

## 14

Not all dog food is what it seems.
Dr. Pete explains how to read a label


## LONG LIVE OUR DOGS!

Through love and adventure, we are committed to paying our best friends back for their limitless spirit, fearlessness and unwavering loyalty.

IN THE WINTER OF 1925, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, WITNESSED AN INCREDIBLE TALE OF BRAVERY AND DETERMINATION. As a menacing diphtheria outbreak threatened the lives of Nome's residents, a Siberian Husky named Balto emerged as a beacon of hope. Leading a team of sled dogs through treacherous terrain and blizzard conditions, Balto fearlessly carried life-saving serum to the isolated town. His indomitable spirit etched his name in history as a symbol of bravery, captivating the hearts of people around the world.
Fast forward to present-day Minneapolis, Minnesota, on a bitterly cold winter night. In a quiet suburban neighborhood, an ordinary domestic scene quickly turned into a harrowing ordeal. A raging house fire engulfed the premises, trapping its inhabitants inside. Amidst the chaos and billowing smoke, a loyal and quick-thinking Golden Retriever named Charlie sprang into action.


With flames licking at his paws, Charlie fearlessly maneuvered through the blazing rooms, barking and pawing at doors to alert his sleeping owners. In a desperate bid for survival, he guided them through the smoke-filled corridors to the nearest exit, their lives hanging in the balance.
As fire trucks arrived on the scene, their sirens piercing the frigid night air, the family emerged from the burning house, their faces etched with gratitude

> IN THE GRAND TAPESTRY OF SHARED ADVENTURES WITH DOGS, WE DISCOVER NOT ONLY THE WORLD BUT ALSO OURSELVES.
and relief. Charlie's unwavering loyalty and bravery had saved the day, standing as a testament to the incredible bond between dogs and humans.
These stories of Balto and Charlie both dramatically exemplify the innate courage, loyalty, and unwavering devotion that dogs bring into our lives. And in the grand tapestry of shared adventures with dogs, we discover not only the world but also ourselves. Dogs become our teachers, guiding us towards compassion, patience, and understanding. True adventure lies not in the grandiosity of the experience but in the deep, authentic connections we foster along the way.
That's why \#voyagertails, brought to you by Voyager Dog Food Company, encourages a quest for health and adventure. It recognizes the profound bond we share with our dogs and fuels a lifelong commitment to their well-being. Through caring deeply and responsibly for our canine companions, we embark on a life filled with every kind of adventure, big or small, in the comfort of your couch snuggling up to binge watch your favorite show or in the depths of the great outdoors. Adventure fuels a life worth living and Voyager fuels a healthy dog for a life full of adventures.

ON THE ROAD
Voyager Dog Food Co. hit the road,
spreading health awareness and adventure vibes to dogs and their humans across the country. Join Molly and Sage, her black lab, in your city by checking the calendar at voyagerdogfoodco.com/roadshow

## THE

 DANGERS OFCOPPER IINDOG FOODIt's a fine line, copper in a dogs diet. It's needed, but only when it's the proper type, and that is naturally occurring and not chelated copper What happens when it's chelated copper? Studies show that it can lead to copper storage disease, which can kill your dog. Copper storage disease is a life threatening condition that occurs when copper accumulates in the liver, leading to inflammation, scarring, and damage to the liver cells. How do you manage the disease? A healthy diet that has naturally occurring copper, is high in

Continue on pg. 14 >

## IN THE NEWS

COPPER ASSOCIATED HEPATITIS

Scientists and Veterinarians nationwide continue to fight for our dogs health and longevity by pressing the AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control

Officials, who set the standard for animal feeds and pet foods in the US) to regulate the concentration of copper allowed in our dogs food.



PETE VANVRANKEN, DVM

## HELLO FELLOW DOG LOVERS!

DOGS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART; their loyalty is an unwavering and steadfast presence in our lives through all of its ups and downs, and they expect nothing in return. As a vet, I have the opportunity every day to help animals lead their best lives, and I love every minute of it. It's been, and continues to be, the best type of work as I partner with my clients to solve their pets' health challenges and strive to provide them with long, healthy lives. Every day I am grateful for each moment spent in the company of these incredible creatures.
Another important part of this journey for me? Our dog Cookie. She was a true gem and not a mean bone in her body. Unfortunately, we lost her senselessly to a disease that I discovered is very preventable; copper storage disease. My response to this newly discovered knowledge was a solution - in Cookiés honor. I formulated a dog food to sell to my clients so their dogs could live their best lives. Voyager is everything that most other dog foods are not - a small batch dog food that is fresh, nutritious, and devoid of the harmful effects of chelated copper - the single ingredient in other dog foods that took Cookie from us.
By creating Voyager I can offer my clients, and now every dog owner, a SAFE dog food that they can trust to provide their dogs with the nutrition they deserve. And true to my oath as a vet, I am committed to leaving the industry better than I found it. I will do this by championing our dogs and disrupting a dog food market that can't seem to do the right thing for our loyal companions that rely on it.
Thank you for your continued trust and support. Let's continue to work together to ensure a healthier, happier future for our dogs as they go through life living each adventure to its fullest.
"TRUE TO MY OATH AS A VET, I AM COMMITTED TO LEAVING THE INDUSTRY BETTER THAN I FOUND IT."

## IT'S TIME TO END THE SUFFERING

FROM COPPER STORAGE DISEASE

Copper storage disease is a potentially life threatening condition in dogs caused by an abnormal accumulation of copper in a dogs liver. This leads to progressive damage and scarring. Excessive and prolonged exposure from man made copper in dog food, leads to cirrhosis and as in Dr. Pete's dog Cookies case, death.

