



Volume 2
Issue 2
2013

American Pet

CATS, DOGS, FERRETS, PARROTS, CHICKENS AND MORE Magazine™

ONE PET AT A TIME..
ONE DAY AT A TIME..
ONE LIFE AT A TIME..
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

*CELEBRATE w'
the FiveSibes™
Charlie Bear &
the American
Ferret Association*

#TITUSBARKS

*** Paws for the Cause**

**MISSKITTY KARP
kolumn**

HELP Animal Welfare

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

Complimentary

3rd Annual Animal Adoption Fair

Sunday, August 25th, from 10 - 6pm

At the

War Memorial Auditorium in Ft. Lauderdale

Fun & Food
Live Music &
Speakers
Games



Adoptable pets
Auctions
Raffles
Contests

Sponsors, vendors, and volunteers are needed for the event. For more info Call Brook at 954-971-4432 or go to www.animaladoptionfair.com

100% of all proceeds go to animal charities!!

We Care.

PUBLISHING EDITOR

Suzin Karp
AmericanPet@usa.com

SENIOR PARTNER

GypsyPrince



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

LilyAnn Grace

CO-EDITOR

Dolores Paddock

SENIOR WRITER

MissKitty

INTERN

PeanutButter

WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

TITUS Dolores Paddock Dobie Houson
Christina Bournias Dorothy Wills-Raferty
Mike Deathe Julie Emrich Fredrick
Jamie Whittaker Wendy Thomas
Nena Gulbrandsen B.J. Taylor & Charlie Bear
Sally Wood American Ferret Association

To Contribute a Story or For General Info
Email AmericanPet@usa.com

COPYRIGHT/TRADEMARK

COPYRIGHT 2013, AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE, LLC. (TRADEMARKED) ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THIS PUBLICATION MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT FROM AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE, LLC. THE PUBLISHER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL SUBMITTED COPY. THE PUBLISHER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY ADVERTISING OR COPY THEY REGARD AS HARMFUL TO THE PUBLIC GOOD OR DEEMED TO BE LIBELOUS. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS, OMISSIONS, COPY OR PHOTO MISREPRESENTATION BY THE ADVERTISER. LIABILITY SHALL NOT EXCEED THE COST OF THE PORTION OF THE SPACE OCCUPIED BY SUCH ERROR OR ADVERTISING ITEMS OF INFORMATION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE PUBLISHER BE HELD LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCONVENIENCE, LOSS OF BUSINESS OR SERVICES, OR ANY OTHER LIABILITIES FROM FAILURE TO PUBLISH ON A TIMELY MANNER, EXCEPT AS LIMITED TO THE LIABILITIES STATED ABOVE. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THE WRITERS OF ARTICLES IN AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE, LLC PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE, LLC. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE, LLC VIA EMAIL: AMERICANPET@USA.COM.

The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor



Happy Birthday to the *KarpKatZ* on March 25th! They all rescued me and LOVE being a Voice for the Voiceless through this publication. They also enjoy 'pet sitting' & fostering. This issue is also ♥Dedicated to *My Granny*♥ for believing in this 'Book'. At 100 years old this June, she has enjoyed every page of every issue, saying how it is easy, informative and enjoyable to read.

Did you see who is on the cover? It is our Furry Ferret Friends, Mac, Karu & Fwin. They are celebrating National Ferret Day on April 2nd and hope you will join them. In every issue of AmericanPet Magazine they share great information to help humans understand their environment & habits. Maybe you will consider 'rescuing' two or three ☺ Much Thanks to them for their awesome contributions and the Ferret Census Results!

HURRY NOW! American Pet Magazine and Carole Diane Helsin are offering to help you raise money for your favorite animal welfare organization. You can WIN an Oil Portrait AND All the Funds are Donated to Your Charity. Your portrait will also be featured in an upcoming issue. How awesome is that? Read about it on page 5. Entry ends Midnight (EST) June 15, 2013.

Check out our Pet Celebrations page. We have informing articles about Prevention of Animal Cruelty Week, PuppyMill Action Week, Prevention of Lyme Disease Month, Int'l Respect for Chickens Month, Animal Disaster Preparedness Day and Nat'l Pet Preparedness Month.

We are EXCITABULLS about what TITUSBARKS about! He has traveled a hard road looking for his Forever Home and is grateful for his Foster Failure Family! He (and his girl, Hailey) are AmbassaDogs & now he is a writer. His first article ever: he tells you his thoughts and speaks of National Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet Day. Don't forget to read about 'Charlie Bear Woofs' (he has a book too!) and his take on Pet Appreciation Month (page 19).

Stop by and visit our new friends, Paws for the Cause. They benefit the no-kill Tri-County Humane Society in South Florida by hosting many events throughout the year. ALL proceeds go to Tri-County. Also check out the American Federation of Aviculture Expo this year!

We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 47) by passing along this COMPLIMENTARY copy of AmericanPet Magazine. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.

The staff, #GypsyPrince (18yrs old), #MissKitty (16yrs old) & #PeanutButter (7yrs old), all hope you have an AmericanPet Year!!
Thank you again and HAPPY READING!! #Meow #Woof

Suzin Karp

CONTENTS



On the Cover
Owner: Robin Landes of the
American Ferret Association
Photographer: © Sally Wood

features

- 8 Pet Preparedness
- 10 Puppy Mill Action
- 12 Paws for the Cause
- 18 Chick Questions
- 20 Old Parrots: New Homes
- 22 Lyme Disease
- 24 Earth Day
- 26 National Ferret Day
- 28 Ferrets: Then & Now
- 33 10 Reasons NOT to Breed
- 34 #TITUSBARKS
- 38 Adopt-a-Shelter Cat
- 39 Bite Inhibition
- 40 Hiking w' Your Hound
- 41 Making a Difference
- 42 We Dance w' Butterflies
- 44 Take Your Pets to Work

departments

- 3 The Publisher's Note
- 5 * *HELP Animal Welfare*
- 5 a Haiku for You
- 6 Pet Celebrations
- 14 Business Marketplace
- 16 Ms.Pineapple's
Playground
- 16 FURRY FINDS
- 16 Around the H₂O Bowl
- 17 MISSKITTY KARP *kolumn*
- 19 CharlieBear Woofs
- 21 Avain Expo 2013
- 27 AFA Ferret Census
- 46 Best in Print
- 47 * Sponsors/Contributors
- 48 Social Media



Page 5...

**WIN an Oil Portrait
AND Help Animal Welfare!**

Be a Voice for the Voiceless! Help Your Favorite Animal Welfare Organization AND Win an Oil Portrait

ENTER TO WIN AN OIL PORTRAIT OF YOUR PET WHILE HELPING PETS IN NEED!



Win a chance to own an original oil portrait of your pet by award-winning artist Carole Diane Heslin! Simply tell us the name of your favorite animal welfare organization, what makes it a great group and why it deserves funding, and make a \$10 donation. All funds raised will go to the winning entrant's charity! The portrait will be featured in an upcoming issue of American Pet Magazine.



CAROLE DIANE HESLIN

Carole Diane Heslin is a nationally reknowned artist whose artwork garnered the Patron's Choice Award at PETA's gala in New York & has been featured at Art Show at the Dog Show, St. Louis.



VISIT WWW.BIJOUTERIE.US FOR COMPLETE DETAILS & TO ENTER TODAY!

a Haiku for You

無条件愛



**WIN Oil Portrait
and HELP Animal Welfare?
a VOICE for Voiceless!**

~SuziK

PET CELEBRATIONS

April

- National Heartworm Awareness Month
Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month www.asPCA.org (Page 11)
National Pet Month
National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
Pets Are Wonderful Month
Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month (Page 22)
- 1-7 International Pooper Scooper Week
2 National Ferret Day www.Ferret.org (Page 26)
8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
11 National Pet Day
14-20 National Pet ID Week (Page 6)
18 Pet Owners Independence Day www.Wellcat.com
22 Earth Day (Page 24)
24 Sylvester the Cat's Birthday
26 Hairball Awareness Day www.ScienceDiet.com
26 National Kids & Pets Day
27 Woody Woodpecker Day (Creator Walter Lant's Birthday)
27 Veterinary Day
28 International Guide Dog Day
30 National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day (Page 34)

May

- Microchip your Pet Month (Page 6)
National Pet Month
National Duckling Month
International Respect for Chickens Month (Page 18)
- 4 International Respect for Chickens Day
3 National Disabled Pets Day
5-11 Be Kind to Animals Week www.americanhumane.org
5-11 National Pet Week www.petweek.org
6-12 Puppy Mill Action Week (Page 10)
11 Animal Disaster Preparedness Day (Page 6)
19-25 National Dog Bite Prevention Week (Page 39)
23 World Turtle Day
30 Hug your cat day (I do it EVERYDAY!)

June

- Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month (Page 38)
National Pet Preparedness Month (Page 6)
Pet Appreciation Month (Page 19)
- 4 Hug your cat day (I do it EVERYDAY!)
10 World Pet Memorial Day
17-21 Take Your Pet to Work Week (Page 44)
21 Take Your Dog To Work Day (Page 44)



DoDocks.comSM

The #1 Real Estate Website for Boaters!



"Find a home for your Boat"TM
by searching for property by boat length, water depth or location.
It's that simple!



DoDocks.com can help you sell your property!
We target millions of boaters who are looking for property and dockage.



Interested in reaching boaters to get the message out about your marine related business? Then post yourself in our Classifieds or on our unique Hotspots for boaters!

Visit us at www.DoDocks.com!!
Contact us for more information
1 800 725 6959 or
Info@DoDocks.com



*Growing Families
One Pet at a Time*



Someone is waiting for YOU



Domestic Animal Services
7610 Davis Blvd. Naples, FL
www.colliergov.net/pets

Pet Preparedness:

IF A DISASTER STRIKES, *Are You Ready?*

Written by ©Dorothy Wills-Raftery



WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE VERY QUICKLY AND DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU LIVE, HURRICANES, TORNADOS, AND OTHER DISASTERS CAN STRIKE WITH LITTLE OR NO WARNING. IF A STORM IS HEADING IN YOUR DIRECTION AND YOU NEED TO EVACUATE, ARE YOU READY? DO YOU HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN THAT INCLUDES YOUR PETS? WELL, IF NOT, THE TIME TO DEVELOP ONE IS NOW BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES – WHY NOT USE MAY 11, **Animal Disaster Preparedness Day** – AS THE DAY TO DEVELOP YOUR EVACUATION PLAN, AND WITH JUNE BEING **National Pet Preparedness Month**, SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP OTHER PET PARENTS BE READY SHOULD AN EMERGENCY STRIKE.

'Chloe' of the FiveSibes is microchipped and has her updated ID, rabies, license, and Home Again microchip tag on her collar. She is also wearing a back-up harness and is restrained in the car with a pet seat belt. In the glove box, is her ID card.

BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES, BE SURE TO HAVE:

- 🐾 YOUR PETS MICROCHIPPED AND BE SURE THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS UP-TO-DATE
- 🐾 ALL COLLAR/HARNESSES WITH CURRENT ID TAGS AND LEASHES READY TO GO
- 🐾 YOUR CELL PHONES CHARGED AND HAVE AN EXTRA BATTERY HANDY
- 🐾 A PET “GO KIT” READY

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (FOR A RECOMMENDED MINIMUM THREE-DAY SUPPLY)

TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PET’S “GO KIT” ARE:

- 🐾 FOOD
- 🐾 WATER
- 🐾 PET MEDS AND VITAMINS
- 🐾 PET’S VACCINATION/VET RECORDS
- 🐾 TREATS
- 🐾 TOYS
- 🐾 PHOTO ID OF PETS
- 🐾 PET BATH WIPES
- 🐾 DISPOSABLE BAGS (FOR SANITARY PICK-UP)
- 🐾 TOWELS
- 🐾 PAPER TOWELS
- 🐾 DISINFECTANT WIPES (FOR CLEAN UP)
- 🐾 PET BEDS
- 🐾 BLANKETS FLASHLIGHTS
- 🐾 FRESH BATTERIES
- 🐾 CRATES
- 🐾 BATTERY-OPERATED RADIO
- 🐾 PET LIFE JACKETS (IF YOU LIVE IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS)
- 🐾 PET RAMP (CAN DOUBLE AS A STRETCHER)
- 🐾 EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (INCLUDING FAMILY, VETERINARIAN, EMERGENCY VET CLINIC, POISON CONTROL CENTER, PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS/MOTELS, ETC.)
- 🐾 FIRST AID KIT (INCLUDING BANDAGES, GAUZE, ANTISEPTIC, WOUND CARE OINTMENT, RESCUE REMEDY®, SCISSORS, TWEEZERS, ETC.)

...Continued on Page 9

IF A DISASTER DOES HAPPEN AND THE AUTHORITIES ISSUE AN EVACUATION ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. THERE ARE MANY HUMAN SHELTERS THAT WILL NOW ACCEPT PETS. IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM WITH YOU, HAVE A RELATIVE OR FRIEND WHO WILL TAKE THEM IN UNTIL YOU CAN ONCE AGAIN RETURN TO YOUR HOME. BE SURE TO LEAVE THE "GO KIT" WITH THE CARE GIVERS, ALONG WITH THE LOCATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS FOR WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING. PLEASE HAVE YOUR PETS RESTRAINED IN THE CAR EITHER BY PET SEAT BELTS OR CRATES THAT HAVE BEEN STABILIZED, AND HAVE A PET SAFETY ID CARD WITH ALL OF YOUR PET'S INFORMATION IN THE GLOVE BOX IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT.

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT WEBSITES FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (HUMANESOCIETY.ORG), FEMA (READY.GOV), ASPCA (ASPCA.ORG/PET-CARE/DISASTER-PREPAREDNESS), AND THE WEATHER CHANNEL'S PREPARING PETS FOR WEATHER EMERGENCIES (BEREADYWEATHER.COM/PETS) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PET PREPAREDNESS.

DISASTERS CAN ALSO STRIKE CLOSER TO HOME. TO BE SURE EMERGENCY AND FIRE PERSONNEL CAN LOCATE YOUR PETS IN YOUR OWN HOUSE, ADHERE A PET RESCUE DECAL ALERT ON THE WINDOWS IN YOUR HOME WHERE YOUR PETS ARE LOCATED. TO OBTAIN A FREE DECAL AND PET SAFETY PACK THAT ALSO INCLUDES A POISON CONTROL CENTER MAGNET, VISIT THE ASPCA WEBSITE AT: ASPCA.ORG/ABOUT-US/FREE-ASPCA-STUFF/FREE-PET-SAFETY-PACK.ASPX.

WHILE NO ONE EVER WANTS TO THINK ABOUT A DISASTER, IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PREPARED SO IN CASE AN EMERGENCY DOES STRIKE, YOU AND YOUR PETS WILL BE SAFE AND READY TO MOVE ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

Can Your Pet Be Identified in Case of an Emergency?

By Dorothy Wills-Raftery

A hurricane sweeps through your town and your pet goes missing. A flood causes an evacuation, but you can't find your dog. You are in a fender bender and your dog chews through the seat belt and gets out through the opened window. You let your dog out in the yard for a few moments only to return to discover he has dug his way out under the fence. You are walking your dog and she slips out of her collar and runs down the road after a squirrel. These are all scary scenarios that can – and do – happen. Should your pet go missing, can it be properly identified and able to be returned to you?

*If a good Samaritan comes to your dog's aide, can he easily locate you? April 14th through 20th is **National Pet ID Week** and a good time to be sure your pet's ID tags and microchip information are all up-to-date.*

First and foremost, the best way to have a dog or cat easily identified is to have him/her microchipped. According to The Kennel Club, "Tens of thousands of pets go missing every year.... By microchipping, a pet has a greater chance of finding its way home again."

Not familiar with the microchipping process? According to the ASPCA, "Microchipping your pet involves implanting a chip with your contact information in your pet's shoulder area. The chip can be read by scanner at most animal shelters and is an excellent way to reunite lost pets with their families."

A lost pet that has been found can easily be scanned at a veterinarian's office, as well as at many shelters, to obtain the family's contact information, with a happy reunion between pet and parent as the end result. A key point is to be sure if you move or change your phone number, to notify your vet and contact your microchip company to update your registration data.

If you haven't had your pet(s) microchipped yet,

May is Microchip Your Pet Month,
and a perfect time to do so.

PUPPY MILLS

Written by Dolores Paddock

**MAY 6-12 is ...
PuppyMill
Action Week**



Puppy mills are a breeding factory, mills are a more politically polite word to use. It is a factory where dogs are kept in cramped, locked cages with the soul purpose of pumping out puppies. Female dogs are usually bred 2 times a year. At that rate, they usually burn out by age 5 and at that time they are put to death. These breeder dogs never feel the tender touch of a hand, the love of a person, or have any human contact. Their soul existence is to breed and breed again. They have never been walked, never even treated like a dog, rather a piece of flesh that makes a ton of money for the owner of the mill/factory. Puppy millers can make more than \$300,000 each year by GROWING puppies. Note the word growing!

