

PURE DOG TALK 372 – BUGS ARE COMING SAFE PRODUCTS FOR BREEDING DOGS

Pure Dog Talk is the voice of purebred dogs. We talk to the legends of the sport and give you the tips and tools to create an awesome life with your purebred dog, from showing to preservation breeding, from competitive obedience to field work, from agility to therapy dogs, and all the fun in between, your passion is our purpose.

Laura Reeves:

I am here at the Trupanion booth and we're talking to Andrew Conklin who has had experience with Trupanion insurance with his German Shepherd dog.

Andrew Conklin:

Yes.

Laura Reeves:

Okay. So tell us your story, Andrew.

Andrew Conklin:

Okay. Our dog, Mira, German Shepherd, actually is a champion and a grand champion actually ended up a grand champion silver, we'd bred her. She actually had a pyometra.

Laura Reeves:

Oh my gosh.

Andrew Conklin:

And what happened? She got very, very sick. We didn't realize that she had a really bad infection, that she'd just gotten the pyometra. And one night we woke up and she actually was having a seizure from the infection.

Laura Reeves:

Oh my gosh.

Andrew Conklin:

We took her to the emergency vet and they weren't real sure about her chances. Some people were like, "Well, put her down," but we just really knew that she was a fighter. It took a little while, probably about three days for her to get stabilized. And then they were actually able to go through and actually spay her and she made a recovery. And now she's just enjoying her time as a retired show dog now.

Laura Reeves:

And that is a very expensive procedure that you had to go through.

Andrew Conklin:

It was \$15,000 and think 14,000 of it was actually covered. So pretty much most of it was covered and we could not have done it without Trupanion.

Laura Reeves:

Nobody can. Thank you so much, Andrew. And we're really, really happy that you're girl's. Okay.

Andrew Conklin:

Thank you very much.

Laura Reeves:

Welcome to Pure Dog Talk. I'm your host, Laura Reeves. And we are back with our very favorite veterinarian voice, Dr. Marty Greer. And we have a couple of very timely topics for you guys today. This is a media company. So in the interest of news, we're going to discuss the corona virus as it affects you and your pet in this current state of affairs. And we are going to discuss the fact that the bugs are coming spring is springing and with it will come all of the creepy crawly critters that we hate. And we're going to talk about what you can and what you cannot use on your breeding animals. So very excited, Marty. Hey.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Hi. I'm thrilled to have spring coming. It has been a long winter.

Laura Reeves:

Yes,

Dr. Marty Greer:

So, it'll be nice to have it here. It's been a little chilly.

Laura Reeves:

I have honestly been blessed. It's been a gorgeous spring. I mowed my lawn for the first time two weeks ago, it's been crazy here.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Seriously?

Laura Reeves:

Seriously.

Dr. Marty Greer:

We still can't see the grass it's still covered in snow.

Laura Reeves:

Yeah, no, I know. That's why I live in Oregon and you live in Wisconsin, sister. I'm just saying.

Dr. Marty Greer:

You're rubbing it in.

Laura Reeves:

Okay. You can come visit me and I'll take you wine tasting. Does that count?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah. That's way too good a deal.

Laura Reeves:

Okay, it's a deal. So talk to us about the corona virus as it affects humans. COVID-19 and does this, or does this not really have any bearing on our pets, who we know in the past have been vaccinated for a version of, if I understand correctly, corona virus?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes. And as far as we know at this point, there has been no evidence of a corona virus of the human version affecting our pets. Now, yesterday in the news, there was a report that a human patient in Hong Kong did have a dog that tested positive, but they swabbed the oral cavity, the nasal cavity and the rectum of the dog. And we know dogs do have a version of corona virus that causes GI disease. And of course we know what dogs do with their licks and their tongues. And so we don't really know where this dog's tongue and lips have been. So it's entirely possible that it ate a Kleenex out of the garbage, I mean that's what dogs do. It licked the person that it lived with, a thousand things that this dog could have done and then had a positive sample, but not truly be infected because the dog was also reported in the same sentence to be asymptomatic.

