dog!". Inside, he saw a harmless old dog sleeping next to the cash register. He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog that folks are supposed to beware of?" "Yep, that's him," he replied. The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world do you need the sign?" The owner replied "Because, before I posted the sign, folks kept tripping over him."

Puppy Labels

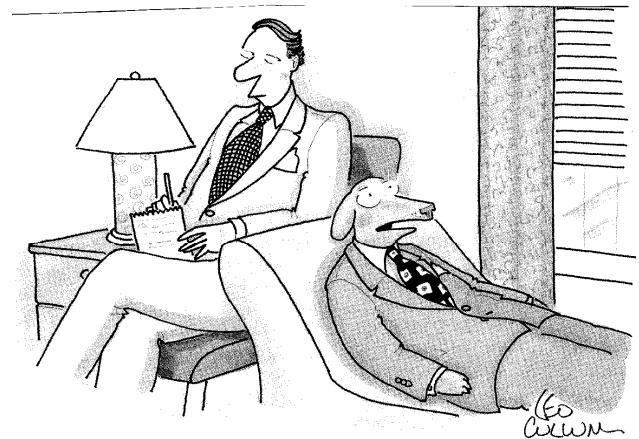
A three-year old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of Lundehund puppies. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There are three boy LundeHunds and four girl LundeHunds." "How do you know that?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on their bottoms."

Three Wishes

As an elderly woman sat on her front porch, a fairy godmother appeared and offered to grant her three wishes. "Well," said the woman, "I guess I'd like to be rich" and POOF! her house became a palace filled with gold.

"And I wouldn't mind being a young and beautiful princess" and POOF! She was a young princess with a priceless crown of jewels.

"Your third wish?" asked the fairy godmother. "Could you turn my wonderful dog into a handsome young prince" and POOF! There was the most handsome young man she had ever seen. He came towards her, smiling, and whispered, "I'll bet now you're really sorry you had me fixed!"



"Scratch my head, would you?"