

# Networking



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Dear ABKA Members,

Welcome to the January 2006 edition of the ABKA E-Newsletter. In addition to keeping ABKA members up-to-date on our current activities, this newsletter also helps members communicate with one another and share their solutions to problems. Please submit any questions or responses for the next edition to [enewsletter@abka.com](mailto:enewsletter@abka.com) by January 25, 2006.

If you do not want to receive ABKA's E-Newsletter in the future, please send an email to [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com).

## **ALERT – SOME DIAMOND PET FOOD PRODUCTS RECALLED DUE TO TOXICITY:**

Due to the discovery of aflatoxin (toxic compounds produced by certain molds that contaminate stored food supplies), Diamond Pet Foods has issued a voluntary recall of some of their pet food products distributed to the eastern U.S. [Click here](#) to view the media advisory from Diamond Pet Foods or [here](#) for updated information from Cornell University's Hospital for Animals at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## **SUMMARY OF ABKA/AKC / FAKC AIRLIFTS:**

Over the past several months, ABKA, AKC/CAR and FAKC have worked together to airlift and care for hundreds of dogs and cats to ABKA member facilities and/or animal shelters in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas and Illinois. Here is a brief summary of the results:

Dogs Rescued: 311 (including 4 puppies that were born after the rescue)  
Cats Rescued: 53

Participating Volunteers: approximately 118  
Participating Facilities: 26

Adoptions: 173 dogs, 9 cats  
Pets Returned to Owners: 6

Donations: \$10,490.50 in cash, services, goods and discounts.

ABKA member pet care facilities continue to shelter as many of the displaced animals as possible since Hurricane Katrina hit at the end of August. We are so proud of all of our members and their dedication to the people and animals who were affected by this year's devastating hurricane season.

## **REMINDER FROM ABKA REGION 10 - IDITAROD MUSHER'S BANQUET RESERVATIONS:**

ABKA Region 10 Director, Laura Else, CKO would like to remind those members who plan to attend the Iditarod Musher's Banquet on March 2, 2006, that this event typically sells out in advance, so tickets should be purchased as soon as possible. You can buy them [here](#).

## **ANNOUNCEMENT - EDUCATIONAL TESTING AVAILABLE AT REGION SPRING MEETINGS:**

Candidates interested in completing the written test for Certified Advanced Pet Care Technician (CPACT) or the written testing and oral interviews for Certified Kennel Operator (CKO) during one of the available regional Spring Meetings should contact the ABKA Education Department (phone: 877-570-7788, Ext. 14; email: [education@abka.com](mailto:education@abka.com)) a minimum of 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting. This will allow the staff enough time to ensure that all required information has been received and the testing materials are prepared and provided to the particular region director or education representative. While it may be most convenient to test within your region, some regions may not be able to offer this option or you may find the dates of another region meeting will fit your personal schedule better. In either case, you can schedule to test at any of the region meetings offering testing.

To date, the following regions have indicated they will include educational testing in their schedule of activities:

Region 2: 2-4 May  
Region 4: 16-18 May  
Region 6: 8-10 May (CAPCT written test only)  
Region 7: 3-5 May  
Region 8: 9-11 Apr  
Region 10: 3 Mar (CAPCT written test only, 4:30pm-6:00pm)  
Region 11: 24-25 Feb

In addition to notifying the ABKA Education Department, you might also want to contact your Region Director to confirm your desire and intent to complete testing during a Spring Meeting. For those who have not yet enrolled in either of these courses, there is still time to enroll and be ready to test this spring. This is a great way to enhance your professional credentials among your fellow employees and to your clients. Take action now!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT - ABKA E-NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES:**

All ABKA E-Newsletters will now be archived under **RECENT COMMUNICATIONS** in the **MEMBERS ONLY** area at [www.abka.com](http://www.abka.com).

#### **ARTICLE OF INTEREST - CANINE GENOME SEQUENCE:**

The AKC Canine Health Foundation announced the completion of the canine genome sequencing project. This genome joins the ranks of only four other completed genome sequences including the mouse and the human maps. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **ARTICLE OF INTEREST - CAT GENOME PROJECT:**

There is also an ongoing Cat Genome Project which focuses on development of the cat as an animal model for human diseases, genome evolution, comparative research initiatives, and forensic potential. For complete information, visit [here](#).