About 1 million breeder dogs are confined in puppy mills throughout the country. These puppies are sold to pet stores all over the country. Did you know that 99% of all puppies sold in pet stores come from puppy mills and that 100% of these puppies have parasites when bought. 500,000 puppies are born in puppy mills and sold in pet stores every year in the United States. In America alone there are over 35,000 pet stores .

Puppy mills have been around since the 1960's, It's time to close them all. It's time to breed dogs properly, or better still ADOPT don't shop.

Puppy mills should be outlawed everywhere. They are cruel, inhumane and a disgusting way to make a ton of money off of a dog. We the public need to realize where the cute puppies that you see in the pet stores are coming from. We, the public, need to stop buying from pet stores and make everyone aware of the evil things that occur at a puppy mill.

ADOPT! CLOSE DOWN THE PUPPY MILLS!



HAND4PAWS

All for one and one for the paws. It is up to us to make a difference.

Our mission brings attention to the suffering of animals. We want to help end their torment and promote, with emphasis, at risk companion animals. Reaching a broader audience through social media is our way of advocating for animals.

Since most of these animal cases do not make headlines world wide, Hand4Paws works together with other individuals to encourage action and give a voice to those who have none.

Hand4Paws is not a registered organization. It is a group of world wide animal activists that use social media to promote animal rights and fight for animal welfare.

Hand4Paws informs the rest of the world and brings together people that take action and give a voice to the animals. All work is done on a volunteer basis, just people who truly care.

All physical and mental acts of violence
Bestowed upon any animal or human
Ultimately will stop when we band together to
Stop the abusers by being the voice of the voiceless.
Everyone has a choice.

**APRIL is ...
Prevention of
Animal Cruelty Month**

Choose To Help Stop Abuse!

When I see it, I *stop and report it*. I DO NOT TURN AWAY!

Dolores Paddock has recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on her desire to help fight for all animals. She has a passion for all animals and feel that we must Be the Voice of the Voiceless! She has two cats, Maurice and Cassie, and one dog Beauregard. They all have rescued her!



Paws for the Cause is the official group of volunteers dedicated exclusively to raising funds for the Tri County Humane Society (100% no kill) animal shelter of Boca Raton, Florida. 100% of the proceeds from every monthly social event we host is for the tender loving care of at-risk, unwanted dogs and cats from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties.

We Welcome your Contributions 3 Ways to Support the Cause:

🐾 Paws and Pals Cookbook - Submit your favorite recipes for pets and people!
100% of the proceeds from the sale of every book will be donated to the shelter
Send your submissions to *Regina@aol.com*

🐾 Your time is the most valuable thing you can share - Volunteer!
Ask us how at *info@pawstricounty.com*

🐾 Join Generous Sponsors from around the Tri-County Community

Be a Paws for the Cause Partner

Donate gifts for raffles! or Sponsor an Event!

*To all those who share our passion - We thank you for your support
.... And, we look forward to seeing you at our next party!*

Join Us at some of Boca Raton's most elegant restaurants:

www.pawstricounty.com

Like Us on Facebook:

facebook.com/#!/groups/pawstricounty

🐾 April 16th

🐾 May 6th

🐾 May 29th

🐾 June 11th

Abe & Louise Boca Raton

Ruth's Chris Boca Raton

Morton's Steakhouse Ft. Lauderdale

Pinon Grille Boca Raton



SOUTH FLORIDA



Your Friendly

Pet Sitter & Photographer

(in our home)

ask about DISCOUNTS for
Babies 1st visit & 'Refer a Friend'
*photoshoots (people & pets)

* PhotoShoot can be in your home or mine, in a studio or on location (ie Event)



KoKo, a 6-month visitor



Penny, the Precious PhotoShoot Queen



JaneyBlue, found her a forever home



Cee-Lo Green, repeat visitor & AmericanPet Magazine Cover Model

CONTACT:
mag2010@usa.com
for more information

Business Marketplace

GRATEFUL PAWS DOG & CAT RESCUE

No Kill - Not for Profit - 501c3



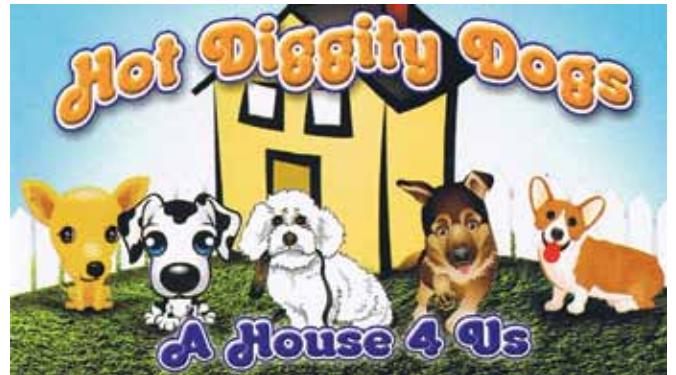
Saving animals locally...
Just one at a time

Tel. 954.462.8840

Cell 954.579.3753

Fax: 1-866-600-5945

Email: Gratefulpaws@bellsouth.net



NORTHERNMOODS

EXCLUSIVE DOG COLLARS AND LEASHES



704-817-8351 · usasales@northernmoods.com · www.northernmoods.com

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CONTACT AMERICANPET@USA.COM

Business Marketplace

AmericanPet
Magazine™



AmericanPet@usa.com
AmericanPetMagazine.com

**DON'T LEAVE US
HANGING AROUND!**

Let Us Know What You Think

FaceBook (LIKE) AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE
Twitter (FOLLOW) @AMERICANPETMAG
YouTube (SUBSCRIBE) AMERICANPETMAG

Show your
wild side



owenandolivia.com



www.thugcustomcycles.com

954.581.1801
CUSTOMER DRUG RECOGNITION
WITH MOTO TITLES

THUG CUSTOM CYCLES • 345 N. SOUTH STATE RD 7 PLANTATION, FL 33317



*Custom photography
for Your needs*

H. W. GRANT PHOTOGRAPHY

Portrait
Portfolio & Updates
Headshot
Glamour

Bud Grant
www.hwgrantphotography.com
305-753-1200
budwgrant@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 530126, Miami Shores, FL 33153-0126

**FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CONTACT AMERICANPET@USA.COM**



EMILY Skin Soothers

www.emilyskinsoothers.com

Soothes and beautifies skin affected by:
 🐾 Baby Eczema (dry type) 🐾 Diaper Rash
 🐾 Adult dry type eczema 🐾 Flaking, dry psoriasis
 🐾 Chapped and Cracked hands
 🐾 Cracked feet and cuticles 🐾 And many other presentations of dry, irritated, chapped, red, rough, flaking skin

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT
 Use PromoCode: AMPET313
 Expires April 30, 2013

FLASH.. JUST UPDATED TO ENABLE MEMORIALS TO BE CREATED FOR ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS

The iPet Memorial App was created to enable the memory of a beloved pet to remain and be shared with people all around the world. iPet Memorial uses the latest Technology to enable quick and easy access to all memorials. iPet Memorial allows you to both BROWSE and SEARCH all the memorials that have been uploaded. It also allows for marking those that you like as a FAVORITE for instant viewing in the future. Although your pet may be gone .. their memory can continue to live on and be a blessing to many.

www.iPetMemorial.com



iPet Memorial APP

www.iPetMemorial.com

FIDO FOTO IS A FREE IPHONE AND IPAD APP THAT ALLOWS YOU TO 'MAKE FUNNY PHOTOS FAST!' THE APP COMES WITH OVER 100 FRAMES, HATS, GLASSES, TEXT BADGES FOR FREE - AND FUN ADDITIONAL THEMED GRAPHICS PACKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR JUST .99! ADD EYES, MEMORIAL MESSAGES, PATRIOTIC, HAIR, HOLIDAY GRAPHICS AND MORE - IN SECONDS! SHHH, DON'T TELL, BUT IT WORKS ON PICS OF PEOPLE TOO! WINDOWS & ANDROID VERSIONS COMING SOON! [HTTP://BIT.LY/FIDOFOTOAPPSTORE](http://bit.ly/fidofotoappstore)

www.fidoFOTO.com



Around the H₂O BOWL

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc.
Adoption Events Monthly
 954-462-8840
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida
GratefulPaws@bellsouth.net

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.

3rd Annual Animal Adoption Fair
www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
 Sunday, August 25, 2013 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!



Have an AmericanPet Day!!



Owner and Photographer of 'Gibson'
©Dorothy Wills-Raftery

Read his Book: *What's Wrong with Gibson?*

Written by
Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler



MISSKITTY KARP kolumn

Dear MissKitty,

We hear that you and the other 2 KarpKatZ are making alot of friends these days. The AmericanPet Magazine contributors & sponsors are great! There are alot of awesome articles, pictures, events, books and products for our HAPPY READING times. You also have some incredible friends who are helping you 'Be a Voice for the Voiceless'. We LOVE to hears the Woofs from Charlie Bear. The Grapevine chirps that TITUS is in the house now, full of BARKS, and we are so excitabulls to read his first article in this (April-June) next issue.

Regards, *Hailey in Islip, NY*

P.S. *Finding Forever* is a great book for a great cause. Author: Dobie Houson. Thank you for suggesting it.

Dear Hailey,

Thank you for your support! PURRS to you!

Peaceful Paws, MissKitty

P.S. Aren't you TITUS' Girlfriend? #Meow

MissKitty, a 17-year-old Siamese Polydactyl, the professional expertise and insights of "MissKitty". MissKitty 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.

Paws for the Cause (www.pawstricounty.com)
Events Benefiting Tri-County Humane Society

SouthEast Counties of Florida
561-482-8110

a 100% NO-Kill! 100% of the proceeds from every monthly social event they host is for the tender loving care of at-risk, unwanted dogs and cats from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties benefiting Tri-County Humane Society.

CINCO DE MAYO PET ADOPTION FIESTA!
May 5, 2013 11:00-4:00pm

Centennial, Colorado
mybuddyandme.org & ddfl.org

MaxFund Adoption Center - No-Kill animal shelter will be there to kick off our monthly adoption event. We will have costume contests, raffles, food and much more. Doug Koltavy author of *Beezer & Boomer* will be here to sign his book Noon-2:00. Food provided by Las Hadas in Aurora.

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL

Lessons Learned from the Flock

CHICK QUESTIONS

Written by Wendy Thomas

AS BACKYARD CHICKEN OWNING BECOMES MORE POPULAR, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING INTO GETTING A FLOCK OF THEIR OWN. WHILE I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT EVERYONE NEEDS A "CHICKEN IN EVERY POT" (FOR THE RECORD, WE DON'T EAT OUR CHICKENS WE ONLY KEEP THEM AS LAYERS). I DO THINK THAT MANY PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES WOULD BENEFIT FROM HAVING CONSTANT ACCESS TO FRESH UNTAINTED MEAT AND TO HAVE THE MOST GLORIOUS ANTIBIOTIC-FREE EGGS AROUND.

I teach workshops in our town on getting started with a backyard flock. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions I get from people who are considering getting started with chicks:



May is
International Respect
for Chickens Month

How many chickens should I get? THIS IS ALWAYS A TRICKY ONE. IF YOU HAVE THE SPACE AND ARE COMMITTED TO HAVE CHICKENS (REMEMBER THAT A WELL MAINTAINED BIRD CAN LIVE UP TO 7-9 YEARS) THEN I USUALLY SUGGEST THAT YOU START OFF WITH AROUND 10 BIRDS. SOME OF THE BIRDS MAY DIE AND YOU NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR THAT. CHICKS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A 25% MORTALITY RATE BUT IN ALL OUR YEARS OF HAVING CHICKS WE HAVE ONLY LOST TWO. BECAUSE OF BETTER QUALITY FOOD, BETTER CARE, AND ACCESS TO VACCINATIONS AND ANTIBIOTICS, CHICKS HAVE A FAR GREATER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL THESE DAYS.

**** Chickens are flock birds.** THEY INSTINCTIVELY FEEL BETTER AND ARE LESS STRESSED WHILE IN A FLOCK. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE ABSOLUTE LEAST AMOUNT OF CHICKENS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER HAVING IS THREE. A SOLITARY CHICKEN WOULD END UP BEING A VERY LONELY AND VERY STRESSED BIRD.

Do chicks take a lot of time? CHICKS DO TAKE SOME TIME BUT IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS IT'S NOT THAT MUCH. YOUNG CHICKS NEED TO BE CHECKED FREQUENTLY TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO HEAT (A HEATING LAMP IS FINE), FOOD, AND WATER. THEY ALSO HAVE TO BE CHECKED FOR SOMETHING CALLED "PASTY-BUTT" - THAT'S WHEN A THICK, MUD-LIKE POOP DOESN'T GET FULLY DISLODGED FROM THEIR BUTTS. AS THE POOP DRIES, A HARD LITTLE PLUG CAN FORM OVER THE CHICK'S CLOACA. THIS PLUG MUST BE REMOVED OR THE CHICK WILL DIE. A DAILY INSPECTION OF THE CHICKS AND KEEPING A BOX OF BABY WIPES NEAR THE NURSERY WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEM. SOFTEN THE PLUG WITH THE WIPE AND GENTLY PULL IT AWAY.



AS THE CHICKS GROW, YOU'LL NEED TO CHANGE THE BEDDING MORE OFTEN. LITTLE CHICKS MAKE LITTLE POOPS, BIGGER CHICKS MAKE BIGGER POOPS AND BIGGER POOPS SMELL. ALSO BIGGER CHICKS ARE MESSY EATERS, FOOD AND WATER GETS SPREAD ALL OVER THE PLACE.

How long will it be before I can put the chicks out in the henhouse? CHICKS ARE BORN WITH SOFT, HAIR-LIKE FEATHERS CALLED DOWN. IT'S WHAT MAKES THEM LOOK SO ADORABLE AND PERFECT FOR EASTER CARDS. A CHICK IS NOT ABLE TO ADEQUATELY KEEP ITSELF WARM UNLESS IT HAS ITS FULL SET OF FEATHERS. DEPENDING ON THE BREED, THIS FEATHERING HAPPENS AROUND WEEK 5-6. ONCE ALL THE DOWN IS GONE (BE SURE TO CHECK UNDER THE NECK AND UNDERNEATH THE WINGS.) THEN YOUR CHICKS WILL BE READY TO LEAVE THE PROTECTION OF YOUR HOUSE FOR THAT OF THE HENHOUSE.

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.simplethriftpress.com.

I was found roaming the streets in Los Angeles, fending for myself with no one to care for me. If I'd been taken to a shelter, I would have never made it out because I had a bunch of issues: I threw temper tantrums, guarded my food and toys, and was sensitive to touch. So my rescuer took me to a foster home and from there I was adopted and found my forever home.

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Pretty cool story, huh?



Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old muttiegree who believes he won the lottery. No way could life have been predicted to turn out this good. In fact, his Mom Peep, B.J. Taylor, wrote the story of Charlie Bear's first year in their lives. It's an emotional, heart-tugging story that includes the big dog, Rex (Mom Peep's forever love):

Charlie Bear: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances www.bjtayloronline.com

Written by B.J. Taylor

Before I came to live here, Mom and Dad had a diabetic cat named Red. He needed two insulin shots a day—one in the morning and another at night. They tried having friends and family come over and give him his shots whenever they had to be away, but Red turned into a raging lion and resisted. That wasn't good. He needed that insulin to survive. So Mom and Dad went online, found a professional pet sitter, interviewed her, and then hired her. And guess what? Red loved this woman. She was calm and soothing and gave him the insulin shots with ease. Everyone was happy.

June is **Pet Appreciation Month** and I guess that means how much you humans appreciate your pets. But I have a different take on it. I would like to tell you what I appreciate the most as a dog in your household:

Top 10 Things I Appreciate:

- 🐾 Attention. Especially after you come home. I missed you!
- 🐾 My food on time. I'm all about routine and I love to know when it's coming.
- 🐾 Treats. A variety of flavors and shapes please.
- 🐾 Fresh water. An ice cube or two once in a while makes that water so cool.
- 🐾 Belly rubs and ear massages. Oooohhhh, they feel so good.
- 🐾 Full body hugs. Wrap your arms around me and squeeze gently.
- 🐾 A comfy place to sleep. Your bed or mine? Doesn't matter, as long as it is soft and warm.
- 🐾 Flea prevention medication. Those pesky things drive me nuts.
- 🐾 Walks and romps. The more of those the better.
- 🐾 Communication. Use baby talk or whispers in my ear...I love it all because I love you.

When you find the month of June rolling around and your pet is looking up at you with what my Mom Peep calls "sweet tease eyes," remember we appreciate you as much as you appreciate us. Woofs and Wiggles to you all and have a GREAT spring and summer.

**P.S. Don't forget to spread the word:
Rescue Dogs
Make Great Family Pets!**

Old Parrots *New Homes:* Helping Parrots to adapt

PICTURE: 23 YEAR OLD
BANDIT AND HIS NEW
BEST FRIEND RICK HAYES

Written by Jamie Whittaker

MOST PARROTS WILL HAVE SEVERAL HOMES IN THEIR LIFETIME FOR MANY REASONS. SOME REASONS ARE AVOIDABLE, BUT MANY ARE NOT. LIFE CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE, THE IDEA OF A FOREVER HOME IS NICE, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE ANYTHING FOREVER.

