

# Barks and Tails

Newsletter of the Brevard Kennel Club, Inc.

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## MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting is *Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at Kay's Bar-B-Cue, 1552 King St. (SR 520), Cocoa, Florida, at 7:00 pm.* Members wanting dinner please arrive at 6:00. Directions: From I95, take Exit201 (SR 520 toward Cocoa Beach. Travel to Clearlake Road and make a U-turn. Kay's is on the north side of 520. Website: <http://www.kaysbarbque.com>.

## 2018-2019 CLUB OFFICERS

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| President      | Edna Corney         |
| Vice-President | Leslie Glaze Kovacs |
| Secretary      | Kristin Halkovic    |
| Treasurer      | Maureen Finch       |
| Directors      | Catherine Crampton  |
|                | Marsha Dyal         |
|                | Donna Lee           |

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want go thank everyone that worked at camp. You wonder if it is all worth it, then you see the kids smiles and hear them talk about it and know it was worth it. Thank you all.

For questions about handling class, please call Cassie Hinton.

Your board has made a decision about our annual dinner should we continue with them. If Cafe Margeaux will still have us, your reservation will be accompanied by a check for \$50. You will get the check back at the dinner. Those not attending the dinner, the checks will be cashed. This may seem harsh to some people, but last year there were 14 no shows and this year 17.

See you at the meeting.

Edna

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There was no general membership meeting in July.



Proud to announce Champion Hurricane's Kilo Godzilla!!!!

After doing the Tampa shows, we have a "Champion Meatball!" He took a major to finish up his championship & then the next day took Best of Opposite for a Major towards his Grand Champ.

Huge thank you to Linda Bellin.

*Karen Locke*



CH Sunset's Kickstart My Heart was awarded Select Bitch and an Award of Merit for a 5 point GCH major in an outstanding lineup at the Mid-Florida Brittany Club Specialty in June at the Tampa shows.

*Valerie Davies*

## AKC Public Education Webinar Series

July 25 at 8:00pm EDT

Ashley Jacot, Public Education Manager, will discuss ways your club can get involved in the community, including a number of Public Education initiatives. Ashley will be available to answer questions and engage in discussion with attendees.

[REGISTER](#)

# Study Shows Dogs Really Do Respond to Baby Talk

*By Linda Lombardi*

Admit it: you've used baby talk to communicate with your dog. The exaggerated intonation and hyper-articulation of vowels is thought to help human infants learn language and bond socially. But dogs aren't going to start speaking anytime soon, so . . . what's the point?

Well, a recent study published in "Animal Cognition" last month, found that dogs actually respond well to baby talk.

Researchers at the University of York in the United Kingdom tested two different types of speech on dogs. One type was a normal, conversational tone you'd use when speaking to another adult, with subject matter pertaining to human-oriented topics. The other was what researchers called "dog-directed speech," using exaggerated intonation when talking about dog-relevant subjects, like treats and walks.

To make sure the speech being tested was consistent, recordings were used. Two experimenters sat with speakers in their laps that played recordings of their own voices. A leashed dog was brought into the room, and researchers measured how much time he spent looking at each person while the speech was being played. After the recording ended, the dog was allowed off leash, and the time spent with each person was measured. Researchers found that dogs spent more time looking at the person who spoke in baby talk, as well as more time sitting with that individual once the recordings were over.

A second experiment was conducted to determine whether the choice of dog-related topics was the only factor keeping the canines' attention. Dogs once again heard recordings, but this time the intonation and subject matter were inconsistent. In one recording, the baby talk was paired with human topics. In the other recording, normal conversational intonation was used to discuss walks and treats. In this experiment, the dogs had no preference, showing that the combination of baby talk and dog-relevant subject matter was needed to keep their attention.

One question that remains to be answered is whether the preference is entirely learned or has an innate component. It's possible that puppies are born with a preference for high-pitched sounds, but they could also have a learned association with baby talk, seeing that it's often used in positive situations, like when attention and treats are given. Previous research found a preference for baby talk in puppies as young as 2 months old.

Past studies have also shown that we don't actually talk to dogs in the same way we talk to babies. While both kinds of speech have similar pitch and intonation, dog-directed speech lacks the vowel exaggeration we use with human infants. So, rather than being a silly habit, the slightly different ways in which we talk to babies and animals are quite sophisticated. We have an unconscious ability to match our speech to the potential language abilities of the listener. Just another reason to baby talk to your dog with confidence.

## 5 Interesting Things Humans Used to Feed Their Dogs

### Hardtack

With no one around to feed them leftovers, street dogs in port cities often lingered by the docks to eat the moldy hardtack thrown away by sailors. The humble hardtack biscuit (made from flour, water, and sometimes salt) might not seem like much, but it became the inspiration for commercial dog food when James Spratt, an entrepreneur from Ohio, observed London dogs devouring it on a pier. Seeing an untapped market, Spratt wasted no time in developing a product.

### Carb Overload

Carbohydrates were the backbone of early dog diets. Many societies fed their pups leftover bread, and in the Victorian era, some people even believed that meat was uncivilized and reverted dogs back to their wild, undesirable instincts.

### Potatoes and Cabbage

Wealthy dog owners once fed their canine companions diets rich in animal proteins. Medieval royal kennel masters prepared their dogs nutritious stews full of vegetables, grains, and meats. Dogs owned by the peasants, however, weren't as lucky. Since money was tight, these dogs would share their owner's diet. Therefore, peasant dogs ate peasant food. In Europe, this consisted largely of potatoes and boiled cabbage.

### Horse Meat

By the mid-1800s, the large number of working horses in cities provided a readily available source of meat for dogs. Horses often died in the city streets and dog owners ensured the meat did not go to waste. Not only was horse meat plentiful, cuts were inexpensive, giving individuals a cheap way of incorporating meat into their dogs' diets.

Horse meat was also added to early commercial dog food. In 1922, Ken-L Ration, the first commercial canned dog food, used it as its main ingredient and horse meat remained popular for several decades thanks to its affordability. Food politics and our changing relationship with horses eventually led to a shift away from horse meat in the United States, and it was banned from being used in pet food in 1970. Today, chicken and beef are the most common meats used in kibble, though venison, fish, lamb, pork, rabbit, and turkey options are also available.

### Lard

Long before olive oil and shortening were staples in the American home, people cooked with lard. Lard, which is rendered pig fat, was plentiful in rural communities and is still occasionally fed to sled dogs during bitterly cold nights on the trail.

The risks of significant gastrointestinal issues such as gastroenteritis and possible pancreatitis, as well as obesity, make lard a poor choice for the average American dog. Working farm dogs in the eighteenth century, however, ate it with gusto. Long days of herding and guarding livestock burned many calories, and lard was mixed with grain to create a calorie-dense diet that kept working dogs active.