Volume 5, Issue 4

WINTER 2012

Havanese Club of America

HAVANESE HORIZONS

Produced & Edited by:
J. Jonathan Sowa

Inside This Issue

HCA President's Message
"My First Havanese" 1

Featured Article 1
How do Dogs Communicate ? 3

Roundtable Questions
Topic: FLEAS !! 6

The Vet's Corner
The Importance of Winter Exercise 8

Book Review
"Top Dogs: Making it to Westminster" 9

Meet a Therapy Dog
Gitmo brings Smiles 10

Agility Photo Album
"Come Fly With Me!! 12

Getting Started with Our First Havanese

How did I get so involved with Havanese?

By Joan Ambrose
President HCA

It was the most natural thing in the world. My husband Clarke and I have had dogs all our lives. But after having health issues with our last few dogs, we wanted a better chance at having a healthy dog. The Havanese Breed is so appealing with their beautiful faces and silky coats, that we were immediately attracted to them. Then to find out that they were also a healthy, sweet and very intelligent breed.....
……...***well who could resist***!

I read that show dogs are bred to a very high standard , so I started looking for a show-quality female! Anyone asking a breeder for a show-quality female runs the risk of a quick goodbye. It is suspected that you might be a puppy mill. The breeder put us through quite a rigorous questionnaire. We must have passed inspection as we were able to get our beloved Hanna- K.B's Star of Havana.

Hannah at 12 Years Old in October 2011

So, at the turning of the millennium, December 30, 1999, a dark sable ball of energy bounced into our lives. When we attended a very elaborate New Year's Eve party the next night, we were looking at our watches, waiting to go home to our new puppy. It has been like that ever since.

Continued on page 2

HAVANESE HORIZONS

Getting Started with Our First Havanese

How did I get so involved with Havanese? *Continued from page 1*

After Hanna finished her championship, she was shown at the Bucks County shows so Clarke could see her in the ring before we took her home for good. We had no plans to show her again. At less than 7 months of age she won Best of Opposite Sex, and a ribbon. Clarke was fascinated. Suddenly the world of dogs and dog shows became a part of our lives.

We went to the 2000 Specialty in California. Hanna won Puppy Sweeps. We went to Westminster; Hanna won Best of Opposite Sex. She went out with a handler and became #1 in All Breed and #2 in Breed in the country in 2001.

We laughed at ourselves because we would drive miles and miles to see her in shows and then have to hide behind a tree so she wouldn't see us! We would video her shows and watch them at home as we missed her every day. Then, much too soon I am told, we brought her home from the shows where she has stayed. This year she was 12. Now she plays with her grandchildren, still looks beautiful, and arranges her life with precision!

The wonderful dog world and the beautiful puppies Hanna brought into our lives have been a joy and a continuous learning experience. Hanna was the beginning.

HAVANESE HORIZONS

How do Dogs Communicate?

Learning to Speak "Dog"

By Lu Wyland

What do the behaviors of your dog scratching or pawing the ground, sniffing the ground and yawning have in common? If you said all three are appeasing or calming signals, you're right! Our dogs attempt to communicate with us and other dogs all the time. Problems arise because people don't necessarily know how to interpret what their dogs are telling them and misinterpret the signals.

As humans, we generally greet each other head on. Dogs have a different culture and head on greetings are not expected or appreciated. Dogs prefer to meet in an arc. Friendly meetings are characterized by "soft eyes," a relaxed mouth and behaviors such as yawning, periodically looking away, sniffing the ground, pawing at the ground, paw lifts and perhaps play bows. Plus, of course, you can expect the customary butt sniff. (I've seen dogs sniff the backside of dog statues too, but have never managed to capture this on film. I always wonder what the sniffing dog thinks when he noses a resin or wrought iron doggie behind.)

Knowing how dogs greet each other, we can be conscious of how we introduce dogs to each other. Providing enough room is important.

Encounters in closed quarters such as a car, a hallway or an elevator aren't ideal. Sometimes you'll see people, dogs in their arms, push the two dogs together, "just to say hi," forcing the dogs to greet head to head. With what you know now, what's wrong with this scenario? *Continued on page 4*

HAVANESE HORIZONS

How do Dogs Communicate? *Continued from page 3*

Learning to Speak "Dog" **By Lu Wyland**

Gracie reacts to a sudden noise

You can often see a dog that is curious about something pausing and looking intently. If they're surprised or puzzled, they may lean back a bit before determining if they can move forward to investigate further. You can see the curiosity in the puppy's face when a new family member plays a sound game with her.