FORTUNATELY, PARROTS ARE VERY ADAPTABLE. IN NATURE THEY ARE FORCED TO ADAPT CONSTANTLY TO SURVIVE. THEIR FOOD SOURCES CHANGE WITH THE SEASONS, PREDATORS CHANGE THEIR HABITS WITH THEIR BREEDING CYCLES. WEATHER EVENTS FORCE BIRDS TO FIND NEW NESTS, NEW FOOD SOURCES AND TO ADAPT TO OTHER CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT. IF PARROTS DIDN'T EASILY ADAPT, THEY WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED LONG AGO.

WHAT DO PARROTS NEED IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT TO HELP THEM ADAPT? THEY NEED TO HAVE FOOD AND WATER. IN NATURE, ADAPTING TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT MEANS ALSO ADAPTING TO NEW FOOD SOURCES. BIRDS THAT HAVE BEEN ON LESS THAN OPTIMUM DIETS CAN BE GIVEN NEW FOODS WHEN THEY CHANGE HOMES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MONITOR THEM TO BE SURE THAT THEY EAT THE NEW FOOD.

THEY NEED TO BE SAFE AND SECURE. A PARROT IN A NEW HOME NEEDS A GOOD SECURE CAGE WITH SOME ENRICHMENT. THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF ENRICHMENT DEPENDS ON THE AGE OF THE BIRD AND THE ENRICHMENT THAT THEY HAVE HAD IN THEIR PREVIOUS HOME. I THINK THEY ADJUST BETTER WHEN THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT CAGE IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT THAN THE ONE THEY HAD BEFORE.

THEY NEED TIME TO ADJUST TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT, TO THE NEW ROUTINE, TO THE PEOPLE AND THE OTHER BIRDS OR ANIMALS. MOST VETERINARIANS RECOMMEND A QUARANTINE PERIOD FOR NEW BIRDS IN THE HOME. THIS QUARANTINE PERIOD GIVES THE BIRD SOME TIME TO LEARN THE NEW HOUSEHOLD BEFORE HE HAS TO COPE WITH NEW FLOCK MATES. SOME BIRDS ARE COMFORTABLE AFTER THIRTY DAYS, SOME BIRDS ARE NOT READY TO COME OUT OF THE CAGE FOR NINETY DAYS. THE BIRD WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN HE IS READY AND YOUR VET CAN ADVISE YOU AS TO THE BEST MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE TIME PERIOD FOR QUARANTINE AT YOUR HOME OR FACILITY.

THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING CHALLENGES WITH OLDER BIRDS THAT ARE NOT SEEN WITH YOUNG ONES. THE OLDER BIRDS OFTEN HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH PEOPLE THAN THE NEW OWNERS HAVE WITH BIRDS. I AM FREQUENTLY SURPRISED AT HOW QUICKLY AN ADULT BIRD MANIPULATES THE HOUSEHOLD. SOME FAMILIES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CHANGE THEIR ENTIRE SLEEP SCHEDULE BECAUSE THE BIRD TRAINED THEM.

THE BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS NEED TO BE SET BY THE HUMAN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD. IF YOU DON'T SET THE ROUTINE AND THE RULES, THE ADULT PARROT WILL DO THAT FOR YOU. I DO BELIEVE IN OFFERING CHOICES FOR BIRDS, AND THAT CAN BE DONE IN MANY WAYS. OFFERING CHOICES DOES NOT MEAN SIGNING OVER THE DEED TO THE HOUSE.

SOME ADULT BIRDS HAVE NO REAL INTEREST IN BEING COMPANION PARROTS AND THAT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS OTHER THAN ABUSE. BIRDS AND PEOPLE HAVE NOT SHARED AS MUCH HISTORY AS DOGS AND PEOPLE. A HAPPY LIFE IN THE LIVING ROOM REQUIRES LEARNING SOME NEW BEHAVIORS AND NOT ALL PARROTS ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THEM.

PARROTS WHO PREFER THE COMPANY OF OTHER BIRDS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH OTHER BIRDS. WE ARE CAPABLE OF TRAINING BIRDS TO ACCEPT HANDLING, BUT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT BIRD WILL NOT EVER ENJOY HANDLING. WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES WHY WE ARE TRAINING THIS BIRD. WE NEED TO LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF THERE ARE BETTER OPTIONS FOR THIS BIRD'S FUTURE HAPPINESS.

WHETHER YOU ARE A BIRD'S FOSTER HOME, OR A SHORT TERM PLACE WHERE THE BIRD RECEIVES MEDICAL CARE AND IS EVALUATED FOR THE FUTURE, OR A BIRD'S NEW LONG TERM HOME - THE MOST EFFECTIVE THING THAT YOU CAN DO FOR THAT BIRD'S FUTURE IS TO LET THEM REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE A BIRD. THE LEARNED BEHAVIORS OF THE PAST THAT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE SUCH AS SCREAMING AND BITING, CAN STAY IN THE TOOLBOX, HOPEFULLY TO NEVER BE USED AGAIN. NEW BEHAVIORS CAN BE LEARNED THAT WILL WORK BETTER IN THE FUTURE. NEW HOMES MEAN NEW BEGINNINGS FOR BIRDS.





THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE PRESENTS
Educational Conference and Avian Expo
Looking to the Past – Preserving the Future

AUGUST 7-10, 2013 – THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL AVIAN CONFERENCE WITH ATTENDEES FROM CANADA, GERMANY, THE UK AS WELL AS THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS THREE DAY, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM WILL FEATURE SPEAKERS ON CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, BEHAVIOR, GENETICS AND OTHER EXCITING ASPECTS OF AVICULTURE. A FREE EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY WILL BE FUN AND EDUCATIONAL, TOO.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CONTESTS WHICH WILL BE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND FUN! BLING THE CAGE; IRON CHOP – THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE; BIRD & FEATHER MATCH AND MAKE YOUR BIRD A STAR! WHETHER YOU COME TO PARTICIPATE OR TO WATCH, BE SURE TO BE THERE! ON FRIDAY EVENING, JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIVE LOOK AT “GRASS ROOTS LEGISLATION” AND HOW CURRENT AND PENDING LEGISLATION CAN AFFECT THE FUTURE OF BIRDKEEPING.

THERE WILL BE FOUR BIRD EXHIBITIONS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH, THAT WILL INCLUDE A JUNIOR DIVISION. THE BEST OF THE BEST IN COCKATIELS, LOVEBIRDS AND OTHER HOOKBILLS WILL COMPETE FOR TOP HONORS. THE BIRD SHOWS OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS AS WELL AS A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THEM. THE AUDIENCE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE JUDGING PROCESS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIRDS.

A TOUR OF SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIRD PARK WITH A TALK BY MIKE LUBBOCK IS AVAILABLE TO ATTENDEES AS WELL AS A SPECIAL TOUR OF THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE VENDORS! THEY WILL HAVE THINGS FOR SALE FOR THE BIRDS AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE, INC. IS A 501(C)3 EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH MANY PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT BIRDS. WE SUPPORT AVICULTURE WITH EDUCATION, CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS. AT AFA WE BELIEVE IN A FUTURE WITH BIRDS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL CONVENTION@AFABIRDS.ORG OR CALL 512-585-9800 CALL JAMIE 281-217-0614. WWW.AFABIRDS.ORG AFA, PO Box 91717, AUSTIN, TX 78709

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE'S
39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 7-10, 2013
HILTON NORTH RALEIGH/MIDTOWN • RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
BIRD SHOW • RAFFLE & PRIZES • VENDORS • WORKSHOPS • EXPERT SPEAKERS & MORE!
REGISTER ONLINE AT AFABIRDS.ORG
OR EMAIL US AT CONVENTION@AFABIRDS.ORG
PO Box 91717 • Austin, TX 78709 • 512-585-9800
The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

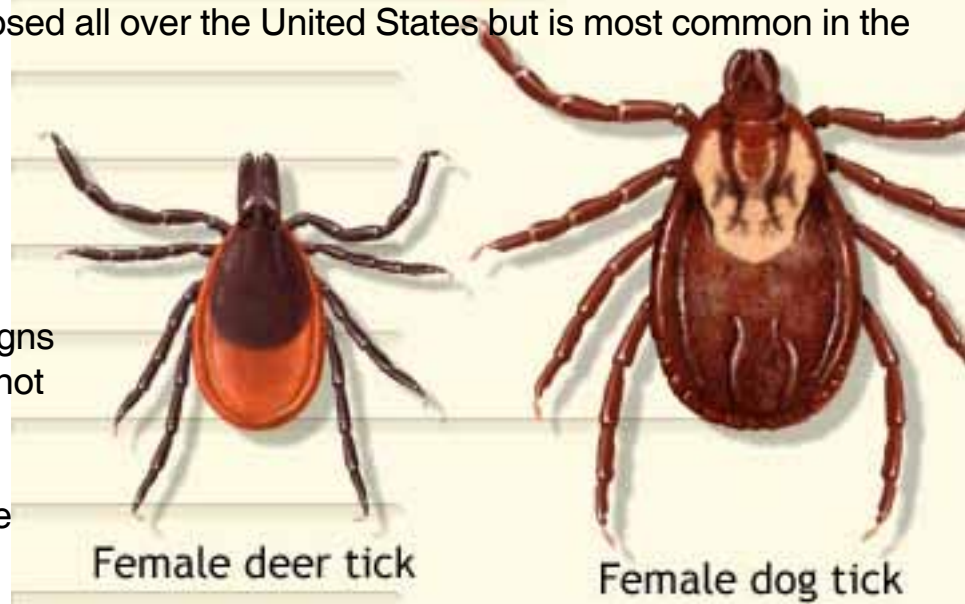
THE TALE OF THE TICK AND LYME DISEASE

Written by Dolores Paddock

Lyme disease was first discovered 1975 in Lyme, Ct when researchers noticed an unusual amount of children were being diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. The researchers discovered that most of the affected children lived and played near wooded areas where ticks mainly live. What happened next is symptoms similar to those of the children's were now occurring on dogs and cats. Typically these symptoms started in the summer months; the height of the tick season, many affected had been walking or playing in a wooded area. Lyme disease has been diagnosed all over the United States but is most common in the Eastern Coastal States.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by ticks. It can be found on dogs, cats and humans and mainly affects the joints but can also affect other body systems. Systems and signs of Lyme disease can include but do not always show all of the following:

- 🐾 Swelling of the joints
- 🐾 Limping that worsens over time
- 🐾 Swelling of the lymph nodes
- 🐾 103F to 105F fevers
- 🐾 Loss of appetite
- 🐾 Lethargy and/or changes in behavior



Female deer tick

Female dog tick

**APRIL is ...
Prevention of Lyme
Disease in Dogs Month**

Lyme disease can be fatal if the disease progresses. Kidney failure, heart failure or a nervous system disease may develop and kill you or your dog or cat. You should check your pet every time they come in from outside with a small comb to make sure they have not brought in a tick. This tick can fall off the pet and end up on you or embed itself into the dog or cats skin. If you find a rash on your body do not wait, go immediately to a Dr. to make sure there is not a tick embedded in your skin where the rash would appear.

The prevention of Lyme disease for your cat or dog is quite simple. Regular applications of a flea preventative once a month is an easy fix. There are many different types of topical preventatives and you should choose the one you feel is best for your pet. Also another simple preventative is to avoid environments where ticks are prevalent, especially between May and August. Wooded areas or areas where there are lots of trees and leaves can cause ticks to latch on to your dog, cat or yourself. Ticks can be active in any temperature above 32F so check your dog or cat for ticks whenever they return from the outdoors.

Also check your body to make sure you do not have any crawling ticks on your socks, pants or arms. Ticks are attracted to light colored clothes, so when you walk with your dog in a wooded area it is best to wear dark clothes and be as covered as possible to avoid them from attaching to you.

...Continued on Page 23

Lyme disease is not contagious and can only be contracted by an affected tick bite. You should know how to look for and remove a tick properly when found on your pet. If you do find a tick on your dog or cat and they are experiencing any symptoms go to the veterinarian as soon as possible. The vet will prescribe an antibiotic to take care of the infection. Antibiotics are usually given for a minimum of 14 days, often as long as 30 days. In severe cases, relapse has been documented even after the 30 days. Often bacteria is still present in your pet's body, but the antibiotics regulate it to a level manageable by the immune system.

Removing a tick from your dog or cat can be simple and painless. Getting a tick off of your pet in a non-intrusive way is done by pouring a bit of alcohol over the tick, dabbing on some warm soapy water and letting the tick pull itself out. You must make sure the head of the tick is removed. Another way to remove an embedded tick would be to put Vaseline on the tick and gently pull the tick from the animal using a sterile tweezer. The head must be removed or the infection of Lyme's disease can still occur. There are people that prefer one or the other way to remove a tick. Whichever way you choose to use, remember the most important thing is to get the entire tick removed. There are many other ways to remove an embedded tick but these are the two most common.

Use tweezers to remove the tick's head if it breaks off when initially removing the tick. If you are worried about infections, save the tick in a bottle of alcohol to bring to your doctor or to the vet. If you do not want to save the tick, flush it in the toilet. These different ways to remove an embedded tick are for dogs, cats and humans. Do not twist or jerk the tick, as mouthparts may be left in the skin. Take care not to crush or puncture the tick during removal.

There are other ways to remove ticks but I prefer one of these two ways. They appear to be the most common way done by a Dr. or at the vets. Remember the most important thing is to get the entire tick removed. Leaving the head of the tick embedded under your pets skin or your skin is very dangerous especially if it has Lyme disease.

If a tick bites a human the area will produce a red rash and itch. You should immediately go to the doctor and get tested for Lyme's disease. Your pet should also have blood work done to make sure they were not infected.

I am not sure why Noah included ticks, mosquitos, cockroaches and a few other nasty insects on his ark but I personally can say I wish he hadn't! This is just a quick article regarding these nasty ticks, research is plentiful and ticks are nasty!

Dolores Paddock has recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on her desire to help fight for all animals. She has a passion for all animals and feel that we must Be the Voice of the Voiceless! She has two cats, Maurice and Cassie, and one dog Beauregard. They all have rescued her!



Celebrate Earth Day by Reducing Your Pet's Carbon Pawprint

Written by ©Dorothy Wills-Raftery

This year as we celebrate **Earth Day** on April 22nd, let's all help our planet by thinking "green" and reminding others to do the same. We can all be the "Face of Climate Change" by thinking about the future today, not waiting until tomorrow. We often consider the effects that our own carbon footprints will leave for many years, but have how many have given thought to our pet's carbon pawprint?

Here are some very simple things to help "think green" when it comes to pet care and help reduce their carbon "pawprints":

- 🐾 Walk your dog whenever possible instead of going by car
- 🐾 Use recycle shopping bags when going grocery shopping for your pet supplies and food
- 🐾 Feed your pet their food in a stainless steel dish
- 🐾 Make your pet's snacks instead of purchasing them (and it's healthier and safer for your pet, too)
- 🐾 Think organic when making dog food or treats for your dog
- 🐾 Recycle pet food containers and cans instead of throwing them in with the trash
- 🐾 Clean with chemical-free household supplies (we should be anyway for the safety of our pets)
- 🐾 Groom our pets with "green" or "natural" products, i.e. shampoos, sprays, etc.
- 🐾 Use biodegradable "doggy-do" bags
- 🐾 Don't use the microwave to warm up their food
- 🐾 Plant a tree in memory of a pet
- 🐾 Recycle old dog beds, blankets, and toys. Stich 'em up, give 'em a wash, and donate to shelters
- 🐾 Spay or neuter pets to reduce the epidemic of homeless animals and overpopulated shelters

**** According to the Global Footprint Network, "Humanity's carbon footprint has increased 11-fold since 1961. Reducing humanity's carbon footprint is the most essential step we can take to end overshoot and live within the means of our planet." With pets being an integral part of human life, it's also important to think about the reduction of their carbon pawprints as well as our own. All these small steps add up so, together, we can care for the future of our planet. After all, if we don't, who will? Happy Earth Day!**



THE HUSKIES IN THE POOL ARE 'WOLF & BANDIT' OF THE FIVESIBES™

Dorothy Wills-Raftery is an author and photojournalist. She is a member of the Dog Writers Association of America and Pet Photographer's Alliance of America. Hu-parent to five Siberian Huskies, her 'Gibson' is the face of her "Live Gib Strong" K-9 Epilepsy Awareness campaign. Wills-Raftery, is the co-host of "The Sibe Vibe" radio show that broadcasts on Dog Works Radio. Contact her at FiveSibes@gmail.com or visit her blog at <http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>. She can also be found on Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews, on YouTube on the FiveSibes channel, and on Twitter and Instagram at @FiveSibesMom.

“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.

Connecting Pets With People.



