

# ...the WAY HOME ...the WAY HOME ©

Issue ~ 9 ~ April ~ 2005  
an outreach e-communication of [Papillon Haven Rescue](#)



## 'Tis the season....

long days, summer breezes, cookouts and mosquito repellent. In all your banter to keep those pesky little

creatures off of you and your family, remember that Fido is also susceptible to a mosquito bite, but his consequences may be far greater than a mere itchy bump.

In the spirit of the season here's a quick Q & A to help you protect your beloved canine from the dangers of the infamous mosquito:

### **Q: What exactly is heartworm disease?**

**A:** Heartworm disease occurs when a dog becomes infested with a roundworm called *Dirofilaria immitis*. These worms actually live in the pulmonary arteries (the arteries carrying blood from the heart to the lungs to be oxygenated). When a lot of worms are present, worms may also be found in the right ventricle.

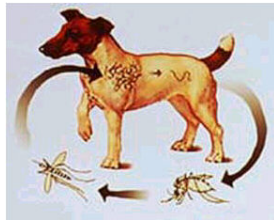
### **Q: How do dogs contract these parasites?**

**A:** Many people hear "worm" and think the dog must eat something to become infested. This is not the case for heartworm, which is actually transmitted by the *Culex* mosquito. The mosquito must feed off an animal with active heartworm disease (microfilaria circulating in the blood). These microfilaria are a stage of heartworm

larvae (L1), which, once in the mosquito, develop into the infective stage (called L3) over the course of a month. The L3 migrate to the mosquito's mouthparts, allowing the mosquito to deposit one or two microfilariae into the bloodstream of another animal (i.e., a dog). These L3 larvae develop in the subcutaneous tissue, and later enter the venous system over a period of 50-70 days. At this point, the larvae molt into a final larval stage, L4. These travel to the right side of the dog's heart, where they become adult heartworms.

### **Q: How will I know if my dog has heartworms?**

**A:** Many people associate worms with feces, which



## APRIL'S FEATURE DOGGIE:



### Lojac

This endearing little man came to us from a group who had rescued him from a kill shelter in the Carolinas. He had been checked by a vet, gotten his shots and staying with a foster family with 5 young children. He did not do well in this environment – as we later learned why.

Lojac is a bit of a rolly-polly – a little round from scarfing up the dog food afraid it would be taken away. He is one HAPPY GUY and runs through the house and yard on his short little legs, so happy to be "free". Reminds us of a butterfly, flitting from place to place. He can certainly bring a smile to your face! He is content to lie quietly at your feet for a short time, but would much prefer to be out in the open air checking out everything in sight.

He is 11 lbs and about 8 years old. Possibly a Papillon – Pekinese mix.

Lojac came to us as a possible biter. And when approached from the back he is startled and snappy. BUT... we learned the reasons for this behavior is that he has lost the hearing in one ear and has partial hearing in the other. If you just touch him gently on the shoulder and give him a hand signal for come or stay he will do it, no problem! Or if he has you in view – you are his best friend. And what a cuddler! He will also protect his food for the same reason – he can't hear others approach.

is not the case for heartworms! This disease can only truly be diagnosed by a blood test that your veterinarian can perform. When adult heartworms are living in the dog's heart, the females secrete a uterine antigen that can be detected by a special test, called an ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbant Assay).

This can be done in the veterinary office and takes only about 10 minutes. The test is very specific. The only drawback is that a certain amount of antigen (and therefore, adult worms) must be in the blood for the test to detect it.

**Q: If my dog has a negative heartworm antigen test, does that guarantee he/she does not have heartworms?**

**A:** Unfortunately, no. It takes about 6 months from the time the mosquito bites the dog to the time the adult heartworms are secreting detectable antigen, which is what makes the test positive. For example, if a dog was infected three months ago, and is not kept on heartworm preventative, he/she can be infected with the disease, but will have a negative test result. Even if a dog has a negative heartworm test and is immediately started on heartworm preventative, he/she can still have a positive



test up to 6 months later! The L3 larvae which are injected into the dog's blood by the mosquito will "swim around" for about 6 weeks. Then they develop into L4 larvae, which migrate to the heart and become adult heartworms, which secrete antigen that the ELISA heartworm test can detect. The preventatives used today are very effective at killing the L3, so if given once a month, your dog is protected (you are within that 6 week window of maturation to L4).

However, after that 6 week length of time, the larvae are now L4, and the preventative is not very effective in killing that stage. You may not know this until your dog has a positive heartworm test a few months later!

