

American Pet Magazine™

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

Magazine™
Volume 2
Issue 4 2013

GypsyPrince Travels
final destination...

SENIOR EDITOR **Rainbow Bridge**
GypsyPrince Karp
RIP 6/29/2013
18.5 yrs old

**What's Wrong
with Gibson?™**

PET CELEBRATIONS

National Pet Obesity Awareness
Pet Cancer Awareness Month
National Feral Cat Day

**FERRETS,
FERRETS,
FERRETS**

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

“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.



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www.humanebroward.com

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The Publisher's Note



From The Desk of the Editor

This is a very special issue, **♥Dedicated to our GypsyPrince♥**

Sadly, GypsyPrince started having major complications and crossed the Rainbow Bridge this past June 29th. His perseverance and unconditional love was a huge inspiration for AmericanPet Magazine. His desire was to 'Be a Voice for the Voiceless' by helping those like himself.

What a beautiful cover picture of 'Gibson' of The Five Sibes™. He is featured in an article about National Epilepsy Awareness Month in November. You can also buy his book, 'What's Wrong with Gibson?' (page 52). Please help support Epileptic K-9s by purchasing 'Gibbie Snacks' available by House Wolf...a percentage of proceeds are donated to The Wally (Canine Epilepsy) Foundation!

Charlie Bear Woofs again! (page 21). He wants everyone to be aware of the dangers of obesity in time for National Pet Obesity Awareness Day. Dobie Houson writes another incredible article about the 'Surprising Ways Our Animal Companions Help Us'. Let's not forget about Mike Deathe who tells us what to do 'Before you get a Puppy'. His K.I.S.S. mind set educates even the knowledgeable.

For those who missed our last issue, TITUS and his girl, Hailey, got hitched! Everyone is 'So Excitabulls' for the newlyweds. Together they shall continue to advocate for Tuff Tails Animal Rescue and raise money for the homeless. He is currently barking about the importance of adopting a shelter pet.

Paws for the Cause continues to support the Tri-County Humane Society holding many events in pet-friendly establishments. Don't forget about Dooktoberfest, November 2nd, in Virginia. Our furry kids strut their style in many different colors and patterns (page 13). The American Ferret Association enlightens us on the benefits of volunteering at a Ferret Shelter. *How fun would that be?*

Our precious PeanutButter has A LOT to say these days. He has a new job here at APM. His work load is much heavier now but he is a determined kitty. It is incredible how he has changed now that he is in charge of things. PeanutButter knows what he has to do and he gets it done, in honor of MissKitty and GypsyPrince. They taught him well! We will continue to hear both, MissKitty and GypsyPrince, ROAR from across the Rainbow Bridge.

One Pet at a Time..One Day at a Time..One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

Have an AmericanPet Day!!

SUZIN KARP

We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 55) by passing along this copy of AmericanPet Magazine. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.

Thank you again and HAPPY READING!! #Meow #Woof

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"Gibson" of FiveSibes™
Photographer:
©Dorothy Wills-Rafferty

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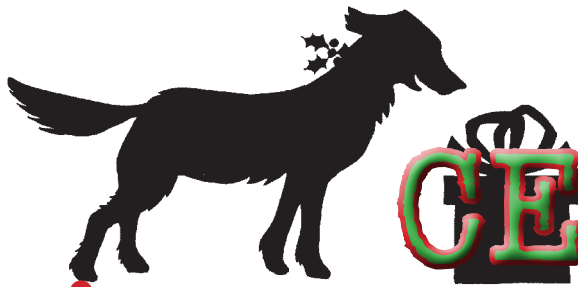
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The AmericanPet Magazine Founders:
GypsyPrince, PeanutButter & MissKitty
Photographer: ©SuziK Designs

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PET CELEBRATIONS

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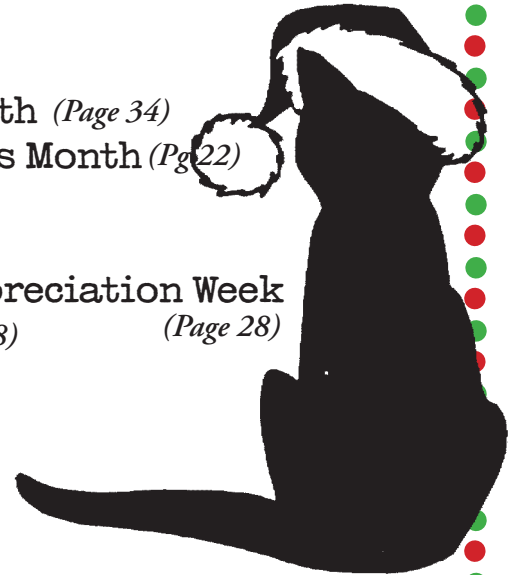
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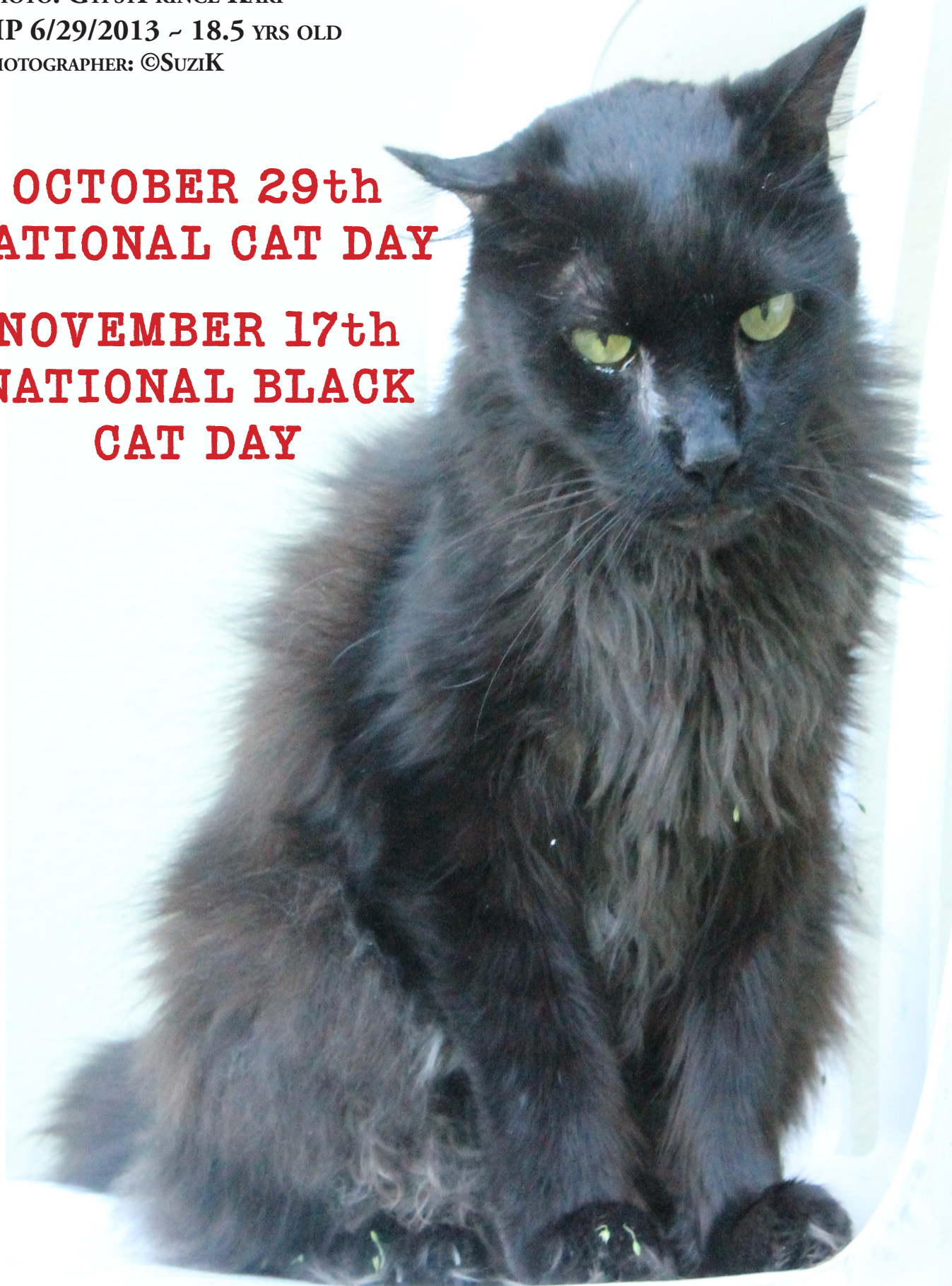


**PLEASE KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE
DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON
& ALL YEAR LONG!!**

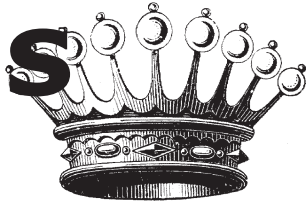
PHOTO: GYPSYPRINCE KARP
RIP 6/29/2013 ~ 18.5 YRS OLD
PHOTOGRAPHER: ©SUZIK

**OCTOBER 29th
NATIONAL CAT DAY**

**NOVEMBER 17th
NATIONAL BLACK
CAT DAY**



GypsyPrince Travels



As I laid in bed last night, I realized that every day since June 29th I have felt a huge hole in my heart for my GypsyPrince. His strength and soul inspired the making of AmericanPet Magazine and the past 17 years have been an incredible journey with this special feline. Our amazing connection and newly discovered mission is well on its way to creating so much good in helping other pets in need.

GypsyPrince was 'left for dead' when he was a kitten. It's the old story of how a person leaves the neighbor 2 cats, twenty dollars and a promise to be in touch soon. Well, he wasn't taken care by his pet sitter and his 'owner' did not reappear until many, many months after he found a new home that loved him immensely. There is a longer story about how GypsyPrince ultimately stayed FOREVER HOME with me but that is for another time. We belonged in each other's lives and we let nothing get in the way.

His name came very natural. Gypsy was a wanderer. He wandered the neighborhood and through the alleys. He wandered into my yard everyday for 6 months. It was then that he had a nasty fight and was tore up bad. It became very apparent that he was to fend for himself so I took him to the vet. I was told if he received medical care any later he would have died.

Being rescued by this black beauty changed my life forever. He became the Prince of the house as he and I bonded. We traveled across several state lines together on many occasions via airplane and vehicle. We spent nights at other peoples homes. He seemed to love his new life and was confident that he owned me. GypsyPrince had me wrapped around his finger. There is a phrase defining how he 'ran' my life but I don't want to offend anyone.

He was always under my watchful eye due to various medical issues throughout the years, diagnosed with 'equivocal to FIV' shortly after he came into my life. Later his vet suggested we make him a princess because he had Cystitis. I didn't want him to go through surgery for fear of losing him. We learned how to keep the reoccurring issues under control.



Together we concurred some major hurdles. In October 2010 he was rushed to a specialist and was given less than one year to live. Right then our lives change drastically, which allowed us to spend a lot of time together. The 'in-home hospice' care that he received from me blessed us with 3 more years filled of Unconditional Love and Life!

...Continued on Page 08

GypsyPrince: stray at 1 year old



GypsyPrince & Me

I want to commemorate GypsyPrince for all the years he put up with being in the camera's eye. Photography is my interest and he became more of an easy target as I updated and learned new equipment every few years. Eighteen years of videos filled with his presence and well over 11,000 still shots. Great Memories & Fun!

GypsyPrince was just over 18 years old when I was sitting with him and all of a sudden he spoke to me in a different tone than usual and then it happened. His body locked up for what seemed like a lifetime. I knew then what he was telling me and it broke my heart. It was the most difficult decision to ever make for me ... to have him put to rest. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge on June 29th, 2013. It was a devastating time for both myself and PeanutButter. We were all still mourning our MissKitty, who passed 7 weeks before.

Of all the stories I have heard, I had never heard of a cat that had THREE soul mates during his life. PrettyBoy, MonkeyChow and PeanutButter, respectively. He survived his older 'siblings', AmeliaEarhardt, TabithaWitch, ChillAnn and ThrasherMan and his younger 'siblings', PrettyBoy, MonkeyChow and MissKitty. He is survived by PeanutButter. PeanutButter was the 'Cat's Kitten' meaning he 'belonged' to GypsyPrince, who was 11 years his senior.



His life brought meaning to my life (& many others) and for that I am so grateful! My heart has been touched like never before. He was 'The One' for me. My GypsyPrince, my most faithful companion, 'traveled' beside me for all those years in a way that no one else has. He will continue to travel for AmericanPet Magazine from across the Rainbow Bridge to help bring meaning to others lives. I hope you hear him ROAR as you join our cause!!



