

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

February 2013

Bee Venom Allergy “London” Labrador treated at Pasadena clinic



At the conclusion of a morning walk, pet owner Leza Raley-Labrador picked up “London” (pictured above) in her arms to go upstairs and noticed a honey bee on the bottom of her paw. She quickly brushed it off but within minutes London was vomiting, had diarrhea and started to lose consciousness. Leza and her husband rushed her to emergency and learned that London was going into anaphylactic shock.

After many hours and many tears, they were told that London would survive and was able to go home. About six months later, once again, London stepped on a dying bee. This time Leza was prepared: she had an “EpiPen” (injectable epinephrine) to counter the reaction which would provide valuable time to transport London to the emergency room. Leza says that medication and an IV were administered to London, but her heart slowed to an unnatural rate. After being released from emergency, Leza had London’s heart rate monitored almost daily which returned to almost normal, although still on the low side.

Family veterinarian Dr. David Beltran of Veterinary Healthcare Center in Monterey Park, CA referred London to Animal Dermatology Clinic - San Diego to see Dr. Mona Boord.

Dr. Boord performed intradermal testing and found that London was highly allergic to yellow jacket and honey bees.

(continued on page 2)

Cat Travels 190 miles To Return Home

In early November 2012 owners Jacob and Bonnie Richter were at an R.V. rally in Daytona Beach, FL. when “Holly” their 4-year old tortoiseshell cat bolted from the vehicle. Despite immediate searching, they could not find her. Fireworks the next night might have spooked her further.

The Richters scoured the surrounding area, visited shelters and placed flyers but returned home cat-less. Two weeks later, workers at a restaurant who fed neighborhood cats in Daytona called and said they spotted a cat that looked like Holly.

Nearly two months later on New Year’s Eve, Barb Mazzola of Palm Beach, FL noticed a cat “barely standing” in her backyard so weak, it struggled to meow. Over the next week, Ms. Mazzola and her children fed and cared for Holly, eventually coaxing the cat into their home.

They took Holly, now renamed “Cosette”, to their veterinarian who found that despite her emaciated condition and worn pads, she was disease and injury-free. A microchip was detected, Ms. Mazzola says, “I just cried,” because Holly’s true owners were now known.

The big surprise was that Holly was found about a mile from her home. How she travelled nearly 200 miles to her own neighborhood is the mystery that will never be fully known.

Cars, predators, food and water (or lack of) were dodged in her amazing trip. Or did she hitch a ride and if so, how was the correct direction selected? Her worn paws certainly indicate that she walked a long distance.

The Richters say Holly was born to a feral cat roaming the mobile home park and Holly was born inside somebody’s air-conditioner. At about six-weeks old, Holly appeared on their carport, scars on her belly from when the air conditioner was turned on.

So perhaps Holly’s rough and tumble start gave her a genetic advantage of being a survivor. We’ll never know how she did it and Holly isn’t saying a word. 🐾

Bee Venom Allergy, continued

After the test, Dr. Boord arranged for immunotherapy treatments at Animal Dermatology Clinic - Pasadena under the care of Dr. John Angus. There, London received weekly injections of the serum that would desensitize her to bee venom.

Due to her high sensitivity to bee venom, London was given her injections at the clinic and then kept under the watchful eyes of the staff monitoring for any reaction. Each week, the injection strength was increased for a total of fifteen weeks.

London was tested again for bee venom and her reaction reduced significantly after her immunotherapy.

Injections are now administered monthly. Says Leza, "We have decided to continue with London's monthly appointments to manage her allergy and plan on doing so for life. We will test London again in November, to see where she is at. I know London is in great hands and I am confident that one day she will be no longer be allergic to bees."

Thanks to Drs Boord and Angus and the staffs of Animal Dermatology Clinics-San Diego and Pasadena for their successful management of London's allergy problems! And thanks to London's owners, Leza and Luis for sharing their story and photos. 🐾



London and co-owner, Luis Labrador
Photos courtesy of Leza Raley-Labrador

For some, bee stings more than just annoying

Who doesn't flinch a bit when a bee buzzes into your personal zone? For many people a bee sting is an annoying occurrence, but for others, bee stings may be potentially fatal. According to information from the Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School:

- About two million people in the United States are allergic to bee stings.
- Three percent of children who are stung will experience allergic reactions.
- In the most severe cases, an allergic reaction to a bee sting can cause anaphylactic shock, requiring treatment with a shot of epinephrine.
- About 100 Americans die every year from bee stings.

Bee-sting kits are available for those who are highly allergic, but be sure you are able to administer a self-injection. A Medic Alert bracelet or necklace describing your allergy is also recommended.

Some pets can also have severe reactions to bee stings as well (see cover story). Both people and animals that are highly allergic to bee venom may be directed to undergo a series of injections which are different than epinephrine shots.

Epinephrine shots (EpiPens) are used for emergency situations when stung by a bee to allow time for transport to an emergency room. Often these auto-injectors will come in pairs in case another shot is needed en route to the hospital.

