

Volume 1 Issue 4

American Pet Magazine™

CATS, DOGS, FERRETS, CHICKENS AND MORE

One pet at a time ..
One day at a time ..
One life at a time ..
Your voice matters!

**Dear
MissKitty
Column**

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

**Epi-Dogs:
Living Full Lives with
Canine Epilepsy**

**Lessons Learned
from the Flock**

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

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The Publishers Note

From The Desk of the Editor

Our hearts are going out to those in the Northeast from Hurricane Sandy. She 'shore' hit the Shore hard and now there are animals out there confused and trying to find their homes. Call your local shelter/rescue/humane society to see what you can do to help. Even if it is to donate a blanket or pillow. They NEED us!



Handsome 'Cee-Lo Green' takes priority on the cover. He and his brother, 'Harley' come to visit American Pet Magazine's office staff for playtime & photo sessions. The streets are where he was found by his Forever Home Dad. Mom couldn't say no to Cee-Lo's big puppy personality so Harley had a new friend. They share their home with 2 sugar gliders.

American Pet Magazine loves to celebrate, especially when it comes to our animals. Our writers have provided great articles pertaining to the 'National Celebrations'. Among them in November are Pet Cancer Awareness Month, National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week (4th - 10th) and GypsyPrince runs the celebrations in this office for National Black Cat Day (17th).

National Epilepsy Awareness Month brings awareness of what you need to do when your baby needs special attention. Dorothy Wills-Rafferty is a hu-parent of an Epi-dog. She gives you a list for a First Aid Kit in this issue and has written a book called, What's Wrong with Gibson?

November is also Adopt a Senior Pet Month and we would like to remind you that it is not the older animals' fault they need a new forever home and deserve a second chance. Please don't pass them up when looking for a new family member. They have more to offer than you may be aware of.

National Pet Memorial Day was Sept 11th but the staff (KarpKatZ) wanted to once again showcase our inspirations. If it weren't for all of them and many more that have crossed our paths, we would not be here today, being a voice.

We encourage you to support the advertisers and contributors by passing along this complimentary copy. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events. Together, we'll help save lives and find forever homes.

The staff, #GypsyPrince, #MissKitty & #PeanutButter, all send Purrs and their special Holiday Wishes to everyone. :-) *Thank you again and enjoy your reading time! #Meow #Woof*

Suzin Karp

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Photographer: ©SuziK
'Cee-Lo Green'



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Finding Your Lost Pet

Highlands Ranch family Reunited with Cat Missing for 7 years

Microchip links lost-and-found cat to original owners



DENVER (August 31, 2012) To say that Jeffrey and Julia Flachman were excited to receive a phone call from the Dumb Friends League would be an understatement, especially once they heard that their cat, Scout, who had been missing for seven years, had been found.

“We thought he was gone,” said Julia Flachman, referring to, Scout, who was returned to the family Aug. 19. “I want to know, was he safe? Did he get enough food and water?”

The Flachmans adopted Scout when he showed up on the doorstep of their Highlands Ranch home at the age of 5. The family took him in, started caring for him and took him to their veterinarian for a wellness exam and a microchip identification implant.

It was the microchip ID that ultimately linked Scout back to the Flachmans. They are now part of a small, but growing, number of cat owners who are being reunited with their pets. Nationally, less than 2 percent of cats are returned to their owners.

“It’s such an inexpensive, preventive measure,” said Flachman. “It at least gives them a way to find you.” Now 16, Scout has lost some pep in his step, but the Flachmans are extremely grateful to have him home. “This cat was meant to be with us,” added Flachman. “It’s really a gift that we got him back.”

The Dumb Friends League is a proponent of proper collars and ID tags on all pets, including felines, and microchips every cat and dog adopted from its shelters. The League recommends cat owners visit their veterinarian to microchip your cat and encourages keeping cats inside at all times.

About the Dumb Friends League

Founded in 1910, the Dumb Friends League is the largest community-based animal welfare organization in the Rocky Mountain region, helping pets and people in the Denver metro area and beyond. In 2012, the League expanded the scope of its services to include providing shelter, care and hope for abused and neglected equines in Colorado. The Dumb Friends League has shelters at 2080 S. Quebec St. in Denver and the Buddy Center at 4556 Castleton Court in Castle Rock, as well as the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™ near Franktown. For more information, visit ddfl.org or call (303) 751-5772.

PET CELEBRATIONS

NOVEMBER

- Adopt a Senior Pet Month
- National Pet Awareness Month
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- Pet Cancer Awareness Month
- Pet Diabetes Month
- 4 - 10 National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week
- 17 National Black Cat Day

DECEMBER

- 2 National Mutt Day
- 15 Cat Herders Day

a Haiku for You

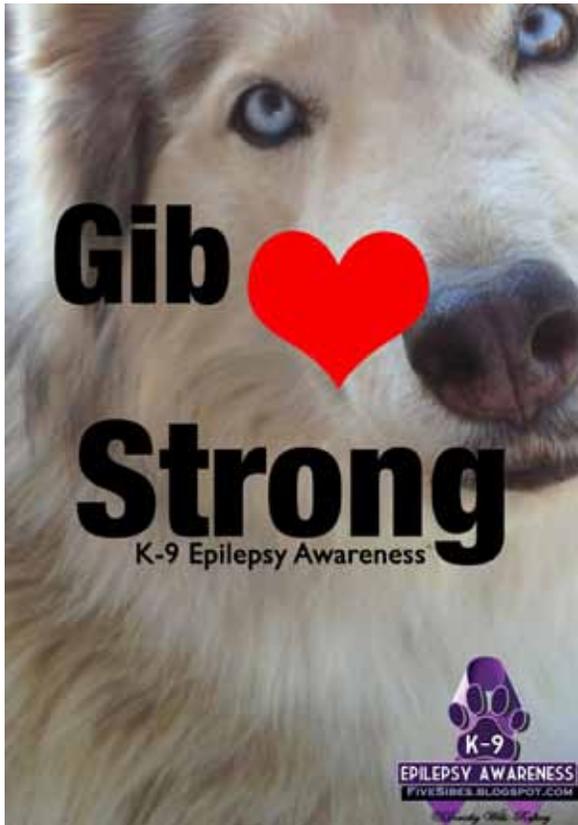
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Epi-Dogs:

Living Full Lives with Canine Epilepsy

Written and Photographs of 'Gibson'
by ©Dorothy Wills-Raftery



November is **National Epilepsy Awareness Month**

and an excellent time to talk about Canine Epilepsy and bring awareness to the fact that dogs can, and do, live full, happy lives. Once upon a time, the only alternative to a dog who had seizures was euthanasia. That is most definitely not the case today. There are many approaches to explore. There is the medication route, a holistic approach, and a combination of both. This is a cause very near and dear to my heart as I am the hu-parent of an Epi-dog, my Siberian Husky Gibson, who was diagnosed shortly after his third birthday in 2009.

The first step is to find yourself a veterinarian you feel confident in and who has experience with seizure disorders. He may also recommend taking your dog to a canine neurologist. Keep a journal of the times, lengths, and symptoms of your dog's seizure. Discuss a suggested course of treatment. Research everything you can about Canine Epilepsy and treatments. Investigate the various medications and learn about their side effects. There are some excellent resources available to Epi-Dog parents, as well as groups where personal experiences, networking, and valuable information are shared. A key factor to keep in mind if you find out your dog suffers from seizures – is that you are not alone.

There is a whole network of resources and support available. Here are a few excellent online sites to check out: Canine Epilepsy Resources Center, Canine Epilepsy Network, The Epi Guardian Angels, Nichols Online Dog Training, Canine Epilepsy UK Online Resource, Toby's Foundation, American Kennel Club-Canine Health Foundation, Siberian Husky Health Foundation, Pharaoh Hound Epilepsy Foundation, Canine Epilepsy Awareness Community Facebook Page, and Canine Epilepsy Group on Facebook.

Do You Have a First Aid Kit for Your Epi-Dog?

By Dorothy Wills-Raftery

An important thing to always have on hand when you have an Epi-dog is a Canine Epilepsy First Aid Kit.

For Gibson, I have a basket that contains:

-  instructions in case of a seizure (for when you have a pet sitter)
-  a journal (to note episodes, length of seizure, reactions, meds, etc.)
-  instant ice packs (in a pinch anything frozen will do: regular ice packs, crushed ice in a baggie, bag of frozen peas, frozen loaf of bread, etc.) The point is to bring the body temperature down.
-  emergency contact numbers: vet, neurologist, and vet hospital
-  natural anti-anxiety/calming spray (we use Rescue Remedy).
-  alcohol wipes (personally, I prefer ice packs)
-  portable water bowl
-  bottle of water
-  seizure medications

For Post-Seizure:

-  pet bath wipes (for post-seizure clean-up)
-  disinfectant wipes (for area clean-up), latex gloves and paper towels
-  a car ramp or blanket (for a makeshift stretcher) for moving pet, if need be.
-  a pillow or blanket to keep dog's head protected
-  honey or natural maple syrup

Additional items to always have on hand:

-  ice packs
-  natural vanilla ice cream (to bring blood levels back up post-seizure)
-  low-fat mozzarella sticks, natural creamy peanut butter, chicken, organic yogurt, cottage cheese, tuna (low-fat protein treats after ice cream or honey to steady the blood sugar levels).

