

Puppy Love

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The Sting!

We all welcome the glorious signs that spring has arrived: warm sunshine, blooming flowers, and the return of our gentle, winged friends. It is Mother Nature at her best. But, as spring days turn into summer days we are inevitably going to have encounters with bees, wasps and other stinging insects that come with the seasons of warm weather.

Insect stings are always painful and in some cases they can produce an allergic reaction to add to the misery of the experience. Allergic reactions to insect stings are just as common in dogs as they are in people and can occur in dogs of any age, breed or gender.

Mild reactions include fever, sluggishness and loss of appetite and the symptoms usually dissipate without medical intervention.

Urticaria is a moderate vascular reaction to a sting that causes hives or welts, and angioedema is rapid swelling of the face, especially the muzzle and around the eyes. Sometimes the swelling is so severe a dog cannot open their eyes. The area is usually extremely itchy.

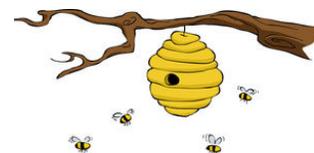
The most severe reaction is anaphylaxis, a sudden allergic response that produces breathing difficulties leading to airway obstruction, seizures and cardiovascular collapse. Symptoms usually occur within minutes following the insect sting and proceed rapidly. This reaction is life-threatening and needs medical intervention immediately.

Unfortunately, there is no way to predict if a dog is allergic to insect stings. If your doxie does have an allergic reaction to a sting discuss it with your veterinarian, as each sting occurrence is more severe than the previous one. Your vet may recommend you keep an antihistamine such as Benadryl on hand in order to give your doxie immediate treatment for a sting. Be sure to discuss the appropriate dosage with your vet. If your doxie had a swollen face after a sting your vet may recommend you use an epi-pen syringe for immediate treatment.



Sherlock is very loved by his family in Texas.

Diesel Is a Hero



Diesel is being hailed as a brave hero for saving his owner, Katy Nobles, from a stinging swarm of bees while they were walking through a bog. Nobles said, "Bees were in my hair, they were in my shoes. They were in my clothes. They stung my ears. They stung my lips and eyelids." Nobles said Diesel fought through the pain to keep her alive. "When I fell, he would stop and turn and get in my face and he couldn't do anything but he would sort of lick me," she said. "All that was on mind was, 'follow the puppy,'" Diesel led Nobles out of the bog to seek human help that led to a successful recovery. Diesel was stung almost 100 times and spent several days in the hospital where he received two blood transfusions. He survived and is doing great.

Plympton, Massachusetts, WHDH, channel 7 news