Humane Society of Broward County

www.humanebroward.com

954.989.3977

Photography by ©Sally Wood



'MAC'

CELEBRATE
National
Ferret Day
Tuesday,
April 2, 2013



Photography by ©Sally Wood

'FWIN'

Ferrets are amazing companions! They combine the best features of dogs and cats with some unique features of their own. Like cats, ferrets are small and quiet. Like dogs, they are affectionate, playful, and enjoy human interaction. They are independent, yet enjoy being with people. Their mischievous and playful nature, retained well into old age, makes them entertaining furry friends.

Ferrets were domesticated by humans as early as 63 BCE. Whether kept as companions or as working animals, ferrets and humans have a long relationship. So, why not dedicate a special day to celebrate these awesome fuzzy friends? As part of celebrating ferrets as pets, the American Ferret Association researched for a special article just for this issue of American Pet Magazine about ferret ownership through the past 50 years. HAPPY READING!! (*Ferrets: Then & Now* - see page 28)

If you have a story about your ferrets to share:

Contact: 1-888-FERRET-1 or afa@ferret.org



The American Ferret Association's Census UPDATE EVERY FERRET COUNTS!

The American Ferret Association (AFA) has finalized the data collection in its first-ever census at the end of March. Throughout the past year, more than 2200 ferrents (ferret owners) have logged into the survey and answered many questions about their ferrets, health and nutrition, color patterns, ages and more! The AFA's Education Committee will be analyzing the data and then the next step in the process will be sharing the results. Ferrents, veterinarians, shelters and retailers of products for ferrets will all benefit from the sharing process! Look here, in **American Pet Magazine's** next issue for the exciting results and analysis!

'KARU'



Photography by ©Sally Wood

Ferrets: Then & Now

WRITTEN BY
CATHY HAMLETT & ROBIN LANDES,
WITH THE HELP OF THE
AFA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A RABBIT... SALT-WATER FISH... EVEN AN OTTER! THESE WERE SOME OF THE “PETS” THAT THE VERY EARLIEST FERRET OWNERS WERE ACTUALLY SEEKING WHEN THEY GOT THEIR FIRST FERRET, AS FAR BACK AS THE LATE 1970S AND EARLY 1980S. THE APPEAL OF THESE INQUISITIVE AND UNIQUE LITTLE MAMMALS HAS GROWN DRAMATICALLY FROM THOSE EARLY YEARS!

Sway Wilson (Alvin Hook's granddaughter) w' 'Skittles'



FERRETS ARE DISTINCTIVE IN THE WORLD OF COMPANION ANIMALS, SO MUCH SO THAT FERRET OWNERS EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL NAME, “FERRENTS.” THE EARLIEST FERRENTS INTERVIEWED FOR THIS ARTICLE GOT THEM AS PETS IN THE LATE 1970S. EARLY ACCOUNTS OF FERRET OWNERSHIP INDICATE THEY WERE NOT SO MUCH PETS AS WORKING ANIMALS. CATHY HAMLETT SAID, “I ALWAYS WANTED FERRETS, SINCE MY DAD TALKED ABOUT THEM WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. HE GREW UP IN THE 1930S AND 1940S IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA AND HIS FAMILY HAD SEVERAL OF THEM THAT THEY USED TO HUNT RABBITS WITH. IT WAS A TRADITION A LOT OF FAMILIES DID THERE AND THEY BROUGHT THAT IDEA WITH THEM TO THE U.S. WHEN THEY CAME OVER FROM GERMANY.” THE TRADITION OF MAINTAINING FERRETS FOR HUNTING AND RODENT CONTROL IS HISTORICALLY WELL DOCUMENTED BUT THE SHIFT TO FERRETS AS BELOVED PETS SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THEIR UNIQUE PERSONALITIES AND LOVING NATURES.

IN THE INITIAL YEARS OF FERRETS AS PETS, MANY WERE KEPT IN FISH TANKS WITH PINE CHIPS. THEY WERE USUALLY FED FELINE KIBBLE, ALTHOUGH SHOCKINGLY, SOME OF THE EARLIEST BOOKS ON FERRET CARE STATED THEY SHOULD BE FED BREAD AND MILK, PLUS ROAD KILL. THE BOOKS EVEN SHOWED PICTURES OF HANDLING THEM WITH WELDING GLOVES! JOAN VICK GOT ‘LOUISE’ IN 1977, FINDING THE FERRET TO BE THE CLOSEST CRITTER TO AN OTTER, A PET SHE WANTED AFTER SEEING THE MOVIE “RING OF BRIGHT WATER.” SHE EXPLAINED “MY VERY FIRST FERRET, LOUISE, WAS DEFINITELY MY ‘HEART.’ I WAS YOUNG, 15-16 YEARS OLD. BACK THEN, YOU WOULD ONLY HAVE ONE FERRET. LOUISE WENT EVERYWHERE WITH ME... EVEN SLEPT WITH ME. SHE WOULD COME DOWN THE STREET TO MY FRIEND’S HOUSE. HE HAD A POOL TABLE THAT SHE LOVED TO PLAY IN! I KNOW SHE ‘ADORED’ ME...THE FEELING WAS MUTUAL.”

DURING THESE EARLY DAYS, VERY LITTLE WAS KNOWN ABOUT THE NUTRITIONAL CONCERNS OF FERRETS, INCLUDING THEIR NEED FOR A HIGH QUALITY PROTEIN DIET AS THEY ARE OBLIGATE CARNIVORES. NOR WERE TYPICAL HEALTH ISSUES WELL UNDERSTOOD SUCH AS DISEASES COMMON TO FERRETS LIKE INSULINOMA, LYMPHOMA AND ADRENAL DISORDERS. VACCINES RESEARCHED AND LABELED FOR FERRETS DID NOT EXIST AND FINDING A VETERINARIAN WHO WOULD EVEN TREAT FERRETS WAS UNCOMMON. MOST JURISDICTIONS EVEN HAD POLICIES WHEREIN IF A FERRET WERE TAKEN IN BY ANIMAL CONTROL, IT WAS OFTEN EUTHANIZED. THERE WERE HORROR STORIES OF FERRETS BEING SACRIFICED TO TEST FOR RABIES IN RARE BITE CASES. MUCH OF THAT CHANGED OVER THE YEARS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF FERRET DEVOTEES.

SALLY HEBER, A FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN FERRET ASSOCIATION (AFA), GOT HER FIRST FERRET IN 1982. “I HAD ASKED FOR A PET RABBIT AS A WEDDING GIFT FROM MY NEW HUSBAND. HE DIDN’T GET A RABBIT FOR ME. SO SIX MONTHS LATER, I WAS LOOKING THROUGH A LOCAL NEWSPAPER IN NEW JERSEY AND SAW AN AD FOR FERRET KITS. WELL I HAD NEVER HAD A FERRET. I HAD A SKUNK, FLYING SQUIRREL, PARAKEETS, FISH, GERBILS, HAMSTERS, MICE, GUINEA PIGS AND DOGS... BUT NOT A FERRET. SO I CALLED THE PRIVATE BREEDER AND MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO GO SEE THE BABY FERRETS. I SELECTED A CHOCOLATE POINT JILL [FEMALE] AND NAMED HER ‘BANDIT’ (OF COURSE!). THAT WONDERFUL AND AMAZING LITTLE FERRET STARTED ME ON A COURSE THAT WOULD LAST THREE DECADES AND COUNTING.” HEBER ESTABLISHED SHADY HOLLOW FERRETRY AND CONTINUES TO MENTOR OWNERS AND BREEDERS TODAY.

...Continued on Page 29

MOST FERRENTS ARE SMITTEN FROM THE GET GO! FERRETS COMBINE THE BEST FEATURES OF DOGS AND CATS WITH SOME VERY SPECIAL FEATURES OF THEIR OWN. LIKE CATS, FERRETS ARE SMALL AND QUIET. LIKE DOGS, THEY ARE AFFECTIONATE, PLAYFUL, AND ENJOY HUMAN INTERACTION. THEY ARE INDEPENDENT, YET ENJOY BEING WITH PEOPLE. THEIR MISCHIEVOUS AND PLAYFUL NATURE, RETAINED WELL INTO OLD AGE, IS VERY ENDEARING. ROBIN LANDES' FIRST FERRET WAS APTLY NAMED 'WEASEL' SINCE FERRETS ARE ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WEASEL FAMILY. IN 1983, SHE WENT TO A LOCAL PET SHOP TO BUY SOME SALT-WATER FISH. THE FERRET WAS ON DISPLAY IN A 5 GALLON AQUARIUM IN THE SHOP IN VIRGINIA. WHEN ASKED, THE SHOP STATED IT WAS A FERRET BUT THEY WERE RETURNING IT TO THE DISTRIBUTOR BECAUSE IT WOULD BITE WHEN HANDLED. THE EXTREMELY YOUNG KIT (BABY FERRET) WAS TEETHING AND DID INDEED "BITE" AS IT GENTLY GNAWED ON HER THUMB AND ATTACHED ITSELF TO HER HEART.

Joan Vick's First Ferret, 'Louise' (late 1970's)



FROM THESE EARLIEST EXPERIENCES, FERRETS ALL OVER HAVE WEASELED THEIR WAY INTO MANY NEW FERRENTS' HEARTS! TODAY, THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM ALL AROUND THE WORLD. AN ACCURATE COUNT OF THE PRESENT PET FERRET POPULATION IS A CURRENT FOCUS OF THE AMERICAN FERRET ASSOCIATION (AFA). ACCORDING TO HEBER, IT "STARTED OUT IN 1986 AS A LOCAL CLUB IN MARYLAND. IT SOON BECAME EVIDENT THAT DATA NEEDED TO BE SHARED OVER A BROADER AUDIENCE SO THE ORGANIZATION BECAME THE MID-ATLANTIC FERRET ASSOCIATION. IT DIDN'T STAY HERE FOR LONG AS WE WERE RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM ALL OVER THE U.S., AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY, SO WE EXPANDED ONCE AGAIN TO SERVICE A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEED TO 'PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR THE DOMESTIC PET FERRET.'"

THE EFFORTS OF THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BETTER STANDARDS FOR CARE, RESEARCH AND PREVENTION OF DISEASES AND A FABULOUS NETWORK OF FERRENTS ENJOYING SHOWS, RESCUING HOMELESS FERRETS AND SHARING COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPECIES. TODAY, THE AFA HAS MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO HAVE SHARED WHEN AND HOW THEY BECAME A FERRET OWNER AND WHY THEIR FERRETS HAVE BECOME SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR LIVES. THE INCREASING NUMBER OF OWNERS IS A REFLECTION OF PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE LEGALLY AND MEDICALLY FOR FERRETS. OVER THE YEARS, MANY STATES AND JURISDICTIONS HAVE REQUIRED LICENSES FOR KEEPING FERRETS OR BANNED THEM ALTOGETHER. THE HARD WORK OF MANY FERRENTS HAS CHANGED THIS SO THAT NOW, THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY BANNED ONLY IN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII. MANY ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISIONS HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL FERRET RESCUES FOR FERRETS TO BE RELINQUISHED TO THEM IF THEY COME IN. FERRET SPECIFIC VACCINES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE VETS WHO ARE TRAINED TO MORE EFFECTIVELY TREAT FERRETS. THE EARLY USE OF AQUARIUMS HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH THE USE OF CAGES DESIGNED FOR FERRETS AND THERE IS A GROWING TREND FOR FERRETS TO HAVE A ROOM AND MUCH MORE OUT OF CAGE TIME!

LEGALIZATION OF FERRETS, COLLABORATIONS WITH DRUG COMPANIES TO OFFER RABIES AND DISTEMPER VACCINES LABELED FOR FERRETS AND FUNDING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE OF FERRETS FOR BETTER TREATMENT AND CARE HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF FERRETS AS PETS. AS FAR BACK AS THE LATE 1980s, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS WERE ESTABLISHED. MOST FERRETS IN THIS PERIOD WERE BRED ON SEVERAL COMMERCIAL FARMS. VICKIE MCKIMMEY, A MEMBER OF THE AFA'S GOVERNING BOARD, HAD A NEIGHBOR WITH A FERRET AND THOUGHT IT WAS AN INTERESTING PET. SHE WENT TO A PET STORE, BOUGHT A BOOK ON FERRETS AND THEN LATER, WENT BACK TO THE PET STORE AND TOLD THE OWNER IF HE EVER GOT IN A FERRET THAT LOOKED LIKE ONE IN A PICTURE IN THE BOOK, TO CALL HER. SHE SAYS, "TWO MONTHS LATER I GOT THE CALL. THAT WAS GOOBER, A MARSHALL FARMS SABLE HOB." MCKIMMEY BECAME VERY ACTIVE IN A LOCAL FERRET CLUB, THE LOUDOUN AREA FERRET FANCIERS (LAFF), IN VIRGINIA. LATER, SHE BECAME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AFA AND IN 1990 BEGAN BREEDING RENOWNED SHOW AND COMPANION FERRETS AT HER FERRETRY, *JUST A BUSINESS OF FERRETS*.

LAFF, THE BALTIMORE FERRET FANCIERS, WESTERN NY FINGER LAKES FERRET ASSOCIATION AND MANY SIMILAR OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WORKED TO EDUCATE OWNERS AND ESTABLISHED THE EARLIEST NETWORKS FOR PRIVATE BREEDING. ORGANIZATIONS STILL OPERATE SUCH AS THE INLAND NORTHWEST FERRET ASSOCIATION (INWFA) AND THE PACIFIC FERRET SHELTER NETWORK (PFSN).

PRIVATELY BRED FERRETS ARE FOUND TO CONTRACT FEWER OF THE DISEASES TYPICALLY SEEN IN FERRETS. OVER MANY YEARS, BREEDERS ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT BLOODLINES AND CLASSIFIED THE COLORS AND PATTERNS SEEN IN FERRETS. THESE SAME COLORS AND PATTERNS ARE USED TODAY AT THE MANY FERRET SHOWS SPONSORED OR SANCTIONED BY THE AFA. FERRETS ARE JUDGED BASED ON COLOR AND CONFORMATION. WHETHER SHOWN OR NOT, EVERY FERRENT THINKS THEIR FERRET IS THE CUTEST AND SMARTEST, OF COURSE.

CURRENT AFA PRESIDENT SARA HAMILTON GOT HER FIRST FERRET IN 1998. SHE SAYS, "I WAS FIRST VERY AGAINST THE IDEA OF A FERRET... I MEAN, EWWW. AND THEN I SAW HER. I FELL IN LOVE WITH A LITTLE SABLE JILL THAT THE BREEDER CALLED 'BITS'. 'THAT'S A TERRIBLE NAME,' I THOUGHT. IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO RENAME HER 'LEIZEL THE WEASEL'. SHE WAS HYSTERICAL AND LOVING. SHE LONGED FOR SNEAKING IN THE SHOWER WITH YOU...AND HOPPING ON THE BED TO CURL UP WITH YOU AT NIGHT. I ADORED HER. WITH CLOSE MENTORS, I MADE THE DECISION TO BREED HER IN 2000 AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO 3 AMAZING KITS. IT WAS AFTER THAT I NAMED MY FERRETRY, LEIZEL'S WEASELS, AFTER HER. I LOVE ALL OF MY FERRETS DEARLY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FIRST ONE...YOUR FIRST LOVE."



SADLY, ONE MYTH THAT HAS BEEN HARD TO DISPEL IS THAT OF FERRETS BEING CAGED PETS. FERRETS CAN BE READILY ACQUIRED FROM PRIVATE BREEDERS AND SHELTERS! IN SPITE OF THIS, MANY A FERRENT TOOK ON THE NEW ROLE BY PURCHASING A FERRET FROM A PET SHOP DISPLAY. AND, WHILE FERRETS DO SLEEP ON AVERAGE 18 – 20 HOURS PER DAY, THEY NEED TO BE FREE TO ROAM AND INTERACT WITH HUMANS MUCH OF THE REST OF THE TIME. ALSO, LIKE CATS AND DOGS, FERRETS REQUIRE TRAINING VIA POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT. WHETHER DUE TO LACK OF TIME OR THE OWNER'S INABILITY TO TRAIN A FERRET, MANY END UP IN SHELTERS ACROSS THE U.S.