#### **MEMBER QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

Disclaimer: ABKA does not endorse any comments or responses to member questions in this forum. Members should consider the general applicability of any response offered and its appropriateness to a given situation as well as to both the ABKA Code of Ethics and the Bill of Rights for Pets in Boarding or Daycare Facilities. Member questions and responses should be considerate of the audience and all parties affected.

Please help us keep this communication open and positive!

*Question from Leslie Berg, Interlude Kennel, LLC, Saint Leonard, MD:*

What should we, as kennel operators, do about the three-year Distempers that do not include Lepto or that the Lepto part of the vaccine is only good for one year or is left out of the vaccine completely? Can you get just the Lepto vaccine yearly if you need it to board? Should we require it? How are other kennel owners handling this situation?

I have spoken to some local veterinarians in the area who strongly suggest that the Lepto is not left out of the vaccine protocols. There is one veterinary hospital that does not give Lepto to ANY patients. As far as the three-year Distemper goes, Interlude Kennel's policy is to take whatever the veterinarian recommends. If the vets give three-year Distempers then we will accept that because it may last that long, but as far as Lepto goes, if it only lasts a year, do we ask that the client get that as a separate vaccine since Lepto is a zoonotic disease?

What about the Adenovirus? Is that three-year as well? I know the chances would be extremely small but if there is an outbreak, wouldn't we be potentially putting ourselves and our employees at risk? Does this make any sense?

Also, what about the Parainfluenza part of the Distemper? Is it three-year as well or will we see an increase of canine cough if we don't require this vaccine yearly? What part of DHLPP (& sometimes C) lasts for three years - and are other kennel owners requiring clients to get those that don't last three years?

Thanks to any and all who can possibly shed a little light on this situation, it will be greatly appreciated.

*Comment from Barb Benson, Centennial Kennels, Maple Valley, VA:*

Outdoor Playtime: We have a variety of exercise options and an extra charge for each. Most of our options require individual handling and time with each dog so the costs mainly reflect the labor involved. We allow the owners to choose which exercise options (individual play yards, walks, group play) they want for their dog and how often. Some owners aren't interested in this and some dogs aren't suited for it, but the majority love it and the extra attention their dogs get. Many will mix and match the different options. The prices for each are spelled out and owners are quite willing to spend the money to make sure their pets are happy while they are away.

**POST YOUR QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES ON THE ABKA FORUMS:**

Did you know that there is a forum on the ABKA Web site where you can post questions, leave responses, and share advice and opinions with other ABKA members?

To access the ABKA message boards, visit [www.abka.com](http://www.abka.com), log in to the MEMBERS ONLY section, click on NETWORKING and then click on BULLETIN BOARD. The message boards are particularly helpful for those members who have industry questions and need immediate responses.

If you need assistance with the message boards, email [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com) or call 877-570-7788 ext. 23.

**REMINDER FOR AOL USERS:**

ABKA has been experiencing a number of email delivery issues with members who have America Online (AOL) accounts. It has come to our attention that email sent from the ABKA office destined for AOL accounts is being blocked from delivery after being designated as "Junk Mail." This is

happening even if ABKA did not generate the original communication, but is trying to respond to an email sent in from a member with an AOL account.

The explanation offered by AOL is that some of our members with AOL email addresses have, at some point in time, designated incoming ABKA email as "Junk" so the AOL filters then recognize all subsequent ABKA email as "Junk" and block delivery.

ABKA has tried repeatedly to resolve this issue by utilizing AOL technical support, but a satisfactory solution has not been reached. Therefore, we are suggesting that members with AOL accounts consider the following action(s):

- AOL account holders should not identify ABKA emails as "Junk" but rather simply delete the ABKA email when it is no longer needed. (Note: ABKA only uses mail to correspond with members for legitimate association-related business.)
- ABKA members currently using AOL may want to consider opening an alternate email account. Many providers, such as Yahoo and Hotmail offer free email services. If you do choose this option, however, please be sure to notify ABKA of your new email address. It is worth mentioning that many free email accounts are very sensitive to storage quotas and it is necessary to clear old emails frequently to make room for incoming mail.

Please keep in mind that these suggested actions are general in nature and if you are uncertain of what to do we strongly suggest you contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) for specific technical support.

**As a general rule, if an ABKA member with an AOL email account has not received a response from the ABKA staff within two business days, the member should assume that the AOL Junk Filter has impacted the delivery and should follow up with ABKA by phone.**

**REMINDER:**

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