## SYMPTOMS

Your dog may display some or all of these symptoms: Lethargy, anorexia, depression, vomiting, jaundice, anemia, dark urine, and blood in urine.

## SOLUTIONS

The best solution is prevention; feeding a dog food that does not contain chelated coppers, copper sulphate or copper proteinate to avoid the accumulation of copper in the liver in the first place. Full recovery from copper-induced hepatopathy is rare. At the very least, your dog will need to follow a strict diet, probably for the rest of it's life. Dogs with severe cases will need long term medication. If your dog is displaying symptoms, consult your veterinarian immediately with your concerns.

## GOOD COPPER

Natural copper is essential to all living organisms as a trace dietary mineral. It can be found in it's natural form in many plant and animal products. Excess natural copper is easily eliminated from the body when not needed

BAD COPPER
Chelated copper, copper sulfate or copper proteinate are manmade and are not easily expelled from the dogs liver. Excessive amounts in a dogs diet over time may become toxic, leading to progressive damage and in some cases death.

## _ - AN ALARMING INCREASE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED in high copper levels found in the livers of dogs

Livers of labrador retrievers
biopsied for copper concentration.

## Before 1997

$25 \%$ had abnormal copper concentrations in their liver Today 50 to 75\%
have abnormal copper concentration in their liver

## The numbers don't lie

Dangerous increase in chronic active hepatitis due to copper storage disease Between 1996 and 2015 there has been an increase of $1660 \%$
of labrador retrievers biopsied with livers containing over 1000ppm of copper

## 1982-1996

1.8\%

1 in every 56 labrador retrievers biopsied had livers with over 1ppm* of copper

## 2009-2015

30\%
30 in every 100 labrador retrievers biopsied had livers with over 1000ppm* of copper


Founder
Dr. Pete VanVranken
Editor in Chief
Content and Business Development LouAnn Berglund

## Brand Creation

 Lee KjosKjos Outdoors
Director of Sales
Molly VanVranken
Director of Operations Ben Dowdy

Layout + Design Jenna Lalley

Publisher
lablab
lablab.co


PRESENTED BY DICKMAN ROAD VETERINARY CLINIC, BATTLE CREEK MICHIGAN

Q2023 lablab
Any form of reproduction of any content in this publication without written permission of lablab or Kjos Outdoors is strictly prohibited.

1975
PETE VANVRANKEN, A VETERINARIAN FIRST AND FOREMOST It all started in a small A-Frame purchased in 1975 that was turned it into a vet clinic. That same clinic currently has over 60 employees including 7 vets, and continues to regularly treat thousands of beloved pets with science and compassionate care.


TABLE OF CONTENTS


# FIELD <br> GUIDE 

BACK COUNTRY OR BACKYARD, HERE'S VOYAGER APPROVED GEAR

Products clockwise from top left "Approach" Dog Pack in Blue Dusk means your pup can carry ALL the snacks. ruffiwear.com. "GripTrex" Dog Boots all terrain paw wear in lichen green. Size per front and back paws for a customized fit. ruffiwear.com. Durable but soft and versatile, designed to tie knots, use hands free or implement a half hitch harness for pups that pull, this leash does it all. wolffrepublic.com. Show your adventurous spirit as you conque trails and your local dog park. Named after two tail wagging

Voyager dogs "Duke" and "Bandit" these Tees will inspire your playful nature as soon as you put them n. All Voyager Dog Food Co. Merchandise available at trade shows. Check website for details. oyagerdogfoodco.com. "Monkey ball rope" made from $00 \%$ azo-free non-toxic dyes and perfect for training, tossing and tugging. wolifrepublic.com. Waterproof, airtight and pest and rodent proof - this food crate doesn't mess around as it seals in odors and safely stores dry foods. down smaller size in gutal.

Gunner.com. Next generation no subscription, no cell coverage needed, waterproof GPS pet tracker for up to 3 pets. If you board your dog during the day also keeps a history of locations and walks. Just attach to their collar. getfindster.com. "Swamp cooler" cooling dog vest in sage green keeps you both outside on the hottest days. ruffwear.com. Start your campsite morning with your adventure dog with a fire, percolater and a cup of joe that gives back. Grounds and Hounds gis
$20 \%$ of their profits to support animal rescue organizations. Groundsandhounds.com. ercolator will last a lifetime fmorning mountain coffes. moming mountaincofees. mis "rion. Small but powerful his "crap carri your leash and carries full bags until you hit a trash receptacle. wilderdog.com. Named after Voyager's shop dog "Sage" this hoodie is as cozy and snuggly as the pup it is named after. All Voyager Dog Food Co. Merchandise available at
trade shows. Check website for details. Voyagerdogfoodco.com. Buoyant, secure and reflective, this "float coat" life jacket keeps your bff safe. ruffwear.com. Quick drying technical fleece jacket with adjustable elastic hind leg loops and webbed waist strap for a comfy fit. Shown in berry. Wilderdog.com. Soft, durable webbing for comfort and separate links for leash and tags keep things safe on this "Flat Out" dog collar in Fall Mountains design. ruffiwear.com.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

## 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN CAMPING WITH YOUR DOG

FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE CAMPING WITH YOUR OUTDOOR COMPANION


Make sure your dog
is up-to-date on vaccinations: Before going camping, ensure that your dog is vaccinated against diseases like rabies, leptospirosis, and Lyme disease. Also, bring copies of your dog's vaccination records with you on the trip.