'Karu' Photography by ©Sally Wood

FERRET SHELTERS CAN BE FOUND IN ALMOST EVERY U.S. STATE. THEY PROVIDE A PLACE FOR FERRETS TO RESIDE UNTIL THEY CAN BE ADOPTED OUT INTO THEIR FOREVER HOMES. ALL AGES, COLORS, AND SEXES OF FERRETS CAN BE FOUND IN SHELTERS, INCLUDING THE OCCASIONAL PRIVATE BRED FERRET. FERRET SHELTERS HAVE ADOPTION POLICIES IN PLACE AND ALLOW POTENTIAL FERRENTS TO COME TO THE SHELTER, MEET THE FERRETS, AND THEN IF EVERYTHING WORKS OUT, THEY WILL TAKE HOME THEIR NEW ADDITION. CATHY HAMLETT, A FERRENT SINCE 2003, FELL IN LOVE WITH FERRETS AFTER WORKING WITH WILD BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS IN BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK. SHE GOT HER FIRST FERRET FROM A LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER ON THE VERY DAY HE WAS SET TO BE EUTHANIZED. THAT FERRET, 'JAGER', STOLE HER HEART AND SOON SHE ADDED MORE FERRETS INTO HER HOUSEHOLD. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF FERRET OWNERSHIP, SHE REALIZED THAT THERE WERE MANY FERRETS IN HER AREA THAT ENDED UP AT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND MANY WERE BEING EUTHANIZED BECAUSE THERE WERE NO FERRET SPECIFIC SHELTERS IN THE AREA. SHE DECIDED TO START UP HER OWN SHELTER. HAMLETT SAID "I ADOPTED MANY TERMINAL AND SPECIAL NEEDS FERRETS FROM A FERRET SHELTER IN SOUTHERN IDAHO AND IN TALKING TO THE DIRECTORS OF THAT SHELTER, I DECIDED TO START UP A SHELTER IN MY AREA THAT WAS A BRANCH OF THAT SHELTER. RUNNING A SHELTER WAS SUCH A REWARDING EXPERIENCE AND IT WAS WONDERFUL SEEING FERRETS ADOPTED TO LOVING FOREVER HOMES."

SHELTER OPERATOR, CLAUDIA JOHNSON, SAID SHE TOOK IN 'ZEKE' IN THE SUMMER OF 1998 AS HIS 16 YEAR OLD OWNER NO LONGER TOOK CARE OF HIM. HE IS THE REASON I TOOK OVER A RESCUE IN 1999 AND THAT DECISION CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER! SHELTER FERRETS AWAIT FOREVER HOMES AND GENERALLY INTEGRATE WELL. LINDSEY TOOTLE OF TEXAS TOLD ABOUT HER ADOPTION OF A FERRET FROM A SHELTER, SAYING SHE TOOK HER EXISTING FERRET, 'LIZZY', TO THE SHELTER WITH HER AND LIZZY PICKED OUT MY ONLY MALE, 'FREEMAN', 'THINE EYES ARE LIKE POOLS OF DEEP, BLUE WATER'. FREEMAN AND LIZZY FELL IN LOVE INSTANTLY! THEY BONDED HARD AND FAST. LIZZY WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT BEING DRAGGED AROUND THE APARTMENT FOR A WEEK OR SO! ONE DAY, SHE FINALLY LET HIM HAVE IT. AND, HE STOPPED DRAGGING HER AROUND. NOW, THEY PLAYED CHASE, HIDE-N-GO SEEK, ALWAYS SLEPT TOGETHER. THEY JUST WERE NEVER 5 INCHES APART FROM EACH OTHER. ...Continued on Page 31

FERRETPALLOZZA, A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED SHELTER IN WESTERN NEW YORK, IS OPERATED BY MAGGIE HOUSEMAN, WHO FIRST BECAME A FERRENT IN 1993. HOUSEMAN AND HER HUSBAND'S SHELTER CURRENTLY CARE FOR 18 FERRETS SEEKING NEW HOMES. THEY ARE ALSO WORKING TO ESTABLISH SUPPORT NETWORKS FOR OWNERS VIA FACEBOOK. IN ADDITION TO SHELTERS, THERE ARE SEVERAL BIG-HEARTED FERRENTS WHO OPERATE HOSPICE CARE FOR ILL FERRETS. ALVIN HOOK, OF KANSAS, PROVIDES HOSPICE CARE AND SANCTUARY TO 18 FERRETS AND SAYS, "EVERY DAY WHEN I AM WITH THEM THEY MAKE ME HAPPY AND PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE." ONE THING THAT IT SEEMS MOST FERRET OWNERS ARE HAPPY TO DO IS SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF FERRETS WITH THE UNINITIATED.



HOOK RECENTLY TOOK ONE OF HIS HOSPICE FERRETS, NAMED 'SKITTLES', INTO A PETSMART STORE ON A HARNESS AND LEASH. THERE WAS A LOT OF INTEREST IN THE FERRET AND MANY PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND AND STARTING ASKING QUESTIONS. HOOK SAID, "I NOTICED A LITTLE GIRL AND BOY TRYING TO GET CLOSER TO ME, SO I MOVED SO I WAS CLOSER TO THEM. I ASKED IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO HOLD SKITTLES AND THEY BOTH SMILED THE BIGGEST SMILES I'VE SEEN. WHEN I HANDED SKITTLES TO THE LITTLE BOY AND SHOWED HIM HOW TO SUPPORT HIS LEGS AND SPINE, SKITTLES DID SOMETHING THAT SURPRISED ME. HE STRETCHED OUT AND LICKED THE BOY ON THE CHEEK. I NOTICED HIS MOTHER SMILE AND WIPE A TEAR FROM HER EYE. WHEN I TOOK SKITTLES BACK, THE LADY CAME OVER TO ME AND SHOOK MY HAND AND LEANED CLOSE TO ME AND WHISPERED 'THANK YOU, HE HAS AUTISM AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS EVER LET HIM HOLD THEIR PET.' AS THEY LEFT THE STORE I NOTICED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A LIGHTER STEP IN THE LITTLE BOY AND HE WAS HOLDING HIS MOTHER'S HAND." SKITTLES IS A TRUE FERRET AMBASSADOR.

ANOTHER FERRET AMBASSADOR WAS 'SCHOONER', ERINN WHITMORE'S FERRET. SCHOONER RETIRED FROM HER JOB AS A HUMANE EDUCATOR TO WHITMORE'S HOME. HER DELIGHTFUL PERSONALITY BECAME A DRIVING FORCE FOR WHITMORE'S BLOG, MUSTELAMANIA. SADLY, SCHOONER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER, LEAVING WHITMORE AND THE MANY READERS WHO FOLLOWED HER STORY. WHEN MUSTELAMANIA WON THE AWARD OF BEST WIGGLE BLOG FROM BLOGPAWS' 2012 NOSE-TO-NOSE AWARDS, THE PRIZE OF 5000 MEALS WAS AWARDED TO THE NHSPCA IN SCHOONER'S MEMORY. SCHOONER WAS TRULY A GIFT, AN AMBASSADOR, WHO SEEMED BORN TO LEAVE A LEGACY.

ONE THING THAT IS CERTAIN; FERRENTS AGREE THAT THEIR CHARGES HAVE CHANGED THEM FOREVER. THERE IS A DEFINITE CONNECTION THAT IS MADE. FOR INSTANCE, JENNIFER LARSEN'S DESCRIPTION OF GETTING HER FIRST FERRET 2 YEARS AGO, "'STRIFE' PICKED ME OUT IN A STORE." TODAY SHE HAS 4 FERRETS! YU-RI LUKE BANDO, OF JAPAN, SAID, "I'VE BEEN WITH FERRETS FOR 12 YEARS NOW. THIS PAST DECADE (AND A LITTLE BIT MORE) WAS THE BEST PART OF MY LIFE! THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO FULLY ENJOY MY LIFE. WITHOUT THEM, MY DAYS IN THE PAST DECADE COULD BE MISERABLE." BECCA NOLAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, IS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN A FERRENT NOW FOR 3 YEARS. SHE SAID, "I'M STILL CONTINUING TO LEARN ABOUT THEM DAILY. THEY HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE IN SO MANY WAYS AND SHOWED ME EVEN THE LITTIEST OF THINGS CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY. THEY'RE WONDERFUL AND NOW I CAN'T IMAGINE MY LIFE WITHOUT THEM." DOREEN ANDERSON HAS HAD FERRETS 7 YEARS AND SAID, "FOR ME, THEY FILLED THE EMPTY NEST AS MY CHILDREN GRADUATED COLLEGE AND MOVED AWAY. LITERALLY, THEY TOOK OVER THEIR BEDROOMS COMPLETELY. THEY ARE MY NEW BABIES!"

SOME FERRENTS EVEN CONSIDER THEIR FERRETS AS "SERVICE ANIMALS." KAYLA JENT'S FERRET, 'RASCAL', SENSES WHEN SHE IS UPSET. JENT WAS BORN WITH A MILD FORM OF CEREBRAL PALSY. SHE SAID, "ONCE, HE WALKED OVER TO ME, PLACED BOTH PAWS ON ME, LOOKED STRAIGHT UP AT ME INTO MY EYES WITH THOSE SEMI-INNOCENT LITTLE, BLACK BEADY EYES AS IF ASKING 'MAMA, WHAT'S WRONG? I SENSE YOU'RE UPSET... LET ME HELP MAKE YOU HAPPY!' ONE GLANCE AT HIM AND MY WORST DAYS TURN 110% BETTER!" ANOTHER FERRENT, ANDREW CHARLES DAVID MINTZ-PELLER, SUFFERS FROM A PANIC DISORDER. HE SAYS OF HIS TWO FERRETS, ADOPTED IN 2010, "THEY HELP ME AND SEEM TO HAVE A CALMING EFFECT."

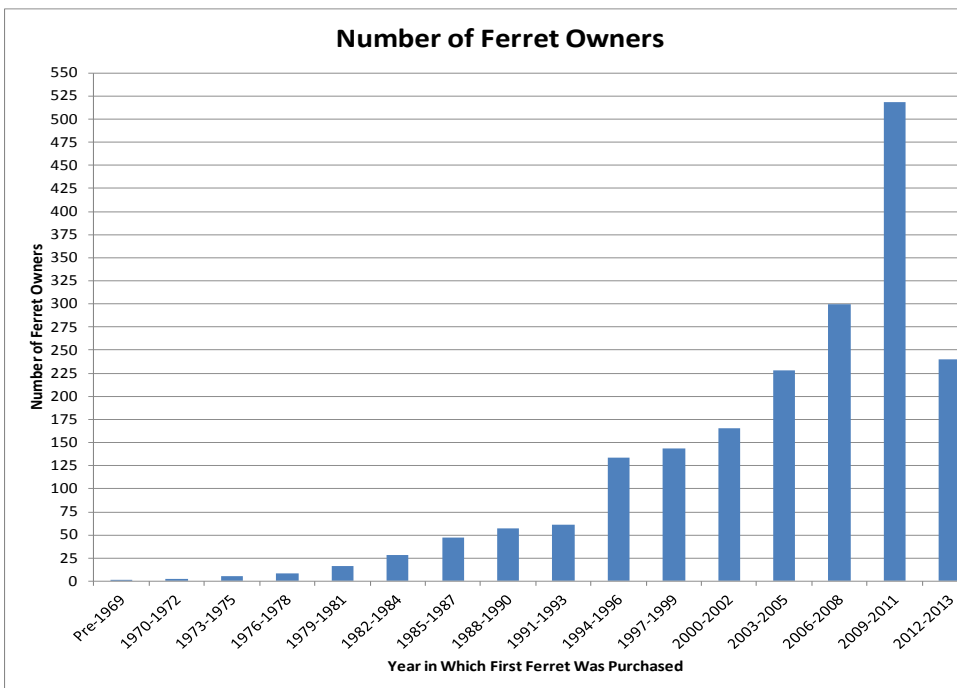
OFTEN, THAT FIRST FERRET IS HELD IN A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEART. MORGAN TANGREN EXPLAINED, "I'VE BEEN A FERRENT FOR NINE YEARS NOW. MY FIRST FERRET WAS A BLACK ROAN FROM MARSHALL FARMS. HER NAME WAS 'SALEM' AND SHE WAS MY HEART FERRET. NOW I'VE HAD 6 FERRETS OVER THE YEARS." LÔ KECKRITZ RECENTLY MOVED TO THE U.S. FROM BRAZIL AND HAS OWNED FERRETS FOR 6 MONTHS NOW. HER TRANSITION HAS BEEN EASED BY HER FERRET, 'PEA-NUT'. SHE SAID, "IN MY CULTURE, WE ALWAYS KEEP FAMILY PRETTY CLOSE TO US. I DECIDED TO FOLLOW MY HEART AND LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND TO BE WITH MY HUSBAND. I PASSED THRU A HARD TIME IN MY LIFE. I USED TO STAY AT HOME ALL DAY BY MYSELF, AND I STARTED TO FEEL LONELY IN A QUIET HOUSE. SINCE WE GOT PEA-NUT, I'VE NEVER FELT LONELY AGAIN. I'M COMPLETELY ATTACHED TO THAT SQUEAKY BUTT." JOVONNA RAINEY DESCRIBED HER FIRST FERRET, SAYING "WE BROUGHT 'BOO' HOME AND THAT IS HOW I BECAME OWNED BY FERRETS. BOO WAS DEAF. BOO WAS FUN! BOO WAS SO VERY SPECIAL. HE WAS MY TEACHER IN ALL THINGS FERRET. HE HOLDS A MOST SACRED PLACE IN MY HEART!"

FERRET OWNERSHIP HAS CHANGED OVER TIME IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF PETS. RECENT DATA GATHERED BY THE AFA IN ITS FIRST-EVER FERRET CENSUS SHOWS A MARKED INCREASE IN THE PAST 10 YEARS. THIS IS BASED ON OVER 2000 RESPONDENTS, MOST WITH MULTIPLE FERRETS. INDEED, THE AFA'S FACEBOOK PAGE INCLUDES POSTS FROM MANY NEWER OWNERS, ASKING FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE ON CARING FOR THEIR FERRETS.

FROM LITTLE KNOWN "EXOTIC" CRITTERS SLEEPING IN AQUARIUMS TO MAINSTREAMED, BELOVED PETS WHO EVEN SHARE THEIR OWNERS' BEDS, FERRETS AS A COMPANION ANIMAL HAVE COME A LONG WAY! PRODUCTS SUCH AS FOOD, BEDDING AND TOYS SPECIFICALLY LABELED FOR FERRETS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AT PET STORES. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VETERINARIANS PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO FERRETS. FERRET SHOWS AND FUN EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED ACROSS THE COUNTY. THINK YOU MIGHT BE READY TO HAVE YOUR HEART STOLEN BY ONE OF THESE LITTLE, FURRY THIEVES? CHECK OUT THE AFA'S LIST OF MANY SHELTERS AND BREEDERS WHO HAVE FERRETS WAITING TO MEET YOU AND POSSIBLY EVEN GO HOME WITH YOU AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER.

Learn more about ferrets and how to be an excellent ferrent on the American Ferret Association website at www.ferret.org. You will find many articles on care of ferrets as well as links to ferret breeders and shelters.

(The American Ferret Association, in existence since 1987, works to promote the domestic ferret as a companion animal through public education via shows, newsletters, legislative education, and other venues; to protect the domestic ferret against anti-ferret legislation, mistreatment, unsound breeding practices and overpopulation, needless scientific research, and any practice deemed to lower the health standards or survivability of the animal; and to provide constant and up-to-date information about veterinarians, legislative activities, medical developments, research data, rescue shelters and other information of interest to ferret fanciers everywhere. Visit us at www.ferret.org. We are also on Facebook and Twitter!)



'Mac' Photography by ©Sally Wood





**National
Ferret Day
April 2nd**





Written by Dobie Houson


10 Reasons *NOT To Breed*


 **Don't breed** your dogs if your goal is for any reason other than advancing the breed. Financial gain as a reason is unacceptable. Responsible breeders stand behind every puppy in their litters, ensuring that each dog has a forever home with them should they need to be returned.


 **Don't breed** if you do not have the physical and financial resources to keep every puppy—whether the litter produces one puppy or 10 puppies—in case you are unable to place them in responsible and appropriate homes.


 **Don't breed** just because your neighbor likes your dog and wants a puppy from him/her. There is no guarantee that your dog will pass its looks, temperament, or personality along to its offspring.


 **Don't breed** if you have not done the appropriate health checks on the prospective parents. Diseases are rampant in the dog world. Without the due diligence up front, you increase the odds of breeding offspring with undesirable, inheritable conditions that could have been avoided.


 **Don't breed** if you are not informed. Know the ins and outs of the type of care that both the puppies and their mother will need. Puppy care can easily take many long hours each day!

 **Don't breed** if you don't know a thing about socialization. Puppies need introduction and exposure to household noises, children, dogs, and a variety of experiences to build the strong confidence and character that will make them good members of society.

 **Don't breed** dogs with poor temperament just because they are structurally “a good example of the breed.” Conversely, dogs that are not structurally sound will pass their physical flaws to their offspring.

 **Don't breed** if you do not realize that you are putting the life of your dog at risk. Yes, my friend, some bitches die in the process of whelping puppies, to say nothing of the fact that the puppies often die too!

 **Don't breed** just because you think it would be good “sex education” for your children. If something goes wrong, it can traumatize a child. Children can get good education from watching Animal Planet. There's no need to put their own beloved pet at risk.

 **Don't breed** if you are willing to let your pups go to just anyone who comes along. You need to consider the lifestyle and financial resources of any prospective family and then make the appropriate match, which may include no match at all! Don't be afraid to reject prospective adopters if they're not qualified to be puppy parents. Good breeders take responsibility for every pup in their litters.

