

Volume 2 Issue 1

American Pet



CATS, DOGS, FERRETS, GERBILS AND MORE

Magazine™

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



MISSKITTY

KARP

kolumn

WIN AN OIL PORTRAIT

**Count Your
Ferret In!**

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

Complimentary

PUBLISHING EDITOR

Suzin Karp
AmericanPet@usa.com

SENIOR PARTNER

GypsyPrince



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

LilyAnn Grace

CO-EDITOR

Dolores Paddock

SENIOR WRITER

MissKitty

INTERN

PeanutButter

CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dolores Paddock Dobie Houson
Christina Bournias Dorothy Wills-Raferly
Linda O. Johnston B.J. Taylor
Mike Deathe Mark Nunez, DVM
Carole Diane Heslin Mary Hone Michele Forto
Mark Arsenault Kandice Seitz Paula Prickett
Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue
Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc
Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation
American Ferret Association
iPet Memorial

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 Publishers Note



From The Desk of the Editor

Another year has come and gone AND our pets still need us.

Contributing to a rescue or Humane Society in any way helps. You can donate your time, money or items and what it all equals to ... = *Unconditional Love*.

Special attention goes to 'JaneyBlue' on the cover. She blessed us with her presence during an extended visit with American Pet Magazine's office staff. Her beautiful chirping made us smile and PeanutButter very inquisitive. I found him many times enjoying JaneyBlue's company. His Internship consists of learning more about other types of pets and he sure is great at what he does. We found a Forever Home for JaneyBlue with the parents of a Bird Rescuer. Much Thanks to them!

American Pet Magazine is very excited about Carole Diane Helsin's contribution. With a \$10 donation and a short essay about your favorite animal welfare organization, YOU can WIN an Oil Portrait AND all the funds are donated to your charity. Your portrait will also be featured in an upcoming issue. How awesome is that? Read about it on page 4 and visit www.bijouterie.us for entry.

Check out our Pet Celebrations page. We have informing articles about Responsible Pet Owners Month*, Pet Dental Health Month, Pet Theft Awareness Day, World Spay Day and National Poison Prevention Week. 'Charlie Bear Woofs' and shares his knowledge and experiences with you regarding National Professional Pet Sitters Week (page 11). Plus, just around the corner is April 2nd and for all you ferret owners and lovers, embrace National Ferret Day. You may read more about their census on page 16.

Ms. Pineapple's Playground is rocking with some great products on page 8. iPetMemorial has upgraded their App and Emily's Skin Soothers offers creams that are made from all-natural ingredients. aBalancedCanine donates proceeds from their pet products to dogs in need. Be sure to visit their websites for more information. Our contributors also have great Books in Print (page 12) for your reading enjoyment.

We encourage you to support our 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 hope you have an AmericanPet New Year!!

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

Suzin Karp

CONTENTS

On the Cover ...
Photographer: ©SuziK
'JaneyBlue'



features

- 4 Winter Weather Walks
- 6 Chasing Down a Dream
- 10 White Muzzles & Toeless Socks*
- 12 National Pet Dental Health
- 13 My Buddy & Me
- 15 10 Reasons *NOT* to Breed
- 17 Ferret Fitness Fun
- 20 Canine Body Language
- 24 Bestialty is Just WRONG!
- 25 Nat'l Poison Prevention
- 26 An Unanticipated Journey
- 27 World Spay Day
- 28 Horse Keeping 101



Page 4

WIN AN OIL PORTRAIT
ALL THE FUNDS GO TO
YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY!

departments

- 2 *The Publisher's Note*
- 4 *Win an Oil Portrait*
- 5 Pet Celebrations
- 8 Ms.Pineapple's
Playground
- 8 FURRY FINDS
- 8 Around the H₂O Bowl
- 9 MISSKITTY KARP *kolumn*
- 11 CharlieBear Woofs
- 14 Best in Print 2013
- 16 AFA Ferret Census
- 22 a Haiku for You
- 30 Pet Theft Awareness Day
- 31 Marketplace Directory
- 32 Social Media

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



CAROLE DIANE HESLIN

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



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

Winter Weather Walks

Written by Mary Hone

With the change in the weather, and shorter days, it's hard to get motivated to walk the dogs every day. When the sun is shining, and it's warm and dry, it's easy to get out and enjoy a walk. Not so much when it's cold, wet and dark.

So, a little creativity is called for. Rain, is particularly hard because dogs either hate getting wet, or they love it. Both of these create a problem. There is nothing worse than coming home with a wet, muddy, smelly dog. On the flip side of that, you can have a dog who is miserable and refuses to walk at all. I will watch the weather and plan fun activities with the dogs on days that I know are going to be good.

Waiting for a warm day when you live in a cold climate, might be asking for a lot. But a dry day, can be something to work with. We will go someplace where I can let the dogs run off leash. This really helps them practice their inner dog, and is great exercise. We have some favorite places that are close to us that are perfect. A dog park would be a great alternative too.



Roxy is little, and she really doesn't have lot of hair. When we go walking in the cold, I will put her jacket on so she doesn't get miserable. She will even walk through the snow, she doesn't like to stand in one spot in the snow however. Her little feet get cold just standing around.

Torrey on the other hand, has a big fluffy coat and loves the snow. She will run and jump, push the snow with her nose, and have a great time. Walking or hiking in the snow on a bright sunny day, is one of my favorites. If you get off the beaten path you can see bird and animal tracks, and the snow just sparkles in the sunlight. The air is crisp and fresh, and so invigorating.

So, all is not lost when it comes to walking your dog through the winter months. With a little fore thought and planning, everyone can still have a great time, and get that much needed exercise.

Roxy has brought so much joy into so many people lives. We share her adventures at www.rosythetravelingdog.com



PET CELEBRATIONS

January

- Adopt-a-Rescued-Bird Month
- 5 National Bird Day
- 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
- Responsible Pet Owners Month *(Page 10)*
- National Cat Health Month
- Pet Dental Health Month *(Page 12)*
- Adopt-a-Rescued Rabbit Month
- Homes for Birds Month
- 1 Groundhog Day
- 2 Hedgehog Day
- 14 Pet Theft Awareness Day *(Page 30)*
- 18-24 National Wildlife Week
- 20 Love your pet day (like Valentine's Day)
- 22 Spay Day USA *(Page 27)*
- 23 National & International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

March

- Adopt-a-Rescued-Guinea Pig Month *(Page 9)*
- 1 National Pig Day
- 1 National Horse Protection Day *(Page 28)*
- 3 What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs? Day
- 6-12 National Professional Pet Sitters Week *(Page 11)*
- 14 Learn about Butterflies Day
- 20-26 National Poison Prevention Week *(Page 25)*
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 23 National Puppy Day www.nationalpuppyday.org

April 2nd is National Ferret Day

Chasing Down a Dream ... Musher Robert Forto Sleds Towards the Iditarod w' Team Ineka

Written by ©Dorothy Wills-Raferly
Photography by ©Michele Forto

Excitement fills the frosty air as howls and barks echo out across the snowy trails. It's a time of when paws meet snow in a canine ballet across the wintery landscapes as the well-trained sled dogs do what they love to do – race! March signals “The Last Great Race”—the Iditarod! The sport of mushing is thrilling for both canine and human alike. Musher, trainer, and canine behaviorist Robert Forto of Willow, Alaska, has been busy preparing for his first Iditarod race in 2014. Forto is lead musher of Team Ineka (IN-eck-A) and, along with his teenage daughter, Nicole, hits the trails at every opportunity he gets to run the sled dogs and train for upcoming races.

The mushing lifestyle “plain and simple” is what Forto enjoys the most. “It's the countless hours spending time with 30 furry friends. It's teaching my kids a good set of values. It is getting outdoors and exploring. It is waking up at the crack of dawn and not sitting down till midnight,” says Forto, adding, “It is the privilege of literally living with a pack of sled dogs for the past 18 years. I have slept with them in the dog yard and on the trails. I have eaten with them, helped them welcome life, and cried when they passed away. It is learning so much from my dogs and passing that knowledge along to countless other dog owners all over the country.”

For Forto, the love of Huskies and mushing all began in 1994, when he “...drove from Portland, Oregon to the mountains of Georgia in my little 1975 Datsun 280Z to look at a couple of Siberian Husky puppies. The breeder introduced me to the dogs and said, ‘Do you want to go for a ride?’ We hooked up 10 dogs to an old sit-down Sacco cart and off we went! Within minutes I was hooked. I caught the mushing bug right then and there, and as they say the rest is history.”

In 2000, Forto met his future wife - Michele, over their interest in dogs. “She had just gone through a very rough time in that her husband had been killed in a motorcycle accident and left her with three little kids, Kyle, 8; Tyler, 5; and Nicole, who was almost 3. I fell in love with those kids from day one.” And his relationship with Michele turned from a friendship to marriage. Shortly after, they rescued a Siberian Husky from Washington they named “Ineka,” which Forto explains means “friend” in Native American dialect. “We brought him home, and within a day or two hooked him up to a sled and he knew exactly what to do! Soon Ineka became the kennel sergeant and would keep all the dogs in line. Ineka was that special dog and he and I formed an almost inseparable bond.” Team Ineka was born! “Over the next ten years or so, he was my best buddy. I told him my secrets and he listened.”

