The general act of chewing on “something” daily for dogs not only promotes healthy teeth and gums, but also encourages better adjustment psychologically. Finding your dog the right item to chew on may even save belongings like your shoes and furniture! While rawhides are a popular choice for long-lasting chews, their safety depends on several factors such as ingredients, digestibility, your dog’s chewing style, and size. Above all, supervising your dog with a rawhide chew is always recommended!

Made from dried animal skins, rawhide chews are a by-product of the leather industry. The source of the rawhide is very important. Generally, rawhides made in the U.S. are better quality than those from China or South America. Rawhides are meant to break down into tiny, soft pieces over time. Naturally, rawhide digestibility can vary from dog to dog and from chew to chew. Rawhides are not easily digested or broken down by the body, which is why large pieces swallowed can pose such a high obstruction risk. Thus, it is best to remove the chewed up rawhide before your dog ingests it as a precaution to avoid gastrointestinal issues.

While it is safe to assume your dog’s chewing style will change with age from puppyhood to the senior years, the treats will also change accordingly. Heavy chewers are more likely to break off large chunks of a rawhide, whereas a soft chewer might not even tear through it. With this said, finding the appropriately sized rawhide for your pup is essential as well. For example, a Chihuahua is likely to be a much softer chewer than a Rottweiler, requiring a much smaller rawhide. Likewise, it is important to make sure bigger dogs have large enough rawhide chews according to their size. Ask your veterinarian today which rawhides or alternative chews might be best for your dog’s specific needs!
REASONS NOT TO CHOOSE ANESTHESIA FREE DENTALS FOR YOUR PET

The key flaw in the practice of anesthesia free pet dental cleanings is simple—these providers believe that removing visible tartar from teeth constitutes dental treatment and improved oral health. This is just not the case and the AVDC wants you to consider the following reasons not to choose an anesthesia free dental for your pet:

- Scrapping teeth of plaque and tartar does not remove the bacteria from beneath your pet’s gumline and does not decrease the risk of your pet getting periodontal disease. Consider this, the same level of “gross” build up you see on your pet’s teeth, is also thriving beneath their gumline where you can't see it or the damage it’s doing. Cleaning and scaling below the gum line is important because it's where periodontal disease is most active. This can’t be done without anesthesia.

- Anesthesia free dentals require your pet to be restrained while their teeth are scraped. This is not only extremely stressful for your pet, but also painful. Imagine having gone months or even years without brushing your teeth, and then being restrained while they are scraped.

- There are no visible signs of periodontal disease until it has progressed too far to be able to treat and save teeth. Anesthesia free dental cleanings can't identify, let alone address periodontal disease.

- A thorough oral health exam can't be done on a dog or cat that is awake. During a thorough oral health exam, all surfaces of your pet’s mouth are evaluated and radiographs are taken. This allows a veterinarian to identify painful problems including broken teeth, periodontal disease or even oral tumors. An oral health exam and x-rays can't be done on an awake pet.

- Scrapped teeth are a prime breeding ground for more bacteria growth which perpetuates oral disease.

- Anesthesia free dentals provide no benefit to your pet and do not prevent periodontal disease at any level. In fact, it gives you a false sense of security as a pet owner that because the teeth look whiter that they are healthier.

- The costs of anesthesia free dentals are cheap to begin with. The ultimate costs to both your wallet, and pet’s dental health, are far more of an expense.

Learn more about your pet’s dental health at www.avdc.org/afd
Meet Jolie! This cuddly sweetheart is a 5 year old Chihuahua/Rat Terrier mix. A stray from the streets of Texas, Jolie’s owner, Cherese, explains she would go on to exceed her family’s “greatest expectations as the perfect little dog.” It seems Jolie fit the bill right away: sweet disposition, loves children, snuggly, likes walks and the family life. At an animal rescue event, Cherese spotted a little black dog with floppy ears and it was “love at first sight.” For good measure, Jolie’s family also adopted sweet little Penelope at the same event.

Jolie tested positive for heartworm disease in late November 2017. Along with bloody diarrhea containing hookworms, Jolie had also been vomiting. It is important to note, heartworm infections can be silent in that no symptoms may be present until the dog is in heart failure. Upon receiving her heartworm positive blood test result, Jolie’s planned dental procedure was aborted due to the fact that anesthesia can be risky for heartworm positive dogs. Instead, heartworm disease treatment protocol began ASAP. Heartworm prevention (Heartgard Plus) and exercise restriction were also started. The protocol followed comes from the American Heartworm Society (www.heartwormsociety.org).

The heartworm treatments (Diroban injections), in conjunction with heartworm preventatives, pain medications and steroids, for heartworm positive dogs have a very specific order and time table. Jolie has had 3 heartworm treatments thus far. A typical day in Jolie’s treatment entails spending a full day at Countryside where medications are given throughout the day according to schedule and she is monitored by a doctor and technician. However, Miss Jolie is NOT a fan of the kennel! So on treatment days, we all enjoy taking turns snuggling this cutie throughout areas of the hospital or wrapping her in comfy blankets. Does the heart good for everyone! Moral support at home from sister Penelope helps tremendously too!

