

The DogChannel Newswire (08-07-08)

Dog becomes cancer test patient; pet dogs can “catch” human yawns; and other news.

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Bail for Alleged Dog Abuser Set at \$100,000

A Boulder Creek man accused of abusing dozens of dogs remains in Santa Cruz County Jail, with bail set at \$100,000 Thursday morning and a bail hearing was scheduled for Friday, the Santa Cruz Sentinel reports.

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Boy ‘Youngest’ to Get Guide Dog

A teenager from County Durham has become one of the youngest people in the United Kingdom to own a guide dog. Brad Ranson, 14, of Belmont, who lost his sight when he was seven, now relies on Labrador Retriever Lance who was trained by Guide Dogs for the Blind, BBC News reports.

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Cancer Test Patient – With a Wet Nose

A Minneapolis dog is the first to try an experimental treatment that could work on incurable brain tumors in people and dogs. The dog, Batman, has joined a relatively new field of research called comparative oncology, where researchers leverage what they learn from pets for both animals and people, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reports.

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Pet Dogs Can ‘Catch’ Human Yawns

Yawning is known to be contagious in humans, but now scientists have shown that pet dogs can catch a yawn, too. The copying activity suggests that canines are capable of empathizing with people, say the researchers who recorded dogs’ behavior in lab tests, BBC News reports.

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Rescued Pets Die in N.Y. Fire

The founder of a Long Island rescue group says she's heartsick over the loss of seven dogs and six cats killed in a fire at her home. Dori Scofield was nursing the abused animals back to health when they died on Tuesday night in Stony Brook, N.Y., Newsday reports.

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