



Safety on the Ice - Barely and Very Carefully

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Here's how the story goes. In the dead of winter, two duck hunters and their trusty hunting dog drive their brand new Range Rover out on to the ice of (choose: _____ [a] Moriches Bay, [b] Shinnecock Bay, [c] Great South Bay, [d] Narrow Bay, [e] body of water of your choice) and, seeing that there were no open leads to entice migratory birds to land, take out a stick of dynamite, light it and throw it as far out on the ice as they can. The plan is simple. The dynamite blows a substantial hole in the ice; they get back in the car and run the heater until the migratory birds arrive. They step out with their shotguns full of bird shot and bag much of the flock.

So, as the dynamite stick is flying through the air, the dog takes off after it, thinking that a game of fetch is exactly what will make his day. Grabbing the lit stick of dynamite in his mouth, he turns and starts running back to his master and fellow hunter. This of course alarms the hunters no end. Seeing that waving their arms wildly and shouting, "no! no! no!" isn't working, they fire their bird shot at the charging dog - striking fear into a bewildered Fido. Fido turns to his only source of cover - the car. Running under the car to hide, all is fine until he burns his rump on the still-hot exhaust pipe. As he yelps and takes off running again, the dynamite stick, which was left behind with the yelp, explodes. This sends the brand new Range Rover, in many pieces, to the bottom of (choose: _____ [a] Moriches Bay, [b] Shinnecock Bay, [c] Great South Bay, [d] Narrow Bay, [e] body of water of your choice.)

Funny - but only apocryphal as every Coast Guard station north of the 40th degree of latitude was telling that story a couple of winters ago, swearing that one



of the locals swore to them that they knew somebody that was related to somebody who knew the dog owner.

But some of us do fish and/or hunt on the frozen lakes, creeks and bays Out East. Please heed the following from the US Coast Guard:

Ice is unpredictable and dangerous. While the Coast Guard understands winter recreation on the ice around our area is a tradition, it is important to take safety measures:

- Always check the weather and ice conditions before any trip out onto the ice. Ice thickness is not consistent, even over the same body of water.
- Always tell family and friends where you are going and when you are expected to be back, and stick to the plan.
- Use the buddy system. NEVER go out onto the ice alone.
- Dress in bright colors. Wear an exposure suit, preferably one that is waterproof, and a personal floatation device.

- Carry a whistle or noise-making device to alert people that you are in distress; carry a cell phone and/or a VHF-FM radio in order to contact the nearest Coast Guard station in the event you see someone in distress.

- Carry two screwdrivers or a set of ice awls. If you fall through the ice you can use these items to help get yourself out. They are more effective than using your hands.

Remember, hypothermia is a killer and it sneaks up on you with woolen slippers (see SSP, "Cold Water Survival, Hypothermia, Rescue & Recovery", 10/27/10.) Cold water safety presentations by the Auxiliary are available to local organizations and can be arranged by contacting the Coast Guard Auxiliary District Public Affairs Officer via their Web site.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



Janice Harkins Dog Talk

Do you ever come home and your dog is cowering in a corner? Have you ever run to the store and then came home to your dog that scratched the wall by the door or chewed something? Dogs act out with negative behavior when you are not home for two reasons: aggression or fear. Aggression may sound extreme, however, aggression means anger. They are angry that you left them and they are paying you back! Fear is separation anxiety. With dogs separation anxiety can range from mild to severe.

Some of the following behaviors exhibited by your dog are signs/signals of separation anxiety:

- Digging and scratching at doors or windows in an attempt to find you;
- Destructive chewing of any inappropriate object;
- Howling, barking, and whining;
- Urination and defecation (even with otherwise house trained dogs); or
- Never being completely at ease. For example, in the evening hours, your dog may be showing unpleasant signs because they are never able to completely calm down and rest.

If you see any of these signs, you want to try out some of the following suggestions:

- Buy four toys. Every time you are out, you are going to give your dog this toy. You will lift this toy when you get home. This toy is basically a gift to them for you leaving. Each week you will give a different toy so they will never get bored.
- Leave the radio on. You will want to put on a talk station or an easy listening station. You



want to comfort them, making them feel less alone. This will also block out a lot of outside noise.

- Leave the TV on. Just like the radio, you want to put on something that is easy to listen to for your dog. You never want to put on anything with yelling because this can stimulate them to get excited.
- Some dogs find it a comfort to be in their cage because being closed in makes them feel safe. Getting a cage cover might also be something to put your dog more at ease.
- When you come home, greet them but don't come in too overly excited. You do not want to add to the anxiety they were feeling when you were out.
- Hire a pet sitter! This is someone that comes to see your dog and does whatever tasks you would like them to do. This is a way for your dog to have what they view as "their friend". Having

a sitter will give them a break and give them something to look forward to in your absence. Ultimutt K9 Training and Pet Sitting is available!

- Bring them to doggie day care. This is a place where they can go to for the day and play with other dogs. This will keep them busy so they can't be destructive at home. This will ease their mind because there will constant activity.

- Walk them in the morning and the evening. By doing this, you are giving them something to look forward to and you are tiring them out so they will be more satisfied.

If you have tried some of these options and you are not seeing any positive change, then the next step you will want to take is consult with your veterinarian. Your vet will go over and explain your options. Between you and your vet, you will take the proper measures to find a medication or course of action that works for your dog.