

# DIVISION SIX BCA NEWSLETTER



A newsletter published for the members of BCA Division Six from the great states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri!

Please send all submissions to the editor, Karen Zimny, karen@pantheonbulldogs.com.  
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**The holidays are all about family and friends. Hope everyone enjoys their holidays and has a happy, healthy, new year!**



# Legislative Issues

It is with a fair amount of disappointment that I have to update you on the legislative ongoing since my last report. The City of Lees Summit, MO, despite no public outcry or support to alter the animal control ordinance and a high amount of dissention, the city council approved an animal ordinance change on October 20<sup>th</sup>, effective immediately. What this means for its citizens is a spay/neuter incentive program that requires dog owners to have their dog spay/neutered once past 6 months of age. At age 2 you can apply for an "intact dog license". Regular licenses are \$10 per year but intact license is \$75. To qualify for an intact license you have to prove the dog has been entered in some form of competition in the prior 365 days, show proof of certification, and are subject to a kennel inspection prior to the issuance of said license. If your dog is caught by the pound they will not release it to you until you agree to have it spay/neutered unless you buy an intact license (but have to meet the criteria first). There also is a \$300 per year breeder fee and a \$30 per litter license fee after the litter is born and the litter has to be registered with the city. Only 1 litter per household per year is allowed. There are other restrictions as far as tethering and fencing of the dogs. Only 2 intact dogs allowed but 3 dogs total allowed. Penalty for a first violation is roughly \$150 and second offense can bring JAIL time!

Since that time other cities have gone on to pass similar ordinances such as San Antonio, TX. As we speak, the county of Cass county Missouri is reviewing the option of making a 4 dog limit for the whole county. As you can see, the winds of change are upon us. There is currently very little support to oppose such oppression. We have gotten some financial commitments from a few local clubs in the KC area to fight the issues in Lees Summit as well as some contacts at AKC for advice and support.

Myself and a Golden Retriever breeder (and president of the local retriever club) are working on drumming up support and petition for an alternate to the current ordinance. If we can garner 7% of the registered Lees Summit voters at the last election to sign a petition in support of our proposed ordinance, the council will have to choose which ordinance to place on the ballot at the next public election. We are going to try to push for this in the spring and hope it can go on the Nov 2008 elections.

Again, if you hear of any issues similar to this in your area, contact me and I can try to get info from AKC of other breeders in your area and get the ball rolling to help. Trust me, it is better to try and stop these things before they get passed than to have to go through the hoops to get them reversed after the fact.

Sincerely,  
Jim Bullard  
Division VI legislative committee representative

## Braggs

Our 5 year old bulldog named Hoovie was named pet of the week in our local newspaper about 1 month ago. Chris Hirschi

Ch. Reingold Just Amazing, better known as "Mazey", gave birth on October 5th to a litter of three girls, and one boy. Sire of the litter is English import, Ch. Mystyle Warrior Ocobo. Proud owners are Rita & Reiny Guthmiller.

# Doggie Etiquette

## HOLIDAY ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual, and they will appreciate long comforting dog “leans.”
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house, set it up in a prominent place, and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
  - a. don't pee on the tree;
  - b. don't drink water in the container that holds the tree;
  - c. mind your tail when you are near the tree;
  - d. if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or have your name on them, don't rip them open;
  - e. don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny looking hole in the wall to the tree.
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
  - a. not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans;
  - b. don't eat off the buffet table;
  - c. beg for goodies subtly;
  - d. be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa;
  - e. don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach.
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:
  - a. observe all rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses-4a is particularly important;
  - b. respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house;
  - c. tolerate children
  - d. turn on your charm big time.
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. **DON'T BITE HIM!!!!**  
*Thanks to Linda Shelburg for this submission*

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring-- it was peace." ~ *Milan Kundera*

## Nationals2008

Hello everyone!!

You are invited!!!

Nikki and I were chatting the other day - trying to find a way to deliver updates about Nationals to the entire BCA membership, quickly and efficiently. The website works for the forms and general information but we needed a forum for quick dissemination of information as it becomes available. I looked at several mass mailing options and came up with the idea to use a yahoo group for this purpose. Nikki and I agreed this would be the most efficient solution.

As a result this yahoo group for the 2008 Nationals was created. Nikki has loaded all the forms and general information we have available today including a post that addresses the issues we are experiencing with the hotel. I posted a reminder about trophy pledges and vendor space. There are several links listed in the link section.

I am in the process of inviting everyone in the BCA directory to join. This will take a few days to get thru the directory so what we ask is that you tell every bulldogger you know about the list and the URL below - they can go ahead and join up now.

