

NEWSTUFF



■ **DOGcaps** are empty, flavored gel caps that make it easier to give your dog medications or supplements. The chicken, beef, or bacon flavored capsules mask unpleasant odors and tastes, so dogs will more readily take a pill. DOGcaps are FDA-approved, kosher, and made from bovine-hide gelatin.

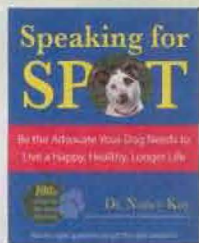
■ \$3.95 for 100 capsules, from Capsuline; 866-536-2277; www.dogandcatcaps.com

PAWTURNER

■ **Speaking for Spot:** *Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life* (Trafalgar Square Books, \$19.95), by Nancy Kay,

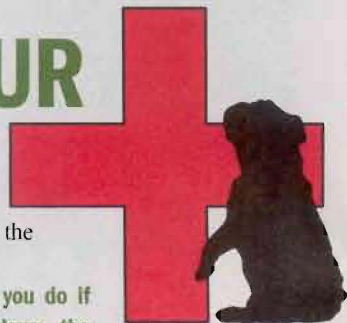
DVM, is a guide for pet owners struggling to understand the world of veterinary care. Kay offers advice

for finding a qualified vet, avoiding dog-related debt, and deciphering pet insurance. The book also discusses cancer, end of life care for senior dogs, and common symptoms of canine diseases.



Find more health info at DogChannel.com

BRUSH UP ON YOUR FIRST-AID SKILLS



Nothing strikes panic in a dog owner's heart like illness or injury. To calm those fears — and give dogs a head start on recovery — the American Veterinary Medical Association has updated its online first-aid tips for pet owners.

The AVMA site offers a printable list of supplies for a pet first-aid kit, such as items to use as a muzzle and stretcher; guidance on handling an injured dog, including the tip that even the gentlest dog may bite when she's hurt; basic procedures for handling broken bones and bleeding; and information about disaster planning.

It also provides links and contact info to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center and a list of veterinary emergency clinics, as well as downloadable brochures on health topics such as West Nile virus and heartworm disease.

Think you know what to do in a canine emergency? See if you know the answers to these

questions from the AVMA site:

■ **What should you do if your dog fell down the stairs and began limping?**

Suspecting a broken bone, first muzzle your dog, then gently lay her on a flat surface. To move the dog, use a board as a stretcher, wrapping a blanket around it so your dog doesn't slip, or use a rug or blanket as a sling. Then transport your dog to a veterinarian.

■ **Suppose your dog began having a seizure. What should you do?**

Keep your dog away from objects and furniture, lessening the chance of injury, but don't restrain her. Time the seizure. When it ends, keep your dog as warm and quiet as possible, and call your veterinarian.

For more answers, visit www.avma.org/firstaid — *Holly Ocasio Rizzo*



RABIES ON THE RISE

Rabies in dogs rose 17.7 percent between 2006 and 2007, according to a report detailed in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. Dogs accounted for 1.3 percent of all 2007 rabies cases.

Forty-nine states and Puerto Rico reported 7,258 cases in animals — 93 percent of those in wildlife — and one human case to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Overall, records indicated a 4.6 percent increase in rabies throughout the nation.

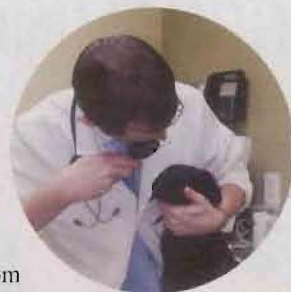
In 2007, the CDC announced that the United States was rid of one rabies virus strain transmitted from dog to dog. Eleven strains of rabies affect the United States. Therefore, veterinary health experts have urged dog owners to continue vaccinating their pets to protect them against wildlife rabies. Dogs especially at risk include those involved in hunting and sporting activities, and those who spend time outdoors.

If you suspect your dog has been bitten by another animal, contact your veterinarian. For information about rabies and the CDC's efforts to reduce the incidence of the disease, visit www.cdc.gov/rabies — *H.O.R.*

Cataracts have genetic link

Researchers in the Netherlands, reporting in the *American Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, have documented that all types of cataracts in Labrador Retrievers appear to arise from one genetic disorder. Cataracts are a clouding that develops on the eye's lens and can lead to vision loss.

The study found that the prevalence of cataracts in puppies from one cataract-affected parent was greater than that of puppies from two non-affected parents, leading them to conclude that cataract development is predominantly a genetic disorder. Moreover, in family groups, all types of cataracts developed, not only one, suggesting that cataracts have a common link.



— *H.O.R.*