**Q: Does heartworm have any signs I should watch for?**

**A:** Only severe infestations will affect a dog so much as to cause clinical signs. When the worm load gets so high that the blood cannot pass through the heart and pulmonary arteries, dogs will most frequently present with a cough. They will not be able to exercise as much as they used to, and some will lose weight and act lethargic. If your veterinarian takes radiographs (X-rays), the dog may have an enlarged heart. The worms may be seen on ultrasound as well. Heartworm disease can cause a variety of other syndromes as well, which your veterinarian can check for as appropriate. The goal of the heartworm antigen test is to detect the

However, he is a very happy little dog. Someone dubbed him "the happy camper." He loves to play with his Merlin ball and make it squeak! He might be able to hear the strange pitch. He walks well on a leash and is pretty well house trained and loves men and women equally. Children are a problem because of his lack of hearing – too fast and unpredictable (children that is!)

Lojac is his own little Pappy person, and is perfectly happy in spite of his difficulties. He is not a licker or much of a lap doggie – he is busy checking out everything. He is independent and practically fearless, and prefers to sleep in his own bed or on the floor, but near his "person." Loves to ride in the car and is a quick learner. He literally bounces when he walks, and the sight of the short little legs and long Pappy hair on the little rear just makes anyone watching him glad to be alive.

Lojac also came to us heartworm positive. He is undergoing treatment. For his age and state of health, it is a serious endeavor. He needs our positive thoughts....

Lojac sends his love



*Lojac's heartworm treatment is in progress and we hope to have him available for Adoption in a few weeks. If you would like to make a donation towards his treatment [click here](#) (note it as "Lojac").*

disease early (before clinical signs appear), so treatment will have greater chances of success.

**Q: Is there a way to vaccinate against heartworm?**

**A:** There is no vaccine like that for rabies or distemper *per se*, but there is a safe and effective means to prevent heartworm in dogs. Many drugs have come on the market in the last decade with very similar mechanisms of action. These drugs, often tasty pills, are given to the dog once a month. They will effectively kill all migrating L3 larvae in the dog, which will prevent the disease from progressing. Some examples of monthly heartworm preventative include Ivermectin (Heartguard), Selamectin (Revolution), and Milbemycin (Interceptor and Sentinel). The monthly heartworm preventatives have the added benefit of other drugs to kill intestinal parasites, such as roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.



**Q: Can heartworm be transmitted to other people or pets in the household?**

**A:** No! Heartworm is not contagious, so animals can be housed with a heartworm positive dog with no risk. Heartworm disease essentially does not happen in humans. Heartworm can only be transmitted via a mosquito bite. (Additionally, pregnant females have been shown in some studies to transmit the disease to their puppies.) Along with dogs, the other two species highly susceptible to heartworm is the ferret and the California Sea Lion.

**Q: Is there a cure for heartworm disease?**

**A:** Fortunately, many newer, safer cures have emerged in the last decade. Treatment must kill the worms slowly and gradually, since they are living in the heart, and, as they die, they progress to the lung. These worms can measure up to four inches long, and that's a lot for the body to naturally reabsorb through the immune system's macrophages! Treating heartworm disease is therefore a risky endeavor, since the dead worms may lodge in the lung, causing a thromboembolism (a blood clot). The most commonly used treatment is Immiticide, an injection into the lumbar (lower back) muscles of the dog. There are many different schedules for administration, depending upon the health of the dog, the stage of the disease, and your veterinarian's personal preference. Immiticide is designed to slowly kill the adult worms. It is important for the dog to have complete rest for no less than 6 weeks during the treatment, since increasing the heart rate will increase the risk of complications, such as pulmonary thromboembolism, which can be harmful and sometimes fatal. If the dog has an exceptionally high load of adult worms, one treatment option is physical removal of the worms. This can only be done by a specialist, and is a very long, invasive procedure. However, with the worms removed, the risk of thromboembolism is greatly reduced. Either form of

## Happy Tails



**Muffin's Story**  
**Forever parent – Judy Young**  
**Foster mom – Tommie Anne Crick**

My mom went away.  
I heard someone say

she had to go to a nursing home. I don't know what a nursing home is, but I never saw her again. Someone brought me to the doctor that had treated my heart problem a couple of years ago. They said because I was old and deaf I should be put to sleep. (Pretty amazing that I am deaf but can hear all this stuff being said.) The girls in the office said "no way". They took care of me for several months. When PapHaven found out about me they sent my foster mom to pick me up. My foster mom took me to her furkid doctor. He found out that I had really bad teeth. He had to remove all my teeth except the two lower canines. I had to take some nasty liquid medicine for a few days. Boy, I really fought with my foster mom about that medicine. Both of us were very happy when it was gone. Dr. Lofton said I am pretty healthy for an old girl. I am a little under weight but eating good since all those bad teeth are gone.

