

# *Calgary* **Pet Fancier**

A large, happy dog with a red and black checkered bow tie and a small tabby cat sitting on a white rug in front of a wooden play structure.

**Inside:** "My Dog Has Cancer!" • Bengal: At a Glance  
Red Flags in Rescue • Bearded Dragon  
Canadian Animal Blood Bank (CABB)

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dealing with pet  
cancer?

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# "MY DOG HAS CANCER!"

"... NOW what do I do...?"



Story by Dr. Al Townshend for Kali's Wish Cancer Foundation

## Sit down and take a deep breath

**C**ancer is the last thing a Guardian wants to hear from their veterinarian. It is an all-too-common diagnosis that, in the past, has been considered a death sentence for their beloved pet. Today, the light is brighter, and there is a future for many pets that have cancer. When it comes to cancer, dogs and humans are very similar. As a result, much of what we know about cancer in humans applies to dogs.

- **Stress**

From the moment a Guardian learns their cherished pet has cancer, it is vital for the pet and the Guardian family not to let the emotional stress take control. When humans are emotionally upset, and in distress, the brain tends to narrow the focus and make it difficult to concentrate. Staying positive and upbeat, even during emotionally stressful times, is essential in maintaining the pet's health as well as the Guardians well-being.

- **Get as much information as possible**

It is important to get your questions answered, so be sure and make a list. Start with your family veterinarian, and if possible, seek consultation with a veterinary cancer specialist. There are many types of cancer, and there are multiple stages for each type of cancer. Getting a referral from your family veterinarian to a veterinary

oncologist (cancer specialist) is essential.

Seek out a holistic veterinarian to get information on alternative therapies and natural support. Assembling as much information as possible is essential to understanding the options and the commitment necessary. It also helps to better understand what to expect.

- **Be Positive**

Making the decision that cancer is not going to win and committing to a positive attitude is essential for both the Guardians and the pet.

- **The Family**

Once the primary family members have all the information necessary, it is essential to share the information with all of the family members. Younger children often need extra time and understanding. Decisions are best made by everyone, and at the same time, commitments are also best made by everyone.

## Treatment is a commitment of time and money

Catching cancer early offers the best outcome for treatment. Being observant, recognizing subtle physical changes, and deviations in the routine can raise an alarm that should be investigated.

Treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and even combinations of these three options. Today, current research suggests that Immunotherapy and even vaccines can offer additional possibilities for the treatment of pets. Also, alternative therapies, diet regimens specifically for cancer patients, and supplementation can be beneficial. Emotional support and regular exercise are also an integral part of any treatment regimen.

## Your Pet

Maintaining a good quality of life for as long as possible. There are times when treatment may not be the best option.

*Our pets don't think about the past or the future: they live in the moment.*

They don't hold grudges, and they always forgive. They live life as it comes, and so they depend on their Guardians to make the best decisions in their daily lives. To keep them safe and make sure they are loved from the first day to the last day of their life.

*Dr. Al Townshend is a member of the Panel of Experts at Kali's Wish Cancer Foundation.*

*No One Should Face Pet Cancer Alone  
Learn How We Can Help [www.kaliswish.org](http://www.kaliswish.org).*



**kali's wish**  
CANCER FOUNDATION



# RED FLAGS IN RESCUE



**T**housands of families each year choose to adopt a pet, and this can be a wonderful experience that enriches lives. With the popularity of pet adoption there are dozens of new rescues that pop up each year. Sadly, some do not have the best interests of the animal, the family, or the community at heart.

Some mean well but do not have the experience or resources to set dogs up for success. Others are driven by profit and “flip” dogs from shelter to home, collecting \$500-800 per transaction. We would like to remind potential adopters to look for “red flags” when considering a dog from a rescue organization.

## Imported pets

It's become commonplace to see rescues bringing dogs from the US, and increasingly from Mexico, the Middle East, or Asia.

Some of these rescues market their dogs using tragic stories about the meat trade, high kill shelters, or other heart-wrenching narratives. Sometimes these are not even true, and the practices of these rescues may actually be highly stressful or dangerous for the animal.

