



# Lone Star Flock Tending Club

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## Avoiding Heat Related Injuries in Dogs

Nate Baxter DVM

The first thing that needs to be understood is that dogs and people are different enough that most of the info cannot cross lines. I do not profess to know what the appropriate procedures for people other than what I learned in first aid.

Dogs do not lose enough electrolytes thru exercise to make a difference, but if the dog gets truly into heat stroke the physiology changes will make them necessary. BUT oral replacement at that point is futile, they need intravenous fluids and electrolytes and lots of it.

Cooling: Evaporative cooling is the most efficient mean of cooling. However, in a muggy environment, the moisture will not evaporate so cooling does not happen well. I cool with the coldest water I can find and will use ice depending on the situation. The best way is to run water over the dog, so there is always fresh water in contact with the skin. When you immerse a dog in a tub, the water trapped in the hair coat will get warm next to the dog, and act as an insulator against the cool water and cooling stops. If you can run water over the dog and place it in front of a fan that is the best. Misting the dog with water will only help if you are in a dry environment or in front of a fan. Just getting the dog wet is not the point, you want the water to be cool itself, or to evaporate.

For MOST situations all you will need to do is get the dog in a cooler environment, ie shade, or in the cab of the truck with the air conditioning on (driving around so the truck does not overheat and the AC is more efficient). Up to a couple of years ago, I was very concerned about my dogs getting too hot in the back of my black pickup with a black cap. New white truck fixed a lot of that problem. When I had one dog I just pulled the wire crate out of the car and put it in some shade and hopefully a breeze.

## Avoiding Heat Injuries continued

But having 2 dogs and running from one stake to another, that was not feasible. So I built a platform to put the wire crates on, this raises the dog up in the truck box where the air flow is better. Then I placed a 3 speed box fan in front blowing on the dogs with a foot of space to allow better airflow. I purchased a power inverter that connects to the battery and allows the 3 speed fan to run from the truck power. It has an automatic feature that prevents it from draining the battery. When I turned that fan on medium I would find that the dogs were asleep, breathing slowly and appeared very relaxed and comfortable in a matter of 20 minutes or less, even on very hot muggy days.

Alcohol: I do carry it for emergencies. It is very effective at cooling due to the rapid evaporation. It should be used when other methods are not working. You should be on your way to the veterinarian before you get to this point. We recommend using rubbing alcohol, which is propylene alcohol, not ethyl, for those of you not aware. So do not try to drink it. Alcohol should be used on the pads and lower feet area where there is little more than skin and blood vessels over the bones. Use a little bit and let it evaporate, you can use too much as some is absorbed through the skin. There are concerns about toxicity, but you have to get the temperature down.

I purchased those cooling pads that you soak in cold water, but found that the dogs would not lay on them. I would hold them on the back of a dog that just worked to get a quick cool, but have not used them for years. I also bought a pair of battery operated fans but found them pretty useless. Spend your money on the power inverter and get a real fan.

Watching temperature: If you feel your dog is in danger of heat injury, check its temp and write it down. Keep checking the temp every 3 minutes. I recommend getting a "rectal glass thermometer. The digital ones for the drug store I have found to be very unreliable, Don't forget to shake it down completely each time, sounds silly, but when are worried about your companion, things tend to get mixed up. This is VERY IMPORTANT\*\*once the temp STARTS to drop, STOP ALL COOLING EFFORTS. The cooling process will continue even though you have stopped. If the temp starts at 106.5, and then next time it drops to 105.5, stop cooling the dog, dry it off, and continue monitoring. You will be amazed how it continues to go down. If you do not stop until the temp is 102, the temp will drop way too low. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

When the dog is so heated that it is panting severely, only let it have a few laps of water. Water in the stomach does not cool the dog, you just need to keep the mouth wet so the panting is more effective.

Do not worry about hydration until the temp has started down. A dog panting heavily taking in large amounts of water is a risk of bloat.

**Remember to send in your brags and news it doesn't have to be herding related! We like to hear about those multi-purpose dogs to!!**

## Avoiding Heat Injuries continued

Due to the heavy panting they will swallow air, mixed with a large amount of water they can bloat. Once the temp is going down and panting has slowed to more normal panting then allow water. The dog will rehydrate it self after temp is normal. If the dog has a serious problem and even though you have gotten the temp normal, get the dog to a vet, as it can still need IV fluids and some medication. Also, a case of heat stroke can induce a case of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (not parvo), with a ton of very bloody diarrhea and a lot of fluid and electrolyte loss. These cases need aggressive treatment.