Dobie Houson is a freelance writer and amateur animal communicator. She is a contributing writer to Why We Ride: Women Writers on the Horses in their Lives and the author of Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue. She is the founder of Finding Forever, an organization that raises funds for rescue through writing and art projects. Dobie lives in Southern California with her family and animal companions.



#TitusBARKS

OMD....

So excitabulls!

I WOOD LIKIE TO START DIS LIL ADVENTURE BY INTWODUCIEN MYSELF. MY NAME IS TITUS BUT MY FWIENDS CALL MEES "LIL' MAN". MY LIFIE STARTED OUT ON DA STWEETS OF NYC AND WAS NOT GONNA END TOO WELL AT DA SHELTER DATS I WAS BRINGED TO. I WAS PICKED UP WIF A BWOKEEN LEG AND MANGE AND WAS NOT DA CUTEST FING BUT I WAS FILLED WIF SO MUCH LOVE TO GIVE DATS I NEEDED DAT CHANCE...DAT ONE CHANCE DATS MAYBEES I COOD FINDIE MY FOREVER HOMIE AND NEVER HAVE TO LIVE ON DA STWEETS AGAN. DARE WAS ONWY A SHORT TIME TO SPARE AFORE I WAS GONNA BEES WALKIED INTO DAT BACK ROOM WIF NO HOPE OF EVER SHOWIN ALL DA LOVE I HAD TO GIVE.

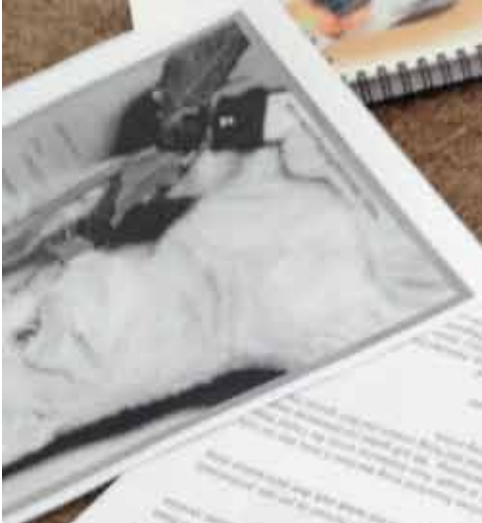
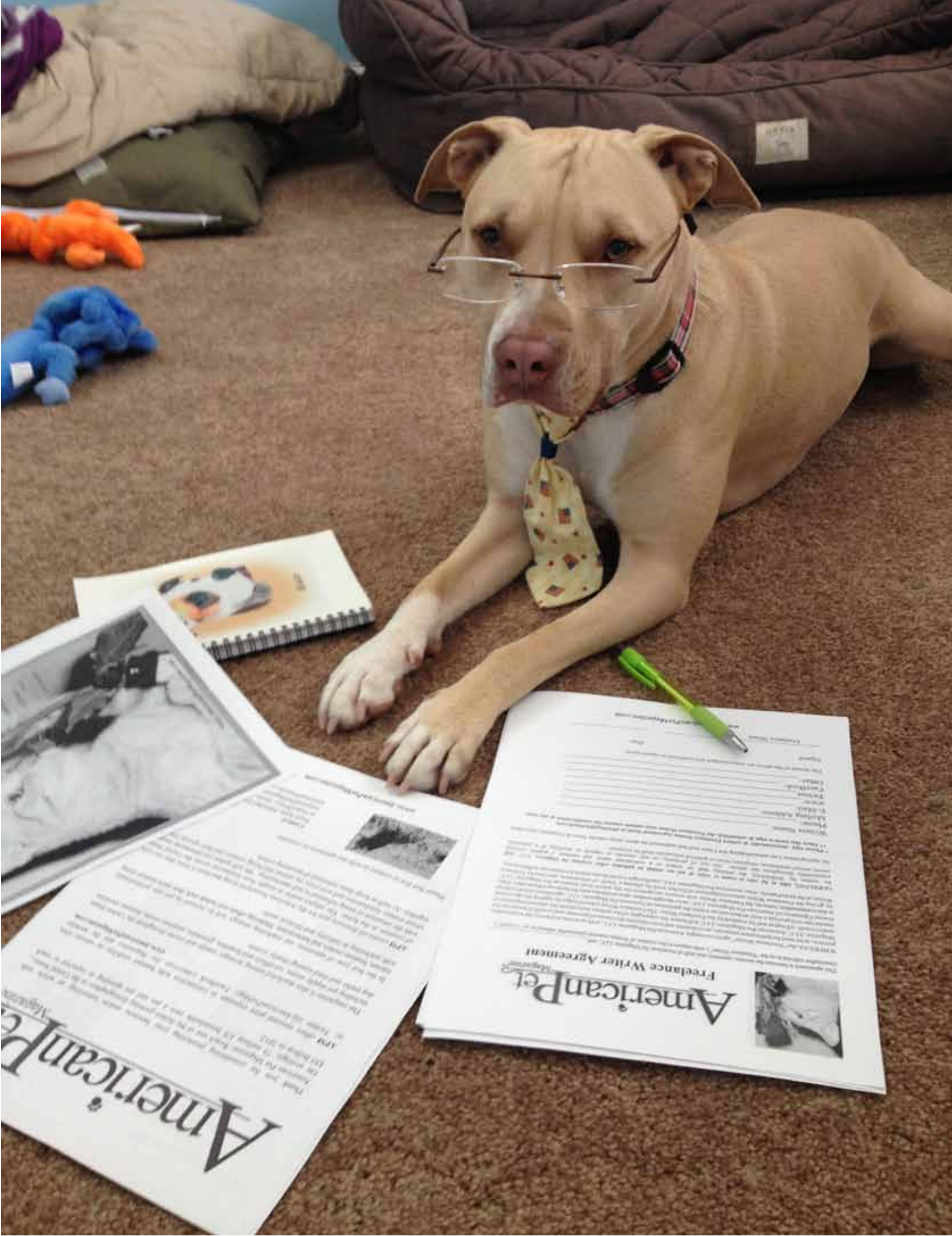
WELL, AFORE DAT TIME EVER CAMED, SOMEONE NOTICED DA BUTY WIFIN MEES AND RESCUED MEES FWOM DAT SCARY PLACE! MOMMY DESIDED TO FOSTER MEES WIF DA HOPE DATS SHE COOD MAKIE MEES DA BEST DATS I COOD BEES FOR MY NEW FAMIWY BUTS WUT SHE DID NOT NOS IS DATS I WAS PERFECT ALWEDDY. AFTER 2 MONFS OF LIVIN WIF MY CUTENESS AND OBEDIENCE...SHE DESIDED DATS SHE COOD NOT LETS ME LEEVE. WELL, DAT AND DA FACT DATS NO ONE WANTED MEES...AFTER ALL DA CUTE PICTURES AND VIDEOS OF MEES DATS SHE WAS POSTIEN, COOD YOUS BELEEVIE DATS DARE WAS NOT ONE APPLICASHON FOR MEES?



I IS A SHELTER SURVIVOR! I WAS GIVIN A CHANCIE AT LIFE N LOVE AND NOW I JUST WANT FOR EVEWY ANIMAL TO GETS DA CHANCIE DATS I GOTTED. I FEELS LIKIE I HAVE TO DO MY PART TO MAKIE DATS HAPPEN. I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME ADVOCATING FOR HOMIELESS ANIMALS AND RAISIN MONEYS FOR OUR RESCUE SO WE CAN HELPIE DA HELPLESS. MOMMY N MY AUNTS MADED MEES N MY GIRL DA AMBASSADOGS FOR TUFF TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE SO WE CAN HELPIE DEMS IN DARE JOURNEY TO SAVE DA WORLD, WELL DA HOMIELESS ANIMALS DAT IS! ;)

WEN MOMMY WEALIZED HOW MANY SMILES I WAS ABLE TO BWIN TO PEEPLES FACIES AFTER SEEIN A FUNNY PICTURE OF MEES OR A VIDEO, SHE JUST NEWD DAT SHE HAD TO MAKIE MEES MY OWN FACIEBUTTS PAGIE. SHE REALIZED HOW MY ZEST FOR LIFE N PERSONALITY JUST KEPT HER LAFFIN AND WANTED TO SHARE IT WIF DA WORLD. WUT STARTED OUTS TO BEES A FUN PWACE TO VISIT WIF HAPPY PICTURES AND FUNNY STATUS UPDATES TURNED INTO DA BEST FING EVER...A GWATE BIG FAMIWY. I HAVE MADED SO MANY NEW FWIENDS AND RUFFS TO DO WUT I CAN TO HELPIE DEMS WIF WUTEVER DEY NEEDS, LET IT BEES SHARIN DARE PAGIES TO GETS MORE FWIENDS, SHARIN CONTESTS, CHIP INS, OR HELPIN DEMS RAISE \$ TO HELP RESCUE! YEPS, WE IS JUST ONE GWATE BIG FACIEBUTTS FAMIWY N WIFOUT DEMS DARE TO SHARE MY LIFIE WIF, WELL, LIFIE WOOD JUST NOT BEES DA SAME!

...Continued on Page 36



Thank you for choosing American Pet Magazine as your pet's source for information and entertainment. We are committed to providing you with the best content possible, and we hope you enjoy reading our magazine as much as we enjoy writing it for you.

For more information, please visit our website at www.americanpetmagazine.com. We would love to hear from you and your pet.

© 2011 American Pet Magazine. All rights reserved.

American Pet Magazine

Freelance Writer Agreement

The undersigned hereby agrees to publish the following article in the next issue of American Pet Magazine. The author warrants that the article is original and does not infringe on any copyright or other intellectual property rights. The author also warrants that the article is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

The author agrees to grant American Pet Magazine the right to use the article in any and all future issues of the magazine, as well as to use the article in any other media. The author also agrees to grant American Pet Magazine the right to use the author's name and photo in connection with the article.

The author understands that American Pet Magazine is not responsible for any loss of income or other damages that may result from the publication of the article. The author also understands that American Pet Magazine is not responsible for any legal action that may be taken against the author or the magazine.

The author agrees to indemnify and hold American Pet Magazine harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, that may be asserted against or incurred by American Pet Magazine in connection with the publication of the article.

The author agrees to release, defend, and hold American Pet Magazine harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, that may be asserted against or incurred by American Pet Magazine in connection with the publication of the article.

The author agrees to release, defend, and hold American Pet Magazine harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, that may be asserted against or incurred by American Pet Magazine in connection with the publication of the article.



I HAVE BEEN GIVIN SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFIE AND I HAVE MY FOSTER FAILURE MOMMY TO FANK FOR DATS. NOT ONWY DID SHE BWING MEES INTO A LOVIN HOME BUTS SHE GIVED MEES A BIG FAMIWY. I LIVE WIF HER, DADDY AND 4 UDDER DOGGIES, ALL GIRLS! MERCEDEZ , AUSTIN, KIAH AND DEN DARE IS DA BESTEST PART OF MY HOLE SWEET LIL LIFIE..... MY GIRL, HAILEY! YEPS, FWOM DA DAY DATS I GOTTED HERES, HAILEY HAS BEEN MY BESTEST FWIEND AND CUDDLE PARTNER AND OMD...SHE IS DWOP DED GORGEIOUS TOOS.



APRIL 30th is National Adopt-a-Shelter Pet Day

ONE DAY, MOMMY GOTTS AN IDEA IN HER HED TO SETS UP A "LIL" KISSY BOOTH FOR MEES TO HELPIE HER RAISE \$ AND AWARENESS FOR SHELTER DOGGIES AND PIT BULLS. DATS LIL IDEA TURNED INTO DIS BIG KISSY BOOTH COMPWETE WIF RED VELVET CURTAINS, A COMFY BED AND MEES IN A TUXEDO. COOD YOU BEWEEVIE DATS AT MY FIRST EVENT DARE WAS AKTUAWY A LINE FORMIN IN FWONT OF MY BOOTH? OMD... I FELTED LIKIE A ROCKSTAR AND WAS SO EXCITABULLS TO BE ABLE TO HELP RAISE \$ FOR DA HOMIELESS DATS I SAT UP DARE FOR 5 HOURS, WIF POTTY BWAKES OF CORSE! NOW, WENEVER POSSABULL, I IS DARE WIF MOMMY TO HELP IN HER CRUSADE TO HELPIE N RESCUE DOSE DATS DO NOT HAVE A VOICE. WE HOPIE TO ONE DAY SEE NO MORE NEED FOR RESCUE OR SHELTERS. IN ORDER FOR DATS TO BEES A WEALITY, EVEWYONE MUST WEALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUS PETS....AND MORE IMPORTANTWY... "DON'T SHOP, ADOPT" (RUFFS YOUS EMMITT!)

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BEES ABLE TO GOS TO WORKIE WIF MOMMY EVEWY UDDER DAY (MY GIRL GOS DA UDDER DAYS) HAILEY HAD BEEN HIT BY A CAR WEN SHE WAS IO MONFS OLD. DUE TO HER INJURIES MOMMY HAD TO BWING HER TO WORKIE WIF HER EVEWY DAY TO KEEPIE AN EYE ON HER AND NOT LETS HER GET TOO EXCITABULLS. EVER SINCE DEN, GWAMPA (MOMMYS DADDY) HAS INSISTED DATS ONE OF US COME TO WORK EACH DAY. HE SAIS DAT IT CALMS DA OFFICE DOWN AND MAKIES IT A MUCH LESS STWESSFULL PWACE TO BEES. WE ALSO GETS DA OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WIF CUSTOMERS IN DA STORE, YET ANODER WAY TO GETS DA GOOD WORD OUT ABOUT US PITTIES! PEEPLES AKTUAWY COME IN NOW JUST TO VISIT US! ;) DID I MENSNON DATS WE WORKIE IN A COOKIE FACTOWY! LIKIE I SED.....MY "SWEET LIL LIFIE!" BOL



I IS MADLY IN LOVE WIF HERS N I MADED DATS BEWWY CLEAR TO HERS WEN I ASKIED HERS FOR HER PAW IN MARRIAGE. YEPS I PROPOSIED TO MY GIRL LAST VALENTINES DAY AND SHE SED YES! ;) DID I MENSNON DATS I IS DA HAPPIEST BOY IN DA WORLD? WE IS PLANNING A SUMMER WEDDIN/FAIR IN OUR OWN BACKYARD WIF LOTS OF FAMIWY N FWIENDS. IF POSSABULL WE WILL EVEN HAVE A LIVE FEED SO ALL OF OUR FWIENDS DATS CAN NOT MAKIE IT CAN STILL ENJOY DA FESTIVITIES!

...Continued from Page 36

AFORE I END MY RAMBLING, ACUS EWEVYONE DATS NOS MEES NOS DATS I CAN JUST GOS ON N ON...
...I WOOD LIKIE TO TUCH UPON ONE FING DATS IS BEWWY IMPORTANT TO MEES.....

APRIL 30TH IS **National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day!** DARE IS MANY PEEPLES OUT DARE DATS BELEEVIE DATS SHELTER DOGGIES N KITTIES IS BWOKEEN OR DAMAGED OR NOT FIT TO LIVE IN A HOME. I LIVE IN A HOME WIF 4 UDDER RESCUE DOGGIES AND HAVE COME TO WEALIZE DATS US RESCUES, JUST WANT LOVE. WE IS SO GWATEFULL FOR DA CHANCE DATS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN DATS WE SIMPLY JUST WANT TO MAKIE YOUS HAPPY. PWEASE TAKIE A CHANCE ON A SHELTER ANIMAL... I PWOMISE DATS IT WILL BEES DA BEST DESISHON YOUS HAVE EVER MADED!

I IS SO EXCITABULLS TO HAVE DIS OPPORTUNITY TO RITE DIS COLUMN FOR *American Pet Magazine* DATS I DO NOT NOS WARE TO END...MY LIFIE JUST GETS BETTER WIF EACH PASSIN DAY AND I CAN NOT IMAGINE NOT BEIN ABLE TO SHARES IT WIF EWEVYONE. I MUST FANKIE ALL MY FURFWIENDS, AUNTS AND UNCLES. I IS SO HAPPY TO BEES A PART OF DIS WONDERBULL FAMIWY DATS I COOD NOT IMAGINE MY LIFIE WIFOUT ALL OF YOUS!



TO FOLLOW MY DAILY ADVENTURES BEES SURE TO VISIT US AT TITUS AND HIS GIRL HAILEY ON FACIEBUTTS AND PWEASE BE SURE TO BECOME A FAN OF OUR RESCUE PAGIE, TUFF TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE! CAN NOT WAIT TO SEES YOUS DARE!

Tuff Tails Animal Rescue STARTED WITH A DREAM AND A NOTION THAT NEIGHBORHOOD GIRLS WITH HEARTS OF GOLD AND A PASSION FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS COULD AND WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THE DIFFERENCE THAT WOULD SAVE THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PETS IN THE CITY OR TOWN SHELTERS, AND THE ONES ABANDONED AND ALONE ON THE STREETS. WE BELIEVE IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THESE POOR SOULS AND FIND THEM THEIR FOREVER, SAFE, PERMANENT HOMES SO THEY WILL NEVER AGAIN BE IN DANGER.

