



# Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue Newsletter

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Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue  
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## Avery's Story

By Rachel Craven

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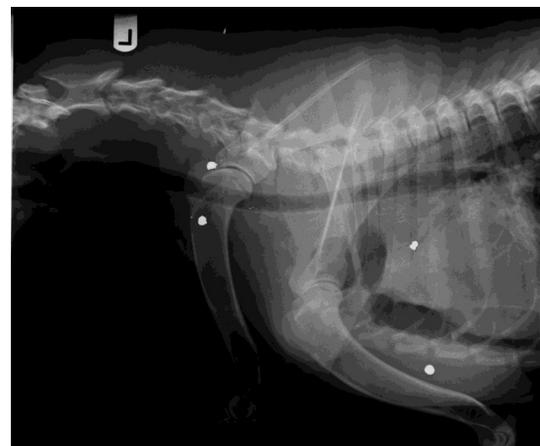
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My name is Avery, and I'm a one-year old female. Boy, do I have a story!

Let's start from the beginning. I grew up in a breeder pen with little human contact. I found a way to escape and wandered onto a chicken farm where the farmer shot me with a shotgun before calling animal control.

I sat in the shelter, in pain, for five days without being claimed. Then I joined Echo Dogs and I was transported up to my foster home in Pennsylvania.

I went to the vet and had x-rays. My front left foot had pellets in the middle and was fractured in three different places. It was very swollen. In addition to the pellets in my foot, at least eight others were scattered through my body. The placement of the pellets was not life-threatening, so the vet decided to leave them alone and just give me time to heal. Removing them would do more harm than good. I was ordered two months of monitoring and very restricted activity. The vet predicted the swelling in my foot may take up to a year to go away completely.



As the result of my history, I am very shy and untrusting of new people. I also cannot handle any loud or sudden noises as they spook me. While rehabing in my foster home, I made significant progress and it became evident I needed a home with at least one confident canine sibling to help build my own confidence. I found my perfect furever home in March where I have a confident, older canine sibling named Shelby and an adoring family. I continue to make progress daily with Shelby's help and my family's dedication.



## Ember's Story

By Rachel Craven

Ember is a 1 year old female WGSD who was spotted roaming in a rural NC area with an embedded collar and a 2-foot heavy chain dangling from her neck. Animal control was called and they took her to the shelter where the collar and chain were removed. Her neck had large gaping wounds from where the collar was surgically removed.



An Echo Dogs volunteer drove 17 hours round trip to pick her up and get her out of the shelter where chance of infection was so high, and into a foster home. We were hoping to have her neck surgically repaired but too much time had passed and we had to let her neck heal from the inside out. Despite her rough beginning, Ember is a ridiculously happy puppy full of energy. Ember has since been adopted and is thriving in her new home with a canine sibling who shares her same energy level.



## Some Statistics

In 2016, Echo Dogs adopted out 88 dogs. This is lower than the usual yearly number. We think this is because of fewer foster homes and the incidence of heartworm, which keeps dogs in foster so much longer.

Of those 88 dogs, 54 came from shelters, eight were born in foster homes, six were owner surrenders, and 20 came from other sources, like other rescues, vet hospitals, or returns that were re-adopted.

Rescues came from 21 states and were adopted to 22 states and D.C.

Twenty-one people fostered one dog last year. Nine people fostered more than one dog last year. Top foster honors go to those who fostered more than three dogs: Laura Cox, Ginny Hays, Alicia App, and Lora Whisler.

REMEMBER: The success of Echo Dogs relies on foster homes. How about opening up your home to a foster?

