

# Healthwise

Do you keep a lot of plants in and around your home that your dog or cat can nibble? If so, you'll want to pay particular attention to the following list of plants that can be quite toxic to your Boykin Spaniel.



• Ferns • Caladium • Hyacinth • Iris  
• Bittersweet • Clematis • Daffodil  
• Foxglove • Narcissus • Morning  
Glory • Death Camas • Lilies • Sago  
Palms • Tulips • Azaleas • Rhodo-  
dendrons • Oleanders • Castor Bean  
Plants • Cyclamen • Cilantro • Yew

• Amaryllis • Autumn Crocus • Eng-  
lish Ivy • Peace Lilies • Schefflera  
• Pothos • Marijuana

There's an online resource provided by the ASPCA - <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/> - where you can reference a very comprehensive list of which plants are poisonous to your beloved companion animals and which are safe to have around your home and yard. The list includes a photo of each plant and can be sorted by toxic and non-toxic categories as well as by type of pet.

In addition to these plants, Cocoa Mulch, manufactured by Hershey's, claims that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees. However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it. Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine'. It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like choco-

late and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last month. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

If you suspect your dog or cat has ingested a poison and you have questions or need guidance, you can call the ASPCA's Poison Control Center hotline at 1-888-426-4435. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If your pet shows signs of distress or illness call your veterinarian immediately.



## Spotlight on... "Libby" GeeChee Girl's Liberty from Texas Trace Ranch and Kennel. Owned by Thomas & Patsy Bolding in Texas.

Libby has been a joy to have with us. She is a pretty darn good water retriever. She has broken through ice to make retrieves in the past and has made some great swims to pick up ducks. On one occasion, we had several ducks down and she had forgotten where one of them landed. I threw a rock in the water and she swam to the point where the rock splashed, then dove under water. She came up, saw the duck and made a great retrieve. She has been called a 'machine' by my fellow duck hunters.

She is a very loving part of our family and I can assure you Patsy and I will probably never have another breed of dog. Dixie is a little bundle of energy that we enjoy having as much as Libby. We have had a pool constructed and we can't keep Dixie out of it, even during the winter. She plays by herself in the water and stays pretty curly. They both sleep on the bed with us and have become lap dogs when they can.



# Adventures of Doc - Quail Hunting

About midway down is Doc's third quail hunt last Friday. He was really marking his birds and retrieving!

To date he has been dove hunting for two hours and we got one dove.

He had flown to Canada last September at 9 months old and retrieved a bunch of ducks on blind retrieves.

As of Friday, Doc has had 130 quail hunted over him this season.

We missed the first hunt since I was visiting my parents at Christmas, but "T" brought me back one to freeze and work with Doc. Like every new thing he gets introduced to, he was a little shy with a quail at first, but once he became comfortable it was Katie-bar-the-door.

He has been on three 30 bird hunts since Christmas. "T" has a retired field trial champion, Rudy, who is an excellent pointer with a fantastic nose. The problem is that the bird may be one foot in front of her or thirty feet. One of the uses I had in mind for Doc was to use him as a flush dog and to hunt dead. Rudy has not cared much for hunting dead and was never trained to as a field trial dog. Well, Doc loves quail! I have kept him on a short lead so the setter could point and do her thing, then Doc could do his.

I have been a little skeptical about turning him loose since he will put any 'not dead' bird in the air or so it seemed until Friday. We did not lose any dead birds with Doc and the tandem with Rudy has worked out very well. The first 30 bird hunt we got 26 out of 28. Two flew away to another field while they were putting the birds out. The second we got 23 out of 30.

The last one we got 26 out of 30.

Carly has gotten into hunting at 20-21 years old. Must have gotten some of her daddy's genes. She went quail hunting with us last year, but was hesitant to shoot since we were not lined up abreast trying to find the bird. Using Doc as a flush dog, we can all line up and be in position to shoot. Since Doc had the hang of it we took Carly on the last hunt and she shot several birds. One bird got up and she shot it out from under "T". "T" gave her a hard time about shooting his bird and she said that somebody

else must have shot that bird. "T" and Carly were the only ones in position to shoot

since the bird curled around their end. "T" opened his breach and asked Carly if his shells looked shot. She said 'No' and started grinning from ear to ear. And her dog Doc got to fetch. So Doc has helped us line up abreast and gives everyone the opportunity to shoot.

We shot one bird that fell out about 300 yards or so in another field. We went over to retrieve the bird and we were working into wind. We got about 60 yards down wind from the bird and Doc took off like a sled dog and literally pulled me to the bird.

So that takes me to Friday. I had a couple of clients that were after me to take them to a quail preserve. I got permission 2 weeks ago from upper management to do it on business (a rough day at the office Friday!) I set up a 40 bird afternoon hunt with a guide. "T" always deals with them so they do not know my name. When I called I said you know me, I have the daughter that hunts and I have the Boykin. I am the only one hunting there with a Boykin. He has been trying to use a Springer with his pointers to flush and retrieve. He said "You are bringing the Boykin aren't you?" I said no that I was bringing two clients and my boss. He said "If you are not bringing the Boykin do not bother to come!" Unfortunately, he was not kidding. So here we go with Doc. Friday. Typical hunting trip! Friday morning I get a call that the client that can shoot became too sick over night to make it.

My boss and the other client are not very good shots and I am going to have a bouncing Boykin tethered to me so I am Boykin challenged. Next my boss calls and his car will not start, but the client is coming by his way so we get him. Well, we get there and the guide turns out to be the owner, Charlie. He said that there was no way he was going to miss watching a Boykin work! So off we go with three pointers and a Boykin. The first point is on a ditch with briars so what man wants to go

kick him out? Charlie says to turn Doc loose. I said are you sure, because if he gets out into the birds he will put them in the air. Charlie says let him go so I did. The bird gets up and flies to the others and they miss. Doc comes back and I hook him to his lead. We get up a dozen birds in the field one at a time. The pointer points and walk in with Doc on his lead. Doc flushes and tries to go after the bird which typically jerks me off target. Then we start getting into some birds that really want to hold or others that run. Charlie starts telling me to turn Doc loose so I did. He would find the bird and flush it, then mark the dead bird and retrieve it back to my hand. I would hook him up until the next point turn him loose, flush, kill retrieve. Charlie says to me that you have been in this rodeo before, I can tell.

Well, got to the point and Doc had settled in pretty good and when we missed one he was coming back and getting on his lead. When we were chasing birds that were running he stayed close so when they flushed we were plenty close enough to shoot. We had one point in the middle of the field. Doc and I were in the middle and the pointed bird flew hard left so I could not shoot. A second bird flushed wild and went straight - right. It was hit but went about 500 yards up the hill. There goes Doc wide open. I said that is what I was afraid of. Charlie says that is why you need to have a collar that you can nick him with. Well, Doc is about 400 yards up the field now (My bird is 500 yards). I turned to the hunter to my right and asked him which bird he shot at and he said the one that got up right in front of me. I turned to Charlie and said you remember a while ago when you said sometimes you need to trust your dog (quail was in a tree). He said yea. I said look 400 yards up the hill. There was a third bird that went down dead and here comes Doc just strutting.

Friday was a rough day!

- MDS Kinard