Additional care tips:

Always remove other dogs who may be present as they can turn on the seizing dog, and attack him. (This is a natural instinct within the other dogs, so they shouldn't be punished if they do that. They should just be separated for a while.)

Apply ocular pressure gently on the eyes to help calm the dog while having a seizure. Gently put pressure on the closed eyes, count to 8 seconds and release - repeat for around 5 minutes. (For a good article on Ocular Pressure go to the Canine Epilepsy Resource website at:

canine-epilepsy.com/Ocularcompression.html

Keep notes of the seizure, i.e. date, time, length of seizure, post-ictal stage, symptoms, etc. in a journal.

Contact your veterinarian to report and discuss your dog's episode.

There may be other special needs your dog may have. Review with your vet and add to the kit.



When Gibson had his first seizure, it was very frightening. I did not understand what was happening to him. I knew nothing about Canine Epilepsy. I did not know about seizures, the stages, or what to do. Since then, I have studied, and continue to study, everything I can about seizures, Canine Epilepsy, treatments, medications, diets, and environmental culprits. When Gibson was first diagnosed, I needed to find the answer to the burning question “Why?” I wondered if I had done something wrong. What I know now is that there is not always a clear-cut reason or cause to be found. Sometimes it is a result of toxins, sometimes from medications, stress, food, something they ingested, and there also can be a genetic link, which is what is suspected in Gibson’s case. Whatever the cause, many dogs live long, happy lives with Canine Epilepsy.

For Gibson, I have adjusted his diet, reducing foods with gluten and preservatives, while adding homemade meat, treats, and veggies to his diet. I make sure his environment is as stress and toxic free as possible. I keep the yard free of any plants or shrubs that could be toxic. I have him on strictly timed food and medical schedule (he is on a combination of Phenobarbital and Potassium Bromide, and is also being treated for a low thyroid condition) and I added the supplement Milk Thistle (speak to your vet about dosage, which goes by weight) to naturally aid in cleansing his liver to counteract the effects of the Phenobarbital. I have an Epi First Aid Kit at the ready. Since keeping the dog’s body temperature down is very important, especially if they are seizing, I have a cooler waterbed for Gibson 24/7 as a preventative measure. In the warm weather, he is in the air conditioned house. When he goes outside, it’s during the early or late hours of the day when it’s the coolest. He also has a pool he and his Sibemates can dip into and splash around and play in to cool off. And, he loves his leash walks and free runs with his pack mates.

My one veterinarian gave me the best piece of advice that I will admit was difficult to do at first. She said, “Let him live his life.” And that is something I now do every day. Through our journey together, Gibson has actually made me stronger. Canine Epilepsy does not have to mean a death sentence for a dog.

That’s the message Gibson and I hope to share with everyone, everywhere.

Dorothy Wills-Raferly is the hu-parent to five Siberian Huskies, including Epi-Husky Gibson. She is the author of the children’s book, *What’s Wrong With Gibson? Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*, where a percentage of the proceeds benefits the “Emma’s Fund” at the Canine Epilepsy Resources center. She has also just launched a “Live Gib Strong” Canine Epilepsy Awareness campaign with a recently released resource and testimonial booklet, as well as awareness bracelets and t-shirts, where a portion of items sold will also benefit the Canine Epilepsy Resources. Wills-Raferly, the co-host of “The Sibe Vibe” radio show broadcasted on Dog Works Radio, will be featuring guest Marion Mitchell of the Canine Epilepsy Resources (and hu-mom to Emma of the “Emma’s Fund”), in November, where they will be discussing Canine Epilepsy at length. To find out more about this campaign, please contact her at FiveSibes@gmail.com or visit her blog at <http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>. She can also be found on Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews.



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Dear MissKitty

Dear MissKitty,

I am an older KittyKat that is living with a rescue. I have been with them for a long time and would LOVE to find a forever home soon. Why do humans adopt the younger kitties and ignore the elders?

From Cody in FtLauderdale,FL

Dear Cody,

Alot of times people want a young pet so they are able to train them from the start. They ignore the fact that the older cats have alot to offer and are full of lovin' too. Good luck w' finding your Forever Home. November is Adopt a Senior Pet month. Expect a Miracle!

Peaceful Paws, MissKitty

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

Memorial Pet App



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

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



Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Pretty cool story, huh?

I'm one of the lucky ones. There are a lot more like me out there, and many of them are mutts, also like me. I might be part Shih-Tzu, Terrier, even curly-Poodle, who knows, and Mom and Dad Peep don't care. They call me a muttigree and they love me.

5 Things to Know About Mutts

 We're just as good as purebreds, maybe better! We come with the best traits of favorite breeds.

 With training, we can perform the same duties as purebreds, such as search and rescue, bomb sniffing, guiding the blind, therapy comfort in hospitals, schools, nursing homes.

 Of the 5 million to 7 million companion animals that enter shelters each year, only 25% are purebred. That means the biggest percentage of euthanized dogs are mixed breed. So wrong!

 There's nothing wrong with us muttigrees. We're fit, friendly, and fun and we love and wish to be loved, like any other dog.

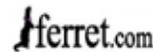
 You might just feel what Drew Barrymore did when she adopted her dog Vivian: "You get such a beautiful, selfless high from saving a life."

Adopt a mutt today (like me!), and feel the joy of companionship.

Rescue Dogs Make Great Family Pets!

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

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Until Now ...

Written by Christina Bournias

It was a cold day on Thursday, December 16, 2010.

At 11:11 that morning, my dog was lifted up in prayer. Before his ice chip had a chance to melt, he earned his wings. And I was left on Earth to sew mine back on.

Nicodemus was gone.

The holiday season was upon us, and the last thing I could think about was being merry. It would take a miracle to hum Christmas carols, 'deck the halls', or hang up stockings this year. It was as if a grinch stole my existence, and was occupying whatever was left of my heart. An empty shell, it wasn't me who watched as my veterinarian's van drove away. Its rear lights blinked red, then faded away into two dots beneath the snow covered road.

It was quiet, and I was alone.

Stunned, I grabbed the car keys, and drove aimlessly from our house, once called "home." Suddenly, all familiarity had vanished. The medicine bottles and baby food syringes remained, but my soul had disappeared. I couldn't help my dog anymore, so I didn't know what to do with myself. Lost and in a daze, I was about to fall apart. Instead, I caught a glimpse of Azella's desolate eyes, and realized I had to be strong for her. I rescued my Husky/German Shepherd off the highway in the midst of a fierce 2003 Michigan snow blizzard. It took Azella awhile to share her space, let alone keep within our fence lines, but she gradually adopted Nicodemus (lovingly known as 'Nica') as if he was her own.

As time pasted, both dogs became inseparable. Together, they grew young at heart. Nicodemus soon became the one dog she would share cookies with. She would drop her biscuit, look at me, then nudge it closer towards Nicodemus. Blind and sweet, our stress-induced diabetic dog seemed gracious for her precious gesture.

For years, Azella had a purpose. Her purpose was a black and white Border Collie, named Nicodemus. Like the puppy she never had, he was her boy. Tears hadn't even caught up to my emotions as we appeared at the dog park. For the first time, everyone's favorite friend was not hobbling along beside us. Here we were, at the place we knew so well, and neither of us had a clue what to do with ourselves. I looked up at the sky, and Azella looked down in the snow. Waiting her turn to lead the sleigh, Azella, my 'Snow-Nose' Husky, searched for her next holiday miracle to arrive...

I always speculated that Nicodemus would be behind the master plan. That, when he approached Heaven, he would send me a package of joy; a Gift to treasure—a promise, to keep me happy again, until we were reunited. Though it sounded good in theory, such a promise never happened to me.



...Continued on Next Page

Until now...

Devlin, our Smooth Coat Border Collie, arrived just in time. His Momma was saved in Kentucky, and he was born as an emergency c-section baby in Michigan. Devlin presented himself the exact week Nicodemus fell ill. Ironically, I was not aware of this fact until after we adopted him. Bottle fed and properly nurtured by North Star Border Collie Rescue (<http://www.northstarbcrecue.org>), I am convinced Devlin is our gift. He was put on this Universe to bring happiness. And, if you believe in miracles—he was sent just for us from Nicodemus.

Today is a cold day too. But, my heart is warm...

To my surprise, I recently discovered Azella sharing her cookie with Devin. She has a purpose once more. Her purpose is a black and white Border Collie, named Devlin.

