

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Biting and Stinging Bugs May Harm Your Pets!

Summer is a great time to be outdoors with your pets. But, it can also be a dangerous time for your pets because you are exposing them to potential attacks by ants, bees, wasps and other biting and stinging insects.

Most people know that insect bites and stings can cause an allergic reaction. Did you know that it is just as common for our pets to have allergic reactions to these bites and stings? That's right! Reactions may be mild, moderate or severe and can occur in pets of any age, breed or sex. Here are some of the reactions your pet may suffer:

- If your pet has a **mild reaction**, it will have minimal swelling or pain in the area where it was stung. Treatment may or may not be needed but you should keep a close eye out for worsening symptoms. Allergic reactions don't always occur right away. It is a good idea to call your vet and ask for advice when this happens.
- It is common for dogs to have a **moderate reaction** to bites and stings. Pets with moderate reactions will often have urticaria. That is a moderate vascular reaction of the skin marked by hives or wheels with rapid swelling. You'll also see redness of the lips, around the eyes and in the neck areas. It usually causes extreme itching. Urticaria may progress to anaphylaxis and is considered to be life threatening.
- Anaphylaxis is the **most severe reaction**. Anaphylaxis

is a sudden and severe allergic response. It produces breathing difficulties, collapse, or even death. These symptoms usually occur within minutes after an insect bite or sting and will proceed rapidly. Symptoms of this usually include a sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, a rapid drop in blood pressure, swelling of the larynx leading to airway obstruction, seizures and cardiovascular collapse or death.

Anaphylaxis is triggered by antibodies that the immune system has made. These antibodies cause inflammatory cells, like basophils and mast cells, to release substances that cause the allergic reaction. This type of reaction is **life threatening** for your dog and **you need to take your dog to a hospital immediately**.

Summertime is here and we want everyone to have a lot of fun. But, there is no way to prevent or predict these allergic reactions. The best thing you can do it to have a plan and become prepared. We strongly suggest you put your vet's phone number on your cell phone. It is also a good idea to have the phone number of an after-hours emergency clinic so you'll have someone else to call if your vet's office is closed.

Termite Terry would also like to remind everyone to take a close look around your property. If you have a colony of bees or wasp nests around your home, you need

(turn the page)

August Is National Golf Month!

- There are 25.7 million golfers in the U.S.
- We have 15,751 golf facilities and 11,577 are public
- U.S. golfers will spend over 6 billion on equipment and supplies this year!

Celebrating Tony Bennett's Birthday!

"I think one of the reasons I'm popular again is because I'm wearing a tie. You have to be different."

Tony Bennett, born August 3rd, 1926

Rave Reviews!

“Referral is the best way to promote business and I have to believe it is working for you! My house has a fragile tile roof and I was concerned about a tenting crew walking over it and leaving broken tiles. I looked at several companies to do my tenting and never felt confident that they would be conscientious about protecting my roof.

I shared my concern with a colleague at work, an engineer who is scientific about everything he does. He said, “I had my house tented last month. I had four companies come out and bid. The prices were pretty much the same, but the man from Termite Terry was WAY more thorough. He explained what he was looking for and showed me how they do their work. I hired them and they did a great job.”

On this referral, I called Joe Johnston and he inspected my house. I mentioned my roof concern and he assured me that you have a consistent crew that you work with, men who have years of experience and know how to preserve roofs.

The job was done expertly. It was impressive watching your crew protect my roof with foam cushions and obvious experience in knowing where to step. Beyond this, Joe and your team made the entire tenting process far easier than I had expected, with absolutely no follow-up work needed on my part. The termites are gone and I can breathe easy. I have recommended your company to two of my neighbors who will be calling you.”

John Clinard,
Irvine

“Thank you for the excellent service. The entire process was relatively painless. Skip was professional, extremely helpful and prompt in returning phone calls. I will be happy to refer Termite Terry to friends and family.”