The best method of treatment is prevention. Learn to watch your dog, and see the changes in the size of the tongue, and how quickly it goes down. Learn your dogs response to the different environments, and be careful when you head south for an early season hunt test or trial. I have been to Nashville at the end of May, only 5 hours away, but the difference in temp and humidity did effect the dogs as they were used to more spring weather in Ohio. Try different things in training to help the dog cool and learn what works better. Another very important point=> Do not swim your hot dog to cool it then put in put in a box/ tight crate. Remember, evaporation can not take place in a tight space, and the box will turn into a sauna and you will cook your dog.

Carry a stake out chain, and let the dog cool and dry before putting it up. I demonstrated this lesson this spring with my 10 month old pup. After doing a 15 minute session in yard drill on a warm 70+ degree day, she was panting pretty hard and was pretty hot. She was OK but it was time to stop. Just for the heck of it I took her temp. She was 103.6, above normal but too bad for a dog that had just finished working. In my back yard I have a 300 gallon Rubbermaid tub filled with water. I took her to it and she jumped in and out 3-4 times. She appeared totally improved, tongue was much smaller, and eyes brighter and her full spring was back into her step. So I re-took her temp and it was 104.2, so even though she looked better she was hotter. This is a perfect lesson to show not get a hot dog wet and then put them in a box. The water on her skin caused the blood vessels to constrict, decreasing blood flow to the skin. Therefore the hot blood was shunted back to the dog's core and retained the heat. You may have felt the same thing, after exercising but still being very warm, take a shower and get cooled off but as soon as you turn the shower off you start sweating again.

I know this is a bit long, but hopefully this is easy to understand and helps provide some useful information.

Remember: Prevention, learn your dog. It is worth the time and effort.

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***Membership renewal Dead  
line is July 1. If you joined  
this year or have already paid  
then you are good till 2011.***

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## Member News

### A Storm Update

By Joy Bass

According to the Sheriff's Department in Anderson County, the area received 11+ inches of rain the night of June 9, 2010. This is the same weather pattern that traveled northeast into Arkansas, killing 20 campers near Hot Springs.

The local ranchers in the area all agree that this volume of rain has not been seen in Anderson County in the past 30-40 years.

The volume of rain was too much for our creek (called Six Mile Branch) to handle that night. It overflowed onto our bottom causing damage to our pastures and fencing. The force of the water was powerful enough to move an entire round bale from one side of our 7-acre bottom to the other side.

My husband, Rob, has been working feverishly to replace the fencing. He has setup an electric fence to enable the sheep to go down into the bottom and graze while the permanent fencing is being repaired.

It looks like our bottom was at one point that night 1-2 feet under water when the creek flooded its banks. Where our A Course used to be, the water got really high--probably about 3-4 feet. It swept the whole A course including the 'Y' Chute, the 'Z' Chute, the Holding Pen, and the Cross Panels. The corner posts for the course that were set in concrete were completely washed away. The Priefert gates that were hung on posts were bent to the point where they cannot be used again. All of the fencing on the south side of the property along the bottom and along the A Course was pushed over by the water.

Right now, Rob has a couple of teenagers working to help him clean off all of the debris left on the field fencing that was pulled down by the water--you name it, it's stuck in the fence. Once that's done, Rob can assess what he can salvage and what he will have to replace. He is working on getting an experienced crew in to help him get the fencing back up.

Of course there is a LOT of dirt to move that the water deposited where we don't want it to be. Lots of sand came up out of the creek and found a new home in our bottom. One of our 40-foot oaks was unlucky enough to be where the overflow was eddying. It sucked the dirt out from under the tree's root system--2 feet below the trunk line and about 6 feet out around the tree. Rob has been working to get dirt back around the tree in hopes of saving it and preventing it from falling over on the remaining fence that is still standing.

Fortunately, we did not sustain any damage to any of our out-buildings or to the house; and all of the animals are fine, thank goodness. Our sheep, bless 'em, had the good sense to move to higher ground when the rain started. We did lose our Maremma puppy for a few hours. We found her just north of our property in the woods where she was busy exploring. She is fine and continues to come and go at will since the fencing is down.