In about 2009, Ineka started suffering from canine Alzheimer's and he deteriorated quickly, but remained by Forto's side. In July of 2010, Forto and his daughter went to Alaska and bought a place in Willow. “Our dream was becoming a reality.” But just as they were ready to embark upon their future, Ineka made his journey North of Rainbow Bridge. Recalls Forto, “It was like him saying to me, ‘Okay, buddy. I did my job, now go up to Alaska and do yours.’” Forto still has Ineka's ashes and says, “He will travel along the trail in my sled when I do the Iditarod and I will spread his ashes at the finish line.”

The Fortos are a true mushing family. “My daughter Nicole ran her first race when she was 3! In addition to her first 100-mile race in February, she plans to run the junior Iditarod in 2014. My son Tyler (18) is my right-hand man. He is our main handler and has as many or more miles this fall than I do. He and I spend countless hours in the summer building doghouses and driving poles in the ground, etc. My wife, Michele, likes to run dogs, but would prefer to be the woman behind the scenes and is our biggest fan! She also spends time training the puppies as well.”

...Continued on Next Page

Dorothy Wills-Raferly is the hu-parent to five Siberian Huskies and a author of a children's book. She has also just launched a “Live Gib Strong” Canine Epilepsy Awareness campaign. Wills-Raferly, the co-host of “The Sibe Vibe” radio show broadcasts, with Forto, on Dog Works Radio. Contact her at FiveSibes@gmail.com or visit her blog at <http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>. She can also be found on Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews.

...Continued from Page 6

The biggest challenge to mushing, “besides not having enough hours in a day,” Forto says is money for the dog’s food budget. It takes over 30 pounds of meat and 20 pounds of dry (kibble) each day along with lots of fat, fish, moose, beaver in the winter to feed his sled dogs. Plus, there are the race entry fees. “We are always seeking individual sponsors that want to be a part of something special. No matter if it is a dollar or a \$1,000, we will do whatever we can to show these awesome people who help us along the way our thanks!”

To the novice eye, one may question how the dogs feel about the cold and running such distances over the Alaskan terrain. Says Forto, “These dogs are born to pull. It is amazing to watch. As the weather gets colder, the dogs know it’s almost time! There is more howling in the yard and pacing and barking. It’s like they are saying, ‘Okay, come on already! Let’s dance!’” Adds Forto, “Sled dogs are some of the most amazing athletes on the planet. They can run the equivalent of two marathons in a day, rest for just a few hours, and get up and do it again, day after day after day. These dogs love to pull. It is such an honor to be a part of their lives every day.”

As for provisions while out on the race trail, Forto says a sled is usually packed full of gear and food for both musher and dogs. When Forto stops to camp with the dogs overnight, there is a set routine of caring for the dogs that can take up to 45 minutes to do. “During that time, we get our dogs settled, remove booties, tend to sore feet and muscles, prepare and feed the dogs, lay down straw, let them rest, and repair any broken equipment on the sled.”

For many years Forto’s dream was to one day run the Iditarod. “After seeing my kids doing this with me and teaching them and learning from them and working with them every day, I realized that I am living the dream. Each day we wake up to one the greatest lives in the world. We may not be rich, but we have everything that we want. Sure it’s hard work. Damn hard work. But every day is a challenge. It never gets old and never boring. We have the unique opportunity to raise our kids in one of the most beautiful locations in the world, and we get to share this life with 30 of the most magnificent creatures on the planet.

I guess more than anything, I want to see my kids grow up as mature adults and have a great set of values that we have taught them. Things that we have taught them - like that work is a good thing and rewards will come ten-fold if you work for it. I can’t wait for the day when my kids have kids of their own and we take our grandchildren on runs along the trail and teach them the ways. Who could ask for anything more?”

You can read more about Forto and follow him and his Huskies at www.TeamIneka.com and on his Team Ineka Facebook page.



Iditarod Facts and Trivia. Did You Know...? *The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Museum is located in Wasilla, Alaska.*

The Iditarod is a sled dog race that runs from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. ... Iditarod means “distant place.”

March 3, 1973 was the first Iditarod race to Nome.

The Iditarod starts on the first Saturday of March each year and ends when the last musher crosses the finish line in Nome.

The sled dog team average is 16 dogs; meaning more than 1,000 dogs head out to Nome from Anchorage, Alaska!

In 2004, the largest number of mushers to finish a race was 77.

A red lantern is awarded to the last musher to finish Iditarod.

Musher Rick Swenson is the only five-time winner, spanning three decades.

Dallas Seavey, 25, is the youngest musher to win the Iditarod, finishing in first place in 2012.

In 1983, Rick Mackey won the race and became the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father’s accomplishment.

In 2007, Lance Mackey won. Additionally, all three wore the number 13 when they crossed the finish line in first position, and father and sons all three won in their sixth Iditarod race.

Norman Vaughan was the oldest person to ever finish the Iditarod, with his last finish taking place in 1990 when he was age 84.

In March 2000, Karen Ramstead of The North Wapiti Kennels became the first resident Canadian woman and the first Canadian purebred team of Siberian Huskies to participate in the Iditarod. Their finish in 2008 became the third fastest in Iditarod history for a purebred Siberian Husky team.

Through harsh, bitter cold weather, trekking over 1,150 miles of mixed terrain from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska, the Iditarod dog is one of the best canine athletes in the world.

The Iditarod race DVD has won an Emmy at the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for the past five years.

**Sources: Iditarod.com, Iditarod Trail Committee, Northwapiti.com, Discovery.com/tv/Iditarod, AlaskaScenes.com*

Ms. Pineapple's

Playground



EMILY Skin Soothers

Emily Skin Soothers products are natural and effective skin care solutions for babies, adults and our furry friends, powered by herbs. Their products are made with sensitive skin in mind.

They NEVER contain:

- 🐾 Parabens 🐾 Petroleum Products
- 🐾 Colorants 🐾 SLS
- 🐾 Preservatives
- 🐾 Artificial Fragrances
- 🐾 Additives
- 🐾 Synthetic Ingredients



Soothes and beautifies skin affected by:

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

www.emilyskinsoothers.com

NatuRepel donates to dogs in need



NatuRepel is a product of A Balanced K9, a company dedicated to help canines through the art of natural living. All natural canine flea and tick repellent, NatuRepel, offering a safe choice for people and canines to enjoy the great outdoors. Formulated with only premium essential oils including lemongrass and cedar wood, NatuRepel is not only healthy for dogs, but also healthy for the environment. For more information please visit their website www.abalancedk9.com

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

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

www.iPetMemorial.com



iPet Memorial APP

Around the H₂O BOWL

Beer for Beasts III Benefits The Humane Society of NYC

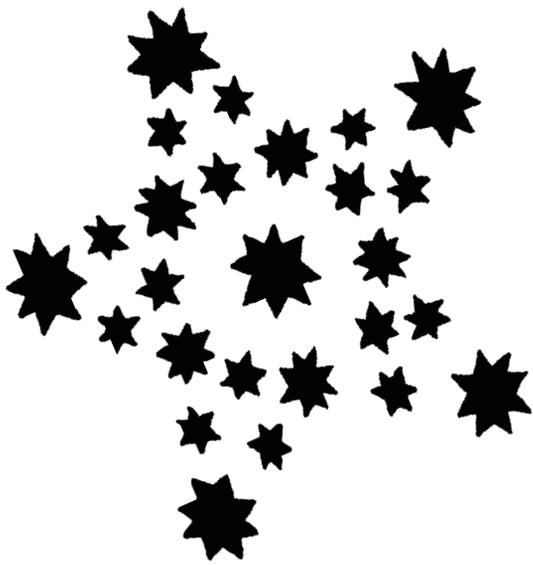
Event date TBD 2013
Brooklyn, NYC
BeerForBeasts.com

Please visit www.BeerForBeasts.com or follow @Beer4Beasts on Twitter for updates on the upcoming event. Also refer back to this page for a determined date.

The Las Vegas Pet Expo

Saturday February 9, 2013 from 10am to 6pm
Las Vegas, NV
VegasPetExpo.com

Visit the AnimalFoundation.com booth. The Animal Foundation is a non-profit organization operating Nevada's largest animal shelter (Lied Animal Shelter) and animal adoption center.



Have an AmericanPet New Year!!



MISSKITTY KARP

kolumn

Dear MissKitty,

Where can I find a skin softener with all natural ingredients? My skin gets rough and flakey then it starts to crack. It seems to get worse during the cold months. When it gets to that point, I am in so much pain. I have tried many different products and still have no luck. Do you have any recommendations for a daily treatment? I am at a loss. Thank You!

