

Dogbits

September 2006

Gulliver's Corner

Hello, I'm so excited that September is here. It was about a year ago that I was just a wee pup in the puppy group. I thought I'd take a minute to reflect on my first year as Gulliver. Some major growing (like 100 lbs) is probably the most obvious thing that happened to me this year. Even after all that, I'm still not the biggest in my household. My brother Hogan is a full six inches taller!

At about six months of age, I was transitioned from the puppy group to my current group, the Big Yard. Even though I sometimes fancy myself as a goofy group dog (who Me?) The truth is that I just don't have the energy level of those guys! I mean, I have a lot of body to move! While I can really fly around the clubhouse in the yard, most of the goof balls, like Max Long, Sasha Massey and Otis Grey, could leave me in the dust! I prefer plenty of silliness and good times, but I like to relax a little too! There's no better feeling than stretching out in the sand on a sunny September afternoon, just ask my friends Brutus and Josie!

Some of my favorite memories of this year: learning the A- Frame and the Tunnel in Agility class, The fourth of July parade with all my Daycare friends, Walking at the waterfront and showing off my obedience skills (I trained my mom all by myself, she's very good at handing out pig's ears!) and of course, slobbering on that news reporter when she came to talk about the Whitehouse (I think she had a crush on me.)

In all it's been a great year. I have big friends like Rhubarb and Cheyanne all the way down to little friends like Levi and Devron.

School is starting for my staff friends so some of them have to leave for a while. I like making new friends, but I miss the ones who have to leave.

Karina is leaving and taking Jonas with her, she always helped me write to you and now I have to break in someone new. You should see what we get

away with in the yard, new staff, Yippee! - **Gully**

Bad Breath?

The most common causes of bad breath are dental disorders. Periodontal disease in dogs is caused by plaque buildup. Gums become inflamed and will eventually recede. The treatment is a dental cleaning by your vet. Unfortunately, dogs have to be anesthetized to have their teeth cleaned, so if she's going under for something else it's a good idea to get a cleaning at the same time. The best course is prevention. There are many products on the market for brushing their teeth. It's best to start when they're young. Don't use human toothpaste on them; there are dog friendly toothpastes out there, maybe a nice liver flavor? If there is no obvious tartar or gum inflammation, there are other possible causes. Some dogs that chew on themselves a lot have bad breath from getting hair wound around the tooth roots.

If there is skin disease involving the lip folds, it can smell just like bad breath but may actually be a dermatological problem. Dogs that eat feces (theirs or other animals) can have bad oral odors because of this habit. In people, gas from the GI tract is supposed to be responsible for some cases of bad breath, so there could be a correlation between soft stools, flatulence and oral odor. Even the food she eats may cause an allergic reaction resulting in Yuk breath.

Bad breath can also be a symptom of more serious problems. Renal disease for example, lists bad breath as a symptom.

Deworming is a good idea even if no parasites are found, Changing food, raw meat and people food are sometimes culprits, feed something your dog has never had so she doesn't have any allergy developed for it, like ostrich or duck. Feed it for 4 to 6 weeks to make a fair evaluation.

As always, your vet is the best person to help you through this process, and remember dog kisses are worth the effort.