EACH PET WILL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED, GIVEN ALL NECESSARY VACCINATIONS AND STANDARD MEDICAL CARE INCLUDING A MICROCHIP. WE WILL WORK DILIGENTLY EVERY DAY TO INFORM OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMANE TREATMENT FOR ALL ANIMALS. WE WILL ALSO SPREAD THE WORD ON HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER AND OFFER GUIDANCE TO ANYONE IN NEED. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION ISSUE AND PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO END THE KILLING OF ADOPTABLE ANIMALS. WE KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT TOGETHER... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION RUN SOLELY BY VOLUNTEERS. WE WORK WITH LOCAL VETERINARIANS, TRAINERS AND OTHER LIKE MINDED COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE TO RESCUE, HOUSE AND KEEP THE PETS SAFE AND HEALTHY UNTIL THEIR FOREVER HOMES ARE FOUND. WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON BREED AND FEEL ALL FURRIES ARE WORTH OUR LOVE AND DEVOTION. WE WILL WORK VERY HARD TO FIND ALL OUR RESCUES WELL- MATCHED AND CAREFULLY SCREENED FOREVER HOMES WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

TUFF TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE IS A NON-PROFIT 501(c)(3) TAX-EXEMPT NO-KILL RESCUE AND ADOPTION AGENCY. WE RELY SOLELY ON THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY OF ANIMAL LOVERS LIKE YOU WHO OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO HELP US TAKE CARE OF THE ORPHANED ANIMALS THAT DESPERATELY NEED US.

IN A NUTSHELL, THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT TUFF TAILS WANTS THAN TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A ONCE BROKEN PET AND MAKE THEM WHOLE AGAIN WITH A NEW LIFE AND FOREVER HOME OF THEIR OWN.

"Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty"

~Albert Einstein

SHELTER CATS

JUNE is
Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month

Written by Dolores Paddock

Sometimes pictures are worth a thousand words. Recently I brought beds, toys and yes, catnip to a cat no kill shelter in Weston, CT. I met many friendly volunteers and some adorable kitties, and cats of all ages.

There was a family of 4 that would have to be adopted together and two feral cats that you could go near but it wasn't wise to try to pet. The two ferals had been there for 10 yrs and would call this place home for life. Their little mats were just out amongst the other cats and they were left alone and left the other cats alone.

I was so impressed with the way the volunteers nurtured and knew each cats habit likes and dislikes and their unique dispositions. The placements were not an easy task. If they felt the cat did not match the new adoptive family the cat did not leave their present home (shelter). It was a wonderful experience. These cats were loved at this shelter, something that can not be said at all shelters especially kill shelters.

I have two shelter cats Maurice and Cassandra. Maurice is 14 years young and Cassandra is 7, they are both different in so many ways but each loving and precious.

The white cat in the background of this article is one of the shelter cats I recently met and fell in love with. All of these cats will have a loving shelter life. Some will die here but they are the fortunate shelter cats. The kill shelters put a time tag on their cats and their lives are cut short and that is not acceptable in my eyes. All animals deserve to live in a loving and happy environment. We can help. The next time you pass a shelter stop and see if you can volunteer a few hours a week. Stop and drop off some beds, toys or just play with the cats, or maybe take one home and let it love you for life. It is a win-win situation that you will never regret.

Please remember adopt never shop! We can stop the over population of cats and give these cats a wonderful life. Shelter cats are great cats, you might not know their past but you can bet they will love you for the rest of their future as you will love them.

**Report it .. Stop it
DO NOT be Silent!**

Dolores Paddock has recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on her desire to help fight for all animals. She has a passion for all animals and feel that we must Be the Voice of the Voiceless. She has two cats, Maurice and Cassie, and one dog Beauregard. They all have rescued her!

BITE INHIBITION

Written by Mike Deathe

So, just what is bite inhibition? Well, it means a dog has learned to be gentle with its mouth. Some folks call this having a soft mouth. In the end I guess it really means that we have a dog we don't worry about doing damage with its mouth... *Let me give you an example:*

Dog A: Is a therapy dog and is great with people, obedient in all aspects, a great dog. After a day of working in the local nursing home, dog and owner head to the car to go home and tragedy strikes. The owner accidentally shuts the dog's tail in the car door! In the process of trying to get the door open the dog bites the owner and the owner ends up with 6 stitches . . .

Moral of Dog A's story, a social dog is not the same thing as a dog with bite inhibition or a soft mouth.

Dog B: Is also a therapy dog and is great with people, also obedient, once again a great dog. This dog works in elementary schools and her owner takes her to the lake all the time to swim! Unfortunately, while at the lake this dog got a small piece of glass embedded in one of her paws, it became infected and swollen. The owner took the dog immediately to the vet and during the examination the vet squeezed the paw to see if the infection would come out manually. The owner was in the room and was assisting the vet by holding the dog's head. The moment the vet squeezed the paw the dog howled in pain and turned on her owners arm and bit! However the difference in this story was the minute this dog realized there was an arm in her mouth, she released pressure and basically started whimpering and mouthing the owners arm. Much the same as someone squeezing a friends hand when in pain . . .

Moral of Dog B's Story, a dog must be taught and encouraged to have a soft or inhibited bite! How do I know this, well Dog B was my dog Leo!

So just how do we teach this valuable skill?

Well, I am going to make this short and sweet. There are three things I would recommend:

- 🐾 Hand feed your dog or puppy for the first 30 days... Where do you think the old saying "don't bite the hand that feeds" comes from!
- 🐾 Control, monitor and use squeaky toys as a way to create a soft mouth... In other words don't let your dog's dissect or destroy their toys. Simply take the toy away for a quick 10-15 second time out each time the toy squeaks! Over time they will learn to be gentle with their toys as well as your hands.
- 🐾 Practice what I call cradle and message... This is a touch game or message for the dog that is paired with the hand feeding that gets the dog used to having the "hot spots" touched; such as the feet, mouth, tail and ears. Let's face it touch sensitivity is an issue with all sorts of mouthing issues with dogs!

As with all things in dog training, putting the proper rules and routines in place is the key to success...

- 🐾 This is a skill that is much easier to teach to a puppy or young dog.
 - 🐾 If you know that your dog has a hard mouth do not try these techniques without consulting a trainer first.
- The methods for these dogs are much different.

*Good luck and remember to
Keep it Simple Stupid*



Mike Deathe is a stay-at-home dad who found his passion as a dog trainer in 2008. He is the author of Keep It Simple Stupid (K.I.S.S.) Pet Blog. 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 Shawnee, Ks.

**MAY 19-25 is...
National Dog Bite
Prevention Week**



Hiking with Your Hound

Written by Julie Emrich Fredrick



SPRING IS UPON US AND ONCE AGAIN, AND MOTHER NATURE CALLS US TO SHARE IN HER BEAUTY. SO LEASH-UP YOUR FOUR-LEGGED BEST FRIEND AND HEAD TO THE HILLS. OR THE DESERT. OR WHEREVER YOU GO WHEN YOU WANT TO REVEL IN NATURE'S PLAYGROUND.

WALKING IN THE PARK OR NEIGHBORHOOD IS FINE. IT IS CONVENIENT, FAMILIAR, AND TAKES VERY LITTLE PREPARATION. BUT WHEN YOU COMMIT TO A TRUE HIKE WITH YOUR HOUND, YOU WILL NEED TO DO A LITTLE PLANNING.

THE FIRST CONSIDERATION IS PHYSICAL ABILITY. IS FIDO AN ACTIVE DOG WITH LOTS OF STAMINA? MAYBE A MORE SEDATE OR OLDER DOG? CHOOSE THE TRAIL ACCORDINGLY.

I ONCE HAD A 100+ POUND GREAT PYRENEES THAT ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO CROSS EVEN THE SMALLEST OF STREAMS. MY OLDEST DOG IS NOT COMFORTABLE CLIMBING UP AND DOWN ROCKY SURFACES. MY BICHON MIX ACCUMULATES EVERY LEAF, TWIG AND BURR ALONG THE TRAIL, AND SEEMS ESPECIALLY PROUD AT THE END OF THE DAY WHEN HE RESEMBLES A TUMBLEWEED MORE THAN A DOG. WE KEEP A SPARE BRUSH AND TOWELS IN THE CAR SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS REASON.

WATER IS ESSENTIAL WHEN HIKING WITH YOUR DOG. OUR DOGS LOVE TO DRINK (AND OFTEN SWIM) IN SURROUNDING LAKES AND STREAMS. BUT DON'T ALLOW YOUR DOG TO DRINK FROM STAGNANT POOLS, WHICH OFTEN CARRY GIARDIA, AN INTESTINAL PARASITE. BRING PLENTY OF FRESH WATER AND A COLLAPSIBLE BOWL IN YOUR DAYPACK.

IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, BE CAUTIOUS OF "FOXTAILS", OR SPEARGRASS, WHICH CAN LODGE IN THE FUR, NOSTRILS OR EAR CANALS OF DOGS, LEADING TO SERIOUS INJURY. AND ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOUR DOG IS PROTECTED AGAINST TICKS.

FOLLOW THE RULES. DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON MANY NATIONAL PARK TRAILS. MOST STATE PARKS REQUIRE DOGS TO BE ON LEASH. NATIONAL FORESTS HAVE NO LEASH LAWS. WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR DOG OFF-LEASH ON THE TRAIL? FOR OUR CONSTANTLY HUNTING BICHON, THE ANSWER IS "NO". HE STAYS ON A LEASH. OUR OTHER TWO DOGS ARE WELL-BEHAVED AND RETURN WHEN CALLED, SO WE ALLOW THEM MORE FREEDOM. PICKING UP AFTER YOUR PET IS NOT ONLY A COURTESY, BUT ESSENTIAL IF WE WISH TO KEEP OUR TRAILS PET-FRIENDLY.



WHETHER YOUR DOG IS BIG OR SMALL, ACTIVE OR A COUCH POTATO, AS LONG AS HE'S HEALTHY, YOU WILL BOTH DELIGHT IN SHARING THE RICHES NATURE OFFERS. SO PUT ON YOUR HIKING SHOES, GRAB FIDO AND HIS LEASH AND HEAD TO THE HILLS!

HAPPY TRAILS!

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 thier pups as they are ambassadogs of pet rescue and adoption, as well as spay/neuter. www.3pupsinapopup.com

People and Pets Making a Difference

Written by Nena Gulbrandsen

Meet Bailey, a beloved dog that is making a huge difference in the lives of our Senior Citizens as they transition from one phase of life to another. It is difficult for many people when they come to the realization that they are unable to continue with the day to day activities of life on their own and that they need to transition from Independent Living to Assisted Living or Nursing Home Care. No matter how nice the facility may be or how well staffed they may be, for some there is still a sense of loss and even grief as they move into a new phase of life.

Bailey, as well as other Therapy Dogs, and their handlers have made a profound impact by going into the Nursing homes and spending time with those making these life changing moves. A dog brings with them an underlying feeling of warmth, comfort, love and joy. It does not matter if it's a small dog, such as Bailey, who waits patiently before being placed gently on the lap of a resident, to the majestic presence of a larger breed, who brings with it the calm peaceful assurance that everything is going to be alright. For a brief moment in time, the patient or residents problems, physical pain or loneliness disappears and they are comforted by the softness of the fur and the understanding compassion they see looking back at them through the gentle eyes of a dog. These dogs also provide an avenue for physical touch, through petting and touching of the fur; stroking the back of a dog leads to more movement from the patients and consequently, increased physical activity. Often times the elderly are reminded of dogs that they have had in their past and joyful memories begin to flood their mind. Some residents light-heartedly share their favorite stories and memories of their past dogs.

My own mother now resides in a nursing home facility and even though the transition has been a smooth one, the weekly visit from Bailey and other Therapy Dogs is one of the highlights of her week. Dogs have always been a part of our family and now through the kindness of wonderful volunteers and their pets, many residents like my mom are able to have their spirits lifted on a regular basis.

It is with our deepest heartfelt appreciation that we say "Thank-You" to all the amazing volunteers and your precious dogs for your generosity, your thoughtfulness and for the joy you bring to so many. You make a difference in the lives of people with each and every visit.



Nena Gulbrandsen is a wife, mother and entrepreneur. She has been married for 26 years. Her interests include writing, painting, interior design and other creative avenues. She loves spending time with her family, making memories and supporting and encouraging her friends.

2 Measures Above Cloud 9 We Dance With Butterflies

Written by Christina Bournias

A BUTTERFLY CAUGHT MY EYE. IT FLUTTERED AND DROPPED, FLUTTERED AND DROPPED, FLUTTERED... AND...DROPPED. THEN, AS IF HOME, IT LANDED ON HIS NOSE. CURIOUS AND CROSS-EYED, NICODEMUS LOOKED UP, SNEEZED, THEN SMILED AT ME.

I THOUGHT NOTHING OF THE BUTTERFLY. PRETTY, BUT NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY. BUT BECAUSE THIS PARTICULAR BUTTERFLY WAS SO INSISTENT AT FLYING IN CLOSE CIRCLES AROUND US, I COULDN'T HELP BUT OBSERVE ITS UNUSUAL MARKINGS—BROWNISH-BLACK IN COLOR, A RED-ORANGE BAND ACROSS ITS LEFT WING, AND A HUGE WHITE DOT ON ITS OPPOSITE SIDE. UNIQUE FOR A RED ADMIRAL.

I HAD RECENTLY MOVED TO BALTIMORE AND WAS LONESOME WITHOUT A PET. IT WAS A TIME WHEN NEW BEGINNINGS AND REVITALIZED HOPE WERE WELCOME. ON THIS EARLY MORNING IN MAY, THE BIRDS WERE CHIRPING, AND THE SMELL OF SPRING FILLED THE AIR. VAST ACRES OF ROLLING HILLS GLISTENED WITH DEW. THE TREES WERE LUSH. THE FLOWERS, BRILLIANT.

I NEVER FELT BETTER. I WAS ADOPTING A DOG.

MY DECISION WAS MADE. NICODEMUS WAS SOON TO BECOME MY FIRST DOG (*“Rescue Dogs: A First Second”* at *AmericanPetMagazine.com* Volume 1 Issue 2 on page 7). HE WASN'T EVEN MINE YET, AND HE WELCOMED ME WITH A WAGGING TAIL. SO, I WELCOMED HIM WITH OPEN ARMS.

DURING THE ADOPTION PROCESS I WOULD VISIT NICODEMUS. TAKEN BY SURPRISE, I NOTICED THIS BUTTERFLY AT EACH VISIT. IT SEEMED TO BE WAITING JUST FOR US. WITH CLOSER INSPECTION, I OBSERVED IDENTICAL MARKINGS. HOW PECULIAR IT WOULD BE IF IT WAS THE SAME BUTTERFLY.

CERTAINLY THERE MUST BE MORE THAN ONE OF ITS KIND.

WHILE SURROUNDED BY OTHER NEEDY ANIMALS AT THE BALTIMORE HUMANE SOCIETY ([HTTP://WWW.BMOREHUMANE.ORG](http://www.bmorehumane.org)), I SOUGHT OUT THE MAGICAL BUTTERFLY. IT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. THE BUTTERFLY APPEARED ONLY WITH NICODEMUS—MY OWN ONE OF A KIND.

I DIVERTED MY ATTENTION FROM THE BUTTERFLY, AND FOCUSED ON MY HERDING DOG THAT WAS TRYING SO HARD TO WOO ME OVER. AFTER ALL, I WAS ADOPTING A DOG, NOT A BUTTERFLY. I SUPPOSE THIS BUTTERFLY WAS PART OF THE PACKAGE. I LAUGHED IT OFF AS A COINCIDENCE, AND NOT A “MIRACLE” FROM ABOVE, AND CONTINUED FILING MY APPLICATION. EVEN SO, IT WAS THAT SPECIFIC BUTTERFLY THAT MADE MY ADOPTION PROCESS SO RIVETING.

...Continued on Page 43

FINALLY, AFTER DAYS OF WAITING FOR THIS SHELTER PUPPY, WE DROVE HOME TOGETHER. NICODEMUS WITH INQUISITIVE EARS, ME WITH A SKIP IN MY STEP. HIS HEAD TURNED EVERY WHICH WAY, AND HIS EARS JOGGLED WITH THE BUMPS IN THE ROAD. OUR CAR WHISTLED OUT TUNES OF LOUIE ARMSTRONG, AND I FELT LIKE DANCING. 'WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD' IT REALLY WAS. I REMEMBER FEELING PROUD AT THE THOUGHT OF CARING FOR MY OWN DOG.

NICODEMUS'S WET NOSE SMASHED UP AGAINST THE WINDOW CREVICE, AND HIS INNOCENT TAIL FURIOUSLY POUNDED AGAINST THE BACK SEAT. WE PULLED UP OUTSIDE MY APARTMENT, AND I OPENED THE CAR DOOR TO OUR NEW LIFE.

