



American Pet Magazine™

CATS, DOGS, FISH, HORSES AND MORE



Inside:
best
in print

Ms. Pineapple's
Corner

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL
EVENTS

FURRY FINDS:
Pampered Kitty Essentials

10 Reasons
to Adopt a Shelter Dog

HOT WEATHER TIPS

Photo by: Gene Cannon
Ms. Pineapple's

Complimentary

“Hi my name is
Durango.
I may look like
a tough guy,
but i'm just a **BIG**
sweetheart.”



Durango was adopted on April 25, 2005 by Dawn Parisi.

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The Publishers Note

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From The Desk of the Editor

Greetings! Welcome to the national publication of choice for faithful pet owners and their pets.

Award-Winning, Ms. Pineapple, takes precedence on the cover. She is honoring her deceased owner, Gene Cannon, who lost his battle to cancer on March 5, 2011. Gene loved Ms. Pineapple more than any woman in his life. He was very proud of her and entered her in many photo contests with great results! She was rescued by a close friend and now spends her time getting to know her new family of six (3 humans and 3 other dogs). She quickly found her choice spot to sleep at night with Katie, her 12-year-old human.

There are all kinds of pets. Sure dogs and cats are by far the most popular. But, pets also include horses, rabbits, fish, turtles, ferrets, crabs, snakes, spiders, hamsters, gerbils, hedgehogs, chickens and a huge assortment of other animals.

American Pet Magazine is a new resource to help you and your pet live safely and confidently. I encourage you to support the advertisers and pass along this complimentary copy. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events. Together, we'll help save lives, One pet at a time .. One day at a time .. One life at a time!!

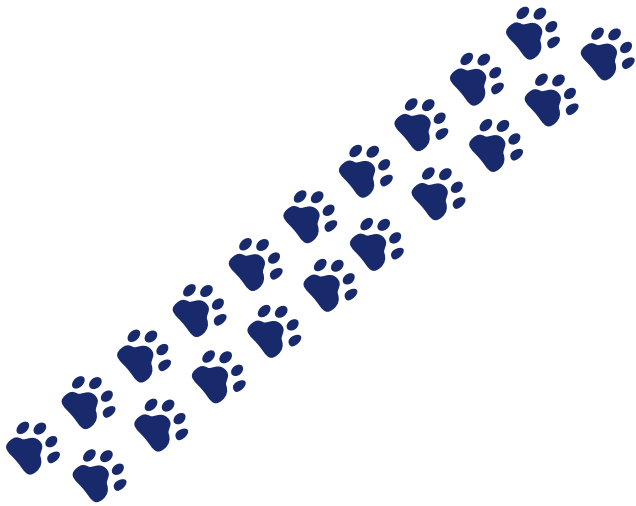
Last, but not least, this magazine is dedicated to my ultimate inspirations, my beloved felines of past and present, Tuffy, Amelia Earhart (Mia), TabithaTheWitch, ThrasherMan, ChillAnn, MonkeyChow, GypsyPrince, MissKitty and PeanutButter and all our rescues that we found forever homes for. I can't imagine life without any of them!

Thank you again and enjoy your reading time!
#Meow #Woof

Join our Cause for Pets!

Suzi Karp

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*On the Cover ...
Photographer:
Gene Cannon (RIP)
'Ms. Pineapple'
Photo taken 7/4/10*



Honoring & Calming Pets during Summer's Patriotic Holidays

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery

With the arrival of the warm weather comes the fun outdoor holidays that conjure up smells of delicious food being grilled on the BBQ and images of splashing in the pool, lake, or ocean; building castles in the sand, watching the fireworks, hiking, biking, and so much more. With Memorial Day in our rear view mirror and the Fourth of July right around the corner, it's a good time to reflect on one and plan for the other.

First, in recognition of Memorial Day, much gratitude to all canine veterans - past and present - for their great sacrifices to keep America safe. Since World War I, canines have played a large part in history. Known as "war dogs," these courageous canines, accompanied by their handlers, have bravely assisted our soldiers in so many ways; from tracking to bomb sniffing. K9 police officers and K9 soldiers put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve alongside their handlers. They are intelligent, devoted, and hard working dogs. Canines also played a large part in the 9/11 rescue operation. For more interesting facts, videos, documentaries, stamp project information, and much more on the war dogs, visit the United States War Dog Association's website at www.uswardogs.org. For some "pawsome" photographs of devoted search and rescue dogs, check out the book *Dog Heroes of September 11th*.

The Fourth of July is a time when many folks enjoy taking their dogs along for some fun festivities. It is extremely important to keep in mind the sensitivities of pets. With the celebratory fireworks of the season, many canines are troubled by the loud snaps, crackles, and bangs. If yours is one, please remember that dogs are extremely hearing sensitive, so please don't make them be present for it. There are many good tips out there to help with keeping dogs calm, but here are a few of my thoughts if your dog is fearful:

- 1) Definitely do not expose them to the great fireworks show in the sky. They will not enjoy it, even if you will.
- 2) Do not "reward" them for scared behavior, as this will only make it worse.
- 3) Do not scold them for their fretful behavior, it's not their fault they feel scared.

