

American Pet

Magazine™

Volume 3
Issue 1 2014

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

**PEANUTBUTTER
PURRS** pg 15

2014

BEST in print

pg 30

**Buddy, the Christmas Husky
From Abuse & Abandonment
to Rescue & Love** pg 06

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.



Humane Society of Broward County

www.humanebroward.com

954.989.3977

PUBLISHING EDITOR

Suzin Karp
AmericanPet@usa.com

SENIOR 'GHOST' PARTNER

GypsyPrince



SENIOR 'GHOST' WRITER

MissKitty



ADVERTISING & PR DIRECTOR

PeanutButter



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

LilyAnn Grace

CO-EDITOR

Dolores Paddock

CONTRIBUTORS

TITUS • Dobie Houson

Mike Deathe • Dolores Paddock • Jaetta Ferguson

Annaliese Morgan • Tracy Ahrens • Jamie Whitaker

Christina Bournias • Dorothy Wills-Raferly

Linda O. Johnston • Becky Wilson • Wendy Thomas

B.J. Taylor & Charlie Bear • American Ferret Association

To Contribute a Story or For General Info

Email AmericanPet@usa.com

COPYRIGHT/TRADENAME

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

The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor



♥Dedicated to *Buddy, the Christmas Husky*♥

for his incredible journey of survival, He is currently living with his Foster Mom and other special needs Siberian Huskies. Our Dorothy Wills-Raferly has written a book to help Buddy be a voice. The proceeds currently provide for Buddy's ongoing medical care. Buddy is our cover shot. You can read about him on page 6 and buy Buddy, the Christmas Husky.

We have a lot of great books for you to check out in our 2014 Best in Print section (pg 30). Many of our writers are also book authors. They are passionate about what motivates them. Please help support their cause. Purchase many copies and share with others.

The highlight in the Furry Finds section is a great new product for pets with anxiety issues. The Rein Coat is handmade and tailored to your pets' size. This therapeutic coat is totally different than other pet harnesses. Help calm your furbaby!

There are many pet celebration articles in this issue. Annaliese Morgan (pg 16) writes about Pet Dental Health Month. She tells of the importance of having your pet's teeth brushed either by a professional or yourself. She also gives some tips for doing it at home. *Charlie Bear Woofs* (pg 21) about National Prevent a Litter Month. You may also read about Charlie Bear in 'Sunny Side Up' by B.J. Taylor (pg 31).

National Puppy Day is March 23rd. Linda O. Johnston (pg 42) writes about rescuing puppy's from shelters and not puppy mills. The puppy is celebrated for its' magic and love and if you are thinking of adding a new soul into your family, Mike Deathe (pg 43) will help you make an educated decision. For those of you who choose the opposite side of the spectrum, Dobie Houson (pg 37) lists *Six Reasons to Adopt an Older Dog*.

Animal advocate, Dolores Paddock, writes about Adopt-a-Rescue-Rabbit Month (pg 10) in February. She stresses how rabbits are not random holiday gifts but can be a great pet for the right family. She also writes about Love Your Pet Day (pg 11) and Pet Sitters Week (pg 23).

AmericanPet Magazine™ enjoys bringing you great reading. This publication is to entertain and educate you about many types of pets. Our contributors are committed to their missions and love sharing with you, our readers. You can always find a magazine about dogs or cats but when you add chickens, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs and parrots to the mix you have variety. Much like the many families who have more than one type of pet in their home.

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

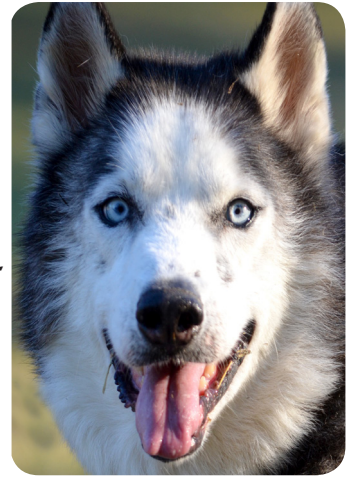
Have an AmericanPet Day!!

SUZIN KARP

Thank you again and HAPPY READING! #Meow #Woof #Rescue #Adopt #Foster #NoKill

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

CONTENTS



On the Cover

A smiling, healthier
Buddy today
Photographer: Lisa Byrd

departments

- 3 The Publisher's Note
- 5 Pet Celebrations
- 14 GypsyPrince's
Playground
- 14 FURRY FINDS
- 14 Around the H₂O Bowl

- 15 PeanutButter PURRS
- 26 Business Marketplace
- 30 Best in Print
- 46 a Haiku for You
- 47 Sponsors/Contributors
- 48 Social Media

features

- 6 Buddy, the Christmas Husky
- 10 Adopt-a-Rescue-Rabbit
- 11 Love Your Pet Day
- 12 National Ferret Day
- 13 Ferret Colors & Patterns
- 16 Pet Dental Health Month
- 18 Little My Enzo©
- 21 Charlie Bear Woofs
- 22 Chick Questions
- 23 Pet Sitters Week

- 24 The Sibe Vibe
- 28 Can I get a Guinea Pig?
- 32 TITUS
- 36 Our Trip Home
- 37 Adopt an Older Dog
- 38 Purple Day for Epilepsy
- 40 Parrots in Our Home
- 42 National Puppy Day
- 43 Before You Get a Puppy
- 44 Therapy Cats

PET CELEBRATIONS

January

- 6 Adopt-a-Rescued-Bird Month
National Bird Day *(Page 40)*
- 14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- 21 Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 29 Seeing Eye Guide Dog Birthday 1929
- 22 National Answer Your Cat's Question Day

February

- National Wild Bird Feeding Month
- National Prevent a Litter Month *(Page 21)*
- Responsible Pet Owners Month
- National Cat Health Month
- Pet Dental Health Month *(Page 16)*
- Adopt-a-Rescued Rabbit Month *(Page 10)*
- Homes for Birds Month *(Page 40)*
- 1 Groundhog Day
- 2 Hedgehog Day
- 7-14 Have a Heart for Chained Dogs Week
- 14 Pet Theft Awareness Day
- 18-24 National Wildlife Week
- 20 Love your pet day (like Valentine's Day) *(Page 11)*
- 22 Spay Day USA
- 23 National & International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

March

- Adopt-a-Rescued-Guinea Pig Month *(Page 28)*
- 1 National Pig Day
- 1 National Horse Protection Day
- 3 What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs? Day
- 6-12 National Professional Pet Sitters Week *(Page 23)*
- 14 Learn about Butterflies Day
- 20-26 National Poison Prevention Week
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 23 National Puppy Day www.nationalpuppyday.org *(Page 42)*

April 2nd is National Ferret Day *(Page 12)*

“Buddy, the Christmas Husky”

Brings Hope to Abandoned & Abused Dogs All Year Long Thanks to a Community of Caring Strangers

Written by
©Dorothy Wills-Raferly

Buddy, the Christmas Husky is a star in his own right. He even has a Facebook® page with thousands of devoted fans! But, his story starts off as a very sad one as he was an abused, abandoned, near death and barely recognizable Siberian Husky...until he was saved.

Buddy's story begins on Christmas Day 2011 in a town in Arkansas. Buddy had crawled out in traffic, all alone, injured, starving, and near death, when a human angel named Geneva Paige Ryan saved him. Geneva took in the freezing and wounded Husky she named Buddy and cared for him until she could find him someone who not only knew Siberian Huskies, but who could also give him a safe home and immediate medical treatment for his obvious injuries and illness. She was able to do just that with the assistance of many Husky lovers she met via social networking. The group of compassionate and caring folks, including Geneva herself, came to be known as “Team Buddy,” who not only helped Geneva to find Buddy a home states away in Georgia, but who also continue to help to raise funds to help with Buddy's medical expenses.

Fast forward one year later, and Buddy is now living with a loving foster mom in Georgia who takes in special needs Siberian Huskies. Buddy is flourishing more and more every day and is a very happy and much healthier dog. And just how did this miracle happen? We chat with Buddy's foster mom, Shari Baillargeon, also known as “Mama Shay” to Buddy's fans, to learn more about Buddy's rescue, life, and a newly released book...all made possible by the compassion and care of folks across the globe.

“Buddy was saved due to the networking of a small group of people on Facebook,” credits Shari. “I would have never known anything about Buddy if not for them contacting me. Once I committed to taking Buddy in, ‘Team Buddy’ committed to raising money for the ongoing medical care he would need. Overnight, a whole group of people came together with donations to cover his initial visit to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine (UGA). There have been a few visits that were unexpectedly over \$800.00 each (he has to have periodic ultrasounds when his lymph nodes seem enlarged), where we didn't have money to cover them. After a few phone calls leading to emergency posts on Buddy, the Christmas Husky's Facebook page, Buddy's wonderful extended Facebook family came through to cover his expenses.”

Buddy is indeed a miracle dog. Starving, shot, heartworm positive, sick, and suffering from a horrific case of demodectic mange when Geneva first found him, Buddy was also diagnosed with lymphoma in February. But, Shari says, “Buddy is doing great! He has surprised all of us, including his doctors.” According to Shari, the hope is to keep his lymphocyte count progressing at a slow enough rate to allow him to live a relatively normal healthy life span.

“Buddy has to have his lymphocyte count checked with blood tests at UGA every six to eight weeks. If at any time his lymphocyte count spikes and is not caught and treatment started, it could be devastating to his health. We were keeping with our goal until his last two visits to UGA...when both tests showed a dramatic drop in his lymphocyte counts! The last blood test had his lymphocyte count half of what it was there months earlier. He is truly a miracle boy.”

Shari says that along with his blood tests, Buddy also has to return to visit the Dermatology department at UGA occasionally due to his demodectic mange periodically reoccurring (most likely due to his suppressed immune system from the lymphoma). “He also has struggled with recurring ear infections that we seem to have some control over using Zymox Otic® after trying many other remedies, including several different antibiotics.

...Continued on Next Page

...Continued from Last Page

Buddy was also heartworm positive when rescued, so he is being checked twice a year after completing treatment. He is on several supplements, including Dasuquin® w/MSM for arthritis and other orthopedic problems related to his being shot several times and living daily with buckshot throughout his body that can not be removed without considerable damage to his health.”

When you see the before and after photos of Buddy, it’s amazing to see the transformation in just one year, thanks to extensive medical care and lots and lots of love. “Buddy has come so far from the skinny, scared Siberian Husky Geneva found in Arkansas,” says Shari. “Now he is such an outgoing, loving boy that people can’t believe he was once a ‘throw away dog.’ Everywhere we go, Buddy makes it his job to greet anyone, two or four legged, without hesitation. Buddy seems to believe that each person he encounters has been excitedly waiting to meet him and he isn’t about to disappoint a single one, even if it means climbing on a couch in the waiting room at UGA to stretch over and lick an unsuspecting stranger on the cheek.” No one knows for sure what poor Buddy endured before that fateful Christmas day when Geneva saved him. When Shari first met Buddy, he did not even know what a toy was. “Now he adores his toys!” she exclaims. “When we leave for UGA, he has to pick a toy out to take with him, and many times our walk around the neighborhood includes Buddy carrying a stuffed toy the whole way.”

Buddy’s story captured the hearts of so many...including this writer’s. Following Buddy’s life and getting to know him and Shari really touched me and the desire to let others know not only how love can save a dog’s life, then change it for the better, but, how there truly exists a spirit of humanity and compassion among people—total strangers—who all came together to help, and continue to help, a little Husky in desperate need. Through their actions, a much larger, and quite wonderful reaction happened, and continues to happen among a sector of humankind. Buddy encompasses the true meaning of a holiday miracle...one that lasts not only for a season, but also for a lifetime. The writer in me knew that this was a story that needed to be told, and hopefully in turn, inspire others to do the same as “Team Buddy” and help an animal in need. Buddy, the Christmas Husky: A True Holiday Miracle book is so much more than the saving of a Husky, it’s the inspiration that Buddy’s life represents.

