



Humane Society

OF THE BLACK HILLS

Caring for Lost, Homeless and Forgotten Animals Since 1968

To Whom It May Concern:

I examined two dogs at the Humane Society of the Black Hills on Friday July 9, 2004 who had a history of being caught in leg hold traps in the Badlands National Park. The dogs were retrieved on July 8 but had been in the traps an undetermined amount of time. The dogs appeared to be litter mates based on size and appearance. I was able to determine the age by teething status on one to be approximately 5 months old. The other dog's teeth were severely worn, exposing bands of dentin on all teeth in the mouth, making it impossible to estimate age. The first dog mentioned had one rear leg that was swollen below the hock, the skin on the foot was necrotic and smelled gangrenous, and bones were exposed. The dog was lethargic, dehydrated and in pain. Euthanasia was recommended. The second dog had one front leg that was swollen below the elbow, the skin on the foot was necrotic and oozing serosanguinous material. The dog was otherwise in good spirits and under treatment with antibiotics and pain medication.

On Monday, July 12, I received a call from the director of the Humane Society requesting amputation of the second dog's leg. Over the weekend, she had chewed the necrotic skin until all bones in the foot were exposed. The dog's leg was amputated mid-humerus and she made an excellent and full recovery. It is yet to be determined how the damage to the teeth will affect long term viability of the teeth. More full dental care including complete dental x-rays will be needed.

Sincerely,

Teri Schweiss, DVM
Consulting Veterinarian, Humane Society of the Black Hills
Mountain View Animal Hospital, Rapid City, SD