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# HCA Horizons

*"Highlights For Havanese Fanciers"*



Spring is almost here! That can only mean green grass and colorful flowers! Photo taken and submitted by Claudia De Vita.

## The 30th Anniversary National

by Gloria Dittmann

### Come One! Come All!

The Windy City is calling YOU! Chicago will put on its party hat in August to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Havanese Club of America and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of recognition of the Havanese by the American Kennel Club! Come to Chicago and party with us!

If you haven't been to Chicago in the summer, you have missed one of the most scenic cities in the world! Chicago in the summer offers a wide variety of tourism experiences, from just wandering the gleaming lakefront to the wonders of our museums and stores. Michigan Avenue! State Street - that Great Street! The Shedd Aquarium! Field Museum! Art Institute! Chicago puts on its prettiest face in the summer and welcomes one and all!

Take a Canine Cruise on the beautiful Chicago River and along the Lake Michigan Lakefront! Stroll along the Magnificent Mile with your Havanese! Or just kick back and enjoy the amenities of the beautiful Westin at Yorktown!

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0806139207&key=6BFCEB>

Explore the Yorktown Mall! When you check in to the Westin for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Havanese Club of America National you can park your car and never use it again until you leave! Yorktown Mall is a short walk from the hotel! Shop, eat in one of the many excellent restaurants, take in a movie or just sit by the pool!

And the Main Attraction - the Havanese!

Join the most beautiful Havanese in the world!

Meet old friends and make new ones!

Join the HCA as we celebrate our incredible breed in an incredible setting! Don't be left out!

Make your reservations today! Visit the Havanese Club of America website at <http://havanese.org/national-specialty> for further information and to make your hotel reservations today!

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Subscribe to the Havanese Hotline <http://www.havanese.org/documents/subscribe.htm> the official publication of the Havanese Club of America for more in depth news of local clubs, rescue stories, rally articles and other handy tips.

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# Emergency Lead

By: Barbara Vann

Have you ever been at a show with all of your dogs neatly stacked in a row, and then the fire alarm goes off? What do you do to get your dogs out immediately? Or what if you are traveling in your motor home or car and an emergency arises? How do you get all of your dogs out all at once?

I had this happen to me while traveling in the motor home. We were stopped, with smoke coming out of the engine ... I had 10 dogs with me and did have leads hanging from one crate. We got all of the dogs out in time. Another dog person stopped to help, took our dogs and put them in their motor home, as my leads were so twisted I didn't think I would ever get them separated. Where would I have put them if no one was there?

At Sheltie Nationals last year we had a fire alarm. Some handlers had so many dogs that those of us that did not have but one or two, grabbed the dogs out of the crates and out they went. No one knew who had whose dog, except those that took them out of the building. Think about it, what if this happens to you, what would you do.?

After my incident, I had a lead made for me. I've only had to use it once when we were at a show and had a tornado alert. We were all told to get in the building. I had 4 dogs, hitched them up and away we went.



Here are pictures of my lead, you can make one yourself. If not, I know someone who will.

The main lead is 70" long with a handle at one end and a clip at the other for attaching to a fence out of harms way if need be. A ring is placed every 12 inches. I attach a lead at each ring. I have 4 extra leads that I can use and attach if I am traveling with more dogs.



As you can observe, each of these 12" leads have a clip on each end. With my Shelties, they wear a collar with a tab which makes it easy to reach and grab to attach the lead to them.



I am sure that something different can be done, such as a slip lead at each end. Something to think about.

# Destructive Chewing

By: Susan Daffron

Recently, I got an email from someone who had just adopted a dog she referred to as "a chewer." Obviously, all puppies chew, but sometimes chewing can go too far. When the dog chews on a doggie chew toy, it's fine. When he eats the sofa, it's a problem.

For example: our first dog Leia was a model puppy, except for one thing. She didn't like being left alone. Like any determined youngster, she decided she'd better leave and find out where we went. Unfortunately, her approach was to chew her way out. We kept her in our basement hallway and she ate part of a post, some carpet on the stairs, and quite a bit of a homemade door that blocked off the upstairs. I patched the carpet, put wood putty on the post, and my husband put metal cladding on the door.

All of these things are now a distant memory, but I remember how upset I was when I found my downstairs hallway destroyed. Fortunately, we figured out what Leia's problem was and took steps to deal with it.