Now, my foster momma loved me and wanted me to stay in Lou-z-anna with her but then she found out Judy Young wanted me to come live with her. Judy is retired and has two senior/deaf paps. I am used to having someone home with me and I do not like being alone. Foster mom said I would go in the car to Houston to meet Sally. She would bring me on the airplane to Cincinnati, Ohio. My forever mom, Judy, would be waiting for me at the airport. Sure enough, that is exactly what happened. I now live with Momma Judy, Sally, Indy, and Pebbles. I am home, forever!

Now that I'm in my forever home I have found my three special places. My crate in the bedroom where I sleep at night and can see mommy and my sisters. I like my crate and mommy said I was too little to sleep on the bed because I might fall off and get hurt. I don't like it when mommy goes out and I'm in my crate

treatment is expensive, making prevention the ideal choice.

You can learn more about Heartworm Disease by visiting The American Heartworm Society's website at <http://www.heartwormsociety.org>.

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*"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog."*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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so I bark and then my sister Indy barks so when mommy comes home we are both barking. My sisters want to get to know me better but I'm still not sure so I scream at them and then they want to get closer. I've been a good little girl mommy said about going outside and I don't go in my crate at night either. I get carried around a lot and I like being close to humans. Oh my other two special places are my bed and towel in mommy's office and my pillow and towel in the living room. (I like towels.) I get very excited when it's time to eat and even do a little dance. Mommy said I'm very cute and funny and a keeper. I don't know what that means except I'm staying right here forever.

*"In loving memory of Muffin, who is waiting at Rainbow Bridge to be joined again by her forever family."*

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*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."*

– Unknown





## Joys of Fostering

All dogs rescued by Papillon Haven Rescue are placed in foster homes prior to finding their forever homes. Not only does fostering provide a healthier atmosphere for the dog but it also helps us get to know the dog to make a better match with potential adopters. This information is critical to finding just the right home for little dog. Besides this very practical reason for promoting foster care, ask any foster volunteer and they will tell you how rewarding it can be. Here some of our Foster Parents along with PapHaven Foster Dogs.



Alicia has fostered several dogs over the years and Mitzi is her first foster since she started volunteering for Papillon Haven Rescue. "It's so heartbreaking to see these little babies when they first come to you.

They are usually scared and often times in really bad shape. It is the job of the foster parent to teach the dog that she is safe and loved. There is an incredible change in the dog you take in and the dog you send to a forever home. It's amazing what a little love can do!"

If you think you would be a great foster home, [click here](#) fill out the form (directions at the bottom of the form).

If you would like to be a PapHaven Representative, use [this form](#).

If you wish to make donations of supplies, money or anything else that may help this effort, please go to our [contact us page](#).



## Questions

### **Q. How is the best way to cope with dominance (alpha) aggression in male dogs?**

**A.** Dominance aggression is natural to all breeds of dogs since canids in the wild live and hunt in packs and they have a very rigid pecking (biting?) order. Domesticated breeds retain the cranial neural patterns that have to do with survival that their ancestors imprinted on them by showing them examples. Since there is a genetic symmetry from generation to generation, the young puppies and dogs can learn dominance behaviors readily. With canines, thought is action. In other words, dogs don't "think", they just "do." Dominance of males over other males is inevitable once a dog has a pack (home) that he is comfortable belonging to. Bitches will dominate other bitches and older bitches will dominate the whole pack in certain areas. My experience has been that I have had to convince my dogs that I am alpha in a different way from the canine way. I am alpha human in this mixed pack. I have the advantage of human cognition and human language going for me, but this advantage has a split personality. If I try to get to the dog's level of "thought is action", then I lose. The dog will win every time because it has no cognitive thought to compare to mine. That means the dog doesn't garbage up its learned responses with wondering if they're the right thing to do or not. In my opinion, it is useless to try to coerce a dog into submission. The dog must want to submit to you or it's no go. We

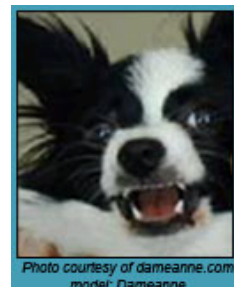


Photo courtesy of dameanne.com  
model: Dameanne



have an added dimension to aggression now: vaccines every year for three or more years can result in vaccinosis, which shows itself in aggressive behavior that seems to have no remedy and is completely out of the dog's control.

