

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
July 3, 1926

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 26, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University

DOG-DAYS

Those who have been in Rome during the period of July and the first half of August can appreciate what must be the discomforts of a dog with his hair on, no chance to perspire (a dog can't except on the end of his nose), and insufficient water to drink in this virtually rainless period, with its remorseless sunshine. If a dog would ever need a muzzle it would be at this time of the year in Rome's climate. The Romans noticed that this period of greatest heat began about the time when Canicula, the Little Dog Star, rose with the sun, and ended when it set with the sun, the dates being July 3 and August 11. It was thought that there must be some connection between the two astronomical phenomena. But now these events happen some weeks later, while the greatest heat still occurs, on the average, in July and the first half of August.

From Rome the notion of the Dog-days spread over western Europe and, with immigrants, to America. Although the period no longer holds any connection with the heliacal rising and setting of Canicula, the Dog-days still retain their place in popular parlance, and the hottest, muggiest days of July, August and even early September are sure to be marked by some reference to "Dog-days".

When the weather reminds you of Dog-days and you are trying to keep cool by reducing your clothing, using electric fans, and going bathing, remember your dog, reducing his rations and give him plenty of water to drink.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE,  
21st and B Sts.,  
Washington, D. C.