

## The DogChannel Newswire (09-15-09)

**New poison alert for dog owners; dog from Iraq carries soldier's legacy; and other news.**

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### New Poison Alert for Dog Owners: Nicotine

Everyone's heard the stories about a friend's dog who ate a pan of brownies or nibbled a holiday poinsettia and got sick, or worse, died. Some pet owners are not aware that nicotine can poison a pup, too. Smoked or unsmoked cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff, even in small amounts, can be toxic, USA Today reports.

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### Dog Bites Are One-Third of All Homeowner Insurance Liability Claims

So much for man's best friend – dog bites represented a third of all homeowners insurance liability claims last year, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Attacks cost insurers \$387.2 million in 2008, up 8.7% from \$356.2 million in 2007, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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### Dog From Iraq Carries Soldier's Legacy

Laia is a survivor. She survived a war, a broken leg, the death of her owner, a risky convoy across Iraq and an amputation and wound up in the home of Jerry and Colleen Deaven of Brighton, Mich. She is just a mutt, but her story spans the globe, the Detroit Free Press reports.

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### R.I.P.: Freddie, Seattle's Bomb Dog

The Seattle Police Department says Freddie, a dog and part of the bomb squad for more than six years, died Saturday. Officer Craig Williamson and Freddie had been a team since 2003. They conducted hundreds of missions, including bomb sweeps for dignitaries and evidence searches for weapons and explosives, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports.

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### Mischa Barton Places Her Trust in Dog

Many celebrities rely on bodyguards and a coterie of assistants to keep them in touch with reality, but Mischa Barton's entourage comes on twice as many legs. "All kinds of things keep me grounded. My dogs and having to wake up and walk them every morning and having to walk them before bed at night," the actress says, People reports.

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