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The dog's body smell tell about health.

Dr. Ken Tudor.

Smell is a very powerful diagnostic tool.

The smell of dental disease.

Unfortunately not all of our dogs are happy to be at the veterinary hospital.

Many might require a muzzle for every veterinary visit.

Although the muzzle protects the staff from bite injuries, it inhibits examination of the dog patient's mouth.

But the muzzle does not inhibit the **odors from the mouth - smell of dental disease infections** quickly alert you the owner or your vet of something wrong.

Severe dental disease has a very characteristic odor of infected tissue with a hint of the metallic smell of blood.

Often dog owners do not recognize it or fail to locate the smell if they do.

Because it tends to permeate the air in close up with your dog, it should immediately alerts you to at least one medical problem that needs attention.

This is particularly fortunate for muzzled dogs.

Owners can be alerted to the serious nature of the problem despite the inability to actually show them.

The smell of infected ears.

Like dental diseases, the “musky, rancid butter” smell of ear infections quickly alert you the owner of something is wrong.

The odor is so characteristic that you will know it’s time for a detailed ear exam and to act accordingly.

The odor is also an aid for training owners how to manage ear problems in dogs.

Because ear problems are closely associated with allergies they are sometimes incurable, but they are treatable and need constant management by the owner.

You will know and come to recognize the difference between normal “doggie” ear smell and the infected ear, then need to intervene with a vet visit or medication earlier and ward off the painful, inflamed ears that characterize advanced cases.

The smell of maggots.

Everyone has experienced the smell of a rotting carcass.

That characteristic odor of a dead animal and putrescine are unmistakable.

The same odors of rotting tissue might accompany your dog that have sores teaming with maggots.

The tail, anus, genital area and a not treated wound are the most common sites of infection.

Fecal (poop) accumulation in the hair around the anus or genital area or it a festering wound causes skin irritations and infections that result in dead tissue.

Flies are attracted to the feces and dead skin.

Urine scald around the vulva or penis will also create the same sores tissue.

While feasting on the feces, urine, and dying tissue, the flies lay eggs that quickly hatch into maggots to continue the feeding frenzy.

Often this problem escape the attention of the owner.

The key is to keep looking with your daily interaction with your dog - because the smell does not lie.

Use your senses:

The forgotten diagnostic tools.

It is easy in this age of advanced technology and testing to forget what we can learn from our own senses.

By carefully **observing, listening, touching, and smelling** during our interactions with our dogs we can use medical advances more judiciously and targeted.

Our five senses are powerful diagnostic tools.

Has smell ever helped you detect a problem with your dog?