AS I INTRODUCED HIM TO AN UNFAMILIAR WORLD WITH ME, I UNLOCKED THE ENTRANCE, AND FOREVER UNLOCKED MY HEART TO NICODEMUS. 'NICA' WAS TWIRLING, SPINNING, AND CHASING HIS TAIL. HE CHOMPED AT THE AIR, JUMPED HIGHER, AND SQUEAKED WITH EXCITEMENT. HE WAS BUSY. I WAS THANKFUL.

I GAZED WAY UP IN THE CLEAR BLUE SKY. PUFFS OF CLOUDS SEEMED A ZILLION MILES ABOVE THE HORIZON. BUT, WITH NICODEMUS, I WAS TWO NOTCHES HIGHER THAN CLOUD 9.

THEN ALL AT ONCE, YET LIKE A TICKLISH WHISPER, I FELT SOMETHING BRUSH UP AGAINST MY CHEEK. IT WAS OUR BUTTERFLY—EXACT SAME COLORS; GORGEOUS BROWN, AN ORANGE STRIKE, AND ONE WHITE DOT. AS IT FLIPPED AND FLOATED, I WATCHED AS IT MADE ITS WAY CLOSER TO MY DOG'S SNOUT. ITS GRACEFUL WINGS FLUTTERED TO THE BEAT OF MY HEART. IT EVENTUALLY SETTLED ON OUR WINDOWSILL, REMARKABLY STILL. I HELD MY BREATH, AS IF THAT WOULD KEEP OUR FRIEND HERE FOREVER. THEN, AS IF IT CAUGHT ME STARING AT IT IN UTTER ASTONISHMENT, OUR BUTTERFLY TOOK RAPID FLIGHT, AND WHISKED AWAY.

IT IS SAID THAT A BUTTERFLY IS SYMBOLIC OF NEW LIFE. I AM CONVINCED THE BUTTERFLY WE SAW THAT DAY WAS OUR FOREVER SYMBOL. IT WAS A ONE OF A KIND. AND IF IT WASN'T, IT SURE WANTED ME TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS. I SPECULATE THAT THIS BUTTERFLY IS NOW MY REMINDER OF LOVE, LIFE, AND RENEWED HOPE.

TO THIS DAY, WHEN I'M FILLED WITH HAPPINESS, AND I FEEL LIKE DANCING, WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, IF I DON'T SPOT A BUTTERFLY.

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) As an Accredited Pet Trainer, Christina champions the magnitude of building the bond between a dog and their person(s) by means of respectful communication and enduring admiration.

'Follow' and 'Like': http://www.twitter.com/nica_knows
<http://www.tinyURL.com/LIKE-nica>

woof@brilliant-orange.com <http://www.brilliant-orange.com>

2013 © !woof Nicodemus™ c/o Brilliant Orange LLC; a brand new way of thinking™



TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK DAY® CELEBRATES CANINE COMPANIONSHIP & ADOPTION

Written by ©Dorothy Wills-Raftery

For pet parents, the hardest part of each day is when it comes time to leave for work and leave the furkids behind. So, what can make a Friday, the end to a long work week for most, even better? Spending it with your dog! Whether you work in an office, out on the road, or from home, having your canine companions with you makes the day much brighter! That's the concept behind **Take Your Dog to Work Day**® (TYDTWDay). This special day, according to takeyourdog.com, was created by Pet Sitters International in 1999 to "celebrate the great companions dogs make and to encourage their adoption from humane societies, animal shelters and breed rescue clubs." Through this annual event, people who love pets are asked "to celebrate the humane-canine bond and promote pet adoption by encouraging their employers to support TYDTWDay."

"Employers are encouraged to open their workplace to employees' four-legged friends on this one special day."

Whether your office welcomes canine companions for an all-day visit or for a designated time, having them nearby can benefit workers in many ways, including boosting morale, reducing stress, and fostering positive socialization with other office dog parents, which all translates into happy employees and resulting in increased work productivity. TYDTWDay also highlights opportunities to showcase shelter dogs and encourages fostering and adoption.










Holding a TYDTWDay event should be planned out with your boss and office staff so everyone is on the same page. Accommodations for the dogs should be arranged and approved ahead of time, including a rest area, a location for walks, a designated bathroom area (don't forget the doggy-doo bags), a place for water and food dishes, and, if possible, it's also good to consider having a pet sitter on hand for those hectic moments during the work day to ensure your pet's needs are met and they are kept safe and happy.

Be sure to bring any medications your pet may need. Please remember to have up-to-date tags and licenses on your dog's collar, a current photo of your dog, and most importantly, be sure they are microchipped in the event the unthinkable happens and they slip out that office door.

PHOTO: 'BANDIT' OF THE FIVESIBES™ REALLY ENJOYS SPENDING TIME IN WILLS-RAFTERY'S OFFICE, WHERE SHE HAS A BED AND SOME TOYS TO KEEP HER COMFY. PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY.

...Continued on Page 45

HERE ARE SEVEN TIPS COMPLIMENTS OF TYDTW DAY, FOR MAKING THE DAY AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY THE DOGS:

-  Do an office check. Be sure it is okay with your employer/boss that you bring your best four-legged friend to the office. Also check that no one has allergies to dogs.
-  Puppy-proof your work space. Check the areas your dog will be in for anything toxic or poisonous and remove them safely out of their reach.
-  Bathe and groom your dog before its office debut. Only bring a vetted, healthy and friendly dog to the office.
-  Prepare a doggie bag. “Include food, treats, bowls, toys, leash, paper towels, clean-up bags and pet-safe disinfectant (just in case). If you are routinely in and out of your work space, consider bringing a portable kennel for your dog’s comfort and your peace of mind,” suggests TYDTWDay.
-  Plan your pet’s feeding times carefully. And be sure to know where your pet can make his “nature calls.”
-  Avoid forcing co-workers to interact with your dog. Great tip! Some folks may be anxious or afraid of dogs. As the TYDTWDay states, “Dog lovers will make themselves known. To avoid pet accidents, monitor the amount of treats your pet is being given. Remember that chocolate, candy and other people food should not be shared with dogs.”
-  Have an exit strategy. Even though it should be a fun day for all two-legged and four-legged folks, it is always good to have an exit plan for your pet, just in case he/she becomes stressed being in a different environment and around strangers.

For some more great tips on preparing to bring your dog to your workplace, and lots of other great info, be sure to check out the TYDTWDay website at takeyourdog.com.

And remember, with a little planning for June 21st, **Take Your Dog to Work Day** can be a fun and memorable day for all.

Did you know that **Take Your Dog to Work Day®**...
...is celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year?

...is an annual event and is always celebrated on the Friday following Father’s Day?

...is celebrated this year on June 21, 2013, at the end of an entire **Take Your Pet To Work Week™**?

...encourages employers to experience the joy of pets in the workplace and support their local pet community?

...offers celebration ideas for the big day on the takeyourdog.com website?

...accommodates cat lovers and others who cannot participate on TYDTWDay?

...has an official song (you can listen to it on the website takeyourdog.com)

...and takeyourdog.com sponsors a photo competition for pictures of your dog busy at work that could win you cash and prizes, as well as a cash donation to a rescue/shelter of your choice?

...has a featured link on the website to adoptable pets via Adoptapet.com?



Dorothy Wills-Raferly is an author and photojournalist. She is a member of the Dog Writers Association of America and Pet Photographer’s Alliance of America. Hu-parent to five Siberian Huskies, her ‘Gibson’ is the face of her “Live Gib Strong” K-9 Epilepsy Awareness campaign. Wills-Raferly, is the co-host of “The Sibe Vibe” radio show that broadcasts on Dog Works Radio. Contact her at FiveSibes@gmail.com or visit her blog at <http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>. She can also be found on Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews, on YouTube on the FiveSibes channel, and on Twitter and Instagram at @FiveSibesMom.

2013 BEST in print

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty
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

Keep It Simple Stupid Dog Training The Book of Poop & Pee

Written by Mike Deathe

No book on training can ever cover every dog, their behavior, or pretend to know the motivation of those dogs. That being said, this book is a guide for understanding the hows and whys of dog potty training. It does not pretend to offer a silver bullet or magic pill to make potty training suddenly work.

As with any of my works, it is only the first step in learning to speak dog as a second language (DASL!) The second step is your work with your dog, and the third step should always be with a professional trainer if problems persist. Expecting anything else is silly! www.KeepItSimpleStupid.com



Oodles of Poodles: a Pet Rescue Mystery

Written by Linda O. Johnston

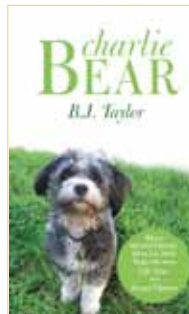
Shelter manager and pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver once again takes on the role of amateur sleuth when there's a murder on a film set . . . Has Hollywood gone to the dogs? Pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver is observing production on a new movie called Sheba's Story. The title character—a white Miniature poodle—is played by many similar-looking poodles, and to make sure no animals are harmed, Lauren's friend, veterinarian Carlie Stellan, and Grant, a handsome representative from the American Humane Association, are on location. But when the film's director is killed in a suspicious hit-and-run after arguing with Carlie about animal safety, it's up to Lauren to clear her friend's name and catch a killer before someone else ends up in oodles of deadly trouble.



CHARLIE BEAR: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances

Written by B.J. Taylor

Everyone deserves a second chance and someone to love them, right? Even a stubborn little dog with behavior problems. The story of CHARLIE BEAR is an intimate look at the first year in the life of a dog nearly labeled "unadoptable" by his foster mother. As he begins his new life, Charlie Bear ferociously guards his food and toys, throws temper tantrums, and is sensitive to touch.



Although B.J. doubts their sanity in adopting Charlie Bear after he repeatedly attacks their other dog, Rex, she is determined to make it work for the sake of her husband, who has fallen in love. But when B.J.'s world begins to fall apart, she shares how time, patience, and faith helped her realize that Charlie Bear was not the only one who needed a second chance—she did, too.

See Page 19 for Charlie Bear Woofs on [Pet Appreciation Month](#) / June



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue

Written by Dobie Houson

Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue, is a heartwarming, profound, and joyful book about 26 amazing dogs and their search for a forever home. Anyone who

as ever gazed into the soulful eyes of their animal companion and wondered what they were thinking will fall in love with these German Shepherds and their beautiful stories Find it on Amazon.com at <http://ow.ly/cHA5B>

See Page 33 for Dobie Houson's article '10 Reasons NOT to Breed'

DIRECTORY of SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

MissKitty Karp kolumn
www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

#TitusBARKS
www.TitusandhisgirlHailey.com

B.J. Taylor & Charlie Bear
www.bjtayloronline.com

Sid Korpi
www.GoodGriefPetLoss.com

Liz Mellott
www.PeteysPromise.org

Linda O. Johnson
www.lindaojohnston.com

Kara Kennedy
www.KennedyResourceDevelopment.com

Dobie Houson
www.FindingForever.org

The Jimmy Dog Design Group
www.jimmydog.com

Dr. Mark Nunez, DVM
www.thebalancedcanine.com

Emily Skin Soothers
www.emilyskinsoothers.com

Ms. Pineapple's Playground
www.ThugCustomCycles.com

HW Grant Photography
www.HWGrantPhotography.com

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc
www.gratefulpaws.org

Stu Goldman

American Ferret Association
www.ferret.org

Sarah Hosick
www.sarahhosick.com

Nicole Rivera
www.maxpproductions.com

Debbie Tringale
www.MeAndMyDogs.biz

Julie Fredrick
www.3pupsinapopup.com

Wendy Thomas
www.simplethriftp.wordpress.com

Christina Bournias
www.brilliant-orange.com

Mary Hone
www.roxythetravelingdog.com

American Federation of Aviculture
www.afabirds.org

Guinea Pig Today
www.guineapigtoday.com

fidoFOTO
www.fidoFOTO.com

Bill & Nena Gulbrandsen
www.iPetMemorial.com

Paws for the Cause
www.pawstricounty.com

Tri-County Humane Society
www.TriCountyHumane.org

Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation
www.stymieccf.org

Dumb Friends League
www.ddfl.org/catfest

A Balanced K9
www.abalancedK9.com

Mike Deathe
www.muttzmembers.blogspot.com

Dorothy Wills-Rafertry
www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com

www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
954-971-4432

Dolores Paddock
www.Hand4Paws.com

Carole Diane Heslin
www.bijouterie.us

Babka Bars
www.babkabars.com

Kandice Seitz

CJ & 'Jasmine' Jackson
facebook.com/MyFavoritePupJasmine

Be a Voice!



My Favorite Pup, Jasmine

Choose To Help Stop Abuse!
If You See It, Stop and Report It.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CONTACT AMERICANPET@USA.COM

DON'T LEAVE US HANGING AROUND!

Let Us Know What You Think

Visit www.AMERICANPETMAGAZINE.com

Email AMERICANPET@usa.com

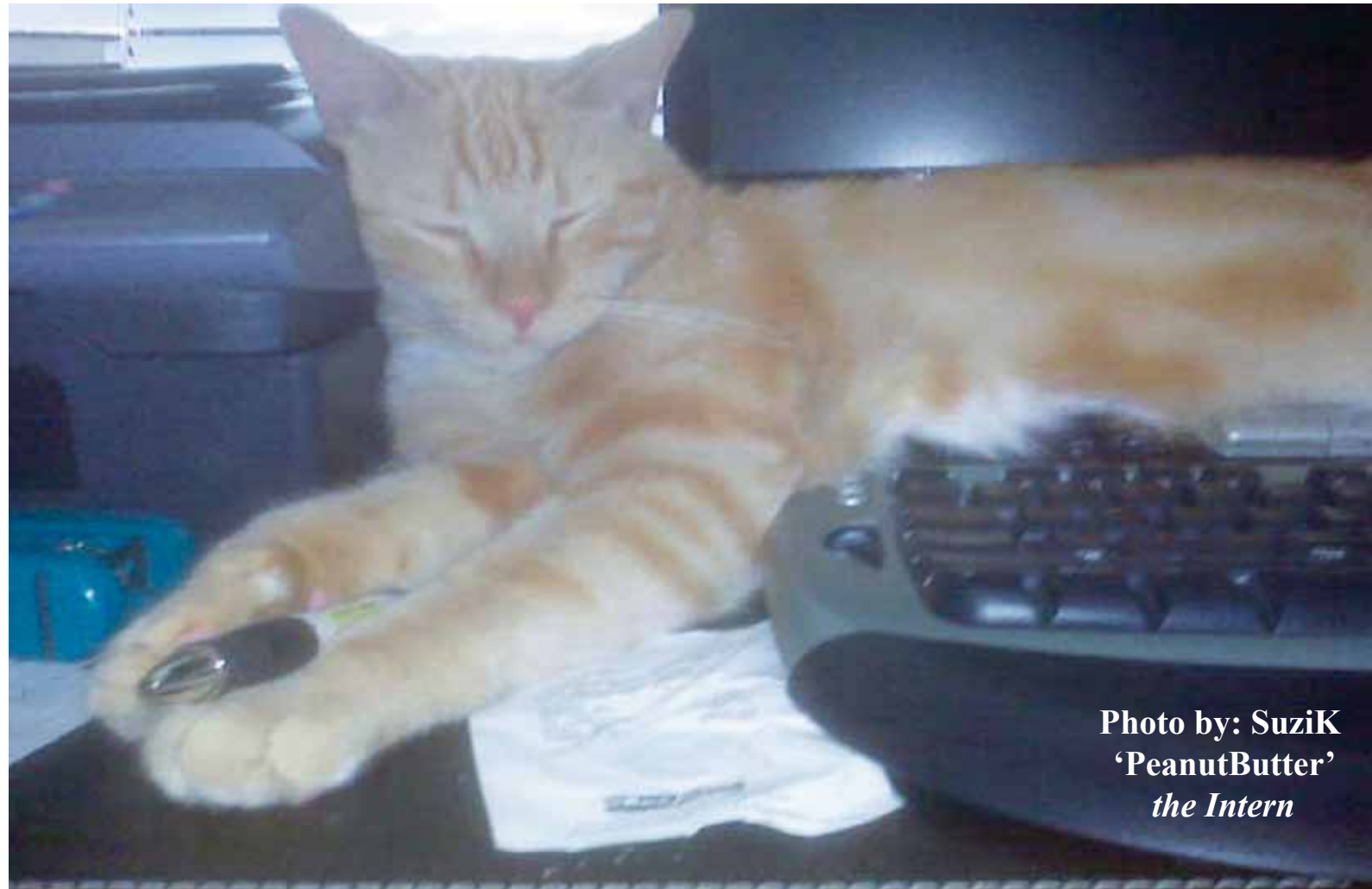


Photo by: SuziK
'PeanutButter'
the Intern

FaceBook	AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE
Twitter	@AMERICANPETMAG
YouTube	AMERICANPETMAG
Pinterest	AMERICAN PET
WordPress	AMERICANPETMAGAZINE
Stumbleupon	AMERICANPETMAG
Tumblr	AMERICAN PET
Linkedin	AMERICAN PET