Laura Reeves:

I was just going to say the dog had no symptoms. So, that was my understanding.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Correct.

Laura Reeves:

And so can you give us the virus for dummies version of why the people version of corona virus is not the same as the canine version of corona virus?

Dr. Marty Greer:

You know, I'm really not sure I can do that. The problem is that it appears that the corona virus that we're currently dealing with was a mutation of an animal corona virus, probably either the horseshoe bat or a snake. And I'm having a hard time with the snake piece because it's a reptile and not a mammal. The bat is a little easier to understand, because at least it's mammal to mammal, but it appears that the original outbreak started from exposures at a fish and animal market in Wuhan China, where people go shopping.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

And to my surprise in China, people are still harvesting and ingesting as meat, some of these wild animals.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So we don't really know exactly, but the horseshoe bat doesn't seem like something that I would normally put on my menu nor the snake of any version that I would typically want to eat. But that appears to be where the original exposure of virus was a mutation from a bat to a human. And, certainly has the potential to mutate again. But at this point there has been no indication of a mutation that is now affecting our pets. Now there's a corona virus in dogs.

Laura Reeves:

Yes.

Dr. Marty Greer:

There's a corona virus in cats.

Laura Reeves:

Yes.

Dr. Marty Greer:

But it doesn't appear that those have any crossover.

Laura Reeves:

They are not the same viral agent, correct?

Dr. Marty Greer:

It's a corona virus, but it's not apparently contagious back and forth.

Laura Reeves:

Inter species.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Now, a corona virus is simply a description of when they look at the viral particles under the electron microscope, which is more magnified than a regular microscope.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

You can't just go to your biology classroom and pull out the microscope and look at it. But a corona virus is called corona because it's a round viral particle that has these little spiky things that stick out of it. It looks like a crown. Therefore the name corona, not the same as Corona beer, not the same as a lot of other coronas, but the corona virus is simply a description of the shape of the virus and has nothing to do with the mutation and how it affects other species.

Laura Reeves:

Perfect. Nailed it. I think that is complete. I know we weren't going to do a whole topic on it, but I felt like it's the veterinary voice. It's the corona virus scare. We definitely need to at least say something about it.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah. Because a lot of people are worried about it.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

And our standing joke here is I'm pretty sure I'm probably immune to the corona virus because I see cats, I see dogs all the time that come in with corona virus. So, I'm pretty sure all of us veterinarians are probably already immune because corona virus is one of the things that causes a nondescript diarrhea in the cat and causes FIP in the cat and it causes a GI sign and probably also causes respiratory signs in the dog.

Laura Reeves:

Interesting.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So there's a lot of corona viruses that are floating around out there.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So I just want to be clear that we don't have a human vaccine. We don't have a vaccine that could be used that crosses over. If people currently are getting advice from their veterinarian that they should vaccinate their dogs or cats for this corona virus, whether it's FIP or whether it's a GI corona virus, then they should continue that if they have the possibility that their dogs are going to need to be vaccinated because of exposure. That's great. But the dog vaccine and the cat vaccine isn't okay for humans.

Laura Reeves:

Don't vaccinate yourself. Good. Okay.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Don't vaccinate yourself. Yeah. Because at one point there was an untoward reaction. FIP, if people don't know, that's feline infectious peritonitis. FIP primarily affects kittens. It's a GI disease, but if they get what's called the wet form of the effusive form, kittens will develop an accumulation of fluid in their chest cavity, their abdominal cavity or both. And they're getting very, very sick as kittens and they succumb to the virus. There's no cure for it. And then if it happens in an adult cat is also a dry form which can affect the kidneys or the liver or other forms. So instead of having fluid accumulate, it causes granulomatous lesions in the kidneys, the liver, other organs. So we can vaccinate cats for it if we think that they're going to be possibly exposed. The problem is that you can't tell a vaccinated cat from a naturally exposed cat on the test because there's no test that distinguishes between those two.