Keep your dog on a leash: While it may be tempting to let your dog roam free, it's important to keep them on a leash at all times. This will prevent them from running off, getting lost, or getting into dangerous situations with other animals.

Keep a close eye on your dog's feet and coat for cuts, ticks, burrs, and other potential hazards. Regularly inspect their paws and fur after outdoor adventures. Swiftly remove any ticks to prevent tick-borne diseases, and promptly treat any cuts to avoid infections. Brushing your dog's coat at the end of a day in the woods can help spot anything needing attention.

Be mindful of the weather: Dogs are sensitive to extreme weather conditions, so it's important to monitor the temperature and adjust your plans accordingly. Bring a dog-friendly tent or shelter for your dog to rest in during the day.

Clean up after your dog: Always pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly. Not only is it unsightly, but it's also harmful to the environment and can attract other animals to your campsite.

## FROM WOLF TO WOOF:

THE VOYAGE FROM THE WILD TO OUR HEARTS, TRAVERSING 45,000 YEARS OF HOW DOGS ENDED UP IN OUR BEDS.


CASTAWAY WOLVES FIND COMFORT IN CLOSE HUMAN CONTACT

## 15,000-40,000 years ago

DOGS BECOME HUMANITY'S FIRST DOMESTIC ANIMAL in the late Stone Age before the Agricultural Revolution, human hunter/gatherers formed a symbiotic partnership with the direct descendants of one of their oldest rivals.

## 8,000 years ago

THE BASENJI ARRIVES
the original dog that had diverged from a common ancestor with the gray wolf had gone extinct. Around that time, the basenji emerged as the first and oldest modern dog species. Smart and independent, the so-called African "barkless dog" is still recognized by the American Kennel Club today.



## 6,000

 years ago DOGS GO URBANThe first large-scale civilizations arrived with the Sumerians in Mesopotamia around 4000
B.C. and by this point, wherever people went, dogs went, too.


1866

## 5,300 years ago

 During the Agricultural Revolution, upon settling down on farms, humans bred dogs with characteristics favorable to specific agricultural tasks like herding livestock, protecting chickens, pigs, and other farm animals; finding any lost farm animals.

DOGS GET LEASHES AND COLLARS
The early Mesopotamians urbanized dogs, and city dogs need leashes and collars.

## THE ASPCA

 IS FORMEDIn 1866, an American diplomat named Henry Bergh resigned his government post and dedicated his life to advocating for the welfare of animals.


## 1899

DOGS JOIN THE FORCE
Police officials in Ghent, Belgium, began formally training canines for work alongside law enforcement officers. It was the genesis of the modern K-9 cop.

he AKC was established with the mission to maintain breed standards, promote responsible dog ownership, and organize and oversee dog shows and competitions.


## SAFE HAVEN

## FOSTERING A DOG... WHO'S REALLY HELPING WHO?



FOSTERING A DOG IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIFE OF AN ANIMAL IN NEED. But it's not just the dog that benefits - fostering can also bring joy and fulfillment to the person or family providing a temporary home.

FOR THE DOG, FOSTERING MEANS THEY GET TO experience the love and attention of a caring HUMAN OR FAMILY. They get to learn new skills and behaviors, get exercise and socialization, and live in a safe and comfortable environment while they wait for their forever home. In some cases, fostering can even save their life - many dogs are euthanized in overcrowded shelters because they don't have a place to go

BUT FOSTERING DOESN'T JUST BENEFIT THE DOG - IT CAN ALSO BRING A LOT OF JOY TO THE PERSON OR FAMILY PROVIDING THE HOME. Fostering is a great way to get to know different types of dogs and learn about their individual personalities and quirks. It can be especially rewarding for families with children, who get to learn about responsibility and empathy while also having a furry companion to play with.
fostering can also be a great way to ease into PET OWNERSHIP. It allows people to see if they're ready for the long-term commitment of having a pet without making a permanent decision. It provides a unique opportunity to understand the responsibilities and care that come with owning a dog, helping individuals or families determine if they are truly ready to take on the ifelong commitment.

ANOTHER LIFE CHANGING BENEFITS IS WITNESSING THE TRANSFORMATION OF A SCARED OR TRAUMATIZED DOG INTO A HAPPY AND CONFIDENT COMPANION. As the dog adjusts to their temporary home, they learn to trust and feel secure, which boosts their overall well-being. It is incredibly fulfilling to see the dog's progress and know that you played a vital role in their journey towards not only finding a forever home, but experiencing the joy that any dog deserves to feel in their life.

## FOSTERING ALSO ALLOWS DOGS TO RECEIVE

 INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND CARE, which is sometimes challenging in busy shelters. By providing a nurturing environment, foster parents can address any medical or behavioral issues, ensuring that the dog is healthy and well-prepared for adoption. This personalized care significantly increases their chances of finding a loving permanent home.FOSTERING IS CONTAGIOUS AND CREATES A RIPPLE EFFECT OF KINDNESS AND COMPASSION. As you open your home to a foster dog, you inspire others to do the same. By sharing your experience and encouraging others to foster, you contribute to the larger movement of saving and improving the lives of countless dogs in need. Together, foster families create a supportive network that shares knowledge, resources, and support, making a significant impact on the animal welfare community.

## UNLEASHING EMPATHY

Caring for another living being is the best way to teach empathy. Through their interactions with dogs, children learn to understand and respond to the emotions and needs of others, fostering compassion and empathy - many times putting the dogs needs above their own.