A dog may chew for various reasons. As I said, chewing in and of itself is not the problem. It's actually a symptom of something else that's going on. The key is to figure out what that something else is and deal with the underlying situation. For example, in Leia's case, it was obvious she was upset about being left alone, a behavioral issue that is often termed "separation anxiety."

Separation anxiety is a far different thing than just puppy chewing. All puppies chew; it's part of how they explore their world. Much like human babies, a pup wants to put everything in his mouth. So, your first job is to "puppy proof" your house to remove anything that could hurt him like electrical cords and small ingestible items. The next step is to get a baby gate, so you can block off safe areas for your pup to hang out in when you can't keep an eagle eye on him. You also want to get your puppy a LOT of approved safe chew toys. A teething puppy is going to chew, so you want to direct that activity to the right place. A dog crate or sky kennel is another good investment, since you can use it as a dog bed at night to avoid any late night chewing sprees.

You should also realize that many adult dogs also like to chew, so you may be buying chew toys for a long time. If your dog is an "aggressive chewer," make sure you get sturdy toys like Kongs or Nylabones that Rover can't immediately destroy. You don't want to end up at the vet for a chew toy-related obstruction.

Anxiety related chewing is unrelated to regular chewing. As with Leia, the dog is upset about something whether it's you leaving, thunder, fireworks or other loud noises, or stressful situations. The dog then chews at doors or windows to try and get out. Or she attacks items that smell like you, such as clothes or the sofa because the smell is comforting.

If your dog has anxiety-related chewing problems, talk to your vet. He may prescribe anti-anxiety medications along with behavior-modification techniques to help your dog feel less stressed. In our case, the problem never got that bad because we got Leia a dog. We always call Tika "Leia's dog" because as soon as we got her, Leia was fine. In her case, all she needed was a buddy to make her feel less anxious.

# Havanese Roundtable

*Question:*

I have a Havanese puppy with a very sensitive digestive system. I've finally found a food that she tolerates. However, what would you suggest I use for treats? Sheila

*Answer:*

If your puppy has a sensitive system the simplest answer is to forego treats altogether. Your dog's nutritional requirements are being well met by the regular food and treats are additional calories that will only add weight on a small frame.

It is difficult for people to understand that treats are not the only way to accomplish successful training. Praise and positive reinforcement can achieve the same results. Rollicking and enthusiastic 'good dog' cheering will generate a wagging tail every time. Your furry friend lives to please you and a paucity of treats won't diminish that natural tendency.

If you feel treats are required during training, it is important to realize that dogs don't know the size of treat that they get. You can give the tiniest morsel and it registers in the dog's mind as a reward the same as a whole mouthful would. Also, a dog does not require fancy treats. Molding semi-food like substances into the shape of a bacon strip is meant to appeal to owners.

The safest treat for your pup is the kibble that you are using as regular food. In anticipation of training sessions, you can feed your puppy less at mealtimes, so the pup will be eager for the kibble treats. Overall, the amount of food you are feeding will be the same and your dog will not need to go on a diet when training is completed.

When your urge to use treats becomes overwhelming, and your Havanese has a sensitive digestive track problem, one suggestion is small pieces of plain, unsalted rice cakes - but only if your puppy is tolerating rice as an ingredient in the daily kibble. Experienced Havanese owners use a variety of other healthy tidbits as rewards including small cubes of carrot or apple without the skin, tiny bits of cheese or chicken.

When adding treats to your puppy's regime, only add one new item a week. That way you can easily isolate exactly what might upset your Hav's delicate intestinal balance. Most importantly, remember that your four-legged comedian is devoted to you because of your love, not the treats you offer. *Claudia DeVita*



Saucy knows the snow will melt soon and give way to beautiful spring grass and flowers. She is going to sit here and wait until that happens! Photo taken and submitted by Farah Whitver.



# Spring Photo Fling!



Macy strikes a lovely pose. Photo taken and submitted by Betsy Olix.



Cosmo says "play ball"!! Photo taken and submitted by Anna Sokoloff.



MeMe is going to jump right into Spring with all four paws. Photo taken and submitted by Arlene Etzig.



Arthur loves to relax and smile in the beautiful green grass. Photo taken and submitted by Madalin O'Brien.



Cosmo knows that ..."April showers bring May flowers"... Photo taken and submitted by Anna Sokoloff..



Zorro is a honey! Photo taken and submitted by Lynne Ovington.