



Bryan/College Station Retriever Club July 2000

Here is a list of what heat exhaustion/heat stroke look like in a dog and what to do if your dog gets into this condition:

Heat Prostration:

Early warning signs are

1. Heavy panting and bright red (brick red) mucous membranes. Look at the gums and the conjunctival tissue around the eyes. These areas should be pink but not red.
2. Anxiety and agitation.
3. Tachycardia (elevated heart rate).
4. Hyperthermia - normal body temp for a dog should be somewhere between 100 and 102 deg. Fahrenheit. Heat stroke or heat prostration usually develops with acute elevations of body temps over 106 deg. Fahrenheit. Because our mean body temperature is lower than a dog's, a dog will almost always feel warm or hot to the human touch. Use a thermometer to determine what the dog's temperature actually is. By doing this it will also give you a good idea of how severe the problem is.
5. Stumbling and staggering. If the condition persists and progresses the following signs will appear.
6. Severe respiratory distress and cyanosis (mucous membranes will become blue).
7. Stupor. The dog will appear very lifeless and like it is drunk.
8. Hemorrhagic diarrhea and vomiting.
9. Seizures and coma.
10. Respiratory arrest.

The goal of therapy should be to attempt an immediate reversal of the hyperthermia and correction of shock and cerebral edema (buildup of fluid around the brain) and prevention or treatment of delayed complications such as renal failure.

Field treatment of hyperthermia (heat prostration) is basically limited to the immediate cooling down of the dog. The primary goal should be to lower the dog's temp. rapidly to 103 deg. Fahrenheit with 10 minutes. Several techniques can be used.

First, move the dog to a cool area (in the shade or air-conditioned environment). Immerse the dog in COOL water not COLD. Another is to give the dog an alcohol bath (isopropyl alcohol - this means NO SMOKING). Alcohol will evaporate quickly and this evaporative effect will help to cool the dog down. Apply the alcohol to the dog's groin and auxiliary (armpit) areas. Another good area to apply the alcohol to is the footpads. Use of a fan will enhance the evaporative cooling process. Wrapping the dog in a towel and then packing around him with ice packs can also be used. Concentrate the ice packs in the abdominal area. Once the body temperature reaches 103 deg. Fahrenheit, moderate the treatment accordingly and try to lower the temperature farther at a rate of approximately 1degree per hour. Do not attempt to lower the temperature too rapidly or Hypothermia could occur. If you are unable to lower the temperature to 103 deg. Fahrenheit within the first 10 minutes, you should be seeking veterinary care immediately. Use of ice water baths and cold water enemas should be employed only if the hyperthermia is unresponsive to previous therapy. A cold water enema can be given with the type of water/enema bottle combinations that can be purchased at many local pharmacies and stores like Wal Mart or K Mart. Be sure when giving an enema that you let the water flow by gravity only. Don't attempt to force the water in the dog's rectum too rapidly. If ice water baths or cold water enemas are required to lower the temperature, one should be seeking additional veterinary care as soon as possible. Appropriate IV therapy with multiple electrolyte solutions and short-acting corticosteroid therapy will probably then be administered for shock and to combat potential renal (kidney) and cerebral edema complications.

Next Meeting

Where: Post Oak Mall

When: July 18, 2000 at 7:30pm

The meeting will be held in the Brazos County Sheriff's meeting room next to Sears across from Oshman's.

Fall AKC Test

The Fall AKC test fast approaching us. Cary Beason and Rody Best have “volunteered” again to be chairman and secretary for the Fall AKC test. They are in need of “volunteers” for the hunt test committee. Below are a list of the positions that NEED to be filled:

Hunt Test Marshal – responsible for getting all the birds boys and making sure each test has the proper equipment to run smoothly.

Head Guns – responsible for supplying the “live gunners” for shot flyers, seeing that all the “popper guns” are in working order, and cleaning them after the test.

Official Guns – these are people who usually help shoot live flyers and fill in where ever needed.

Head Chef – responsible for planning and preparing the lunch time meals, snacks, and providing the helpers to get the job done.

If you see a position that you would like to fill get a hold of Cary or Rody. If you accept one of these assignments you must be present at the hunt on both days.

Topics for the July Meeting:

- 1) Discussion on buying a club trailer for carrying the club equipment on.
- 2) Discussion on the Fall AKC Test
- 3) Set up the next club training day
- 4) Determine the interest in setting up a “new trainer/new member” training sessions

AND MUCH MORE!!!!