In addition to providing up to the minute updates, we can answer any questions you may have about the upcoming Nationals. You can send us any issues you are experiencing. As we get into the show week, we will post the results on the list as well as in the National website.

Chatter on this group will be limited to Nationals information ONLY!!!

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Nationals2008/>

Thank you and welcome to the BCA Nationals 2008 yahoogroup

Kathy Jacobsen  
Nikki Bermea



"I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better." - George Bird Evans, "Troubles with Bird Dogs"

# Eliminating Mutation: The Impossible Dream

by John Armstrong

Though it is not practical to eliminate all deleterious mutation, the incidence of affected individuals may be significantly reduced through a combination of intelligent breeding practice and the development of DNA tests.

## Why do we have mutations?

Mutations are changes in an organism's DNA that potentially affect the correct functioning of genes. They occur naturally due to replication errors, mispairing of homologous chromosomes, or through unavoidable exposure to natural radiation (e.g., cosmic rays). Mutations can occur anywhere in the DNA and in any cell. They are **heritable** only when they occur in the germ cells (eggs and sperm), but mutations in the DNA of other (somatic) cells may lead to cancer. Even though the DNA replication enzymes are very accurate, and there are also supplementary systems for detecting and correcting damage, no system is perfect. We should, therefore, recognize that some level of mutation is inevitable. However, the mutation rate is increased by radiation, including ultraviolet light, and exposure to certain toxic chemicals. We can, therefore, take some precautions to minimize the risk..

The **mutation rate** for dogs cannot be determined readily, but from indirect evidence and extrapolation from other species, geneticists believe that mutation rates are normally on the order of 1 in 100,000 or less. For a sexually reproducing mammal, that would mean a new mutation in a particular gene would likely not occur more often than once in every 100,000 gametes. That may not seem like a high probability, but consider that most mammals are estimated to carry 80-100,000 genes. This suggests that every individual born has a good chance of carrying one new mutation in some gene.

## What happens to new mutations?

Identical mutations are unlikely to occur simultaneously in the same gene from both parents (probability: < 1 in 10 billion), so any progeny will be heterozygous. (The exception being sex-linked genes, as the X and Y chromosomes are not homologous.) Dominant mutations will be expressed and any that are deleterious will be eliminated almost immediately from the population. If the mutation is advantageous, and this advantage is noticed by breeder or "nature", the mutation may survive and its frequency gradually increase. If a mutation neutral, which is to say, neither good nor bad (just different), its survival will be determined by "genetic drift". New recessive mutations remain hidden from selection until they reach a frequency where some homozygous individuals begin to appear. However, this does not prevent drift loss, which doesn't depend on phenotype.

Drift is a consequence of the random nature of genetic events. For example, if you breed a brown bitch to a black dog carrying brown, you would expect ½ the progeny to be black and ½ brown, but probably wouldn't be too surprised if you got 7 blacks and 3 browns in a litter of 10. It works the same way for any gene that has two or more alleles. Suppose that we have only one black dog (Bb), all the rest being bb. The one Bb dog may pass the B allele to none or all of his progeny, or to any number in between. If he has more than 5 black progeny, the frequency of black will go up providing all contribute equally to the next generation. In subsequent generations the frequency may drift even higher, or back down.

In a large population, the frequency will tend to fluctuate by only a small amount. However, small populations are inherently unstable and, if other factors don't intervene, one allele will eventually take over. This is called fixation. How long this takes depends on population size. With a rare breed, fixation may easily occur within 25 generations (~ 100 yrs.)

Many recessive mutations persist for a few generations at low levels before being lost again. Only very rarely do they reach a significant level in the population ( $> 1$  in 1000). In terms of estimates of genetic diversity based on average heterozygosity, these genes are effectively monomorphic, as a screen of 50 or 100 individuals from the population would generally fail to reveal any differences for the majority of the these loci. When two individuals appear to carry the same mutation, it may well be due to independent mutations. However, unless there is some common ancestry, the chance of producing affected progeny should be no more than 1 in a million. [Notably, in the first study of an "inborn error of metabolism", Garrod (1902) observed that "among the families of parents who do not themselves exhibit the anomaly a proportion corresponding to 60 per cent are the offspring of marriages of first cousins." He estimates that only about 3% of all marriages are between first cousins.]

