

## A New Virus Threatens Dogs: Circovirus

Check out some of the links below. It seems like this is only in the United States (from what the reports say). This virus is not new normally found in pigs, chickens and parrots and was first noticed to have transferred to dogs in 2012. You should be aware of this when travelling. These reports are all from November 2013 and December 2013. Just giving you a variety of sites to look at:

• **Dangerous virus killing dogs:** <http://www.nbc12.com/story/23950879/special-report-deadly-dog-virus>

• **Vets Warn Pet Owners Of New And Deadly Dog Virus:** <http://foxct.com/2013/11/14/vets-warn-pet-owners-of-new-and-deadly-dog-virus/>

• **New Virus Has Deadly Potential For Dogs:** <http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2013/11/15/new-virus-has-deadly-potential-for-dogs/>

• **New dog virus no reason for concern:** [http://www.paradisepost.com/ci\\_24638063/new-dog-virus-no-reason-concern](http://www.paradisepost.com/ci_24638063/new-dog-virus-no-reason-concern)

• **Veterinarians warn dog owners of new, possibly deadly, Circovirus:** [http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region\\_tampa/veterinarians-warn-dog-owners-of-new-possibly-deadly-circovirus](http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_tampa/veterinarians-warn-dog-owners-of-new-possibly-deadly-circovirus)

—Thanks go to Linda Snider and the "Toonie Tempo" for this valuable information. □

## Addition to: Canine Thyroid Disease Can Be Tough to Diagnose

by Nina Skubie

Here are two more indications of low thyroid:

1. missing hair on the muzzle, and



2. the two middle nails on front paws worn down from walking on pavement.



## ICY STEPS AND SIDEWALKS

This is for those of you who are still encountering icy steps and sidewalks in freezing temperatures, mix 1 teaspoon of Dawn dish washing liquid, 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol and 1/2 gallon of hot or warm water. Mix together and pour over the steps and walkways. They won't refreeze after this mixture has been poured over them.



## Five Steps To Socialize An Older Dog

For those dog owners who decide to adopt an older dog (first of all, good for you!), it's hard to know at the start how socialized your doggy is. You can usually tell by the way your pup greets you and reacts. Does your dog seem a little skittish or conversely runs up to you and is friendly? Or maybe your dog gets nervous on walks or when he is around new people. If you see any of these nervous signs, it's likely he was not socialized well in his early days. However, not to worry, there are several things you can do to socialize your adult dog with other dogs and other people.

### 1. Enroll your dog in a dog obedience class —

Dog obedience class is a great way to help socialize an adult dog before trying to take your dog to a dog park or setting up play dates. Because your dog is learning or relearning commands, your pup is distracted most of the time. If your dog is shy, make sure the dog trainer can help you introduce your dog slowly to other dogs in the class. This is also a safe place for your dog to learn to interact with other humans and dogs in a safe controlled environment.

### 2. Go to a dog park and let your dog watch from the outside —

Take your pup to a dog park but don't go in and just allow your pup to watch the other dogs play. If any of the other dogs approach your pup, give your dog a treat and pet him. This will help create a positive association with interacting with other dogs. However, if your dog reacts aggressively towards the dogs in the park, move further away and slowly move up until he is quiet. And, come back a few days later and try again. Dogs will usually adjust and learn.

### 3. Socializing an Adult Dog with Humans —

When you bring your dog home, your first lesson will be to try to socialize your dog with your family. This should be done slowly and with as little fanfare as possible. Make the introduction casual. Dogs and humans are on different time schedules and let your pup feel comfortable in other's presence. Reward him or her with treats and affection when your dog gets along with your family members.

If your dog runs or hides from you or your family members, don't go after him and pull him from under the bed. Ignore your dog and do something that will persuade your pup to come out from hiding such as playing with his toys or leaving some treats just outside the bed or couch. Dogs are curious and social creatures and they'll eventually become bored and lonely by themselves. Reward your dog with a toy or bone and a nice rub down!