For that, I am happy—again.



Expect a Miracle this holiday season.

If you lost hope for miracles, we encourage you to seek out the gift that is presented to you here. Even if you are unaware that it is a gift, believe that the message is intended just for you. You will soon understand its purpose when you are ready to adopt your own Gift. (Please share your story with us: AmericanPet@usa.com)

Christina Bournias resides in Michigan with her 3-pack; three new beautiful adopted miracles. As her “Angelwriter”, Nicodemus (1997-2010) is the wisdom behind the stories Christina shares. (#nica_knows) As an Accredited Pet Trainer, Christina champions the magnitude of building the bond between a dog and their person(s) by means of respectful communication and enduring admiration.

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<http://www.tinyURL.com/LIKE-nica>

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When Is It Time...

To Say Goodbye?

Written by Nena Gulbrandsen

For those of us who have known the privilege of having a beloved pet, we have also known that inevitably the day comes when we have to say goodbye. For some that day comes by an unforeseen accident, some pets pass on their own by natural causes, yet for others...we are left to make that extremely difficult decision for them. How do we do that? How do we finally make that dreadful call?



Angel (a Shetland Sheepdog) was a part of our family for almost 12 years. She was healthy, happy and continuously running around the house herding us as sheep in her fold. She was our “guard dog on duty”, our protector and beloved friend. Her unconditional love and loyalty was undeniable. As she grew older she developed a Thyroid condition, as well as, Cushing’s disease. She began to lose her beautiful coat and developed arthritis in her back legs. Angel, as most dogs do, learned to work around her health issues and continued to live a happy life. We monitored her condition and worked closely with our vet.

Near the end of last year, we could tell there was a rapid decline in her health. My husband started to prepare me for the possibility that we may have to put her down. My original thought was “NO WAY”... I was nowhere near ready to entertain that idea. As long as I still saw life and love coming from her eyes and a joy on her face, I was not going there!

A couple weeks later, I was away taking care of a sick family member when my husband called and said Angel had taken a further turn for the worse. Once I returned home, I noticed

for myself the huge difference in her. I took her to our vet, where they explained that this was her aging and there was nothing more they could do. I asked the difficult questions, “Is it time to let her go?” and “How will we know it’s time?” The vet amazed me ... she got down on the floor with Angel and while softly petting her, looked into her eyes and said, “You let your mommy know when you are done”. Our vet explained that when Angel has given everything she has that she will let us know that she is done. Our vet had recently had to put her cat down and shared with me an imaginary line of symptoms to watch for. At any point a pet drops below this line then it could be time to say goodbye.

Some of the symptoms to look for are ... when she is no longer able to get from point A to point B on her own; no longer able to eat or drink or loses her desire to do so; when she has difficulty going potty on her own; and lastly, when the pain of getting up becomes greater than the joy of greeting me when I come home then it may be that time.

Over the next few days we watched Angel closely and made her as comfortable as possible. It was amazing to see her continuing to fight to be part of our family. She struggled to be where we were. Then finally it had reached a point that I felt that this was becoming more about my selfish love for her and not wanting to let go then it was about what was best for Angel. A few more days passed and her condition worsened, I watched her face and realized she was letting go. The difficult challenge of living had become greater than her joy to do so. It was time to make ... “The Call”.

We made an appointment with her vet. We spent that last weekend where I made all her favorite foods; we went for long walks (which I had to carry her because she was unable to walk on her own); we went to our favorite park and more. By the time our appointment rolled around I had said and done everything I wanted to with her. She had had a great life ... and ... had given us a great life, also.

This was our journey with our much loved dog, Angel. Making the decision to put her down was extremely painful and difficult; however, for us we felt that Angel in her own way said “Goodbye” and let us know that she was ready to cross the Rainbow Bridge.

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

LOVE Those Shelters

Written by Linda O. Johnston

My last article for American Pet Magazine was about National Dog Week. Hey, I'm on a roll. Once again I'm writing about an upcoming week-long event that's all about celebrating pets. This one is new to me, too--but one I'll keep track of in the future. It's **National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week**, which runs this year from **November 4-10**. NASA (no, not the space organization but National Animal Shelter Appreciation!) was started in 1996 by the Humane Society of the United States. Their goal was to make sure people were aware of the animal shelters in their communities and the wonderful things they achieve.

Do you know about the shelters where you live? I do, or at least some of them. I was aware of some just because they were there, but when I started writing the Pet Rescue Mystery Series for Berkley Prime Crime visiting local shelters became part of my research. And then it became part of my life. Right now, I volunteer at a favorite shelter near me in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles: Pet Orphans of Southern California. There, I'm a dog adoption counselor. I also help to socialize the dogs who are there awaiting new forever homes. I help out in the office. I help feed young kittens who are being fostered. And I have a wonderful time knowing that this is a shelter where animals can go to be treated well by staff and volunteers who all have the same goal: making sure the pets get adopted as quickly as possible by the right new families.

I applaud them all the time, but I'll do so even more during NASA! Another organization that I particularly want to recognize is Best Friends Animal Society. They're headquartered in Kanab, Utah, and were the ones who took in the Michael Vick fighting dogs, retrained and rehomed a lot of them. I've heard delightful things about their Utah facility and its care for animals needing new families, and I hope to visit it someday. They recently took over one of the Los Angeles Animal Services shelters that had not opened for public adoptions because of lack of funds and now it is a Best Friends facility that is open and adopting out animals.

Then there's NKLA, which is a Best Friends Initiative. That stands for No-Kill Los Angeles-- a program affiliated with No-Kill Nation, a national advocacy organization. The idea of "No Kill" is exactly that. Public shelters all over the country have limited space and therefore kill a lot of animals for which they don't find homes. The No-Kill programs are dedicated to educating people and making sure that as few animals as possible are "euthanized."

As the writer of the Pet Rescue Mysteries, I follow a lot of shelters and organizations on Facebook and otherwise. People also sometimes reach out to me. One of the organizations I've learned about is Tiny Paws & Chi Rescue in The Woodlands, Texas, and also in Connecticut. Check out their website for some really cute, small adoptable dogs (<http://tinypawsrescue.com/adoptable-dogs/>). There are a lot of other shelters and organizations I could mention here, but I'd take up the entire issue of American Pet Magazine.

But I'd like to hear about your favorite shelters. I applaud them whenever possible, on my blog at KillerHobbies.blogspot.com and otherwise. And I'd be delighted to say something nice about them during NASA. And by the way, if you haven't already, check out your local animal shelters. You don't have to wait until NASA. Consider volunteering or donating or both. Help them get their names and their missions in front of the public. And, of course, always consider adopting from a shelter. You can save lives that way.

Happy NASA, everyone!

Linda O. Johnston is the author of 31 published novels, including the Pet Rescue Mysteries from Berkley Prime Crime. Beaglemania was a March 2011 release, The More the Terrier was published in October 2011, and Hounds Abound came out in April 2012. Watch for Oodles of Poodles in February 2013. The Pet Rescue Mysteries are a spinoff from Linda's Kendra Ballantyne, Pet-Sitter Mysteries. Linda also writes for Harlequin Nocturne and Harlequin Romantic Suspense. Her next Harlequin Nocturne, Undercover Wolf, will also be a February 2013 release. Visit Linda at www.LindaOJohnston.com or friend her on Facebook. She also blogs each Wednesday at KillerHobbies.blogspot.com.





STYMIE CANINE CANCER FOUNDATION

PO BOX 461805
AURORA, CO 80046
info@StymieCCF.org
FEIN: 27-4739206

NONPROFIT NATURAL PET STORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2012 – Centennial, CO - - Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation today announced that they will be opening the first Non-profit Natural Pet retail store for Canine Cancer. It will be operating under the trade name *My Buddy & Me Natural Pet Store*. It is time to shop for your pet! The money spent will go to canine cancer research and the treatment of cancer for pets. It will be located at 4550 Reservoir Rd, Unit E8 Centennial, CO with a planned opening date on Saturday, December 13, 2012. The Grand Opening will have samples of the food they will be selling and a chance to be one of the first to shop at the store.

Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation founder, Aimee Thompson, stated, “Canine Cancer is the number one killer of our pets and so many with this disease in their dogs cannot afford treatment – this is where Stymie CCF steps in. We raise money for those that cannot afford the high cost of canine cancer and help find cures by funding research. This is where the store My Buddy & Me Natural Pet Store comes in. Proceeds from the store will go towards helping research to find cures & preventative medicine, and help families with the cost of cancer treatment for their pet. My Buddy & Me Natural Pet Store will carry natural products such as Blue Buffalo, Evo, Pet Naturals, Earthborn Natural Food, Merrick, Deserving Dog, Fruitables, Natures Variety, Halo Pets, Well Pet, & Several more. They are accepting suggestions at info@StymieCCF.org. The foundation has plans to open stores nationwide and online.

The Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation, based in Aurora Colorado, which raises funds for families financial support for the cost of cancer treatment for their pet. The foundation has helped over 20 financially this year as well as aided in transportation to and from a brain tumor clinical trial. Pets will get cancer and the treatment can be financially debilitating to the family - this is where Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation steps in to provide financial and educational support.

Contact: Aimee Thompson at 303-617-3955 or <http://stymieccf.org>

Visit the Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation @ The Chicago Pet Expo on November 10-11, 2012



The Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation has helped over 20 dogs so far this year. They have 4 dogs presently seeking financial assistance and you can log onto <http://stymieccf.org> to donate to one of these pets today under **Help a Pet**.

Animal Shelters

Written by
Dolores Paddock

The holidays are slowly creeping up upon us all. It does not matter what faith you are the last few months of the year and the first month of 2013 holds a special holiday for each of us. Do you remember your pets? We do at our home. Maurice and Cassandra get an extra packet of catnip with their toys and Beau has his usual toys waiting for him under the tree. Do you think about the thousands of sheltered animals during the year or maybe during the holiday months?

Taken from the online dictionary the definition of an animal shelter is *"An establishment, especially one supported by charitable contributions, that provides a temporary home for dogs, cats, and other animals that are offered for adoption."*

The cats and dogs in these shelters do not have gifts given to them during any time of the year unless we care enough to donate. At our home we donate regularly and during the holiday months I make sure some special treats go to a specific shelter. The animals in these shelters have no one, it is very sad especially when the reason they arrive to the shelter varies greatly. Some "pets" are dropped off because the "owners" get tired of them, are having a baby or just do not want them anymore. Sad isn't it? Some dogs and cats arrive as strays, injured and picked up off the streets by an angel that did not want to see them die alone. There are so many animals that arrive at the shelters due to neglect, abuse or both. They are reported to authorities who then bring them to the shelter to keep them safe and treat them at a clinic for their injuries.

See the pattern? I would guess that 50% of the dogs and cats at the shelters have no idea why they are there and miss the human affection they once received. The other 50% are there due to abuse, safe now but for how long?

If these cats and dogs are in a no kill shelter they are lucky compared to the ones that end up in a high kill shelter and if

not adopted out will be euthanized. Are you now getting a visual of what is happening to so many dogs and cats? It is sad. That is why if not during the year, please during shelter week or the holidays please go to a shelter and leave a gift. Gifts can be toys, a bed to sleep on, healthy treats and/or food. You might not get a verbal thank you but the wag of the tail or the purring of their motors will be enough to know that you have made a previous pet happy just for a little while.

Hopefully the shelter will be placing the animals; hopefully they will find their way into a loving home. Hopefully they will not be euthanized as so many are each year.

Until they do help them out, donate something to a shelter and help to find a friend or neighbor adopt a pet instead of shopping for one. The shelters are full; the volunteers in these shelters could also use your time to help with the animals. This is another good way to show you care and to wish good cheer and give love to a lonely dog or cat sleeping in a small cage on a cement floor.

Maurice, Cassandra and Beauregard are all rescues and they have all rescued us and claim part of our hearts for life as did our previous pets that crossed over the bridge. Please remember the animals during the holidays and hopefully through the year. You can even donate used pet beds and toys that are in good condition, shelters are not picky and neither are these lonely animals.

If you are considering adopting a pet for a relative or friend please do not do this UNLESS you ask this person. The thought of bringing an animal into a new home has to be a mutual agreement between the people receiving the pet and the giver of the gift. You might think someone wants a puppy, think again will they want a dog when the puppy is full grown? Animals are forever not throw away holiday gifts.

Have a happy holiday, stay safe and please remember the animals less fortunate than the ones you cherish in your home.

Please adopt ... Don't shop.

Also always remember to be the Voice of the Voiceless.

She has recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on her desire to help fight for all animals. she has a passion for all animals and feel that we must be the voice of the voiceless. Two cats, Maurice and Cassie and one dog, Beauregard, have all rescued her! FOLLOW her on twitter: @dapperandclassy.

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

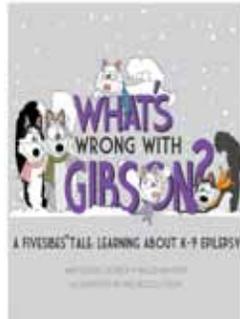
2012 BEST in print

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

Welcome to the world of the FiveSibes™! They are five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading. The first book of the series, What's Wrong With Gibson?

Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, is based on one of the author's Huskies, Gibson, having a seizure, which is



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

Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing.

Max, the Shelter Dog

Written by Nicole Rivera

A children's story about an energetic and playful pup who is surrendered to a shelter by his owner. Left behind, Max has no choice but endure his journey through the shelter system in the hopes of finding a forever home.



Beaglemania: a Pet Rescue Mystery

Written by Linda O. Johnston

Lauren Vancouver is the head of HotRescues, a no-kill animal shelter north of Los Angeles. At a particularly nasty puppy mill, Lauren helps rescue four adorable beagle puppies that were dumped down a drainpipe, and she's pretty sure she knows who is responsible. When that person is found dead, Lauren becomes the prime suspect, and she'll have to sniff out the real killer.



Good Grief Finding Peace After Pet Loss

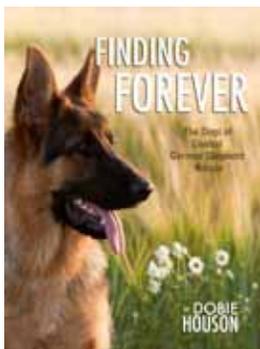
Written by Sid Korpi

Who thinks you're the most wonderful, irreplaceable being in existence (even when you're cranky, have bed head, have put on some pounds, etc.)? Who forgives you virtually anything, never holds a grudge, and loves you unconditionally?



Who among your best friends will you likely have to make the unthinkable, heartbreaking decision of when they must die when ill-health and/or pain dominates their life? The answer to all of the above is our animal companions. With them we share an intense emotional bond. So why is it that, when grieving their passing, many of us still feel we must suffer in silence or be labeled somehow defective?

www.GoodGriefPetLoss.com



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>

Lessons Learned

from the Flock

Written by Wendy Thomas



Now that the weather is turning cooler in the evenings (we've already had a frost) there will be many new chicken owners who are going to think that they need to keep their little babies warm at night.

"Surely, the birds will freeze," they'll say as they wring their hands while looking out at the darkened coop.

Not to worry. Believe it or not, chickens are considered outdoor birds, just like their cousins, wild turkeys are.

Chickens know how to keep themselves warm and are very good at it. Staying warm in the cold is done by way of feathers and roosting. Some night, go out to your hen coop and take a

look at what your clever birds are doing. They will all be huddled together on their roosting rods, side-by-side. Even the ones that were the most aggressive peckers during the daily territorial battles will cuddle up with those who were pecked. It's the laws of nighttime and survival at work.

Now take your hand and slide it between two of your birds. What you will feel is a warmth worthy of any goose down bed (funny thing about down beds, it's almost like someone figured out what was going on here.) Chickens have feathers and feathers are uniquely designed to keep the birds warm when the temperatures drop.

It's really that simple.

So DO NOT think you need to put in a heater or a lamp in the coop for warmth. Not only are they not necessary but they are also dangerous. I recently talked to a woman whose coop had burned down because the chickens had knocked over the heating lamp. Not a good situation.

Chickens just do not need additional heat in the winter. If you provide them with roosting rods and walls that will protect them from the wind and snow or icy rain, then they can pretty much figure out the rest for themselves.

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.simplethriftpet.wordpress.com.

Photo by: Emily Bersin





The American Ferret Association's Census 2012 UPDATE

EVERY FERRET COUNTS!

The American Ferret Association (AFA) has been counting ferrets for about six months now!

We are thrilled with the data being collected. Approximately 1700 ferrets have responded, most counting multiple animals. Every state in America has logged in to count ferrets with the exception of Hawaii, where they are illegal as pets. Additionally, ferrets have been counted in countries all over the globe including Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Spain, Mexico, Canada, Lithuania, Russia, Latvia, Indonesia, Brazil and many more! What is even more exciting is that we have until March of 2013 to continue counting! So, please help spread the word to all the ferret owners you know! Go to www.ferret.org to count ferrets and learn more about the project.

Top 2 Reasons to *Complete the AFA Ferret Census:*

- Help complete important research that will improve our care of ferrets!
- Automatically be entered into a drawing for a free one-year AFA membership!!



We will be offering the survey online as well as in paper format. Look for this Ferret Census on the AFA web site and at our upcoming events. By completing the survey, you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a one-year membership to the AFA! Lastly, with the collection of what we hope to be large amounts of data, we will also be seeking volunteers to help collate and analyze the facts. We always need new volunteers, so come join us in this groundbreaking research!

KARU says,

"Please Do What I Did!"