## TOP FIVE

THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOU RESCUE

Consider these factors when adopting a rescue dog.
Consulting with a veterinarian during the process will provide
further guidance and help ensure a smooth transition for both you and your new furry family member

## 1.

Health Evaluation
Ensure the rescue dog has received a comprehensive health evaluation by a veterinarian.

This includes a physical examination, vaccinations, testing for common diseases, and screening for parasites like fleas, ticks, and worms.

## 2.

## Behavior Assessment

Assess the dog's behavior and temperament. Observe their interactions with people and other animals to determine their compatibility or potential challenges with your household.

## 3.

## Medical History

Obtain the dog's medical history from the rescue organization or previous owner. It should include information about past illnesses, injuries, surgeries, and ongoing medical conditions. This knowledge will help you understand the dog's healthcare needs and potential future treatments.

## 4.

## Spay/Neuter Status

Ensure the dog has been spayed or neutered, or confirm that arrangements will be made for the procedure shortly after adoption. Spaying or neutering not only prevents unwanted litters but also offers health benefits and can educe certain behavioral issues.

## 5.

## Vaccination and

Preventative Care
Confirm that the dog has received core vaccinations, such as rabies, distemper, and parvovirus. Inquire about preventative care measures
taken, including heartworm prevention, flea and tick control, and regular deworming.


## before you foster

## KEEP THESE SIX THINGS IN MIND AND, YOU ARE READY TO PROVIDE A LOVING AND SUPPORTIVE TEMPORARY HOME FOR A FOSTER DOG IN NEED.

Time and Commitment Fostering a dog requires a significant amount of time, attention, and dedication. Ensure that you have the availability to provide proper care and meet their needs.

Patience and Flexibility Dogs coming from difficult situations may require extra patience and understanding. Be prepared to work through any behavioral issues or trauma they may have experienced.

Resources and Finances
Fostering a dog comes with expenses such as food, supplies, and potential veterinary care. Make sure you have the necessary resources and financial stability to provide for their well-being

## (4) Home Environment

Assess your living situation to ensure it is suitable for a foster dog. Consider factors such as space, yard size, and compatibility with any existing pets or family members.

## 5 Emotional Preparedness

Fostering can be both rewarding and emotionally challenging. Prepare yourself for the possibility of forming strong bonds with the dog and the potential sadness of saying goodbye when they find their forever home.

6 Clear Communication Understand the expectations and requirements set by the rescue organization or shelter you'll be fostering through. Clarify responsibilities, procedures, and any specific guidelines to ensure a smooth fostering experience.


## RESCUE ROUND-UP

## BAXTER

Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively are not only known for their successful careers in Hollywood but also for their passion for animal advocacy. They have fostered multiple dogs, including Baxter, a charming mixed breed, and regularly use their celebrity clout to promote the importance of fostering and adopting shelter pets.

## DELTA

Grammy-winning country singer Miranda Lambert is known for her love of animals and has fostered several dogs over the
years. She recently
fostered a lovable
Labrador mix named Delta, providing her with a safe and nurturing environment until she found her forever home.

VOYAGER SUPPORTS THOSE SUPPORTING OUR DOGS

MATTY'S HEART AND SOUL ANIMAL RESCUE

Located in the heart of Minneapolis, Matty's plays a crucial role in providing a second chance for dogs in need. Rescue Director, Lisa McAlister says "It humbles me daily, the hardships these dogs have endured, including abandonment, neglect, and abuse. And yet they continue to show us their incredible capacity to love unconditionally. We all can learn from dogs." The rescue saves hundreds of lives annually through thei unwavering dedication to rescuing, rehabilitating, and re-homing dogs to brighter futures. Even if adoption or fostering is not an option,
there are various ways to support Matty's or your own local rescue organization. Donating funds, supplies, or volunteering time to support foster families at adoption events can make a tangible difference. Financial support also helps cover medical expenses, provide essential care, and support outreach programs for animal welfare. People may not realize it, but rescue groups also play a vital role in addressing pet overpopulation through spay/neuter initiatives, community education, and promoting responsible pet ownership.
mattysheartandsoulanimalrescue.rescuegroups.org info.mattysheartandsoul@gmail.com


MARL: A DIFFERENT BREED OF SHELTER

Since its establishment in 1953, The Michigan Anima Rescue League (MARL) has offering a lifeline to animals in need. With an unwavering commitment to providing life-saving care, MARL touches the lives of over 1,500 animals each year through a range of exceptional programs and services to benefit the animals and the homes they go to. One thing that sets MARL apart, is their deep understanding that "the quality of the wait" profoundly impacts an animal's future, MARL's dedicated staff and over 200 compassionate volunteers work tirelessly. Their focus is on providing specialized care to help dogs and cats become physically, mentally, and emotionally ready for adoption, ensuring a successful transition for both the animals and their adoptive families.

Beyond their remarkable shelter efforts, MARL extends their compassion to the community Through a proactive community outreach program, MARL provides vital support to low-income households by offering food supplies, and even no-cost medical care for their beloved pets. It's heartfelt endeavor to keep dogs and cats in loving homes, spearheaded by Magee Humes, the Executive Director of MARL, and her devoted team.
To learn more about MARL and become part of their inspiring journey, visit MARL.org. Engage with their social media accounts on Instagram (mar_league), Facebook (marleague), and TikTok (@mi_animalrescueleague) o stay connected and witness the heartwarming stories they share daily.