Regards, Orly in Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Orly,

There is a natural and effective skin care solution for babies, adults and animals that is powered by herbs. Emily Skin Soothers helps to soothe skin affected by many types of disorders. See our 'Furry Finds' section of Ms. Pineapple's Playground on page 8 for more information. Good Luck!

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.

Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue (www.MGPR.com)
World of Pets Expo & Educational Experience

Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD
WorldOfPets.org/MDmain.shtml

Please come and join **MGPR** @ the Pet Expo on **Sunday, Jan 27, 2013**. We will be hosting our 2nd Guinea-Pig-A-Thon, featuring a costume contest, biggest pig, fastest eater, maze running and many more events. Please check our website for times and details.

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc.
Petsmart Adoptions

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.

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL

White Muzzles & Toeless Socks

Written by Christina Bournias

It baffles my mind and eats away at the pit of my stomach for as long as I can remember.

Millions and millions of older dogs in shelters all over the nation, homeless and left to die. A companion that has given over a decade of unconditional love and affection—is now waiting their turn in line to die in a shelter alone? It makes no sense to me. Abandoned—all because their owner didn't want them anymore. With special thanks to 'dog's best friend', not many other people will want them either.

Those people are running. Running from the real truth. Running from that one day when they will have to put their beloved pet to sleep. They run from the pain. They run from reality. They might care about that animal, but may not be strong enough to do anything about it when your dog needs you the most.

Yes, there are severe cases and heartbreaking stories about losing everything. I am well too familiar with this state of affairs. Often, there is no other choice but to relinquish their animal. But, please find a loving home for your pet yourselves. After all, that dog has given everything it had to offer you and now, you don't want them anymore? Like an old pair of toeless socks that get discarded after time, that dog is usually surrendered to an already overcrowded shelter.



I'm sorry, but there is always a way. To me, it's not about money, it's about making priorities and good decisions from the start. When I adopted my first dog, I was asked what my plans were for the next 14 years of my life, minimum. In good times or bad. Sickness or health. Money, no money. I adopted my dog. Despite the odds, he was mine.

As the economic climate remains uncertain, it just might be my own cardboard box that I will live in. However, it will be my dogs that will keep my feet warm. I couldn't imagine how anyone in their right mind could relinquish a pet that they have had for over 13 years?! As the tale of a dog goes, they are capable of expressing enough emotion to be considered a member of the family. They are your witness, your protector...your guide. They aren't just a dog. They your dog. Together, you make history. You get set in your ways. They just get more loyal. You have enough. They can care less. You grow impatient. They wag their tail. You get crabby. They get sweeter. That's how it goes.

And then it dawned on me. There are dog owners, then there are dog people. Big difference. I realize now why the rescue organization called me a dog person...It is the dog person that remains strong, when it's time to let go. It is the dog owner that simply owns a dog, but it is the dog person that will stay with them until their last breath.

I want to remind my readers that your sweet, old dog is the same pup you fell in love with when you got them. Most importantly, there are many resources to consider if you need kind, gentle places to contact for assistance specifically for an aging dog:

-  www.srdogs.com/Pages/agencies.sr.html
-  www.alldogswelcome.com/senior-dog-rescues.html
-  www.aarff.com/blog/dr-aarff-com/rescue-groups-with-a-special-focus-on-helping-senior-dogs
-  www.srdogs.com
-  www.muttville.org

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

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

woof@brilliant-orange.com

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

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

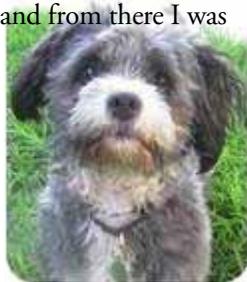
10 AmericanPetMagazine.com

February is
**RESPONSIBLE PET
OWNERS MONTH**



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

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*



Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old muttiggree 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

Pretty cool story, huh?

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

Do you know that March 6-12 is **National Pet Sitters Week**? When Mom and Dad go away, they still use the same wonderful pet sitter to care for me. Her name is Emily, and she is SO sweet. I just love her. Oh, sure, Mom and Dad could board me at the vet's or have a family member or friend come and check on me, but here are the reasons why you might want to find a pet sitter that your fur babies can love:

Top 5 Reasons to Use a Professional Pet Sitter

 I like to stay in my own home with my own bed, toys, and food bowls. I'm comfortable here. Kennels are okay, but they can also be noisy, full of different smells, and filled with lots of other animals that might expose me to a cold or cough or something.

 I get personalized attention just for me, me, me. When Emily comes over she's all about petting me, loving me, playing with me, feeding me. I get her all to myself and I love it.

 The lived-in appearance brings peace of mind. Even with Mom and Dad away, lights get turned on and off, mail and newspapers are brought in (I don't read them—I save them for Mom), trash is taken out to the curb and brought back in, blinds are opened and closed. It just feels...well...like home!

 Sticking to my routine and feeding schedule reduces stress, mine and Mom and Dad's. Emily does everything on the list: she feeds me just the right amount, tosses little bits of treats around my room to "find it" when I go to bed, turns my night light on, and tunes the radio to a low volume of rock 'n' roll. She even calls, sends texts and sometimes a picture of me to Dad's phone.

 And last, (this is the best reason): I'm here to greet them after their long car drive or hours of flying. They unlock the front door, step inside, and announce, "Charlie Bear, we're home!" I jump into their arms and give them licks and kisses. We're all happy.

Oh, you could say the cost of hiring a pet sitter is a lot, but consider the cost of boarding at a kennel, or worrying if the neighbors will come by on time. And there's something to be said about not having to depend upon family and friends who say they are willing to do it, but sometimes it's an inconvenience. So, sure, the cost of hiring a pet sitter may be a few bucks, but Mom and Dad say *peace of mind is priceless*.

The next time you have to go away and can't take your furry baby with you, give Pet Sitters International a try. They have a great site where you can find just the right match of a qualified pet sitter for your pets using their Official Pet Sitter Locator™ at petsit.com/locate. Mom did it for kicks and it brought up 16 pet sitters in our area with websites and email addresses and everything. The next time your Mom and Dad go away on vacation, woof it up a little with a pet sitter of your very own and *have a frolicking good time*.

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

Keep Your Pet's Smile Healthy with Dental Check-Ups

Dorothy Wills-Raferly is the hu-parent to five Siberian Huskies and an author of a children's book. She has also just launched a "Live Gib Strong" Canine Epilepsy Awareness campaign. Wills-Raferly, the co-host of "The Sibe Vibe" radio show broadcasts on Dog Works Radio. Contact her at FiveSibes@gmail.com or visit her blog at <http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>. She can also be found on Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews.

Pearly whites are not just for humans...oral health is also an important part of your dog's overall health care. With February being **National Pet Dental Health Month**, it's a good time to talk about keeping your canine's teeth and gums in top form. While we should tend to our pet's dental health all year long, let's take this time as a reminder to review our pet's dental health regimen.

If you do not already brush your dog's teeth, now is a good time to start. There are several ways to give a "brushing," including the use of a soft finger brush, traditional pet toothbrush, a dental sponge, or dental cleansing pads. There are also a variety of flavors of toothpaste to choose from including mint, chicken, salmon, and even peanut butter flavor to please even the most demanding pet palate!

Having strong teeth and healthy gums are very important for your dog. Did you know that most dogs who suffer from dental pain will most likely not show it? According to www.PetDental.ca, "Periodontal (gum) disease is the number one diagnosed problem in dogs and cats. By the age of just two, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have some form of periodontal disease."



*'Wolf' of the FiveSibes opens up
and says "ahhh" for the toothbrush!
Photo by ©Dorothy Wills-Raferly*

As a result, it's even more important that pet parents check their dog's teeth and gums regularly. If anything seems odd or you notice a new bump, broken tooth, or even an unusual odor to their breath, be sure to get it checked out with your veterinarian as soon as possible. As with people, broken or rotting teeth can lead to other health issues such as gum disease, irritation, discomfort, inflammation, infection, and can also affect their liver, heart, and kidneys.

To brush your dog's teeth, start with some pet-friendly toothpaste on your finger and let them smell it, and even give a little lick. Once you've introduced your dog to the toothpaste, it's time to show him the toothbrush, finger brush, or sponge and then slowly and gently begin brushing the front teeth. Or, you can give them a good clean wiping with a pet dental cleansing pad. For dogs with a heavier buildup of tartar, you can speak with your vet about performing a deep cleaning on your dog's teeth. While some dogs seem to really enjoy the taste of toothpaste and don't seem to mind a brushing, there are some dogs who don't really like it, and may even become stressed.

Try to make the brushing session a fun event for your dog. Take it slow, and incorporate a lot of praise accompanied by some reassuring and gentle pets. And, with each tooth successfully brushed, give lots of praise! You can also give them a light gum massage and do take a good peek at their gumlines to check for any nasty tartar buildup, unusual discoloration, bleeding, or any holes or broken teeth. If you notice any of these things, it's time to give the vet a call for further inspection.