### **BZZZZZZ**

**HERE THEY COME!**

**Remember, it takes a SINGLE bite from an infected mosquito to give your dog heartworm.**



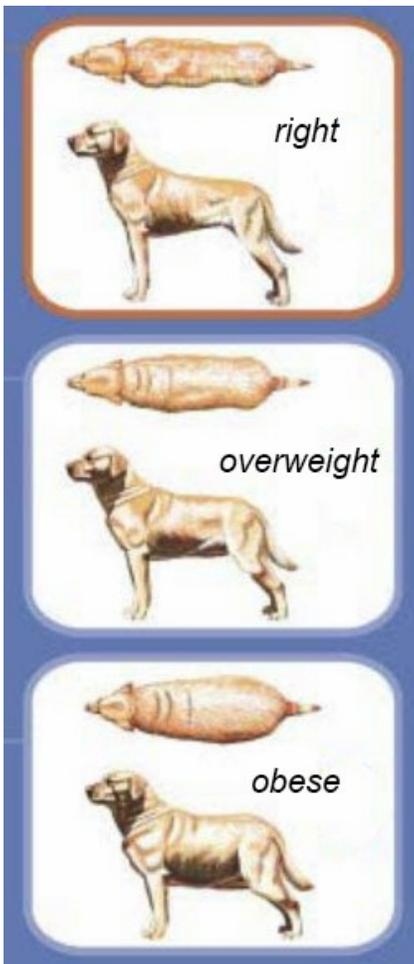
Now that the seasons are warming up and April showers are leaving puddles everywhere, providing heartworm preventative continues to be imperative. Heartworm kills, and the treatment to cure a dog of heartworm is dangerous and expensive. Do yourself and your dog a BIG favor and stay up to date with heartworm preventative according to your veterinarian's protocol.

## My Fat Dog is Cute That Way!

So what if your dog is a little overweight? He's cute that way, right? No, there are a lot of reasons to keep your canine friend lean and trim.

Sure, it's easier on his legs and joints if he isn't carrying around extra weight, but that's not the only reason. That extra weight overloads virtually all the organs of their bodies.

You can tell if your dog is too fat:



Use your eyes! An "hour glass figure" is ideal. Looking down from above the dog, note if there is a narrowing at the waist, behind the ribs and in front of the hips. A side view should show the same narrowing past the ribs.

If your dog's body is the same width from ribs to hips, your dog is overweight.

If your dog's body balloons wider than the ribs and hips, your dog is obese.

Another test is to feel your dog's ribs. You should be able to feel the ribs easily, without pushing too hard.

### Causes of Obesity

The main cause, as we all know, is "too much eat, too little move." That's pretty much a "take in, don't use up" cause. There are other causes, too, for which your veterinarian can test:

- Hypothyroidism
- Insulinoma
- Hyperadrenocorticism

If these causes are ruled out by testing, the next step is a doggy diet!

### So What?

The consequences of being overweight go far beyond a little slowing down.

**Damage to Infrastructure:** Your dog's bones, ligaments, tendons, and muscles work together to give him smooth, efficient movement without pain. Excess weight can damage this infrastructure, developing arthritis. Hip dysplasia becomes more severe earlier. Knees, elbows, and even the spine are part of that infrastructure.

**Increased Blood Pressure and Heart Disease:** Hypertension goes paw in paw with obesity, with the potential of congestive heart failure.

**Surgical and Anesthetic Problems:** The overweight dog is significantly more prone to complications to anesthesia, including cardiac arrest and delayed recovery.

**Reduce Liver Function:** Fat is stored by the liver, so if a dog is overweight, fat builds up, resulting in reduced liver function.

**Less Endurance:** More weight requires more work for the heart, muscles, and respiratory system.

**Breathing Difficulties:** Additional fat in the chest restricts the lungs, while fat in the abdomen pushes up against the diaphragm, also restricting the lungs.

**Heat Intolerance:** Our spoiled, sit-on-the couch dogs, don't need the extra weight of an outdoor sled dog. Fat restricts body temperature regulation.

**Digestive Problems:** Your overweight dog will be more likely to clear a room with flatulence and has an increased risk of other digestive problems.

**Increased Risk of Cancer:** Overweight dogs have an increased risk of immune function, which may make them at risk of certain cancers.

**Coat and Skin Problems:** The skin of overweight dogs produces more oil and the skin may fall in folds and accumulate oils that cause infections.

