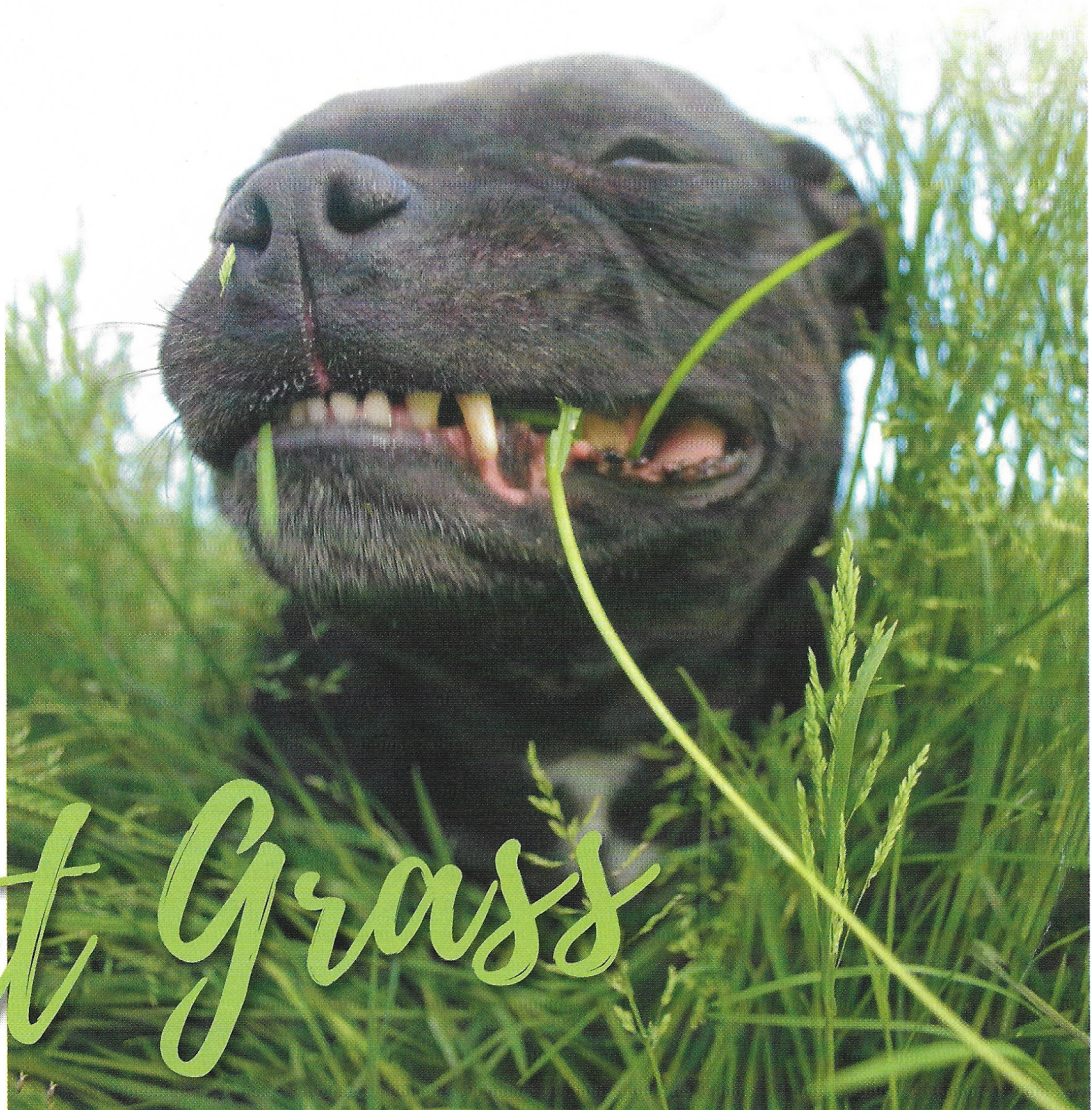


Why Do Dogs...?

BY MELVIN PEÑA



LEIRI/THINKSTOCK

Eat Grass

My dog, Baby, is probably a lot like your canine companions. She has ready and regular access to nutritious food, and yet, no sooner do we leave the house for our walk than she turns into a goat. Our lawn, the neighbors' yards or tufts of grass growing along the forest trails: Baby samples a bit of each over the course of an outing. It is among the most common and puzzling things dogs do. Why do dogs eat grass?

1 Does grass help dogs vomit or poop?

Folk wisdom suggests that eating grass can ease digestive issues at both ends, encouraging dogs to throw up and help to move poop through their colons. Science offers no evidence linking eating grass with

vomiting. It has shown that dogs, already nauseated before grazing, were more likely to throw up after.

The same goes for the supposed laxative properties of grass. When a dog is getting mostly meat-based proteins, fresh water and consistent exercise, digestion takes an average of four to eight hours. Since a dog's