4) Sometimes there may have been something in the dog's past that scared him/her. Before a loud event, try positive-reinforcement by having him near you and test out different sounds – for example: a bottle opening, a drum banging, a loud knocking, a textbook falling onto the floor, snapping bubble wrap, etc. Reward your dog if he/she does not react. If he/she does react, distract him right away with something else to change the frame of mind.

5) Try different distracting/enticing things while the fireworks are going off – treats, calm talking, a nice walk, or if need be, keep him inside and let him just hang with the family, picking up on the overall calm vibe, or as Cesar Milan calls it "calm assertive energy."

6) Administer natural calming aids found in a health food store. In extreme cases, your veterinarian can prescribe a calming medication.

7) Some dogs prefer to stay in their room or kennel when feeling nervous. If this is where they prefer to be, let them. Just be sure there is nothing around that can hurt them (electric cords, etc.) and turn on some white noise, such as a fan or air conditioner.

8) Try playing some music or TV while the fireworks are going off. We found that music and TV were great calming tools with our Huskies when they were puppies, although they each have different taste in genres! Two do not need anything, two enjoy cartoons, and one just loves rock music. Sometimes, when they were all together, we would settle on the Weather Channel as it has talking, music, and "cartoons" (the 7-day forecast with the cute yellow sun or white snowflakes comes close!).

Until next time, the FiveSibes and I wish a happy, healthy, safe, and peaceful summer for all canines, their handlers, and human-families.

Author and photojournalist Dorothy Wills-Raftery, along with her daughter, is the mom to five Siberian Huskies. Dorothy also writes and Tweets info from her FiveSibes blog (<http://www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com>) about "a day in the life" of her Sibes, as well as Siberian Husky news, reviews, and all things canine.



FURRY FINDS

Disease Detecting Litter



Pets are very good at hiding disease and your vet could detect a potential problem weeks, months or even years before obvious signs of disease are seen at home. Early detection of disease always leads to the best chance of recovery and will be less painful for your pet and less expensive for you. <http://HealthMeterCatLitter.com>



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Dear MissKitty

Dear MissKitty,

I am a cat & live indoors. I can be a little moody when my Mom wants to trim my claws. What can we do to reach a happy medium? How do I help with the trimming of my claws?
From Sebastian in Ft Lauderdale

Dear Sebastian,

You need a cat scratcher of some kind. There are many different varieties to choose from to help you. Please do not use the furniture or other items not belonging to you or your parent may be a little unhappy.

Good Luck!

Peaceful Paws, MissKitty

MissKitty, a 16-year-old Siamese Polydactyl, the professional expertise and insights of "MissKitty". Miss Kitty lives in Fort Lauderdale with her human mommy and two kitty siblings, GypsyPrince and PeanutButter. When she's not working on this column, she spends most of her time indoors scratching with her clawless front paws and enjoying catnip or soaking up the sun in her backyard.

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc.
Adoption Events Monthly
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Our adoption home is the new Petsmart at 1700 N. Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale 33305. We are always looking for long & short-term foster homes for dogs, cats and kittens.

2nd Annual Animal Adoption Fair
www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
Sunday, August 12, 2012, 10am - 6pm
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
954-971-4432

Our Animal Adoption Fair is the War Memorial Auditorium at 800 N.E 8th St, Fort Lauderdale All indoors and air conditioned. Animal Friendly. Veterinary Care, Live Music, Raffles. Food. Fun! Looking for vendors & animal related services!

Rescue Dogs: a First SECOND

Written by Christina Bournias

They may be someone's second choice, but they are first in line to find you.

Do you remember the first dog of your very own? I do. His name was Nicodemus (alias Nica). He was an unexpected, second chance shelter dog. He is the purpose for this article, and the reason for loving other dogs.

I was looking for a cute little “yippity-yap”, so I sought out a local pet store. Naive, I did not realize how many animals there are in shelters, merely waiting their chance for redemption. Homeless and on borrowed time, some never get another chance. Due to the ongoing surrender problems, and shelter overpopulation, there are many animals out there that are certainly not what you call first in demand. Far too many of these animals (of all kinds) are unfortunately abandoned, neglected, or worse, tormented by the hands of humans; consequential to decisions they have made.

For the moment, however, let's talk about dogs.

Countless unwanted dogs are commonly known as “Mutt-Doodles” or “Mix-A-Poos.” To my surprise, I came across just the right one for me. But, I didn't know it at the time. When I saw him, I would've guessed he was somebody else's dog. To convince myself that he was not clambering over his littermate to see me, I took all the other dogs out for a walk. I eyed the beagle in the corner, and smiled at the bulldog in the waiting room. I ignored Nicodemus's attempts to frolic and open my pocketbook. I shooed him away when he tried to play with my ponytail and dismissed the idea of owning a herding breed. He was a hard-working black and white Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix. Not what I had in mind. I was critical of his markings, and turned my back on his loud yelps, heard from the narrow row of cages lined with other unpopular mongrels. “Elvis”—as they named him—wasn't the puppy I imagined. What I didn't realize was that he selected me for adoption.