*Click or Use This Link now to
complete the AFA Ferret Census:"*

www.surveymonkey.com/s/SXS78G

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Winter Nationals Ferret Competition All Star Events Complex Gettysburg, PA

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

(See MarketPlace Ad Page 27)

The Ferret with the Most Toys WINS!

Written by Rebecca Nolan

Ferret-safe toys are the perfect gift for the holiday season! Enrichment is a very important to have in a ferret's life! Toys can range to anything from the small animal Kong™ toys or soft toys with bells/squeakers to toilet paper cores and empty plastic Easter eggs. They prevent ferrets from getting bored and give them new, exciting things to explore.



With the holiday season upon us, gift-giving for ferrets or friends and family with ferrets, is a great idea! When buying toys for a ferret, you first have to take into consideration if the toy is safe or not. To determine this, you must make sure the toy is not a choking hazard. It should not be too small or they might be able to swallow it and choke. Some other toys can also be dangerous to a ferret because they could break. Watch out for broken or easily breakable toys so that the ferret does not swallow a piece. The ferret's safety is the number one priority when choosing appropriate enrichment toys.

Ferrets love toys that make noise. The toys can be soft plushy toys with a squeaker or a hard toy that has a bell in it. The noise attracts them and makes the toys more fun. One thing to watch for with the noisy toys is aggression, especially with squeaker toys. A ferret may mistake the squeaker toy as a prey animal and accidentally bite. The squeaking noise might also be mistaken as an injured ferret, also causing unusual responses.

Toys made of rubber should be purchased with great caution. Make sure the ferret cannot bite holes in it or take chunks out. They could easily swallow these and choke or acquire a dangerous blockage. One thing you can do with the rubber toys is put treats in them. The small animal Kong™, is especially good for putting treats inside! This motivates the ferret to work to get all of the treats out. It's a good way to stimulate them!

Homemade toys are some of the best! Crocheted eggs are a favorite! And, ferrets love to run through tunnels and tubes. If you are making a tube or tunnel, you have to be careful when cutting the tubes to make sure there is a clean cut instead of a choppy one. This prevents the ferret from injury. There are plenty of different sized tubes you can get from the store and different styles of tubes. Whether the tube is from the ferret specific tube manufacturer or from a home improvement store, ferrets will love to run through them. Just make sure that the tube is not too small and does not have any parts sticking out of it that could harm the ferret.

Changing of toys weekly or even daily can make a big difference in a ferret's life. It does this by giving them new things to prevent boredom. Ferrets are very curious animals so they always want to get into one thing or another. Whether it be changing a bed in their cage or changing a toy in their play area, ferrets will love it either way. It is always fun for them to explore and find new things. You can even bring things in from outside during the winter holidays, like the snow!



Rebecca Nolan is a student of animal care from Massachusetts, working to become an avian and exotics veterinary technician. She has three wonderful ferrets!

Feasting with Ferrets

Written by
Erinn Whitmore

The holidays are an exciting time for everyone, and most pet parents want to be able to share their excitement with their beloved pets, ferrets included! There are many ways ferrents (ferret parents) can share their love and appreciation without sacrificing safety!

Though your ferrets probably shouldn't hop on the kitchen table with you with your full Thanksgiving spread out, there are some delicious, healthy feasts you can prepare for your ferrets to enjoy at the holidays. Many people like to cook a soupy liquid meal as a treat and supplement for their ferrets, and these "duck soups" can make great holiday feasts for the wee ones.

Since ferrets are obligate carnivores (meaning they must eat meat to survive,) the base of most duck soup recipes are some kind of meat. Chicken is the most common. Cooking and offering a soup a few times a week to ferrets helps get them acclimated to the new food, which is helpful in times of distress, such as illness. When sick, many ferrets will stop eating their regular kibble rations, and so many ferrents turn to liquid diets to help get a ferret through a tough time. Soups are also a great way to put weight on skinny or sick ferrets, and also a helpful way to sneak any supplements or medications into them.

The dangers of the holidays are numerous to ferrets, and so it's important to be aware and to protect your ferrets while you have holiday festivities, guests, and food around. Tinsel and other holiday decorations are interesting to ferrets, and some may chew and swallow them. That is a major blockage risk, so please take care to keep ferrets well away from any holiday decorations.

Common holiday foods are also a no-no for ferrets. As obligate carnivores, any vegetable or fruit that is ingested could create a blockage. Hams are cured with lots of salt and sugar, both of which are harmful to ferrets. The many sugary sweets, desserts and candy humans crave during the holiday should never be offered to ferrets. We know it's hard to not share with their eager, adorable little faces, but offer some special soupies or ferret-safe treats.

Aside from the ingestible risks, having guests in and out of the house can also be a hazard for the ferrets, and it's suggested to keep the ferrets in a quiet, secure place while guests are visiting. If they have their own playroom, keep them secure inside of it, so as not to accidentally get underfoot or scoot out the door with a visitor. If you do not have a ferret-proofed room for them to hang out in, cage them in their well-ventilated cage. You can drape a blanket over part of the cage or throw some baby blankets in with their regular beds so that they have dark places to hide.

With the dangers covered, let's think about how to share our enjoyment with our loved little ones! Many ferret owners love creating stockings for their ferrets, and filling them with ferret-safe toys and treats. On Christmas morning, letting the ferrets open their stockings themselves can be a great photo-op as well as a delightful time for ferrets and ferrents.

However you choose to celebrate the holidays, including the ferrets is of course a wonderful way to show them how much you love them!

Basic Duck Soup Recipe

-  1 whole roasting chicken (cut into pieces to fit in the blender; do not remove skin, fat, bones or giblets -small pieces puree better)
-  2 Tablespoons olive oil, salmon oil, anchovy-sardine oil, or other oil supplement
-  1 Cup ferret, mink or high-grade cat kibble
-  4-5 Tablespoons plain canned pumpkin
-  3 or 4 eggshells
-  1 Cup fat trimmings (uncooked; I save trimmed fat for just this purpose)

Puree the chicken with the fat, kibble and eggshells; add water until you make a thin gravy. Pour the mix into a pot and cook for 30 minutes, or until it has the consistency of cream or thick gravy. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. You may omit the kibble if desired. To store, pour into ice cube trays and freeze. Store cubes in plastic freezer bags, and thaw one-cube servings as needed. (microwavable)

Other additions to include: boiled or raw hearts, livers, or other meats.

Once thawed to serve, you may mix in heat-stable medications or supplements, if necessary.

Erinn Whitmore is a longtime ferret owner, often dedicating herself to special needs ferrets. She is the author of numerous articles on animal nutrition, a founder of the internet forum Ferret Harmony and also the author of the award winning blog, Mustelamania. Check out Erinn's many projects at <http://mustelamania.wordpress.com/> and on Facebook.

Jimmydog Design Group Celebrates its 10-Year Anniversary

Winston-Salem, N.C. —Jimmydog Design Group, a family-owned portrait and graphic design studio, celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2012. Since its founding in January 2002, portrait artist Todd Belcher and creative director Stephanie Belcher have collaborated to create a company that reflects their love of animals through custom pet portraits, volunteer efforts to promote the care and welfare of homeless animals, and even the company name.

The husband-and-wife team chose the name Jimmydog Design Group after their beloved dog Jimmy, who they rescued as a puppy. For 12 years, he filled their lives with joy. (Sadly, he passed away in 2003.)

Over the past decade, as the Jimmydog Design Group grew, Todd quickly gained recognition for his colorful, stylistic interpretations and his ability to create a composite portrait from multiple photographs. He draws and paints every custom portrait by hand, taking advantage of his exceptional artistic gift to convey the unique spirit and likeness of his subjects.

The Jimmydog Design Group also comprises a full-service graphic design studio, which specializes in design, redesign and art direction for market-savvy business and consumer magazines. As an award-winning graphic artist, Stephanie has more than 20 years of experience in designing trade and custom publications with timeliness, creative quality and precision.

dogs UNLEASHED in NORTH CAROLINA

Among their many volunteer efforts, Stephanie and Todd participate in Winston-Salem, North Carolina's Art Unleashed!, a fundraising auction to benefit the Forsyth County Humane Society. The annual public art exhibition of decorated dogs and colorful cats are displayed in the Twin City's downtown. Dozens of three-foot-tall white fiberglass statues are adorned by selected artists and auctioned off, with proceeds going to programs for local homeless and neglected dogs and cats. Todd was among the artists in 2006 and 2008 who painted a pet for the event, which has raised more than \$100,000.



Rescue Partners Program

Jimmydog's Rescue Partners program helps animal rescue missions with their fund-raising efforts by contributing 10 percent to the group for each portrait it sells. Any not-for-profit group in the United States raising money for the care of abused, neglected, and homeless animals is eligible to participate.



