

Mountain Lines

Sam, Sounds, Sweat, Shots, Storms, Seals

by Lucy Muller, Lu@warwick.net

☺ The new building at the **Sam's Point** parking lot is truly gorgeous. It was funded by Open Space Institute and The Nature Conservancy, the owners of the *Sam's Point Preserve*. It fits in very nicely with the environment and will, no doubt, educate many people on the rare species of the area.

☺ The Fourth of July is fun for people, but animals are terrified by the loud noise. Please keep your pets inside all day and night during this time. So many are lost when they run away from home due to fear.

NEVER take your dog to a fireworks event. I give tranquilizers to the real basket cases and they drowse through the whole thing. If you cannot get meds from your vet, put your pet in a room with the TV or radio playing. Do not give a pet a human tranquilizer and also ask the vet what to do, as he or she needs to know the pet's weight to know how much to prescribe. Do not wait until the last minute to call for the tranquilizers. You need to call the vet today. Give it two hours ahead of time; an hour doesn't give it long enough to kick in, because the pet will already be getting stressed.

☺ After a long winter the sun feels good on our skins and many people in our area love to walk, run, and bike. Since dogs are such good pals, it's only natural to want to take your pet along. BUT WAIT. Dogs have a fur coat on, and only sweat through their tongue. That is, they need cool air to blow across the tongue to keep cool. Water alone is not enough. Dogs are also not made for exercise in hot weather, unless it's swimming. So what I'm getting at is, it would be kinder and safer to leave dogs at home in air-conditioning, or in a cool yard, than to take them out in the car or for a run or long hike. Remember, the pads of their feet can get very hot, whereas we have shoes on.

Of course, he would do anything or go anywhere you ask him to, so it's up to the human to make the better decision for the dog. I would never risk taking my dog on a summer walk from the top of the mountain on a two or more mile hike. Not only are there rattlesnakes, but a dog that has not exercised all winter, and if it were over 80 degrees, would really suffer. Animals get heat stroke just as people do. A walk up to the lake by **Sam's Point** might be ok, because he or she could swim when they get there, but that is not even a mile walk. Anything more would be wrong. It's just better to leave the dog at home.

☺ Be sure to get your pets their rabies shots at least every three years. This is the law and very important for protecting your family and community against the fatal disease. There is no reason not to get the shots except laziness. Even if you can't afford the veterinary office, you can take your pet to a clinic. All you have to do is ask at the town office. You can also get the shots at clinics in other towns. If you would like complete information on the disease you can ask your town clerk to get you that.



People are very negligent who expose visitors or neighbors to an unvaccinated pet. The people might have cuts on their hands and not realize that the pet is incubating the disease. We all know to stay away from wild animals, but we just assume our friends' pets are up to date on their shots.

You also need to go to a vet to be sure your pet does not have worms that could transfer to small kids who do not wash their hands. I personally think no one should have a pet who does not put aside some money for his or her basic care.

☺ We just had a wild thunderstorm and now the air smells so good and I marvel at the bright green, new growth of the pines against the backdrop of the forest floor. I heard the flute-like song of the woodthrush among the other birds – my favorite. The roses and mountain laurel are slow this year, but they will reward us for our patience.

☺ Please boycott Canadian Atlantic seafood in your grocery store and restaurants. Red Lobster is the biggest buyer of it in the restaurant field. The reason is the senseless and brutal clubbing of baby harp seals when they are three-weeks-old. [Ed. note: Nobody is suggesting that Red Lobster, or any restaurants that haven't joined the boycott, are directly involved in the slaughter of seals; boycott leaders suggest that Red Lobster's reluctance may be connected to its being the largest purveyor of snow crabs, which happen to be a favorite meal of young harp seals, hence reducing their own market supply. More: www.seashepherd.org/seals/seals.html] What the sealers get out of it is a small amount of fur for the lining of gloves. NO one needs that! We have fine synthetic fur. The killing is also done in front of the mothers! Now anyone who is a parent can relate to the horror of this weird and crazy ritual. The rivers run red with innocent blood. It is not as if these people need the income. They could never live on just that anyway. The Sea Shepherd Society has offered to pay them, but they have an arrogance that no one is going to tell them what to do. Well, we can and will with our wallets. Please join me in this important campaign. We should be buying American seafood anyway.

In New Jersey, we all worked hard to end the use of the steel-jaw leg-hold trap. Just imagine being caught by your leg in a trap. Anyway, at last New Jersey banned the trap. I just wish New York would do the same. The point is if you work hard and if enough people take part we can help the animals to suffer a little less in this world. 🌱



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