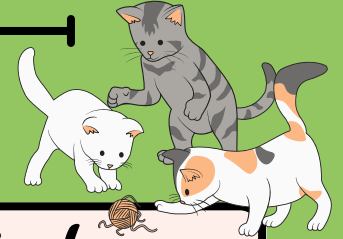


The Ambassador

AUGUST 2025



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Reminders:

Dr. Olsen will be out of the office 8/7/25 and 8/8/25. We will be open for technician appointments, medication and food refills!

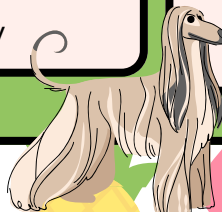


Celebrate with us!

- August 1: Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs
- August 3-9: International Assistance Dog Week
- August 8: International Cat Day
- August 10: Spoil Your Dog Day
- August 15: Check the Chip Day
- August 16: Clear the Shelters Day
- August 16: International Homeless Animals' Day
- August 17: National Black Cat Appreciation Day & International Black Cat Day
- August 22: National Take Your Cat To The Vet Day
- August 23: International Blind Dog Day
- August 26: National Dog Day & World Dog Day
- August 28: Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day
- August 30: National Holistic Pet Day

DOG BREED OF THE MONTH: AFGHAN HOUND

Afghan Hounds are aloof, and known for their independence and self-confidence. They also are hunters, and can run up to 40mph. They were bred to hunt gazelle and other small game, by the Bedouin people of Afghanistan. They were later used as war dogs. Pablo Picasso was also a lover of this dog breed. He owned 3 of his own, they are featured in some of his art.



Pet Hydration Awareness

Tips to Keep Your Pet Hydrated:

- Offer fresh water at all times,
- Have multiple bowls available,
- Some pets prefer moving water, such as a fountain,
- Ice cubes may entice your pet to drink more,
- Some pets like water added to their food.



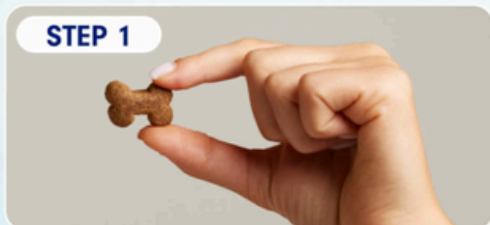
Symptoms of Dehydration:

- Loss of appetite
- Reduced energy levels
- Heavy panting
- Sunken, dry-looking eyes
- Dry nose and gums
- Loss of skin elasticity
- Vomiting
- Constipation or very hard stools
- Urinary complications



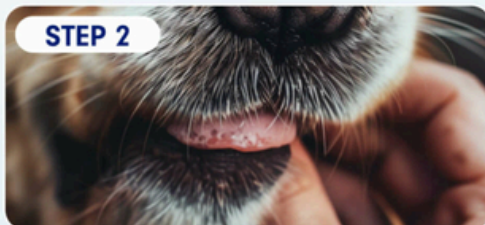
How To Check Your Dog's Gums

STEP 1



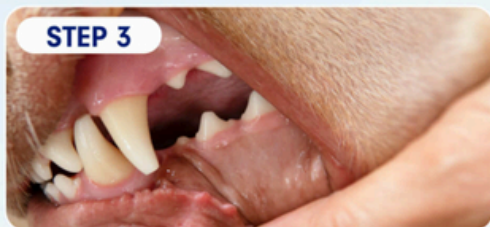
Get your dog used to hands near their mouth with treats & praise.

STEP 2



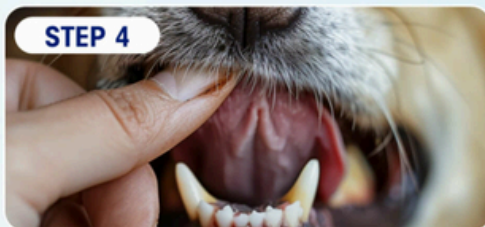
When your dog is comfortable, gently lift their lip with your hand.

STEP 3



Observe both sides of your dog's mouth. Note the gum color and check for any abnormalities like bleeding or growths.

STEP 4



If your dog will let you, run your finger along the gums to evaluate their moisture. Tacky or dry gums may indicate dehydration.



Please note that this tool is not intended for diagnostic purposes. It is designed to assist you in understanding your dog's dental health on a day-to-day basis. If you have any concerns about your dog's gum color, see your veterinarian.

Water Sources

If you are traveling, hiking, or anywhere you're unsure about access to fresh water for your pet, it is recommended to bring water along, so you know it is safe. There are several collapsible bowl options or water bottles with a "cup" attached for pets. Please do not let your pet drink from questionable water sources, such as puddles, ponds, rivers, or even fish tanks and toilets. These could have potentially harmful materials in them.