DO DOGS REALLY LOVE TO BE PET? Studies have shown that dogs are incredibly social creatures that crave interaction with humans. Dogs have evolved to form strong bonds with their human companions, often displaying signs of separation anxiety when left alone for extended periods. This bond is believed to be rooted in the release of oxytocin, a hormone associated with social bonding, during interactions between dogs and humans.

DO DOGS FEEL ALL THE EMOTIONS? Just like humans, dogs are capable of experiencing a range of emotions, including happiness, fear, anxiety, and even jealousy. Studies have shown that dogs can recognize emotions in human facial expressions and vocal tones, and respond accordingly For example, dogs have been shown to wag their tails more to the right when happy and to the left when anxious or frightened.

DO DOGS COCK THEIR HEAD WHEN YOU TALK BECAUSE THEY'RE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND YOU?
When dogs hear a sound that interests them, they may tilt their head to better locate the source of the sound. But when dogs tilt their head while their owner is talking to them, it's likely because they're trying to understand what their owner is saying. Studies have shown that dogs are capable of understanding many words and phrases, and may tilt their head in an attempt to better comprehend what their owner is saying.
dOGS BRING YOU A TOY WHEN YOU COME HOME BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PLAY
Dogs are social creatures that crave interaction and attention from their human companions. When you come home, your dog may bring you a toy as a way to initiate playtime and engage with you. This behavior is a sign of your dog's affection and eagerness to spend time with you.

DOGS LICK THEIR OWNERS AS A SIGN OF AFFECTION AND RESPECT.
Dogs communicate in a variety of ways, and one of the ways they show affection is by licking their owners. When dogs lick their owners, it's a sign of submission and respect, as well as a way to express their love and affection. Dogs also use licking as a way to groom themselves and others, so it's a natural behavior for them

DOGS ARE NATURAL PACK ANIMALS, AND THEIR INSTINCTS DRIVE THEM TO FORM CLOSE BONDS WITH THEIR HUMAN FAMILIES. In their eyes, their family unit becomes their pack. Dogs perceive their human family members as their leaders and rely on them for guidance, protection, and social interaction. They seek comfort, security, and a sense of belonging within their family pack. This strong pack mentality explains why dogs are often loyal, protective, and eager to please their human "pack members."

DOGS THRIVE ON ROUTINES AND FIND COMFORT IN PREDICTABILITY. They quickly adapt to daily routines established by their owners, which help create a sense of stability and security for them. Dogs appreciate consistency in their feeding schedules, exercise routines, playtime, and sleep patterns. Routines provide dogs with a sense of order and structure in their lives, reducing anxiety and promoting a calm and balanced state of mind. Establishing and maintaining consistent routines can contribute to a well-adjusted and contented dog.

Tug of war awakens a primal joy within dogs. It taps into their natural instincts, satisfying their need for mental stimulation, physical exertion, playful bonding time with one of their pack.


# UNLOCKING THE CRATE TRAINING CODE: 

PATIENCE AND POSITIVITY FOR A HAPPIER DOG

By Molly VanVranken

## Introducing the Crate with Positivity and Patience

When crate training your dog, it's crucial to create a positive association with the crate from the start. Place the crate in a quiet and comfortable area of your home and make it inviting with cozy bedding and a favorite toy. Use treats or their meals to lure them inside, and praise them lavishly when they enter. Allow them to explore at their own pace and avoid forcing them into the crate. Patience is key during this process, as some dogs may take longer to feel comfortable.

## Gradual Crate Training for Success

To ensure your dog embraces the crate as a safe space, it's essential to introduce crate training gradually. Begin by leaving the crate door open and encouraging your dog to explore and enter voluntarily. Reward them with treats, verbal praise, and affection when they willingly go inside. Once they are comfortable, gradually close the door for short periods while you're present, increasing the duration gradually. This gradual approach helps build their confidence and trust in the crate.

## Establishing a

## Consistent Routine

Consistency is vital in crate training. Set a routine for your dog's crate time, including regular meal times, potty breaks, and exercise sessions. This routine helps your dog understand what is expected of them and promotes a sense of security. Consistency also applies to crate training sessions - aim for daily short sessions to reinforce positive behavior and maintain familiarity with the crate.


CRATE TRAINING TAKES TIME AND PATIENCE. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WTLL PROGRESS AT THEIR OWN PACE.

## Use Positive Reinforcement and Motivators

Positive reinforcement is a powerful tool in crate training. Verbal praise, treats, and affection are effective ways to reward your dog for desired behavior. When they enter the crate willingly, use an excited tone to praise them and offer a treat as a reward. Additionally, identify what motivates your dog beyond treats. Some dogs may respond better to playtime, a favorite toy, or a belly rub. Experiment with different motivators to find what truly excites and encourages your pup.

## Avoid Using the Crate

for Punishment
To maintain a positive association with the crate, never use it as a form of punishment. The crate should be seen as a safe haven, not a place of confinement or reprimand. Using the crate for punishment can lead to anxiety and resistance towards crate training. Instead, focus on positive reinforcement and creating a safe environment within the crate.

## Gradual Increase

in Crate Time
As your dog becomes more comfortable with the crate, you can gradually increase the duration of time they spend inside. Start with short intervals and gradually extend the time as they adjust. Ensure they have engaging toys or chew treats to keep them occupied during longer crate periods. Remember to always provide potty breaks, exercise, and mental stimulation outside of the crate to balance their time spent inside.