Can you name a few signals your dog is feeling stressed? Stop and think about the behaviors you see in your dog or other dogs at your vet office. What do you notice? Panting, perhaps whining, lip licking, tucked tail, drooling and paw lifts can all be sign of fear or stress. Sometimes you'll even see damp paw prints on the flooring. Just as a human's shirt may become damp with perspiration when an individual is nervous, the eccrine glands in a dog's paws release a substance similar to human perspiration when they are stressed or nervous.

Stressed about putting on a costume

Sometimes things are happening that we don't think as being stressful. Knowing the signals your dog gives when stressed can help you modify a situation to support your Havanese. If your dog is panting, whining and leaving wet paw prints on your floor while workers are installing carpeting upstairs, you can provide your Havanese with something he finds comforting. Maybe you put your dog in his crate and turn on the radio. *Continued on page 5*

HAVANESE HORIZONS

How do Dogs Communicate?

Continued from page 4

Learning to Speak "Dog" **By Lu Wyland**

Or perhaps it's time to take your dog for a drive if that's something she loves. Regardless, knowing that your dog is stressed means you can be prepared for unpredictable behavior. Your dog that never darts out the door might do so if she's stressed. Reading her communication means you can be proactive in your interactions.

Just like humans, some things have more than one meaning. Context is important so you need to look at the whole picture. Your dog yawning might mean he's tired, could mean he's stressed or he could be telling another dog (or person) that there's no reason to be upset; he means no harm. A paw lift might mean your dog is stressed or it may mean she's signaling to another dog that she's not going to challenge him. Looking at the whole picture is beneficial not only in communication between people, but in communication with your dog.

through a fencegreets her

There are excellent resources to help you learn more about your dog's communication. Watch for more on this topic in our Spring Edition.

HAVANESE HORIZONS

ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

By Pamela Sowa

Will Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) kill fleas?

Apple cider vinegar is not an insecticide so it does not kill fleas. It can work as a natural flea repellent.

ACV is an acid and fleas do not like an acid environment. This can help to keep fleas away from an animal treated with AVC.
This is according to the Care Healthy And Green Living Website.

How should I use ACV?

You should first use a shampoo to clean your pet. Use a flea shampoo if you have it or use your regular shampoo. ACV is most effective when mixed with one part vinegar and one part water. Then fill the mixture into a spay bottle. Spray your pet and saturate the entire coat. Be very careful not to get any in your pet's eyes or inside the ears. I have heard of instances when the mixture is use as a rinse instead of a spray. Allow the fur to dry, do not rinse out. Then dry comb out the dog's fur. This should be repeated every few days until all evidence of the pesky fleas are gone. An additional benefit is that you may find that your pet's fur becomes silkier and healthier looking!

If you do not have time for frequent baths, an alternative method would be to dip your pet's comb into the mixture daily. You would then comb out the fleas.

After the fleas have been eliminated the mixture can be used as an repellant in a maintenance program. You can do that by bathing your pet monthly. Wash with warm soapy water, rinse then apply the diluted AVC. Do not rinse out.

The above will only work if the pet's environment is free from flea infestation.

Continued on page 7

HAVANESE HORIZONS

ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

Continued from page 7

By Pamela Sowa

Do I only have to worry about fleas in the summer months?

No, fleas can survive in colder months but the flea cycle for reproduction is slower.

How can I tell if my pet is having a problem with fleas?

It is best to always be on the look out for fleas.
If you're pet starts scratching, it is time to investigate immediately.

To check for fleas part the fur down to the skin with a comb. The best places to check are around the ears, neck, lower back and tail; you may see an adult flea. A good sign of fleas is a collection of black pepper like particles. These particles may be flea feces. This is also called flea dirt. A method to determine if they are feces is to comb the debris onto a white paper towel. Then put a drop of water on the particles. If you see a hint of red staining then it is definitely flea feces. The feces contain undigested blood.

If your pet has fleas they will also be in your pet's environment, bedding ect.

Thoughts to keep in mind when dealing with fleas.

