

“Firework explosions (which can emit sounds of up to 190 decibels, a full 110 to 115 decibels higher than the 75- to 80-decibel range) can produce a blind panic in animals that can lead to serious injury, deep-rooted, debilitating fears, or even death.” - Ohio Animal Defence League

The Toxic Elements of Fireworks - Pick Your Poison

Toxic Element	Fireworks Usage	Toxic Effect of Fallout Dust & Fumes
Aluminum	brilliant whites	Contact dermatitis, bioaccumulation
Antimony sulfide	glitter effects	Toxic smoke, possible carcinogen
Arsenic compounds	Used as colorants. Sadly still out there. [3]	Toxic ash can cause lung cancer, skin irritation and wart formation.
Barium Nitrate	glittering greens	Poisonous. Fumes can irritate respiratory tract. Possible radioactive fallout. [4]
Copper compounds	blues	Polychlorinated dioxins and dibenzofurans. [5] Can bioaccumulate. Cancer risk.
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) [5]	Use was supposed to be banned globally.	Persistent environmental toxin. Is a carcinogen, mutagen and a reproductive hazard [13].
Lead Dioxide / Nitrate / Chloride	oxidizer	Bioaccumulation, developmental danger for kids & unborn babes, may remain airborne for days, poisonous to plants & animals
Lithium compounds	blazing reds	Toxic and irritating fumes when burned
Mercury (Mercurous chloride)	chlorine donor	Toxic heavy metal. Can bioaccumulate.
Nitric oxide	fireworks byproduct [6]	Toxic by inhalation. Is a free radical
Nitrogen dioxide	fireworks byproduct [6]	Highly toxic by inhalation. SIDS risk [8].
Ozone	fireworks byproduct [7]	Greenhouse gas that attacks & irritates lungs
Perchlorate - Ammonium & Potassium	propellant / oxidizer	Can contaminate ground & surface waters, can cause thyroid problems in humans & animals
Potassium Nitrate	in black powder	Toxic dusts, carcinogenic sulfur-coal compounds
Strontium compounds	blazing reds	Can replace calcium in body. Strontium chloride is slightly toxic.
Sulfur Dioxide	gaseous byproduct of sulfur combustion	Acid rain from sulphuric acid affects water sources, vegetation & causes property damage. SIDS risk [8].

## CANINE CONVERSATIONS with Robert Cabral

Sharing my love of dogs with other dog lovers is my inspiration for writing this new column, “Canine Conversations” for The Local. In future issues we will address a holistic and ‘whole-istic’ approach to dogs. Not just one aspect of the dog, but *the whole dog*. I want to address everything from vet care to behavior and beyond. I welcome your thoughts and questions as we begin an exciting journey understanding man’s best friend.

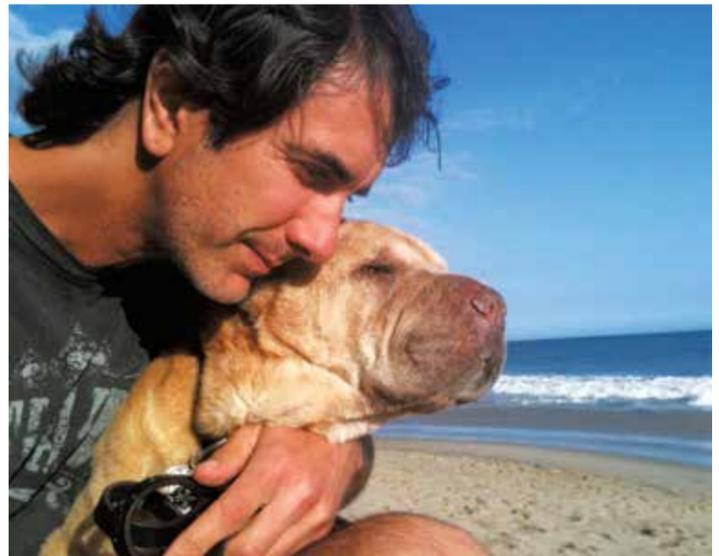
The relationship between dog and man began before the dog was ever even a dog, and some will say before man really became “man.” I spoke at UCLA a few years ago about the co-evolution of our species. It is poignantly clear that we as a species would not have developed were it not for dogs and we know clearly that dog would have never developed were it not for early mans selected breeding of certain wolves to develop the modern dog. Some say this history dates back over 100,000 years. Since then the journey has continued to develop both of our species. The AKC currently recognizes over 150 breeds of dogs, but there are plenty more that are not formally recognized.

We have developed dogs into man’s best friend, or perhaps dogs have developed themselves into man’s best friend. In either case, I can’t imagine my life without dogs. I spend much of my time training them, more of my life saving them and they are one thing that gives profound meaning to my life.

Your interaction with your dog is not just about what you feed your dog that makes him/her whole, it’s your entire relationship. I will share with you my position on shelter rescues as well as the benefits of saving a dog from a shelter and where to go locally. There are countless dogs in need of a home at shelters within a short drive of our beautiful city including the Agoura Animal Shelter in Agoura Hills as well as The Ventura Shelter in Camarillo. I hope you will consider adopting a pet at one of these shelters if you are thinking of adding a new best friend to your home. There are many breeds, sizes and so many unique personalities of four-legged friends just waiting for a home.

I am looking forward to informing our pet friendly readers here at The Local. Please feel free to email [boundangels@gmail.com](mailto:boundangels@gmail.com)

If you are in need of specific training advice you can read my blog posts and free dog training articles on my website [www.BlackBeltDogTraining.com](http://www.BlackBeltDogTraining.com)



### THE BASICS to a better relationship with your dog

1. Train your dog to listen to you and reward him for doing so.
2. Feed your dog the very best food you can afford, read the labels and think of his health.
3. Make sure your dog gets exercise every day. This includes mental and physical exercise.
4. Give your dog special time every day, even if only a few minutes of loving, grooming or petting. The benefits are equal for you and your dog.
5. Your dog needs regular checkups, so once yearly visit your vet.



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