There are also some dental cleaning aids available such as specialized treats and dog food, and even dental toys that are designed to help keep your canine companion's teeth and gums healthy. You can talk with your own vet or check out the American Veterinarian Medical Association's (<https://www.avma.org>) videos on the proper way to brush your dog's teeth. You can also view them on their AVMAvets video channel on YouTube.

With a little preventative care, you dog's smile and his oral health will be healthy and bright.



STYMIE CANINE CANCER FOUNDATION

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

My Buddy & Me NATURAL PET STORE

Save-the-Date

The Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation is opening the first nonprofit natural pet store in Colorado to help fund research & family pets with Cancer as well as increasing the public's knowledge on Canine Cancer. My Buddy & Me is a DBA of the Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation and one more way for us to help with our missions. It is one of the first nonprofit pet stores where net proceeds will go to Fight K9 Cancer.

ALL DAY On Cyber Monday, November 26th, when you shop at www.kissoffcancer.net, 25% of the net proceeds will go to the foundation. They have great shirts not only for canine cancer but cancer to appeal to everyone. January 13, 2013 there will be a "Fresh Start" to the New Year; health, fitness and diet for your dog fundraiser at CRCG in Denver, CO www.dog-swim.com. Proceeds will go to help the Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation and Nakio Underdog Rescue. We want to thank CRCG, Deserving Dog real food for your dog www.deservingdog.com and Paws and Read www.pawsandread.com (now available on the nook).

We thank you for your continued support.

The Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation

Contact: *Aimee Thompson at 303-617-3955*

The Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation has helped over \$10,000 financially for over 20 dogs in 2012. You can log onto <http://stymieccf.org> to donate to one of these pets today under Help a Pet.

"Fresh Start" Health Day

When: January 13, 2013 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Dog owners are invited to bring their pets and start the new year off right at a "Fresh Start" health day at Canine Rehabilitation & Conditioning Group's Englewood location.

The event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3760 S. Lipan St. in Englewood, is designed to promote care and well-being in the canine and human communities, while also raising funds for Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation and Nakio rescue.

Sponsored by Canine Rehabilitation & Conditioning Group (CRCG), Paws & Read magazine and Deserving Dog, this event will give dogs the opportunity to have 15-minute swim sessions for \$7, which will be donated to the charities, and 5 minutes in the endless pool or on the treadmill.

In addition, CRCG will provide 10-minute reiki and massages for a donation, as well as a tour of its facility so pet owners can learn about the equipment that can be used to help dogs who need rehabilitation or have weight issues. Other features include photos for Valentine's Day, pet clairvoyant, pet treats and a silent auction.

For more information about the charities, visit www.stymieccf.org & Nakio rescue @ www.nakiosunderdogrescue.org

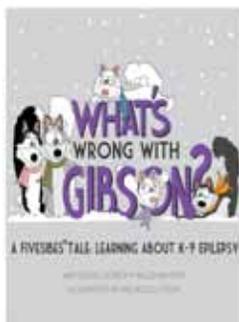
2013 BEST in print

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

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

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



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

Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing.

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

Written by Mike Deathe

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

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



Oodles of Poodles: a Pet Rescue Mystery

Written by Linda O. Johnston

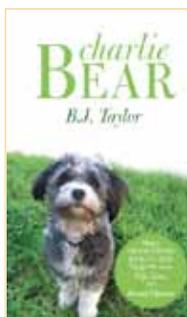
Shelter manager and pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver once again takes on the role of amateur sleuth when there's a murder on a film set . . .Has Hollywood gone to the dogs? Pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver is observing production on a new movie called Sheba's Story. The title character—a white Miniature poodle—is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



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

Written by B.J. Taylor

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



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

See Page 9 for Charlie Bear Woofs on [National Pet Sitters Week](#) / March 6-12



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue

Written by Dobie Houson

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

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

See Page 15 for Dobie Houson's article '10 Reasons NOT to Breed'



Written by Dobie Houson

10 Reasons *NOT To Breed*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

The American Ferret Association (AFA) census was started in 2012 and will continue through March 2013. To date, 1948 ferrets have counted their fuzzies. Every state in America has logged in to count ferrets with the exception of Hawaii, where they are illegal as pets. In addition to the total number of ferrets that are pets, a variety of data is being collected such as what foods and treats are being fed, the types of litter being used, health data including information on vaccines and disease and demographic data too!

Ferrets have been counted in America but also in countries all over the globe including Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Spain, Mexico, Canada, Lithuania, Russia, Latvia, Indonesia, Brazil and many more! In fact, 15 ferrets in Sweden have recently counted their ferrets! The one goal we have not yet achieved is to get help from the large corporations that retail food and supplies for ferrets. Any assistance or suggestions are welcome!

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. You can learn more about the census and updates on the AFA Face Book page and we are also on Twitter!

www.surveymonkey.com/s/SXS78G



Count ME !!
Count ME !!



One more ferret counted in
the AFA census! Dook Dook!



Hey new guy?
Have you been
counted yet?

CELEBRATE National Ferret Day

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

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

Ferrets were domesticated by humans as early as 63 BCE. Whether kept as companions or as working animals, ferrets and humans have a long relationship. So, why not dedicate a special day to celebrate these awesome, fuzzy friends? As part of celebrating ferrets as pets, the American Ferret Association will be researching a special article just for American Pet Magazine about ferret ownership through the past 50 years.

If you have a story about your ferrets to share:

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

Ferret Fitness & Enrichment: Be your Ferrets' Personal Trainer

Written by: American Ferret Association
Education Committee: Robin Landes,
Erinn Whitmore, Lindsey Breed Tootle
and Yu-ri Luke Bando

Have you ever seen a ripped ferret? You know, one who is busy pumping iron at the gym or running interval sprints at the track? While this may sound funny, ferrets need to train and be physically fit. They also need proper nutrition to maintain this fitness. The best way to manage this is to take the crash course below and become your ferrets' personal trainer!

Your Ferrets' Gym

The American Ferret Association recommends that for their protection, ferrets should be kept in a ferret-proofed area of the home or in a large, well-ventilated cage or enclosure when not under human supervision. However, ferrets should never be confined for an extended period of time. They need exercise, affection, and human companionship to remain happy and healthy. Ferrets need a MINIMUM of 4 hours per day out of their cage, at least 2 of which should include human interaction. This is where you become their personal trainer!

Creating a safe, ferret-proofed "gym" for your ferret is the focus. Ferrets are naturally very curious and intelligent animals. As with humans, routines may become dull and can lead to lesser desire to play and be "ferrety." Consider the many ideas offered here and determine which ones can be best placed on your ferrets' training schedule. Just as with humans, changing exercise patterns frequently produces better fitness results than doing the same routine every time you work-out. Swap out or rotate toys and games frequently to keep your ferrets sharp! Just be sure to frequently check or inspect toys and gym apparatus for safety and wear and tear. Damaged toys and equipment should be discarded and replaced!

Ferret Exercise Regimen

There are so many great ways to get your ferret to exercise! Below are a few American Ferret Association favorites. Just remember, it may take your ferret-athlete some time to adjust to new activities. Use lots of praise and positive feedback to get them started!

 "Less is more..." - Or so says the Charmin® advertisements. Place new, whole packages of toilet paper (4 rolls in each) in a large plastic tub. Be sure to purchase the unscented variety. Slit the package in a T-shape but do not take out the toilet paper. Let the ferrets figure how to get the rolls out of the package! They LOVE toilet paper! When they have dug their way down to the cardboard cores, and scratched and fluffed up the TP, they may take naps in it as well! Multiple muscle groups are working in this activity! And the "rest phase" of the exercise is built right in! Always monitor your ferrets when they are around plastic.

 Miners they may never be - But ferrets are darn good at tunneling. Purchase some PVC pipe, dryer vent tubing (preferably the clear type) or let them run underneath a big rug. Place a little bit of treat on the exit end to encourage "sprints" through the tunnel. They love to play this way. It's nothing new, but ferrets keep doing this over and over again. You can also place balls with a bell in them or other toys in the tubing to enhance the action. Monitor their play closely. Some larger ferrets could get stuck in a tube, especially where the tube is bent, the inner width tends to be narrower.



 Some of the best toys are free! - Paper grocery bags and cardboard boxes are a favorite among ferrets of all ages. Ferret pals will wrestle and play hide and seek, stimulating their brains as well as their bodies. When providing ferrets with boxes, first be certain they are ferret-safe by checking that there are no sharp staples, sticky packaging tape or styrofoam peanuts present.



 Year round "swimming" - Provide a small "pool" for ferrets. You can purchase small kiddie pools or repurpose an under-the-bed storage container. Pour about an inch or two of water in and throw various toys in it that float. Ferrets often will jump in the tub to retrieve the toys to stash elsewhere.