GypsyPrince moved in :-)

****CATS WITHOUT 9 LIVES****

EVERGLADES HOLIDAY PARK ON US 27 IN FT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, HAS A COLONY OF CATS THAT HAVE LIVED THERE A LONG TIME. THE PARK PLANS ON TRAPPING THEM AND EUTHANIZING THEM IF WE ALL DON'T HELP!! MOST OF THE CATS HAVE BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED AND ARE PRETTY FRIENDLY. ANY ADDITIONAL MEDICAL INCLUDING MICRO CHIPS WILL BE PAID FOR, WE JUST NEED SOME LOVING HOMES OR YARDS. THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES.



**FOR MORE INFO OR IF YOU CAN HELP,
PLEASE CALL NOW:
DEB OR BILL AT 954-964-1445**

FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE RESCUED CATS THAT HAD NO FUTURE. WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND THANK YOU FOR THE HELP!!!!

October 16th is National Feral Cat Day

a Haiku for You

無条件愛





Written by Dolores Paddock

Wow! The Fall season is upon us. For many States the beautiful foliage is working its magic and the crisp cool air has arrived. For us it is a great time to walk our dog. The mosquitoes and black flies have disappeared, Beau isn't panting as much as we walk, and it is just a wonderful time to be outdoors.

October also brings joy to all the little children because Halloween is the last day of the month and they get to go trick or treating! They start designing their outfits and finding the largest bag available to fill up with all their goodies. The sugar high, the dressing up, staying up late, ringing doorbells, getting treats for doing absolutely nothing. Oh yes, to be young again! Halloween is a great night but we all must be very cautious that night, more cautious than normal.

Pet owners are aware that sometimes when the doorbell rings their fur babies either run and hide (as my cats do) or bark and charge (as my dog does). We need to prepare them for the night of Halloween.

Personally, I have my two cats, Cassie and Maurice, safely tucked away in the den downstairs. They enjoy their beds, a litter box and extra treats for the few hours that the doorbell constantly rings. Also by being tucked away I do not have to worry about one of them running out the front door. Though they are indoor cats, they do like to escape and when it's time for the little trick or treaters the front door is a great way to run.

It becomes a little more difficult with Beau, our 90 lb. yellow Lab. We do not sequester him but rather keep him on a leash and by my side. This way he can greet the little fairies and goblins and see that they mean us no harm and they learn also that he is a gentle dog. We also make sure that he is wearing his "blinker" or walking light on his collar.

Drivers need to be extra cautious with all the little trick or treaters out in the road running from house to house. Some of the parents take their dogs with them and drivers should be aware that dogs are also crossing the streets with their families. I always use the "blinker" when I walk Beau at night. It is an extra precaution for oncoming traffic to see that we are walking and they need to slow down. Having that little extra blinking light around Beau's neck gives him a little more protection from cars.

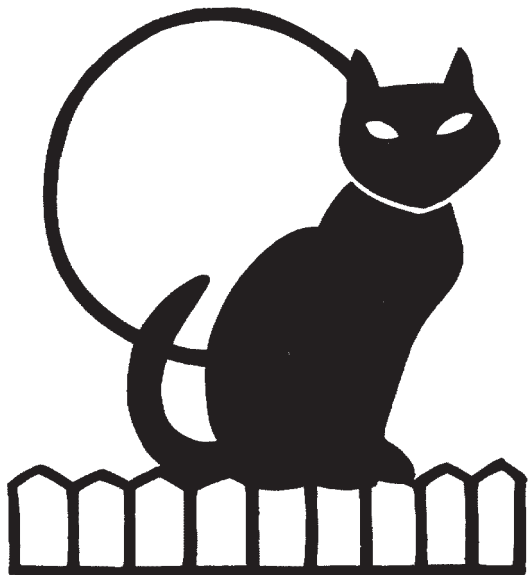


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Treats are also an issue of concern. Not all neighborhoods have “pleasant” neighbors. You never want to take your children to a strange neighborhood just to allow them to get so many treats that they do not even eat them all. There are nasty people out there. The apples need to be checked, the candies need to be checked and the dog needs to be watched so that he does not eat any chocolate or deadly treat. I wish I could say that when I was small and went out for Halloween my parents had all these concerns, but I can’t. Times have changed, people have changed, and the world has changed. We need to be proactive and vigilant whenever we step out our front door. The world has become a dangerous place. Our neighborhoods and those around us could also be dangerous for our pets and our children.

If you are planning to decorate your home, make sure the candles are lit when you are home. Place them out of reach of the children and the animals. It only takes a second for a curious cat to swipe by a lit candle and it starts a fire or catches their tail on fire.



Black cats are also in high demand for those that practice satanic rituals. That is why shelters are more cautious when placing a black cat with a new family in the fall months. My black cat Maurice is 14 and our elder family member. I am more cautious in the Fall to make sure I know where he is at all times in the house. One never truly knows what their neighbors are all about and a black cat is in high demand during these months. Enjoy the Halloween everyone and the month of October.

I hope that this message did not turn into a downer for you to read but being aware of your surroundings can save your pet’s life and also a child’s.

October is Halloween Safety Month

I have recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on my desire to help fight for all animals. I have a passion for all animals and feel that we must be the voice of the voiceless. I have two cats Maurice and Cassie and one dog Beaugard, they all have rescued me!



**THE WINNER OF OUR
'BE A VOICE FOR
THE VOICELESS!' CONTEST IS
FLASH THE THERAPY CAT**

A special thanks to
Carole & Maria Helsin
of www.Bijouterie.us for this
beautiful oil painting and for all
their hard work in helping with
American Pet Magazine's 'Be a
Voice for the Voiceless!' Contest.



Flash & Venti

Flash the Therapy Cat started life in a barn in Ohio in 2008. I rescued him when he was about 4 months old and I wanted him to be able to be in cat shows. He did cat shows for a few years but got bored with it and I knew he loved people.

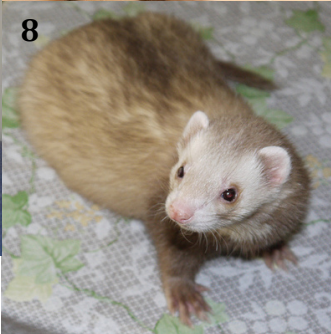
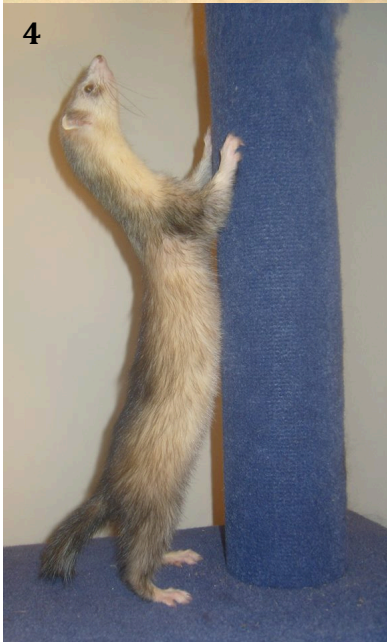
I was going thru a rough patch in life and prayed to God help me find a pet therapy group we could work with. I finally found "Love On A Leash". We started doing therapy work in March of 2012. We visit nursing homes mainly, sometimes hospitals if we know somebody who is in the hospital. We have talked to a Brownie Troop about his therapy work and has visit a school.

Flash does pout if he doesn't get to at least once a week. We visit about 3 different nursing homes here in Indiana. We also do different pet events letting people know all about therapy cats and what they do, we comfort people and they bless us with there kindness knowing that we are there to visit them. We are always looking for new places to go to visit.

The other thing we do also in our spare time is we help cats that are in need. Like if a cat needs surgery or such. I make mini greeting cards that I draw of the kitty's face by hand. Than I sell them online and I donate part of the money back to kitties that are in need.



Ferrets Come in Many Colors and Patterns!



Ferrets come in many colors and patterns!

Learn more about the American Ferret Association's Color and Pattern Standards at:

<http://ferret.org/events/colors/colorchart.html>

- 1- Jennifer Larsen's GFX's Chaos (Black Roan Mitt)
- 2- Morgan Tangren's Gwendolyn (Sable)
- 3- Lynn Toole's Augustus of THHG (Panda)
- 4- Morgan Tangren's Penelope (Roan)
- 5- Robin Landes' JBF's Karu (Black Sable)
- 6- Vickie McKimmey's JBF's Lolita (Dark Eyed White)
- 7- Vickie McKimmey's JBF's Cocoboodo (Chocolate)
- 8- Yu-ri Luke Bando's Free Verse (Champagne)
- 9- Ruth Heller's General Quarters of RN (Blaze)
- 10- Vickie McKimmey's PFH's Abbi of JBF (Albino)

GypsyPrince's



Playground



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Around the H₂O BOWL

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 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.*

4th Annual Animal Adoption Fair
www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
 Date TBD in August 2014
 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!*



MissKitty
sitting pretty

Photographer: SuziK Designs



Hi Everyone! PeanutButter here.

I am excited to announce my promotion from Intern to Advertising & PR Director for AmericanPet Magazine™. I'm happy to be working this kolumn too. I'm thinking of 'PeanutButter PURRS'. *What do you think? Suggestions, anyone?*

As you know from our last issue, MissKitty crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Unfortunately, not only 7 weeks later, GypsyPrince crossed too. I was blessed to have been their 'Cat's Kitten' since I was 1 week old. I had a special relationship with each of them. They were both more than 10 years older than me and still they accepted me in the home. OH!, I reeked havoc with my 'kitten' personality. I only really 'played' with GypsyPrince but as he got older, I stayed by his side often.

This is the hardest issue for Mommy & me. I have been trying to pull my weight and be all over the desk working while Mommy works. I wasn't allowed up there as often because I was the Intern and MissKitty & GypsyPrince claimed that space most days.

As per their wishes, we will continue on our mission to 'Be a Voice for the Voiceless.' The 4 of us began this journey together as the publication has grown incredibly since our first issue. Our Social Media efforts are paying off and we are well on our way to national mass print to help get the word out! Many PURRS to my special siblings for leading Mommy & me into this incredible journey! We couldn't have done it without your Perseverance and Unconditional Love. Also, Many PURRS to ALL our contributors/sponsors for their AWESOME stories and support! *PURRS & MEOWS*

Have an AmericanPet Day!!



GypsyPrince
stalking a toy

Photographer: SuziK Designs

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.

DOOKTOBERFEST
November 2, 2013 10am - 5pm

Lovettsville, Virginia
1-888-FERRET-1 www.ferret.org

This championship ferret show is sponsored by the American Ferret Association and Wild Weezil Women On Wine at the Lovettsville Game Protective Association. Championship and specialty rings, exhibitors and a costume contest are featured!

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL

'Bandit'



Sneaky Bandit

Carrie Marino-Ank awoke to hear her daughter, Maddie, shrieking! She then heard her racing down the stairs and into the home's only bathroom. The door slammed shut! Carrie next heard her guinea pig squealing, "...not a normal or good squeal," she said. She ran through the pitch-black house into the room with the guinea pig, flipped on the light and, she tells, "...latched onto his ear is this THING!"

Carrie was, by then, screaming for her husband, Tom. She recounts, "He stumbled out [of bed], half-asleep and sort of annoyed (his one day to sleep in), reaches in, grabs it, says, 'Huh. It's a ferret' and puts it in the guinea pig's travel cage." Retrieving her daughter from the bathroom, she learned that the little ferret, obviously a stray, had burrowed into her daughter's bed. Maddie claimed she thought it was the cat at her feet. Then she looked under the covers and saw something she could not identify and holed up in the bathroom. The question remained, however, how did the ferret get into the house in the first place?

Bandit the ferret joined Carrie's household for the first time by climbing in through the dog door! In fact, he managed to sneak past three sleeping canines before exploring enough to find Maddie's warm bed. It seems Clementine, who is a very large Lab, Satchel, who is a 70 pound terrier and Simon, a former laboratory Beagle had guard duty off that night when the ferret arrived!

Once safely in the pet carrier, the family began the search for the ferret's owner. Carrie explained, "We tried to see who he belonged to. We put out the word with the pet stores. But nothing." The realization that the family had a new pet came pretty quickly as her daughter fell in love! "So, guess what, now I was a ferret owner-in cleaning chores only-while my eldest daughter went crazy for this ferret." Carrie laughingly described. Her other children, Abby and Benny "...started fighting over who was to play with the ferret. Meantime, I'm really getting to know this little guy, who we named Bandit (of course, how stereotypical). And he is just the kindest, sweetest ferret boy on the planet." Carrie continued.