“I am so excited that Buddy will have a voice for other neglected, mistreated, abused, and unwanted animals through this book,” states Shari. “Dorothy (the author) has captured the true spirit of Buddy in this beautiful written and illustrated book. Buddy has come from feeling unwanted to believing he is a celebrity! Buddy loves life so much! He has neighborhood boys that come to visit and play, when he sees or hears them, he jumps around ‘Rooring’ like a puppy! There isn’t an hour with him that Buddy isn’t making me smile.”

...Continued on Page 08

“Live. Love. Laugh.”

Buddy,

once abandoned and abused, loves life today thanks to those who cared enough to save him
Photo by Lisa Byrd



...Continued from Page 07

In addition to shining a light on helping abused and abandoned dogs, a portion of the proceeds from the Buddy, the Christmas Husky: A True Holiday Miracle will be donated to “Buddy’s Buddies” to help with his medical care at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, and if/when Buddy’s medical tab is paid up, the donations will go toward helping other animals in need at UGA. And just what is “Buddy’s Buddies?” Explains Shari, “After Team Buddy saw what a change they had made in Buddy’s life, they wanted to help other animals in need. We had Buddy’s heartworm treatment completed, demodectic mange under control, etc., we started raising money and sending it to different rescues to help with dogs that had expensive medical needs. It was after helping a few others that Buddy was diagnosed with lymphoma. Once we had to start Buddy’s treatment through the Oncology department at UGA, we did not have enough funds being donated to help others and cover all of Buddy’s expenses. We are all hoping that with added exposure of Buddy’s case, more people will realize what a difference can be made with a small donation and that we will have enough to start helping other needy rescues again.”

Looking at the ever-evolving photos of Buddy on his Facebook page tugs at one’s heart. To see the shocking almost-furless, injured, covered in sores, and scared Husky with hardly any life left in his eyes, is quite chilling. Then seeing the follow-up photos that chronicle his journey over the past year, showing a steady growth in health, awareness, and the light of life returning to those beautiful blue eyes, truly warms the heart and restores faith and trust in our fellow beings...and in Buddy!

“Everyone who meets Buddy is greeted as if his or her greatest wish was to meet him!” declares Shari. “He has such a large personality that he wants to share with the world. We all can learn so much from Buddy’s love of others and life.”

When you see the beautiful, happy dog Buddy has blossomed into, it’s hard to imagine that anyone could have not only abandoned him, but inflicted so much hurt on him. And Buddy’s story, sadly, is just one of thousands of stories of abused dogs out there. “So many people drove past Buddy on that cold Christmas Day, blowing their horns and dodging him,” recalls Shari. “Only Geneva cared enough to help him. Buddy didn’t come to be in the horrendous shape he was in over night. Many people had to have seen him before that day, but instead of helping, they shot him and probably did many other terrible things to him. I hope people will read about Buddy’s struggles and realize what a little kindness can do for another being. Whether it is a human being, dog, or another animal, no one should be a ‘throw away.’”



Many people believe that things happen for a reason. Maybe what happened to Buddy was so that a spotlight could shine on him and his journey from being a broken, bruised, and battered animal to one of healing, both inside and out. Buddy is a messenger on a very public road, which has led to many special people along the way. “I personally have gained many close friends through this large extended family that has been formed in support of Buddy,” says Shari. “I will forever be thankful to Buddy and all of those who love him for what they have all added to my life. These friends have not only been here to support me with the care I provide Buddy, but have also given me much needed love and support during the loss of three more of my special needs Huskies in the last year and a half.”

...Continued on Next Page

Rescued Buddy on a walk in February 2012: Buddy, two months after he was saved, still showing evident signs of having been abandoned and abused.

Photographer: Shari Baillargeon

Buddy, the
Christmas Husky
Written by
Dorothy Wills-Rafferty
COVER STORY
See page 30 for
2014 Best in Print



...Continued from Last Page

Buddy, the Christmas Husky with foster hu-mom, “Mama Shay” Shari Baillargeon
Photo by Lisa Byrd

Russian poet Joseph Brodsky once said, “Cherish your human connections; your relationships with friends and family.” Buddy now has a large extended family of friends who not only love him, even though many have never even met him, but have in turn forged relationships with each other, all coming together in support of an animal in desperate need one cold, snowy day. Paying forward a kindness bestowed on one to another, whether animal or human, is truly mankind at its heartwarming best.

“My dream,” offers Shari, “is that the next time someone sees an animal in need they will remember Buddy and run to help instead of running away from them. Hopefully, the children who grow up with Buddy and his story will be more empathetic toward those in need. We all know that one person can make a difference, imagine the difference all of Buddy’s friends can make in our world!” In the words of Buddy, “Roo, Roo” to that!

Buddy’s story comes alive in the new book *Buddy, the Christmas Husky: A True Holiday Miracle*, written by Dorothy Wills-Raferly and illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum. According to the author, the story, based on the real life of Buddy, is about:

“An injured, starving, and homeless Siberian Husky is rescued by a Good Samaritan one snowy Christmas Day. Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as “Buddy, the Christmas Husky,” discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own.”

The book, published by ArcticHouse Publishing, will have a percentage of proceeds donated to “Buddy’s Buddies” to assist Buddy’s foster mom with medical care and when Buddy’s bills are paid, the monies raised will go toward the care of other pets at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Books can be ordered at the online store at www.ArcticHousePublishing.com

**Direct donations can be made to “Buddy’s Buddies”
via PayPal at: BuddytheChristmasHusky@outlook.com**

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.



Adopt-a-Rescue-Rabbit

Written by
Dolores Paddock



My name is Snickers and 4 years ago I crossed over the bridge, but I want to share with you why rescuing a rabbit is important. You see, I am a rabbit. In the year 2003 I was born and at Easter time I was given as a gift to a family with a little girl. It was great for a while at least. One day after Thanksgiving I was put in a box and went for a one way ride in my family's car. I was so confused, I did not know where I was but I was taken out of the box and left in a large area with many homes and a lot of trees, ponds and woods. I was scared, I was alone and it was very cold.

I ventured through the woods and noticed a woman feeding the birds so being hungry I hopped over to her. She was nice, I could tell. I was scared so I hopped away when she saw me. Upon returning to her yard there were a bunch of lettuce and a carrot waiting for me! I was hungry, I ate and ate and hopped away. I did this for a week, each day the nice lady left me food. Each day I let her stoop a little bit closer to me. It was starting to snow and I was used to being in a warm cage, but I hopped away for another dark cold night in the woods.

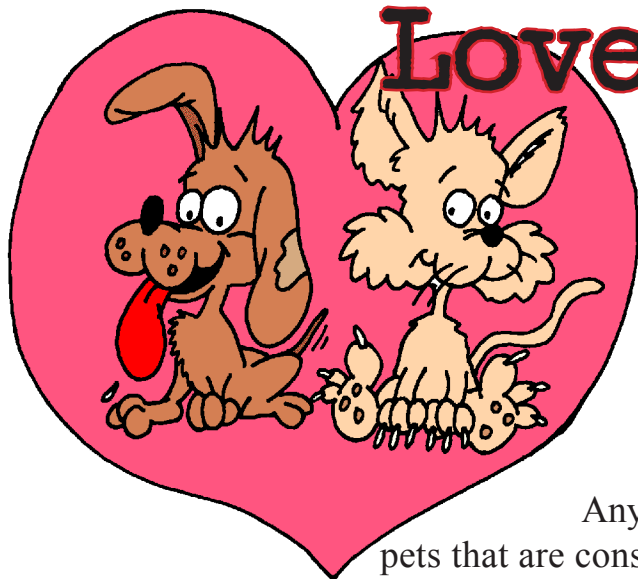
One day I let the nice lady pet me and I took the lettuce out of her hand. I wanted to go inside but I was scared and there were other animals in that house. Finally the snow started falling after a week of staying outside I let this nice lady take me in to her house. WOW! She had a huge dog crate for me and it was warm. Inside the huge crate was a house to hid in, a ladder to climb and hay and wood chips. Oh also lots of organic, yes organic lettuce. Toys, rabbit toys, I had a ton of them! I was so happy.

After a week in the crate, (the door was always open), I did venture out and I met these two cats. I tried to get a little too friendly with the black one who became my brother Maurice. Cassie the other cat was afraid of me, I understood that feeling. I thought I was supposed to be "friendly" with Maurice guess not. Soon after my over friendliness with Maurice I went for a ride in the car. Oh no I thought it was going to be another one way trip but this time it was a round trip ride. I went to the vets, they told my new mom I was a male and they neutered me that stopped my friendliness with Maurice (ha-ha). It hurt a little but Mom had special treats waiting for me when we got home.

I lived 6 happy years in my new home. I ate part of my mom's bed, I ate some wires, I ate some trim, but I never was thrown out of my home. I was lucky, very lucky. I hit the lottery at this home; I was part of the family, a forever family member.

One day I got really sick, the Dr. didn't know what was wrong and Mom took me home. I continued to feel worse; Mom could tell she knew I wasn't doing well. She wrapped me in a blanket and Dad drove us to the Dr. I crossed over the bridge that morning in my mom's arms. I watched her cry so much, I felt sad but I needed to go and I knew love.

Please tell your friends not to buy my cousins as an Easter present just to discard them when the little child gets tired of my cousins or they chew a little in their new home. We are loveable and we have a heart. We are not a present for the moment to be discarded. Please spread the word about adopting a rabbit forever not just for a whim. So please everyone adopt a rabbit month is February, but you can adopt a rabbit anytime. Remember adopt, don't shop. My name is Snickers and I was a lucky one!



Love Your Pet Day February 20th

Written by Dolores Paddock

I take issue with this day; it is similar in concept to Valentine's Day. Let me tell you why I take issue with both days and I promise this will be brief.

Anyone that is reading AmericanPet Magazine™ has pets that are considered family members or loves animals or can't have one for whatever reason. To specify a day each year to love your pet to me is ridiculous. If you own a pet, they own you. You love that pet as a family member, most of us do not even call them pets but family members. To have to signify a date each year to express to your pet (Feb 20th) or to your loved ones (Feb. 14th) is craziness.

So I proclaim that every day is love your pet day and every day is Valentine's Day. We should love everyone we hold near and dear to us and not have to express it just one day a year. My two cats Cassie and Maurice and Beau my dog would be going through major withdrawal if I only expressed my undying love for them on Feb 20th. So this Feb 20th love a shelter pet, bring them a warm blanket or food or tell your relatives and friends to adopt never shop.

Okay, you can give your pets an extra hug on February 20th, but my furbabies will not even notice the difference because I hug and love them every day as I am sure you all do.

**Stay safe, be the voice of the voiceless
and if you see abuse, report it
and if possible stop it!**



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!

NATIONAL FERRET DAY IS OFFICIAL!

Ferrets Dook, an advocate for ferrets everywhere, has convinced McGraw-Hill to include National Ferret Day on its Chase's Calendar of Events for 2014! The brand new listing reads, "NATIONAL FERRET DAY. April 2, 2014 - A day to educate the public to respect this lively and intelligent companion animal - the domesticated ferret. This day is also a time to focus on such ferret issues as welfare, care, nutrition and responsible ownership."