When it's really hot out, throw in ice cubes as they love to bat those around or sometimes they will stash those as well. It tends to keep them entertained for long periods of time especially in the summer months. In the winter when there is snow, fill the same container full of snow and let them go crazy burrowing in it. Be sure to collect snow that is free of Salt/Ice Melt, other chemicals or debris that might be harmful. If you have more limited space for play, try "bobbing" for toys instead. Fill a large stoneware casserole with water (or snow), and then put their favorite plastic toys in it for them to "bob" them out. Monitor ferrets carefully when they are around or in water, never leaving them unsupervised!

...Continued on Page 18

 **Total gym!** - If space allows, furnish your ferrets' area with a large cat tree. Most ferrets love to climb up, which helps build muscle. Be sure to place various objects, or even a treat, at the top to provide a surprise. You can even put food flavoring, such as vanilla or lemon extract, on the platform for enrichment. Be sure to use edible, natural extracts and not artificial flavorings or flavors extracted using alcohol (ethanol), which may be harmful to ferrets. The best practice is to allow the flavoring/scent to dry before allowing ferrets access.

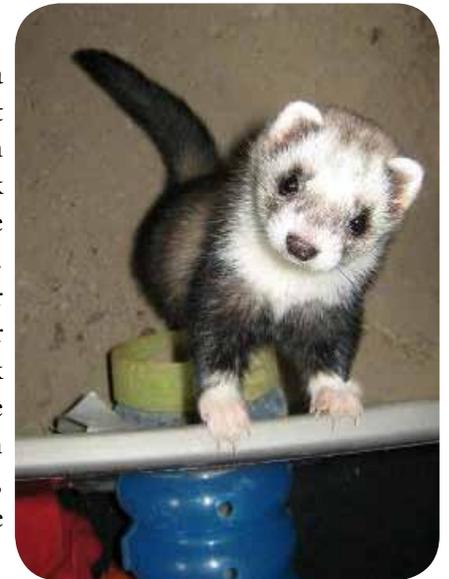
 **Ball pit** – Purchase a kiddie-pool or designate a ferret safe container to fill with small, plastic (not rubber!) balls. Envision the ball rooms at Chuck E. Cheese for this one! Bury treats in the pool of balls so that they have to burrow for them. This also helps build muscle while it provides a challenge! You can do something different everyday with objects and smells. Like the platform of a cat tree, you can even put edible extracts, such as vanilla or lemon, beneath the balls for enrichment.

 **Carbo-loading?** – Not really, because ferrets are carnivores! You can create a "Rice Box" by filling a bin with dry rice. Use rice that is uncooked, not "minute-rice" varieties. Ferrets love to dig and chase each other in and out of the box. Be sure to monitor the ferrets who might try to eat the rice, however, ferrets' personal trainers who use this exercise report that they have never had a ferret that's been interested in eating the rice. An added benefit, the rice soaks up excess oils, leaving ferrets smelling fresh! As with other recommended activities here, enrichments may be added to the box to keep things interesting – try edible extracts such as vanilla or lemon, natural items such as a few leaves or grass clippings and toys. An alternative to rice is pinto beans.



 **Dirt dig box** – Oh, the smell of fresh soil! Locate dirt that has not been sprayed or treated with any chemicals. Locate a large plastic tub or bin that has sides high enough to contain the dirt during play. You can add PVC pipe, tubes or tunnels to the sides of the box, but just be sure to seal openings around the tube or pipe to contain the dirt. Place about one foot of dirt in a plastic tub or bin. They love to dig holes in the dirt and burrow in it. If they happen to use it as a litter box, simply clean out the dirty stuff and add fresh dirt. This can even help curb their destructive digging and destroying of carpet. Always monitor ferrets for safety while they are exercising in the dirt!

 **Take it for a walk!** - Walking your ferret on a leash is an excellent way for them to get in their work-out and educate the public about what awesome pets they really are! Purchase a harness made for ferrets, one from which they cannot escape. The best place for a ferret to go for a walk is in a private, fenced back yard. Be sure to consider the temperature outside, not too hot or too cold. Also be aware of the surface temperatures of any asphalt or concrete on which your ferret will be walking. Choose a place for a walk that is free of gardening chemicals or pesticides and consider other animals that may be present that can impact your ferret. Make certain to bring water for proper hydration and even a few treats to entice the ferret. Teaching your ferret to walk in a harness and on a leash may also prove to be invaluable in the time of disaster or a time when you can't carry a play pen around and the ferret(s) can't stay in a crate for hours on end. Learning to walk outside may not initially be comfortable for ferrets. For training, walking along hedge lines may help them to feel safe, or in smaller fenced areas. Make sure to let your ferret know that no matter what, you will protect them.



Training Partners

Just like humans have work-out pals or attend group exercise classes, ferrets need training partners. Generally, ferrets living in a 'business' (the proper term for a group of ferrets), will rough house, providing excellent exercise. But don't forget, that a ferret's playful and curious nature makes it a natural companion to some larger house pets, such as cats and dogs. Introductions should be made with caution, however, and proper supervision is a must. Dogs with a strong prey drive should not be introduced to ferrets. It is not recommended that ferrets be introduced to birds, rabbits, rodents (this includes hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs), or reptiles.

The Training Table

Athletes must eat to perform, whether human or ferret! The *American Ferret Association* recommends a balanced diet and proper nutrition that will lead your ferret to a long, active, and healthy life. Ferrets are strict carnivores; they require diets based on highly digestible animal (meat) protein with little to no carbohydrates. If you choose to feed dry food, choose high quality ferret or cat foods sold by pet shops, feed stores, and veterinarians with at least 36% protein, that is moderate in fats (approximately 20%) and low in carbohydrates. If feeding a dry food, ferrets must have access to food at all times. Because ferrets generally eat only to caloric need, this means that they will not gorge themselves simply because food is available. Ferrets have short digestive tracts and fast metabolisms which dictate that they must eat often.

Ferrets may also eat natural raw and whole prey diets. Raw diets consist of meats, bones, and organs offered in proper proportions. Many commercial brands now make balanced raw diets sold at pet stores, which can be a great addition to a raw feeding schedule. Whole prey diets rely on feeding frozen mice, chicks, etc, much like one would feed a reptile. When feeding raw or whole prey, food does not need to be left available at all times. Whether these are your whole feeding regimen or part of it - they are a valid regimen and many owners and breeders are recognizing the benefits.



No Junk-Food Junkies!

Ferrets should not eat sugary cereal, peanut butter, grains, corn, rice, carbohydrates, raisins, bananas, other fruits, vegetables, dairy products, chocolate, other sweets, or any food with sugar. All of these items are loaded with complex carbohydrates and a ferret's strictly carnivorous digestive tract cannot process these foods. Diets high in carbohydrates may lead to intestinal problems and some types of cancer.



Ferrets are obligate carnivores, meaning they must eat animal protein to survive. For this reason, the best treats to feed a ferret are meat-based. Most store-bought treats are not healthy for ferrets, even many that are labeled especially for ferrets! Acceptable food treats include a small amount of Gerber® or Beech Nut® chicken, beef, or turkey baby food (with no vegetables or starches; gravy is okay), cooked chicken breast (or other cooked meats), and freeze-dried 100% meat products. Table scraps are not an acceptable treat, nor are meats cured with salt, such as many jerkies.

Benched?

A ferrets' personal trainer should be prepared with a first aid kit, not just for use during work-outs but to be prepared for injuries at any time. Emergency planning is a must! A cooler, stocked with essential items to last at least one week, is the perfect way to be prepared, along with cages ready for immediate use. Dry food (kibble) and freeze-dried foods should be included, along with water. Human-type water bottles for water storage should be included, and of course the ferrets' water bottle from which they regularly drink. If ferrets use medications, these should be kept on hand for inclusion in the kit. Treats are also important to include to assist with praise during difficult situations. Medical first aid supplies are also important to include. A medical emergency kit should be stocked with the following supplies: nail clippers, tweezers, small curved scissors, Q-tips, cotton balls, gauze, styptic powder, antiseptic cream, children's Benadryl, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide, Preparation H®, feeding syringes, medicating syringes, Karo syrup, wooden popsicle sticks, bandages, and unflavored Pedialyte. One reference you may want to consult is the Ferret Emergency Response, Rescue and Evacuation Team, "F.E.R.R.E.T." (ferretemergency.org). This is a website about how to prepare for emergencies. Another great resource is on Ferret Harmony (www.ferretharmony.net/references/emergency-preparedness).

It is also suggested that ferret owners keep a notebook. This should contain medical references, some photos, and other information regarding the ferrets' regular diet and care, so anyone who finds them has some guidelines on how to care for them and the identity of each ferret.

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

CANINE BODY LANGUAGE

Written by:
Mark Nunez, DVM

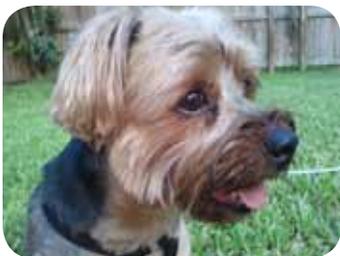
Have you ever wished that your dog could talk to you? I'm sure, like millions of others, myself included, that you have. Well, I have good news for you, dogs do "talk" to us, and they do it a lot. There are 2 forms of communication, verbal and non-verbal. We are constantly communicating to our dogs, whether we know it or not, through non-verbal communication (body language). Humans mainly communicate verbally. We use non-verbal communication as well, but by far our primary method of communicating is verbally. Dogs, however are just the opposite. They mainly communicate through body language. They communicate verbally through whining, growling, howling, whimpering, etc., but their primary method is through body language.

