

Puppy Love

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Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

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Oh, So Pretty Until...

The mom of two Golden retrievers reports she gets poison ivy from her dogs every year, she has her physician on speed dial and is accustomed to getting her customary prescription of the steroid prednisone filled by a simple phone call. However, after moving, her new physician was not so congenial, her appointment was scheduled a week after her initial call. She suffered with one of the worst cases she can remember. By the time she saw the doctor her left eye was swollen shut, her lips were puffy and ooze was seeping around her mouth. It took a few weeks for her skin to clear up and she has some scarring left from this poison ivy episode. But she is now on speed dial with her new physician...



Cubby is home in Virginia being cherished and adored by her new family.



Awe, So Sweet

Happy moved to San Jose, California with his very loving and attentive pet-parent. Both were eager to explore their new home and went for their first off-leash romp in the local state park. Happy came back to check in periodically with his pet-parent and positioned himself between his bare legs to get his typical "I love you" pet. So SWEET! Until... about 24 hours later his pet-parent developed a horrible rash from his calf to his crotch.



MYTHS

*Poison ivy is contagious. Not true. Contact with urushiol oil is the only transmitter. The oil is found in poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac.

*Leaves of three. Mostly true, but poison sumac actually has 7-13 leaves.

*Do not worry about dead plants. Big mistake. All parts of the plant are lethal. This includes leaves, roots and flowers, even if they are dead.

*Forest fires, direct burning, lawnmowers and trimmers can cause urushiol to be airborne.

*Urushiol stays potent on any surface for up to five years.

*Breaking blisters releases urushiol that spreads to new areas. Not true. But the open wound can become infected.

*I am immune to poison ivy. Not true. The more frequently you are exposed to urushiol your body actually weakens its defense against urushiol.



What About Dogs?

Yes, dogs can get poison ivy! Dachshunds are more vulnerable when exposed to urushiol oil because of their short legs and bare tummy. Eating urushiol can be fatal if a dog has an allergic reaction and goes into anaphylactic shock ~ stops breathing. This is a medical emergency!



Urushiol Oil is potent, a speck the size of the head of a pin can cause a severe reaction to the poison. Dogs can walk or romp by a urushiol leaf and get residue of the poison on their coat. All people have to do is brush against the poison on their dog's coat... you can imagine the rest. The best advice for people and dogs is to take a shower using Dawn dish soap immediately following exposure.