## Patience and

Persistence Pay Off
Crate training takes time and patience. Every dog is unique and will progress at their own pace. Some may embrace the crate quickly, while others may require more time and encouragement. Be patient, consistent, and persistent in your training efforts. Celebrate even small victories along the way, as each step forward brings you closer to a well-adjusted and happy dog.

# DISCLAIMER <br> THERE WERE NO FLEAS INJURED IN THE FILMING OF THIS COMMERCIAL. 

JUST BECAUSE FLEA AND TICK MEDICINES ARE ADVERTISED, DOESN'T MEAN THEY WORK FOR A DAMN.

By Dr. Pete VanVranken

Being on a television commercial, Instagram ad or having top placement in your local pet store doesn't mean a medication works. Something is effective if it produces the desired results, which can vary greatly in the case of flea and tick medications, let me explain. About fifty years ago, we made the decision to try to eradicate fleas. To do this, we used pyrethrin, a pesticide derived from chrysanthemums. That worked pretty well at first, but then it stopped working. Then we created a synthetic pyrethrin called permethrin, which initially performed well until it didn't. Then we tried a chlorinated hydrocarbon, which was effective for a while before it failed as well. Then we switched to organic phosphates, which performed admirably for a while but are actually quite deadly. Then there is Revolution, a topical macrolide that initially worked well before failing. This takes us to the two nonsystemic chemicals that are currently most in demand: Frontline (and other fipronil based generics), which is also used in agriculture, and Advantage (and other imidacloprid based generics), which is frequently used to eliminate grubs and other pests in lawns. And as you might expect given how frequently they are utilized, both of these highly publicized solutions are no longer very efficient. Let's dig deeper.

What has happened in our yearly battle to eradicate fleas and ticks and safeguard our pets is that through consistent use of the same products year after year, we have killed many of the insects, but the few that manage to evade our barrage of chemicals have grown stronger and resistant, or as I like to say "tolerant" to them. And yes, the chemical may kill them, but it can take days, so by the time the pesky insects die, they will have consumed food and reproduced, creating more insects that are even more tolerant to the drugs that were being used - thus the vicious cycle continues. That said, they continue to make more drugs and lucky for us, there are several recent medications, like Credelio, Nexgard, Simparica, and Bravecto, for which tolerances have not yet developed. Also, one of the best qualities of these new drugs is that they kill things rapidly which is crucial because as I indicated, these suckers multiply quickly. Now, the problem isn't the medications themselves, it's that all of these worthless medications are still being widely promoted in advertising as the top flea and tick treatment in the US. So, that is what gets picked up an used on a grand scale with the understanding that it's going to work everywhere. Which is simply not true.

People could assume that I don't support flea and tick prevention because this seems so gloom and doom. Not at all true. I am, however, a pretty black and white guy, and for me to be true to my promise as a vet, I think it's crucial for folks to understand that sometimes just supplying the most well-liked box of pills they've seen on TV or Instagram isn't the quick solution to their dogs protection and health. What should they do? People should trust their veterinarian and heed their recommendations since they are knowledgeable about what is beneficial in their area, which medications have worked, which ones have tolerances, and which ones are probably not going to do a damn thing. We as vets make it our business to be aware of what everyone is doing, what works, what doesn't, and which magic tricks we can pull out of a hat if necessary. People aren't thinking about tick tolerances, but we as vets make it our businesses to know just that and so we are thinking about this stuff all the time. As I like to tell my clients, you don't need to treat the treatable, if you properly prevent the preventable. Moral of the story? Trust your veterinarian to help you prevent the preventable.
*Opinions based on data collected in pilot and pivotal FDA flea and tick studies conducted over a ten-year period at Dr. Pete's Dickman Road Veterinary Clinic in Battle Creek, Michigan


## "ROVER HATES PILLS, AND I HATE GIVING PILLS TO ROVER"

Without a doubt, giving dogs pills is no picnic. If you prefer not to give your dog pills, there are topical drugs available, but before making that decision, it's good to be educated on why one versus the other. In the case of topical medications, most have limited effectiveness (outside of Bravecto topical Revolution plus and Advantage Multi), this is due to the fact that they don't reach all parts of your dogs body. When you apply a topical, the drug only stays in the skin's oils, making it less effective

- Topicals are limited in their effectiveness as they don't distribute throughout the entire body.
- Pills are systemic and provide comprehensive protection against fleas and ticks in all areas of the dog's body.
- Topical applications may lose efficacy if the dog swims or rolls in the dirt, resulting in reduced protection.
- Veterinarians play a crucial role in advising pet owners on the most suitable choices for protecting their dogs.


## BONUS TIP:

## It's important to do so safely and carefully to avoid leaving any parts of the tick behind that can cause an infection. Here's what to do:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick, as this can cause the mouth parts to break off and remain in your dog's skin.
3. If any parts of the tick remain in your dog's skin, use the tweezers to remove them.
4. After removing the tick, clean the bite area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
5. Dispose of the tick by placing it in alcohol, flushing it down the toilet, or placing it in a sealed bag or container.

It's important to monitor your dog for any signs of illness or infection following a tick bite, such as fever, lethargy, or loss of appetite.
If you notice any concerning symptoms, seek veterinary attention.

## 4 DID YOU KNOW

Ticks can't see and rely on sensing
$\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ to locate their hosts.


## WONDER HOW A TICK WORKS?

A tick sucks blood out of its host and then it commingles the blood in its salivary glands where it stores the lyme bacteria; Boriella. It then regurgitates it back into the dog because it's putting a topical anesthetic in there so the dog doesn't know what's going on. It also puts a blood thinner in there so it can get it back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, undetected as it's sucking all this blood out. The dog doesn't even know what's happening because they can't feel it.