**Above all, overweight dogs have a reduced quality of life and die at a younger age than those that are maintained at their optimum weight!**

*Editor Disclosure: Our veterinarians have told us that our boys need to reduce, but until researching the topic for this newsletter, I didn't realize how very important it is. As of this afternoon, Jasper, Gunner, and I are on diets!*

## Should I Call the Vet?

### Is it an Emergency?

If your dog ran out in the street and was hit by a car, you'd not be asking yourself that question. You'd consider it an emergency. But when are other times when you should call your vet or an emergency vet immediately rather than wait and see?

Here are some of the times to seek veterinary advice immediately:

1. **Difficulty breathing!** Know first aid for choking. Check to see if the dog is "puffing" his lips or if his breathing suddenly becomes noisy.
2. **Restlessness!** If the dog appears restless, is trying to vomit or has foamy vomit, and can't seem to lie down, you may have a potential deadly bloat situation.
3. **Serious trauma!** Even without blood, internal injuries can be the result of being hit by a car or falling from a high place.
4. **Lots of blood!** You'll know the difference between a small injury that can wait for an appointment or a profuse loss of blood.
5. **Seizure!** Unless your dog is prone to seizures, a sudden onset is an emergency.
6. **Sudden temperament shift!** A normally mild dog that suddenly becomes scary aggressive is a dog in an emergency situation.
7. **Severe pain!** Our shepherds are normally pretty stoic, so actions that indicate severe pain are signs to call the vet immediately.
8. **Sudden loss of ability to stand!** Losing the use of the rear legs may be the sign of a spinal injury that should be seen by a vet as soon as possible. Sudden collapse could be the result of many emergencies.
9. **Difficulty urinating!** A bladder infection is painful but not life threatening, but how do you know it's not an obstruction?
10. **Signs your dog has ingested toxins!** Dangerous poisons and foods are too numerous to list. Learn about all the foods, chemicals, and plants that can cause seizures and death. The internet can be a good source.
11. **Disorientation!** If your dog appears to not know where he is, or just stands with his head in the corner, or walks in circles, call the vet.
12. **Repeated diarrhea or vomiting!** A onetime vomit or diarrhea should be watched, but if it continues or if blood is involved, consider it an emergency.
13. **Animal bite!** Any animal bite can be serious, even if your dog is up to date with rabies vaccinations. A snake bite could be deadly.
14. **Not eating, lethargic, you just don't know!** You know your dog better than anyone. Any dog can be off his feed once in a while without its constituting an emergency, but if you don't know what's wrong, and he is acting "funny," you need to call the vet.
15. **Your own vet's list!** Different climates and environmental issues may have instances not on this list. The next time you are at your vet's office, ask for a review of this list and whether there should be additions, given your dog's special needs.

Be sure you have your vet's number and the number to your chosen emergency vet handy. Keep it on the refrigerator door or as part of your contacts on your smart phone. The few minutes it takes to look up a number could be deadly.

If you think your dog has ingested something toxic, but is still acting normally, a call to the ASPCA national poison control number may help: **(888) 426-4435**.

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*Please have "Echo Dogs" in your subject line.*

## In Loving Memory

*"We who choose to surround ourselves  
with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle;  
easily and often breached.*

*Unable to accept its awful gaps,  
we would still live no other way.  
We cherish memory as the only  
certain immortality, never fully  
understanding the necessary plan.*

*...Irving Townsend*

Cammie, Anna Marie Scharding

Diamond, David Graham

Orion, Lynn Santosuosso

Bubba, Jeff Eichom

Bullet, Steve Lehrhoff

Zeus, Laurie Patrick

Falcor, Cynthia and Steve Lovewell

Saban, Craig Kenner

Tucker, Chris Chavlick

Arthur, Ed and Kris Milhausen

Jake, Steven and Yvonne Garland

Ranger, Steven and Yvonne Garland

Apollo, Brian and Kim Kemp

Juno, Mike and Cyndee Lehner

Jack, Neil and Kathy Shanahan

Cheyenne, Brian and Kim Kemp

Maverick, Katie Duncan

Heidi, Kim Witala

Kailey, William Szabo

Jack, Sandy and John  
Holak

Anna, Nancy Axelson

Zoey, Kathy Palla

Macy, Diana Goodman

Dakota, Carolyn Wineinger