### *Ask the question:*

- Is the rescue bringing in so many dogs at a time that they will have a hard time providing adequate care to each one?
- Do they have financial resources prepared to adequately support these dogs, or are they trying to adopt them out and absolve responsibility for them as quickly as possible?
- Are they doing comprehensive vet checks to make sure these dogs aren't bringing in parasites or disease?
- Are they following quarantine and decompression periods before placing them up for adoption? The transport process alone is stressful, let alone the transition to another country.
- Are they choosing to transport dogs that will be a good fit to urban life in Canada, or setting them up for failure? For example, are they expecting a formerly feral dog to live in a condo in the city?
- Acknowledging that foreign relocation is a big adjustment, do they have post-placement support for you?

## Mass adoptions

The practice of bringing multiple dogs to pet stores or public places and doing on-site adoptions. For adoptable dogs, life has been stressful and uncertain enough to this point. Is it fair to put them in a busy, noisy environment and expect them to show their true personalities? Is it safe to have a group of stressed dogs you don't know well in a public place with children, strangers, and others?

These events attract a ton of attention, and sometimes even feature food trucks and DJs! All that is fun, but save it for fundraisers. You are making the decision about an animal that might be in your life for the next 15-20 years. That decision should be made with deep consideration and time.

## Screening and support

A reputable rescue should provide behavioural and medical screening during the foster period, to ensure that they understand the pet's needs before matching it with a forever home.

A rescue should be screening every adopter. Interviews, reference checks, and a home check should be standard practice. Sadly, not every home that wants a dog is a good home for a dog. And not every dog is the right fit certain homes or lifestyles. That's why animals end up at the shelter in the first place.

### *Ask the question:*

- Is the rescue working with you to find a dog that will be successful in your home? Or do they seem to be in a hurry to move the process along?
- Is the representative qualified to be working with you? Can they knowledgeably answer general questions about adoption and behaviour, and specific questions about the dog you're applying for?
- Have they asked for references or talked to you about your past experiences? What steps are they taking to make sure YOU a good home?
- Do they use emotional manipulation (“this dog is on death row!” or “this dog will be snapped up soon if you don't agree to foster him today!”) to pressure you into decisions?
- Do they talk to you in detail about the

training and handling techniques you'll use on a dog? Your plans to contain him safely, how long he will be home alone, and other questions pertaining to his quality of life?

- Do they offer any kind of “trial” to ensure a fit, or do they want you to meet the dog and sign papers in the same day? Some rescues offer a foster-to-adopt period or may allow you to do a trial weekend. Others may not, but they should encourage an additional meeting or a trainer's assessment to help you make your decision.

## Behaviour and health

All dogs should be spayed and neutered before the adoption is finalized. Exceptions should only be made for dogs with severe health considerations who cannot have surgery.

It is not acceptable to adopt out puppies without sterilizing them and trusting the adopter to do it later– this means that at least some of the time, it won't be done at all. A rescue cannot in good conscience put a pet into the community that may parent more unwanted dogs.

### *Ask the question:*

- Is the dog spayed or neutered?
- Has the dog been vaccinated?
- Is it microchipped or tattooed? Who is the chip registered to?
- Has a basic vet check been done, appropriate to the dog's age?
- If there is anything out of the ordinary (e.g. lumps, dental issues, signs of disease, etc) has it been investigated to a reasonable extent with results provided to the adopter?
- If the dog has travelled from another country, has it been examined for diseases or parasites common in those countries? Has an appropriate quarantine procedure been followed on both sides of the border?
- Has some kind of behaviour assessment been done by a certified person? Can the rescue confidently tell you how the dog does in everyday circumstances – strangers coming in the home, meeting strangers outside the home, passing dogs/cats/kids/skateboards, being left alone in the house?

- If there are serious behaviour considerations, will the rescue help find you a trainer? Ideally, will they pay for part of the costs to get you on the right track?

## Professionalism

It surprises people to learn that there is absolutely no regulation for rescue. Anyone can call themselves a "rescue" and adopt out any dog. This means they aren't accountable for the dog being healthy or behaviourally sound, and there's no recourse to have them take the dog back or issue a refund if the adoption doesn't work out.