Carrie became smitten with Bandit and began to research ferrets in depth. She learned about their care and specific needs. She also sadly discovered, "...how many of these poor guys are not cared for properly and/or abandoned. Just look at Oregon Ferret Rescue's numbers." She went to Petco, where she had once adopted a one-eyed hamster that became dear to her family. At the Petco, Carrie asked if they had any returns. She explained her reasoning, "Because when they get returns, they can't put those out on the floor. The babies go out." As luck would have it, they had an adolescent female hidden from the public in the back of the store. She had been returned. Carrie considered, "So, someone didn't understand her, and returned her a couple months after they bought her, with a horrible skin condition." She was pleased to learn that Petco had provided appropriate veterinary care.

'Fungo'



...Continued from Last Page

Carrie's middle child, Abby, was with her at Petco when they met the little jill that was hidden in the back. She recounts, "They brought her out, and said how reduced her fee was and we looked at each other, and home we went with her." Love at first sight! The family was already prepared, having bought a three-story cage for Bandit. They also had plenty of ways to enrich the ferrets' lives such as toys and enough tubes, "...to make my daughter's rug pattern look like a Hydra!" The little jill was named Fungo. Carrie describes her as "Our little girl, and she is more of a cuddle bug than the males, which I was told was unusual. Fungo just wants love, and she always gets it. We love her."

'Tank'

The family now had two ferrets. That meant that the youngest sibling, Benny, was the only one without one. Carrie says, "...and well you know the rest. We bought the one for 75% off that had been in that same octagonal pen for six months!" The third ferret was dubbed Tank. Many people do not understand ferrets enough to know that each and every one has its own, unique personality. She describes him as "... kind of a delinquent, but we love him. He flattens himself and wiggles his butt like a cat ready to pounce, which makes me wonder if he sat there and stared at too many Kitty Adoption Days over those six months. He's the one that is the vandal." She has worked to improve Tank's health since it appears he still has not developed much muscle mass from the lack of activity of being in a small enclosure for six months. She laughingly adds, "Tank is kind of like my son--very cute and kind but always bashing into things."



'Zelda'

Carrie's family has become true ferret lovers now, all because little Bandit snuck in through the dog door late one night! She says, "These guys are great and we are so lucky that first guy braved all those barriers to nestle under my daughter's covers and scare the daylights out of her." The family now has a fourth ferret, Zelda, who they are rehabbing. She was dumped at Petco after having lived for three years in a small, single level starter cage with only a litter box. She had no toys, no enrichment and little love. Zelda is also deaf, as are many ferrets of certain colors and patterns. These ferrets are often misunderstood and benefit from the use of hand signals. She clearly was not identified as needing extra care and support in order to thrive and became a recidivist nipper. Carrie and her family have been successful in helping Zelda overcome her earlier neglect and she is becoming a happy little ferret, part of the family's "business," or group of ferrets that was established for them by brave little Bandit's big adventure.

**To learn more about ferrets,
visit the American Ferret Association's
website at www.ferret.org**

Jennifer Larsen, who researched this article, is a member of the American Ferret Association's Education Committee. Robin Landes, the author, is the Education Committee Director for the American Ferret Association. Questions about ferret care can be emailed to afa@ferret.org or visit us on Facebook!


Yellow Dogs


Common Sense Goes To The Dogs


“Oh, don’t worry. Max is a big love bear. He’ll just roll over and want to play...” Great for Max, but what about the other dog?


Congratulations, you own a dog that is not reactive. But, there are other dogs that may not have it so good, when it comes to behavior. That other dog just might need space (#TheYellowDogProject). Often mislabeled “mean” or “aggressive”, this other dog might be intolerant of ‘Max’, startled by circumstance, or impatient with such an easy going temperament.

To understand their worst, ‘yellow’ dogs need us the most. I write this article for ‘Max’ owners around the world.

 Stay alert. Understand that there are other dogs beside your own. When you walk by a dog owner trying to pack up their car—steer clear; especially if you have a dog. Your dog could distract the owners dog(s) to leap out the hatch, risking everyone’s safety. It only takes a second for something tragic to happen. Learn leash handling skills and maintain your dog’s attention. Avoid using a retractable leash, and move far enough away from the ‘dog car’.

 Avoid fence cluster. Be conscientious and don’t be quick to judge. There are a number of reasons dogs act out. A herding breed may be excitable, whereas a toy breed may be skittish at the sight of a big dog. A rescue dog might be uncertain of his new surroundings, or he could simply be following the leader of the pack. Some dogs have high prey drive, others get frustrated behind barriers. When dogs can’t get what they want, often “barrier frustration” can affect their current state of mind. Unfortunately, we don’t always yield to the warning signs of a dog in distress. An unsure dog might just be making ruckus. Or, he could bite. Regardless, keep a safe distance and wait your turn at the entrance (and exit) of a dog park.

 Be a good neighbor. If your neighbor has a dog that gets hysterical with loud noises, or fast moving objects, try to understand. Kindly turn off the lawn motor until the dog is out of harms way. Respect responsible owners who remain calm to keep control over the situation. Chances are they are aware of the problem, and are working to remedy the outburst. Do not reach over the fence during the frenzy. Screaming at a dog is dangerous and will only make matters worse for everyone. Stop, wait, and listen for direction from the dog owner. Also, if you drive a noisy hot rod or motorcycle, do not rev your engine in the presence of an already temperamental dog. It’s not funny.

 Be wise. People often underestimate dogs with ‘resources’. Adults: Do not allow a child to put one cookie between two unfamiliar dogs, only to stare at them for a reaction. Despite good intentions, this gesture is not safe. To that dog, at that very moment, that cookie could be the most valuable item in the Universe, and dogs will guard what they believe to be of high value. The child would only be in the way. Instead, avoid direct and threatening eye contact, and allow dogs plenty of space to approach for treats, separately.

...Continued on Next Page



🐾 Learn to lead. Dogs respond to structure and leadership. Stay cautious, yet confident. Any dog can detect poor handling skills. Be fun, but be firm. Dogs will find a reason to step in, if we don't. A reputable trainer or an animal behaviorist can assist in this area. Consult your veterinarian if there is a medical concern that could be causing unwanted behavior.

🐾 Celebrate little wins. A dog can't be perfect 100% of the time, however dogs want to please us. We just need to show them how. When we reward small success stories, and are willing to work through the rough patches, everyone is happy. We become more considerate of others at our favorite dog store, or 'bow wow' bake shoppe.

🐾 Stay positive. Dogs love it when we are relaxed. Be courteous of others who are tending to a frightened dog. Recognize what could be a dog's 'scary' moment, be careful, and redirect as needed.

One-Eyed 'Jack' **October is Nat'l Animal Safety & Protection Month**

“When in doubt, treat your dog like a toddler scared of the clown at the circus. It doesn't matter that the red-nosed fellow is suppose to be funny, you'd move the kid away and go buy them some cotton candy.”

—<http://www.fearfuldogs.com>

Read more about this topic: <http://theyellowdogproject.com>

With humans, a side stance is good advice. Between animals, it's all about the sniff. The hind quarters are less intrusive than a face-to-face introduction. Even friendly dogs can have a bad day.

—C.Bournias (See A.S.K. http://www.americanpetmagazine.com/V1_Issue3.pdf, p.28)

*Reference:

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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.

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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.

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Join Us at some of South Florida's most elegant restaurants:

🐾 October 3rd	Chart House	Ft. Lauderdale
🐾 November 15th	Cafe 5150	Boca Raton

For current events visit this link:

<http://www.pawstricounty.com/Events-Calendar-2013.html>

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*









Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old mutt 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

You love your pet, right? Sure you do. But did you know that obesity rates in the United States for dogs range from 23% to 41% with about 5.1% as obese? And obesity in cats is even higher at 6.4%. Obese dogs and cats have a higher incidence of arthritis and heart disease. Yikes! I don't want that, and I bet you don't want that for your pet either.

Mom Peep loves me so much that she does things for me that keep my weight in check. They're good things to do, and not meant to deprive me. She thinks that feeding pets too much food can actually hurt us way more than that morsel of food that you think is making us happy. Think about it. Would you intentionally hurt the ones you love?

Here are some ways to keep your pet's weight in check (and take it from me, these are super easy once you get the hang of it):

-  Don't feed me table scraps. It's not good for me. Be vigilant that family and friends don't feed me under the table either.
-  Feed me a good quality food (don't let it break your bank, but find one that contains healthy ingredients).
-  Help me to exercise. Walks would be great every day, but a good run around the house in a game of hide 'n seek or chase the squeak toy will suffice if we can't get out.
-  Weigh me every month. Mom Peep does it on the first so we both know where I'm going with my weight. Am I down a pound? Up a few? Keep tabs on me to be sure I'm in a healthy weight range for my breed and size. Check out: <http://bit.ly/1bPDCOL>
-  Keep all other food out of my reach, like the cat's food that tastes like caviar.
-  Love me enough to do the best thing for me. Keep my weight in check.

I want to be around with Mom and Dad Peep for a long time. I'm only four, so I figure I have lots of years, but you know what? If they overfeed me, I'd probably develop all kinds of issues and that wouldn't be fun for any of us.

So get on the bandwagon and watch everything that goes into your pet's mouth. A little less food, a few less pounds, and we're healthier pets.

Woofs and Wiggles!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT OCTOBER 9TH IS?
IT'S **NATIONAL PET OBESITY AWARENESS DAY.**

trib



Strong
Epilepsy Awareness

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**November is
National
Epilepsy
Awareness Month**



One of the most frightening things to watch is a dog having a seizure. A dog can be perfectly normal, going about his dog business, and then suddenly you find him in the throes of seizure – thrashing, shaking, foaming at the mouth...and then as soon as it strikes, it passes. What happens post-seizure is extremely scary as well...a dog becomes still...too still. They sometimes experience temporary blindness. They can be disoriented and confused. Rallying back to his normal self can take anywhere from minutes to days. And we are left frightened. So many questions run through our minds. What is happening? What's wrong with my dog? Is my dog dying? Why is he having a seizure? Will he have another seizure? Did I do something to bring this on? Will my dog be okay? Can I do something to help him? Can he live a normal life?


With November being **National Epilepsy Awareness Month**, it is a good time to review Canine Epilepsy and know that there are many resources and much support now available to parents of epileptic dogs (Epi-dogs). There once was a time when people believed the only course of action for dogs with seizures was euthanization. Thankfully, that is no longer the case as today we are fortunate to have so many medical, holistic, and dietary treatments options, as well as a plethora of information about creating a healthier environment for the Epi-dog. We know some sources of triggers can vary from something as simple as a specific food ingredient to hair spray to an underlying health issue.


Sometimes Canine Epilepsy can be an inherited trait. Sometimes it can come as a result of a reaction to medication, a vaccination, stress, the TV, flashing lights, a food, a plant, or some other toxic substance a dog could inhale or ingest. Sometimes a seizure can occur for no apparent reason. In any case of a seizure, the dog's veterinarian should be contacted immediately following the seizure. Through a series of tests and by process of elimination, a vet will determine if the seizures are Canine Epilepsy and a course of treatment will be suggested. If no underlying health issue or specific cause for the seizures is discovered, a vet may determine the dog to have "idiopathic epilepsy," which translated means the seizures are from an unknown cause. And while there are some breeds prone to Canine Epilepsy, it can affect many breeds across the world.

According to Marion Mitchell of the Canine Epilepsy Resources website, home of the EPIL-K9 List (www.Canine-Epilepsy.com), "Seizures are the result of muscle responses to an abnormal nerve-signal burst from the brain. They are a symptom of an underlying neurological dysfunction. Toxic substances, metabolic or electrolyte abnormalities and/or imbalances cause an uncoordinated firing of neurons in the cerebrum of the brain, creating seizures from mild 'petit mal' to severe 'grand mal.'"

Mitchell lists four basic stages to a seizure:

 The Prodrome: may precede the seizure by hours or days. It is characterized by changes in mood or behavior.

 The Aura: signals the start of a seizure. Nervousness, whining, trembling, salivation, affection, wandering, restlessness, hiding and apprehension are all signals.

 The Ictus (the actual seizure): A period of intense physical activity usually lasting 45 seconds to 3 minutes. The dog may lose consciousness and fall to the ground. There may be teeth gnashing, frantic thrashing of limbs, excessive drooling, vocalizing, paddling of feet, uncontrollable urination and defecation.

 The Post Ictus/Ictal: after the seizure, the dog may pace endlessly, appear blind and deaf and eat or drink excessively. ...Continued on Page 24



<http://dogworksradio.com/the-sibe-vibe>
& www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com

More in-depth information on medications, anti-seizure medications, holistic approaches, veterinary articles, informative links, how to join the EPIL-K9 email list, and much more is available on the Canine Epilepsy Resources website.

