



DOG Watch

Expert information on medicine, behavior and health from a world leader in veterinary medicine

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They may seem minor but can lead to serious complications like infection.

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Coco Rose arrived spinning and hasn't stopped. Except now, she spins for joy.

IN THE NEWS ...

\$5 Million Pledged for Bone Cancer Research

Osteosarcoma strikes more than 10,000 dogs each year in the U.S. Amputation is the usual treatment for the bone cancer, followed by what the Morris Animal Foundation calls some of the most toxic chemotherapy in veterinary medicine.

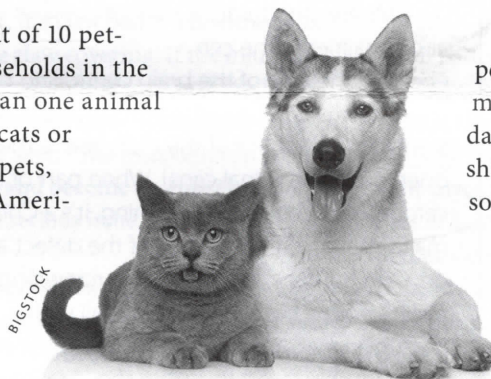
To fight the disease, which especially affects large breeds, the foundation has launched Project 5-5-5. The initiative will fund one \$1-million osteosarcoma clinical trial annually for five years. First on the agenda: an evaluation of the drug rapamycin. The immunosuppressant is used in organ transplants to prevent rejection of foreign tissue.

Rapamycin also has antibiotic and antifungal capabilities, and has been shown to prevent the growth of canine melanoma and osteosarcoma in vitro, the foundation says. It launched the research project to find "safer, more efficacious treatments" and ultimately save the lives of both dogs and humans. More than 2,000 human cases are diagnosed annually in the U.S., with young people 10 to 19 commonly affected. ♦

Peace and Harmony Among Pets

It depends on identifying and solving conflicts, whether they're food, toys or — you guessed it — your attention

Nearly four out of 10 pet-owning households in the U.S. have more than one animal — multiple dogs, cats or a variety of other pets, according to the American Pet Products Association. No matter the combination, the potential for conflict always exists, especially with different species whose biological and behavioral imperatives run counter to each other.



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They aren't natural soul mates but sometimes can learn to be best friends.

However, keeping multiple pets also confers benefits. Animals home alone during the day usually like companionship, and the resident pet can sometimes be a role model for the newcomer, helping him learn household rules.

Social vs. Solitary.

While cats and dogs can learn to live in peace, they aren't natural soul mates. Cats tend to be loners, and dogs are social, for one thing. And while both are predators, some

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Coming to Terms With Kidney Disease

While research continues on new treatments, special renal diets have been shown to help increase longevity

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a progressive condition common in older dogs. It worsens at varying rates, and because it has no cure, owners coping with CKD need to understand and come to terms with the complexity of the disease, as well as its options for treatment.

"The first thing I tell owners is, 'The disease is chronic, we're not going to cure it, and I don't know how quickly it will progress,'" says Catherine Cortright, DVM, a resident in companion animal internal medicine at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. While some dogs diagnosed with the disease might deteriorate quickly and die within months or even weeks, others can live up to four years after diagnosis.

Decreasing Protein. "The only treatment that has been shown to slow the disease's progression is a special diet," Dr. Cortright says. "Diet doesn't treat the disease process, but presumably the combination of the decreased protein, decreased phosphorus and omega 3 fatty acid supplementation helps slow the progression. The outcome, which has been shown scientifically, is that dogs on the renal diet have longer survivals. We don't know what aspect of the diet is most important in prolonging the survival or why."

Many drugs are available to treat the diseases' symptoms — such as nausea, vomiting, lack of appetite, high blood pressure

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MULTIPLES... (continued from the cover) dogs view cats as prey and chase them to the detriment of the cat's comfort.

The most common conflicts involve miscommunication between species (the dog wants to play; the cat is afraid) and owner-derived resources, such as food, toys and attention.