And one time I was told, and I don't know that for an absolute fact, that I was told that there was a canine corona virus that was developed as a vaccine by one of our vaccine companies. And it inadvertently caused the same kind of effusion, the fluid accumulation in the body cavity of some of the dogs that were vaccinated. So it's not an innocuous vaccine. It's not something that you're just going to say, "Well, if it works in a dog, I'm sure it'll work in me. I'm going to vaccinate myself." No, no, no, no. It doesn't go that way.

Laura Reeves:

Please don't.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So just to be clear, yeah, please don't do that. But if you have a dog that has coughed on you, you might be immune as well. So we just don't know yet, but it's going to be interesting to see.

Laura Reeves:

Crazy. I really want it to be that dog people are immune from corona virus.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I know.

Laura Reeves:

I just really want that to be a fact.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It seems fair that after all the things that you do to clean up after dogs and cats that you would have some benefits.

Laura Reeves:

I totally want that to be the case. Oh my gosh.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I know exactly how you feel. Because if I'm going to get sneezed on, coughed on, and clean up diarrhea, I would like to have a positive effect.

Laura Reeves:

I really want something out of it, man. Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. Okay. There you go. Coronavirus 101.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, but we digress. So we should probably get back on it.

Laura Reeves:

That was good. But the bugs are still coming. It is March.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Officially.

Laura Reeves:

In most parts of the country this is when we start to see the onset of fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, other creepy crawly grossness. Some parts of the country are blessed with those things year round, but for the rest of us, this is when we start to see them again. So we've talked about this in our allergy episodes and some of the other things, but I think one of the things that we have not touched on, I really wanted to kind of drill down on, is products. Specific products recommended, referred, preferable for dogs who are being used in a breeding program since that's so many of our listeners, I really want to focus on that. Because I think it's really scary when we start looking at some of our bitches that don't take, and some of these other things. What's going on outside of, we just missed it because we were late.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right, right. So I think it's really important that we look at this and we need to look at this from both the female perspective and the male perspective,

Laura Reeves:

Yes.

Dr. Marty Greer:

but not just while we're trying to actively breed that dog, whether it's male or female, but in general, it goes on in a lot of these studies that FDA and EPA require for the companies to do before they can get approval, is it will say not tested in males and females used for breeding. It doesn't say during breeding, it says used for breeding.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So we don't know if we're going to see any effects and I'm not saying that they're dangerous, it's just, we don't know. So until that testing has been done, I think it's really appropriate for us to stick to the EPA and FDA approved drugs that we know have been tested and safe in breeding animals.

So for instance, Bravecto says there were no clinically relevant treatment related effects on body weights, food consumption, reproductive performance, semen analysis, litter data, gross necropsy or histology findings in adult and puppies. So we need to be looking for that kind of language on a label before we go slapping things on or popping things into our dogs. And I'm not trying to call anybody out. I just want to be perfectly clear for what products have or have not been tested.

So there's three basic categories of flea, and tick medications. There's the collar, there's the topical, the oil that goes over the back of the neck or down the back, and there's the tablets or the chewables. So there are the three general categories. And of those three, there's no collar on the current Seresto collar is the one that most people find to be effective. They're not the organophosphate collars of the past, where we saw toxicity, but the Seresto collar is not labeled for that use in breeding dogs and males and females in the United States. Apparently it is labeled for that use in Europe. But we live in the US so we need to read our US labels.

The topicals, some are definitely labeled and some are not definitely labeled, it'll say on it. If it says, like Frontline says, say for breeding, comma, pregnant, comma, and lactating dogs and cats, then it's safe. If it doesn't say that you shouldn't use it, it needs to be clear.