So can a dog live a normal life as an Epi-dog? In a word...yes. Dogs across the globe have been diagnosed with Canine Epilepsy and are being treated by, or in a combination with, various medications, vitamin supplements, diets, acupuncture, laser therapy, massage therapy, etc. Treatments may vary, some of the medications have side effects, and there are still a number of dogs who may not survive Epilepsy, but there are many, many dogs who do manage to live full, happy lives with Canine Epilepsy, however long that life may be.

Rick Selwood of Wally's Canine Epilepsy Foundation, Inc. (a/k/a The Wally Foundation or TWF) sums it up perfectly. "Epilepsy does not define a dog, it is merely a part of that dog." And while symptoms, treatments, medications, side effects, etc., all may vary, many Epi-dogs can—and do—live full, happy lives, however long those lives may be.

Selwood founded The Wally Foundation in March 2013 in honor of his late Saint Bernard Epi-dog, Wally. TWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting owners of canine idiopathic epileptics, as well as animal shelters and rescue groups, with paying for medications and treatments related to Canine Epilepsy. The Wally Foundation also supports research into better treatment of, and finding a cure for, Canine Epilepsy. "The hope is that no person or family should have to euthanize their beloved pet due to financial reasons, nor should they have to choose between food on the table or their dog's medications," states Selwood.



Gibson playing with the other Fivesibes

As guardians to these amazing dogs, who I like to refer to as "warriors" in the fight against Canine Epilepsy, it is up to us to be armed with the knowledge necessary to make the right decisions. Be your own investigative reporter and search the many reliable resources for information. Discuss options with your vet. If your vet is not well versed in Canine Epilepsy and seizure disorders, find one who is, or ask for a neurologist recommendation.

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The important thing to remember is that there are treatments and medications available so that if your dog starts to have a seizure, you know there is much you can explore to help him. Keep a journal to track seizure symptoms, length, times, etc., and bring the journal with you to the vet. Once a course of action is decided upon, and medications begin, it is important to periodically have blood tests conducted by your veterinarian to keep an eye on your dog's medication levels, his liver enzymes, etc.

Dogs with Epilepsy can be anything they want to be! They are sled dogs, dock diving dogs, working dogs, and therapy dogs. They can swim, run, play, pull a sled, run with a bike or four-wheeler, go jogging, and so much more, the same as a dog without Canine Epilepsy. They are amazing, devoted, loving "warrior" dogs who deserve a forever family and happy life, the same as every dog.

Dorothy Wills-Raferly is an author, photojournalist, and Siberian Husky parent (also known as the FiveSibesMom), authors the FiveSibes™ blog (<http://www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com>) and administers the FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews Facebook Page. Her latest book, based on her one Husky, is the illustrated children's tale, *What's Wrong With Gibson? Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*. You can also catch her co-hosting her show "The Sibe Vibe" on Dog Works Radio once a month. You can visit <http://dogworksradio.com/the-sibe-vibe/> to check out past episodes.

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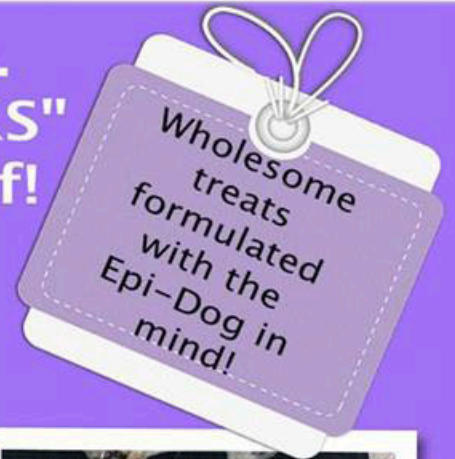
"Gibson" of the FiveSibes



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Aspire To Be The Person Your Ferret Thinks You Are: **Volunteer at a Ferret Shelter**

Over 43.3 million pets are kept in the United States, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. More than eight million of these pets end up in the approximately five thousand animal shelters nationwide. These shelters manage to adopt out about five million pets, mostly cats and dogs, each year. Even still, a like number of pets are euthanized annually when they are not placed in a home. When dealing with these huge numbers, the only way pets, and most especially ferrets, can be treated properly is through the efforts of volunteers: those kind people who have committed their time and emotion to helping those who cannot help themselves.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” ~ (Gandhi)



Tony the ferret with Wednesday, a volunteer, with West Michigan Ferret Connection while educating the public at an expo.

With few, if any, government programs to support shelters in the U.S., the awesome responsibility and extensive resources needed to operate a shelter are best managed via volunteerism. One very special sub-set of American animal shelters is ferret shelters. These shelters operate in almost every state in the U.S. Some of these shelters adopt ferrets to new homes, while others serve as sanctuaries to ferrets that cannot be adopted. The American Ferret Association’s list of member shelters includes 61 organizations. An approximate total number of ferret-only shelters in the U.S. is currently 200. Such shelters may have only a few ferrets, or even as many as 100. Each ferret must have its basic needs met: food and water; bathing, ear cleaning and nail trims; required medical care; and time to socialize and play. The obligations of shelter operators are enormous! The best way to accomplish these many tasks is through the help of volunteers. According to American Ferret Association Shelter Committee Director Mary McCarty, “There is always a need for volunteers with a shelter, be it to assist with the website, clipping nails, cleaning cages, fostering, running errands, watching ferrets when directors are out of town, helping create paperwork/handouts, folding laundry, or helping out at pet awareness days. Help and support are needed in so many ways!”

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” ~ (Gandhi)

“Good volunteers are like gold,” says Barbara Carlson of Hide-E-Hole Ferret Rescue, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA (www.hide-e-hole.com). She elaborates, “I treasure their help and need their support. I could not do half of what I do without volunteers and I’d do it barely half as well.” Barbara cites a family illness as the perfect example of why shelters need properly trained and caring volunteers: “My volunteers have kept the shelter running after my son’s accident and my inability to be there as often as I’d like. If it weren’t for my volunteers, I would have had to close the shelter right after my son’s accident. My volunteers help keep me sane.” Another important benefit Barbara describes is for the ferrets themselves: “Different people handling the ferrets helps with socializing. It helps them to believe many people can be nice.” This is essential for ferrets that have been abused and mistreated.

“Volunteers are the backbone of ALL shelters,” says Dee Gage of West Michigan Ferret Connection in Grand Rapids, MI (www.westmichiganferretconnection.com). Based on the replies of the many shelter directors interviewed, the work of ferret shelter volunteers largely includes tasks such as cleaning cages and litter pans, refilling food and water for cages, changing bedding and sweeping floors, washing bedding, giving medications, and grooming (cleaning ears, bathing, and trimming nails). Another very important task is playing with the ferrets and giving individual attention. Common additional support provided by shelter volunteers involves taking ferrets to the vet, photographing ferrets and posting to Facebook for adoption, helping with paperwork, checking PO boxes, and even writing thank you notes to donors and adopters. One other job performed by some volunteers is that of fostering ferrets awaiting adoption. These volunteers welcome the ferrets into their own homes and provide loving and caring environments until they are placed in a permanent home.

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Bonnie Russell of the Washington Metro Area Ferret Outreach (WMAFO) (<http://www.wmafo.org>) says, "Volunteering is a privilege for both parties involved, and both have much to gain from the experience. It is a commitment very much like a 'paid' job, requiring dependability, a set of skills, willingness to learn and grow, and a certain amount of self-satisfaction or fulfillment." Another important aspect of the WMAFO volunteer effort is involvement in educating the public. Volunteers support the group in running adoption and education days at local pet stores and in fundraising. Their volunteers include talented sewers, crocheters, knitters, and jewelry artists who make items to sell at ferret shows and other events. All such work takes valuable time!

The Ferret Inn in Maryland has been operated since 1999 by Nancy Wilson, who says, "It's not just individual volunteers that have helped. We have had a number of Girl Scout and Eagle Scout Troops give their time. The type of support they provide has been extraordinary. They usually help with big, improvement projects. For example, half of the shelter was finished as an Eagle Scout project in 2009. This opportunity was approved by the Boy Scouts of America which set precedence for in home non profits and particularly ferret shelters."

"Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures." - (The Dalai Lama)

The old proverb declares, "Time waits for no man." Nor does it wait for ferrets! The matter of finding sufficient time is notable for both shelter operators and volunteers. One volunteer at the West Michigan Ferret Connection, Wednesday, says the challenge she faces as a regular volunteer is finding adequate time! "If it's important to you, you will find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse. Some shelters may not appreciate the work you do for them when you can't get out there very often. Then it's up to you whether to continue on there or volunteer elsewhere. Someone, somewhere always needs help and will appreciate you and your time!"

Paula Woodland, Vice-President of the American Ferret Association (AFA), operates the Ferret Haven of Spokane (www.icehouse.net/ferret) asks, "Having a sticker on your car that says 'support your local ferret shelter' is great, but just how are you supporting your local shelter?" Volunteers are getting harder to find and it appears they are mostly available on the weekends, but support is needed during the week as well. Paula explains, "Well...every little bit helps. Scrubbing dishes. Doing laundry. Yard sales have great buys on blankets and other goodies that can be used. Take out garbage. Take a half-hour a few days a week and clean a couple of cages. There is so much folks can do without a huge time commitment. It would be great if more people would be able to volunteer an hour or two during the week. That would be a HUGE help!" Allotting time to help ferrets and the shelter operators is a sacrifice, but based on the feedback from volunteers, it is well worth it!

According to Nancy of the Ferret Inn, "The shelter ferrets benefit from the volunteers too. They receive unlimited affection and more individualized attention. It also gives them exposure to several different people with varying personalities. This helps them to be more flexible and can ease the transition to a new home if and when they are adopted."

"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way." - (John Muir)

What motivates a good volunteer to provide the services so needed by the ferret shelters? Especially when the expectations are high for them to have what Barbara describes as "a willingness to learn, be dependable, and once trained, able to work without supervision?"

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**November 4-10 is
National Animal Shelter
Appreciation Week**

Benah, a long-time volunteer for the Ferret Inn, in playpen, doing ferret education for the public at The Baltimore Veg Fest, April 2013.



...Continued from Page 30

"The education is invaluable," Wednesday explains. She adds, "When you get to meet so many 'furbutts' with all the different personality types, it's a great learning experience. I've had ferrets that just want to cuddle in my arms and I've had one crawl up my leg and bite me! You just never know. Feels good to be able to help those that most of the world has forgotten/neglected/doesn't know about."

For some volunteers, gaining experience at a ferret shelter is the pre-requisite to providing a home for a ferret later. Wednesday says, "I wanted a ferret but didn't have the right living situation at the time so figured I'd help and also educate myself on ferrets so I'd be ready when I could get one." Wednesday encourages, "If you have the chance, do it! It's not all fun and games though. It can be hard work and if you volunteer regularly enough, you can get attached to certain ferrets and as all of us ferret people know, some are taken from us much too soon. Sometimes it's a happy leaving though...when they move on to their forever home with a loving human."

Some volunteers live in jurisdictions like New York City or Washington, DC, where ferret ownership is illegal. These volunteers travel to shelters nearby and offer their time. WMAFO volunteer Barbara Bullock recently moved to DC from Texas and sadly discovered that ferrets are illegal there. Luckily her daughter was able to take her four-year-old ferret. But, she said, "I knew I didn't want to be without these little critters that could make me smile just by a look, so I decided to help Bonnie." Barbara continues, "WMAFO has their hands full of rescues and surrenders, so I love being able to help the selfless ladies. I also love getting to know all the different personalities of the ferrets. Since I have to be ferret-free, it helps me get my ferret-fix!"

When asked about the challenges of being a shelter volunteer, Barbara said, "The only downside is that I'm tender-hearted and I tend to get attached and really care for these love bugs. When they find a forever home, it can be bitter-sweet for me, but I wouldn't change anything. The biters or nibblers can be challenging, but I enjoy trying to change that behavior."

"Until he extends the circle of compassion to all living things, Man will not himself find peace." - (Dr. Albert Schweitzer)

Lindsey Tootle, who has volunteered at the Texas Ferret Lovers Rescue, reinforces the importance of the learning opportunities involved, saying, "Volunteering at a rescue is an excellent way for first time ferret owners to learn about ferrets and their care while developing a relationship with the rescue director. It also introduces you to other ferret owners who may have owned ferrets for 10, 20, 30 years! When your ferret becomes sick in the middle of the night, your new friends will be able to help you through the crisis." Even if you already have experience owning ferrets, Lindsey emphasizes, "Volunteering at a rescue brings you together with other ferret owners, and you learn so much about ferret health/sickness, and what it takes to run a rescue. This opportunity completes the circle of owning a ferret."