These estimates assume equal use of all individuals in the population, and we all know how common that is. If a particularly popular sire produces 10 times his "share" of sons and daughters, whatever deleterious allele(s) he carried will get a substantial boost in the next generation. A new mutation may be promoted from one-of-a-kind to moderately frequent in this way. As long as we insist on making mate choice a popularity contest, we risk introducing new problems as fast as we can develop tests for the old ones.

### **Genetic "load" and the founder effect**

The human population carries at least 2500 deleterious mutant genes (or, more correctly, alleles of genes) causing significant health problems. For the most part they are fairly evenly distributed in the population. For the entire *Canis familiaris* population, the situation is likely fairly similar. Each individual is estimated to carry a "genetic load" of three or four "lethal equivalents", which implies recessive alleles that would kill of the bearer if they were homozygous. As long as they are recessive, they should not cause problems.

However, consider what happens if we form a subpopulation by choosing 10 individuals from a much larger population. Though these individuals will not carry the vast majority of the unwanted deleterious recessive alleles found in the wider population, the few they do carry will be promoted instantly from rare alleles (0.1% or less) to at least 5% in our example (or more generally,  $1/2N$ , where  $N$  is the number of founders).

Because random drift has a greater impact on a small population, the population needs to grow rapidly, to at least several hundred breeding individuals, so as to minimize the loss of valuable alleles. During this time, we should select cautiously. While it is true that fixing "type" is one of the prime objectives of purebred dog breeders, too rigorous selection during the early generations increases the possibility of accidental loss of a valuable gene closely linked to one of the genes under selection. Dalmatians, for example, are all deficient in an enzyme required for correct uric acid metabolism. The mutant gene appears to be closely linked to one of the genes for the characteristic spotted pattern and was likely inadvertently fixed when early breeders selected for that pattern (Nash, 1990).

### **Recognizing mutation**

Though, at an allele frequency of 5%, affected individuals should only make up about 0.25% of the population, this would be a good time to stop it from increasing further. However, would a mutation occurring at that frequency be recognized as such? If we are talking about breed with average litter size of four, then we are only looking at about one litter in 100 with one affected puppy. If there have been no other reports, the breeder may simply write it off as "one of those things". In a breed with larger litters, the probability of two or more affected pups occurring in the same litter is greater, but even in these cases, lack of exchange of information between breeders and lack of education in genetics may result in a failure to identify the problem as genetic.

## Selection

Selection is only effective if we are dealing with easily recognized phenotypes. However, undesirable mutations are not always that accommodating. There is a full range of possibilities from silent mutations, that have no noticeable effect on proteins coded for, to mutations that fail to make any functional product. There is even a small possibility of improvement. Those, and the silent class, are no threat to us. However, those that prevent normal function but do not eliminate it completely are likely to present a substantial problem. One example is the vWD mutation in Dobermans. This mutation eliminates 85-90% of the active clotting factor, but this low level is still sufficient to protect a homozygous affected individual from excessive bleeding in most situations. A dog that is "lucky" enough to avoid a major injury or surgery may not be recognized and may even be bred. Consequently, the frequency of the mutant allele rose to slightly over 50% in the population (Brewer, 1999). This should not be regarded as an exception. Fewer than one in three mutations appear to be fully lethal, and that the others cover the full spectrum from the 0-100% activity. In addition to dealing with a handful of easily-recognized genetic diseases in a breed, we are also likely to be dealing with scores of others that reduce fitness but present no obvious phenotype that can be used to identify them. If we can miss a gene that is only 10-15% functional, how well are we likely to do with those that retain 80 or 90% of their normal function?

## Why should this be a problem?

In a small population, drift inevitably leads to fixation for one allele. Computer simulations show that if we start with a neutral allele with a frequency of 5% in the population, as would be the case if it was originally carried by 1 of 10 founders, it will be fixed 5% of the time (surprise, surprise!). As the fitness of the homozygous phenotype decreases, its chances of being the winning allele decline. At a 5% reduction in fitness, 3.5-4% will still be fixed, most within 25 generations. At 15% the computer says the other allele will almost always win - if our slightly deleterious allele gets no boost from being linked to a selected gene or spread by a popular sire. However, one or both these conditions are usually violated, as discussed above. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that our selection will discriminate as finely as the computer.

If each such gene reduced fitness by only 5%, and the effects are additive, we could easily be facing a population with significantly lower litter sizes, shortened lifespans and greater susceptibility to non-genetic problems. Yet we would have no easily identifiable gene to pin it on.