Julie Hettmann
San Clemente

to have these taken care of right away. That is especially true if you suspect that the bees may be Africanized (killer bees). You should also look for signs of fire ants or other biting insect species because they have claimed the lives of many pets. Please remember that if your pets are living outdoors in a fenced in area, they have no place to go and they cannot escape an attack.

Do you have problems with ants, bees, wasps or other stinging pests and need help? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule a complimentary **Pest Audit** for you. You'll receive a lot of valuable information and learn how to keep your home pest free so you'll be able to provide your family and pets with a safer environment.

With Murder Cases, You Need To Think Like A Maggot

While growing up as a child, Dr. Martin Hall used to collect beetles and blowflies. He went on to study the subject and in 1989, he became a forensic entomologist at the Natural History Museum in London. His job was to research animal diseases and their link to insects.

In March of 1992, all of that changed when the skeletal remains of a young woman were found. The police called Dr. Hall because they knew forensic entomology could provide answers that more traditional inquiries could not.

“It opened up a completely new world which I had never expected before,” said Dr. Hall. “I suddenly found myself in an environment I had not considered in my wildest dreams.”

By analyzing the age and type of insects and larvae at the scene, Doctor Hall was able to provide clues about how long the body had been there after it had been dumped.

Since that time, the number of cases that Dr. Hall has been involved in has skyrocketed. Police work now takes up about half of his work week and he handles between 10 and 20 cases a year.

Doctor Halls says, “You have to think like a maggot. Where would I go if I was a maggot? What would I do? The first time you do see a dead body is a bit disquieting but I'm relatively comfortable in doing it now.”

“Sometimes bodies in houses can be more difficult than dealing with a body in a field. When a body is in a field, you can turn off your emotions to some extent and view the whole scenario in a perfectly detached way. In a house, there are more artifacts and signs of their life around – more clues that this person was a living being not so long ago. You only get one chance to gather the evidence and it's vital nothing is missed.”

Working with the legal system is quite different than working in the world of science but he says that it can be very fulfilling. “Many people may be beaver away their lives with research and not see anything productive come from it,” he said. “For me, it's great to see an outcome every few months at the end of a criminal case.”

Termite Terry says, “Today, many students are graduating from college and are finding it difficult to find a job. The field of entomology is suffering from a serious shortage of grads and there are a lot of jobs available in this field. I know that very few young students would ever dream of becoming an entomologist, but this field of study is growing more important everyday and the opportunities for high paying jobs are out there with few people pursuing them. If you know of a student that is interested in this field of science, we strongly recommend that you have them talk to the staff at the University of Riverside. They have a great Entomology Department and you'll have an opportunity to study with some of the brightest scientists in the field.”

Have you ever thought about studying this subject yourself? The

possibilities in the world of entomology are endless and who knows what can happen? Maybe you could go on and become a star in your own "C.S.I." reality show! ☺

Typhus Scare In Santa Ana!

A child living in Santa Ana recently contracted a flea-borne virus and had to be hospitalized. A few months earlier, an adult who lives in Orange was also diagnosed with the virus. Both were treated and have since recovered.

In order to fight off a potential typhus outbreak, Santa Ana officials have decided to set out animal traps on two school campuses, located in key areas. Their goal is to catch feral cats and other animals that may be carrying disease-bearing fleas.

"The hope is they catch the stray animals," said Santa Ana Police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna. "They will be turned over to Vector Control and they will determine if the animals are infected or if the person got it from somewhere else."

The Orange County Vector Control has distributed information to residents in the area that advised them on how they can protect themselves.

"Murine typhus" (also called "endemic typhus") is a form of typhus transmitted by fleas. It is caused by the bacteria "Rickettsia typhi" and "Rickettsia felis". Human infection occurs because of flea-fecal contamination of the bites on human skin. Rats, cats and opossums maintain the rickettsia colonization by providing it with a host for its entire life cycle.

Murine typhus is most commonly found in Southern California, Texas and Hawaii. Some studies have shown that up to 13% of children were found to have serological evidence of infection.