Although many ferret lovers have celebrated this day for several years, the new listing takes honoring the date to a whole new level! While the United Kingdom has had a designated day for years (<http://www.nationalferretday.org>), this is new for the United States. Ferrets Dook worked very hard to have the day added and deserves a big "thank you" from all ferret lovers!

Here in the United States, the American Ferret Association is hosting the web page with information and links about celebrating the day. Visit the web site at:

<http://www.ferret.org/nationalferretday/index.html>

The 2014 National Ferret Day as celebrated by the American Ferret Association will take place at its Spring Nationals Championship Ferret Show. Everyone is welcome to attend AFA shows, and is encouraged to enter the show.

Ferrets do not need to have any particular background or pedigree to show (and win!). Whether your ferret came from a pet shop, private breeder, or shelter, your ferret can "be all he can be," regardless of background. To learn more about showing a ferret, visit the web site at:

<http://www.ferret.org/events/afashows.html>

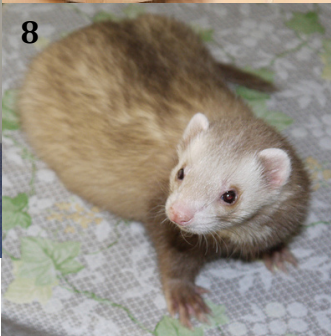
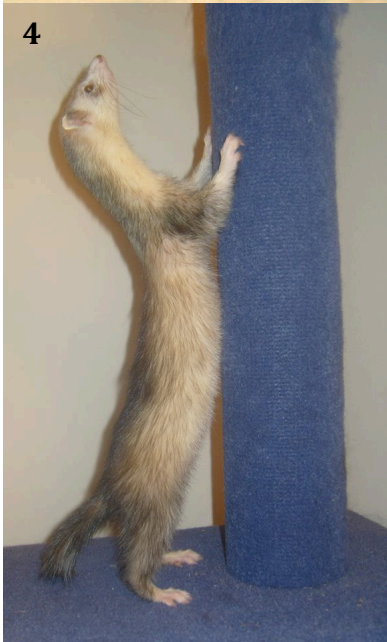
*Owner: Robin Landes of the
American Ferret Association
Photographer: © Sally Wood*



Other events will take place at the Spring Nationals show to celebrate National Ferret Day. There will be an educational display about special needs ferrets. A coloring contest for children will be held. Ferret shelters and rescues will be available to share information. Vendors will be on hand to offer gifts and products for ferrets. Raffles to raise money for ferret-related causes will be offered. And, a cake will be shared commemorate the day!

Be sure to check the American Ferret Associations web site for updates and other ways to have a blast for the now-official **National Ferret Day!**

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)

Gypsy Prince's



Playground

The Rein Coat™ is a therapeutic calming coat that is being well received throughout the pet industry. The technology of The Rein Coat™ is totally different than other dog shirts that are tight fitting and restrictive.



It Reins
Cats & Dogs!



What is The Rein Coat™?

The Rein Coat™, is a patent pending therapeutic “calming coat” that’s a harness and a coat that reduces the anxiety of scared, oversensitive, frightened, alarmed and aggressive pets. The exterior of the coat is water resistant with a plush interior that keeps your pet warm.

The Rein Coat™ is designed to provide a custom fit for all shapes and sizes of dogs and cats with its unique strapping system. The Rein Coat™ fits dogs from 5 pounds to 250 pounds with neck sizes ranging from 6 inches to 35 inches. There is no other K-9 garment that will accommodate a wide array of dogs, from toy breeds to giant breeds. We are the only product in the world that works in this innovative, gentle and nurturing fashion!

How does The Rein Coat™ work?

The Rein Coat™ works by replicating a naturally occurring behavior between animals and their offspring in a gentle and nurturing manner. Picture this: A mother dog picks up her puppy by the scruff of his neck instantly calming the puppy. The puppy relaxes and almost goes limp because he knows his mommy is taking him safely out of harm’s way. The Rein Coat™ is designed to lightly touch your pet on the nape of the neck (just like the mommy dog) triggering the production of oxytocin released by the brain that reduces fear and anxiety. In numerous trials The Rein Coat™ has proven effective in reducing anxieties while allowing your pet to move freely with no constraint. The Rein Coat™ offers a safe, affordable, drug-free solution to all types of pet anxieties.

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc. Adoption Events Monthly

954-462-8840
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
GratefulPaws@bellsouth.net

*Our adoption home is the new Petsmart at
1700 N. Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale 33305
We are always looking for long & short-term
foster homes for dogs, cats and kittens.*

4th Annual Animal Adoption Fair www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com

Sunday, August 24, 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!*



*MissKitty
sitting pretty*
Photographer: Suzik©



Hi Everyone! PeanutButter here.

It's a new year and AmericanPet Magazine™ is 9 issues strong! Here I sit again, taking up a big part of the desk, while I dictate this column to my mommy. I would first like to thank our Awesome Contributors for sharing their stories and writing about their mission to Be a Voice for the Voiceless.

We have so many great pets to read about. There are, of course, Dogs and Cats. There are also Ferrets, Parrots, Guinea Pigs and Chickens. Make sure you visit our website for our quarterly issues, where you can also order a printed copy, at www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

In every issue we have a Pet Celebrations list for 3 months. You can also find articles related to many of the celebrations. They are fun and factual, written just for you.

I would like to “Shout Out” to one of our first, and faithful friends, The Five Sibes™. Two of The Five Sibes, Harley and Gibson, each have made their debut on 2 of our previous issues. Hu-Parent, Dorothy Wills-Raftery is the book author of ‘What’s Wrong with Gibson?’ and ‘Buddy, the Christmas Husky’. You can see the new Buddy on the cover. She also helps promote ‘A Musher’s Dream; Team Ineka” by Robert & Michelle Forto.

I have a lot to do this year to continue helping to bring you fun and informative magazine issues. If you ever have an idea, please contact me at aPetMag@hotmail.com and I will pass it on to the appropriate person personally.

PURRS & MEOWS, PeanutButter

Have an AmericanPet Day!!



*GypsyPrince
soaking up the rays*
Photographer: Suzik©

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.

World of Pets Expo & Educational Experience
WorldOfPets.org/MDmain.shtml

January 27-29, 2012
Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD

Please come and join MGPR @ the Pet Expo on Sunday, January 29th. We will be hosting our first Guinea-Pig-A-Thon, featuring contests, prizes, and glamour photos of your guinea pigs. Please check our website for times and details. www.mgpr.org

**Around
the
H₂O
BOWL**

the Good, the Bad and the Stinky

Written by
Annaliese Morgan
DipAVN(Surgical) RVN MBVNA

Without doubt we love our pets. We pamper them, look after them, shower them with gifts... and they breathe on us, making us feel sick.

How can this be? What's it all about, Alfie?

Unfortunately many pets over the age of three suffer with dental disease. Dental disease is perhaps one of the most common preventable health problems seen in our pets. It leads to smelly breath, bleeding gums, difficulty in eating, mouth abscesses, illness and pain. In its extreme the bacteria can enter the bloodstream causing heart issues. That's not to mention very unsightly teeth, and the expense involved when treatment is required. It's not cute and it's not cool.

Pesky bacteria is present in its thousands in the mouth and it is these beastly bugs causing disruption. Hanging out at the gum line (where the tooth meets the gum) is the 'in place' for them and they multiply continuously - it's the biggest party in town in there!

The first signs you'll notice is a red line above the tooth on the gum line. The onset of gum inflammation (gingivitis) and bad breath (halitosis) quickly joins, followed by plaque building up on the enamel.

It doesn't stop there; the brown/yellow staining starts the foundation for the big chunky tartar or calculus boys, which are next on the list to arrive. These bad boys can end up making the gum recess, and the tooth wobble or fall out. If they're really annoyed they'll give our pets an abscess, pain or heart disease as well, just to make their point.

The answer? You need to turf the bacteria out.

There are lots of ways to do this and it will vary depending on your pet and lifestyle. Please discuss this with your veterinary professionals. The key is not to do nothing! Look at your lifestyle and what is reasonable and practical. Be honest; what are you prepared to do consistently to make a difference? Brushing is by far the best way (every day, just as we do!). It's the gold standard. Can you imagine how we would look and smell if we didn't brush our teeth?!

Don't use human toothpaste though. Pets don't really like the mint effect, plus the fluoride in it is too high, causing upset tummies (they can't spit in the basin as we do). Chewing (dental chews and toys) is the next best option, or using enzymatic gels. Mouthwashes and water additives are another good option - these are very hands-off, brilliant if you have a particular grumpy pet. Dried food trumps wet food because wet food sticks to the teeth like superglue and is perfect fodder for those bacteria. The mechanical action of the dried food also helps clean the teeth. You can up the game even further by using prescription dental diets.

...Continued from Last Page

Take a browse through the products available to you and arm yourself with your standard and what you're setting out to achieve so can choose wisely. Use one or a combination of methods - just choose the ones that suit you and your pets.

Here's a helpful guide to brushing your pet's teeth.

1. Have everything ready and to hand. Push the toothpaste or gel into the bristles of the toothbrush, otherwise it falls off or is flicked everywhere but inside the mouth.
2. Approach from the side, and hold the muzzle with one hand, using the thumb to lift the jowl out of the way.
3. Slide the toothbrush in and begin brushing in a circular motion ensuring all teeth and the gum line are brushed.
4. Repeat on the other side.
5. Brush the incisors last. This tickles, and quite often pets will react to these been brushed, so it's best to leave these until the end so you have a fighting chance of brushing the rest! Approach from the front using one hand to hold the muzzle and using the thumb to lift it up the lip. Again brush in circular motions over the teeth and gum line.

You don't have to open your pet's mouth as if they need to say ahh, and you don't have to worry about brushing the insides of the teeth. The saliva coupled with the tongue action is enough to keep the insides of the teeth relatively clean.

If you'd like any more information about pet's teeth and health in general, please contact me.

Be a cool and responsible owner!

<http://www.annaliesemorgan.com>



Two Brown Dots: Little My Enzo

Written by
Christine Bournias

I adopted my third dog to get over the pain of losing Nicodemus.

I heard it's common to compare one pet to another. A love like my first dog was a once in a lifetime. Nicodemus was like a child to me. I may never find another love like the love I had for him. But, I was sure as heck going to try.

I had never been a multi-dog household. The logic is this: the more dogs we love at once, the better chance we have to distribute our devotion. It kinda saves us from pouring our heart out for only one animal. Self preservation for the inevitable, I suppose.

The photo of 'Elvis' caught my eye. The description of this rescue puppy is what intrigued me most. The name "Elvis" was Nicodemus's adopted name. I about fell over. As luck would have it, Elvis was listed as a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix. Even more curious and exciting, Nicodemus was a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix! Life would be perfect again. A puppy—just like my Nicodemus.



At least that's what I thought.

I called him Enzo because the name means 'Ruler of Household.' As it turns out, there was a reason why he was rough around the edges.

He and his siblings had been thrown out with the cows by a ten kid Amish family. The family wanted the mother dog, but decided they didn't want her 5 puppies. Animal Control contacted North Star Border Collie Rescue. Sadly, when they arrived on the scene, there were only three puppies. In a heavily wooded Michigan area, filled with coyotes, the pups had no mother, nor any neonatal socialization. They had no choice but to fend for themselves during critical weeks of their new life. As the story goes, Enzo witnessed his missing litter mates being eaten by a coyote. Without proper nurturing, this farm dog came to me with his share of insecurities.

Enzo was going to be a tough one.

As I watched Enzo wrestle with his blue fleece blanket, I must have been delusional to think he wasn't worthy of a story all his own.