"A love of ferrets and willingness to work" is how Dee describes the mind set for volunteers. She then adds, the rewards will be the knowledge that "...every bit of time they spend at the shelter is helping the shelter function as well as saving little lives." Volunteers learn much about ferret care and can then help to further educate others by "...spreading the message of responsible pet ownership and animal protection," explains Dee.

Teaching children the message of caring for pets and the importance of volunteering is also possible through work at ferret shelters. Many welcome children and their parents to come to shelters to volunteer. Older children can help with cage cleaning or nail clipping, and children of all ages love to watch the ferrets play with each other. With proper supervision at the shelter, children can learn how to interact with ferrets and they often will tell their friends how "cool" ferrets really are, further extending the message! Katy Tootle of Texas has visited the shelter where her mother volunteered. She said, "I like to pick out the fattest ferrets because they are cute when they romp around and so I take them out of their cages and we play chase and I take a lot of pictures of them with my phone."

Background picture: The Ferret Inn's dear long-time friend and volunteer, Clara Rodriguez, feeding a sick kid.

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The Ferret Inn's Nancy Wilson says, "I have no official age requirements. Some of our best volunteers have been in their early teens. Of course, this only applies to our in-shelter helpers. Those that help outside the shelter only need a to offer a little free time and whatever skills they have to offer."

"The soul is the same in all living creatures, although the body of each is different." - (Hippocrates)

Volunteers who support shelters have the option to play many different roles. Jennifer Larsen, of Shelton, CT, serves as a ferret taxi. She describes her involvement: "I function as a pickup service, when I can, for unwanted ferrets. Knowing that because of one little effort I made, a loving soul can be shown the life it deserves -- well, that just makes my days a little brighter." Jennifer drives for the Hudson Valley Ferret Rescue in Walden, NY.









WMAFO volunteer Barbara Bullock takes ferrets outside for enrichment on a nice day.

Even ferret-less volunteers can play an essential role. This role is a critical step in the processing of a ferret entering a shelter - that of a quarantine facility. Volunteers without their own ferrets may be able to provide this service. When new ferrets are taken in, they should be quarantined for at least two weeks. This essential practice will diminish the possibility of the transfer of bacterial infections, viral diseases, and parasites, and will give time for a vet check if needed. This safeguards ferrets already in the shelter, private pets of the shelter operator, and the ferrets of other volunteers donating their time at the shelter.

The call for new volunteers goes out from shelters across America. As Nancy says, "No role is too small. Every little bit helps. We are always in need of new skills or talents. You may be our next webmaster, fundraiser, or blog writer. Remember the ferrets are counting on your support."

Ready to volunteer at a ferret shelter?

Here are some hints offered by Barbara Carlson of Hide-E-Hole Ferret Rescue:

-  Training takes time but volunteers get really good at grooming and learn a lot more about ferrets, behavior, and illnesses than if they were only dealing with their own ferrets.
-  It will be real work. It can be fun, but mostly it's work.
-  Volunteering at a regular time is very helpful.
-  You may be bitten. We try to avoid that, but it happens. Some of these ferrets have been abused and are frightened. Some think they are playing.
-  If you own ferrets, before touching your own ferrets, you should change clothes and wash your hands.
-  Everyone supports each other and baby sits for each other. "Shelter-Trained" is a good thing.

Poem from Katy Tootle (aged 12)

***We are cute, but we are mute
We have no home, we are all alone
We don't want to die, we want to stay alive
We will love you and forever thank you
Give us love, that's not much to ask
It is a special, kind task
Give us a home so we can sleep at night***



Ferret Inn's, Ace, on wheels

To learn more about ferret shelters, visit the American Ferret Association's web site at www.ferret.org. The AFA Shelter list can be found at this link: <http://www.ferret.org/links/shelters.html>. Robin Landes, the author, is the Education Committee Director for the American Ferret Association. Questions about ferret care and shelters can be emailed to afa@ferret.org




Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month


Written by Dolores Paddock


October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month. Honestly, I feel that every month should be adopt a dog month. Our dog, Beau, will be reaching his 3-year anniversary with us. The pictures are from the day we rescued him from being PTS that night in September and now. He saved us. He arrived from GA to CT on 10-10-10 via a dog transport.


I would say that day he saved us with his unconditional love. You might not get that exact same answer from our two resident cats, Maurice and Cassandra, but life is good here. Maurice and Cassie came from two separate local shelters and are 14 and 7 years young. Beau's background was quite limited. We had to give him a new birth date and according to his teeth and growth he is around 4 1/2 years old now.

Here are some alarming statistics about shelters:

 56% of dogs and 71% of cats that enter shelters are euthanized.

 Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats that enter animal shelters are reunited with their owners.

 25% of dogs and 24% of cats that enter animal shelters are adopted.

 In 2008 approximately 3.7 million cats and dogs were euthanized.

These stats are horrible. The above statistics can change if people stop going to a breeder or pet store

to purchase their dog. Breeders breed for greed. It is so rewarding to adopt and rescue a dog or cat at a shelter. Rewarding for the new family member and rewarding for you.

It is a well-known fact that breeders think of the mother dogs as nothing but money makers. They are kept in dark, dingy cages without any human touch. When you buy from a breeder you are getting a puppy that was produced by another puppy. That mother

puppy has one purpose to keep producing until that mother puppy is discarded because it can no longer produce money for the breeder. Occasionally those mother puppies end up on the streets or in a shelter. Their lives are sad and lonely. Also some breeders kill the mother after her breeding days are done.

If everyone was to go to a shelter to find their new forever dog they would be saving a precious dog's life and the dog would be forever grateful. Shelter dogs are great dogs. Some have been abandoned, some abused and tossed away and some dogs simply given up because they are too old.



It is amazing why some "owners" (I use that word lightly), feel that they can just bring a dog to a shelter when the dog is 6 years old or they desire to get another puppy. How about when they have a baby? Yes, that is another excuse to return the family pet. I believe the paperwork to adopt a shelter dog should be thorough and a house visit should be made to make sure the environment that this dog is going into is suitable.

Some shelters are no-kill shelters. It is a blessing to have no-kill shelters, but some dogs have lived their entire life in a small cage at a no-kill shelter. That isn't a life for a dog. Kill shelters tend to hold a dog 3-5 days and then the dog is euthanized.

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Sometimes the dog that is PTS is lost and the owner has not been able to find him yet. Some shelters do not care, some dogs have been micro-chipped and they are euthanized without any chance of being reunited with their owner. The shelters do not even check to see if the dog has a micro-chip.

Sometimes dogs are euthanized at a shelter due to overcrowding. Some dogs come in abused, sick or aggressive and instead of healing them mentally and physically they are PTS when their stay time is up. This is true also with cats and it appears that from my research more cats are PTS than dogs simply because they are picked up as strays and there is no way to find an owner.

When you adopt a dog please have him/her spayed or neutered. This will stop unwanted puppies from ending up in shelters. This will reduce the amount of dogs and cats in shelters when owners take the time to have their pet fixed. Some shelters will even give you a discount to neuter when you decide on which dog you wish to adopt.

Make sure your dog is micro-chipped so that if lost there is a greater chance that your dog will be reunited with you versus in a shelter and possibly PTS. Make sure your dog knows its surroundings so if he leaves your yard by mistake he can find his way home.

Shelters are in need of volunteers and items constantly. If you have old blankets, dog toys, cat scratch posts, towels or dog beds instead of throwing them out bring them to your local shelter or the shelter of your choice. Personally, I donate to different shelters when I read about the stories that they tell (ex: saving a mother and 7 puppies lives, taking in an abused animal, overcrowded but not willing to turn that dog away).

While traditionally it has been more common for a pet to be owned by a family, the rate of pet ownership among singles has jumped an impressive 17 percent in the last 6 years. Singles have realized that coming home to a friendly face greeting them at the door is a great reason to go home. It gives them purpose to take walks, mingle with other people and socialize instead of just going home and turning on the TV. The dog is happy to see them and gives them unlimited love and companionship. It is a definite win-win situation.

Remember when you want to purchase a dog or cat do so for the right reasons. They are not temporary fixtures in your home, they are forever family members. Shelters wish to place their animals in forever home, not see them return when they are 10 and "too old". That is no reason to return a family member.

Please do not purchase any dog or cat from a shelter until you read the history and stats on that animal. Some dogs do better in a single pet environment while others enjoy being around cats and other dogs. Remember always research before you purchase and do not purchase unless you are ready to commit to a new family member for life. Their life is as valuable and precious as yours is.

Please visit a local shelter, donate to a local shelter and volunteer if possible. There are some great shelters and some not so great shelters but every shelter has a dog or cat that is yearning to have a new start, better life and happy home. These dogs and cats deserve a second chance and you can be guaranteed that their love will always be unconditional. Trust me I know.

I have recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on my desire to help fight for all animals. I have a passion for all animals and feel that we must be the voice of the voiceless. I have two cats Maurice and Cassie and one dog Beauregard, they all have rescued me!

OMD... **#TitusBARKS**

SO EXCITABULLS!

Titus is my namie n Rescue is my gamie!

Hewwo agan! Well, it has been a few monfs since I married da love of my life n wut a few monfs it has been! I ruffs my lifie n My Wifie. I must say dats July 14th 2013 was da bestest day of my lifie! We was suwboundied by fwiends n famiwy n da day cood not have been more butiful, wif da ecsepshon of da heat. I wood like to takie dis time to fank evewyone dats joined us or donatied, let it bees, baskets, food or dare time, wif an extwa speshal fankie yous goin to my Aunt Jill n Uncle Dan. Not onwy did dey spend da tay takien video buts dey even maded us a lil weddin video dats we have watchied many times alweddy! Best day ever! Bestest part was we had over 1000 hits on da live feed of da ceremony, dats we putted up for all dose dat cood not be wif us in person! Our fwiends fwom as far away as Australia n Finland was able to join us!

Wif October bein **Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Monf** n November bein **Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Monf**, I wood likie to tuch upon dese subjects! I nos in my first column I discussied da importance of savin animals fwom da shelter but it is somefin dat means da world to mees n I will never stop talkie abouts it. I do not like to hear how shelter dogs is unwanted, bwoken animals. Evewy one of my siblins, n mees, usied to bees shelter doggies. Bwoken? Do wees act likie we can not bees twained? Yes we have all had our own lil helf issues but nuffin dats cood not bees healed or fixied. Twufe of da matter is dats even a store bought or breeder dog has dare own helf issues. My Gwanma had many issues wif Aunt Velvet afore da age of 1 n each one was due to breeder neglect n unwillingness to makie sure dats da pups was helfy afore leavin dare housie! My Gwampa usied to beleeve dats shelter doggies had too many pwoblems, till Gwanma adoptied Aunt Vanna....she changied his mind! Well, she has no helf issues, mental ones, maybees, BOL, buts sewiusy...she is da bestest, most fun lovin doggie ever!

Da onwy fing rong wif a shelter doggie us dats dey is homieless n lonely. If yous open yous home to a shelter doggie, I can guarantee dats dey will pay yous back ten fold!!! Adopt yous next best fwiend fwom yous local shelter or rescue, for mees, pwease! Fankie yous!

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[Handwritten text on a yellow sticky note, mirrored and upside down]

**October is
Pitbull
Awareness Month**

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Senior pets....well dey is in a league of dare own. My 3 sisters is seniors n I ruffs dems to da moon n back. Dey may not bees as active as dey used to bees, wif da excepshon of Kiah, buts dey is just da sweetest most lovin doggies in da world. Not onwy is a senior pet wise n pwetty well twained buts dey, most of da time, is just happy just to have a comfy pwace to call home to live out da rest of dare years. Dey do not ask for too muchies, maybees just a lil pettin now n den n some good food! Dey do not rekwire lots of attenshon or pway.....just a lil love! I will never, for da life of mees, undastand how anybody cood dump a pet, dat dey have had for a wile, in a shelter, let alone a senior pet dat spent da best years of dare lives showin dare famiwy love, loyalty n pwotecsion.



It makies my hart hurt to hear of dese poor animals sittin in a shelter afta so many years in a comfy home. Animals have feelins too n do not for one minute fink date dey is not sittin in a cage, in a shelter, wonderin wut dey did rong to deservie bein frown away. Until it is too late, dey is pwobabwy waitin pashentwy for dare peeples to come back for dems. Openin your hart n homie to a senior pet is da most rewardin expewience.

I recentwy had da opportunity to findie a home for a blind, diabetic senior dog hoos owner passed away. Da famiwy felted da dog wood no longer have a good kwality of lifie. Well, afta a year in his new home, he is still thrivin n doin pawsome. Findin out dats I helped save dat doggies life maded mees n Mommy cwiy. He was due to be taken to da vet but instead, took a ride to his new forever homie! Fankie your Uncle Steve for bein PJ's angel! Mommy's first ever rescue wif Tuff Tails Animal Rescue was a senior lab mixie dats she foundied wanderin fru a twain stashon in a funder n litenin storm. Lady Jane, is now in her forever homie wif her senior sister n foster failure Mommy n ! Seniors Rock!!!!