Jolie reached Day 120 on March 23rd and was given a heartworm test. No microfilariae were seen, so JOLIE IS NOW HEARTWORM NEGATIVE! For Jolie’s family, “words cannot express the joy in our hearts for this news!!” During a challenging 5 months fighting for Jolie’s life, her family had to keep her “still” as to not stress or overwork her heart while trying to keep Jolie’s pain under control. Jolie has been put on year-round heartworm prevention. By the end of August, Day 271 or 6 months after treatment completion, Jolie will have another heartworm test to make sure there is still no presence of microfilariae.

Jolie has been quite the warrior through everything for just a little gal!

You’re AMAZING la petite Jolie!!
The Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic was founded on June 1, 2006 with a mission to prevent pet homelessness and has had quite the impact on the local community ever since. The FCCR began with 17 cats, 2 veterinary technicians and a 450 square foot space. Today, the FCCR adopts out over 2,000 cats and kittens each year! In addition, an average of 6,000 dogs and cats are spayed or neutered in their clinic each year. The rescue has expanded their space and staff base over the years, including an amazing team of over 400 volunteers! Support from the local community continues to be an integral part in helping the FCCR achieve their goals.

“We are 100% committed to every cat that comes into our shelter and will do our best to make sure it goes to the perfect home.” As a limited admission, adoption guaranteed shelter, the FCCR will take back cats in the event the adoption isn’t the right match. In addition to adoptions, and their low-cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics (for both dogs and cats), the FCCR offers a pet food assistance program along with re-homing and behavior resources.

In both Larimer and Weld Counties, the FCCR also practices T-N-R (Trap-Neuter-Return) in the continued effort to control the feral cat populations. Cats from feral cat colonies are trapped, brought to the clinic, spayed/neutered, given the rabies vaccination and returned to the site where they were trapped to continue their natural lives. Spaying/neutering also can help prevent serious health conditions and diseases down the road.

*Contact or visit the FCCR at:*
2321 E. Mulberry St Unit 1 &3    Fort Collins 80524
www.fccrsnc.org
Shelter: 970-484-8516
Clinic: 970-484-1861

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**Traveling Overseas**

**Article By Julie Trone (Countryside Client)**

*Should she stay, or should she go? A unanimous yes! Cherrie would travel in Europe with us for a year. What led us to decide was learning that traveling with her was more beneficial to our well-being. The studies were correct! We departed in June 2016. Cherrie departed in early August 2016 to meet us. So many questions went through our minds after we decided she was coming along:

*What is the best method of transportation with a pet?*

*Would we find pet friendly accommodations?*

*Would we meet the border control requirements?*

*Was there adequate green space?*

Our questions were answered through research and planning. The rules for traveling into England are different than other European countries. To enter England a worm shot, and health checkup signed by the veterinarian in the pet passport was required. Brittany Ferries required a muzzle to be worn boarding and exiting the ship no matter where we were headed. We managed these requirements easily.

A **dog needs her walks**

Thanks to Cherrie our walks were off the beaten path through towns, parks, walking paths, farmland and along beaches from the Scottish Highlands to the South of Spain. Absolutely gorgeous!

**Dog Owners Take Note**

There are fines if a dog attacks a sheep; some farmers are allowed to shoot the dog and there are fines. Keep your dog leashed when out and about.

In Wales we hiked to an ancient Druid circle expecting sheep along the way. There were hundreds of sheep; she was delighted and determined. We secured two leashes; one hooked to her harness and the other her collar. Our son and I held her along the hilly path and safely reached our destination. Besides walking paths, dog friendly pubs and cafes are scattered throughout the United Kingdom (Scotland, England, Wales and Southern Ireland). We visited quite a few where Cherrie would sit under the table as we ate. Segovia, Spain. There are paths lined with trees, streams, grass and flowers surrounding the old city.

**A love for baguettes**

Every morning in Spain bakers deliver warm, fragrant, freshly baked baguettes to the pastelerías and grocery stores. We bought one or two daily; our sons loved them. Little did we know... one morning on an early walk Cherrie and I walked through our local neighborhood. Suddenly, I noticed Cherrie with a half of a baguette in her mouth. ‘Drop it!’ I commanded. Tail wagging, she looked at me as if to say, ‘no way’ and in two bites it was gone. Who can blame her?

**Thinking of traveling with your dog?** Begin with talking to the folks at Countryside Animal Hospital, visit the links below and plan ahead. Feel free to contact me with questions: julie.trone@hotmail.com .

USDA government regulations and information: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel
International pet travel information: http://www.pettravel.com/passportnews.cfm