When interpreting what a dog is saying it is a **MUST** to take context into account. A dog can display the same body language in 2 different situations and she is not saying the same thing, even though it may look like she is. Context is everything when interpreting what your dog is trying to tell you. The body parts you need to pay attention to include the mouth, eyes, ears, position of the head, whether the body is stiff vs relaxed, hair along the top of the back (piloerection), and the tail. All of these must be looked at together. For example, a dog that has his ears up and forward could be curious or be in a heightened state of attention and on the verge of aggressive behavior. It depends on what the rest of her body is doing. I will start at the head and work my way back. Remember, one body part will not give you a truly accurate assessment of what your dog is saying without looking at all the parts as a whole and without considering the context in which the signals are given.

Mouth

🐾 Generally, an open mouth/relaxed jaw indicates a relaxed dog. On the other hand, a closed mouth can indicate a heightened state of attention and possibly, but not necessarily, impending aggression.

🐾 If your dog is panting and suddenly closes his mouth, with ears erect and forward, something has likely she is focusing on it. This does not mean aggression, but things can go in that direction depending on the situation.



🐾 The mouth can also give you clues as to what the underlying motivation is when your dog is growling. Is she fearful, or is she confident? A fearful dog will try to show all of her teeth (incisors, K-9's, and molars) when she growls. It's kind of analogous to a bluff in humans. She is saying "look at all my big scary teeth," but thinking "oh my God I hope this thing leaves me alone." A dog that is confident will only show the incisors and K-9 teeth when growling. This is a dog that is not afraid of the situation. This is the growl of a dominant (confident is actually a better term) dog.

🐾 Other body parts will help you to interpret mouth position. Ears that are up and forward indicate confidence or curiosity. Ears that are down and back indicate fear and/or anxiety.

🐾 Yawning is a sign that she is uncomfortable and/or tense.

Tongue

🐾 More specifically, licking of the lips. Dogs that are uncomfortable will often lick their lips. Usually, this type of lick is a quick lick.

🐾 The tongue barely comes out of the mouth and goes back in really quickly. This is a signal of submission /acknowledgement. For example, say you have caught your dog in the act of doing something she should not be doing, you say "no!" to her, and she looks in your direction and gives one of those quick licks. She is saying, "okay, I understand that you are upset, please calm down now." If you continue scolding or punishing her, you will likely make her fearful of you because she is giving you submissive signals that are being ignored.

🐾 A lick that is more pronounced is usually an indication of moderate to severe stress. With this type of lick, the tongue travels all the way back to the corner of the mouth. This is much more obvious than the quick flick.



Ears

🐾 A dog's ears say a lot about its state of mind. The 2 extremes of ear position are straight up and slightly forward, which indicates confidence and attention, and back and glued to her head, which indicates extreme fear and anxiety. What happens in between those 2 extremes is an indication of the intensity of the emotion she is feeling.

🐾 Ears that are erect and as forward as they can be (often accompanied by bared teeth and a wrinkled nose) indicate that one should choose their next move carefully. This is a confident dog that will fight/bite if pushed too far.

🐾 Ears that are erect and slightly forward indicates curious attention. Often the jaw is relaxed and open, but could be closed as well.

🐾 Ears that are slightly pulled back and kind of splay out sideways indicates a suspicious/cautious emotion. She is not quiet fearful, but she is a bit uneasy about the situation.

🐾 Ears that are pulled most of the way back can mean several things and other parts of the body must be considered when interpreting this position. If the teeth are not visible, eyes are slightly closed or squinting, the tail is tucked, and the head is held low, often accompanied by the quick lick, this is a sign of submission or she is signaling that she is not a threat. If the tail is held high, eyes are open, and the mouth is open and relaxed, this is a friendly posture and she is likely signaling playful behavior.

🐾 Ears that are pulled all the way back and are glued to the head, accompanied by a head that is held low, a tail that is tucked all the way under, and eyes that are squinting and scanning, indicates extreme fear/submissiveness.

Eyes

🐾 It's been said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. Well, when interpreting canine behavior, they are also a window into the mind. What you need to pay attention to is the direction of the gaze, the position of the eyelids (open wide vs squinting), and pupil size.

🐾 Dogs that are uncomfortable will often squint and look away from whatever is causing the discomfort. A very common example of this is picture taking. Your dog may be looking at you and you see the perfect picture, but the second you raise the camera, she looks away. The camera is making her uncomfortable and she is trying to tell you that.

🐾 If her eyes are wide open and she is looking directly at something or someone, she is at attention and may be issuing a challenge or threatening someone or something. Again, this doesn't mean aggression, but she is closer to aggression than she was just a few seconds before.

🐾 Pupil size can indicate calmness or stress (fear, anxiety, aggression). Obviously ambient lighting affects pupil size, so let's say that there is normal room lighting. Under normal room lighting conditions, dilated (large) pupils indicates arousal or stress. Normal pupil size indicates relaxation.

🐾 Scanning of the eyes, looking back and forth and all around, usually while panting, with the ears back, and the head held low, is another sign of stress/anxiety.

🐾 Blinking is a sign of submission.

🐾 In general, the larger the eyes are, the more confident or threatening the dog is. Conversely, the smaller the eyes are, the more submissive/fearful the dog is.





Tail

 A wagging tail does NOT mean a happy dog. You must look at the position of the tail and the character of the wag.

 A tail that is held straight up/slightly curved above the back of the dog indicates attention and confidence. This dog is not at all afraid of what she is seeing. Often the tail will be stiff or have a slight wag that usually only involves the tip of the tail. This is not a happy dog.

 A tail that is held straight back/horizontal to the ground and is stiff/not wagging is signaling attention, but is a less aggressive posture that if it were held straight up. This is a cautious position and maybe a mild challenge to a stranger.

 If the tail is held horizontal, but not stiff, it is a sign of relaxed attention.

 A tail that is held just below horizontal, but not tucked between the legs, with an occasional relaxed wag that originates from the base (near the rear end) of the tail indicates a calm/relaxed dog.

 A tail that is near the legs, but not tucked in between, with a slight wag that involves mainly the tip of the tail, indicates insecurity/slight fear/slight anxiety.

 A tail that is tucked between the legs indicates a fearful dog.

 A tail with bristled hair down it's entire length and is held upright indicates a threat/challenge.

 A tail that is bristled just at the tip indicates stress.

 A tail that is wagging from the base, usually the butt is wagging to, indicates a happy dog.

 A tail that is stiff, and just the tip is wagging, indicates a dog that is at attention. This is the wag that is present when I hear "I can't believe he bit me! He was wagging his tail!"

 **A special note is needed here:** Some dogs naturally carry their tails low when relaxed (Greyhounds) and some naturally carry it high (Akitas).

Continued on Page 23

a Haiku for You

無条件愛



Body

 A dog with stiff legs, an upright posture, with slow and/or stiff movements forward is telling you that he is very confident. This is an active aggressive signal from a confident dog that is willing to assert himself. He is not necessarily being aggressive, but things could go that way if he is challenged.

 If hair is standing up on the shoulders and down the back, coupled with a stiff and upright body posture, watch out. He is a serious dog and you should choose your next move carefully. This is a sign of increasing aggression from a confident dog. An attack could stem from this.

 Hair that stands only on the shoulders, and not down the entire length of the back, indicates fear. Usually the head will be held level or low and the ears will be back. This dog will bite if pushed.

 A lowered body posture with a upward gaze indicates active submission. This is often accompanied by the quick lick discussed earlier and the ears are usually pinned back.

 If a dog sits when approached by another dog, but allows the other dog to sniff her rear end, she is saying that she feels they are pretty equal and is giving a slightly submissive signal. This could also be somewhat of a calming signal if she is uncomfortable with the other dogs' approach.

 If a dog rolls on her side, avoids eye contact, and exposes her underside, she is displaying passive submission. This is the equivalent of groveling in humans.



 If a dog stands over a dog that is lying down, or places her chin or paw onto the back of another dog, she is asserting dominance over the other dog.

 If a dog turns her side toward another dog she is saying that she has a slightly lower social ranking than the other dog. There is no fear, stress, or anxiety involved in this. This dog is confident and is okay with the hierarchy.

 If a dog is challenged or threatened by another dog and suddenly begins to sniff and/or paw at the ground, stares off into space, squints the eyes, or scratches herself, she is displaying calming signals to the other dog. She is not submitting. She is just telling the other dog to calm down.

 A dog that is sitting with one paw raised is signaling insecurity and mild stress.

 A dog that rolls on its back and rubs her shoulders back and forth on the ground is signally happiness and contentment.

