

## The DogChannel Newswire (06-18-09)

**Puppy swallows eight golf balls; pet owners turning to alternative medicine; and other news.**

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### Iraqi Puppy Finds New Home With Michigan Family

Life can be tough – and short – for dogs in Iraq, but one puppy has been given a chance to survive. In a country where people fear the spread of disease because vaccinations are rare, strays like Laia are shot, poisoned or stoned. The 5-month-old escaped such an end with the help of U.S. soldiers and on June 4 arrived in Genoa Township, Mich., The Associated Press reports.

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### Puppy Swallows Eight Golf Balls

If you've owned a puppy you know they'll eat just about anything. Now, one curious 8-month-old dog is on the mend after developing a taste for golf balls. Wally the Rottweiler underwent emergency surgery to remove five golf balls from his stomach, KTLA News (Los Angeles, Calif.) reports.

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### Pet Industry Expected to Grow in 2009

While the rest of the economy goes to the dogs, pet-centered businesses are still riding high, according to new research. The pet industry is expected to generate \$51.6 billion this year – 1.3% more than in 2008, according to Los Angeles-based research firm IBISWorld, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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### Pet Owners Turning to Alternative Medicine

Although some in the veterinary profession are skeptical, Americans' growing fascination with alternative medicine is influencing the kind of care their pets get, the Washington Post reports.

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### Pets Face Longer EU Rabies Controls

Five European Union states should be allowed to apply their tougher anti-rabies controls on cats, dogs and ferrets entering as passport-carrying pets for a further 18 months, the EU's executive arm said Tuesday. Britain, Finland, Ireland, Malta and Sweden are currently allowed to keep stricter pet entry requirements than other EU members until June 2010, to check for rabies, tapeworms and ticks. The European Commission wants that date extended to the end of 2011, Reuters reports.

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