...Continued on Next Page

...Continued from Last Page

I missed the way Nicodemus would crank his head when he listened. Left. Then right. Then left again. When I talked to Enzo, I longed for his head to lean in like Nicodemus's once did. But instead of a tilt, I was met with unreliable glances, and a furrowed brow—two brown dots above Enzo's eyes.

I guess in the right light, you could see a resemblance of the two dogs. Nicodemus was all black, with one white leg. Enzo is all black, with one big attitude. Well, Enzo is sort of black. Brownish-black really. Actually, Enzo is more brown than black. No white leg—just one itty-bitty white hair poking out of his behind.

I hoped that Enzo would grow into the same happy, Nicodemus tail—a 360 degree, playful curl. Enzo doesn't have a circle tail, just an unkept flag that sweeps back and forth as he scampers away.

This new dog was not silly sensitive like Nicodemus either. Nicodemus would kiss away my tears and make friends. Enzo is feisty and quite selective with his friends. Nicodemus was sassy, but nothing like this little guy. Enzo seeks out trouble.

And another thing, blankets. Those darn blankets are always all over the floor.

One could make a full time job of picking up after Enzo. Every time I fold up a blanket, another one is dragging across the floor right behind it. Nicodemus never dragged blankets. Enzo pulls blankets out of his toy bucket like a magician pulls rabbits out of a hat. What's the matter with this dog anyway?

Then it occurred to me, there is nothing the matter with Enzo. Enzo wasn't like Nicodemus at all—he doesn't even look like him. The two brown dots above Enzo's eyes were made especially for Enzo—not Nicodemus. Enzo will never be Nicodemus because he is too busy being Enzo.

Tears of joy filled my eyes. “Enzo, I just can't love you like I loved Nicodemus.” The room fell silent. Enzo's piercing stare suddenly softened. “I love you because you're Enzo.”

And then I smiled as he kissed away an unexpected tear. (Sigh) All at once, laughter filled the room. “Enzo, now go drop your blanket in the bucket!”

****Note From The Author: Nicodemus, I will always be yours.
For today, I am Enzo's mom.***



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.

woof@brilliant-orange.com <http://www.brilliant-orange.com> http://www.twitter.com/nica_knows <http://www.tinyURL.com/LIKE-nica>

2014 © !woof Nicodemus™ c/o Brilliant Orange LLC; a brand new way of thinking™



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

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
3 WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE:

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

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

 **Join Generous Sponsors from around the Tri-County Community**

BE A PAWS FOR THE CAUSE PARTNER

www.pawstricounty.com

Like Us on Facebook:

facebook.com/#!/groups/pawstricounty

DONATE GIFTS FOR RAFFLES! OR SPONSOR AN EVENT!

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

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

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.



Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old muttigree 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

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Written by B.J. Taylor

Christmas is behind us, the tree is down, we're now in a brand new year. But you know what? There are still TONS of dogs and cats out there that need a fur-ever home. Did you know that February is National Prevent a Litter Month?

Many years ago, my Mom Peep found a black cat in her neighborhood that was VERY pregnant. She put a blanket-lined basket outside and the momma cat had her kittens in it. For weeks she cleaned and fed them right there in our backyard. But when my Mom asked around, she found out this black cat had been having litter after litter in our neighborhood for years.

Pickles w' Litter



That poor cat! No peace for her and all these unwanted cats that were never finding homes. So Mom decided to do something about it. She placed a wire cage outside with some chicken in it and, when the litter of kittens was old enough to find homes, brought the momma cat in to be spayed. The next day, when she let her out of the cat carrier, Mom Peep said she saw a look of thankfulness and peace as the big, black cat walked down the sidewalk toward the backyard.

No more litters for this regal, beautiful black cat. She now had a life of leisure where she sunned herself on the lawn chairs with her now-grown gray baby at her side (Mom and Dad Peep kept one of the cats from the litter and had him neutered too). Mom Peep tells me they were here for quite a long time. The only one I ever knew was the gray one. He's gone now, but at least the population of feral cats in the neighborhood has dropped to zero. And that's a very good thing because there are so many cats (and doggies too) that need homes. Just drive over to any shelter to find your next adorable, adoptable pet.

And please—do all you can to prevent litters. Have your pets spayed and neutered and if you find any in your neighborhood that are running around, do the TNR thing: Trap, Neuter, Return. Doesn't it make everyone feel good?

Woofs and Wiggles!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT FEBRUARY IS?
IT'S NATIONAL PREVENT A LITTER MONTH

Lessons Learned from the Flock

CHICK QUESTIONS

Written by Wendy Thomas

Spring - yes, it's time to start thinking about it.

Spring. It's not that far away and if you own chickens, you know that springtime is when poultry owners' thoughts turn to getting chicks. It's not that you can't have chicks during the rest of the year (in fact, we notoriously ended up getting a newborn chick in January one year), but people typically get them in the spring to ensure they are old enough to withstand the upcoming winter. Chicks need enough time (typically about 3-4 months) to fully feather and mature before they can safely endure a dramatic weather change (like those that we get in New Hampshire.)

So how do you give your chicks the best chances of survival and make sure that you have a healthy flock? It starts with how you choose the baby chicks that you will be bringing home.

When choosing a chick, you do not, like you do when you pick up a puppy, want the calmer ones. Instead look to those that are active and alert. A calm chick might mean that it is sick or genetically compromised. Leave the ones that are sleeping by themselves and go after the ones who either run away from your hand or that show curiosity and investigate.

Look at the eyes and nostril of the chicks. Eyes should be clear, bright, open, with no drooping lids, and with no discharge. Same thing for the nostrils or beak – nostrils should not have any discharge and the beak should have no cracks and be straight and come to a point.

Lastly, inspect your potential little ones' legs and feet. A chick that stands with its feet wide apart (splayed legs) will have difficulty walking as it gets older and gains weight. There are ways to splint the chicks' feet and legs but those procedures are not always successful. Unless you are determined to save a chick with that kind of deformity (and some people do choose to do this, we did) then steer away from those chicks.

Although there are varying opinions on this, if you get pre-vaccinated chicks (the ones you get at supply and feed stores have already been vaccinated) you increase the odds of your chickens staying healthy. This is an especially good move to prevent Marek's disease which is caused from a virus found in the soil, is highly contagious, and can cripple and kill your chickens.

Putting the work into your chickens up front, beginning with day one, by informatively and selectively choosing which ones to bring home will only help to ensure that your new little babies will one day grow up to be strong, healthy, and productive members of your flock.

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



National Professional Pet Sitters Week

Written by Dolores Paddock



By the time the week of National Professional Pet Sitters occurs (March 6-12) I will have experienced my first overnight pet sitting experience for my dog and 2 cats. In the past when I just had cats I would have a friend come over twice a day play with them and feed them. I have a self-feeder for dry food and a water fountain so the cats are low maintenance they just need lots of love. So my pet sitter would scoop the poop and feed and play with them and go home.

Now I have Beau, my yellow lab mix, and am no longer using an overnight day care facility when we travel. This choice was made simply because no one stays at this facility at night. Even though there are cameras, the owners sleep at their home and a fire could occur. Yes, they would be notified but how many dogs or cats inside would perish? Yes, they are only 4 minutes away but still I would travel with uneasiness worrying about Beau especially at night. So, we are trying an overnight pet sitting service. Honestly, when we go on vacation we try to take Beau. We stay at great places that allow dogs but when we go far away a cargo bin of an airplane will NEVER be an option and he is most certainly not a lap dog.

We met with the young ladies at a local pet sitting service and immediately Cassie was on their lap and Beau was sniffing and hanging next to their chairs. I felt good about the first meet. They are, of course, bonded and certified, one being a vet tech. I have actually seen them in our neighborhood doing walks with neighbor's dogs and feel pretty good about trying them out. When I return I will know how they did just by the animals reactions. Let's get real, we can all read our furbabies expressions.



If you google National Professional Pet Sitters Week you can find a page titled NAPPS. On the home page there are tabs: NAPPS charity, Store, About Us, Pet Parents, Members Only, Annual Conference, Links, NAPPS University and of course, the home page tab. This site is very informative and gives you the ability to see other links thru their page. Also, it helps to explain what NAPPS really does and stands for.

I think that a pet sitting service is great if the people in that service are true animal lovers. I did get a positive feeling from Sarah and Randy when they met at my house to set up arrangements for my furbabies. I promise I will give you a follow-up on how they did with a very nice critique of their work and the appearance and reaction of Cassie, Maurice and Beau when we once again walk through the door.

I do believe that cats should not go to overnight daycare, they are much happier in their own environment. Dogs however if you find a great day care facility that is 24 hour covered by a human or two might also work. We are going with this option and I will tell the world on Facebook, Twitter and the next issue of AmericanPet Magazine™ how we all did.

Check out NAPPS, the site enlightened me and it might just help you with the next decision of what to do your pets when you go away.

THE SIBE VIBE



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

“The Sibe Vibe” Dog Works Radio Show If It’s About A Siberian Husky, They’ll Chat About It!

“The Sibe Vibe,” an online radio show that is part of the Dog Works Radio family, is co-hosted by author, journalist, photographer, the “FiveSibes Mom” Dorothy Wills-Rafertry of the Hudson Valley, New York and Dog Works Radio executive producer, canine behaviorist, trainer, and lead musher of Team Ineka, Robert Forto of Willow, Alaska.

As the show’s intro states, “‘The Sibe Vibe’ is all about the magnificent breed of the Siberian Husky. From training to grooming, and for those who show and breed. From parenting to playing, and rescuing Huskies in need. Whether mushing over snow-covered trails or lounging on tropical shores, even for

Hollywood Sibes on the big silver screen, and so very much more. If it’s about a Siberian Husky, we’ll chat about it here!”

“The Sibe Vibe” debuted in August 2012 and has since featured monthly guests including Siberian Husky Rescue volunteers, experts on the breed such as mushers, trainers, behaviorists, and authors, as well as pet artists, movie producers, and Canine Epilepsy experts. And just how did the idea for the show come about? Says Forto, “‘The Sibe Vibe’ started out with a vision of sharing Dorothy’s unique stories to listeners. I always loved reading her stories on her FiveSibes™ blog and on her FiveSibes™ community Facebook page, so I thought it would be a natural fit for our family of shows.”

Notes Wills-Rafertry, “When Robert first approached me to host a show about Siberian Huskies, I told him I needed some time to think about it. As a photojournalist, my job has always been behind the scenes. This would put my voice in the limelight...and I’m not even sure I like how my own voice sounds on tape! Let alone talking for an hour? Robert convinced me that with my background as a journalist and the contacts I have in the Siberian Husky world, I could really help showcase the breed from all angles, help to highlight the non-profit rescues, and educate folks on the breed and Canine Epilepsy awareness, a cause near and dear to my heart since one of my Siberian Huskies was diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy over four years ago.” Adds Wills-Rafertry, “The show has been amazing. Robert is a wonderful producer, co-host, and coach. The guests are always a pleasure and share much information and their expertise. I absolutely love doing it!”

Forto adds that Wills-Rafertry’s show “has grown steadily over the months with some of the most popular shows being “Icebound” (the movie) and the Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, and the Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue in Pennsylvania, which garnered more than 20,000 listeners for just that one show!

Dog Works Radio was formed on January 31, 2009 in Denver when Forto and his wife, Michele, hosted their first radio show in their canine training center. “We thought it would be cool to have others tell their stories about dogs so we brought on board a show called ‘Rescue Tails.’” The shows air live, but Forto creates a permalink that stays with each show permanently so folks who miss listening in live, can always listen in at a later date.

Over the years, the Fortos added a number of shows, including their annual daily Iditarod coverage, “Mush! You Huskies,” “Dog Talk Radio,” “PAWsitve Radio,” “The Gypsy Musher,” and “The Sibe Vibe.”