How to Test for Dehydration:

- Skin tent test- after gently pinching and releasing a fold of your pet's skin, the skin should immediately return, "snap back", to its original position
- Gum color and feel- after briefly pressing a finger against the gums, the gum color at that spot will blanch (whiten) but should return to its original color within 2-3 seconds. The pet's gums should also feel moist and warm.



BLUE-GREEN ALGAE SAFETY

WHAT IS IT?

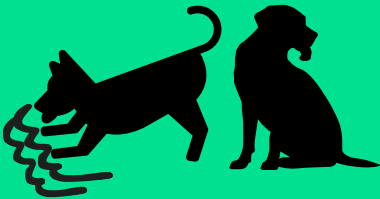
Blue-green algae isn't algae at all – It's cyanobacteria, which occurs primarily in stagnant freshwater bodies, particularly during warmer months (75 degrees or warmer) when there is more nutrients in the water.

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Cyanobacteria is known to be dangerous due to risk of poisoning. Cyanobacteria can produce toxins that affect the nervous system, liver, or skin. Depending on the type of toxin, an onset of symptoms, or even death, can happen within minutes or hours of exposure. There is no cure for cyanobacteria poisoning. Always seek immediate medical care if you suspect your pet was exposed to cyanobacteria.

METHODS OF INGESTION

INGESTION



SKIN CONTACT



INHALATION



SIGNS OF POISONING

Clinical signs can develop rapidly or over several hours, and may include any of the following:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Weakness
- Pale gums
- Collapse
- Drooling
- Muscle tremors
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle rigidity
- Paralysis
- Seizures
- Sudden death

HOW CAN I AVOID CYANOBACTERIA?

Do not enter bodies of water containing algae. Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 217-782-6302

Additionally, you can visit the Illinois EPA website,

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/monitoring/algal-bloom.html>, which has an algae bloom tracker, as well as a variety of educational resources specific to IL.

WHAT CAN IT LOOK LIKE?



**ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO WASH
YOUR PET OFF WITH CLEAN
WATER AFTER SWIMMING IN
ANY BODY OF WATER!**



Ethel

Unfortunately, the vet guesses Ethel to be between 12-15 years old. She has terrible teeth but due to elevated kidney and liver values, she is not a candidate for anesthesia. Her heart seems good, she still has a lot of pep in her step, and she enjoys eating.

Ethel is looking for a loving hospice home for whatever time she has left. We are willing to waive her adoption fee. She deserves to be comfortable, in a loving home! She's small, keeps her kennel clean, sleeps a lot, and still enjoys a good chew bone.

Ruby's Rescue and Retreat, NFP, McLean, IL

SHELTER DOGS

Of the month



Mya

Mya is more leery of strangers and we have recently learned she isn't good with kids. She is great with Moose but doesn't enjoy other dogs in her face or jumping on her. She might be happiest as an only pet. We were told she is a GSD/husky mix. She is a beautiful girl who sheds a lot but deserves a loving home. She was guessed to be between 5 and 7 years old.

Adoption fee is paid already!

Ruby's Rescue and Retreat, NFP, McLean, IL



Moose

We've only encountered one other dog that Moose didn't like. He is a happy boy that seems to love every person he meets. He wants to be touching his person at all times. He loads well in a vehicle, can be crated easily, and enjoys Gator rides when given the chance. He is 50% boxer, 25% great pyr, and 25% lab. He is guessed to be between 6-9 years old. Adoption fee is paid already!

Ruby's Rescue and Retreat, NFP, McLean, IL

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING ANY PET FROM ANY RESCUE, ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR PETS ARE UP-TO-DATE ON VACCINES AND PREVENTATIVES. RESCUES CALL US TO CONFIRM THESE THINGS & WILL DENY YOU IF YOUR PETS ARE NOT CURRENT.



Gumbo

Coming to us all the way from Louisiana, Gumbo was surrendered after his owner was no longer able to care for him! We were told by his previous owner that he can be a bit shy, but he has done an amazing job putting on his brave face and loves making new friends! He does okay with the other cats, really just wanting his space to be respected and is fully vetted!

DeWitt County Animal Shelter

SHELTER CATS

Of the month



Mosaic

Mosaic is a sweet, affectionate, and gentle cat with a shy side that blossoms into loving snuggles once she feels safe. She enjoys quiet companionship, gentle pets, and gets along well with kids and other cats. With her tortie charm and warm personality, she's the perfect addition to a patient, loving home.

Clover's Cat Club



Twilight

Hello! I'm Twilight and I'm a 1-year-old male gray shorthair. I'm a friendly, outgoing guy, despite my grumpy face. I love making new friends and getting loved on. My adoption fee is \$100.

Humane Society of Central Illinois

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