And if we look at the orals, there's Credelio, NexGard, and Simparica, those are the three oral medications that are not labeled for use in breeding animals. Bravecto is labeled for use in breeding animals. So we need to be really, really clear that we're looking at the labels, we're reading the instructions and we're thinking at eight weeks of age, what is this dog's future? Not just is she pregnant right now, but what is her future?

Laura Reeves:

Well, and his, right? So this is why I wanted to talk about this was kind of a situation that came up with one of my own puppies. We get our puppies out, we place them, we put them into pet homes. Maybe they're a dog that somewhere down the line, you might want to take a look at freezing or keeping that viability for pedigree, flexibility, whatever. And they go off and go about their merry way. And you find out they've got a Seresto collar and they're getting one of these things at the end. You're like, wait, no, no.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right. So these are things you can very clearly lay out in your contract when you sell a puppy. "I plan to use this dog for breeding, I intend to collect X number of units of semen on him. And in the interim, you are responsible for taking care of his whole body, not just his front end, but his back end too. And these are the drugs that are approved and not approved for me to use." So you can be really clear about this in your sales contracts. And I think that's a really good place to put it, because then you have a signed document that both you and the buyer have agreed on this kind of an arrangement.

Laura Reeves:

Right? Absolutely. And I think it also helps, I mean, to give people guidance. I'm not sure that I would ever make it a requirement unless it was a particularly special dog, right? But just simply that this is what I recommend. And so when the vet comes and recommends something different and you ask for my breeder has requested that I use these products, I feel like that gives the new puppy owner a little bit more kind of ownership and control. How would you feel about that?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Absolutely. Yeah. And it's really important that we have open dialogues with the veterinarians that are going to be taking care of our dog.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

And a lot of vets unfortunately had the impression that breeders are a little crazy because they put requirements on the buyers for how they vaccinate, how they feed, how they house, how they medicate. But in this particular case, it's really clear if it says safety not established, it shouldn't be used, period.

Laura Reeves:

Right. And we're going to put a link Marty has provided me with you guys, and I'm going to make sure you have a link to it as well, a really great document that goes through literally product by product and addresses, not just how young they can give it, like "Okay, my puppies went out in the yard this spring and the fleas just arrived, and oh my God." And you know, how young can I give this product? But also does it fall into this category of the safe for pregnant, nursing, breeding, what have you? And it's laid out four pages worth. So you guys are going to be able to have that.

Hang tight guys, got a little bit of information for you. We'll be right back to the podcast in a minute.

So Hey crew, new year, new decade, let's have some new Pure Dog Talk promos while we're at it, shall we? All right. Our patrons group continues to grow and thrive. It's like the NPR of dogdom. It's so cool. And Pure Dog Talk offers you, my loyal listeners, an opportunity to get in on the fun. Pure Dog Talk patrons are invited to join a closed Facebook chat group just for you. And I promise you no drama mamas, no keyboard warriors, just fabulous, supportive, Pure Dog Talk fans. That's it.

Each month I pick a photo submitted by our patrons group to be the cover image on the Facebook page. You guys have seen it. And anybody with a quick question gets immediate feedback from moi personally, as well as input from the array of patron group members, pretty fun. The patrons group also gets first dibs on podcast topic suggestions. So if you have something you want to hear about, that's a good way to do it. And to celebrate the new year, I am adding a whole new technological challenge to my life. Oh my God. I will be hosting Facebook live discussions or patrons only on the final Monday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 PM Pacific time zone.

Yeah baby, yeah.

Y'all join us from wherever you are, but that's when they'll be. Just a few of our planned topics of conversation include advertising on a shoestring budget. Yeah, trust me, we can talk about that. Campaigning a special just for owner handlers, problem solving the stack, tricks of the trade for grooming like what products do I like or anybody else like. Open mic, Q and A's all that kind of stuff.