...Continued on Page 09

Ms. Pineapple's



corner

I fully support those humans who are willing to give the love back to my furry friends and other pets. Those that foster and rescue are awesome people, especially my new family (Owners of Thug Custom Cycles). It is difficult to help every animal in need. There are laws about how many pets a family should have. Some people take in more than they can physically or financially handle. Pets are then neglected medically or emotionally and that is never good.



September celebrates Homeless Animals. There are many events being held for adoptions and information. These events are good for you, especially if don't know what type of pet you want. You can browse and ask questions to determine what type of animal is right for your family and lifestyle. I am a rescue. My first owner passed away from cancer last year and I was devastated. Gene had many friends so I was lucky to have found a Forever Home right away. there are alot of pets that aren't as lucky and either live in shelters or worse, euthenized. Please make an educated decision when adopting...One pet @ a time!

2012 Catsfest Dumb Friends League

Saturday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Denver, CO

ddfl.org/catfest or call (303) 751-5772 ext. 1378

CatFest will feature adoptable cats and kittens, clicker-training and play therapy demonstrations and a purebred cat exhibition. Patrons can shop

for cat-related merchandise at the Meow Market, and children can enjoy free face painting, games, crafts and other activities. Experts will offer free cat-related veterinary and behavior information.

CatFest is sponsored by Hill's Science Diet®. The event will take place at the Dumb Friends League Quebec Street shelter, located at 2080 S. Quebec St. in Denver. For more information, visit www.ddfl.org/catfest or call (303) 751-5772, Ext. 1378.

Around
the
H₂O
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Example of a Flyer to
create, distribute and post

REWARD
CAT
SILVER TABBY
I AM 13 YRS OLD & REQUIRE
DAILY MEDICAL CARE
555-555-5555
PIC

Finding Your Lost Pet



What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

Welcome to the world of the FiveSibes™! They are five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading. The first book of the series, *What's Wrong With Gibson?* Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, is based on one of the author's Huskies, Gibson, having a seizure, which is translated into a short tale that makes it easy for children



(who may have Epilepsy themselves, know someone who does, or have a pet that has it) to understand. As the short story unfolds in easy-to-understand rhymes accompanied by colorfully adorable illustrations, the three young pups discover that their big brother has Canine Epilepsy and they get a hands-on lesson about care and first aid from the pack's alpha leader, Harley. A percentage of proceeds from the book will be donated to the non-profit Canine Epilepsy Resources center. Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing.

...Continued from Page 07

So, I turned around and gave him a second glance.

I looked him straight in the eyes. He winced, licked his lips, and gave me a displaced yawn, as if embarrassed by the sudden attention. The audition was on, and he wanted to win the part in the performance. Instead, this silly beast won my heart. He was soon to play the leading role in how I view life.

When I told my puppy-dog that he was rescued on Nicodemus Road—the grateful path leading to the Baltimore Humane Society, (<http://www.bmorehumane.org>) he listened to me with intent. The name stuck.

With the inquisitive perk of his ears, I realized “Nicodemus” was no ordinary pet. If it wasn’t for that close call at the shelter, I would not be able to write these words, nor help save other lives. With the life lessons that Nicodemus still teaches me, I aspire to develop stories that other people can identify with.

For nearly 14 years, my life was filled with devotion and unconditional love from my favorite friend, Nicodemus. Nica and I formed an inseparable bond. Because of this unique connection, I believe that there are others who experience similar alliances with their pet—no matter what the breed, or despite where they come from. This kind of bond may only come along once in a lifetime, or it may never come at all. I was one of the lucky few.

Because of a shelter dog named Nicodemus ‘Elvis’, I am on a mission to keep more dogs in loving homes. I continue the quest to gather insight about how a shelter animal can leave such a big impact on life. I meet several dog owners who share stories with me about their pets, but every once in awhile I encounter a true “dog person” that can recite the details of what life is like with their first, second dog.

Our beloved American Pet Magazine readers, we would like to hear from you. Who was first in line to rescue you? In 50 words or less, tell us your uncanny tale of how your second choice pet found you. AmericanPet@usa.com

Christina Bournias resides in Michigan with her 3-pack; three new beautiful adopted miracles. As her “Angelwriter”, Nicodemus (1997-2010) is the wisdom behind the stories Christina shares. (#nica_knows) woof@brilliant-orange.com <http://www.brilliant-orange.com>



Photographer: SuziK
‘Friends Forever’



Send
American Pet Magazine

Photographer: L. Grace
‘Harley’