> WONDER HOW A FLEA WORKS?

These tiny creatures, barely visible to the naked eye, start as eggs laid within the dog's fur, they quickly hatch into larvae that seek refuge in the environment. After a period of development, they transform into pupae, where they undergo metamorphosis. Once emerged as adult fleas, they feed on your dog's blood, causing discomfort and potential health issues. Controlling fleas is crucial, as they can transmit diseases and trigger allergies. Regular preventive measures, such as flea treatments and environmental cleanliness, are essential to ensure the well-being of both your
dog and your household.

> HOW TO COMBAT DOG ALLERGIES

## A clue...it starts with the food

As a veterinarian, I have witnessed countless dogs suffering from allergies and their distressing symptoms, which is why a hydrolyzed diet was imperative when I was creating the formulas for Voyager Dog Food to ensure that every dog's nutritional need was met, regardless of their sensitivities.

## Understanding Dog Allergies:

Dog allergies can manifest in various forms, including "ears and rears", skin irritations, excessive scratching, gastrointestinal upset, respiratory issues, soft stools intermittent vomiting, and hot spots. These allergies can stem from environmental factors such as pollen and dust mites, as well as specific food proteins commonly found in most commercial dog food. Identifying and managing these allergies is crucial to improving our canine companions' quality of life.

## The Role of a Hydrolyzed Diet:

A valuable tool in combating dog allergies and food sensitivities, these diets are carefully formulated to break down proteins into smaller, more digestible fragments. By doing so, they minimize the allergenic potential of the proteins, reducing the likelihood of an allergic response in sensitive dogs. Parents who feed formula to their babies are feeding them a hydrolyzed diet, as the milk proteins are treated in the same way for the formulas. In both cases, proteins are broken down into smaller components through a process known as hydrolysis.

## Hydrolysis: The Science Behind It:

Hydrolysis involves using enzymes to cleave protein molecules into smaller fragments called peptides. These peptides are much less recognizable to the immune system, significantly reducing the likelihood of an allergic response. Think of it as breaking down complex protein structures into simpler forms.

## Benefits of Voyager Dog Food's Hydrolyzed Diet:

There are several benefits to the Voyager Hydrolyzed diet beyond alleviating allergies. Their hypoallergenic nature makes them ideal for dogs with sensitive digestive systems, reducing the occurrence of gastrointestinal issues. Furthermore, the diet contains essential nutrients, ensuring dogs receive clean and complete nourishment while minimizing the risk of adverse reactions. It was important to me to add the hydrolyzed to round out Voyagers offering and ensure that every dog can have a clean and complete diet for health and long life.


## C. CARE FOR YOUR DOG THE DR. PETE WAY

## DR. PETE'S DOG USER MANUAL

Ready to bring home your new best friend, but not sure how to prepare? Click on the QR code to download the essential dog user manual. Get all the information you need to know to provide a safe and loving home for your new family member.

## DR. PETE'S FIRST AID HANDBOOK

Looking for a comprehensive first aid guidebook for your furry friend? Visit our website for the ultimate resource created by Dr. Pete. Be prepared for any emergency and ensure your pet's safety and well-being. voyagerdogfoodco.com


DR. PETE
DEBUNKS DOG FOOD

MY DOG FOOD HAS BLUEBERRIES
Interestingly, in order to state that dog food has
blueberries in it, it need only contain a single blueberry per an entire bag. If you are looking to add a few blueberries (or other healthy fresh ingredients) to your dogs diet, instead of paying for one per bag, buy a container and feed a few to him as a treat.

DE-BONED CHICKEN IS ALL THE GOOD STUFF taken off and put in MY DOGS FOOD
Mechanically deboned meat (MSM) is often misunderstood in the pet food manufacturing industry. It is produced by pushing pureed chicken through a sieve to separate bone from meat tissue, resulting in a paste-like product. This puree includes bone, marrow, skin, nerves, blood vessels, and meat scraps from the bones, containing primarily non-meat tissues with minimal muscle tissue and protein content Some may colloquially call it "white slime."

## DOGS NEED COPPER IN THEIR DIETS

This is true, it's an essential trace mineral, but they need natural coppers from plant and animal products that can be expelled from the liver. Most dog foods contain man-made chelated copper (copper sulfate or copper proteinate) which cannot be expelled from the liver as fast as it's being put in. Excessive amounts can store in the liver and become toxic leading to progressive damage and death.

RAW, HOMEMADE, VEGETARIAN IS GOOD FOR ME, IT MUST BE BETTER FOR MY DOG TOO

The popularity of unconventional diets like raw, homemade, vegetarian and boutique pet foods has led to a rise in nutritional deficiencies and associated health risks. Despite the competitive pet food industry, marketing hype often neglects nutritional science, leaving pet owners unaware of potential longterm deficiencies or toxicities that can result in diseases like Copper Storage Disease or Dilated Cardiomyopathy. To ensure your pet's health, it is crucial to opt for a safe and complete nutritional dog food, like Voyager (and watch the treats).

## CORN IN DOG FOOD IS BAD

Most pet food allergies are protein-related, with only a small percentage of dogs having grain allergies, including corn. For the majority of dogs, corn is a nutritious ingredient found in quality pet foods, providing essential nutrients and antioxidants. Grains, including corn, are beneficial components in a pet's diet.

