

Parent Club Alert!

Executive Summary

The Parent Club Board of Governors is issuing this Alert of increased concern of injury and even death to our animals caused by “Mean Seeds” or Grass Awns. There seems to be more cases as these grasses have increased their range throughout the US. To raise awareness, we have issued this Alert. Our plan is to:

1. Raise awareness of all local clubs to look for and identify their trial grounds for locations of these plants and where possible instruct Handlers and Judges not to enter or air their dogs in these areas.
2. Raise awareness of handlers that it is his or her responsibility to safe guard their dog.
3. Continue to educate owners, handlers and trial volunteers to identify and segregate these plant locations if possible or locate new grounds.

Pretty much any contact your dog has with grass awns can be potentially hazardous. They can be lodged in your dogs’ ears, nose and imbedded in their skin or fur and most dangerous of all they can be inhaled and swallowed. Once inside the body they can become a problem. They can produce infection and inflammation and disrupt normal functions. Once an awn has passed through the surface layer of tissue it can end up anywhere. Once the initial wound is healed the situation can get worse quickly. In a great deal of cases the owner is unaware of the issue, but the grass is now trapped inside your dog and infection begins or the awn can migrate throughout the body including lungs or stomach resulting in surgery or death.

Some potential warning signs that need immediate attention are elevated temperature, loss of appetite, sneezing, lethargy and constant licking of an area. These need **immediate attention** from your VET!

We will continue to educate our members on the identification of these plants and hope that each club will inspect or have inspected their trial grounds to help prevent this tragedy from occurring. **After each event please “put your hands on your Dog”**. Brush your Dog. Feel for any possible bumps or seeds trapped in their skin. We would like to get everyone to

Put Your Hands on Your Dog!

Problem Grasses



Canadian Style Rye



Cheat Grass



Foxtail



Foxtail Barley



Wheat Grass Awn



Oat Grass Awn

**We encourage all our member Clubs, Handlers and Owners to
read the following important links:**

The Grass Awn Project (Kathy Lewis & Kevin Noon)

www.meanseeds.com

Pet MD

www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/traumatic/can-grass-kill-your-dog

Trial Grounds Inspection Report (example from NAC 2019)

Spring Survey of 5 grasslands at Pyramid State Park in Perry County, Illinois

<https://essft.com/2019-national-amateur-championship-nac/>

**We will continue to raise awareness and we need your help to
make this safe for our dogs.**



Put Your Hands on Your Dog!