

## CANINE FACTS

Dogs are very sensitive to Theobromine, a chemical in chocolate. It causes irregular heartbeats and nervous system signs, and can be fatal – be sure to keep all chocolate away from your dogs!

All types of antifreeze can fatally damage a dog's kidneys. Unfortunately, it tastes sweet, so be sure your dog has no access to leaking vehicles, drained fluid or stored antifreeze bottles.

You can teach a dog to take baths and to let you trim its nails.

Dogs sometimes make a bizarre snorting noise called a reverse sneeze. The veterinary profession isn't sure what causes this, but dogs rarely need any treatment for it.

Dog "germs" are rarely contagious to humans. Dogs are seldom reservoirs for Strep throat either.

You *can* teach an old dog new tricks!

Never leave a choke chain on a dog unless you are walking or training him – it could get caught and choke him to death.

Decon and other anti-coagulant rodent poisons can kill any mammal – including dogs. The poison causes the animal to bleed to death, usually taking several days to cause problems. Dogs should be brought in immediately if you suspect that they ate any Decon.

No one knows why dogs eat grass. They often vomit after doing so, but we do not know if they eat the grass intentionally to relieve an upset stomach.

Dogs do not have pinworms.

Dogs have color vision, although it is not as detailed as ours. They do especially well with blues and purples.

Never leave a dog in a car unattended – the temperature inside the car can climb to life threatening levels in minutes. Also remember that it can quickly become too cold as well.

Never let your dog chew electric cords. The shock can cause potentially fatal fluid in the lungs. Call the veterinarian immediately, even if the dog looks okay.

Don't leave your dog outside if it is below freezing, and be sure that there is plenty of unfrozen water available if he is out in cold weather.

Never leave your dog loose in the car or a pickup truck bed. They should be in a dog seatbelt or a crate. Dogs tied in the back of trucks often jump out and get strangled, dragged, or run over.

Dogs can get a severe, painful inflammation of the pancreas from eating fat, so don't feed your dog fatty table scraps.

Dogs metabolize non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (such as aspirin, ibuprofen) differently than we do. Never give them or any other over the counter medications without consulting with your dog's veterinarian.

Dogs often step on metal lawn edging, causing deep cuts which need stitches. Cover your lawn edging with the plastic cap made for this purpose or use plastic edging.

Dog saliva has plenty of bacteria, just like that of people, and does not have any special healing properties.