Even though they have differences, most pets coexist happily when owners understand their behaviors and meet their needs. The first thing to determine is whether your dog

really needs a companion. Dogs can enjoy having a pal, says behaviorist Katherine A. Houpt, VMD, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, but problems arise when they're members of the same species with incompatible activity levels.

Owners often will get a puppy in an attempt to rejuvenate an older dog. Sometimes that works, but it's more likely that the older dog becomes neglected or the puppy pesters him. "The worst mistake people make is to

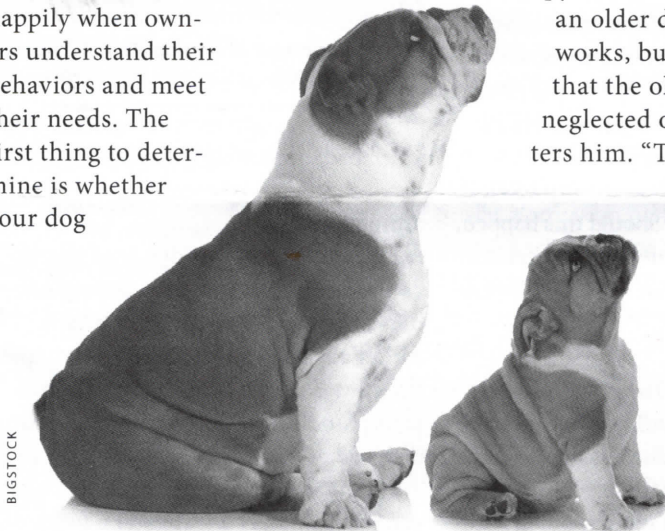
have a small old dog and then get a large-breed puppy," Dr. Houpt says.

Struggle for Dominance. "At first the puppy drives the older dog crazy, and then as the younger dog realizes his own size, you may have a dominance struggle. If you're going to get a second dog, it would be better to get one of the opposite sex and smaller adult size."

The ideal number of your pack or pride: It's best if there's no more than one dog per adult in the household, Dr. Houpt says. That way, no dog suffers for lack of attention. "One cat per household is ideal from the cat's point of view," she says. "Of course, I probably wouldn't have much business if people followed that rule."

Smoothing raised hackles and ruffled fur calls for a number of tactics: training, modifying behavior, separating the combatants and providing adequate resources.

Getting a puppy to help rejuvenate an older dog? Sometimes that works. More likely the older dog becomes neglected or the puppy pesters him.



BIGSTOCK

EIGHT STEPS TO INTRODUCING NEWCOMERS — WE DIDN'T SAY IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY

With time and patience, you can introduce new pets — cats or dogs — gradually and safely, with a minimum of stress for all involved.

To introduce the cat to the dog

1. Isolate a new cat for three days to a week in a room with a litter box, soft bed, food and water. That gives him time to become accustomed to the home's smells and sounds before encountering the resident dog.
2. After the isolation period, let the cat explore the house while the dog is outdoors, confined to a crate or restrained by a leash.
3. Set up a situation in which the animals can see each other without physical contact. This can be done by separating them with a glass or screen door or setting up a see-through barrier such as two baby gates on top of each other. This separation period should also last three to seven days.
4. During this time, feed them within view of each other. You want them to get used to good things happening in each other's presence.

5. When you bring the animals together, the dog should be on leash so you can control playful or predatory lunges. Give them both treats as long as they are reacting calmly.

To introduce the new dog to another dog

1. Let them meet first outdoors on neutral territory, both on leashes each held by a separate person. Give each dog some squeeze cheese or other treat before they have a chance to interact. This will help them associate each other with good things.
2. Let them sniff each other briefly, being alert to signs of aggression or fear, such as staring, pulling the lips back, raising the ears, and holding the tail stiff and high.
3. Walk the dogs separately for a few minutes, then reunite them for more sniffs and treats. When their greetings are friendly and accepting, you know it's time for them to go home.