## Conclusions

Longevity and fertility, commonly regarded as indicators of "inbreeding depression", are reduced in canine populations which have been inbred over a relatively short time period (Laikre and Ryman, 1991; Nordrum, 1994). However, most of the inbreeding in domestic dog populations does not appear to be due to breeders intentionally mating close relatives<sup>1</sup> (though there are certainly exceptions), but to the loss of diversity due to drift and selection. The resultant loss of choices makes every individual a close relative, no matter what breeding strategy is employed.

The outcome for any breed will depend on both luck and on the breed's history. What is the effective population size? How many founders were there? Over how long a period prior to the closure of the stud books had the breed been refined? How intensive was the selection used to define type? Have there been any bottlenecks? How strong an influence have popular sires had?

What can we do?

1. We can control many of the obvious genetic diseases by supporting research aimed at locating the genes and developing direct DNA tests for the mutant alleles. Test results should be employed to make certain that carriers are only mated to clear individuals, rather than for wholesale elimination of carriers, which would further impoverish the gene pool.
2. We can explain to breeders that mutations will always be with us, and are not an indication of failure or bad breeding practice, and that an open exchange of information will produce the greatest rewards.

We can also show them ways to achieve their personal goals without making choices that are detrimental to their breed.

3. We can attempt to educate breed clubs on the importance of maximizing diversity in the gene pool. As the keynote speaker at the recent AKC/CHF conference, Dr. Malcolm Willis, pointed out, few breeds even have a good idea of what their major genetic problems are, how many pups are in an average litter, or how long their dogs live. Fewer still have any idea of how to retain existing diversity or reduce the average inbreeding.

Notes:

1. Based on a study of 3 and 5-generation pedigrees of Australian Shepherds, Clumber Spaniels, Standard Poodles and Malamutes.

© John B. Armstrong, University of Ottawa, Oct. 1999

## PhotoContest

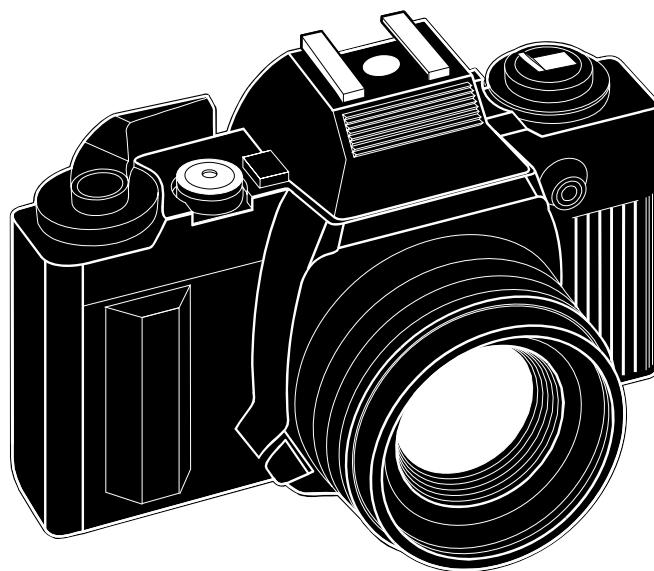
Want to help rescue? For a cheap price?

At only \$5.00 per picture you can enter a photo contest with great prizes!

We are hoping to raise two and half thousand dollars for rescue in 30 days. Deadline is December 31st. Rescue gets 100% of the profits... and anyone who enters a picture may get to decide what rescue will get the money. Its win-win!!!

<http://bulldogevent.homestead.com/event.html>

Webmaster [www.bulldogsworld.com](http://www.bulldogsworld.com)



# PuppyChristmas

by Elise Lewis

*On the first day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
The Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the second day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the third day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the fourth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the fifth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the sixth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the seventh day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Seven scraps of wrapping paper,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the eighth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Eight tiny reindeer fragments,  
Seven scraps of wrapping paper,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the ninth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
My wreath in nine pieces,  
Eight tiny reindeer fragments,  
Seven scraps of wrapping paper,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.*

*On the tenth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Ten Christmas cards I shoulda mailed,  
My wreath in nine pieces,  
Eight tiny reindeer fragments,  
Seven scraps of wrapping paper,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the eleventh day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
Eleven unwrapped presents,  
Ten Christmas cards I shoulda mailed,  
My wreath in nine pieces,  
Eight tiny reindeer fragments,  
Seven scraps of wrapping paper,  
Six yards of soggy ribbon,  
Five chewed-up stockings,  
Four broken window candles,  
Three punctured ornaments,  
Two leaking bubble lights,  
And the Santa topper from the Christmas tree.  
On the twelfth day of Christmas my puppy gave to me,  
A dozen puppy kisses...  
And I forgot all about the other eleven days.*

Thanks to Darlene Stuedemann for this submission.