Dare is nuffin dat compares to da feelin I gets wen I gets a messagie fwom one of my faciebutt fans showin mees a piciture of dare rescued dog wif a messagie letting mees nos dats I was dare inspirashon behind dat rescue! Stuff likie dat makies it all worf da time n effort dat I puts into gettin da word out dare abouts rescuin your next best fwiend!!!

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October is National Adopt-a-Shelter Dog Monf
November is Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Monf

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Afore I gos I wood likie to say Congwatulashons to my Best Buddy Rufus the Cancer Pitty n his wife, Ms Lilah Bear. Dey tied da not in da beginning of August, invited mees n My Wife to bees a part of da weddin party n den invited us to join dems on dare honeymoon for a day of fun n excitabullness! Ruffs yous guys so muchies. Den dare is my BFF Girl, Isis Head of the itty bitty pittie committee...hers n her Mommy just savied a pittie dats dey seed bein neglected n abusied. Dey is doin all dey can to integwate Keiko into dare famiwy. Sometimes dat can bees hard wif a multi dog famiwy. I pwaise dems for dare hard work n determinashon to twy to makie its all workies out! I ruffs my faciebutts famiwy!

Well I hopes yous all enjoyed yous summer, I sure is gonna missie its. Ruffs yous n talkie to yous all next year!

We wood like to takie dis time to send our condolences to my Aunt Suzin. Her 2 older furkitties maded da journey to da Rainbow Bridge seven weeks of each other. Aunt Suzin, we is finkin abouts yous n will missie GypsyPrince 6/29/13 & MissKitty 5/10/13 bewwy muchies.

Rest in Peace our sweet AmericanPet Angels!



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



Tender Dog



A Dog with a Baby & a Lady



Kitty is Stumped

**THE LIVES, TIMES,
ART AND HISTORY
OF OUR PETS**

www.thepetmuseum.blogspot.com



2 boys & 2 cats



German Dog

Andree Larson (M.A. Art History, University of Oregon) began The Pet Museum blog in 2006. She says, "I love pets, and I have a very old-school devotion to art, history and culture. It seemed clear to me that the creatures who have brought out the best (and sadly often the worst) of us for all these centuries play a huge part in what makes us human. At the same time, seeing the great and beautiful things people have done including pets can make people feel that they, too, have a part in art and culture, and that these precious fellow beings deserve our love and respect." Andree lives in the Seattle area with her husband, an artist, their three rescue cat girls, and their English setter.

FINDING FOREVER

Written by Dobie Houson

A Book For A Cause



Surprising Ways Our Animal Companions Help Us

Surprising research documents the many ways our animal companions give back. Human-animal bonds can have huge psychological and physiological benefits.

🐾 Stress Reduction—A brisk walk with your beloved canine can sooth nerves and offer instant relaxation. And the relaxation carries over once you're home. Studies show that individuals who live with companion animals suffer less stress than those who don't and also react better to stressful situations. Many hospitals, assisted living care centers, nursing homes, and similar facilities have begun to invite therapy animals into their establishments because of the proven positive impact on stress reduction and overall health.

🐾 Mood Food—Not only do animal companions do our hearts good through their unconditional love, but also studies show that, like any enjoyable activity, playing with or walking a dog can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine—nerve transmitters that are known to have pleasurable and calming properties.

🐾 More Health Benefits—Animal companions provide us with nurturing companionship. Research shows they may also provide a greater degree of psychological stability and protection from heart disease and anxiety. Studies also show that children who grow up with animals have fewer allergies to animals and that Alzheimer's patients who live with dogs have fewer episodes. And AIDS patients who live with companion animals are far less likely to suffer from depression than those who don't. Dogs also have a special skill at sensing shifts in diseases. Studies have shown that some dogs are able to smell cancer in people or sense the onset of an epileptic seizure.

🐾 Depression Reducers—Our animal companions help us to ward off depression and loneliness. Since they cause us to focus on taking care of them, they assist us in taking an interest in life. Particularly when seniors face adversity or trauma, the presence and affection of a beloved companion animal can foster a sense of security and greater life-meaning and purpose.

🐾 Joy Juice—Our animal companions are selfless supporters in our lives. They are always there, they don't judge, and they simply want us to be happy. No matter how stressful, emotional, or downright terrible your day was, your dog will love you unconditionally, your cat will seek your affection and attention, and your fish will relax you by swimming in graceful patterns.

***Find Out More About Finding Forever –
A Heartwarming Must Read For Animal Lovers!***

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.





I've recently been inspired by the efforts of a local rescue group, Red Rose Inspiration for Animals, which is developing a Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral cats in our community (Sedona/Verde Valley, AZ). Feral cats are some of the most misunderstood animals in our society, and I've been thinking a lot about the feral cats I've known and loved, and who have been some of my greatest teachers. My relationship with feral cats has made me a better person and a better animal communicator. Here's our story.



Freddie, My Cat Teacher

Long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away, I was on the faculty of a large educational institution tucked away in the pine forests of the Midwest. Our campus was located close to a state park, which was a common "dumping zone" for unwanted animals. Many would show up on campus, seeking food from the cafeteria dumpsters and the kindness of humans--especially the young humans who had a habit of dropping their chips and peanut butter sandwiches everywhere they walked.



Many of these animals were cats, and not surprisingly, most were not spayed or neutered. Consequently, there was a long-standing and ongoing cat overpopulation problem on campus, as the stray and feral cats had litter after litter of kittens. Periodically, the cat colonies were "handled"--exterminated-using a variety of not-so-humane methods. And then more cats would move into the territory, and cycle would start all over again.



One day, a particular cat caught my attention outside the building where I worked. He was a black tom, had no ears, torn eyes and a scarred face, and a scruffy, dull coat. It was winter, and it was very, very cold outside. My heart went out to this cat, and I was determined to see if I could help him.



Fast forward a few weeks, and the black cat, Freddie, was living in my garage. I'm a bit embarrassed to admit that he got his name from the infamous Freddie of the horror movie...you know the one...because he was, at that time, a "slasher kitty". I couldn't approach him or touch him without thick leather gloves to protect my arms and hands, and he would hiss and spit and flail at me with his fully-armed-and-of-course-not-properly-trimmed claws. He bit. He slashed. He was, on the whole, really, really nasty. And I loved him.



I loved this cat with all of my heart. I knew, somehow, somewhere, that we had a deep soul connection. That we were meant to be together. That he was mine.



Freddie tested positive for FIV. At that time (more is known about this virus now), the wisdom was that he should be kept separated from my other cats to minimize the risk of infecting them. So Freddie lived in my garage...and later in a small addition...and with time...Freddie became my dearest, closest friend. He sat on my lap, let me kiss him and stroke him, and slept in my arms.

This doesn't happen with cats who are truly feral. What I understand now is that Freddie wasn't feral--he was a domestic cat who had been socialized once, but had been on his own for a long, long time. He had a tough life on his own and had learned aggressive defenses--but once he made a decision to live the life of a cat who has a relationship with humans, he dropped most of his aggressiveness and became my teacher, my spiritual advisor, and my very best friend.

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Freddie and I would sit for hours and just hang out together. We communicated telepathically; he shared deep wisdom, understanding, and his sweet love with me. When he was diagnosed with renal failure and needed subcutaneous fluids to keep him comfortable, he would climb on my lap and we would have a sweet communion while I gave him his injection. He never complained. He never minded. Being with me, sharing our love and our deep relationship, was worth it all to him.

Freddie became a lap cat, but he always hissed at me. It became our little inside joke. He would hiss at me, I would hiss back at him, and we would laugh and laugh. Years later, when a close friend of mine, also a professional animal communicator, talked with Freddie in the spirit world, he said, “tell Nancy, HISS. That’s it. Just HISS. She’ll know what I mean.”

After a few years, Freddie’s FIV brought his body down, and he passed into the spirit world in the year of my 40th birthday. Two years later, Freddie came to me in a clear vision on New Years’ Day, and said, “It’s time. This is the year. This is the year you step onto your path and start becoming a professional animal communicator.” And I listened to him. I listened to Freddie because I trusted him more than I had trusted anyone in my life. He knew. He knew everything.

Freddie continues to be one of my greatest spiritual guides. We communicate daily, and he continues to teach me and guide me, always reminding me of the power of love. Usually, his guidance is gentle and loving...but when necessary, I hear that unmistakable, kick-in-the-pants HISS.

Feral Cat Rescue and TNR

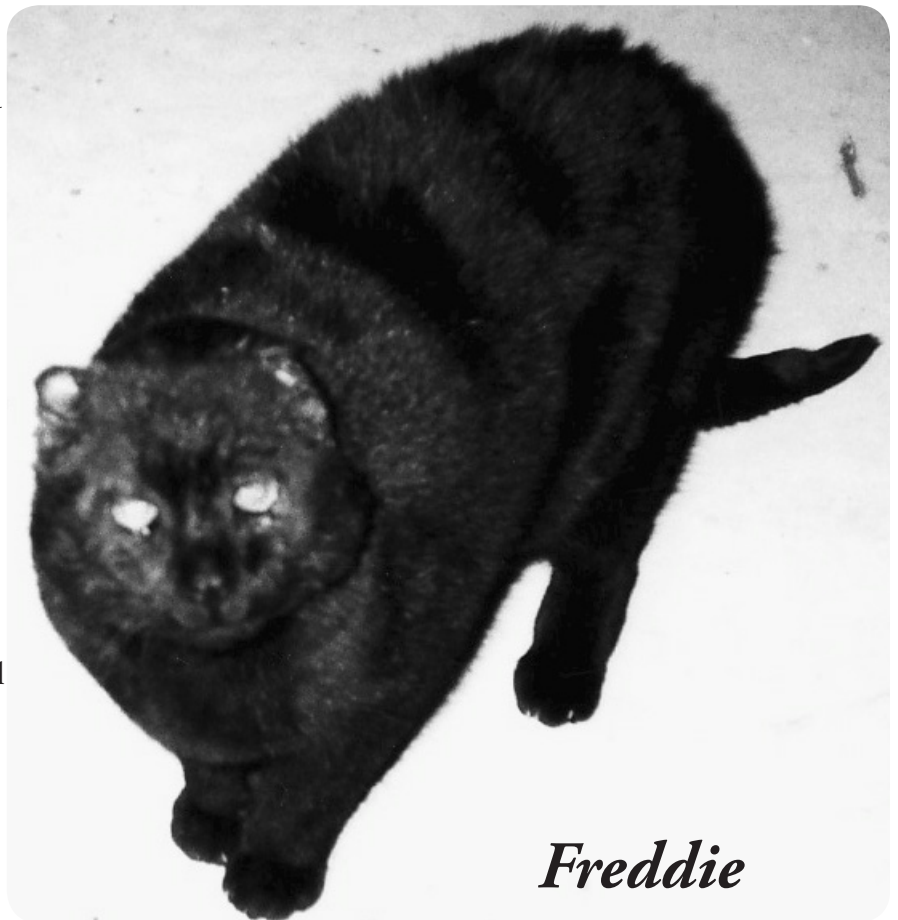
Because of my experience with Freddie, I was determined to help the other stray and feral cats in my workplace and in my community. I learned all I could about ferals, including the benefits of a managed Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program, and I implemented a program with the help of a few like-minded friends.

We set and checked traps, and worked with a local veterinarian who donated spay-neuter services. We vaccinated and ear-tipped and released the cats back into their habitat. When there were kittens, we bottle fed them if we got them young enough; we handled them and socialized them if we could.

Several cats ended up in the traps who were socialized to humans but homeless, and we worked with a local rescue group to find them homes. (My cat, Maddy, who is still with me, was one of those cats--he started as a “foster” and never left.)

I made a ton of mistakes. I had feral cats ricocheting off my garage walls and living for days under the hood of my car. I trapped skunks, squirrels, and raccoons instead of cats. I had a lot of claw and teeth marks on my body and got used to being kind of bloody.

...Continued on Page 42



Freddie



Over time, I learned a lot about handling (or not handling) feral cats, how to tame and socialize kittens, how to trap and release cats safely and with minimal trauma for them and danger to me.

The cat population on campus stabilized. There were fewer and fewer litters. We set up feeding stations, where possible, which kept the cats out of the dumpsters. This pleased the powers-that-be. Our little TNR program was successful.

And I learned from the cats. I learned so much. I learned the unique pleasure of helping an animal live her own, free life, without the requirement to interact with humans. I learned the joy of seeing the food bowl empty in the morning and knowing that the cats had full bellies.