Your
Favorite



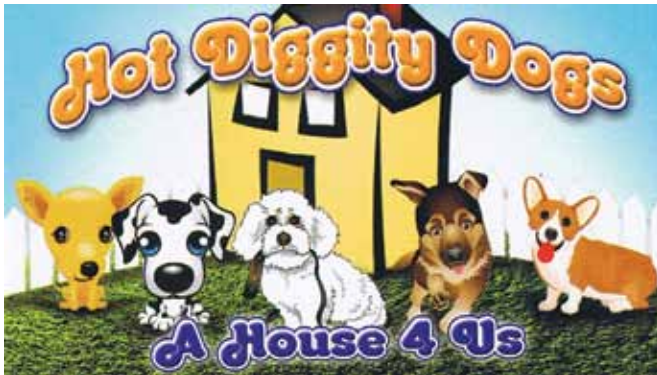
Pet Photo

inquire: AmericanPet@usa.com

Photographer: Thomas Long
Stuart, Florida



Business Marketplace



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TOP 10 Reasons to Adopt a Shelter Dog

Written by Julie Fredrick

Considering getting a dog? Not sure where to begin? Here are 10 reasons why you should check out your local shelters.

Save a Life Adopting a dog from a shelter saves lives. The HSUS estimates that 3-4 million pets are euthanized at shelters each year. When you adopt, not only are you saving the life of your new companion, but you will be freeing up space to place another dog in its place.

Temperment-Tested Shelter dogs have usually been pre-screened for temperament. Shelter employees and volunteers can often assist you in choosing one whose temperament suits your needs.

Affordable A shelter dog is more “affordable” than a dog purchased from a breeder. Breeders charge into the thousands for pedigreed pets. Shelters and rescues typically charge under \$200, including vetting.

Pre-Trained Many shelter dogs have been family pets and are already trained and housebroken. Adopting an adult dog often saves you from suffering through the destructive “puppy-stage” problems.

Selection You’ll have plenty of selection to a variety of dogs. Young, mature, large, small, active, docile, you name it, they’ll likely have it. I went looking for a golden retriever when I found my little terrier mix. 14 years later, he is still an active, healthy member of my family.

Breed Choice Whether you prefer a purebred or mixed-breed, you’ll have a broad choice at the shelter. Not all shelter dogs are mutts. According to the HSUS, approximately 25 percent of dogs in shelters are purebreds.

Healthier Dogs Dogs adopted from the Humane Society have already had their shots and an overall health exam. Most shelters spay or neuter prior to adoption.

Discourage Puppy-Mills The more dogs that are rescued from a shelter, the less demand for pet-store and puppy-mill dogs.

Role-Model You will be setting a good example to others and encouraging more adoptions.

Recently, I traveled across the continent in a camper with my three rescued dogs. Inevitably, people asked the same question, “what kind of dog is that?”. When I told them they were all rescues, many people said that they would like to get their next dog from a shelter.

Unconditional Love ... Doesn’t that just seal the deal?

Julie Fredrick is an incurable wanderer and ardent animal lover. Since her teenage years she has loved traveling and experiencing different cultures, customs and characters. Julie & her husband rescued 3 dogs, Kismet, Roxie and Chance. They decided to travel with their pups as they are ambassadors of pet rescue and adoption, as well as spay/neuter. www.3pupsinapopup.com.

**American Pet Magazine fostered ‘KoKo’
She was rescued from a shelter while on
‘Death Row’ & now has a Forever Home**



Lessons Learned

from the Flock

Written by Wendy Thomas

Photo by: Emily Bersin



When we first got our 8 baby chicks, we didn't know what to do with them. Sure, they were cute - being the tiny balls of fluff that they were. But we weren't sure exactly what to do with them.

For starters, I didn't think that we needed to jump into backyard poultry with 8 chickens. I thought a smaller number would be better, say perhaps 4. And I had read about roosters and the noise they made so I was pretty sure that we didn't want those. We only wanted docile, egg laying hens.

I'll take 4 girls, I said to the woman who owned the farm.

The woman chuckled a little bit, probably use to us "city folk" by now.

"You can't tell the difference between cockerel (young male chickens) and pullets (young female chickens) until they hit puberty."

She said. "Oh you might suspect one is a rooster by it's larger feet and bigger tail plumage but it's only when a rooster crows that you'll know for sure. I can give you 4 chicks but you might end up with 4 roosters."

I was amazed. Didn't roosters, to put it delicately, have the same exterior package found on most males, couldn't you just look between the legs (like I had done with all the kids hamsters and gerbils) to determine the sex?

Absolutely not. As it turns out all chickens have the same openings from their bodies called the cloaca. This is where the egg comes out in the females. It's also, much to many people's dismay, where the chicken's waste comes out. In male chickens, the cloaca is not only where the waste comes out but also where the sperm finds it's way into the world.

The farmer woman told me that specially trained people "Chicken Sexers" are able to tell the sex of chicks by turning them upside down and gently squeezing their butts. If they see a fork in the tunnel, it's a female, if not it's a male.

Not in the least bit interested in looking at any little birds' butts I agreed to take all 8 chicks home simply hoping for the best when it came to having roosters.