Endorsing Animal Welfare Organizations

Jimmydog Design Group proudly supports animal welfare organizations including the Forsyth Humane Society and Best Friends Animal Society. If you would like to volunteer to improve the lives of the animals around us, Stephanie and Todd wholeheartedly recommend these animal welfare organizations. Please visit their websites to learn more about how you can help our furry friends.

American Humane Association

www.americanhumane.org

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

www.guiding-eyes.org

Best Friends Animal Society

www.bestfriends.org

Humane Society of the United States

www.hsus.org

Forsyth Humane Society

www.forsythhumane.org

For more information about the Jimmydog Design Group and high quality images, contact Stephanie Belcher at 336-201-7475 or stephanie@jimmydog.com. You can also contact Jimmydog at www.jimmydog.com. Follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/jimmydogpetportraits

Treat Your Dogs But Keep 'Em Healthy



Written by
Stephanie
Goldberg Glazer

Babka, C.E.C. (Chief Executive Canine)
I'm a dog, so of course, I love treats. When I was adopted in October 2011, my humans had never had a dog – or any other pet. Well, there was one ill-fated bird, but that is another story. Luckily for me, they are so good to me. They are obsessed with my health and well being (not to mention my ability to cuddle and my sheer cuteness).

Having a dog come into your life is a wonderful thing, as I learned firsthand last October. However, having never had a dog (or cat, or anything else I had to take care of), figuring it all out was a bit stressful. One thing I knew for sure was that this little mutt, who narrowly escaped death row, was in my life for good, and I was going to spoil her. I also knew that I was going to have to head down the training road, and that would require treats. Lots and lots of treats.

Being a newbie in the dog world, I looked to my friends for advice. I read internet dog forums. I bought all sorts of highly-rated treats and proceeded to adjust to a dog-walking, dog-feeding, dog-training, dog-everything life.

One day, I noticed that my dog Babka was getting sick. She had diarrhea with some frequency, which I took to just be a normal part of a dog's life. (Don't judge me. I didn't know better.) I realized many of the treats I was giving Babka had been made in China, or were made with ingredients I couldn't pronounce. I slowly began to realize that she needs to eat the way we eat. Not exactly the same foods, but with the same level of healthfulness.

I immediately changed my focus to things that are good for her, instead of just things she likes. We all like fatty junk food, because it tastes good. Apparently dogs are no different. They like junk food, but it doesn't mean they should eat it.

I spoke to Lisa Feinstein, DVM at Plantation Animal Hospital and she explained to me that many dogs she sees are overweight. Dr. Feinstein explained to me that because pet food is much less regulated than human food, it makes things more difficult to navigate. "You know how you see food and treats labeled holistic?" she asked. "Well, that really doesn't mean anything. There is no oversight into that. They are typically labeled that way to make people think they are organic."

It seems that the market is getting more difficult to navigate by the minute. So, what is a concerned pet parent to do? "Look for low fat treats," says Dr. Feinstein, "the more natural the better." Generally, things that are good for humans are good for dogs. Things such as fruits and vegetables, with the exception of onions, garlic, grapes, raisins and avocado. Most people know that caffeine and alcohol can be deadly for dogs, as well as chocolate, but not everyone knows about other hidden food dangers, like macadamia nuts. Of course, good-for-you things like bananas, blueberries and watermelon (take out the seeds first!) can be a nice treat for your dog.

The moral of the story is that we need to be as vigilant with our pets' foods and treats as we are with our own. Read labels, do research and make informed decisions. If in doubt, ask your vet.

Stephanie Goldberg Glazer is the owner of Babka Bars, LLC, www.babkabars.com, an all-natural gourmet dog treat company. Stephanie is committed to animal rescue and donates a portion of each sale to rescue groups. Her dog, Babka, writes her own blog on the website about the trials and tribulations of being a spoiled, well-loved mutt.

Dr. Lisa Feinstein has been practicing since 1999 and has a Masters in Public Health as well as her DVM from Tufts.

Falling Felines: Cat Defenestration Explained

Written by Alexis Henry

“What is the terminal velocity of a plummeting cat?” Ever wonder why cats land on their feet? The Radiolab story (Taking the Plunge) is a great piece about cats falling out of NYC windows and walking away unscathed. Fascinating!

A research paper titled “The Feline Highrise Syndrome” in The Veterinarian Medical Journal (AVMA) explains that cats falling out of windows in NYC is more common than you would think. In a 5 month summer period 132 cats fell out of windows-roughly 4 cats a day. Amazingly those who fell from 9 stories or higher were unharmed. One cat fell from 32 stories and walked away with minor injuries. Ironically, those that fell from a medium height 5-9 stories suffered the most severe injuries. Weird? The record fall is 42 floors and the cat was completely unharmed! Crazy!

How do they do that?

In “Taking the Plunge” they interview Anne, who works at the Midtown Animal Hospital and a physicist to get some insight. When a cat falls from a window they instinctively know to “first turn your front half over, bring your back legs around.” They fall faster and faster, accelerating to 60mph. Gravity is pulling down and the peak pull is 5-9 floors for a cat, and after 9 floors they hit equilibrium between the pull of gravity and wind resistance. The cat “cruising speed.” Terminal velocity. Instead of the wind pushing down causing acceleration, now, the wind resistance slows the cat down. At terminal velocity, the acceleration sensation is gone, the cats relax, stretch out like Rocky the Flying Squirrel and hit the ground with less impact. Sadly, a cat falling from the 6th floor doesn't have enough time for this cruising speed transformation.

The next section of the story explains the physics of falling and concludes with an interesting tale of “gravity's hero” a woman who survived Niagara Falls in a barrel, but later suffers a tragic demise.

As New Yorkers we need to be extra careful to keep our cats away from open windows! Never leave an open window without a screen especially if you live on a floor within the flying kitty danger zone.

Written by
Alexis Henry



Social Media Cats

Recently, I have been going “native” pertaining to @NYCatExaminer on Twitter and Fursbook (it's like Facebook, but for animals). As cat owners we don't get to go to dog parks and meet other cat owners. Social media gives NY Cat Lovers a lively place to socialize with other “anipals” from the comfort of their homes.

While exploring these sites I came across an interesting cat phenomenon: international secret societies of cats! Twitter offers a playground for social media's “Anipals.” Anipals is a term coined to mean an interactive character or personality built around an animal: real or fictitious.

Generally, in the cat community, it is your cat's mischievous secret life. This isn't just p**** footing around. This is serious business. Many associations of cats have formed with honor codes, which they follow diligently. One order of cats the #WLF (Whiskas Liberation Front) is an “international collective of socialist cats,” recognized by their berets. The WLF fights against oppression of cats and advocates for high quality treats aka “dreamies”, soft cushions and plenty of naps. Want to join? “look for the berets” and find your way. When I asked a member about the secret order, they replied, “We are all utterly pawsome!” After spending time on the front, I must say, “I agree!” NY Cat Lovers, check it out!

Alexis Henry, aka: “The Cat Whisperer”, is a writer and cat lover. She runs her own successful pet care business, Power to the Pets! In her free time she loves playing with her two black cats Fern and Olive, writing and exploring music, art and culture in NYC. For more information on Power to the Pets! and her current writing projects check out her website: www.punkytriumph.com.



Written by Dobie Houson

10 Things *Your Animal Companion Wants You to Know*

-  Be faithful—Be true to yourself, to your word, and to your commitment to me. I need to be able to trust you.
-  Be love—Surround yourself with love so you can in turn surround me with unconditional love as I do you.
-  Be clear—Before you ever bring me into your home, be clear about your intent, about what you want, and about what you intend to give back to me. Then ask yourself if you are ready to do what it takes to care for me.
-  Be wise—Know what my needs are. Equip yourself with knowledge about what I require nutritionally, physically, mentally, emotionally, and, if you can, spiritually. Be creative in finding solutions outside of the traditional. And be aware that I need balance.
-  Be there—Do not bring me into your life if you cannot be with me physically. While I do sleep a good amount, my waking hours without you can sometimes be lonely unless I have another companion.
-  Be aware—Know that my needs may change as I grow older. Be cognizant of the slightest changes in my state of being. And be ready to address them holistically.
-  Be kind—Always. I have a reason for everything I do, and you may not be aware of my purpose in any given moment.
-  Be compassionate—Your needs and desires are not more important than mine. Always remember that I have a purpose and destiny that is as important to me as yours is to you.
-  Be consistent—Provide me with regularly scheduled feed, care, nurturing, timing. Patterns are important to me, as is knowing what to expect.
-  Be the change—Be the change you want to see in the world. Speak up against abuse and neglect. Help others to change inappropriate attitudes and behaviors. Be a role model for love and compassion.

The Art of Communicating with Your Animal Companions

Want to form a more connected bond with your animal companion? One of the most profound ways is to learn to communicate with them and speak their language. From my experience all animal species communicate through telepathy using their minds, thoughts, and feelings to convey a message.