What you guys need to know is that the generosity of Pure Dog Talk's patrons is literally what keeps the MP3s running here. The money is set aside exclusively for overhead and operational expenses. That's it. Now I'm incredibly grateful to our corporate sponsors, you have no idea. They have the dedication to purebred dogs and the resources to ensure that Pure Dog Talk remains a powerful voice for purebred dogs. But you guys, y'all believed in this mission and you supported it from the beginning. You are the heart and soul of my crusade to provide all purebred dog lovers a constantly growing, challenging treasure trove of knowledge and the 21st century format all your own world. So just click the be my patron on pod bean button on the website. It's quick, it's easy, it's secure. And I hope to see all of you on the next Facebook live chat.

Laura Reeves:

Marty, speaking, as someone who is focused on reproductive and all the rest of it. Give us again, your rundown, your favorite heartworm, flea, tick. Bravecto is mostly what you like is that?

Dr. Marty Greer:

For flea and tick? Yes. I like Bravecto a lot. We know that it's safe. I have personally used it on my own pregnant dog, when I found a dog in my household had fleas. I normally don't treat any of my pregnant dogs with anything if I can avoid it. But in this case, I had fleas in my house. You know what you do, you treat everybody because if you don't, everybody ends up with it at some point. So she was pregnant. I popped a Bravecto down her and got rid of all the fleas in the house in one treatment, one tablet of Bravecto, one time. That was it. And it's no longer spray the house with toxic chemicals. It's no longer a lot of the things that we've gone through for fogging and dusting and all the other work that we've used to have to do back in the day before we had some of these really nice products.

So I like Bravecto as my oral because you don't have to put it on anybody. It doesn't cause greasy things. It doesn't transmit to the cats because some of these are toxic to cats. If the cats snuggle up with the dog or lick the dog. It doesn't affect your children because they're not kissing the dog over the back of the neck, right where you put that nice oily preparation of the flea and tick product. So there's a lot of real advantages to the orals. The disadvantages, you don't get any repellency. So in other words, biting insects like mosquitoes and flies are not repelled, but it will kill fleas and ticks very effectively and very quickly. And before the transmission of any tickborne diseases like Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, Ehrlichia, or probably the 30 other diseases that we don't even know that ticks cause.

Laura Reeves:

Right. Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

If you're looking for a topical, Frontline is my favorite for that. It's really safe even in the elderly and geriatric patients. And it is safe in dogs that are being used for breeding, male and female. Some of the products are, some of the products are not. I love Vectra 3D for our practice here in Wisconsin, because we do have a ton of fleas. And especially with Lyme disease carrying ticks. We're the number two state for Lyme disease. Number one of course is Lyme, Connecticut where the disease was discovered. But we see just lots and lots of it in the area here in Wisconsin, we're state number two, Minnesota is right behind us. So I like that if you're looking for something repellent and a lot of these products can be used in combination, so you can give a pill and you can give the topical. So if you're trying to get the best of both worlds, you can very safely combine them because they're in different drug classes. So again, you want to talk to your veterinarian about those combinations, but they appear to be safe and have a different mechanism. So it works well.

Laura Reeves:

Nice. I liked Vectra.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah.

Laura Reeves:

I really liked the Vectra as a topical. I've always been kind of a topical person and I had really great results from that.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It's very safe. It's very effective, but it's not labeled for use in breeding dogs.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So you don't want to use it. There's a concern that even though you may have it on your female after she's nursing her puppies, the way the technology, a lot of these topicals use, is it gets absorbed into the oil, the sebaceous glands of the body, and then they're transmitted through body and they use makeup technology, the stuff that causes your mascara

and your other kinds of makeup to stay on. So it doesn't just wick off the dog, but it will also translocate off of the mom and onto the puppies. So I tend to be pretty careful in those products when I've got nursing puppies and we know Frontline is safe. It's been used for many, many years. We know Vectra is not labeled for that. So as much as I love Vectra, I tend to avoid it in the dogs that were using for breeding, because of that, the fact that it isn't labeled for that use and it says on the label do not use.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

When it says do not use, that's a hint, you should not use it.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I mean, it's pretty clear.