...Continued from Last Page

Last year, Forto says the Dog Works Radio family of shows passed their 1,000,000th download! “We have plans in the near future...to have a 24-hour Dog Works Radio station.”

Says Forto, “I have always wanted to have people on both as guests and hosts to tell their stories in a way that people can just sit down and relax and enjoy a form of media that is not so influenced by other peoples opinions, comments, “likes” and a “friend popularity contest.”

To date, Forto has never charged any of his guests or hosts for the service, putting up all the financial resources and sweat equity for production himself. “This may change at some point in the future,” he notes, adding, “but at this point it is just a labor of love!”

To check out the entire catalog of episodes for “The Sibe Vibe” and all the Dog Works Radio shows, visit www.DogWorksRadio.com.

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.

FIVESIBES.BLOGSPOT.COM



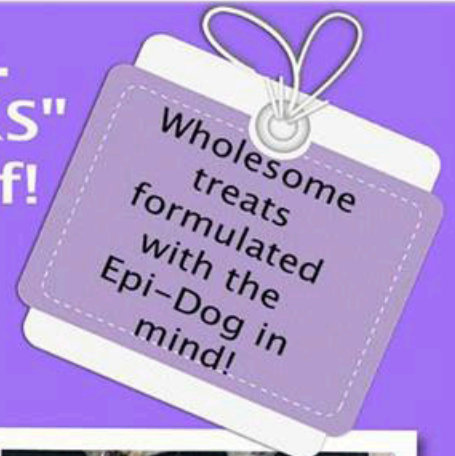
"Gibson" of the FiveSibes



House Wolf will donate \$1
from every bag purchased to
The Wally (Canine Epilepsy) Foundation!



Introducing... "GIBBIE SNACKS" by House Wolf!



Ingredients: oatmeal, cooked green beans, carrots, sweet potatoes, zucchini, fresh parsley & beef puree'. No salt or preservatives ever!

Business Marketplace

GRATEFUL PAWS DOG & CAT RESCUE

No Kill - Not for Profit - 501c3



Saving animals locally...
Just one at a time

Tel. 954.462.8840

Cell 954.579.3753

Fax: 1-866-600-5945

Email: Gratefulpaws@bellsouth.net

Paws for the Cause

Official Volunteer Fundraising Group
for Tri County Humane Society

Email: info@pawstricounty.com
Web: <http://pawstricounty.com>

Tri County Humane Society, a Non-Profit
501(c)(3) No Kill Shelter in Boca Raton, Florida



Nm

NORTHERNMOODS

EXCLUSIVE DOG COLLARS AND LEASHES



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

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CONTACT AMERICANPET@USA.COM

Business Marketplace



State License #EC 0001777
Insured

Todd Mueller
Electrical Technician
Operation's Manager

24 Hour Emergency Service

Email: scottbrackney@ymail.com & todd.mueller@aol.com
Phone: (754) 234-6850 (954) 931-5121 · Fax: 954-474-2418



**Carole
Diane
Heslin**

yourpetportrait.us
cdh@yourpetportrait.us



Show your
wild side

owenandolivia.com



www.thugcustomcycles.com

954.581.1801
CUSTOM BIKE BUILDERS
WITH MFG TITLES

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



Custom photography
for Your needs

H. W. GRANT PHOTOGRAPHY

Portrait
Portfolio & Updates
Headshot
Glamour

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

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

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CONTACT AMERICANPET@USA.COM



Mom, Can I Get a Guinea Pig?

By Becky Wilson,
Director Metropolitan
Guinea Pig Rescue

As a life-long guinea pig owner and now director of a large rescue, I have spent many hours thinking about how so many guinea pigs end up in our care. This year the rescue saw a huge increase in returns. More returns than we have had in our entire history came back this calendar year. Young pigs, old pigs, single pigs, six pigs, healthy pigs, and sick pigs. Back they came to us, an avalanche of guinea pigs. In the end it usually comes down to foster families being unprepared and under educated in the fundamentals of guinea pig ownership.

You walk in the pet store for a bag of dog food and before you know it, you're hooked. Your child really wants one. They are so cute, so sweet, so little. It can't be hard, just get a five gallon aquarium or a small desk-top cage and everything will be fun for the year or two that they live. It's easy to get on board with a small expenditure and you walk out with that cute little pet. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

A well cared-for guinea pig should live five to seven years. Five to seven years! Your children will grow; everyone's priorities will change except for the guinea pigs'. The eleven-year-old child that is asking for the guinea pig will be a senior in high school or off to college and there will still be a cage to clean and a guinea pig to love. Younger children of 5-8 years really can't handle guinea pigs. Guinea pigs are too large and frisky for small children. The less time that your guinea pigs are handled the wilder they become. Then no one is happy. It's a vicious cycle and the humans and guinea pigs are all unhappy in the end. The only way this is going to end well is if the adult household members want and love the guinea pigs.



Then there is the cage issue. Guinea pigs love to run and move around. They need space to do that. The minimum space according to the Humane Society of the United States is 5.7 square feet for a single and at least 7.3 square feet for a pair. That isn't going to be a small cage that sits on the on the side of your desk. It is going to be a significant addition to the furniture in your room. We often suggest that adopters use something to lay out that space in their room and really see what it looks like. The other cage issue, especially if you try to home guinea pigs in a cage that is too small, is the odor. A dirty cage is a smelly cage. A small cage is always dirty so it's always smelly. Again a cycle that's hard to break out of. So, now we've talked about the two main reasons guinea pigs end up in rescue, at the local shelter or worse yet, taken outside and turned loose in an environment they can't possibly survive in.

By now you are probably wondering why anyone would ever want to own a guinea pig, much less two. Guinea pigs are social herd animals so they really do need to be in pairs. Spayed and neutered pairs, or same sex pairs, but that's a different article.

Guinea pigs are sweet smart pets. When interacted with on a regular basis most of them are loving and respectful of their owners. They love to be held and many of them can be trained to do simple things. Ok, the smart ones will train you to give them treats when they stand and beg. However, it's best to come into a relationship with a guinea pig only expecting great amounts of love. That's not really such a bad thing is it?

Even this can seem unobtainable in the beginning. It can take a guinea pig four to six weeks to really settle into your home and decide that it owns you. It may happen much sooner if you are opening your home to a guinea pig that has had a lot of interaction with humans. New owners must be mindful of the fact that a pet store guinea pig may have had no interaction with people. You will need to be patient and let them grow used to you through gentle words and gentle handling, consistently please, every single day.

Becoming a guinea pig owner will be a very rewarding experience for those of you that have done your homework. There is a lot to learn. Remember, this is a family pet. So Mom, before you say yes, be sure you are willing able and want to take a pet into your home that will be with you for quite a few years.

Three Great Resources:

- 🐾 Animal Planet's Book, "Guinea Pigs"
- 🐾 "A Grown-up's Guide to Guinea Pigs" by Dale Sigler
- 🐾 www.theguineapigguide.com by Leslie DeSantis

Tip for Guinea Pig Enrichment: Fill a used toilet tissue roll with hay and let your guinea pigs chew and play.

2014 in print

Buddy, the Christmas Husky

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raferly
Illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum

Buddy, the Christmas Husky~Based on a True Holiday Miracle, is a book for all seasons bringing awareness to abused and abandoned dogs. This story is about an injured, starving, and homeless Siberian Husky who is rescued by a Good Samaritan one snowy Christmas Day.



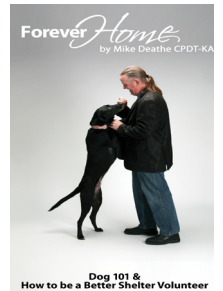
Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds will benefit Buddy and "Buddy's Buddies" through the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. ArcticHouse Publishing, 2013

Forever Home

Written by Mike Deathe

Writing this book has been a challenge and a pleasure all at the same time. As I read and edit it (for what seems the 150th time), I realize it is way more than a book on how to be a great shelter volunteer. It is really a book about dogs, dog training and the ability to relate to your dog without malice, over the top control or even dominance. I am very proud of the ideas here, and really hope that all the people that read this book rush out to their local shelter, sign up as a volunteer and make a difference. I also realize this book has the potential to help people inside their own home with their own dogs, leading to a happier home for everyone involved. Even at the time of writing this last chapter, I have no idea what the title of the book will be. It was originally to be titled "So You Want to Be a Shelter Volunteer", but in looking at the final product I think it covers way more than that. I can only

hope that you, the reader, agree. I ask you to take this information, share it, find someone to help or maybe even decide to go out and join the group of us that are lucky enough to work with dogs and their owners for a living. (Dog Trainer is really not accurate, since we are first and foremost people trainers!) Every author thinks, or at least hopes, that everything they write will be thought of as a "masterpiece"! I hold no such hopes. I know there are as many different ways to train a dog as there are types of dogs in the world. Rather, I hope you found a nugget or two in this book that you cannot wait to try. Thank you for supporting Keep it Simple Stupid (KISS) Dog Training and go out and make a difference with your own dog or others' dogs. In the end, it is all about saving more dogs and finding them their forever homes. I hope you find few ideas to try along the way. Mike Deathe CPDT-KA www.KeepItSimpleStupid.com



Teacup Turbulence

Written by Linda O. Johnston

Los Angeles animal shelter manager Lauren Vancouver has a soft spot for animals in need—and a keen eye for crime. . . Thanks to a savvy ad campaign featuring teacup pups sporting HotPets Bling—a new line of faux jewelry dog collars—small dog adoptions have skyrocketed across the city. So when Lauren discovers a shelter in the Midwest with more toy dogs than it can handle, she arranges a private plane to swoop in and fly the pups back to LA.



But Lauren didn't count on rescue worker Teresa Kantrim coming along for the ride. Teresa has cared for the dogs since they were found and doesn't trust anyone from LaLa Land to take over the job. Her biting comments clearly haven't earned Teresa any new friends, but when she turns up murdered, it's time for Lauren to dig into Teresa's past and find out who wanted her put down.

See Page 42 for Linda's article on **National Puppy Day**



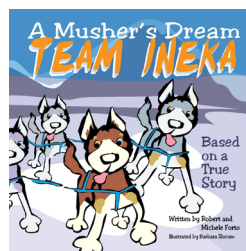
Raising My Furry Children

Written by Tracy Ahrens

Pets have biographies waiting to be shared. Tracy Ahrens captures her pet's bios through humorous columns published while raising her Brittany Spaniel and four cats. Guest story by pet expert Steve Dale. The award-winning book features art by the author and a portion of the proceeds benefits American Brittany Rescue and American Humane Association.

See Page 36 for Tracy Ahrens's article 'Our Trip Home'

See www.amazon.com and www.raisingmyfurrychildren.weebly.com



A Musher's Dream: Team Ineka

Written by Robert & Michelle Forto
Illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum

Team Ineka: A Musher's Dream is based on a the true story of how the Iditarod-bound racing Husky dogs of Team Ineka came to be. ArcticHouse Publishing, 2013.

Sunny Side Up

Written by B.J. Taylor

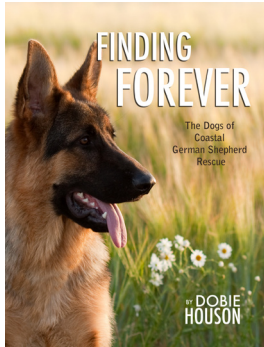
"Behind the clouds there is always the sun." SUNNY SIDE UP is filled with inspiring real life true stories. In the DOG & CAT LOVERS section you'll recognize the abundance of love we all have for our furry friends and the love they give us in return. A BONUS SECTION is devoted to short vignettes from 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 Prevent a Litter Month**



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 37 for Dobie Houson's article 'Six Reasons to Adopt an Older Dog'

Bite this Book: the book you read to your dog

Written by Lony Ruhmann

It all began with Lony Ruhmann's dog Juve. Shortly after Lony rescued Juve, the puppy developed distemper and was ill for six months. Many people would have had this pup euthanized, but Lony decided to give him every chance to live. He communicated with his sick puppy, hoping that would aid in the healing process. It did and these communications with Juve led Lony to write Bite this Book.

