

ANOTHER DOGGY EXCITEMENT!

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by Lee Netzler

Never let your guard down with a young dog around! We just had that piece of wisdom reinforced for us by a minor crisis here today.

Angus found a honey bee behind the living room couch and finally got himself stung in the face. We think he was stung somewhere in his beard area by the way he was rubbing his face on the rug immediately afterward. He has been fooling with bees in the yard all summer long and I figured sooner or later he would get stung. Because of that, about 3 months ago I called the vet and asked what first aid remedy I should have ready. They told me Benadryl, for the antihistamine contained in the product. The dosage is 1 mg. per pound of body weight. Angus is about 22 lbs., and the Benadryl conveniently comes in 25 mg. caplets. I have been carrying one Benadryl caplet around with me in my pill case ever since I first bought them. My portable emergency pharmacy: Nitro tablets for me and Benadryl for Angus.

As soon as we figured out what had happened was a bee sting, we gave him one Benadryl. He acted weird---a bit spacey momentarily and his breathing really slackened. I promptly called the vet and they said to bring him down. So, I did that, and we were in the office about 15 minutes after the bee sting took place. Angus was back to normal by then---no swelling, no difficulty breathing, etc. It took the vet about half an hour to get to us after we went into the examining room. Angus greeted her cheerily and behaved as if it were a social call! She checked him over and said he appeared to be fine.

The Benadryl effects last about 8 hours, so she told me that if he exhibited symptoms such as lethargy or swelling when the 8 hours expired, I should give him another caplet. She said that treatment could last for a couple of days if he was slow in recovering.

She looked, but didn't find any stinger in him. But, with his beard, it would be a miracle to find it.

Our "social call" at the vets was \$44. Not exactly the present I had planned to give him for his first birthday celebration tomorrow! But, we are very happy it is turning out OK. Thinking about it, I realize that he could have been home alone, or had a really serious reaction when the vet clinic was closed, or in circumstances when I wasn't prepared with an "antidote," or any number of other less desirable situations, so I consider that the outcome today was fortunate.

A friend asked me if Angus will learn to stay away from bees from his experience. I told him not likely. He is a terrier, and a Scottie besides: They are fearless beyond foolish. But we do like happy endings.