Laura Reeves:

Right. The other one, that's a little mind boggling to me Capstar which I have used as a handler. Some client dog comes on the truck and it's got fleas and I pop them a Capstar. I had not read the fine print that said birth defects and fetal loss.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes.

Laura Reeves:

Yucky.

Dr. Marty Greer:

That's why we read the labels.

Laura Reeves:

Clearly. Can everybody learn from me? Read the labels. Capstar definitely, definitely, definitely. And is that the residual or just like, the bitch is pregnant, please don't give her Capstar?

Dr. Marty Greer:

That's all the label says.

Laura Reeves:

Okay.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Now it's easy for people to find the labels. So they can go to your website, take a look at this document. If they want to read the actual label, what they do is type in the name of the product, and then they look for the PDF. It'll say, PDF of package insert. So you can find that, you don't have to be a veterinarian to find it. You can Google it and find it yourself. That's the freedom of information act. Now the print is really, really tiny. So you have to use your magnifier on your computer so you can read it. And then you just scroll to the part about safety during pregnancy, breeding, lactation, all those things. It's easy to find. And when it says things like not established or do not use or consult your veterinarian

before using this product on debilitated, aging, pregnant or nursing dogs, if it says consult a veterinarian, my answer is don't do it.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

If it says safe, my answer is use it.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

If you look at something like Trifexis, which is one of our heartworm products, it says not safe in pregnancy due to fetal malformations, not evaluated in males, caution in dogs with seizure history, use with caution in breeding females. If it says use it with caution, not evaluated in males, why would you use that when you have other products that are labeled and we know are safe? And it just doesn't make a lot of sense to me that we would not follow the package instructions because FDA and EPA are very, very clear about the kind of criteria that they use to establish the safe use of these products. So it's simple enough to read the instructions, follow the directions. If it says, talk to your veterinarian, talk to your vet. But you know, if somebody says to me, what should I do about this? The answer is don't.

Laura Reeves:

Don't.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Because we have good products.

Laura Reeves:

Right. We got off on a squirrel before we started talking about the heartworms. So what's your favorite heartworm med?

Dr. Marty Greer:

I use a lot of Sentinel Spectrum and I use a lot of Heartgard in our practice. Sentinel is a really nice product. It's Milbemycin, which is the same thing Interceptor used to be, but it also then contains Lufenuron and Praziquantel. Again, that is not tested, but regular Sentinel without the Spectrum part of it is just Milbemycin and Lufenuron which is established and safe and Heartgard is safe. And we've had Heartgard on the market for 25 years.

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So those are products that have a long history. And if this were causing a problem, of course, we would know about it. The newer products, like the oral flea and tick medications, Credelio, Simparica, Nexgard, and Bravecto. Those have only been on the market two or three years. So it takes a longer period of time for that to show up as a problem. But you don't want your dog to be a footnote in the paper that says, "Oh, and by the way, birth defects and fetal loss are a side effect of the medication." So why would you do that when you have safe products that you can use?

Laura Reeves:

Right.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So I tend to really stick to the stuff that we already know is proven safe, and that has a long history behind it. So just think about it.

The other thing that probably hasn't been discussed very much, it's the new injectable heartworm preventative that is given as a sub Q injection. That's the ProHeart 12 Moxidecton has been a six month product in the US. We've had ProHeart six for many years. It was on the market, then it went away and now it's back. And it was approved in Australia as a 12 month product for quite some time. And we know that that is safe as a sub Q injection for pregnant and nursing dogs as well, and male dogs.