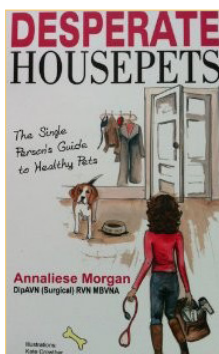
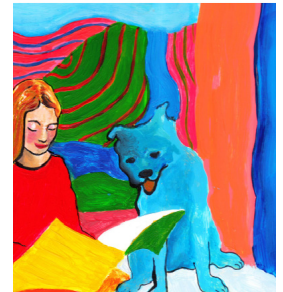
"The idea of writing a book for dogs came to me one night when I was reading to my pups and thinking it

would be better to read something written specifically for them," explains Lony. "Part of my goal was to make a statement about how special dogs are. Dogs are Angels on Earth."

Lony's other purpose in writing Bite this Book is to encourage adoption, particularly of special-needs dogs. The vignettes translate for us the anxiety dogs experience when they have their hearts broken by neglect/abuse. It tells us what it is like for them to come to a new home, not quite believing that they will be loved for the rest of their lives.

That's what Bite this Book is all about. communicating with love through the language barrier.

Bite this Book the book you read to your dog



Desperate Housepets

Written by Annaliese Morgan

Desperate Housepets is a reflection and extension of Annaliese. It's the professional information and 'how to' you need and wonder about it, but offered with a dose of her humour, sense of fun and also reality. A practical guide to keeping a healthy pet, with advice on subjects ranging from health, nutrition, exercise, grooming, illness and first aid. She too is one of these dog owners with not enough time so she knows first hand that the bog-standard advice and general rules don't always work or resonate...It's the book your pet wants you to buy!

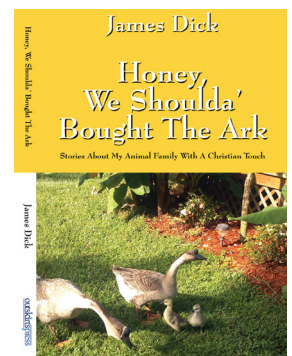
See Page 16 for Annaliese Morgan's article

Pet Dental Health Month

Honey, We Shoulda' Bought The Ark

Written by James Dick

Honey, We Shoulda' Bought the Ark follows a man's adjustment from an urban to rural lifestyle and the development of a much deeper love for animals, both domestic and wild. Living on a rural homestead with his wife, a true animal lover who has a gift of being able to "talk" with the animals without uttering a word, the property becomes home to many animals in need of a home, including horses, dogs, cats, birds and more. The book is a compilation of stories about these animals and their exploits as witnessed firsthand. They include humor, love, sadness and common sense lessons in life that animals teach us daily. The stories are told just as they happened and acknowledge mankind's God-given responsibility for dominion over all living things in an appropriate and compassionate manner. The rustic and beautiful location among farms and woodlands in North Florida is truly a landlocked ark for these loving animals. It is ongoing, with changes of occupants occurring as nature dictates. It is available online at www.outskirtspress.com/honeyweshouldaboughttheark with links to Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Welcome to the Ark.



OMD... **#TitusBARKS** SO EXCITABULLS!

Hewwo n Happy Winter! By da time dis issue comes out da howlidays will bees over n we will bees startin a new year. Lots happened in da last year...Hailey n I gotted married n I raised over \$15,000 for rescue as well as changed many peeples minds about Pit Bulls, fru my pagie or Kissy Booths. Dat is nuffin compared to wut I lost last year. I losted my bestest ever Buddy, Rufus the Cancer Pitty. I is dedicatin dis column to him acus he deserves as much recognishon as we can give him. He was my hero n an inspirashon to so many!

Rufus n I becamed buddies back in da beginning of October of 2012. I amemba finkien, wen he askied mees to bees his furfwriend, dat a rockstar likie hims wood never become cwose wif mees acus dats usuawy da way it workies. Lots of my furfwriends, dat I have none since I startied my pagie, have come n gone, not lefted us for da Bridge, just movied on, n I missie dems but I nos dey have bigger n better fings in dare lives now. So happy for dems. Rufus, he was one of dose doggies dat, no matter wut was goin on in his lifie, he was always dare wen I needied hims. Not onwy did we become cwose fwriends but he became my bestest buddy. I wood always start my day out by checkin his pagie in da morning n checkin in regularly. He did da same for mees. Wen I first met Ru, we was pweparin for our 1st ever Annual Rescue Auction. I amemba askien hims if he wood likie to donate a pawtogwaphied piciture n to my supwise, he sed yes n not onwy dat, it wood bees his first pawtogwaphie ever. Dat, ment da world to mees.



I amemba da day dat he askied mees to bees a part of his weddin party. I was so humbled n honored dats he wanted mees to bees a part of his speshal day. Due to unfortunate sercumstancies, his wedding was delayed but I was not goin anyware n twied to bees dare for him in his time of sorrow. He was so excitabulls to wed da love of his lifie, Ms Lilah Bear n he was so upset n hurted wen da wedding was delayed dats he even hitted da bottle...well not weally but da piciture he posted dat nite so bwoked my hart.

...Continued on Page 34



RIP
Rufus,
The Cancer Pitty

Well, he had his big day n I maded sure I was dare to celebuate wif hims. It was an online wedding so we did not fisically have to bees dare but just da same, it ment da world to mees and it was da most butiful wedding ever. Not onwy did he have to delay his wedding but he aktuawy askied mees wut colors I was warin for my wedding cus he did not want to copy mees. OMD...I wood have been honored if he did but dat is just da type of guy he was. So foughtful n such a gwate furfwierend to all.

Dare was no way I was gonna marry My Love wifout my best fwierend by my side so mees n Mommy camed up wif an idea. She contactied Aunt Marie n askied her if she wood helpie us get Rufus to our wedding. She tooked some good pics of Ru n Mommy ordered a cardboard cutout of my bestest buddy. OMD...I was so excitabulls wen Ru arrived a monf afore our wedding. I got to spend lots of kwality time wif hims n show him around my lil life. I will always tresure dat time I had wif hims. My Wedding day was perfect n watchin ewevyone pose wif Rufus just maded my day even more speshal. He tuched da harts of so many peeples, dats just how speshal he was. It bwoked my hart wen Mommy packed him up afta da wedding but we hadded to get him home to his Mommy n sister, Sienna in time for his own wedding on August 7th.



October 7th, 2013...just 2 monfs afta he married da love of his life....I gotted a messagie fwom my Aunt Marie, erly in da morning. Afta all da Cancer fightin n all da cwose calls n miracles dat had happened, his time had come. Rufus was goin to visit wif da vet dat aftanoon n unless anoder Rufus Strong miracle happened, he wood have to say goodbye. I amemba, all day, I was pwayin for dat miracle dat had come so many times afore. Dare has never been a longer day in my short lifie. I still can not finks about it wifout cwysin, n as tears is stweamin down my facie rite now as I rite dis, dat miracle did not come. Rufus erved his wings at 8:30 pm est. on Oct 7th, 2013. My lil perfect world was shattered. Our faciebutts famiwy was forced to suffer yet anoder incwedibull loss. We lost a gwate furfwierend, comedian, lover n all around RockStar!

If we was all feelin such a tewibull loss, imagine wut his Mommy n Sister was goin fru. Rufus had such an impact on so many dats a bunch of our faciebutts famiwy gotted togedder to twy to find ways to ease Aunt Marie n Sienna's pain. We all camed up wif ways to raise money to helpie outs wif all of Ru's outstandin bills. Definitwy wood makie dare lifes a lil less sad. I finks helpien in da way dat we all did, made da hurt a lil less painful. Da memories I have of Ru will never go away n in time I is sure I will bees able to laff a lil more wen I finks abouts our fwierendship.

...Continued on Next Page

...Continued from Last Page

Da one fing dat impwessied mees so much about Ru...no matter how he was feelin or how much pain he may have been in, he was a trooper, always smiling n he never let his feelins show fru his pagie. Dat was one doggie dat newd how to puts his hurt behind him n show da world dat he was Rufus Strong! I have his pawtogwaphied piciture hanging over his da Memory Tree in my room, we sented a tree to Aunt Marie n Sienna toos, n I visit wif hims eveyy nite afore I gos to bed. Rufus, yous will bees furever in my hart, till we meet agan someday.

I wood likie to fanks my Aunt Marie. Wifout her sharin her boy wif us we wood have never metted da most butiful, most lovin soul in da world. Ru was an inspirashon to so many n it was acus his Mommy let us in on his life. Wut she did for dat boy is beyond incwedibull. It helps eveyyone undastand dat Cancer dos not have to bees da end. Da fact dats Aunt Marie never asked for any help, just pwayers, maded eveyyone want to help even more! We need more Angels on dis erf, just likie hers. Ruffs yous Aunt Marie n Sienna n I is so honored to bees a part of yous extended famiwy.



Ru, I lubs yous to da moonie n back!



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

Our Trip Home

By Tracy Ahrens



One day I saw a pet contest announcement that requested sharing an essay about the most memorable trip you've taken with your dog. Maybe it was a humorous experience on the way to a groomer, the contest said or a serious experience during a holiday excursion.

The one trip I would have written about is the day I brought Trucker home from a shelter.

We met a week prior during an adoption event at a pet store. I was forewarned about his anxiety issues and the shelter offered to let me foster him for a week to see how he integrated with my cats and lifestyle.

For five months he lived in the shelter. He had chewed through more than one chain link kennel while there, injuring his gums and teeth. He started taking Prozac and sedatives daily to help him stay calm. He feared storms and always liked to be with someone.

With his history in mind and some suggestions on how to help him cope, I led Trucker out of the shelter and into my Ford Escort.

I remember how he sat on the passenger seat, his 60-pound frame in the seat with his front paws on the floor. As we rode along a country road, he eventually reclined back in the seat and peacefully watched out the side window.

To reassure him of my presence, I kept one hand on him at all times. His tongue pulsated gently from his mouth. His eyes looked sleepy from the medications he took.

I remember asking him, "What do you think?" and "You think we'll be okay?"

I wondered what thoughts swam about in his mind.

Trucker came "home" that day. I never made him take a trip back.

Trucker's past consists of being thrown out of a semi truck as a puppy, rescued and sold at a garage sale, driven home from that sale to a family that separated in divorce, driven to another home to live with the husband, and driven from there to an animal shelter.

From the shelter he was driven to an adoption fair where the ex-wife spotted him. She drove him to her home and then back to the shelter because he was tearing up her home due to anxiety.

As often as car trips have resulted in abandonment, Trucker still loves to ride, sitting calmly in the passenger seat like a human. ...Continued on Page 45




FINDING FOREVER


Written by Dobie Houson





Six Reasons to Adopt an Older Dog


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


 **Avoid the Puppy Phase** - Yes, puppies are adorable, but they're also a lot of work. Adopting a dog when it's in its puppy years is somewhat like having a baby. If you adopt a puppy, plan on having some sleepless night and being constantly on watch. Puppies need constant attention and time to adjust to their new homes. They miss their litter mates and can be very lonely, which leads to crying and even howling throughout the night. An older dog will likely already be housebroken, will be more likely to resist chewing your favorite shoes, books, glasses, furniture, etc. and can require less training and vigilance from you. The reality is...if you're not ready for a baby, you're not ready for a puppy.