Wendy Thomas is an award winning journalist, columnist and blogger who believes that taking challenges in life will always lead to goodness. She is the mother of 6 funny and creative kids and it is her goal to teach them through stories and lessons. Wendy's current project involves writing about her family's experiences with chickens at www.simplethrift.wordpress.com.



Photo by: Marc Nozell

A Fishy

Thought

Getting started can be challenging but follow these simple guidelines and you can have a healthy aquarium underworld.

Written by Clare Garland

When you are deciding what pets to have in your home there are many different ones to choose from and tropical fishes are often very popular. Sitting and watching your fishes is a very relaxing past time and having an aquarium in your home is a great way to have a low maintenance animal. You do not need to walk or pet the fish, and once you learn how to look after and care for the your pet then you can sit back and enjoy them. If you are unsure of how to get started then you should research tropical fish online.

Knowing which aquariums to buy can be a challenge and if you want to keep this kind of pet then you will need to research the different ones that are available. You have to consider the space you have available and your budget. Even the smallest of bi-orb fish tanks will take some money to set up correctly but once it is established then they take very little. If you are

unsure of the types available then you should look it up online. This will give you an indication of the ones available and their cost, which will allow you to decide the money you will need to spend.

For your first fish tank, it is worth buying a starter kit that will have everything you need included in it. These kits will have the equipment and instructions that you need to set up your tropical fish tank. If you are still unsure, then you can look at tropical fish online and there will be guides on how to set up the tank. You must ensure that you fully understand how to set up the tank and exactly where it will need to go. You have to consider if you have electrical points like the plugs, and that the tank will be out of the direct sunlight and drafts.

Once your tank is set up then you have to learn how to maintain the water to ensure that your fishes are happy. Although this can be confusing in the beginning,



but if you check out all about it online then they will tell you exactly in what water levels your tank should be in. You can purchase many different tester kits which will help you to maintain your fish tank. You must remember to test the water on a regular basis and if you put anything new in the tank then the water must be tested again.

Keeping the water clean and at the right level is very important and once you master this then you will know that your fishes are well cared for. Tropical fish tanks are an amazing addition to any home and they not only look amazing but also can help to teach children about looking after animals. You can find all the information you need regarding tropical fish online and if you are in any doubt then you can ask a fish store that is nearby. They will be able to help and advise you on the different tanks, fish and equipment available to you.

Clare Garland is a proud owner of several tropical fishes. She just bought it from a tropical fish online store alongside a captivating large tropical fish tank. She's becoming more interested in this niche that's why she wants to share some of her experience and the tips and tricks that she learned so far for beginners like herself.

<http://www.etropicalfishonline.com/>

<http://www.etropicalfishonline.com/tropical-fish-online/getting-started-with-tropical-fishes>

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Clare_Garland

PET CELEBRATIONS

JULY

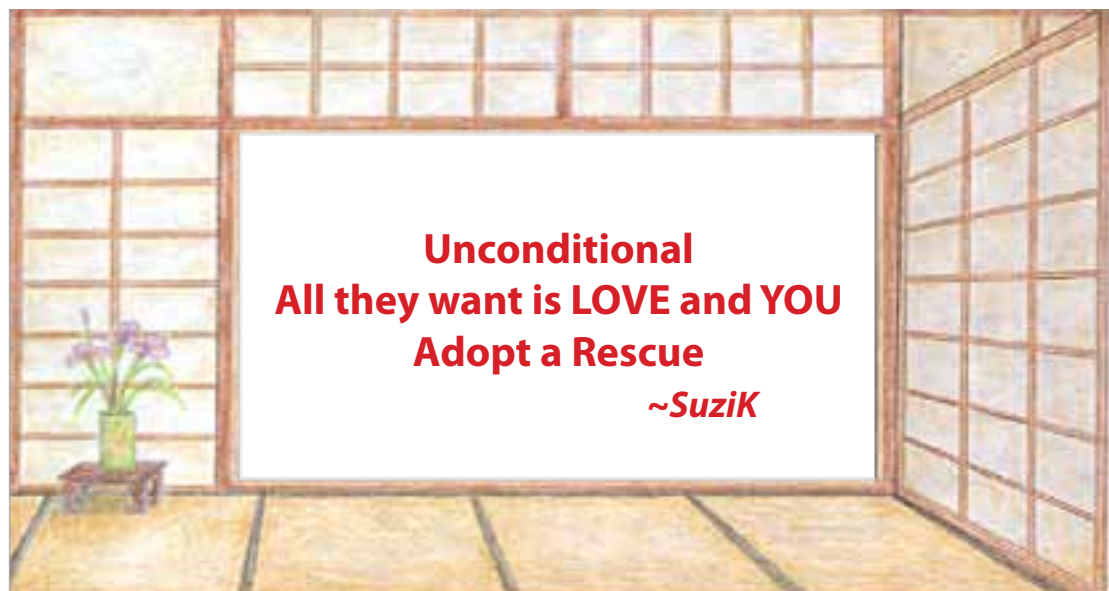
- 1 American Zoo Day
- 10 Don't Step on a Bee Day - July 10
- 11 All American Pet Photo Day - July 11
- 15 I Love Horses Day - July 15
- 15 Shark Awareness Day - July 15
- 18 Cow Appreciation Day - July 18
- 21 Monkey Day - July 21
- 22 Rat Catcher's Day - July 22
- 23 Mosquito Day - July 23

