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It's Spring time! Oliver is enjoying the sights and sounds of Spring. Photo taken and submitted by Sally Minton.

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## ***Tips For Preventing the Loss of Your Pet***

*by Lu Wyland*

Losing your pet is a nightmare none of us want to endure, but it's happened to quite a number of Havanese in the last few years. Examining what we can do to reduce the likelihood of one of our own Havanese becoming lost is in the best interest of our dog.

The first and most basic step to help protect your dog is to always keep your dog on a leash when you are not in your home or your own fenced yard. It's easy to think that your dog would "never" run off between the car and the house, but all it takes is an ill-timed siren, a rabbit that crosses his path or anything to distract or frighten your dog into bolting. If you're lucky you'll catch him immediately. Why rely on luck when a leash and collar can offer much better assurance?

Many of us do not keep collars on our dogs due to the knots that form when they wear them. (If somebody has found a collar that does not cause mats or damage coat, PLEASE share the information). The reality is, however, when we are out visiting or a pet sitter is in the home, all my dogs wear their collars. The same is true when we have company visiting. A change in schedule offers too great an opportunity for someone to escape.

It's not enough to just have the collar on your dog, though. Without tags, the collar is not particularly helpful. Take the time to put an ID tag on your dog's collar. (While you're at it, go a step further and write contact information on the inside of the dog's collar as well. If he's found

and the tags have come off, there's yet another way somebody can reach you.) Also remember the rabies tag. If your dog becomes lost, you don't want anybody wondering if this dog has been vaccinated for rabies. It could cost him his life. Be proactive.

It might sound obvious, but be sure the collar is a good fit! Dogs can lose or gain weight and if they've had a haircut or have lost some of their coat, the collar that fit last week might not fit now. I literally resize my girls' collars before we leave the groomer. The chance that somebody might back out of the collar on the way to the car is a nightmare I don't want to live through.

### **Complacency Costs**

Please don't assume that because you have a fence your dog is safe. Check the gates! Is it possible to put on a padlock? Know the schedule of deliveries and meter readers. Learn their habits. If a company's employee leaves the gate open, call and tell the company that it's a problem. If it's a delivery, maybe you can make arrangements for the delivery to take place at a different door, avoiding the fenced area entirely. Or perhaps you want to post something on the gate itself. A sign stating "All Dogs Are Micro-chipped" is a reminder that there are dogs there as well as informing intruders that somebody has taken an effort to permanently identify the dog which can deter a theft. Hang a sign on the inside of the gate reminding people to close the gate after them.

*(continued. ....)*

## Recipes

By: Cindy Lisai

### Court Nourishing Topper

(by Deva Khalsa, VMD)

6 cups rolled oats

2 cups shredded coconut

1 cup wheat germ

2 teaspoons rosemary

1 1/4 cup olive oil

Heat olive oil with the rosemary in it. Stir in the rolled oats, coconut, and wheat germ and remove from the heat immediately.

Spread mixture on to two greased cookie sheets. Bake at 250 degrees for 20 - 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool completely.

Store in airtight container. Serve sprinkled on top of meals.

### Vet School Oatmeal Bread

(by Dr. Deva Khalsa, VMD)

This popular bread that I invented during veterinary school can be used as a meal, a topper, or even a reward.

5 cups uncooked oatmeal

1/2 cup olive oil

1/4 cup powdered milk

1 teaspoon kelp powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon ground rosemary

1/2 cup nutritional yeast

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix all dry ingredients in bowl, add the oil, and then add enough water to cover. Blend until the consistency of thick mush is achieved. Spread in a single layer in an oiled rectangular cake pan. Bake for one hour. Remove from oven and let cool. Break into bite-size chunks to feed.

## Horizon Quick Tip

By: Patt McRae

### Xylitol

Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered sugar levels). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to recumbancy and seizures. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few days. (People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pet, ASPCA <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/people-foods.html>)

If you think your dog has ingested Xylitol, get it to the vet straightway. If you live further than an hour away, then you might have to induce vomiting. When you take your dog to the vet you can expect for it to remain in the hospital for at least 24 hours while it's blood sugar is monitored closely. Your vet may want to follow up with liver enzyme studies to be sure there has not been any toxic after effect to the liver.

Dogs do have a sweet tooth, so avoid developing that urge more strongly but not feeding your dog people food. What is safe for people is not necessarily safe for dogs. (Content for above used materials courtesy of [Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com) March 2010)

## Book Review

By: Madalin O'Brien

*Real People Don't Own Monkeys*, by Veronika Kiklevich, D.V.M., with Seven N. Austad, Published by Sourcebooks, Inc., Copyright 2002

Reviewer's Rating: 3 1/2 out of 5 stars

While at my local library looking for some reading entertainment, I came across the book, *Real People Don't Own Monkeys*. With such an unusual name, I took a second look. The book's title (now that I think about it) provides a good insight into its overriding theme, that being, whether choosing wisely or not, most of us have the need to fill our lives with a pet. Be it a monkey, cat, lizard, dog, etc., we chose, we bond, and we love them deeply.

The author of this non-fiction, a graduate of the Cornell Veterinarian School, recalls her true-life professional experiences treating the pets she adores and interacting with their quirky owners. She provides practical advice (especially when dealing with the human factor), lessons learned, and memorable moments. The book's non-fiction format can be gritty and heart wrenching at times, and at other times, most endearing. An example of both of these emotions was a chapter about a Siamese Cat that had been her patient for years, and the owner who trusted her completely. The cat had arrived at her office rather lethargic. The exam didn't tell her much and later the cat seemed to improve, but things quickly turned for the worst and it died. She goes on to say that telling the owner about such an unexpected death is probably the hardest thing a vet has to do, so she decided to let the owner down as easily as she could. She phoned and said that the cat's condition had worsened and then phoned again a few hours later and so on until she forced herself to break the bad news. As you might expect, the owner wanted to come immediately to see the cat, the only problem was that the new technician had hours before placed the cat in the freezer. When she found the cat it was indeed frozen stiff, and she began to panic terribly. She then caught sight of the microwave oven, and to make a long story short, made the cat presentable for the owner to say her goodbyes. The lesson she learned that day, honesty is the only policy for a veterinarian.