### Ask the question:

- Are they an incorporated Non-Profit Society or Registered Charity? This is not a guarantee of ethical rescue practices, but it shows they have some commitment to professionalism.
- How long have they been in operation? If they are new, do the representatives have a background working with other shelters/rescues, or at least in the training, animal welfare, or veterinary field?
- Do they have waivers and contracts for foster/adoption agreements?
- Do they have policies and information in writing for you to review?
- Do they have partnerships with reputable professionals in the industry: veterinarians, trainers, and boarding facilities?
- What is their reputation within the pet industry, and are they willing to provide references?
- How do they conduct themselves in public and online? Do they become defensive about complaints? Do they get into arguments on social media? Lack of professionalism in one area often translates to another.
- Do they take dogs back when an adoption doesn't work out?
- Are they frequently posting about needing emergency foster homes or money? While an organization may fall upon hard times and need help, this shouldn't be a regular occurrence if they are running their organization in a responsible manner.
- Will they promptly transfer records to you once the adoption is finalized, and let you view any pertinent information (eg, a trainer's assessment) while you are making your decision?
- Are the adoption fees reasonable - in line with groups like the Calgary Humane Society? Do they ask you to pay in cash or to a personal account? Do they quote you additional costs or charge higher rates for more "adoptable" dogs?

This is a long list and it may seem like overkill! Perfectly good rescues may not even meet one or two elements on the checklist. But with no regulatory body in place to protect the animals or the adopters, it is up to you to protect yourself and your only defense is education.

You may be tempted to adopt from a less-than-ethical rescue because you feel sorry for a dog, or simply want to give it a home. Please think carefully about this decision. By doing so you will be lining the pockets of the organization and keeping them in operation.

You may also be putting yourself at risk. If this dog is unhealthy, the vet bills are your responsibility, and this can quickly escalate to thousands of dollars. If the dog has significant behavioural issues, you will need to change your life to accommodate him – no traveling, no flexibility to have a neighbour walk your dog if you are working late, constant vigilance, legal liability, and more money spent on training.

You may not even have the backup plan of taking the dog to the shelter if things get really bad. The majority of BC shelters are not "open intake" so if they don't have space or don't consider your dog adoptable, they will turn you away.

The good news is that you can avoid almost all of this risk by working with a reputable organization or shelter, taking the time to educate yourself, and avoiding these red flags!

Contributed by Hug a Bully.



# 2022 Events

Calgary Kennel & Obedience Club  
May 6-9, 2022  
Olds Regional Exhibition, Olds  
[ckoc.com](http://ckoc.com)

CADF Canine Health Clinic  
May 28-29, 2022  
Inglewood Skate Shack  
1740 24th Ave SE, Calgary  
[www.cadf.ca](http://www.cadf.ca)

Calgary Reptile Expo  
May 28-29, 2022  
Absolute Baseball Academy & Fitness Center  
2221 Crowchild trail NW Calgary  
[www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-calgary-reptile-expo-tickets-91534828135](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-calgary-reptile-expo-tickets-91534828135)

Pet-A-Palooza  
July 23-24, 2022  
Eau Clair Market  
200 Barclay Parade SW, Calgary  
[www.petapaloozawest.com/calgary](http://www.petapaloozawest.com/calgary)

Alberta Kennel Club  
July 28-Aug 1, 2022  
Spruce Meadows  
Spruce Meadows Way SW,  
Calgary  
[www.albertakennelclub.org](http://www.albertakennelclub.org)

CADF Tick-Talk  
May 27, 2022  
Location TBA  
[CADF.ca](http://CADF.ca)





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Your dragon can live up to 10 years. You'll need to ensure your bearded dragon is receiving adequate nutrition by purchasing appropriate food. Bearded dragons are omnivorous and require a balanced diet of both vegetable and insect food (crickets and worms). To ensure his nutritional needs are being met, you'll need to feed him a diet of 60 to 65 percent plant foods and 30 to 40 percent insects. Insects should

