

Love Puppy

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Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

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Darwin's Story

In January he started limping and had become very lethargic. His limping was rapidly progressing and within 24 hours he could barely walk, and was unable to even lift his head! He went to the doctor for a medical exam, and upon his diagnosis the doctor began treating him for his illness. As you might guess, this story is not about Charles Darwin, the famous scientist, but Darwin, a four-year-old English Sheep Dog. Initially, the doctor took x-rays and they confirmed Darwin did not have any fractures or bone cancer. However, the blood work showed that Darwin had Lyme disease. Amazingly, Darwin responded well to treatment and after three days he was nearly back to his normal self. The scary part is that Darwin had not traveled anywhere and had stayed home for weeks in his urban neighborhood prior to his diagnosis. Thanks to his pet-parents' quick action and the veterinarian's quick diagnosis and treatment Darwin is happy, healthy and enjoying life today.



Beautiful little Abby is home in Minnesota being spoiled by her very proud pet-parents.



The majestic white-tailed deer is one of the most gentle and beautiful creatures we share our planet with, but as special as they are, they play a vital role in the life cycle of the blacklegged tick, commonly referred to as the deer tick. They provide the host for the deer tick mating cycle and enable the vermin to be dispersed geographically as the white-tailed deer wander throughout the forested and grassland they inhabit. Deer ticks are the carrier of a bacterial disease commonly identified as Lyme disease and they infect a host by piercing the skin and drawing the blood of its victim for nourishment. It has been determined by experts that Lyme Disease is exploding. They say Lyme disease is evolving into a year-round threat and can survive in any climate that stays above freezing. It can be found in all fifty states, however, they are most prominent in the Northeast, Upper Midwest and the Pacific coast. Once the deer tick is attached it will infect a dog within 24 to 36 hours. Lyme disease is a very serious bacterial disease that can be fatal. The best way to prevent your little doxie from contracting Lyme Disease is to have him vaccinated by your veterinarian.

Symptoms of Lyme Disease in Dogs

- *Stiffness, Discomfort, Pain
- *Lameness
- *Swelling Joints
- *Fever
- *Loss of Appetite
- *Reduced Energy

*Symptoms can progress to kidney failure, which can be fatal. *Serious cardiac and neurological effects can also occur.

Facts Though Research

- *Lyme disease got its name in 1975 after the first cases were identified in Lyme, Connecticut.
- *Your dog cannot give you Lyme Disease.
- *Lyme Disease cannot be transmitted from one pet to another.
- *Dogs are five to twenty more likely to contract Lyme Disease than humans.
- *The Deer Tick is the size of a sesame seed and is almost impossible to detect.