Having said all that, here's what I do. Papillon's are good examples of alpha behavior and Japanese Chins are not. Chins are stubborn and very practical about what they will and won't do....and God help the owner who tries obedience class on a Chin. The owner will soon be a basket case and the Chin will be happy and stubborn as ever. I once had an Australian Shepherd female that became so aggressive with anyone who came near me that I had to return her to the breeder. I was the cause of the aggression just by being me and the breeder was wise enough to know that probably the Shepherd would never again react just that way to anyone else. And that is what happened. The dog was teachable and responsive when out of my sight and sound range. Sad for me, but entirely understandable for the dog. Apparently some dogs "marry" for life. This kind of aggression is not what ordinarily happens, though. Usual dominance aggression is a matter of whom the dog recognizes as head of the household. Oddly enough, if the perceived head is absent from the scene - and don't think you can fool the dog about where you are - the dog will be more docile with someone else IF the cause is not vaccinosis. If the cause is the natural alpha-dominance, it can be corrected BUT - and you're not going to like this - the dog is better off with someone else who doesn't trigger this particular reaction. Rescues and shelter dogs are confused about who the head of the "household" because they have very likely never had a true caregiver who loved them and once they bond to their alpha-human, the bond is so strong that the dog fears the loss of this newfound love to other dogs and other humans. Sometimes dogs mourn for their owners who have died and refuse to be consoled. The gut-wrenching thing about dogs is that they bond so absolutely and love so unconditionally. Just remember, it's difficult to be adored. This is why owner turn-ins are better to work with if they have not been ! outright abused. Dogs that come from allergy homes, a death of an owner, a divorce, or a move to another country are usually easier to turn into loving family members because they have learned correct family behaviors.

In short, dominance aggression is natural to a dog and you are probably not going to talk the dog out of it. Behavior modification is desirable and it works with many dogs. Desensitization is a good thing to try. That means putting the two dogs in side-by-side chain link kennel runs so they can see, hear and smell each other. Then go into the house or away from them completely for five minutes. Do this for a week. If the dogs are beginning to ignore each other or at least to be less aggressive toward each other, try another week of ten minutes at a time. If you are not making any progress, quit. If the dogs are getting more aggressive towards each other instead of less, you're dead in the water for this type of modification. If, however, they are behaving better, then increase the sight, sound and smell of each other to 15 minutes at a time for 4-7 days and keep on until they can be next to each other in the kennel runs without exhibiting aggression. Then you keep on desensitizing under closer encounters, a little at a time. This kind of behavior modification takes a large amount of time and patience. The ideal time to go to the dogs and praise them (at the same time, using two different people) is when they quiet down and are less aggressive. Then go to them, praise them, love on them and give them their favorite treats. Make sure they see each other be rewarded. Then leave them in the kennel run until playtime, walk time, etc. Take them out separately (they're not yet ready for the wonderful world of each other loose at the same time) and if there are other dogs each one gets along with, take the other dogs, too. I suggest a large well-fenced area. I have a 50' by 50' fenced yard that gives even big dogs enough room to exercise. Papillon's like to play with other dogs....usually. See if you can cultivate the habit of socialization with other humans and other dogs. Good luck.

*Questions – you have questions? [Send them to us!](#)*

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## Did You Know???

### SILLY TRICKS

Do silly tricks have a place in your dog's repertoire? Indeed they do. While it is wrong to laugh at a dog's mistakes or at his "cute" disobedience, it is fine to laugh with him. He feels your pleasure and responds to your happy attitude. He loves to share any kind of enjoyment and positive interaction with you but silly tricks have a serious purpose too. The teaching of anything to your dog, done fairly and clearly, will help your communication with him and increase his ability to learn and be attentive. Here's a [link](#) to some information to help you get started.

### BARKING

If excessive barking is a problem while you are at home or out on a walk, teaching your dog to respond to the "quiet" command will help stop the outbursts. To be most effective, state the command in a strong, firm voice -- don't yell -- while your dog is barking. Barking when left at home alone may mean that he or she is **lonely** or **bored**. Or, it may be a sign of separation anxiety.