### 4. Introduce People Slowly —

Try to introduce only one new person a week into your dog's life. When they meet your dog, have them offer a treat and speak in a happy, low, encouraging voice. You don't want to use a high pitch which could excite him. Keep your dog on a leash at first but do not force him to go near the person. Let him take his time.

(*"Five Steps To Socialize An Older Dog" cont.*)

### 5. Always use positive reinforcement —

The main thing to remember when socializing an adult dog is to be positive and to make each new experience a good one with praise and treats. Being negative or raising your voice does not work well here and will likely will create a more nervous dog. In time, your new family member will become at ease at home and in public and will truly be a part of your home. Love and compassion go a long way to socialization.

You can find more articles on pet advice on [petpav.com](http://petpav.com), our pet social network that is like Facebook for pets. ☐

## Upcoming Specialties —

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### **ASSA National Specialty** — April 11 – 19, 2014

Purina Farms, Gray Summit, MO

Breed: Janet Turnage Nahikian

Dogs: Mark Houston-McMillan

Bitches: Nioma Coen

Futurity: Jane Hammett Bright

Junior Showmanship: Nioma Coen

Novice A, Open A & B: Carole Lynn Evans

Novice B, Utility A & B: Dianne Allen

Beginner Novice A & B, Veterans: Suzi Bluford

Rally Classes: Suzi Bluford

Standard Agility Classes: Carole Lynn Evans

Jumpers With Weaves Agility Classes: Suzi Bluford

Herding Tested-Sheep, Sheep Course A:

Dana Hasemeier

Herding Pre-Trial Sheep, Ducks Course A & B:

Rebecca Henson

Conformation Superintendent: MB-F, Inc.

P.O. Box 22107, Greensboro, NC 27420,

(336) 379-9352, [kclubs@infodog.com](mailto:kclubs@infodog.com)

Performance Trial Secretary: Ginger Sammonds

4903 West County Rd 14, Loveland, CO 80537,

(970) 310-6302, [gingers@lpbroadband.net](mailto:gingers@lpbroadband.net)

### **Cincinnati Shetland Sheepdog Club** — May 25, 2014

*(Concurrent Specialty with Cincinnati Kennel Club All-Breed Show)*

Butler County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, Ohio

Breed: Gwendolyn Means

Jr. Showmanship: Gwendolyn Means

Sweepstakes: Judy Cooper

Superintendent: MB-F Inc. ☐

# The DOG OWNER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

## of HELPFUL HINTS and TRADE SECRETS

**Reduced picture of  
new book's title page...  
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This comprehensive book contains over 2,000 helpful hints and trade secrets for owners of all dogs and other pets. These solutions and trade secrets were researched, gathered and submitted by dog owners (professionals and non-professionals) and from other pet owners over a 36-year span.

In order to help the reader find a particular helpful hint, tip, important fact or a just plain great idea (quickly and easily), some may have been cross-referenced under more than one of the 199 topics. Also to assist the reader, these amazing secrets and valuable solutions have been alphabetized within each category or topic.

The reader may note that, sometimes, when an obvious warning was contained within a hint, that warning was italicized so the reader would be alerted and then could take extra caution. The words "he," "him" and "his" are to be viewed usually as gender neutral.

This handy book will become an integral part of your library—whether you have a kennel, many pets or a single loving family pet. This one-of-a-kind reference book will assist you in providing your pet with a quality life along with the special care he or she deserves.

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ASSA is offering a Health Clinic on April 15th. Pre-registration deadline is March 19th.

Please visit the ASSA National Specialty information page (<http://www.assa.org/national/clinic.html>) for details.

This *Sheltie Newsletter* is looking for informative articles which would be of interest to all dog owners to include in upcoming newsletters.

Please e-mail any possible future article directly to [s.pacesetter@sheltie.com](mailto:s.pacesetter@sheltie.com).



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— Nancy Lee

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Nancy Lee Cathcart —

Website: [www.sheltie.com](http://www.sheltie.com)

E-mail: [s.pacesetter@sheltie.com](mailto:s.pacesetter@sheltie.com)

Phone: 260-434-1566 (Monday—Friday, 9—4, Eastern time)