 A dog that crouches with it's front legs, but has her rear end up in the air is signalling the desire for play.

 In general, when a dog tries to make herself look bigger (standing tall, hair raised, head up) she is confident and is displaying dominance signals. When a dog tries to make herself look smaller (crouching low, rolling over) she is being submissive. Pointing the body, head, or eyes in the direction of another dog indicates confidence and maybe a threat. Turning the body, head, or eyes away from another dog is a calming signal to the other dog.

Remember, and this is PARAMOUNT, when interpreting a dogs' behavior, context is EVERYTHING. All of the surroundings must be considered and, in many cases, tiny details of the surroundings must be considered. Also, look at the entire dog. If you make a decision as to what your dog is saying, it should always be followed by "because his mouth was X, his eyes were X, his ears where X, his body was X, and his tail was X," not just because of one or two of these.

**Happy
Conversing!**

Mark Nunez, DVM is a practicing veterinarian with a special interest in canine behavior. Presently, he is practicing at Levittown Animal Hospital in Levittown, NY. Starting The Balanced Canine in 2008 because of a passion for addressing canine behavior issues. Not many veterinarians properly address these issues, and they are the NUMBER ONE cause for euthanasia in patients. He is now achieving his goal of reaching people who need help with their dogs' behavior. He discusses behavior issues @ www.TheBalancedCanine.com

Beastiality

Written by Dolores Paddock

is just plain **WRONG!**

If anyone had asked me two years ago what beastiality or zoophilia meant I would have looked at them strangely and told them I had no clue. Beastiality or zoophilia can be defined as a sexual act with an animal. Disgusting. isn't it! Little did I know that upon my journey to help animals I not only would embrace new friendships and rescue a great dog (thanks to my friend Lil), but also learn the ugly and dark side about the human race.

Beastiality is a definite form of animal abuse. Sadly, it is not recognized as a crime in many States and Countries. *Why?* In some Countries it goes back to ancient times and was condoned, but at that time gladiators would fight to their death in public arenas. The gladiator age is long gone, so should the condoning of beastiality. We have evolved, times have changed, **beastiality is just plain wrong!** We need to push it as a crime in every State.

Last year in Conneticut a man brutalized 2 horses in his neighbor's barn. One died from the infection that the horse acquired from this crude act and the other horse needed treatment. The man was given a misdemeanor and is still living across the street from this neighbor. How can that be possible? Maybe people are not aware of what happens around them? Some people choose to ignore and walk away, some people just don't care. An article was written in the newspapers when this occurred and minimal outcry or even disgust was generated from the public. This is very sad.

Hand4paws started a petition to make beastiality a crime in Conneticut and it has received less than 5,000 signatures. It has been posted many times in multiple places on Facebook, Twitter and elsewhere. The people at Hand4paws have many petitions going at all times and multiple petitions presently to stop beastiality in multiple States. We should all take the time to sign the petitions and help to be the voice of the animals.

If more people are aware of animal abuse, we could make beastiality a crime and lock up these sick people that do this to animals. Beastiality does not stand alone. Humans starve, torture, abuse, neglect, discard, mistreat, and kill animals on a daily basis. It is rampant; we must open our eyes and report abuse in any form to the proper authorities. It is just wrong to turn your back and walk away.

I ask you please take the time to go to www.care2.com find the petitions concerning beastiality and animal abuse and sign them. Be vigilante when you are in a neighborhood and notice cruelty in any form occurring to a animal or "pet".

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

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!

Pet Poison Hotline

How would you like to save your dog's life for less than a dollar? As we all know it seems like in today's economy everything costs more, and if your household is like mine, pet expenses are a big chunk of your budget. However, I have found an App for my iPad that seriously costs less than a buck, and yes, it could easily save one of my dog's (or cat's) lives...

The Pet Poison Helpline has been around for years, but until recently your only option was to call and pay for advice if Fido got into something you thought was poisonous. They did develop a website with tons of great info but what if you are not at home or have your laptop (or internet access!) when disaster strikes? Well, they have now developed an App for our "i" gadgets and smart phones that is as simple to use as typing in the name of the item your pet has ingested (yes, it applies itself to not only dogs but also cats, horses and other animals) and then tells you the degree of danger, which animals are affected, what if anything you should do, symptoms, description of the item and even offers a link to make a phone call to the hotline for live help. It is one of the coolest Apps out there! Let me give you a couple of examples...

 Arrowhead Vine (Arrowhead Ivy House Plant) Generally mild to moderate poison, toxic to dogs and cats, symptoms drooling, vomiting, pawing at mouth, increased respiratory rate/effort, difficulty breathing. It then gives the link to the hotline and instructs to call the vet.

 Gorilla Glue: Generally mild to moderate sometimes requiring surgery, toxic to cats and dogs, drooling, vomiting, loss of appetite, distended stomach, retching, a long description of chemical properties and possible outcomes of ingestion and suggestion to call the vet or hotline.

 Scorpions: Generally mild to moderate, toxic to cats and dogs, drooling, localized pain, itchiness, redness to the bite area, abnormal heart rate, abnormal blood pressure, dilated pupils, tremors, walking drunk and abnormal eye movement. Talks about types and venom differences and pros and cons of anti-venom, and where the really dangerous types live. Suggestion of calling hotline or the vet!

There is an index as well as a search option and it includes plants, pharmaceuticals, poisonous animals and reptiles, household cleaners and toxins, and more. To be honest, the list is really mind blowing. The information is very easy to understand and well written. I have actually started to include the use of the App in my classes as a way to show the dangers that lurk inside our houses for not only humans but also pets. For an investment of only .99 cents, I would say it is a no-brainer! But, considering I just stumbled on the app while perusing the App store, I wanted to let you all know it is out there. Now it is your job to go get it to become better educated and then share the App with someone else. Be safe, be smart and have some fun with your Furry four-legged Friend!!!

**NATIONAL POISON
PREVENTION WEEK
IS MARCH 17-23**

 **PET
POISON
HELPLINE**
800-213-6680
www.petpoisonhelpline.com

www.petpoisonhelpline.com/2012/04/new-iphone-application-and-mobile-enabled-website

*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.*



How I Went From Treating My Daughter's Eczema to Helping Your Dog's Hotspots : An Unanticipated Journey

Written by Mike Arsenault

About 6 years ago my beautiful daughter was born. She was born with eczema and sensitive skin. As an acupuncturist and herbalist, I wanted to do what I could to keep her off steroids and other harsh medicines, if at all possible. I used my herbal training and made an herbal balm which helped her. After it worked for her, I used it with some of my patients with skin issues. To make a long and wonderful story short, we launched the company, made a number of products, got national media exposure and got picked up by Whole Foods, health food stores, and acupuncture offices across the country. I named the product and company, Emily Skin Soothers, after my daughter.

So what does this have to do with your pet? Well, along the line our customers began to write us to explain they had used our products on their pets. We'd get feedback explaining that our customers shared our soaps and balms with their four-legged family members and Emily's products helped them with their cracked noses and paws, hot spots and more. I was pleased to hear our products were helping animals, but to be honest, I had never thought of creating products for animals.

It took quite a few animal testimonials before I began to see it would be unreasonable not to take the hint. Since our customers wanted to use our products on their pets, and they were, I needed to make something for pets. It was actually not very difficult.

We based our pet balm on our existing products that were already helping people and animals. Then, knowing that dogs and cats are different from people, I consulted with vets and herbal databases to make sure the herbs we were considering for use would be safe and effective for animals. Once we confirmed that, we formulated our *Furry Friend Skin Soother*.

It is a simple herbal balm with just 6 ingredients. We used sunflower oil and beeswax as a base. Sunflower oil is a great barrier oil that protects skin and is full of vitamin E. Beeswax is another protective and healing barrier that has been used topically for thousands of years and has antiseptic and antibacterial properties. We cooked in 4 powerful herbs. Frankincense and Red Peony root were used to promote circulation and heal skin. They are also somewhat analgesic to take away discomfort. Dictamnus and Phellodendron were added for their anti-microbial and antifungal effects. We wanted to keep the formulation simple and effective, like our human products, so that is all we used.

Once we had a formulation in hand we needed to confirm that it was as effective as we hoped. We gave dozens to vets and asked them to offer the product free to their customers. All we asked in return was their honest feedback. We were so pleased when in just a few weeks we began to receive not only dramatic testimonials, but also some amazing before and after photos.

Veterinary Acupuncturist Uses Emily Furry Friend on Her Own Dog

"I tried the *Emily's Skin Soother* on my elderly dog's front limb. She had been experiencing inflammation and irritation from a ruptured sebaceous cyst. I was concerned it would turn into a hot spot. She did great! After two applications about 2 days apart, the wound was closed, less red and a non-issue for her. And, it hasn't returned. Thank you Mike and Emily's!" —Claire M., Acupuncturist

The results were better than we could have imagined. Now we find ourselves trying to navigate the world of pet stores and pet products. It is a completely unanticipated and wonderful journey and we are grateful for the opportunity to help our Furry Friends.