AUGUST

- 7-13 Int'l Assistance Dog Week www.assistedogweek.org
- 10 Spoil Your Dog Day
- 18-21 National & International Homeless Pets
(the Int'l Society for Animal Rights) www.isaronline.org
- 26 National Dog Day: www.nationaldogday.org
National Catfish Month: Food or Fish?

a Haiku for You

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All they want is LOVE and YOU
Adopt a Rescue

~SuziK



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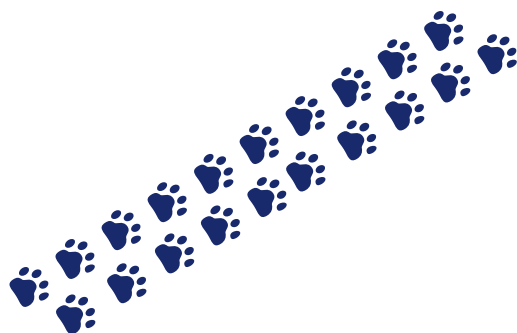
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HOT WEATHER TIPS

Summer Heat

Written by Mike Deathe

Ok, so it's the historical beginning of summer, and I want to take a minute to talk to you about hot weather precautions for you and your pooch. I started thinking about this post yesterday when I had Leo at the groomer for her summer groom. This, in it of itself, is an important thing to cover... Leo is a Leonberger (great big hairy dirt colored bear of a dog) and my first thought was to completely shave her, she would have to be cooler with less hair right? Well not necessarily, in many cases dogs with long hair actually use that hair as insulation from the not only the cold of winter but also the heat of summer. So by just willy nilly shaving a dog you might just be making it harder for your pooch to deal with the heat of summer. In Leo's case we shaved her belly area, did a Furminator service (to get rid of the loose blowing coat) and simply used trimmers to thin her coat a tiny bit. My groomer was adamant we not shave her and as a (reasonably ☺) intelligent guy I listened to the expert (the groomer) and allowed her to make the call.

So besides a summertime grooming, what are other ways to help our dogs deal with the heat of the summer?

1. Access to fresh water 100% of the time. Don't just fill the water bowl twice a day make sure it is fresh and full all day. If the dog is outside much of the time, this is even more important.
2. Access to plenty of shade, especially if your dog spends much time outside in the yard during the heat of the day.
3. Access to a little kids wading pool. This is a great way for dogs to keep cool. In fact, I used to have a Malamute (London, rest his huge soul) that would spend hours just laying in his pool while the family was outdoors.
4. Cooling jackets, they are doggy jackets that are filled with a material that holds water. You simply dunk them in water and put them on your dog. The coolness of the water helps keep your dog from overheating. Be sure to periodically check the jacket to see if it needs another dunking.
5. Going on walks in the morning or the evening! Walking in the heat of the day is not good for you or your dog so try to plan your walks for times of the day when it is not super hot! Just like you need to hydrate during hot weather so does your dog! So remember to take enough water for both of you!
6. Do not walk your dog on asphalt or concrete during hot periods. Come on people, we have all made the mistake of trying to walk shoeless across the deck of the pool right? Jokes aside, you can cause serious burns to the pads of your dog's feet by forgetting this important tip.
7. Never leave a dog inside a car without running the A/C!! The inside temp of a car can go from mid 70s to temps above 110 in just minutes. I don't care how quick your trip is, just don't risk it!
8. Talk to your vet about your dog's hot weather abilities. For example "smoosh nosed" dogs do not breath as well as long snouted dogs and are more susceptible to heat stroke! Once again, listen and ask the experts (The Vet)!!!

I leave you with one final thought about dogs and dog ownership... Dogs are social animals and do not belong in backyards all of the time. They are pets not shrubbery! If you leave you dogs outside all of the time and never allow them inside, I warn you now... without proper care during hot weather it becomes animal cruelty, not animal ownership ☺ Take care of them this summer and if all of this sounds like too much work... might I suggest a goldfish? They make great low-maintenance pets ☺

Mike Deathe is a stay-at-home dad who found his passion as a dog trainer in 2008. He enjoys identifying unique and useful dog related products. He is the author of Keep It Simple Stupid (K.I.S.S.) Pet Blog, and has written several books on dogs and dog training. As an avid pet lover, he regularly sees the number of dogs and cats that never find a home, so in 2009, he and his wife Kate founded Muttz "R" Us, a t-shirt and pet product company with the motto of "Saving Pets...One T-Shirt at a Time" In 2010 KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID (KISS) DOG TRAINING was born and since then has been teaching dogs and owners at Broadmore Kennels, located in western Shawnee, Ks. For more information about KISS or Muttz "R" Us Visit us on facebook, twitter or follow the blog @<http://muttzmembers.blogspot.com>. We cant wait to help you speak dog as a second language.