Bearded dragons are considered one of the best reptile pets due to their good-natured disposition and mild temperament. For that reason, they generally adapt well to their human caretakers. Once your dragon becomes acclimated to his new home, it will enjoy your company and even scurry to the front of his tank to greet you. Your dragon might display fascinating behavior, such as “arm waving.” Arm waving entails lifting one of its front legs and “waving” it in the air, a form of communication believed to show submission. Because they’re so docile, bearded dragons will typically permit handling more than most other lizard species. When you first begin training your dragon, avoid handling it for long stretches of time to lessen the potential for stress. The younger the bearded dragon is, the more anxious it might become if it’s held too long. Instead, initially handle it for short periods of time, which will help it become trusting of you. Once it becomes more relaxed, you can hold it for longer stretches of time. Always lift him up

While your bearded dragon might welcome handling, you'll still need to exercise caution to avoid contracting salmonella. Bearded dragons and all other reptiles can carry the salmonella bacteria in their feces. Even in trace amounts, handling or ingesting a reptile's feces can transfer the salmonella bacteria to humans. To prevent infection, thoroughly wash your hands after touching or handling your bearded dragon, preferably with antibacterial soap. Avoid keeping the dragon in the kitchen, dining room or anywhere else where food is prepared or consumed. Always dispose of lizard feces in the toilet or trash can, never in a bathtub or sink.





# HEDGEHOGS

**T**he two most common types of hedgehogs kept as pets are the European hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*, and the smaller African pygmy hedgehog, *Atelerix albiventris*.

Hedgehogs live alone in the wild and are typically solitary animals. They may take a while to warm up to you when you first bring them home. Patience and time will help them trust you.

Hedgehogs can be a fun and low-maintenance pet for your household, but they do need some special care. They have sharp quills that can make handling difficult. Consistent and proper daily handling will help them relax and feel comfortable with you.

Hedgehog's quills do not shoot out, but they are sharp enough to pierce your skin. Be especially careful when they are frightened.

## Problems With Pet Hedgehogs

They can be fun pets to have around, but there are some challenges you'll have to work around.

**Nocturnal.** Hedgehogs are nocturnal and are most active at night. Bonding with them can take a while due to their solitary nature. Playing with them and letting them roam around before bedtime will help them get used to your touch and care.

**Active.** Hedgehogs are very active. They can run for miles! They enjoy climbing, digging, and swimming. They're nocturnal, so they'll be doing most of their digging and running around while you're trying to sleep. Providing them with a large enclosure away from your bedroom will help them blow off steam and you to get some rest.

## Safety Concerns

Hedgehogs are not recommended for households with children under 5 years of age or adults over 65. **They can carry Salmonella bacteria** in their droppings. Even if they seem healthy, the bacteria can infect their bodies, habitat, toys, and anything they come in contact with. This makes them a risk for those vulnerable populations. People with weakened immune systems are also at risk from the germs and bacteria that hedgehogs can carry. This is important to keep in mind before bringing a hedgehog into your home. If you do have one as a pet, take care to clean their enclosure and toys away from your kitchen so you don't infect your eating space.

**Can carry disease.** Hedgehogs can seem healthy, but they can transmit **bacteria like Salmonella** or Mycobacteria to their owners. One large Salmonella outbreak was traced back to a pet African pygmy hedgehog.

Contributed by Amy Flowers, DVM. WebMD Medical Reference Reviewed on June 28, 2021.





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# PARAKEETS

**T**he budgie (parakeet) is often thought of as a “beginner bird,” however, this social, outgoing little bird deserves just as much care and attention as larger parrots. Budgies are playful, love food and they can rival any parrot in terms of talking ability.

## Care and Feeding

Budgies can live between 7 to 15 years, though the average is far less than seven due to mistreatment, accidents, or lack of knowledge about appropriate bird care. It seems that this little bird is often seen as a “throw away” pet because it’s inexpensive. Budgies are also prone to obesity, fatty tumors and liver tumors, foot disorders, scaly face and intestinal parasites, all which require veterinary care.

Most budgies are ground-feeders that eat primarily seeds and plant material. Research has shown that little birds get “hooked” on seeds

easily due to their size. Many commercial food incorporate seeds with healthy pellets, fruits and vegetables, as well as Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids and chelated minerals.