- The adult flea lays many eggs. One visible flea can become an infestation.
- You may have to call an exterminator.
- If the infestation can not be handled quickly it is time to seek help from your veterinarian.
- Some pets can have allergic reactions from the flea toxins. This can last for more than two weeks after the last flea bite. This will cause excessive scratching causing sores and infection. ***Seek advice from a professional.***

HAVANESE HORIZONS

The Vet's Corner

The Importance of Exercising Your Dog in Winter

Dr. Karen Becker, DVM

Most of you will take your dogs along with you to exercise and soak up the sun's healthy rays when the weather is nice and warm.

But if your pup has been primarily indoors and at rest since October or November when the temperature started to drop, your dogs muscles and overall health will weaken.

Your Dog's Muscles Need Toning Just Like Yours Do

If your pet has been idle during the winter months because the weather is cold, wet and not conducive to getting outdoors for exercise, the muscles of her body have lost tone and atrophied to some extent. That's just what happens to muscles -- yours and your dog's -- when they're underutilized.

Studies show that after just a matter of days, well-conditioned muscles begin to lose their tone and strength.

After four or five months of rest during cold weather, your dog's muscles will weaken. This can set your dog up for an injury if his activity level suddenly jumps.

In fact, if your pup's leg muscles aren't toned, his tendons and ligaments aren't stretched and strong, and his core muscles haven't been worked and can't do a good job holding his frame solidly in place. A sudden burst of activity in and around your home can create the type of injuries I see too often in my practice. Unfortunately, your dog can't get the good aerobic exercise he needs by running around the house or even playing in the backyard.

Continued on page 9

HAVANESE HORIZONS

The Vet's Corner

Continued from page 8

The Importance of Exercising Your Dog

Dr. Karen Becker, DVM

Your canine companion needs your help to maintain good skeletal health through daily, consistent, controlled aerobic exercise, including such activities as:

Walking

Hiking

Jogging with you

Swimming

Fetching a ball or catching a Frisbee

Depending on where you live, it's much easier to keep your dog fit during spring and summer months, but your goal should be to keep him exercised year round.

If you live in the Midwest like I do, or in other areas where winters discourage outdoor activities, you'll need to use some creativity to come up with ways to help your dog stay active.

Some ideas to consider and have fun :

A hydrotherapy or warm water dog pool

An indoor dog park or shopping mall

Indoor agility or tracking training

Cross-country skiing

Keep Active….Keep Healthy,,,,,,,and Have Fun !!!

HAVANESE HORIZONS

Book Review by Pamela Sowa

Top Dogs: Making It To Westminster

Top Dogs:Making it to Westminster
By Deborah Wood

This book is a must read for anyone that thinks they might be interested in showing dogs or just enjoys watching Westminster on TV!

I first read the book on a plane ride to pick up my first show puppy. I found it to be a great insight into the show world. A few months later, I started showing my own puppy and learned a little about the show world myself.

After bringing two Havanese puppies to Championship as an owner-handler over the past two years, I decided to reread the book. The second read through was even more fun! To my amazement, I was able to identify with scenarios that I read in "Top Dogs: Making It To Westminster!"

This book covers from picking your show puppy to the challenging journey to making it to Westminster, and everything in between!

If you are interested in learning about the show dog world or the ins and outs of The Westminster Dog Show, I highly encourage you to read this book! Five Stars to Deborah Wood !!

HAVANESE HORIZONS

Meet a Therapy Dog

Gitmo Brings Smiles Everywhere He Goes !! *by Margaret L Kloske*

Gitmo has made over 250 visits to hospitals, extended care facilities and day care centers. His popularity as a therapy dog as well as a hospice dog illustrates the versatility of the Havanese breed.

Gitmo is able to snuggle and cuddle on laps and beds for extended periods of time as well as entertain with his speed and agility in performing tricks and dancing.

He was invited to attend the funeral of one of his hospice patients and sat quietly for 1 ½ hours, continuing to give comfort to grieving family and friends.

His developing blindness from cataracts and retinal detachment has limited his visits lately; however, this has made him even more special, as patients can identify with his disability.

Gitmo is one of the many special Havanese that are Therapy Dogs.

Guantanamero de Fauntine, CGC, TDIAOV (“Gitmo”)

is owned by Lynn Kloske, Cara Dulce Havanese Kennel

HAVANESE HORIZONS

A Havanese Agility Photo Album

"Come Fly With Me !!"

Click here for the Agility PowerPoint

The PowerPoint takes a really long time to load, but it is worth it.