Once you have trained your mind or your intuition to receive messages they may take many forms. Animals communicate in pictures, feelings, emotions, and concepts. You can then translate these inner impressions in ways that we (and other humans) can understand.

Translation and trust are the two biggest obstacles in addition to training yourself to quiet your mind in order to receive messages. Translation is tricky because words, images and feelings can be translated several ways. For example you may get an image of a horse grazing in a meadow and assume that he or she is hungry and would like food when the reality is that the horse is simply showing you what he or she is doing at that moment. Trust can be a challenge because when you are a beginner you may not always trust or understand what you hear. It still happens to me and I've been communicating with animals for 15 years.

The most important thing to remember is to have patience and compassion as you're learning this new skill. It takes time and practice but your intuition is like a muscle. The more you use it the stronger it will get. Second, believe in your heart that you have the ability to communicate with animals. Everyone can. It is not just for the gifted so give it a shot!! Your animal companion will love it and the reward is a stronger bond and a deeper sense of connection and love for both of you!

The Basic Steps of Animal Communication

🐾 Clear your mind - In order to receive messages you must learn to clear and quiet your mind and keep it cleared. Begin by practicing meditation. Get comfortable in a quiet place that is free of distractions. Close your eyes and breathe deeply and rhythmically. Then focus on connecting with your animal. Visualize a stream of energy from your heart to theirs. Feel your animal connecting to you. Sense the flow between the two of you. Don't force things, just let it unfold. Your only goal is to quiet yourself and keep your mind clear.

🐾 Being Specific - Some animal communicators suggest asking permission for example asking your animal if you can talk to them. I generally just focus on the animal, clear my mind, ask the question, and wait to hear the response. Be patient, it can take time for a response. So keep your mind clear while you are waiting. And remember to trust what you hear. I find that it's helpful to sometimes keep pen and paper near to jot notes. But when you're beginning that will break the connection to your animal companion. When you are done communicating you can thank your animal companion for sharing their feelings. (I usually forget to do this step.)

Don't get discouraged if nothing happens. Just keep practicing!!!

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.





Two years ago while on Facebook with Dapper Dog and Classy Cat my animal community page I met online Liliana Danel Almeida. She opened my eyes to all the abuse and cruel issues pertaining to animals around the world. I was stunned, amazed and saddened so I started to focus more time on helping share the awareness of these cruel acts thru petition signing, circulation and postings.

One day Lilly posted a picture of a dog that was going to be put to sleep that evening. As countless times before I showed the picture to my husband and was waiting for his “No”, we have 2 cats and enough on our plate. To my surprise he said “Yes, get that dog” and that began the new life of Beauregard or as I call him Bowie/Beau.

Bowie arrived at our home via Buddy’s transport from GA on 10-10-10 and it was immediate love. Not so much with Maurice and Cassie our 2 rescue cats, but that is still a working process. Bowie is my shadow!

Fast forward to July 2012, Lil and I decided to finally meet. It was time for a road trip for Bowie, Glenn and I to Laval, Quebec. Living in the USA, CT, the trip was going to be about 6 hours long. Bowie’s first long trip in the SUV tricked out especially for him. Actually this vehicle is Beau’s car as we refer to it now.

I was apprehensive due to the fact that Lil had two little dogs Nanner’s and Shenna and I wanted them to all get along. We booked 2 nights at the Best Western in Laval and arrived early Saturday afternoon. Bowie walked right through the front door of the hotel and was a well behaved dog; to the point that I can say my children never entered a hotel so calmly and gracefully. The Best Western was fantastic with clean rooms, a pool, great complimentary breakfast and very comfortable beds. Note to anyone that travels.....check out Best Western’s if you are bringing your fur babies.

Next stop to Lil and Antonio’s house, we were all excited. It was beyond wonderful to finally hug this amazing person that Lil is and meet her husband and two dogs. Into the fenced in backyard we went and I let Bowie off the leash. I held my breathe. Wow Nanner’s, Shenna and Beau were like long lost cousins. Not a growl out of them, they played and wagged their happy tails. It was PURRFECT as you would say in the cat world. We had a wonderful meal waiting for us and we just chatted, relaxed and caught up on everything.

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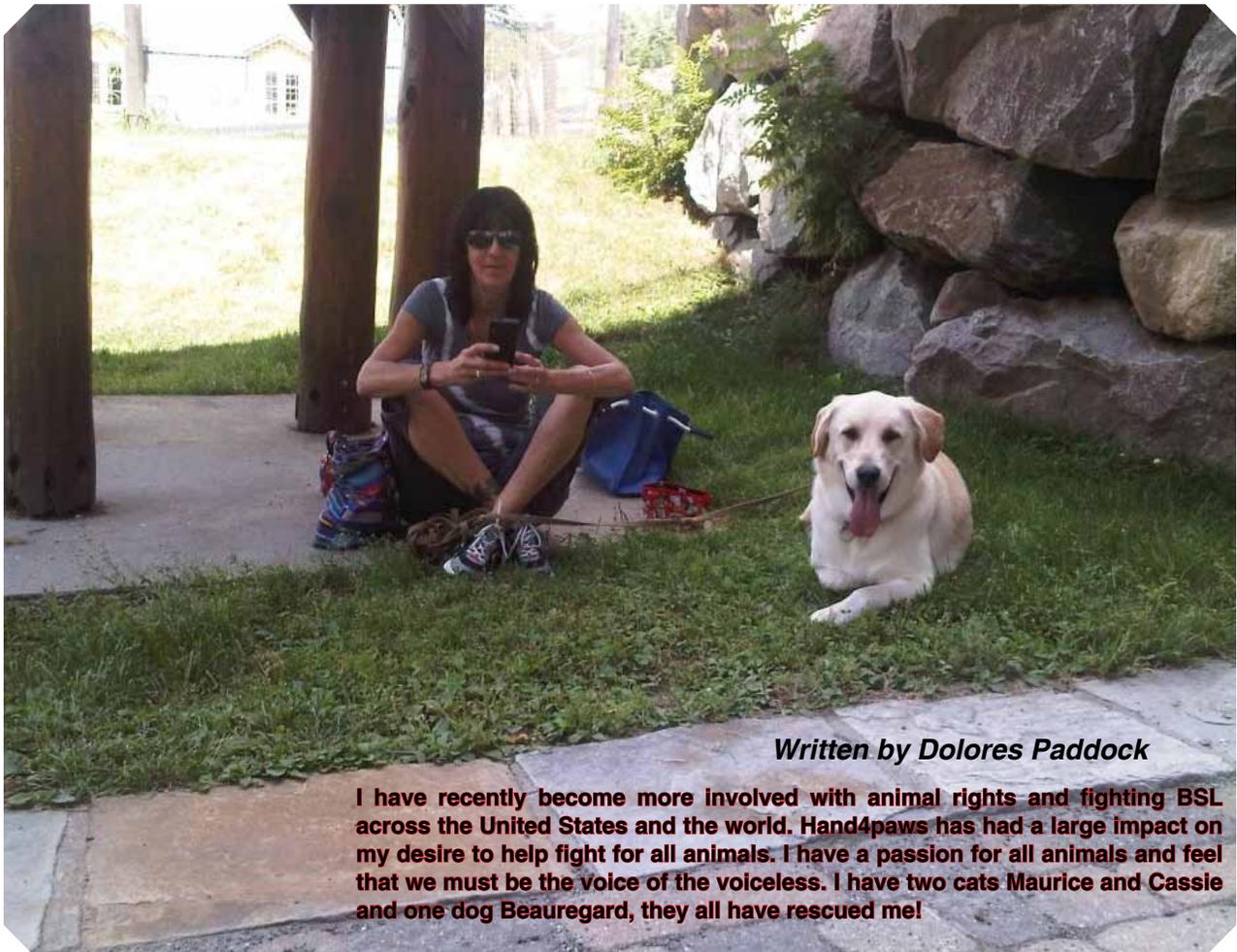
Sunday we picked up Lil and Antonio and drove 1 ½ hrs. to Mont Tremblant which is an amazing ski resort. Dogs are allowed there so of course Bowie was with us. He again traveled well and we walked around and ate lunch outside and he was just so obedient and well behaved I was so happy. Another great day ending with dinner at Lil and Antonio's and relaxing watching the dogs play. Swimming in their pool and just enjoying each other's company.

The two nights flew by, in the fall we hope for a repeat only this time for a few extra days if possible. Beau/Bowie traveled so well I do not think I will ever go on a road trip without him. Lil sent us the perfect dog and she is a special, cherished friend.

So anyone that reads this article before you feel you must board or get a house sitter for you dog check out Best Western's and other dog friendly hotels. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Enjoy the rest of 2012. Remember treat your animals with the respect you expect from other humans you interact with. Dogs and cats give unconditional love; we need to return that unconditional love to them. Also if you see any acts or form of animal cruelty please report it, don't ignore it, we are the voice of the voiceless. If you are wondering Maurice and Cassie had 2 ½ blissful days running thru the house and playing with a great cat sitter that is also a neighbor. They also enjoyed their little vacation without Bowie around.