## HOW TO SPOT MAN-MADE COPPER IN A DOG FOOD LABEL

Your dog needs natural (from whole foods), not potentially deadly man-made coppers in their diet, here is what to look out for as you shop the shelves. Stay away from toxic coppers such as chelated copper, copper sulfate and copper proteinate.


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
COPPER STORAGE DISEASE
zinc, which can help reduce the amount of copper that accumulates in the liver. However, not all dog foods are created equal, which is where Voyager Dog Food Company comes in. Created by longtime veterinarian Pete VanVranken, Voyager is a patented clean and complete formula originally designed for dogs suffering from copper storage disease after Dr. Pete's dog Cookie died from the condition. Each recipe is crafted with the appropriate balance of nutrition including the necessary zinc, and naturally occurring copper. Voyager provides complete nutrition and helps manage the condition while preventing liver damage. All Voyager diets not only care for dogs diagnosed with copper storage disease, but fed to all dogs in the household helps to ensure everyone stays their healthiest and happiest. If you suspect your dog may have copper storage disease or if your dog has been diagnosed with the condition it's important to work closely with your veterinarian to continue to manage their condition carefully.



## THE ABC'S OF TREATS

instantly delicious

APPLES: They are low in calories, high in fiber, and provide vitamins A and C. Just be sure to remove the seeds and core.

BANANAS: A good source of potassium, fiber, and vitamins B6 and C , and they also make a great frozen treat on hot days.

CARROTS: Crunchy and nutritious, carrots are high in fiber, betacarotene, and vitamins A and K . They can also help clean with a healthy smile and fresher breath.

"Dogs love adventures just as much as we do, the most important thing to remember is to maintain their safety, so the adventuring can continue for a lifetime."
-dr. pete vanvranken


Want to bring your dachshund on a hike? He'll love it! A few things to think about : bring enough water and food for them, take frequent breaks, and monitor their energy levels. Picking them up or putting them in a pack to break up the duration is always a good way to get a long hike in where everyone is happy.


Don't forget the city dogs. They like adventure, too.

A great way to take your dog on an urban adventure is to travel in a backpack
To keep them safe, make sure you choose the right size backpack that will hold their weight, this also means testing the straps to ensure they won't tear from the fabric. Pay attention to your dog's comfort level and body language, to ensure arms and legs are in a comfortable position to keep injuries at bay
$\qquad$


## BEST FREE DOG FRIENDLY ADVENTURE SPOTS

(1) CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY With its sprawling green spaces, scenic walking trails, and dog-friendly amenities, Central Park is a haven for dogs and their owners. Enjoy off-leash hours, designated dog runs, and picturesque landscapes.
2) CANNON BEACH, OREGON

Nestled along the stunning Oregon coast, Cannon Beach offers miles of sandy shoreline where dogs can frolic and play. Explore the iconic Haystack Rock and enjoy pet-friendly accommodations and restaurants in this charming coastal town.
(3) GRIFFITH PARK, LOS ANGELES Boasting over 4,300 acres of natural beauty, Griffith Park provides ample space for dogs to roam and explore. From hiking trails to picnic areas, there's something for every pup. Don't miss the famous Griffith Observatory and stunning city views.
(4) MONTROSE DOG BEACH, CHICAGO Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Montrose Dog Beach is a paradise for water-loving canines. This designated dog-friendly beach offers off-leash play areas, swimming opportunities, and a vibrant dog community.

5 PIKE PLACE MARKET, SEATTLE
While not typically known as a dog-friendly location, Pike Place Market welcomes well-behaved pups on leashes. Explore the bustling market, take in the sights and sounds, and enjoy pet-friendly dining options and unique shops.

## HIKING

Dogs make great hiking companions and can enjoy the fresh air and exercise alongside their owners (even small dogs, see left).

KAYAKING + PADDLE BOARDING
If your dog enjoys the water, kayaking and paddle boarding is a fun way to bond while enjoying the great outdoors.

AGILITY TRAINING
Dogs love to run and jump, and agility training courses are a great way to challenge them both mentally and physically, plus you get to show off your BFF.


## CAMPING

Camping with your dog is a great way to adventure, with plenty of opportunities for to explore the new surroundings together.

## WE'RE COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU

## Voyager is hitting the road. Join our movement in your city as we criss cross the country promoting health and longevity for our dogs. If you get lucky you and your pooch will get to meet Dr. Pete in select cities! Go to voyagerdogfoodco.com for an up to date road show calendar.


coyinc soan


RISK-FREE TRIAL
3 BAG TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE

Feed Voyager Dog Food to your dog for 3 bags and you will see more energy, a healthier coat, decrease in food allergies and gastro intestinal issues and more energy. Voyager is so sure that our food will LOVE your dog that if you don't see a change, the last bag is free!


SCAN TO START YOUR DOG'S TRANSFORMATION TODAY!


What breed is known for having a black tongue?

How many teeth does an adult dog have on average?

What is the most popular dog breed in the United States?

## COLORING CORNER




## LEADING THE INDUSTRY IN SAFE DOG FOOD RECIPES

- Previously The Scoop Dog Food • Family Owned and Operated in Battle Creek Michigan ${ }^{-}$Ingredients sourced from the US and Canada - Crafted in small batches in Ohio ${ }^{\circ}$ AAFCO Certified • Money Back Guarantee


## CURRENT CUSTOMERS OF THE SCOOP:

Please sign up through Voyager, as your current auto-ship will not automatically transfer. Questions? Call us! We are happy to hear from you. 1-800-470-3248

