



# The ShepHeard

*Newsletter of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Austin*

## September 2006

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## **Congress passes “PETS” bill by unanimous decision. Federal legislation providing for pets and their owners during disasters.**

**New York, NY** This week, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives passed by unanimous decision the “pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006,” known as “PETS”. PETS addresses the prob-



lems experienced by pet owners before, during and after the 2005 hurricane season. The enacted bill includes stronger language, which the AKC supported and lobbied for, rather than the weaker House version of the bill. The bill now goes to the president, who is expected to sign it.

During the evacuations of hurricanes Katrina, and Rita, many pet owners were forced to leave their pets behind because emergency relief agencies, and shelters were not equipped to accommodate pets.

The national news coverage on the plight of pets during the Katrina aftermath illustrated a need to consider pets in evacuation planning. A recent AKC survey revealed that 67% of pet owning households would refuse to obey evacuation orders if they were unable to take their pets with them.

“PETS” requires that disaster relief and emergency management agencies provide for the needs of household pets and service animals as a condition of federal approval. The bill also makes providing services to individuals with household pets and service animals a legitimate activity on which to spend emergency and disaster relief funding, and authorizes the federal government to provide funds for state and local authorities to procure, construct, lease, or renovate emergency shelter facilities what will accommodate people with pets and service animals.

Article courtesy of the AKC.



## Cooler Weather Warning: Leaving pets in cars during cooler weather is still not safe!

The memories of the dog days of summer still fresh in our minds, we celebrate the blessing of the coming of Fall with its cooler temperatures. Many pet owners begin to take time to enjoy our pets, bringing them with us to the many places we go within a day. The cooler temperatures encourage us to do more outside with our pets, and of course our pets love going with us, and the extra attention we give them.



The cooler temperatures can lull us into a false sense of security as well. Things we would not consider doing in the heat of the summer, now appear to be a possibility because the air is so cool. Many pet owners who during the summer heat would not dream of leaving their pets in a car while stopping for a quick minute of shopping, feel that with the cooler temperatures it is ok to leave them in the car with the windows cracked. Surely it is cool enough to do so. This is not the case. At veterinary clinics around the country the same scenarios play out as the temperatures go down. A frantic pet owner rushes in, dog limp in their arms. They all say virtually the same thing. "I only stopped in to pick up a few things! I was in the store for only 20 or 30 minutes!" The sad fact is that while it may be cool outside, it takes only minutes for a pet left in a vehicle on a warm day to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation. Most people don't realize how hot it can get in a parked car on a balmy day. However, on a 78 degree day, temperatures in a car parked in the shade can exceed 90 degrees -- and hit a scorching 160 degrees if parked in the sun!

Animals are not able to sweat like humans do. Dogs cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paws. If they have only overheated air to breathe, animals can collapse, suffer brain damage and possibly die of heatstroke. Just 15 minutes can be enough for an animal's body temperature to climb from a normal 102.5 to deadly levels that will damage the nervous and cardiovascular systems, often leaving the animal comatose, dehydrated and at risk of permanent impairment or death. Even leaving the Air conditioner on while stopping has its own risks. For example, in 2003, a police dog in Texas died after the air-conditioning in the patrol car shut down and began blowing hot air.

Heatstroke is the main cause of death for animals left in cars, even for short periods of time. The early signs of heatstroke are, rapid breathing, dry mouth and nose, rapid heart rate, and gums leave their healthy color for dull, grayish-pink, or red. This IS an **EMERGENCY!** Even at the earliest stage of heat stroke, you may be fighting for your dog's life. You must get him to a veterinarian as soon as possible. These symptoms can be followed in minutes by collapse, seizures, coma and death. It is imperative that you get your dogs body temperature down as quickly as possible, however, do not rush back into the store to purchase ice in effort to do so. It is more important that you take your dog to a veterinarian immediately. If you have quick access to ice, wrap it in a damp towel and place it between your dogs' hind legs on his belly. Placing our pets feet in ice water, or dousing the pads with rubbing alcohol will also help. Then rush your pet to the veterinarian for more intensive treatment. You only have minutes, so don't waste any time in seeking medical assistance

While the temptation may be great to bring your pet with you on these cooler days while you run errands, it is best to leave them at home if you plan to stop for any reason. As much as they love you for taking them with you, they will love you longer if they stay at home.