Immunotherapy shots of bee venom are a series of injections that will slowly introduce the venom into the body allowing to dramatically reduce or eliminate the allergic reaction by desensitizing the body of the allergen (venom). This treatment has been highly effective for those sensitive to bee stings. 🐾

Do you have a story to share about your pet's therapy at Animal Dermatology Clinic? Email Don Fruta, Marketing Director dfruta@adcmg.com. You could be our next cover story in Derm Digest!

New Flea Treatment Resists Water and Shampooing



Merck Animal Health has released their flea treatment product which they claim maintains its effectiveness after a dog has been immersed in water or shampooed.

For pet owners who have dogs or cats that are water lovers, they need not worry about reapplying flea medication after the pet becomes wet. Additionally, groomers may not have to reapply flea medication after a visit to the salon.

Merck's studies were conducted by using forty dogs in four groups. One group had Activyl® applied, followed by water immersion 2, 9, 16 and 23 days after treatment or after application, followed by shampoo 9 and 23 days later.

The conclusion was that Activyl® provided greater than 99% persistent efficacy for a full 4 weeks and was not affected by shampoo or water immersion.

Currently, Activyl® is carried only in our San Diego clinic. Ask your veterinarian if you think that you and your pet would benefit from the features of Activyl®.

By the Numbers



Photo courtesy of Deborah Powell

356,000,000

Number of pets in the United States (cat, dog, fish, bird, small, reptile)

86,400,000

Number of cats in the U.S.

78,200,000

Number of dogs in the U.S.

92,547

Number of veterinarians in the U.S.

10,600

Number of veterinary specialists in the U.S. (surgeons, dentists, dermatologists, internists, emergency, oncologists, etc.)

255

Number of veterinary dermatologists in the U.S.

17

Number of veterinary dermatologists at Animal Dermatology Clinic

1

Number of important patients at Animal Dermatology Clinic. When you visit us, your pet is our priority!

Pet Events in Your Area

The following events are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to attending as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events.

Atlanta, GA

Saturday, February 16, 6:00pm

4th Annual Bully Ball Dinner and Casino
Four Seasons Midtown, 7514th St NE, Atlanta, GA
The popular Bully Ball benefiting English Bulldog Rescue for the Southeast is being held at the Four Seasons Atlanta. A night of fun to help raise money for neglected English Bulldogs in the southeast. 100% of the proceeds go toward the medical bill of those bulldogs that are in care. Info at www.thebullyball.com

San Marcos, CA

Saturday, February 23, 9:00am

San Diego K9 Cancer Walk Benefiting Morris Animal Foundation
Walnut Grove Park, 1950 Sycamore Dr., San Marcos, CA
Walk day registration will open at 9:00am with event starting at 10:00am. Long walk length is 1.5 miles. All dog lovers are invited to walk with their dogs to celebrate the life of their canine best friend or to walk in memory of dogs that have lost their battle with canine cancer. Expo area and vendors and a celebration after the walk.

Long Beach, CA

Sunday, March 10 10am – 3pm

“A Second Chance” Pet Adoption And St. Patty’s Pet Pageant & Pet Fair.
Good Neighbor Park, 2800 Studebaker Rd., Long Beach, CA
The Pet Post in partnership with Pet Sit Pros, The Pet Sitting & Dog Walking Professionals will be hosting a fun and exciting community event created to support a very important cause, pet adoption. Music, entertainment, shopping, eating and a special St. Patty’s pet pageant and parade. More details contact Doug Erickson at info@thepetpost.com

Lexington, KY

Friday, February 8, 7pm – 10pm

Tales and Ales 2013
Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa
1800Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511
The 6th annual Tales & Ales beer-tasting fundraiser benefiting the Lexington Humane Society. Previous events have sold out so don’t miss this year’s event. Live music by Kenny Owens. Tickets on sale for \$55 in advance. All guests must be at least 21 years old. Personal pets are not allowed at this event. More information: aholder@lexingtonhumanesociety.org

Indianapolis IN

Thursday – Sunday, February 7 – 10

The Indy Winter Classic Dog Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 E. 38th St, Indianapolis, IN 46205
Four days of dog shows at this popular event held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Show organizers expect an average of 2,300 dogs per show, with anticipated spectators of up to 3,000 dog lovers. Vendors selling pet-related products and services will be at the show. For more information please see www.hoosierkennelclub.org

Los Angeles, CA

Sunday, February 24 11:00am – 3:00pm

Pet Adoption Event
Pan Pacific Park, 7600 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036
Great dogs from the LA County Baldwin Park animal shelter will be available for adoption at Pan Pacific Park! For many of these dogs, this off-site adoption event will be the only opportunity they have to make it out of the shelter and into a loving home. All animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and ready to go home with you from the event. Find your new best friend and save a **life!** If you would like to volunteer at this event contact sarahpg@animaladvocatesalliance.org