

Salmon Poisoning in Dogs

It is also caused by Trout and Steelhead

The Pacific Northwest offers some excellent opportunities for fishing, hiking, and just generally communing with nature. It is fun to take our dogs along to enjoy the outdoors with us. But did you know that we have a hidden danger not found in the rest of the country? That danger is **Salmon Poisoning**.

Salmon (and other game fish like trout) can harbor a fluke (a type of parasitic flatworm) called *Nonophyetus salmincola*. This fluke lives within the fish's tissues. The fluke harbors a type of bacteria called *Neorickettsia helminthoeca*. It is this bacteria, which is the problem. When the salmon die and wash up along the riverbank they can be irresistible to your pet, within 5-7 days they start showing clinical signs.

Salmon poisoning causes a loss of appetite, depression, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea (often bloody). As such, salmon poisoning can look similar to a Parvovirus infection. It can be a life threatening condition and if left untreated often proves fatal. Thankfully, patients tend to respond well to treatment with appropriate antibiotics and fluid therapy.

Salmon poisoning is diagnosed by either a history of eating raw salmon or by demonstrating the presence of the fluke eggs in the dog's feces.

Dogs can only contract salmon poisoning by eating raw fish. Thus it is vitally important not to let them eat fish found along the river or ocean. If the salmon has been properly processed for human consumption (other than sushi, of course) then they cannot get it. They also appear to be immune to re-infection if they survive the initial disease. Cats need not worry- they are naturally immune to salmon poisoning.

How can I prevent Salmon Poisoning?

1. If you are having fish for dinner, wrap up any remains and discard them in a garbage can with a tight fitting lid.
2. Leave your dog at home when going on fishing trips. If they must come along, then keep a close eye on them.
3. Keep your dog on a leash when at the beach or river.
4. Do not allow your dog to eat raw fish at any time.

If your dog eats raw salmon, then take it to your veterinarian immediately. The dog, not the fish. Medications can be prescribed to reduce the severity of the disease.



Wedding Announcement

Kathy Dahn (formerly Kathy Rambo) would like to share with all that her lovely daughter, Desiree Rambo was married on June 6th 2006 to Mr. Steve Leister. They were married by the Justice of the Peace in Arlington, Texas where they also reside. Desiree is currently a volunteer at the Arlington Animal Shelter and enjoying being a new housewife. Steve is self-employed with his own air-conditioning business and in Texas he keeps quite busy in the summer time, so the honeymoon will have to wait. Kathy would like her daughter to know she is very happy for her and Steve and wishes them all the best in the years to come.

Congratulations Joli Hobbs - I am so proud of you. You did such a great job for your first time showing your horse Cowboy at the fair. 2 blue ribbons and 2 red ribbons is a great start! Love mom

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings are starting in Butte Falls at the Whistle Stop Emporium. Meetings are held twice a week on Wednesday and Friday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.