Cindy Gialluca



## The CHIC DNA Repository

jointly sponsored by the AKC CHF and the OFA

**The CHIC DNA Repository is open to all participating CHIC breeds as of April 1, 2006. Our thanks to the Golden Retriever community for their overwhelming support of the project during the pilot phase!**

### **MISSION**

Jointly sponsored by the OFA and the AKC CHF, the CHIC DNA Repository collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding pedigree and phenotypic health information to facilitate canine health research.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To facilitate more rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process
- To provide researchers with optimized family groups
- To allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA based tests as they become available
- To foster a team environment between breeders and researchers, improving the likelihood of scientific discovery

### **SUBMISSION BY BLOOD SAMPLE**

Blood is the gold standard for genetic material; the yield of DNA is sufficient for all research methods, including technologies on the horizon. Moreover, the stability and purity of the DNA is of the highest caliber, which offers many benefits. The drawback of banking blood samples is cost drawing, shipping, storing, and extracting DNA from blood are more expensive endeavors than the alternative.

### **SUBMISSION BY CHEEK SWAB**

Cheek swab-derived DNA is a viable option for DNA banking. Although the yield and purity of this DNA is inferior to that obtained from blood, the material is suitable for most genetic approaches. The swabs are inexpensive, and the samples can be taken by the owner of the dog without the necessity of a veterinary office call. Swabs are easily shipped in standard envelopes using the postal mail, and they can be stored for at least a decade at room temperature, so long as they are stored under conditions of low humidity. The success rate for obtaining DNA from a swab in the laboratory is roughly 98%, so multiple swabs should be submitted for each dog to ensure representation in the archive.

### **LABORATORIES**

The CHIC DNA Repository has partnered with the Veterinary Genetics Lab at the University of California-Davis and the Small Animal Molecular Genetics Lab at the University of Missouri. UC Davis receives and stores all swab samples, and Missouri receives and processes all blood samples.

### **PARTICIPATION**

To participate, please visit the CHIC website at [www.caninehealthinfo.org](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org) to download the DNA Bank application form. In addition to providing basic information on the dog, the owner will be asked to select their sample submission via blood or cheek swab. Once the application is processed, the owner will receive a swab or blood "kit" containing collection instructions, mailing labels, bar codes for the samples, and shipping labels.

Clubs may also contact CHIC directly at [chic@offa.org](mailto:chic@offa.org) if they are interested in setting up collection "clinics" at events such as shows or club meetings.



# Saint Louis or Bust! Best of Luck and Safe Travels to all Those Attending!

It's almost that time! People are gearing up and getting ready for the annual trek to the 93<sup>rd</sup> German Shepherd Dog Club of America National Specialty Show. This year it is being held in beautiful St Louis Missouri at the National Equitation Center.

Judging this prestigious event will be:

## Conformation:

- Dogs Ms. Jammie Walker
- Bitches Mr. Dan Smith
- Intersex Ms. Helen Franklen

## Obedience:

- Ms. Pat Skully
- Mr. Harlowe Jahelka
- Ms. Victoria Brown

## Agility:

- Ms. Pamela Sturtz
- Ms. Carol Voelke

## Herding:

- Ms. Ellen Adomelis
- Ms. Peggy Richter
- Mr. Joe Kapelos

## Rally:

- Ms. Victoria Brown

## Tracking:

- Mr. John Barnard
- Ms. Peggy Richter
- Mr. Joe Kapelos

The German Shepherd Dog Club of Austin wishes the best of luck and safe travels to all the exhibitors, vendors, judges, and of course the beautiful dogs being presented. For those of us staying home this year, we will be waiting anxiously to hear of the results.

## Quotable Dog Quotes

“In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semihuman. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.”

-- Edward Hoagland

## National Dog Show Check List

Dogs can't forget them!

Collars, leashes

Dog food

Crates

EX-pens If you have them

Grooming supplies

Dog brushes

Medications for the dogs if needed, and for you too

First aid kit both human and canine

Credit cards face it there's lots of stuff to buy

Airline tickets if flying



Clothes make sure to pack something really nice for the dinner

Tennis shoes tons of walking

Toiletries

Camera you want to take pictures of all those beautiful dogs don't you?

Cel phone so you can call your friends when your dog wins

Lap top To let those of us waiting anxiously at home know what

dogs went up

Contact phone numbers - just in case