

This summer, I made a mad dash to the after-hours vet clinic, because my Westie was "choking". He "choked" on and off during the 15-minute drive to the clinic. At one point earlier in the day, I fed Rocket his training treats too fast, but he coughed them up and seemed fine. I didn't know at the time that he irritated his throat.

The vet checked him out and asked me many questions. It was determined he had "reverse sneezing". This may also be called 'pharyngeal gag reflex'. It is termed a reverse sneeze, because it sounds like the dog is rapidly pulling air into his nose, whereas in a 'regular' sneeze, the air is rapidly pushed out through the nose. Some owners may think their dog is choking, suffocating or even having a seizure during an episode.

The most common cause of a reverse sneeze is irritation of the soft palate, which results in a spasm. This spasm narrows the airway and makes it temporarily more difficult for the dog to take in air.

Factors that may be associated with reverse sneezing include

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Excitement | ✓ Post-nasal drip |
| ✓ Eating or drinking | ✓ Viral infections |
| ✓ Allergies | ✓ Respiratory tract mites |
| ✓ Physical irritation of the throat, such as pulling on a leash | ✓ Irritating chemicals such as perfumes or household cleaners |
| ✓ Foreign bodies caught in the throat | |

Each episode usually lasts two minutes or less, and normally ends on their own and poses no threat to your dog's health.

If you witness a dog having a reverse sneeze, it may seem alarming; but in most cases, it is not a harmful condition, and treatment is unnecessary. Dogs appear normal both before and after an episode, with no after effects. Dogs do not lose consciousness, nor do they collapse. This phenomenon is usually harmless and, in most cases, does not require medical treatment.

When we left the vet clinic, Rocket and I took a long walk to relax. Mom needed it! There have been no further episodes of reverse sneezing!

NOTE: In some dogs with short, broad heads, such as Boxers or King Charles Cavalier Spaniels, sounds similar to a reverse sneeze may be a sign of a respiratory problem, such as an elongated soft palate. In these cases, there are usually other respiratory symptoms as well, and these dogs should be examined by a veterinarian.

Parts reprinted from: vetinfo.com and peteducation.com

WE'RE ON THE MOVE! Sue Peters

We're on the Move!

Come see us!

Novi Pet Expo

Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Avenue
Novi Michigan

November 15 | Noon to 8 pm

November 16 | 10 am to 8 pm

November 17 | 11 am to 5 pm

DOG DAYS IN THE PARK Sue Peters

www.novipetexpo.com

On Saturday, September 21, we participated in the Grand Rapids Kennel Club's "Dog Day in the Park". Jean & Cookie Story, Bonnie, Wrigley & Blossom Wilson and Sue & Rocket Peters attended. We participated in the opening parade and the Parade of Breeds. Shown in the photo is Bonnie Wilson, Peg Cochran and Sue Peters, along with our Westies. Peg is a Michigan author of mysteries. She includes her Westie, Reggie, in her storylines.



In memory of all of our Westies who have passed. We love you and miss you.


You'll meet me in the light

I know that you can't see me,
but trust me I'm right here.
Although I'm up in heaven,
my love for you stays near.

So often I see you crying,
many times you call my name.
I want so much to lick your face
and ease some of your pain.

I wish that I could make you see
that Heaven indeed is real.
If you could see me run and play
how much better you would feel.

But our loving God has promised me
that when the time is right,
you'll step out of the darkness and
meet me in the light.



*K. Niles
2012*

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Jacky, DeeDee, Digger, & Emmie, along with all the Westies say...

“Please come to our party!”

Join the Westies and their families at the

West Highland White Terrier Club's Westie Christmas Party

Howell Recreation Center

925 W. Grand River Blvd., Howell, Michigan

Sunday, December 8, 2013

1 to 4 pm | Buffet begins at 1:30

Bring Dish to Pass | Meat & Beverages Provided

No RSVP Required

Food Donation \$5 Adults | \$3 Children under 10 years*

Visit www.westieclubmi.com

 Sales Tables

 Club 50/50 Raffle

 Westie Gift Exchange
Bring a \$10 gift, take home a gift!

 Visit From Santa Paws

 Best Dog Trick

 Westie Doggie Door Prize
Your dog could win a stocking full of treats!

 Best Dressed Dog
in Christmas attire!

To avoid unwanted presents, it is required that your dog wear a belly band/piddle pant. Visit www.westierescue-mi.com/belly-bands/ or www.joybee.com or any online or local pet store



*Children under 10 years of age must be supervised at all times.



Deacon says.... "I'll be looking for you!"

FRUITY COOLERS

Recipes from *Doggy Desserts* by Cheryl Gianfrenesco (I-5 Press, 2007).

Fruity Cooler

Yield: Approximately 3 cups

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup cantaloupe, cubed, with seeds and rind removed
- ½ cup pineapple chunks
- 1 banana, sliced
- 2 tablespoons honey

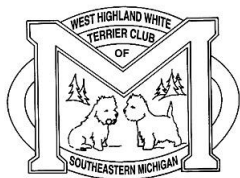
1. Place all the ingredients in a blender or food processor.
2. Cover, and blend until smooth.
3. Pour the mixture into a freezer-safe container and freeze until firm.
4. Remove the container from the freezer and allow the cooler to soften before serving.



Yield: Approximately 2½ cups

- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 2½ cups water
- ¼ cup real lemon juice

1. Place all the ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend.
2. Pour the mixture into a freezer-safe container and freeze until firm.
3. Remove the container from the freezer and allow the sherbet to soften before serving.



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