The book also has a great chapter about a Schnauzer, but I won't give that one away. Read and enjoy!



Here are Bonnie & Sarge and they are ready to go out and play!  
Photo taken and submitted by JoAnn & Terry MacKay in Nova Scotia.

# ...Tips for Preventing the Loss of Your Pet

(continued from Page 1)

Don't assume that because you don't leave your dogs outside that you don't have to worry about gates. If somebody comes to read the meter while you and the dogs are in the house, but you haven't padlocked the gate (and don't know the meter reader's schedule) you can still lose a dog. Be vigilant! Your dogs rely on you.

Train your dog to wait at a door and not to run out until you give the word, but don't assume that is enough. Remind guests and children not to stand with the door open. (Why tempt fate?) If you live on a busy street or have concerns about a pet slipping through an open door, do what you can to prevent access to the door itself. In our house, for example, there is a permanently installed metal baby gate placed between the living room and the entryway.

## Special Occasions

Traveling with your Havanese can be wonderful. Make sure it's also a safe experience and take extra precautions to ensure that your dog is always wearing his collar and tags unless he's sitting on your lap being groomed or is in the sink being bathed. Bring along a current picture of your dog in case the unthinkable happens and he is lost. You want something from which to make posters. (More on this later.)

If your dog stays home while you're on the road, be specific in what the caregiver is to do. Our pet sitter knows she is NEVER to walk the dogs outside our fenced yard. She is reminded to check the gates. She knows the collars are to remain on each dog unless they're being groomed. She's reminded that while they know her and are in their own home, the chances are greater when their family is gone, that the girls may try to escape to find us.

## One Last Tip

Sometimes, despite everything we do, the unthinkable happens. You can save yourself time if you are prepared. How do you do that?

First, go the Amos Alert section of the Havanese Rescue Inc website, <http://havanese rescue.com/amosalert.html> Information on what to do when your pet is lost, everything from first steps, who to contact, where to post flyers and how to look is provided in pdf format to be downloaded and printed (see the Amos Alert handbook). Leave this information with anyone that cares for your pet. Bring it along while you're traveling to remind you of what to do if your Havanese becomes lost. The list provided can help you be organized, not panicked.

Complete a Havanese Profile, provided in the handbook, for each one of your dogs. Use the sample poster on the site to make a poster for your Havanese. Creating that now, with rudimentary information and photos of your dog, will save valuable search time. Leave the poster with any caregiver for your animal. Bring it along when you're traveling (with some areas left blank for you to write in pertinent information such as where the dog was lost).

These tips can't guarantee that you will never lose the furred one you love, but you can move the odds to your pet's favor by following them.

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## Havanese Roundtable

### Question:

My Havanese puppy gets very anxious when we get into the care and has gotten car sick almost everytime we have taken him for a ride. Can you help me find some helpful hints on how to help him thru this. Thank you, Janet owner of a fun five month old Havanese puppy.

### Answer:

Most puppies get car sick...and most do outgrow it...here are some tips if your puppy seems to get car sick or is afraid of the car (lots of time the anxiety of the car ride can make them sick)

1. Introduce the car to your puppy many times. Let your puppy sniff and explore the car while the engine is OFF. After they have explored and seem to be calm, praise the dog and give a treat. You will have to do this several times - you don't need to spend a long time just a few minutes several times a day. Let the pup associate the car with good things- praise and treats!

2. Next step is to turn the car on, so the pup knows the sound of the car. Let him sit in the car in your driveway....do NOT drive yet. Give praise and a treat while the dog is calm. Repeat this step a few times possibly having his favorite toy to play with him.

3. Next you should just go for a short drive with your puppy, even up and down your driveway. After give lots of praise.

4. Increase the distance of the trip...but remember do not give food or treats before you put your pup in the car....water is ok, but try not to even give water too close to your trip. Remember to drive slowly, no big turns and try to avoid hills if possible for the first few rides.

5. Do not make the first car trip for your new puppy to the vet or groomer. Just take him for a ride around the block or a quick ride in the neighborhood. You might want to put your pup on a towel, just in case! Some people keep the pup in a car carrier, the pup is safer and might help the anxiety. Some pups want to be able to see out the window, or get a bit of air from the window....judge by how your dog seems to calm down best.

6. Make sure your dog has used the bathroom before going in the car! If you are on a long trip, take frequent breaks so the dog can get out on the leash and move a bit.

7. If your dog continues to get sick in the car after you have tried these tips, then call your vet and they can give your pup the correct dosage for an anti-nausea/anti-anxiety medication. Sometimes a little dramamine works, especially if the pup is going on a long trip but check with your vet first.

8. Good luck and remember most pups do outgrow this with a bit of patience. Try making the car ride a positive, fun experience for everyone..

Laura Pirano



## Spring Photo Fling!



Rookie & Rowdie from Texas. Photo taken and submitted by Cheri Rippee.



Adi Anja & Kezi Olia are two beautiful flowers. Photo taken and submitted by Linda VanKampen



Basket full'o Pups. Photo submitted by Linda Cosner.



Dolly in the Daisies. Photo submitted by Linda Cosner.



Lightning celebrates the arrival of Spring. Photo taken and submitted by Jan Smith.



Weee!! Manny joins in the celebration Photo taken and submitted by Arlene Etzig.