We are hoping that we don't see another rain like this in our lifetime.

## ESTI'S JOURNEY TO A HERDING CHAMPIONSHIP

By June Marble

The path to a HC involves a lot of time herding sheep in between trials, studying sheep behavior as well as how the dog herds sheep. In trials Course C excellent class involves at least 45 minutes of herding sheep from the pen, moving them off the road to allow traffic to pass, taking them across a bridge, moving them from one graze to another or several and along the roads then finally back to the pen. On the ranch you can spend several hours a day sheep herding. You can even sit in a chair in a graze and read a book while the dog patrols the borders keeping the sheep confine in a graze. Around this time of the year there are lambs. The playfulness of the lambs is a joy to watch. Herding is a very peaceful, enjoyable time spent out of doors. My dogs enjoy working sheep. Being retired allows me time to stay at the ranch for several days per month and enjoy the out of doors.

Esti received her Herding Champion in Course C. Course C is the tending style of herding, as opposed to gathering type of herding (Course A). Esti showed the instinct to do tending style of herding, which her breed, German Shepherd Dog, was bred to do. In Germany they use GSDs to herd up to 1000 sheep in unfenced fields. Esti is a very calm dog around sheep, works independently well, and enjoys herding.

After about 26 days of tending style herding by June Marble at Eunice Gerloff's training facility, Endgate Ranch in Ferris, Texas, Esti entered her first Course C herding trial on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2007. She competed in the class Herding Started Course C Sheep (HSCS). On the first day Esti. qualified with her 1<sup>st</sup> leg and a HIT. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day she again qualified getting her 2<sup>nd</sup> leg with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place. On her 3<sup>rd</sup> day she obtained her 3<sup>rd</sup> leg with a 1<sup>st</sup> place; thus competing her title HSCS.

After about 32 days of more practice Esti entered the February 2008 herding trials in the Herding Excellent Course C Sheep, skipping the Herding Intermediate class. She finished two of her three legs. With the lack of Course C trials she did not trial again until November 2008 at the GSDCA Nationals. On her 1<sup>st</sup> day of trialing she qualified for her 3<sup>rd</sup> leg with RHIT and for the Title HXCS.

For the title Herding Champion AKC requires 15 points with one 3 point major (that is the dog has to beat so many advanced dogs entered in the trial) plus 2 first places under 2 different judges. The road to a championship takes longer as there are few Course C trials that have enough advanced dogs entered in order for the dog to receive championship points.

In the Fall of 2009 we traveled to New England to enter Course C trials. As it turned out there were not enough advanced dogs entered for Esti to qualify for any championship points. She did, however, obtain a 1<sup>st</sup> place. By December AKC had just 3 points listed for Esti. In the January 2010 trials there were enough advanced dogs entered for her to obtain points. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day she received a first place and 3 point major plus a HIT. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day she qualified for 2 points plus a RHIT. The total points for these trials were 5 points. Neither the HITs or RHITs count for points. In March there was a two day herding trial. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day Esti qualified with a 1<sup>st</sup> place, a 4 point major, and a HIT. Then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day she received 3 more points. The total points for the March trials were 7 points. Having met all of AKC's requirements for the title "Herding Champion" Esti received her HERDING CHAMPION certificate. According to AKC Esti performed under 14 judges and 21 qualifying scores to attain her HC.



HC Esti vom Landstrasse RN CD OA OAJ MXP MJP

## Upcoming Club Events

April 25, 2010 Fun Match and Meetings  
Nov 26, 27, 2010 LSFTC Tending Trials and Tests  
Jan 15,16,17, 2011 LSFTC Tending Trials and Tests  
Feb 5, 2011 LSFTC Trials and Tests  
Feb 11,12,13, 2011 LSFTC Special Event Trial

## Downloading Pictures from Webshots

Here are some simple instructions on how to download pictures from Webshots in a more "usable" format ie jpeg ect.

Go to Webshots--find album--choose picture--then left click on picture--when larger picture comes on screen look to the right of the screen and left click "full size"--then with new picture in view (pause until picture adjusts size), right click on picture to get popup, then highlight and left click on --"Print Picture" or "Save picture as..." --then there's a window of options of locations to save picture to (prepare file to save to)--then left click on "Save"--then make screen picture disappear (back arrow at top of screen) --Go to chosen Folder/File and see pictures that can be copied/moved/printed ---



Happy Tending!!