Here are a few pictures from the trip. One of Dolores and Beau and one of Beau in the car.



Written by Dolores Paddock

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!

PUPPY MILLS

Written by Dolores Paddock



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

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

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

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

ADOPT! CLOSE DOWN THE PUPPY MILLS!



For More Information contact:

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Canine Sports Massage Seminar

The Canine Coach! 4418 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park
Sunday, November 18, 2012 1:00pm-3:30pm

Includes information on rehabilitation, conditioning and massage therapy for dogs of all fitness levels.

Pre-registration is required.

Directions to The Canine Coach!
4418 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park

Located on the backside of the building, off of the loading dock.

--from Excelsior, turn north onto Kipling Ave
--turn left at W 36 1/2 St.
--on your left you will see an orange sign directing you into the lower parking lot (next to Park Health Rehab--4415 West 36 1/2 Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416)
--park at the far end near the green dumpster
--there are stairs at the right side of the loading dock just past the trucks, and a ramp on the other side of the trucks



Canine Massage:
By Paula Prickett CSMT
This seminar offers 15 hands on working spots

Paula Prickett is a certified Canine Sports Massage Therapist (CSMT). After completing her certification program at the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage, Paula started her canine massage business in 2010. Her clients include canine athletes of all types, dogs recovering from knee surgery, and geriatric dogs. Paula's approach to massage is one of natural principles, looking at the dog as a whole. Her goal is to provide all the benefits of massage and to help teach you how to be proactive with your dog's health.



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.

They never greet you with:

Man I have had a rotten day!

You know I could really use some space tonight!

What do you mean you forgot the milk?

Or my personal favorite...I could really use some *me* time tonight!

Nope, we own dogs because we are the center of their universe and we know that no matter how bad our day might have been, they are going to be happy to see us. They know when we are down, not feeling well, and they are there for us every time we need or want them. The problem is, in many cases we abuse this gift, sometimes on a small scale, other times on a much larger scale. Think about it, what animal do you know that someone can physically abuse, but turn right around and want affection from the same person just minutes later? Or willingly slink away when we rebuff them after a bad day and then take our bad day out on them? As with many human conditions, we tend to take for granted the things that are right in front of us, and in many cases our dogs fall right into that category. When we need them we enjoy them, even begin to expect their attention, but when that attention comes at the wrong time, we fail our dogs. Heck, I've even been told that simply living with a dog makes us less likely to have allergies and that you can expect to live about 7 years longer because of all this unconditional love!

So folks, as I sit here rambling on at my keyboard all I can really ask of you is to really consider what is happening the next time your furry four footed friend meets you at the door. And ask yourself a very simple question, is it me that deserves the dog or is it the dog who deserves me? All I can do is hope that if we begin to treat all the dogs out there better, maybe some of it will rub off on how we humans treat each other as well...

Using Essential Oils with Dogs



Written by Paula Prickett

General interest in essential oils has been increasing over the past few decades. Essential oils have many uses for people but they can also be used on your dogs. When using oils on your dog, make certain they are therapeutic grade oils. Popular oils for dogs include lavender, peppermint, frankincense and chamomile.

A dogs sense of smell is many times greater than a humans, and for that reason you should always dilute the essential oil with a "carrier" oil when you're using it on your canine friend. A carrier oil should be a high-grade oil such as apricot kernel oil and it's better to start with a higher dilution than a smaller one. For instance, I may add one drop of essential oil to nine drops of apricot kernel oil when I'm making a blend for a dog. Essential oils should always be stored in a cool place in a glass bottle that is amber, violet or blue because light will break down the oils.

I often use essential oils when I'm doing a dog massage. A peppermint blend helps ease muscle pain and a lot of dogs chose that blend when I'm working on them. Usually they'll indicate they like the oil blend by licking the bottle or some will even pick up the bottle they want used on them and bring it to you! If they don't want a certain oil blend used, they'll often turn their head away or avoid it. Out of respect for your four footed loved one, never use an essential oil on a dog if they don't want it.

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.

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Their Unconditional Love is Inspiration for Our Voice



PrettyBoy
December 1996-
December 26, 1998



MommaTogo
15 yrs old



Amelia Earhart aka MIA
July 1988 - August 2005



Tuffy
1973-
1981



ThrasherMan aka Fat Man
April 12, 1990 - Oct 13, 2002



Maxwell the Papaya King



CutiePie 11 yrs old
MommaTogo's Baby



MonkeyChow
June 2000 -
April 15, 2002



TabithaWitch SISTERS
April 8, 1989
March 21, 2004

ChillAnn
April 8, 1989
November 1998

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www.stymieccf.org

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VISIT

Ms.Pineapple's Playground

Pages 8 & 9

Be a Voice!



Photographer:
Gene Cannon (RIP)

Ms.Pineapple was rescued by a friend, owner of Thug Custom Cycles. She is grateful for her second chance without having to stay in a shelter.

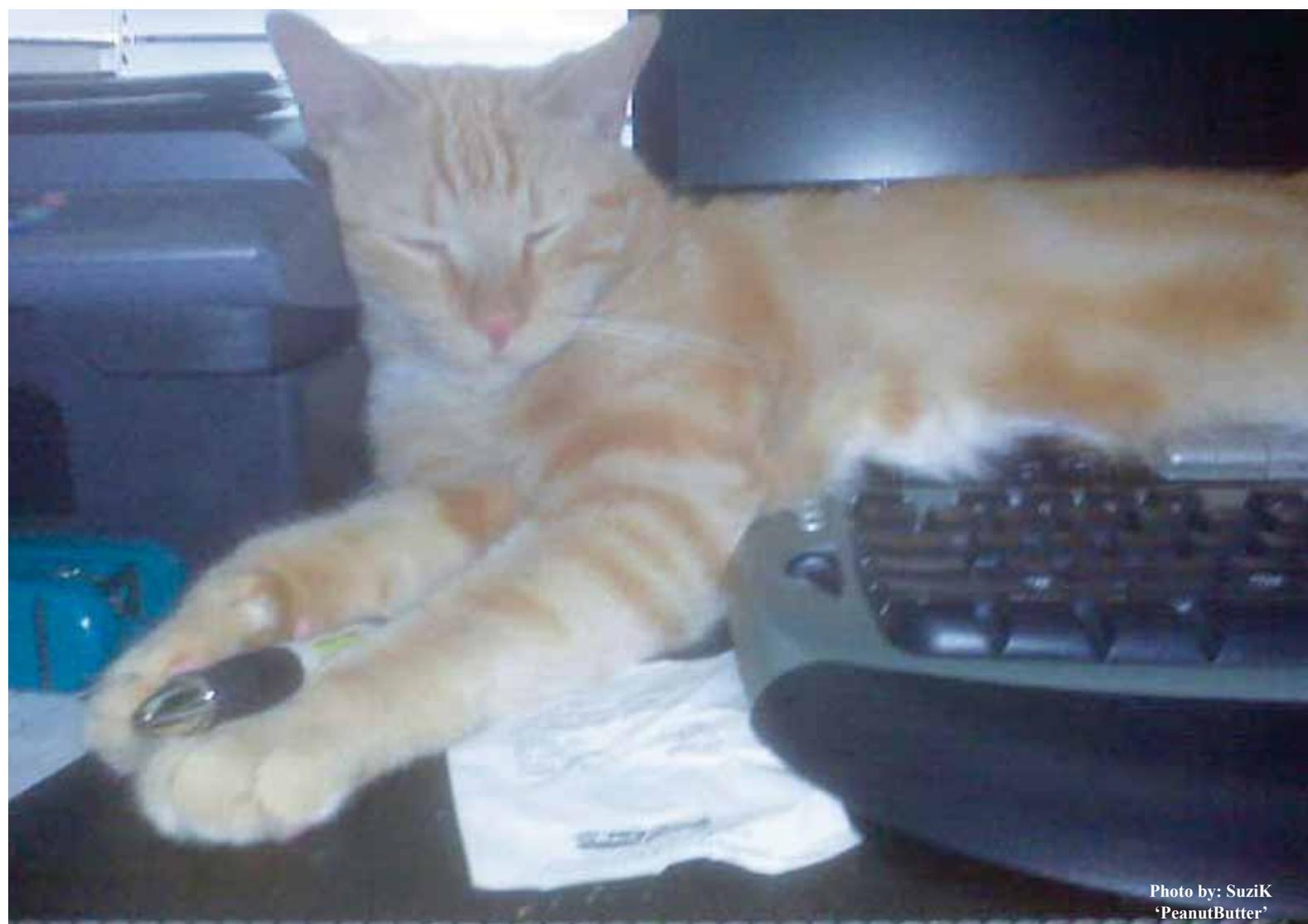
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