Photo by:
©Dorothy Wills-Rafertry

Top 20 Ways to Keep Your Pets Safe in Hot Weather

By Dorothy Wills-Rafertry

With hot temperatures rippling across many areas of the country, it is important that while we enjoy the fun of warm-weather activities and holidays, we remember they may not always be fun for our pets. Here are some tips to keep them safe when the heatwave hits:

1. Keep plenty of cool, fresh water available at all times.
2. Be sure your pet has shelter in the shade, has access to a cool area, or can come into the house or a room with a fan or air conditioner.
3. Make frozen homemade treats or give your dog a cloth bone that has been soaked in water and frozen as a cool busy treat.
4. Fill up a kiddie pool or turn on a lawn sprinkler so dogs can splash around. (Be sure to keep their ears dry – or dry them after they are done).
5. Keep up on brushing your pet's coat to rid it of excess fur and keep it mat free.
6. Exercise your dog in the early morning or late evening when there is no or low humidity. Skip the days when the humidity is high.
7. Keep your dogs off blacktop roads/streets. Walk them along the grassy or dirt edge. Blacktop roads get too hot for their paw pads.
8. Feed pets in the morning and evening before and after it gets too hot. If you feed outdoors, please remove the dishes when they are done. Do not leave dishes out in the heat – it will spoil any leftover food causing the animals to get sick if they decide to go back later on and munch some more, or, it may become bug infested – and they certainly do not need to come into contact with those nasty critters!
9. If you let your beloved pets cool off in the garage – please be sure there are no toxic items around (i.e. antifreeze, pesticides, etc.) that they can sniff, lick, and/or ingest.
10. While plants and trees look pretty, they could be deadly for your pet. Check your pet's surroundings for poisonous plants, shrubs, berry bushes, and trees, and keep your pets away from them! (For a list of toxic and non-toxic plants, check out the ASPCA's website at: <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>). Keep the Poison Control telephone numbers handy for emergencies. –ASPCA Poison Control is (888) 426-4435 or the Pet Poison Helpline at (800) 213-6680 – put it into your phone contacts, write it on your message board, stick it to your fridge, memorize it!
11. Keep Benadryl® on hand in case of allergic emergencies, itchy rashes, bee stings, etc. (Contact your vet for approval and proper dosage).
12. Keep up on all vet check-ups.
13. Create a First-Aid kit for your pet that contains important contact information (i.e. vet, emergency clinic, Poison Control, etc.), any medical info, medicines, wipes, Benadryl®, anti-anxiety or calming aids (such as Rescue Remedy, Comfort Zone), bandages, portable water dish and food dish, etc., that you keep in a designated place in the house and that you can take with you on trips.
14. When indoors, be careful there are no air conditioner or fan wires hanging about that can be chewed on or tripped over (and thereby pulling down a moving fan onto them).
15. Keep up on their heartworm, other worm, flea, and tick preventatives.
16. If you take your pet for a ride, use a pet safety belt or a secured crate. And please don't let them travel in the back of a pick up!

17. Never, EVER leave pets in a parked car – it doesn't matter if the windows are down and the car is parked in the shade. Cars heat up quickly and so do dogs. Think: Car = Oven. Even if you think you'll only be in the store for five minutes, don't bring your dog along. Leave them home until the cooler weather arrives.
18. Summertime is also prime BBQ season. Please be careful to keep pets away from hot grilles and open flames.
19. Watch out for candles! If possible, use flameless ones.
20. Be aware of foods that can be toxic to your pets, such as chocolate, coffee, caffeinated drinks, onions, alcohol, nuts, grapes, raisins, avocados, raw meats and eggs (dogs can get Salmonella and E.coli poisoning too). And watch out for ladies handbags that may contain medications and gum containing Xylitol sweetener. And don't be afraid to ask guests to not feed your pets.

With the arrival of summertime, there are a plenty of activities, vacations, and visitors that may come in and out of your home. To keep your pets safe, be sure they are microchipped and have their collars with tags on, even if inside the home, just in case of an accidental escape. When visitors are over and the doors are opening and closing, it is a good idea to keep your dogs and cats safely secured in a crate or another room to be sure they do not slip out.

For some dogs, fireworks and thunderstorms can be a major summertime concern. With the Fourth of July and some county and state fairs celebrating with fireworks displays, it is a good idea to keep your pet safely at home. If you can't stay with your dog, try running an air condition, fan, TV, or radio for some white noise to help drown out the loud and frightening sounds. You can also check out doggie anti-anxiety shirts, natural calming aids, and discuss with your vet to see if there is a need for prescribed medications if they have serious reactions to the noises associated with thunderstorms and fireworks.

With a little planning, summertime can be a fun time for everyone in our family – two-legged and four! So stay cool, stay safe, and have lots of warm weather fun with your pets!