I loved seeing the ferals around--at a distance--doing what cats do--living their lives freely, and with better health than they might have had were I not involved. I learned how to love an animal without requiring anything in return. Most importantly, I learned how feral cats think. I learned how they feel. The cats taught me what life was like from their perspective. This was some of my "graduate school" training in animal communication.

The feral cats taught me about accepting them exactly as they are, with no requirements for them to be any certain way or to change. My reward for this understanding and acceptance was their willingness to communicate with me about their lives, their purpose, and their unique spiritual wisdom.

The Spiritual Wisdom of Feral Cats

As my animal communication practice grew, I talked to many feral and semi-feral cats--some with rescue organizations, some in homes, and some in my neighborhood. And what I learned from them continued to surprise and inspire me.

Turns out, many feral cats are aware that they have a particular spiritual mission here on earth. Each animal is an individual, and so this is not true across the board for every single feral cat, but over and over again, many of them would tell me: *We are not here to have a relationship with humans. We are not interested in having relationships with humans. It's not just because we are afraid and have not been socialized to humans, although that is the physical reality of our lives. Many of us came into this life knowing that we are wild animals...and have a particular job to do...and a relationship with humans is not part of it. We don't wish to live in homes. We don't wish to be companions. This would be distracting for us. We are here for other reasons. We often live close to human society, but we are not part of it.*

Many of the cats showed me that they are doing particular, powerful work with the Earth's energies. One of them said, *I balance the energies of the earth. Balance, balance, balance. Many of us do this work. It involves laying on the earth, in the soil, and balancing the magnetic lines of the earth. We feel these lines and these vibrations through our bodies, particularly through the pads of our feet and our bellies, and also through our whiskers. Our bodies are exquisitely sensitive calibrating instruments. We do this work as we live our lives--walk our territory, hunt our prey, live in our cat communities and raise our families. Our lives may often be short, but we do intense, powerful work while we are here. We are very aware of our mission and our purpose, and the gifts that we bring to the earth.*

I am connected with many other cats all over the world who have a similar mission. We have a highly developed collective consciousness within our colonies and our species. We are very aware of the work that we have come to do, and we appreciate being able to do it in peace.

...Continued on Page 44



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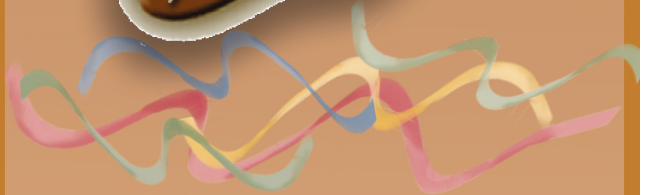


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As I've continued to work with and communicate with feral cats, I've come to appreciate their unique wisdom and perspective, and the great awareness and spiritual teaching that they are able to transmit.

TNR Basics: Working with Feral Cats

October 16th is
National Feral Cat Day


What is a Feral Cat?

It's important to distinguish between stray cats, who have been socialized to humans, at least at some point in their lives, and who may regain their socialization, and feral cats, who have not been and will not be socialized to humans and who will not be able to live as companion cats. Many feral cats have been born to feral mothers, and the feral behaviors and colony life may go back for many generations.


Alley Cat Allies, an American national advocacy organization for feral cats, has a great page with identifying characteristics to help to distinguish between stray and feral cats: <http://www.alleycat.org/strayorferal>


What is TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) is widely accepted as the most humane solution to managing feral cat populations and decreasing cat overpopulation. The basics of TNR include:


 Trapping cats using humane live traps. There are even special traps that allow a cat to be treated by a veterinarian without having to be handled.




 Spaying/neutering/vaccinating against rabies by a veterinarian skilled in handling feral cats.

 Ear-tipping: Ear-tipping is an effective and universally accepted method to identify a spayed or neutered and vaccinated feral cat. It is performed under anesthesia at the same time that the cat is spayed or neutered. Ear-tipping is the removal of the distal one-quarter of a cat's left ear, which is approximately 3/8 inch, or 1 cm, in an adult and proportionally smaller in a kitten.

Ear tipping provides immediate visual identification, which alerts animal control and humane groups that a cat is part of a colony. It also helps colony caretakers track which cats have been trapped and altered, and identify newcomers who have not.

 Release: After recovery from spay/neuter, cats are released to their previous home territory, when possible. If home-territory release is not possible, cats are acclimated to a new territory where the colony will be provided food, water, shelter, and colony management.

 Colony management: feral cat groups/colonies are managed by caregivers, who supply feeding stations, shelter where appropriate, and monitor the colony for any new arrivals who will then be cared for using TNR.

 Population stabilization: in time, a managed colony will all be sterile, new cats will usually not come into the territory, and breeding and giving birth to new litters of kittens stops. Cats are cared for the duration of their lives.







Maybe you can start a TNR program to help feral cats in your community? Visit <http://www.alleycat.org>.



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Telepathic Communication Tools for Working with Feral Cats

You can use telepathic communication, the universal language that all species share, to help you in working with and understanding feral cats. Here are some tips:

-  Accept that feral cats are not domestic animals. They are much more like wild animals and if they are truly feral, and not stray cats, will not ever be tamed or socialized to people.
-  Respect feral cats for who they are. Don't require them to like you, to interact with you, or to include you in their lives. If they do, consider it a great honor. You may find that they will allow you to observe their cat society from a distance, which can be a very beautiful experience. Accept them for who they are, and thank them for their presence in the world.
-  Recognize that even if feral cats do not wish to interact or socialize with humans, they can and do receive telepathic communication from humans. Even if you are not confident in your ability to receive communication from them, trust that they can and do receive communication from you.
-  Send communication clearly and responsibly to feral cats you are working with. You can do this by simply getting quiet, and focusing your feelings, heart, and intentions on communicating with the cats. Send them clear emotions of understanding, respect, and compassion. If you are trapping cats, you can send them pictures of being treated quickly and gently, being released, and being cared for in their territory with a supply of food, water, and shelter. You can also let them know if there are dangers to be avoided where they are living.
-  To send communication clearly and responsibly, do your best to keep any strong emotions that you may be feeling out of the picture. Send your intentions and communications peacefully and calmly, with a gentle, honest, and respectful attitude toward the cats.
-  Express your gratitude to the cats for who they are and the special gifts that they bring to the world. Thank them for allowing you to be a part of their lives from a distance, and honor them with your respect and compassion.

Nancy Windheart is a Telepathic animal communicator and healer for all species. As an Animal Communication Teacher, Reiki Master/Teacher (ICRT), Registered Yoga Teacher and Lifeforce Yoga Practitioner, Nancy provides animal communication consultations, animal communication classes and workshops, teleconferences, and training programs, as well Reiki treatments and classes for people and animals. She is also a certified yoga teacher and Lifeforce Yoga® practitioner, specializing in yoga therapy for people with anxiety and depression. Nancy works with clients internationally by phone and Skype. <http://www.nancywindheart.com/>



Choosing A Vet

If you are like me, your pet isn't just an animal living in your home, but is a family member. The same care and attention that went into choosing a family physician should also go into choosing a family veterinarian.

When we first brought Angel (our Sheltie) home to live with us as a puppy, we established ourselves with a local vet based purely on convenience. Their facility was just around the corner from our house ... the staff was fine and the doctor was pleasant. For the first few years of Angel's life things were what I considered normal. Although, she hated to go to the vet and shook terribly every time she went. Being a first time pet owner, I assumed all dogs hated to go to the vet and did my best to comfort her. It wasn't until they misdiagnosed a simple skin condition that I began to ask around. Our neighbor also had a Sheltie so we inquired where she took her dog and whether she was pleased with their services. She was thrilled with her vet and gave them huge kudos. Even though the vet was located all the way across town, we felt it was worth checking into.







For Your Pet

I called for information over the phone and found the front office staff to be extremely knowledgeable and friendly. Our first visit was a general check up with the doctor examining Angel for the skin issue, which by the way turned out to be allergies. To my amazement, Angel walked right in the building calm and curious about her new surroundings. The doctor was fabulous with Angel, they had an instant connection, and Angel loved her! It is due to this amazing experience that I write this article.

There are many factors that should be considered when choosing a veterinarian.
Below I have listed a few:

Finding a Vet:

One of the best ways to find a quality veterinarian is to just "Ask" ... word-of-mouth is still one of the best resources. You can get recommendations from:










-  Neighbors and friends
-  Local animal shelter, groomer or dog trainer
-  Your breeds local rescue
-  Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest could also help

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Choosing a Vet:

Credentials are key ... make sure that your veterinarian has earned their degree from an accredited school and earned a degree in Veterinary Medicine. AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) accreditation is not required for Animal Hospitals; however the AAHA is the only organization that accredits animal hospitals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Facilities that choose to be accredited by the AAHA are evaluated on over 800 different standards including the following: quality of care; diagnostic & pharmacy; facility; medical records and management just to name a few. Using this as a guideline you can be confident you are getting the highest quality care possible for your pet.

Also, visit the facility ... call for an appointment to see their facility and evaluate the following items:

-  Is it clean and well organized?
-  Is the staff friendly and knowledgeable, do they communicate effectively?
-  Are appointments required?
-  How many Veterinarians are in the practice?
-  Are X-rays, ultrasound, blood work, EKG, and other diagnostics performed in house or referred out?
-  Are both conventional medicine and holistic therapies available?
-  Where are after hour emergencies handled?
-  Are their fees affordable? In the event of an unexpected emergency are payment plans available?
-  Last of all ... follow your instincts.

**October is
National Animal
Wellness Month**

Throughout Angel's life our Veterinarian was not only our pet's doctor but she became a friend who was there until the very end.

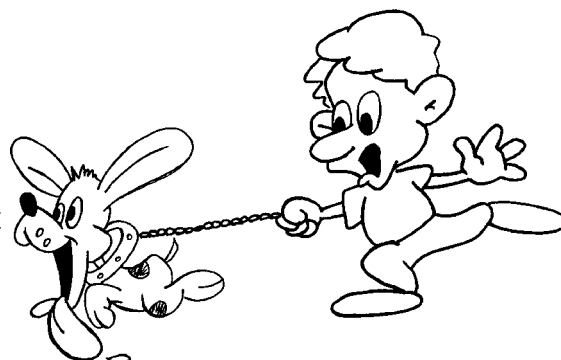
Nena Gulbrandsen is a wife, mother and entrepreneur. She has been married for 25 years. Her interests include writing, painting, interior design and other creative avenues. She loves spending time with her family, making memories and supporting and encouraging her friends.



Okay, I admit it. Even though my dogs have me well trained for nearly everything else they want, they haven't found a way to get me to walk them whenever they choose.

Maybe during **October 1st-7th, National Walk Your Dog Week** will change that.

According to its website, (www.walkyourdogweek.com), National Dog Week is the first week in October, from the 1st through the 7th. It was founded by the same person who funded National Dog Day, the event I wrote about for the last American Pet Magazine: Colleen Paige, a pet lifestyle expert, animal rescuer and author.



Ms. Paige founded this event first as National Walk Your Dog Day but determined that its purpose--helping both dogs and their owners get into better shape--would be better served by a longer celebration.

And not only will walking dogs more frequently help their health and their owners', but it may also keep more dogs out of shelters. According to Ms. Paige, sometimes dogs are relinquished by their owners for behavior issues such as aggression, destruction and separation anxiety issues. Giving the dogs more exercise, especially in the presence of their owners, can help to prevent those kinds of problems.

Is your waistline a little larger than you'd like? Is your dog's? Why not address both of these problems that can lead to health issues for both of you by giving your dog a walk a day during National Walk Your Dog Week?

I live in California, so I anticipate that the first week in October will be pleasantly cool. Other parts of the country may have more weather and temperature issues to work around but it's still a potentially better time than the middle of summer or winter.

If you give it a try, you may enjoy it. A lot. Become addicted to it, and start walking your dog every day.

Will I? Well, no guarantees, but it will be fun to let my Lexie and Mystie try to figure out the best way to tell me it's time for a walk when that special week is up. How about you and your canine best friends and family members?

Linda O. Johnston is the author of 33 published novels. Both Beaglemania and Hounds Abound were reprinted with a special symbol to celebrate the Penguin Group's Read Humane program helping to support the Humane Association of the United States' Animal Rescue Team. Visit Linda at www.LindaOJohnston.com or friend her on Facebook. She also blogs each Wednesday at KillerHobbies.blogspot.com.

Before you get a Puppy ...

Based on an average life span of 11 years, the cost of owning a dog is \$13,350. So, let's at this point, just agree that owning a dog is quite the financial and time commitment! I really don't want to discourage people from getting a dog but here are just a few things your family unit should consider ...