### TREATING FLEAS

When using a spot treatment such as Frontline or Advantage your dog should be bathed two days prior to giving the treatment and should not get another bath until at least two days following. The oils in the skin of your dog are what make the treatment effective, when bathing your dog many of the oils in the skin are washed away and need time to rejuvenate before treatment is applied. When you do bathe your dog it is recommended to use a detergent free shampoo which will help in maintaining the effectiveness of the spot treatment.



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## Health Alerts

### **Pseudoephedrine can be extremely dangerous to pets...**

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is warning pet owners that pseudoephedrine, an ingredient found in certain cold, allergy and sinus medications commonly used for the relief of nasal congestion in humans can be extremely dangerous to pets. "Pseudoephedrine has a very narrow margin of safety in dogs, cats and other animals," warns Dr. Steve Hansen, Veterinary Toxicologist and Senior Vice-President of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. "This means that it does not take much of the drug to cause a serious problem." For example, as little as one tablet containing 30 milligrams of pseudoephedrine could produce clinical signs in a 20-pound dog, including nervousness, hyperactivity and other behavioral changes, panting, elevated heart rate and blood pressure. A dose as small as three 30-milligram tablets in the same size dog could be lethal. "Depending on the form ingested," states Dr. Hansen, "clinical effects can sometimes be seen as quickly as within 30 minutes after ingestion. Therefore, it is critical that veterinary treatment is sought quickly when an ingestion occurs." As with most medications, the majority of animal exposures to pseudoephedrine products are accidental (such as a pet chewing into a medication bottle or ingesting pills left unattended). However, others may occur as a result of pet owners inappropriately medicating their pets without the direction of a veterinarian.

### **NSAIDS can potentially be very hazardous or even deadly to pets...**

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is alerting pet owners to the dangers of NSAIDS, common medications used for the relief of pain, inflammation and fever in humans, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen and ketoprofen. "While these medications can be beneficial to humans, they can potentially be very hazardous or even deadly to pets," warns Dr. Steve Hansen, veterinary toxicologist and Senior Vice-President of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. While most animal exposures to NSAIDS are accidental (such as a pet chewing into a medication bottle or ingesting pills left unattended), others occur as a result of pet owners inappropriately medicating their pets without the direction of a veterinarian.

Depending on the dose involved, NSAIDS can produce clinical effects ranging from gastrointestinal (GI) upset, ulceration and/or perforation of the GI tract, bleeding disorders, kidney damage and central nervous system effects such as incoordination, seizures and coma. "Pet owners should never give their animal any medication without first talking with their pet's veterinarian," Dr. Hansen advises. "There are certain veterinary NSAID products formulated for safe use in pets, and consulting with your pet's vet will not only help avoid a potential medication poisoning, it can ensure that a proper diagnosis is made and treatment plan is established that will be most beneficial to your pet." Dr. Hansen also recommends that pet owners store



medications in a secure cabinet well out of the reach of animals, as even child-proof containers can be easily chewed open.

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## **Introducing Papillon Haven Rescue Group**

[www.paphaven.org](http://www.paphaven.org)

This group came about through the love of a small deaf puppy that needed to be transported halfway across the country to her new home. It took the effort and dedication of people from Texas to Washington D.C. and on to Ohio. It took the cooperation of three other rescue groups. In the end, it took the hearts of every one. It is this good will and renewed faith in the goodness of people everywhere that has led us in forming Papillon Haven Rescue. We are a 501 c 3 non-profit organization, all volunteer National group specializing in Papillon's and Pap mixes and their rescue and rehabilitation.

Since then Papillon Haven Rescue (PapHaven) has grown dramatically and continues to grow and evolve to try to meet the changing needs of rescue and the on-going saga of Papillon's in need..... where ever they are.

We would like to invite you to join in our rescue efforts. With hands reaching out across the country, we can form a circle of love and caring that refuses to let even one Papillon in need fall though the cracks. We are not in competition with any other rescue groups. In fact, it is our goal to work hand in hand with every rescue group and shelter that will join us in this effort. We will not ask for perfect lineage, looks or origins. We will coordinate with other groups for transporting each other's breed.

We welcome volunteers, sponsors, contributors, interested folk and especially kind words.

Our Newsletter will try to bring informative articles, up-coming events, announcements, feature stories and Urgent Alerts about situations where the need for rescue is great.

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Contact Papillon Haven Rescue Group



*Naomi & Happy (above) give permission to cross post.... [Please cross post widely](#)*

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