Dorothy Wills-Raferly, also known as the FiveSibesMom, is an author and award-winning photographer and journalist, and along with her daughter Jenn, cares for their five Siberian Huskies known at the FiveSibes™, who are featured in Wills-Raferly's A FiveSibes™ Tale illustrated book series (the first book of the series is What's Wrong With Gibson? Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, which is based on her Epi-Husky Gibson and the book is part of her "Live Gib Strong" Canine Epilepsy Awareness Campaign and a percentage of the proceeds from the book will benefit the non-profit center for Canine Epilepsy Resources). Their Siberian Huskies are also muses for Wills-Raferly's FiveSibes™ award-winning blog (www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com), which is ranked as one of the Top 100 international Siberian Husky websites. She also administers the popular FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews Community Facebook page.



NORTHERNMOODS
EXCLUSIVE DOG COLLARS AND LEASHES

The advertisement features a large image of a Dalmatian on the left. To its right is a graphic with a repeating floral pattern. At the top of this graphic is a shield-shaped logo containing the letters 'Nm'. Below the logo, the word 'NORTHERNMOODS' is written in a large, bold, red serif font. Underneath that, the text 'EXCLUSIVE DOG COLLARS AND LEASHES' is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic are three small, square images of different dogs: a Weimaraner, a dachshund, and a black dog, each wearing a different style of collar.

Sheltie Rescue

Written by Debbie Tringale



All women are born equal, then some accessorize. Kelly Twilley accessorizes. She makes jewelry and sells it at Trade Day in Collinsville, Alabama. Her profile picture shows her with a beaded necklace, earrings, and two Shetland Sheepdogs. Kelly knows how to accessorize. But when I got to know her, I quickly learned that her dogs were not an accessory. Her dogs were rescued from a puppy mill.

In February of 2008 Kelly heard that her local SPCA had a male Sheltie that was in pretty rough shape. Kelly wanted a female but went to see him anyway. When she got there she learned that the Sheltie was rescued from a puppy mill along with 130 other dogs. It took her ten minutes to catch him, but when she did, it took only a few seconds for him to fall asleep in her arms. Kelly took him home and named him Bailey.

About two years later, I set up an agility field in Dogtown, AL and started giving lessons. Kelly brought her Border Collie, Emma. After class I was talking to the group about the work I was doing teaching agility to reactive and fearful dogs. Agility gave the owners' and their dogs the confidence to go for walks and socialize. Kelly told me Bailey's story and how he was still of fearful new people and situations. I said, "let's give it a try".

The following week Kelly and Bailey had a private lesson. He was afraid of everything. Just walking through the gate to get onto the field was a challenge. Bailey quickly found a safe spot in the tunnel. Each time he got scared, he would go in and not come out.

Bailey's most difficult obstacle was the dog walk. We started slowly by putting him on the contact zone of the descending plank and let him run down. Each week we moved him further back, closer to the top of the ascending plank. When he did not progress as quickly as Emma, I reminded Kelly that the work we were doing was not about agility, it was about building confidence. Once Bailey gained confidence on the agility field he would be more confident in other situations. Then one week he surprised Kelly by jumping into the car to come to agility class. Soon Bailey was running all the way through the tunnel and over the dog walk. Then he started greeting people and letting friends and family pet him and hold him.

Kelly's self-esteem grew, she was ready to rescue another puppy mill Sheltie. Kelly searched PetFinder and found a 5-year-old female in a Sheltie rescue just three hours from home. After a four long weeks of filling out applications, phone interviews and waiting, Molly was hers. Kelly said, "I had no idea what bad shape a dog can be in until I met Molly". She set up a kennel in the front yard under a shade tree for her. Molly spent her first weeks there; she escaped 3 times. Kelly started her in agility.



As soon as Kelly put Molly down on the agility field she ran away. Before we could teacher her anything, Molly needed to feel safe, she didn't trust anyone yet so we taught her to come to a spot, the table. Kelly put food on the table and we waited. Molly came and went. Kelly put more food on the table and we waited. Molly came and went. After each repetition the time between recalls got shorter and Kelly's patience grew longer.

When Kelly got home, she put a dog bed just outside the patio door. Then she used the same technique and taught Molly to come to that spot. Soon Kelly felt safe enough to let Molly out of her kennel. Molly now spends most of her time in her spot by the door watching for squirrels to chase away.

Bailey and Molly will never compete at an agility trial. Their trial happens everyday. They struggle to conquer their fears and to love and trust people. Although Kelly admits she had no idea what she was getting into when she adopted a puppy mill rescue, she says she is more confident and more patient than she ever was before. She is now designing jewelry based on the collar Molly was wearing when she got her.

If you want to see her jewelry and more pictures of Kelly and her dogs visit her website at www.emma-doras.com.



Debbie Tringale is a dog trainer in Rising Fawn, GA. She specializes in fearful and reactive dogs and dogs with separation anxiety. Her business is called Me And My Dogs. The "Me" comes first because Debbie believes dog training is the most effective when it changes the way people think about themselves and their dogs.

To learn more, visit her website at www.MeAndMyDogs.biz

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