## Personality and Behavior

The budgie is often underestimated as a hands-on pet. It is certainly good as a “watching only” pet, especially if kept in pairs or in a colony, but it’s easily hand tamed and can become a loyal, loving little friend to a patient owner. Budgies are social birds and won’t do well in a life of isolation. Budgies housed together do remain friendly if given enough contact, though a lone parakeet is often the best choice if you want a “pet-quality” bird

## Speech and Sound

The budgie is the best talking bird among the parrots, able to learn words, phrases, and

whistles easily. One budgie has been recorded repeating more than 1,700 words! The males are the best talkers, though females can learn a few words and can also whistle well.

Budgies are good family birds, and can be fun friends for children, but always supervised.

*Contributed by BirdLife International.*

Sources:  
*BirdLife International* (2018), “*Melopsittacus undulatus*”  
*Bird Health* (2004), “Dr. Marshall’s Philosophy on Breeding Exhibition Budgerigars”



# 5 THINGS PEOPLE GET WRONG ABOUT TICKS...

Don't be scared,  
be prepared!  
Check yourself and your  
pet after walking!

1

Ticks jump, fly or drop off trees.

*False.*

Ticks wait at the end of a blade of grass, leaf or branch and grab a meal from anything or anyone that passes by.

2

A rash has to form around the tick bite if there is an infection.

*False.*

A rash only forms about 50% with initial Lyme Disease Infection.

3

Ticks are only active when it's warm.

*False.*

Ticks can be active and survive in colder temperatures. Though they are less active, ticks are around, and can cause infection even in winter months. They are active at 4°C and above.

4

Ticks have to be attached for more than 24 hours to transmit an infection.

*False.*

Ticks DO NOT have to be attached for 24 hours or more to transmit infection. There are many factors that determine how long a tick needs to be attached to transmit infection:

- The location of the bite: softer skin areas may allow for a faster transmission – inner thighs, armpit, behind ears
- The relative "strength" or health of the tick, and the type of tick
- Different bacteria or viruses are transmitted at different rates

5

Ticks are only in the woods and grasses.

*False.*

Ticks can be carried by rodents, birds and other animals to virtually anywhere. Ticks are found even in urban centers, such as Calgary.



Deer Tick or  
Blacklegged Tick

*True!*

This is the most common tick in Alberta. It could carry Lyme Disease, Powassan, and or Babesia.

Contributed by [everythingticks.com](http://everythingticks.com).

Sources: [everythingticks.com](http://everythingticks.com) & [www.alberta.ca/lyme-disease-tick-surveillance.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/lyme-disease-tick-surveillance.aspx)

Calgary Pet Fancier



# DOG BREEDS

Can you identify these dog breeds and find them in the word search below?

Only the portion of the name in colour is in the word search.

We'll give you the first one (top left):



