

Recognize and avoid Salmon Poisoning in dogs

Dogs that eat even a small amount of uncooked Salmon, Trout, or Steelhead are at risk of getting potentially fatal Salmon Poisoning disease.

A microscopic organism, *Nerickettsia helminthoeca*, the cause of Salmon Poisoning, sometimes lives in a parasite, *Nanophytes Salmoncola*, that can infect the Salmon family. The germ is killed by cooking, freezing or hot smoking fish.

If a dog eats infected fish, symptoms start from a few days to five days later. Symptoms include:

- Decreased energy level

- Increased temperature
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen lymph glands
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (turning bloody within a day or two)

If untreated, 90 percent of dogs with symptoms will die within 7-14 days from dehydration and blood loss.

Fortunately, if caught early enough, Salmon Poisoning is treatable with antibiotics. In severe cases, intravenous fluids may be needed. Get the dog to a veterinarian as soon as Salmon Poisoning is suspected. The longer before treatment

starts, the harder and more expensive the treatment will be and the greater the chance that treatment will not be successful.

If your dog is seen eating fish, talk to your veterinarian about a preventive shot of antibiotics to avoid Salmon Poisoning.

Most dogs are immune to future Salmon Poisoning once they have had and survived it. Special emphasis on MOST, not all dogs develop immunity.

Preventive measures include disposing of raw fish waste in a can with a tight fitting lid, leave dogs home when fishing, leash dogs near water.

Ike Says...

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harvest. That's right, even Doe harvests may be on the table. Now, what have I been saying for years?

While ODF&W is not saying they have made a mistake, they have noticed that hunter numbers have declined from 160,000 to 113,000. ODF&W is blowing some smoke about Buck to Doe ratios, but the bottom line is the herds are in trouble and there are no easy solutions to the problem. Part of the problem is the lack of good habitat in regions of the coast that have federal lands. Clear cutting timber has essentially become nonexistent, which has reduced good quality feed for Blacktail deer. This is a habitat limitation and cannot be fixed by reducing antlerless hunting or buck harvest, although the harvest must be in balance with the productive capacity of the land. In Northwest Oregon, habitat is not the issue, although ODF&W is stating that chemical practices by private timber companies are having a limiting effect. While I agree some of the chemical practices could have effects, it is not valid to blame the entire decline on this issue.

I see pockets of deer in some areas and none in others where there is identical habitat. It would be easy to prove this theory by conducting side-by-side enclosure studies, one sprayed, the other not. This could also show what kind of production and natural mortality can be expected from a herd living in a specific type of habitat. This information is sorely needed if ODF&W is going to effectively manage Blacktail deer.

ODF&W is considering shortening the season by taking days off at the end. I would propose that they take the days off from the front of the season, which could help alleviate the conflict between hunters and private timberland owners, since we continue to have seasons hampered by fire danger closures. If time is taken from the end of the season, hunters may be faced with a one or two week season in the Northwest units. This would do nothing but drive more hunters from the sport, which, I think, is not the goal of ODF&W. The commissioners have some hard choices to make now, but they were warned of this day many times and chose to ignore the amateurs in favor of the professionals. Who really knew what was going on? You have the answer.

Many of you are now aware that Vernonia is in a water curtailment mode. The surrounding rivers are very low and this year is sure to make the top ten driest summers. I have to commend

the Vernonia City Council for taking action. While the first notice was a little late, it was due to a lack of timely and accurate information. The Level II notice was right on target. Though many people may not see why they shouldn't be able to wash the car or water the lawn, it is easily explained with one look at the summer Chinook salmon that are trying to spawn in the local area. They are spawning with their backs out of the water.

Unfortunately, not everybody is helping by reducing water consumption. Oregon Water Resources oversees the water rights in the state. The system is old and works from the date when each water right holder applied for a permit. When water levels decline to a point that all water right holders cannot be served, the Junior water right holders are served notice that their permits are suspended. The Watermaster in each district is supposed to monitor stream levels and serve the notices. Back in the seventies the state had the wisdom to allow ODF&W instream water rights for fish. While some may scoff at such an idea, it is a reality that some streams in our state are totally de-watered by commercial and private interests. No water equals no fish. The instream water right for the Nehalem River, measured at Foss, is basically 100 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) for this time of year. When stream flows fall below this level, all Junior water right holders are to be sent notice and must cease water withdrawals. To my knowledge this has not occurred this year, yet the Foss gauge has been below 100 CFS for over two months. This is not the first year that the public's resources have been abused. In many cases, the notices were sent extremely late, usually just before fall rains. It is time to change the system because it simply does not work.

I hope everybody gets out and gets a look at the Chinook salmon during Salmon Fest. Just think, we are celebrating the return of the salmon to local streams and turning it into a tourist attraction. We have come a long ways from the days of people shooting these salmon at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Nehalem River. Times have changed - not always for the worst.

Izaak Walton League

Nehalem Valley Chapter meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
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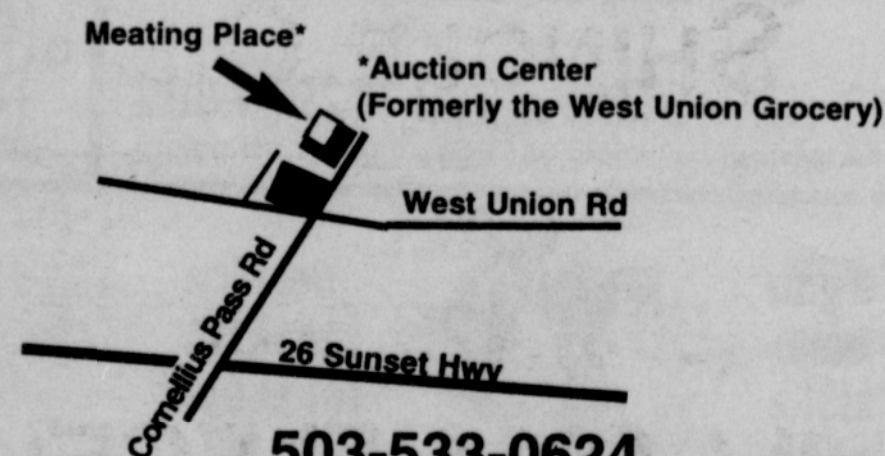
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