- 🐾 If it takes 12 years (we hope) to get kids ready for college you should not be thinking a 6-week course at the pet superstore will train your dog
- 🐾 You can not potty train a dog while you are at work, or watching TV. Expect a minimum of 30 days to build rudimentary understanding
- 🐾 You might just have to put your pooch in doggy day care if you can not take time off from work to help with potty training and puppy behaviors
- 🐾 Expecting your kids to train the dog is a pipe dream (you already know this, but sometimes we just need to hear it again)
- 🐾 Dogs are social animals, so if you are planning on crating him/her in the basement or leaving the dog outside, think again
- 🐾 Puppy/Juvenile dogs can be destructive, if you do not have time to manage them continually expect bad things to happen

OK, these are only a few of the things that popped in to my head this morning as I wrote this little note ... Dogs are not easy ... Not every child, family or individual needs to own a dog and trust me I see it daily where folks don't think through this decision and well everyone in the family ends up in tears as they drop the dog off at the shelter.

If I could leave you with just one piece of advise ... It would be simple:

Think outside the box and be that person that hires a dog trainer before you get a dog.

Let a professional talk to your family about this decision from every direction before you just go out and pick the first cute (by the way they are all cute) puppy you see in the window.

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 western Shawnee, Ks.



WHY WE LOVE DOGS

Why is it we, as humans, have decided dog is man's (or woman's) best friend, and just what is it that makes them a great pet? Well for me, the answer is simple, "Unconditional Love!" Let's face it ... dogs are the only animal in the world that are honestly always happier to see us than we are to see them. They greet us at the door wanting nothing but our attention and affection.

Pet Cancer Awareness

Written by
Dolores Paddock

The dreaded “C” word, we fear it as humans though some pet owners never think about it when it concerns their lovable pets. Why, honestly I don’t know. Personally I always related cancer with humans. Realizing that there is a **Pet Cancer Awareness Month** in November, I decided to research cancer concerning our pets. Some of my information I obtained from the Pet Cancer Awareness website so I would like to acknowledge that website and advise you to check out that site, it is very informative.

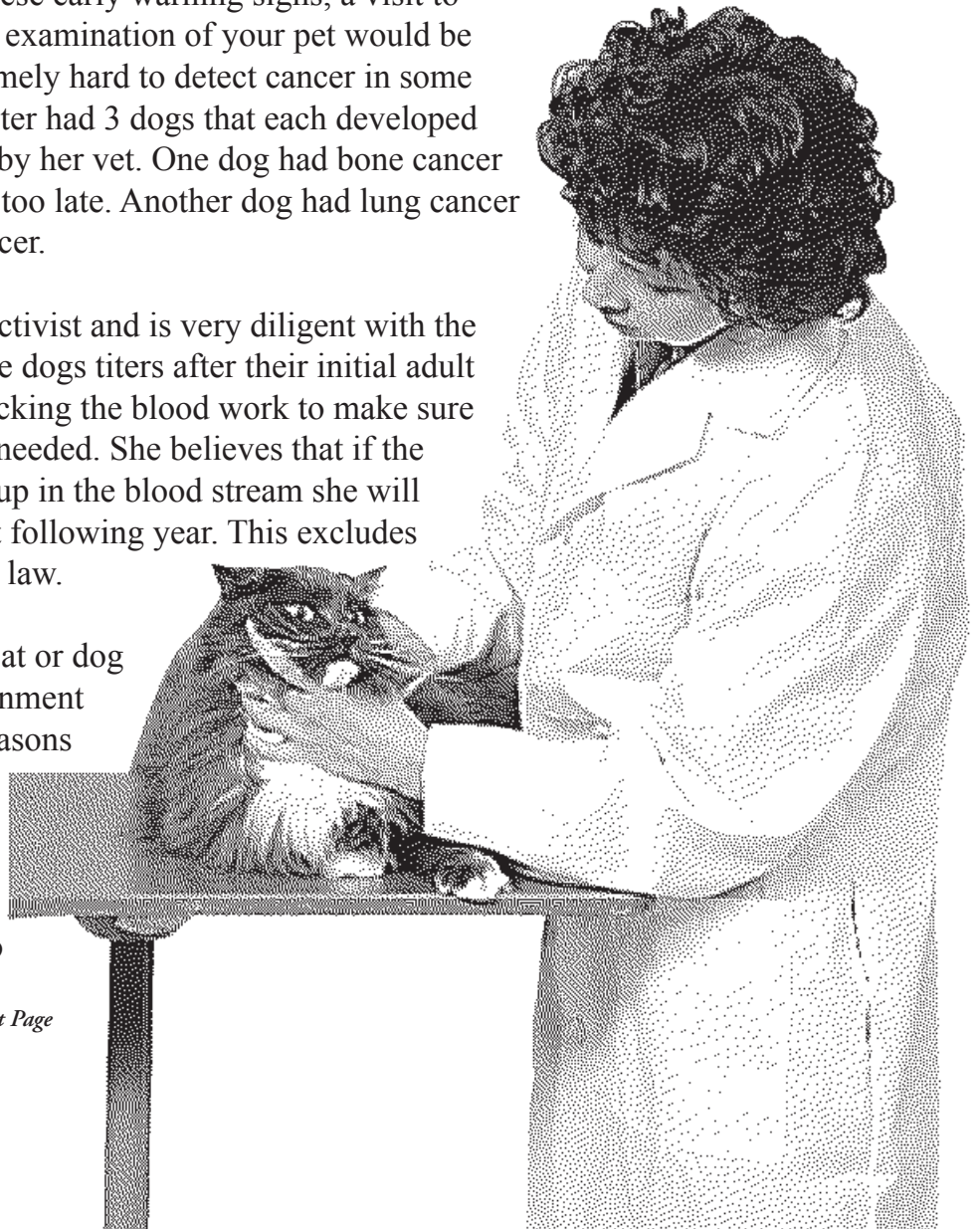
The Veterinary Cancer Society has released the following early pet cancer warning signs: 🐾 persistent abnormal swelling 🐾 sores that do not heal 🐾 loss of weight 🐾 loss of appetite 🐾 offensive odor 🐾 difficulty eating or swallowing 🐾 hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina 🐾 persistent lameness or stiffness 🐾 difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating.

If your pet has any of these early warning signs, a visit to the veterinarian for a complete examination of your pet would be advisable. However, it is extremely hard to detect cancer in some animals in some stages. My sister had 3 dogs that each developed cancer and it was not detected by her vet. One dog had bone cancer that did not appear until it was too late. Another dog had lung cancer and the third had intestinal cancer.

My sister is an animal activist and is very diligent with the health of her pets. She gives the dogs titers after their initial adult shot. What is titer? Titer is checking the blood work to make sure that another shot might not be needed. She believes that if the immunization shot still shows up in the blood stream she will not give them another shot that following year. This excludes the rabies shot which is a State law.

Over vaccinating your cat or dog along with genetics, the environment and food toxins are possible reasons that your dog or cat may get cancer. Spending the extra money for a Titer test is going the extra mile to try to avoid putting unnecessary toxins into your pets system.

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There are certain breeds of dogs that have a higher chance of contracting cancer. These breeds are Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Rottweiler's, Bernese Mountain Dogs and Boxers. I don't know why these dogs are at a greater risk but when you adopt your next pet, any hereditary information would be beneficial with their care.

Unfortunately, adopted dogs usually have limited information since they are dumped at a shelter or found wandering the streets. Adopting has so many benefits; it can help to push breeders out of business, save a dog from sure death in a high-kill shelter and give that dog or cat the ability to give unconditional love and receive love. But adopting is another story for another time. It is a shame that these dogs have minimal medical files when they are adopted.

Prior to bringing your new pets home, please make sure that all toxic products are removed from the home. Toxic items may be a prerequisite to cancer. Removing toxins from your home protects your pet simply because they will be living in a healthy environment.



Cancer is a nasty, sneaky disease. It can rear its ugly head in many different ways and there are so many different types of cancer. This short article has only scratched the surface. Hopefully this short article will encourage you to do some research and learn more about this disease and how to see the signs in your pet.

Again, I wish to acknowledge the Pet Cancer Awareness website for much of this information. I only scratched the surface regarding cancer and what they posted is abundant and extremely helpful. Please check out their website or Google to learn more about cancer and your pets at the multiple sites on the internet. Everything you learn is knowledge for you and helpful for your pets health.

My awareness about cancer and my fur babies has increased. I now know what signs to look for. Spend some time, do more research and read up on cancer. The knowledge we learn will help our pets live a healthy, happy and long cancer-free life.



I have recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on my desire to help fight for all animals. I have a passion for all animals and feel that we must be the voice of the voiceless. I have two cats Maurice and Cassie and one dog Beauregard, they all have rescued me!

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What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Litterer

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?*

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See Page 23 for 'Gibson Strong' on
National Epilepsy Awareness Month



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.

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

Written by Mike Deathe

See Page 49 for Mike's article on
'Before you get a Puppy...'

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 how and why 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

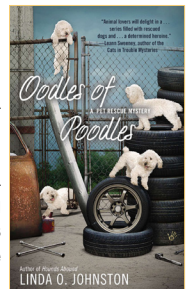


Oodles of Poodles: a Pet Rescue Mystery

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.

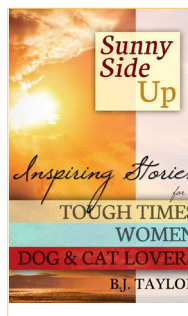
See Page 23 for Linda's article on **National Walk Your Dog Week**



Sunny Side Up

Written by B.J. Taylor

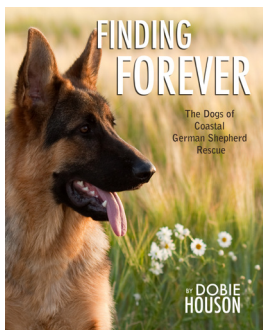
"Behind the clouds there is always the sun." *SUNNY SIDE UP* is filled with inspiring real life true stories. In the **DOG & CAT LOVERS** section you'll recognize the abundance of love we all have for our furry friends and the love they give us in return. A **BONUS SECTION** is devoted to short vignettes from **CHARLIE BEAR** himself, the headstrong, scrappy little rescue dog featured in the pages of this magazine (he writes a column called *Charlie Bear Woofs*).



In *TOUGH TIMES*, discover how people face real challenges and conquer their fears with courage, strength, and faith. In *WOMEN*, you'll see that B.J. also struggles with ups and downs and in an entertaining and motivating style, she shares her personal stories of empowerment and healing.

Purchase *SUNNY SIDE UP* on Amazon or Barnes and Noble, or through B.J.'s website at www.bjtayloronline.com

See Page 21 for *Charlie Bear Woofs* on
National Pet Obesity Awareness Day



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

has 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 39 for Dobie Houson's article
'Surprising Ways Our Animal Companions Help Us'



Empowering Children Through Story™

“God loved the birds and invented the trees.

Man loved the birds and invented cages.” – Jaques Deval

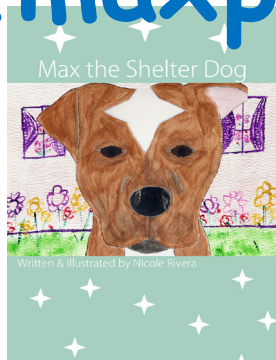
Although they may not be able to verbally express themselves, animals are filled with love, loyalty, compassion, strength, knowledge, and bravery. The love from an animal is not comparable to anything that I have ever experienced. It has been scientifically proven that animals can add to the health and well-being of your life; owning a cat can lower the risk of dying from heart disease and owning a dog can aid in the lowering of blood pressure and cholesterol. If treated with respect and with a kind soul, animals can envelope our heart more than one thinks possible.

Animal abuse is becoming more and more prominent each day. Animals are being beaten, starved, and left out to die by owners who are incapable of taking care of them. These animals are brought into our lives to primarily bring us happiness and as a result are being punished without any causation. Because of these acts of terror brought upon these innocent animals, so many of them end up becoming violent and unresponsive towards their owners. Many onlookers may say that these animals are dangerous and unfit to have as pets when in actuality all they really want and desperately need is to feel love and compassion.

Animals, along with humans, are brought into this world not knowing of the dangers but grow up in response to the environment around them. A newborn Pit Bull will not have any knowledge about how its breed is the most feared dog in the world but if given a strained and harmful place to grow and mature, their name will serve up to their unjustified reputation.

Max P. Productions is a company who is dedicated to educating children about how to treat animals with love and compassion. We are able to achieve this through our three book series entitled *Max's Animal Compassion Program*. These books take you through the life of the shelter dog named Max; his story is inspiring and one that we can learn and benefit from. Along with allowing children to understand the significance of animal compassion our ultimate goal is to make this world more pet friendly one book at a time.

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