American Staffordshire Terrier



Bloodhound



Beagle



Bernese Mountain Dog



Poodle



Bull Terrier



Border Collie



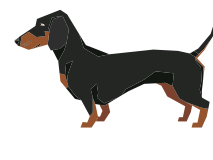
Boxer



Cocker Spaniel



Chihuahua



Dachshund



Doberman Pinscher



English Cocker Spaniel



English Terrier



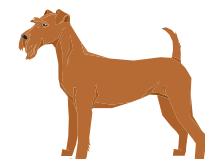
Fox Terrier



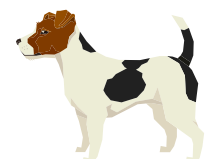
French Bulldog



German Shepherd



Bull Terrier



Jack Russell Terrier



Old English Sheepdog



Papillon



King Charles Spaniel



Pointer



Pomeranian



Pug



Rottweiler



Russian Wolfhound



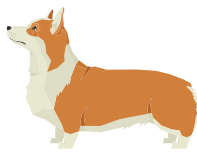
Shetland Sheepdog



Scottish Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Welsh Corgi

Illustrations: nenilkime, Good Studio, Anne Allen, Adobe Stock

G	B	A	I	E	L	G	A	E	B	U	L	L	D	O	G
N	L	D	A	C	H	S	H	U	N	D	O	U	R	E	O
A	Y	F	D	N	U	O	H	F	L	O	W	E	I	S	D
M	I	O	N	O	L	L	I	P	A	P	Z	L	R	E	P
R	O	T	T	W	E	I	L	E	R	U	L	S	L	G	E
E	S	J	E	W	I	F	S	I	A	O	N	I	E	N	E
B	R	A	Y	E	N	P	Y	N	C	H	A	S	B	I	H
O	O	C	K	L	A	O	H	R	U	T	I	N	A	K	S
D	C	K	S	S	P	C	E	M	B	R	N	A	S	E	E
R	E	R	I	H	S	D	R	O	F	F	A	T	S	P	B
E	N	U	I	C	R	Y	B	N	B	E	R	N	E	O	O
H	A	S	T	O	E	M	O	T	R	I	E	A	T	I	R
P	C	S	B	R	K	H	E	R	R	F	M	A	S	N	Z
E	I	E	P	G	C	H	S	I	T	T	O	C	S	T	O
H	M	L	E	I	O	N	S	V	G	U	P	X	A	E	I
S	P	L	B	H	C	H	I	H	U	A	H	U	A	R	S

Words may appear forwards or backwards, and horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.  
Word Search answer on page 8.

## Answers

Pointer  
Pomeranian  
Pug  
Rottweiler  
Russian Wolfhound  
Schнауzer  
Scottish Terrier  
Skye Terrier  
Welsh Corgi  
Doberman  
English Cocker Spaniel  
English Toy  
Fox Terrier  
French Bulldog  
German Shepherd  
Irish Terrier  
Jack Russell Terrier  
Old English Sheepdog  
Papillon  
Pekingese

American Staffordshire Terrier  
Basset Hound  
Beagle  
Bernese Mountain Dog  
Bichon Frise  
Border Collie  
Borzoi  
Canine Corso  
Chihuahua  
Dachshund



# MARIJUANA TOXICITY IN PETS

**W**ith its legalization across Canada, marijuana is becoming very common in households for medicinal purposes and personal use. In fact, over the past six years, reports have increased 448% in accidental marijuana cases. Here's what you should know about marijuana ingestion in pets.

Marijuana, or *Cannabis sativa*/*Cannabis indica*, is used for recreational and for medicinal purposes. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) are the two most commonly recognized, utilized, and studied cannabinoids, although there are over 80 different cannabinoids in marijuana plants. The primary difference between the two is that THC causes psychotropic effects and has a moderate level of toxicity, and CBD is non-psychotropic, and studies show it to be non-toxic or have limited toxicity. The exact amount of each cannabinoid varies widely from strain to strain and plant to plant.

Cannabidiol has anxiolytic, antipsychotic, antiemetic, anti-seizure, and anti-inflammatory properties. Medically, THC is used in an attempt to alleviate muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis, nausea from chemotherapy, weight loss in AIDS patients, seizure disorders and Crohn's disease. THC is also used recreationally for its psychotropic effects.

Animals can be poisoned by marijuana in different ways. They can ingest marijuana edibles such as brownies or pot butter, ingest the owner's supply of marijuana (in any formulation), or inhale second-hand smoke. Common symptoms of marijuana toxicity include sedation/lethargy, dilated pupils or glassed-over eyes, dazed expression, difficulty walking and vomiting. Other symptoms can include either a low or high heart rate, vocalization such as whining or crying, agitation, trouble regulating temperature causing the body temperature to drop or rise, incontinence/dribbling urine, tremors, seizures and potentially coma. Signs of toxicity can be seen anywhere from 5 minutes to 12 hours after the animal is exposed to marijuana. Depending on the dose ingested, the signs can potentially last 30 minutes to several days.

Although there is no true antidote for marijuana, veterinarians can give supportive care to help the pet through the clinical signs. Vets can regulate the animal's temperature to ensure they aren't too hot or cold and give fluids to help maintain hydration. They can give antiemetic medication to help stop fluid loss and closely monitor the animal's heart rate to stabilize it. Due to the animal having trouble walking and potentially injuring itself, the clinic staff can help keep the pet comfortable and confined so they won't be injured. In a lot of cases, a veterinarian

may give activated charcoal. This is a liquid that the animal drinks or is given that can help bind the toxin in the stomach or intestines to the charcoal and prevent absorption into the body.