Murine typhus symptoms include abdominal pain, backache, extremely high fever, hacking & dry cough, headaches, joint pain, nausea and vomiting. Another symptom is a dull red rash that begins on the middle of the body and spreads.

Here are some of the ways that you can protect yourself from this flea-borne virus:

- Protect your pets by having them treated. We highly recommend taking your pets to a veterinarian for treatment.
- Keep your homes and yards free of fleas. The interior areas of your homes can be protected by frequently vacuuming carpets, flooring, upholstery, pet bedding and areas where your pets hang out. These areas may also need to be treated with products to control fleas and insect growth regulators. The exterior areas of your home may also need to be treated. Fleas are most likely to be found in shady areas.
- You need to eliminate places where wild animals can hide or gain shelter. Weeds should be removed and your lawn needs to be kept cut short.
- Remove any food which wildlife may eat. Keep your trash cans tightly sealed.
- Protect yourself when handling dead animals. Never touch a dead animal with your bare hands!

Flea problems can be very difficult to solve on your own. Do you need help with a flea problem at your home or business? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and ask about our flea treatment programs that are "**custom designed to fit your needs**".

The Navajo Code Talkers

Phillip Johnston was the son of a missionary to the Navajos. Growing up, he learned the language and became one of the few non-natives to speak Navajo.

He had been a WWI veteran and knew how important it was to our country to have a code that could not be broken by the enemy. Phillip also knew that the Choctaw Indian language had been used during WWI and in 1942; he suggested to Major General Clayton Vogel that they should use the Navajo's language as code in WWII.

The Navajo's language is an unwritten language which is extremely complex. Its syntax, tonal qualities and dialects can be extremely baffling to anyone who hasn't been taught the language. Another advantage to the Navajo language is that they could decode messages very fast.

Men who knew both English and Navajo were chosen and they worked together to create the code within their own language. In May of 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits were sent to Camp Pendleton and received training in Morse code, semaphore, military-style messages, wire laying and to learn all about radios. Later, they created their own dictionary.

The Code Talkers were so vital to the Marine Corps during WWII that they had one or two men guarding them at all times. From 1942 to 1945, they took part in every US Marine assault conducted in the Pacific. As Major General Howard Connor said, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would have never taken Iwo Jima". The General had six Navajo Code talkers working around the clock during the first 48 hours of battle and they sent, coded and decoded a total of 800 messages, all without errors!

There were about 300 Code Talkers in total. All of them were volunteers and none were drafted. August 14th is National Navajo Code Talkers Day. Let's all take a moment and thank them for their service.

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I Was So Scared That My Heart Stopped Beating!

It was just another one of those beautiful days in Orange County when I got a call from a homeowner who was complaining about some noises he heard in his wall. Everyone else at our office was really busy, so I told him I'd be right over to take a look at it.

His home was on Balboa Island and when I first got there, I took a quick walk around the home to see if there were any obvious signs of rodent activity. Must say that his home looked to be in really good shape and I started wondering why he was having a problem. I went to his front door, introduced myself and then asked him to show me where he was hearing the noise. We looked around the interior of his home and there were no signs of activity, at all. So, I asked him if I could take a look in his attic. I was a bit surprised when he told me his attic access was located up on the roof deck.

He led me outside, and then we walked up the steps to the roof deck. The attic access was about 2 foot wide, 2 foot high and the door was missing. I thought to myself, "*No wonder he has a problem - anything could simply walk in there and set up a home!*"

I put on my coveralls, got my flashlight and crawled in there. Didn't see any signs of rodent droppings, but I did see some large animal footprints. I went on back in the attic about 30 feet so that I could look around the corner. Suddenly, a very large raccoon jumped out from behind the corner and came after me. Raccoons can be very aggressive and I admit it, I was so scared that my heart stopped beating! But, I knew that I had better get out of there quickly, so I turned around and crawled out as fast as possible. Never once did I turn around to look back - I just kept waiting to feel it bite me. Fortunately, I got out unharmed.

Now, please ask me why my wife always insists that I pay my annual life insurance premiums on time! ☺



"Termite" Terry Singleton