 **Older Dogs Are More Likely to Have Some Training** - More often than not, an older dog will have received some training in their prior homes. And even if this isn't the case, an adopted dog may be coming from a foster home where its temporary family will have provided some training and socialization.

 **A Great and Grateful Companion** - If you're adopting an older dog, chances are he or she may not have had a perfect life. Dogs land in shelters or rescue groups due to neglect, abandonment, or abuse. This can have a tremendously negative impact on their emotional state. Those giving an older rescue or shelter dog a second chance may find that the dog is eager to be a part of a family and may bond more quickly than a puppy.

 **Knowing What You're Getting Into** - When you adopt an older dog, you know exactly what you're getting. Personality, size, and health are already apparent. With a puppy, there can be some unknowns in regard to how they will mature and develop. An older dog, coming from a rescue or shelter, will have been evaluated for temperament and behavioral issues, and they're done growing, so you know, for the most part, what you're getting into.

 **Not Supporting a "Puppy Mill"** - When you buy a puppy from a pet store, chances are that the poor dog came from a puppy mill and could suffer from poor health and medical complications down the road. Puppy mills are horrific breeding facilities run by people who care little for the welfare of their breeding dogs and whose sole purpose is to churn out litter after litter of puppies for profit. Dogs in puppy mill facilities receive little or no medical care, are generally caged for their entire lives, and have a poor quality of life. When you adopt an older dog from a shelter or rescue organization, you're not supporting the puppy mill trade.

 **Save a Life** - It's a sad fact, but many shelters haven't adopted a "no-kill policy, which means that if an animal isn't adopted within a finite window of time, it's euthanized. In fact, it's estimated that 4 million dogs are euthanized annually. And since puppies can be more sought after for adoption, older dogs are often passed by for their cuter counterparts. Adopting an older dog from a rescue or shelter not only saves its life, but it makes room for the shelter or rescue to take in another dog so you'll really have rescued two dogs. And once you bond with your new companion, you may find yourself wondering who rescued who.

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.



Purple Day® for Epilepsy

Written by
©Dorothy
Wills-Raferly

March 26 is known as “Purple Day”—a day where we wear something purple—a ribbon, a shirt, a bracelet, a tie, a pair of socks, even nail polish, and for our pets—a collar, leash, bandana, or whatever else one would like to “wear purple.” Even one of our bridges lit up purple last year in honor of Purple Day for Epilepsy. Supporters also turn their social media sites purple by posting and sharing photos of purple awareness ribbons, poems, inspirational sayings, and photos of loved ones who have Epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

Purple Day was founded in 2008 by a nine-year-old girl named Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada, along with the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia (EANS). In 2009, the New York-based Anita Kaufmann Foundation EANS teamed up to launch Purple Day internationally. According to PurpleDay.org, “As the global sponsors of Purple Day, both organizations are committed to partnering with individuals and organizations around the world to promote epilepsy awareness.”

It states on PurpleDay.org that Cassidy chose the color purple after the international color for Epilepsy—lavendar. Cassidy created the idea of Purple Day because she was motivated by her own struggles with Epilepsy. Cassidy’s goal is to get people talking about Epilepsy in an effort to dispel myths, and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. EANS came on board to help develop Cassidy’s idea, which is now known as Purple Day for Epilepsy.

I am the hu-parent to an Epi-dog (canine epileptic), “Gibson” who was diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy when he was three. Additionally, I am an official Purple Day Ambassador for Kingston in the Hudson Valley, New York for the past three years. I joined in Cassidy’s Purple Day crusade to do the same as her goal, but on the canine front. Gibson is my inspiration and the face behind my FiveSibes™ “Live Gib Strong” K-9 Epilepsy Awareness Campaign. With Gibson as my partner, it is my hope to help educate others about Canine Epilepsy and how dogs can and do live happy and full lives, even with a seizure disorder, as well as to dispel rumors and fears associated with Canine Epilepsy.

Thousands of dogs are diagnosed with Canine Epilepsy or a seizure disorder across the breeds each year. And it affects dogs worldwide. When Gibson had his first seizure shortly after he turned three years old in 2009, I was terrified. I had no idea what was happening to him when I found him in mid-seizure, his teeth bared and chomping at the air, mouth foaming, eyes glazed, and his legs locked and paddling wildly. Then as fast as it had started, it was over. And he went still...frightfully still. At that very moment, I thought I had lost my beautiful young boy. When he came out of it, I honestly thought I had just witnessed a miracle. To this day, I still believe that to be true.

From that very moment on, I made it my mission to find out all I could on Canine Epilepsy and how dogs were living with it. And what I discovered is this: they ARE living with it. They are happy dogs who compete in sled dog races, dog shows, pulling contests, and dock-diving events. They accompany their family on outings, and go swimming, hiking, jogging, mushing, skijoring, bikejoring, and lounging on the couch. They play Fetch! and Tug o’ War.

These amazing warrior dogs do not let Canine Epilepsy stop them from living life. While we never know if and/or when a seizure could occur, Gibson, who is managed with medications, diet, laser and massage therapy, inspires me every day to bring awareness about the disorder to people. He is an amazing, loving Husky who enjoys playing, running, and snoozing with his other four non-epi packmates, as well as going for walks and snuggling with me. Through this journey, I have met so many other amazing Epi-dogs who have wonderful, inspirational stories of their own...proof, that dogs can—and do—live happy lives with Canine Epilepsy.

“Live Gib Strong” Epi-Tip!

Hi, Gibson of the FiveSibes™ here, and I have Canine Epilepsy. I'd like to share an important health tip with my fellow Epi-dogs:

Tip #30

Dogs with Canine Epilepsy, with some extra attention, special care, and a lot of love, can...and DO...live full, happy lives and bring so much love and joy to their families!



FiveSibes.blogspot.com

One of 30 daily Epi-Tips posted in the FiveSibes™ blog and on FiveSibes Facebook page for the month of November in conjunction with National Epilepsy Awareness Month. Photo & Epi-Tip by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry

For more information on Purple Day, visit www.PurpleDay.org. To view our posts, information, and Epi-Tips, visit our blog at FiveSibes.blogspot.com and FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews on Facebook. And be sure to check out our Purple Day video featuring beautiful Epi-dogs from across the world on our FiveSibes YouTube channel.

Dorothy Wills-Rafertry is the hu-mom to the FiveSibes, including Epi-Husky, Gibson. She is the author of *What's Wrong With Gibson? Learning About K-9 Epilepsy* (www.ArcticHouse Publishing), and the “Live Gib Strong” K-9 Epilepsy Resources brochure. She writes the FiveSibes™ blog at FiveSibes.blogspot.com and is the administrator of the FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews Facebook page. Dorothy is also the co-host of “The Sibe Vibe” on Dog Works Radio. She is a member of the Dog Writers Association of America and Pet Photographers of America Alliance.

Epi-Husky Gibson of the FiveSibes is the spokesHusky for Wills-Rafertry's Live “Gib Strong” K-9 Epilepsy Awareness campaign, where together they raise awareness of Canine Epilepsy and also raise funds for Canine Epilepsy Resources “Emma's Fund” (www.Canine-epilepsy.com) and for The Wally Foundation for Canine Epilepsy (www.thewallyfoundation.com). Photo by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry©

It is also my mission to help share information and available resources to help those who have Epi-dogs, are thinking about adopting a dog with seizures, or whose dog suddenly has a seizure, and they may not know what to do. It's an important message to know that they are not alone. Years ago the recommended course of treatment for dogs with seizures was euthanasia. That is NOT the case today. It's important to know just because a dog starts to have a seizure, it does not mean their life is over. There are many things to try, from dietary and environmental precautions to holistic and medical treatments and therapies.

There are wonderful support groups, informative resource sites, and non-profit organizations all ready to help the parent/guardian of an Epi-dog work through the emotions, fear, and care after a diagnosis is made. It's an incredibly supportive worldwide community who know all too well the fear and worry that go hand-in-hand in raising, living, and loving an Epi-dog.

Purple Day is a day to bring awareness to Epilepsy, both in humans and in animals. Knowledge is indeed power for it removes the fear of the unknown. And that is why we are here—to help each other and our beloved Epi-dogs live life to the fullest.

Purple Day - March 26th
purpleday.org

Gib ❤️ **Strong**
K-9 Epilepsy Awareness

The FiveSibes™ & ArcticHouse Publishing supports the non-profit Canine Epilepsy Resources, home of the EPIL-K9 List and provided by the EPIL-K9 Foundation (canine-epilepsy.com).

EPILEPSY AWARENESS
K-9
FiveSibes.blogspot.com

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!
The sun is up! Don't be late!
I shout at the world, I scream to the sky
Hear me! Look at me! I am Parrot, I am I
Don't mourn that I live in captivity
Rejoice that I live! And that I am ME
Jamie Whittaker



Parrots in our Homes

The morning sun rises and the glimmers of light make their way through the blinds and around the sides of the blinds. As the light makes its way across the bird room, finding each bird and waking them, the birds start to stir and stretch and shake off the darkness of sleep. Suddenly the timer clicks and the bird room lights flood all of the dark corners with the full spectrum of light driving away the last bit of darkness from the night.

It is time to be sure that the household is awake and ready for the new day. Awk! Awk! EEEEEEE! Too Whoo! Too Whoo! Hear the happy “Good morning” from the cheerful yellow naped amazon by the window. Bird chatter, chirps, words and yells let everyone in the vicinity know that the new day has dawned. It is time for everyone and everybirdie to get started with the business of the day.

If these birds were hatched in their native world, this celebration of the new day would let the rest of the flock know that they had lived through the night. No predators had come to their roosting spot and they were still alive after a long night. They are also calling out to their flock for an answer as to their morning status. Are you awake? Are you all right? The happy calls back and forth let everyone know that the flock is awake. Sadly, there are often no return calls from some of the flock. In their natural world, some birds would have disappeared in the night. It is just a part of life in nature and the flock accepts that and moves on without them.



Uncle Gene and Galileo

A typical day in this flock of nine birds starts just this way. They are all waiting for their morning meal and the opportunity to go outside in the aviary. They hear all the morning sounds in the house, the coffee pot, the microwave, the shower, and the people. The house is quiet for a few minutes and then it is time for their morning meal. Today we have birdie bread and fresh pellets and, of course, fresh water. Mmmmm good food and a great start to the day.

...Continued on Next Page

...Continued from Last Page

Next comes the opportunity to step out of the cage onto the owner's hand. What are we doing today, the play stand in the family room, the outdoor aviary or hanging out at the computer watching the cool things on the screen? The corner is turned, the patio door slides open and it is the aviary today! How great can life be? What is this? Pomegranates in the aviary dish? Fresh air, sunshine and pomegranates- what lucky birds we are.

Is it any wonder that our birds celebrate their lives? How different would their lives be in their natural world?

There are many ways that parrots can live their lives and be happy. In their natural world, each day starts with the sunrise and the announcement to the rest of the world that the night has ended and a new day has begun. Off they go for their morning rounds of foraging for food. Once they are finished eating, they may sit with a mate and preen their feathers, basking in the beauty of the day with one eye always on alert for danger. The afternoon is spent foraging for food, and returning to their roost for the evening.