Animals normally do well with supportive care, however, large ingestions of marijuana can be dangerous. Common problems with diagnosing and treating marijuana cases in the veterinary clinic are from an incomplete history due to drug stigma, the owners out on vacation, pharmaceutical products or worries about legal repercussions. It is important to get a complete history and reassure owners that the clinic is only interested in providing appropriate medical care for their pet. Accurate and complete medical history is imperative so that only necessary treatments are provided and prevent unnecessary treatments and costs.

With marijuana legalization in Canada, there has been an increase in cases of poisonings reported. To help prevent toxicity, place marijuana edibles well out of reach of the pet in closed high cabinets or in a locked drawer when not in use. If marijuana is smoked, the pet should be kept in a separate area with good ventilation until the smoke has cleared.

*Contributed by Audra Stillabower, CVT,  
Veterinary Information Specialist.*



# THE CANADIAN ANIMAL BLOOD BANK

**W**hen Truman, a playful and loving Wire-Fox Terrier from Alberta took ill, his loyal human family rushed him to the vet only to discover that he was extremely anemic. What he needed was a blood transfusion. Fortunately, the Canadian Animal Blood Bank (CABB) had the blood products on hand to help save Truman's life.

The CABB is a not-for-profit (CRA registered charity) that saves the lives of dogs across Canada by leading education in transfusion medicine and making the highest quality blood products available to Veterinarians and dog owners. Never heard of pet blood donation? Most people haven't. At CABB, we engage pet owners to volunteer their qualified dogs to participate in whole blood collections. The blood is collected, locally processed, and goes to help dogs and their families, just like Truman.

*"Thank you to your wonderful donors and the vital service [CABB] provides to help save animals' lives. Without you, we would not have Truman to cuddle today." - Robyn & Howard*

By registering your dog as a blood donor with CABB, you and your pet can make a difference in the lives of three other canines and their families across Canada. If your dog is healthy and even-tempered, weighs 55lbs or more, is between 1-8 years of age, and is up to date on vaccinations, then your dog is a potential donor. CABB Donor clinics are scheduled regularly in Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary. Unable to donate? You can help support CABB by raising awareness or donating funds for the purchase of vital equipment and faster delivery of blood products.

*Contributed by Sarah Dalrymple at the Canadian Animal Blood Bank.*



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# BENGAL: A BREED AT A GLANCE

**K**nown for their exotic looks yet attentive and loving nature, the Bengal is one of the most recognized breeds of cat. Bengals are very social and people-oriented and thrive in the company of other people. Find out more about this breed and if a Bengal is right for you and your family.

- **Temperament:** Active, Playful, Intelligent
- **Size:** Bengals reach their full size by the age of 2
- **Weight:**
  - Males:** Approximately 9-15 pounds
  - Females:** Approximately 6-12 pounds
  - Kittens:** weigh about 1 pound per month, therefore a 4-month-old kitten is typically 4 pounds.
- **Colors:** Brown Tabby, Silver Tabby, Seal Lynx Point, Seal Sepia Tabby, Seal Mink Tabby, Spotted, Marble, Charcoal Spotted or Charcoal Marble pattern.
- **Life Expectancy:** 12 to 20 years depending on many factors including environment and nutrition.



## About the Bengal

Loved by those who appreciate their inquisitive and loving nature, Bengal cats are a medium to large cat renowned for its richly coloured, highly contrasted coat of vivid spots or distinctive marbling. Originally developed from crosses between the domestic cats and the Asian Leopard Cat, the Bengal is the only domestic cat that can have rosettes like the markings on Leopards, Jaguars and Ocelots. Today's domestic Bengal cat comes only from breeding Bengals to other Bengals and requires no specialized care.

Bengals are generally confident, curious and devoted companions. They get along well with other pets when properly introduced and enjoy being part of a family. Each Bengal is an individual and those interested should find out as much as they can about this wonderful breed before adding one to their family.

## Activity Level

While extremely active, Bengal cats are also very affectionate and can be a "lap cat" whenever they choose. However, in general, their idea of fun is playing, chasing, climbing and investigating. They tend to save their cuddle time for when they want to sleep.

Constantly on the move, Bengals love climbing to high places. They can be trained to do many simple tricks with either food treats or clicker training, such as walking on a harness and leash and playing fetch with their families.

It is important that they aren't left home alone for long periods of time. They do best with another cat or a small dog to keep them company.

*Contributed by the International Cat Association*

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