Laura Reeves:

And that's when I have not even heard of, which is bizarre.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, yeah. And it depends on what part of the country you're in. You're in a part of the country like us, that doesn't have a lot of heartworms, so we're tending not to see it used as much, but I have a colleague that has a veterinary practice in Memphis, Tennessee. And three years ago, they had 80 dogs in their practice that were religiously, the owners were giving these dogs heartworm, preventative, and 80 dogs in the practice anyway, had heartworm disease.

Laura Reeves:

Geez.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So if you're in those settings, you're going to start to reach for products that we know have much better compliance because you don't have to give this once a month. It's not given orally. It's given as a sub Q injection. So once a year, you take your dog to the vet, they give the ProHeart injection and whoop, you go on your way and you don't have to think about heartworm preventive again. Now it doesn't do anything for intestinal parasites, the way that Heartgard and Interceptor and Sentinel and Trifexis and all these other heartworm preventatives do, but it's really effective in preventing heartworm disease. And it is safe in pregnant and lactating dogs. So it is something to be aware of.

Laura Reeves:

Hmm, absolutely. Y'all down South, I'd be checking that out. That is fabulous news.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah. Yeah.

Laura Reeves:

I mean, I was just talking to Patty Strand about it today, some of the retail rescue imports, we are starting to see more cases of heartworm up here in the Northwest, which I mean just, we never saw ever.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. Yeah. And it's going to bring heartworm to your community. And we've been seeing rescue dogs coming in with this since the hurricane down in Texas and Louisiana, we've seen just tons and tons of heartworm in the rescue dogs. And it puts the rest of our dogs at risk because now they're standing around in your neighborhood infected with heartworm disease. And then it just takes you to forget one dose of heartworm preventive and the dog that bit the neighbor dog that came from Louisiana is now transmitting heartworm disease to your dog.

So we see all these dogs and in the dogs that come up from the South in the rescue dogs, we recommend that those dogs are tested twice, not just at the time that they leave the state and come to Wisconsin, but six months later we're testing them again, because if they were recently infected the heartworm test still shows up negative. It takes six months for that test to turn positive. So I don't want dogs walking around with this. We had one dog that came up from

Tennessee that was so badly infected with heartworm disease that it was in immediate heart failure. You could see the heartworms on the ultrasound and echocardiogram that we just did.

Laura Reeves:

Ew, yuck.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. So when you do an ultrasound of the heart and you see heartworm, yeah.

Laura Reeves:

That's bad.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. Yeah. Very bad. So, yes.

Laura Reeves:

I think that's something that we all tend to maybe sometimes forget, it goes along with the anti-vaccers and the measles outbreak, right? Is that, that herd immunity, the reason that we keep all of our dogs safe is if all the dogs are heartworm negative, when the mosquitoes bite them and go to the next dog, that's also heartworm negative they can't spread heartworm. They can only spread heartworm, the mosquitoes, if they're sucking blood out of something that's already infected. Am I right?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. You got it. Yeah.

Laura Reeves:

Maybe not as genteelly as I should have.

Dr. Marty Greer:

That's okay. We understand we got it.

Laura Reeves:

Okay.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So those are the things that people really need to be made aware of is they have a lot of options. Use what's safe, use what's labeled, use what we know about, and don't take chances. Don't be that person that wants to be in the footnote of the paper.

Laura Reeves:

Yeah. Yeah, absolutely. All right. Well, Marty, thank you so very much. As always, you are a bright shining light in my day, and I enjoy your conversation and your company tremendously. So, good to talk to you.

Laura Reeves:

Well, thank you. It's a lot of fun. Thank you.

Dr. Marty Greer:

All right, well, we'll talk to you soon

As always. If you have any questions or input, we'd love to hear from you. The show notes and links to resources on today's topic are available at puredogtalk.com. Drop us a note in the comments or email to laura@puredogtalk.com. Remember guys, this podcast is for you. So if you want to know something, give me a holler. We'll do a podcast for you. If you wouldn't mind, you could help me out here. Take a couple minutes to visit iTunes and give us a review.

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