Other parrots may live a different life than the nine mentioned above. Many of them live with aviculturists with a mate and opportunity to have a family. These birds generally live in large flight cages, usually out of doors in areas with warm climates. They have their mate, they have other birds around them and they have the benefit of fresh air and sunshine every day. These parrots are generally fed a wide variety of foods, they are given branches and leaves and other natural items to enrich their environments. They have an opportunity, when everything suits them perfectly, to mate and lay and hatch eggs. The young ones are generally pulled for handfeeding, but that is done at a time that the adults are spending most of their time outside of the nest. Their devotion during the first two weeks has started to wane and they are already thinking about what they want to do next.

There are single parrots in homes that are happy, too. There are adult birds that live outside in flights with others of their species and without nesting opportunities. Some parrots are handled daily and some prefer to not be too close to people. They are all individuals.

If you think a parrot may be a good fit for your household you should talk with someone that specializes in parrots and that understands the needs of the different species. Think about the space and time that you have for a parrot and think about what you hope to get from the relationship. You may prefer a cage with several birds that interact with each other or you may really want a single bird to be a member of the family. Either way, there is a parrot that would be perfect for you!

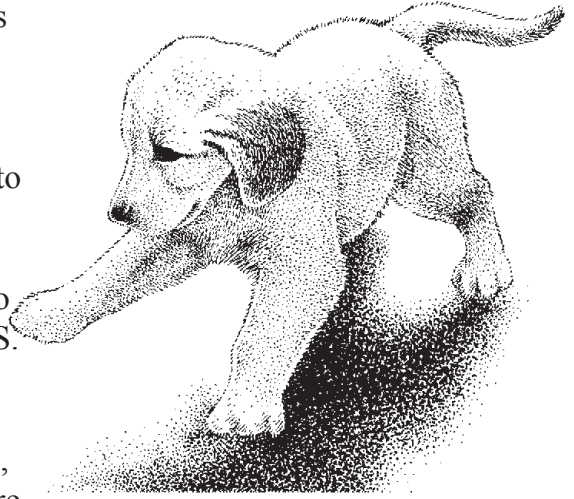
Jamie Whittaker is an aviculturist and advocate for parrots in the home. Her approach to parrot behavior is positive, natural and practical. Jamie is a strong believer in positive reinforcement and believes in helping people to develop a positive and trusting relationship with their bird. Parrots have natural behaviors that are hardwired and she believes that these behaviors have to be considered when working with parrots. She recognizes that there are many species of parrots and that their natural behaviors are often unique to their species. Finally, she believes that people need practical advice when dealing with parrot behaviors. Positive – Natural – Practical

Jamie has been certified as a parrot behavior consultant through the IAABC since 2006. You can contact Jamie at ParrotHelp@ABCBirds.com

Dogs are wonderful at any age. But when they're puppies--who can resist? Not I, and that's one reason I intend to celebrate **National Puppy Day**.

The next National Puppy Day falls on March 23, 2014. It's yet another celebration founded by Colleen Paige, a pet lifestyle expert, animal rescuer and author, who also founded other special doggy days that I have written about in previous issues of American Pet Magazine: National Dog Day and National Walk Your Dog Day.

National Puppy Day is now eight years old. According to its website (www.nationalpuppyday.org), it was begun "to celebrate the magical and unconditional love that puppies bring to our lives." It's also to call attention to the plight of puppies internationally and within the U.S. that are orphaned, or are raised in puppy mills.



According to the Humane Society of the United States, there are around 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S. There are about 2.15 million puppies sold annually who were born in puppy mills. And there are about 3 million dogs and cats euthanized each year in shelters. Although the HSUS probably has additional statistics, the ones they describe on their puppy mill website don't get into how many puppies are abandoned or dumped at shelters or otherwise treated as if they weren't living and loving beings who need homes.

Can you imagine what a puppy feels like when it's abused or unloved? Since I volunteer at a wonderful pet shelter, I sometimes see situations like that among rescued pups. There are times I'd love to shake some sense into people who haven't had their dogs neutered, allow them to breed indiscriminately, and then don't take in the resulting puppies and find them good homes.

I'd also love to shake sense into puppy mill owners. At least their situations are somewhat comprehensible, since they're trying to make money. But why make other, loving beings suffer so for their own gain? The parent dogs in particular are often mistreated, in many instances barely having contact with people, seldom even getting out of cages, living in their own filth as they bring puppies into the world.

Okay, enough of my criticizing. But I would love to hug all those people who take in puppies from shelters and reputable breeders and make them a part of their family. That's where all puppies deserve to be!

Check out the website for National Puppy Day. It also gives some great tips for choosing a puppy and helping it to become a real family member.

And give your own puppies, whatever age they happen to be, some extra loving on National Puppy Day. I will with mine!

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 ...

Written by Mike Deathe

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.


Flash and Venti, therapy cats


Written by Jaetta Ferguson




I'm going to talk about how your cat can become a therapy cat. I have two myself and their names are Flash and Venti. Flash is a brown spotted tabby male that I rescued from Ohio and he was a barn cat. I got him when he was about 4 months old and I got him to start showing in cat shows. Then a few months later I got A solid black female named Venti. She came from a cat rescue called "From the Heart" in Westfield, Indiana. She also join Flash in doing cat shows. Flash and Venti live with three other cats in my home.

Flash and Venti were both getting bored of doing cat shows so I knew it was time to find something else we all could do together. In 2012, I was going thru a time in my life that I needed to find something to volunteer for. I knew I wanted to do pet therapy. I prayed about it and God led me to a group called "Love On A Leash" Here is the website: <http://www.loveonaleash.org/pages/forms.html>. We belong to the "North Central Indiana Chapter" and this is their website: <http://www.loveonaleashnci.org>.

 The first step you need to get started is your cats favorite place in the world, the vet's office. They need to get there shots and be examined by the vet. The vet will fill out the "Control Evaluation Form" that is the first form you need to fill out and it is up the vet to pass your cat or not. Once you get the okay and paperwork all filled out than it is on to the next step. Flash and Venti made it thru with flying colors.

 The second step is "Supervised Visits Log". This is where you do your visits with another LOAL person or working with an activities director. You just need to have someone watch you and your cat and make sure it is a good fit for both of you. This form you will need to write down your ten visits that are required. and I would go no more than a hour at a time. That way you don't wear out your cat and don't go over board. Flash likes one hour visiting and he is done and ready to go. Venti could stay all day with one person and be a happy camper.

 The third step to do is "Visit Evaluation". This is for the person who will supervise you through your 10 visits. Flash and Venti did awesome with their visits and are now becoming pros at visiting.

 The fourth step is filling out the "Membership Application" to join Love On A Leash. Have some one go over all the paper work to make sure it is all filled out right. It only cost \$35 to get your cat certified. Make copies of everything and mail everything in. The hard part is waiting for everything to come back.

...Continued on Page 46

...Continued from Page 36

Several times he's fled from our home during bouts of anxiety and fear. I remember each drive I took to find him and bring him home. I remember his thankfulness, his exhaustion and my tears of joy.

Though we've had to move in the past two years, Trucker learned that home is where love and peace wait for him. It's where I return to, where his feline brothers and sister sleep and eat and play with him, and where neighbors always seem to love him as their own.

My presence, behavioral training and his knowing that I will not leave him have ended his need for Prozac and sedatives.

Today, every trip we take to a park, to visit friends, to see our veterinarian or to have him groomed, I observe Trucker and wonder what he's thinking, what he's remembering of past trips.

I still keep one hand on him to comfort him while we ride, to remind him that "I love you," and "We're going home."



Tracy Ahrens is a veteran journalist, author, artist and mom to three rescued cats and one dog. See her web site at www.tracyahrens.weebly.com and add her book, "Raising My Furry Children" to your collection, www.raisingmyfurrychildren.weebly.com

A vertical graphic with a warm, orange-brown background. At the top is a large, stylized paw print with the letters 'DAS' inside it. To the right of the paw print, the text 'Growing Families One Pet at a Time' is written in a cursive font. Below the paw print are several colorful streamers in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink. In the center, the text 'Someone is waiting for YOU' is written in a large, serif font, with 'YOU' being significantly larger and more prominent. At the bottom of the graphic is a close-up photograph of a brown and white dog's face, looking directly at the camera.

Growing Families
One Pet
at a Time

Someone
is waiting
for
YOU

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

...Continued from Page 44

In four easy steps your cat can have a certified therapy cat that comforts people in nursing homes, hospitals, schools and anywhere people need comfort. They are here only to comfort people and are not allowed to go everywhere like a service animal. I want people to understand cats can be great therapy animals.

The main thing in training your cat to be a therapy cat is getting them socialized with everything you can. One example in my home town, Flash and Venti can go visit a local craft store, a farm store and can't forget pet stores too. I have trained them that they can not leave the house without a harness on with a leash. I use the step into kind of harness. I found that is the easiest one to put on both of my cats. When you first start to train, treats are good way for them know they did good. I wouldn't advise treats all the time. I would teach that if they do good you praise them and pet them, telling them they did good. Flash and Venti get a treat after they get done visiting.

In the next issue, I will be talking about some of their big adventures they had in 2013 and the biggest event, my wedding in December 2013. Flash does have his own Facebook page if anyone wants to follow him.

<https://www.facebook.com/flashthetherapycat>

Until next time, hug your cats a little tighter. Hugs from Flash and Venti.



a Haiku for You

無条件愛

**Human Word of Mouth
Helps the Voiceless to be Heard
Share and Care for Pets**
~SuziK



DIRECTORY of SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

PeanutButter KarpKatZ
www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

#TitusBARKS
www.TitusandhisgirlHailey.com

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

Sid Korpi
www.GoodGriefPetLoss.com

Becky Wilson
www.mgpr.org

Linda O. Johnson
www.lindaojohnston.com

Kara Kennedy
www.KennedyResourceDevelopment.com

Dobie Houson
www.FindingForever.org

The Jimmy Dog Design Group
www.jimmydog.com

Dr. Mark Nunez, DVM
www.thebalancedcanine.com

Ms. Pineapple's Playground
www.ThugCustomCycles.com

Andree Larson
www.thepetmuseum.blogspot.com

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

American Ferret Association
www.ferret.org

Sarah Hosick
www.sarahhosick.com

Nicole Rivera
www.maxpproductions.com

Debbie Tringale
www.MeAndMyDogs.biz

Julie Fredrick
www.3pupsinapopup.com

Wendy Thomas
www.simplethriftp.wordpress.com

Christina Bournias
www.brilliant-orange.com

Mary Hone
www.roxythetravelingdog.com

American Federation of Aviculture
www.afabirds.org

Guinea Pig Today
www.guineapigtoday.com

fidoFOTO
www.fidoFOTO.tv

Bill & Nena Gulbrandsen
www.iPetMemorial.com

Paws for the Cause
www.pawstricounty.com

Stacey Ritz
www.Advocates4Animals.com

Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation
www.stymieccf.org

Dumb Friends League
www.ddfl.org/catfest

Tracy Ahrens
www.tracyahrens.weebly.com

Mike Deathe
www.muttzmembers.blogspot.com

Dorothy Wills-Raferly
www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com

www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
954-971-4432

Dolores Paddock
www.Hand4Paws.com

Annaliese Morgan
www.annaliesemorgan.com

James Dick
amazon.com/author/jamesdick

Meredith Wargo
www.MeredithWargo.com

CJ & 'Jasmine' Jackson
facebook.com/MyFavoritePupJasmine

Be a Voice!



My Favorite
Pup, Jasmine

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

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

DON'T LEAVE US HANGING AROUND!

Let Us Know What You Think

Visit *www.AmericanPetMagazine.com*

Email *AmericanPet@usa.com*



Visit our Social Media sites

FaceBook

American Pet Magazine

Twitter

@AmericanPetMag

Instagram

americanpetmag

Pinterest

American Pet

YouTube

AmericanPetMagazine