**Dear Santa**

Dear Santa,

I've been a good doggy mom all year. I've fed, cleaned and cuddled my dogs on demand, visited the Vet's office more than my own doctor, spend more on their shampoos and conditioners than I do for myself, and most of the time they are groomed better than I am. I was hoping you could spread my list out over several Christmases, since I had to write this letter with my a black marker pen on the back of a dog food receipt in the laundry room between cycles of dog bedding, and who knows when I'll find anymore free time in the near future with puppies coming and dog shows on the he horizon.

Here are my Christmas wishes:

I'd like a pair of legs that don't ache (in any color, except purple, which I already have) and arms that don't hurt or flap in the breeze; but are strong enough to put my struggling dog into the tub for a bath.

I'd also like a waist, since I lost mine somewhere eating dog show food and at least three show outfits and some jeans that will zip all the way up without the use of power tools.

If you're hauling big ticket items this year I'd like noseprint resistant windows, floors that clean themselves, and a refrigerator with a secret compartment behind the crisper where I can hide to eat my own snacks without having to share with a pack of barking maniacs. On the practical side, I could use a battery operated dog that is always stacked perfectly and moves to perfection on my command to boost my showing confidence, along with at least two bitches who don't bump each other to start a fight.

I could also use a recording of The Dog Whisperer chanting "Don't pee in the living room" and "Get off of her, she is not in heat" because my voice seems to be just out of my dog's hearing range and can only be heard by the next door neighbors who are at least an acre away.

If it's too late to find any of these things, I'd settle for enough time to brush my teeth and comb my hair in the same morning, or the luxury of eating food warmer than room temperature without it being served in a Styrofoam container at a dog show.

If you don't mind, I could also use a few Christmas miracles to brighten the holiday season. Would it be too much trouble to declare a doggy lock down session? It will clear my conscience immensely when I look at those miserable little faces. It would be helpful if you could coerce my husband and children to help around the house without demanding payment as if they were the bosses of an organized crime family because afterall, this is for MY Dogs!

Well, Santa, the buzzer on the dryer is ringing and some of my dogs saw my feet under the laundry room door. They think I am eating dinner in here again and they are missing out on leftovers. Have a safe trip and remember to leave your wet boots by the door and look down so that you don't step into an "accident".

I would have left cookies, but between the dogs and the cat, there is no chance that anything other than drool will be left on the plate. I left you a Hot Toddy to warm you from the cold, but after a day like this, I drank it myself.

Yours Always,  
Doggy Mom

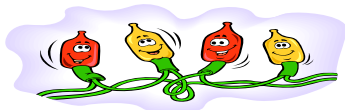
*Thanks to Dena Gustaf for the submission*

## Aggression or Manners?

[www.flyingdogpress.com/-  
sayhishort.html](http://www.flyingdogpress.com/-sayhishort.html)

**This is an EXCELLENT  
article on one of the  
aspects of dog behavior,  
proper dog greeting, and  
the misunderstood  
aggression." I cannot  
reprint it here but I can  
give you the link for you to  
check it out so PLEASE  
take the time. It will  
benefit you and your furry  
friends.**

*Thanks to Dana Huntington for  
sending this submission.*



## MyDogs

MY DOGS LIVE HERE

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.  
you don't like pets, be on your way.  
they share my home, my food, my space  
this is their home, this is their place.

You will find dog hair on the floor,  
they will alert you're at the door.  
they may request a little pat,  
a simple "no" will settle that.

It gripes me when I hear you say  
"just how is it you live this way?  
they smell, they shed, they're in the way.."  
WHO ASKED YOU? is all I can say..

They love me more than anyone,  
my voice is like the rising sun,  
they merely have to hear me say  
"C'mon girls, time to go and play"

then tails wag and faces grin,  
they bounce and hop and make a din.  
They never say "no time for you",  
they're always there, to GO and DO.

and if I'm sad? They're by my side  
and if I'm mad? they circle wide  
and if I laugh, they laugh with me  
they understand, they always see.

so once again, I say to you  
come visit me, but know this too..

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.  
you don't like pets, be on your way.  
they share my home, my food, my space  
this is their home, this is their place..

----- Author Unknown  
(Thanks to Darlene Stuedemann for this submission)



**Division Six Newsletter**  
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Back issues of the division newsletter can be found on the Division VI web site at [www.bcadivision6.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.bcadivision6.org/newsletter.htm)



These articles are not necessarily the opinion the editor nor members of BCA Division 6. Information contained therein is NOT substitution for professional advice.