Mike Arsenault, Founder / Emily Skin Soothers, Inc.
www.emilyskinsoothers.com
www.myskinbetter.com



World Spay Day

Written by Linda O. Johnston

Yes, I'm back--with another article about an event regarding pets that I hadn't heard of before but am now championing: **World Spay Day**, which is the last Tuesday in February. In 2013, that's February 26.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, Spay Day™ was started in 1995 by the Doris Day Animal League, which is now called the Doris Day Animal Foundation and remains active in promoting animal welfare. Spay Day is currently under the auspices of the HSUS. The program is sometimes called Spay Day U.S.A. and sometimes it's **World Spay Day**, but in all events its purpose is to make sure people are educated about the problems of pet overpopulation--and what they can do about it.

Professionals like veterinarians participate. Others promote the idea to encourage people to keep their pets from reproducing. It's a great idea. Think about it. Almost every city, large and small, has one or more public pet shelters. Then there are all the private shelters. Don't get me wrong. I love those shelters, especially those with a no-kill or low-kill policy.

But, yes, I'd love to put a lot of them out of business. *Why?* Because they have too many residents who need good, loving homes through no fault of their own; they just happened to be born. Sometimes, they once had human homes but were given up or abandoned. Most are just there, unwanted. The staff and volunteers at many of the shelters are wonderful, caring for them and socializing them and helping as many as possible to get new homes. But if all pets except those who are intentionally being bred for good reasons (not puppy mills, though) were neutered, imagine how few strays or unwanted pets there would be .. how many few shelters would be needed .. or how a high percentage of pets would have the loving homes we all dream about for them.



I volunteer once a week at a wonderful private shelter in L.A.'s San Fernando Valley called Pet Orphans of Southern California. I'm a dog adoption counselor there, and I try to introduce visitors to a canine who'll become their new, loving family member. I'm always sorry to know that, no matter how many adorable dogs are adopted out, there are always lots more to take their places. And when they're adopted more are brought in. And when they're adopted... well, you get it. It's never ending.

How can that happen? The animals do what comes naturally. It's up to people to stop them, to protect them. To have them spayed or neutered. At least at private shelters like Pet Orphans, the animals can generally remain there for the rest of their lives or until they're found new homes. Public shelters can't keep growing exponentially as more animals are brought in, so they wind up killing those that aren't quickly adopted out or rescued by private shelters to make room for the next bunch. It's endless!

It's sad. So... spaying for females. Neutering for males. Just the thought of anyone, even animals, having that kind of surgery makes some of us shudder. But it's done gently and humanely. And can be done cheaply or free for people who can't afford high veterinary prices, thanks to some generous organizations that always accept donations, by the way. And even feral cats can be included among the animals that participate. For example, Best Friends Animal Society advocates TNR--"trap, neuter, return"--to help work toward a no-kill policy.

On February 26, think about it. If you haven't already, have your pet spayed or neutered. Better yet, don't wait that long. Also, contribute to your local shelters or vets to help others get their animals fixed. Imagine what the world would be like if no animals had to be killed anymore just because there are too many of them. That's a goal to be proud of.

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.



March 1st
NATIONAL HORSE
PROTECTION DAY

Horse

keeping **101**

Everyone has dreamed of having a horse. Before you do there are some things you need to consider.

Written by Kandice Seitz



Having a horse is more than just having a pet. It requires a considerable amount of education to be a good owner. There are many things you must know about the care that will make a difference in the health and happiness of your animal. I prefer to think of my horse as an animal I have been given the honor of caring for, this being said I have had to learn a lot in a small amount of time to be a good and loving caretaker.

The basic care of a horse is very important. When first taking your horse out, an overall inspection of their legs and body is important to make sure they have not injured themselves during turn-out or in their stall. They should be brushed and have their hooves picked daily. You really have to know your horse well, some horses enjoy the time you spend brushing and cleaning and others may find this unpleasant.

Take the time to get to know the animals likes and dislikes and you will have a happy and fulfilling time together. Be careful, horses that are not happy may kick. You build this relationship over time and with many reassuring treats! Horses should only be given horse treats and horse food. They eat twice a day and the water should be checked and kept full especially in warmer climates. They can have some treats such as sugar cubes, mints and carrots but their daily food should be a specialized feed. They do not have the ability to regurgitate if they get

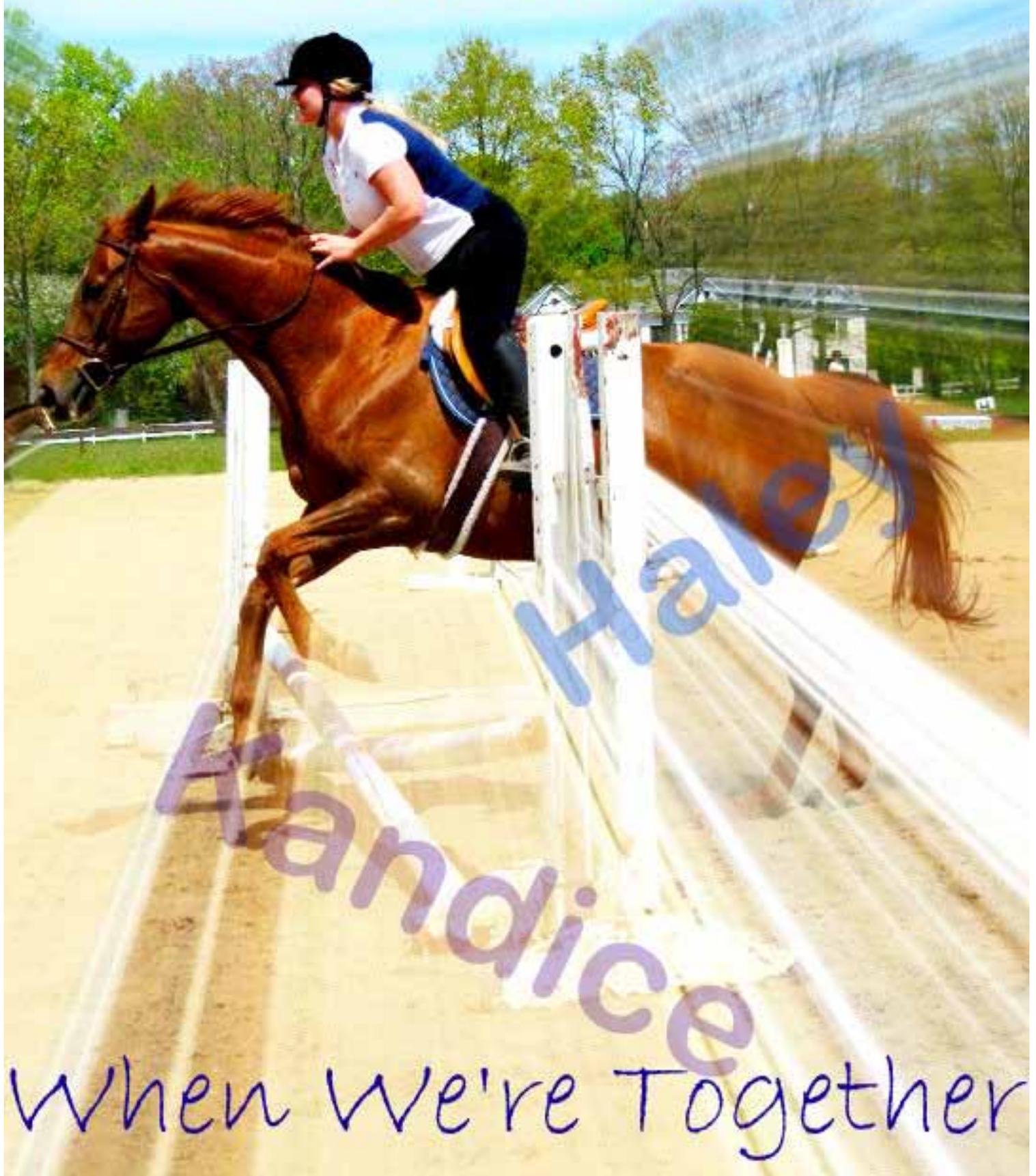
something that is bad so it is very important that their water is changed daily and their food is fresh.

Horses can die if they colic so it is best to have a barn with a well trainer or groom to care for the dietary needs of your horse until you have learned exactly what they need. After riding they love to graze and it can be some of the most rewarding time you spend with your horse and trust me they will love you for it. Too much grazing can upset a horses stomach so I usually only let my horse graze for about a half an hour after a ride.

One of the most important things to do if you are a new caretaker is to have a Trainer that will teach you and give advice along the way. A horse that is in a program will be a happier horse. It gives them a schedule and then they will know what to expect from day-to-day. Whether you are riding English or Western it is important to be paired with the right horse according to your ability. This has been my experience as a new caretaker of my horse and everyone has their own opinion.

Just like people all horses are different so seek out all the information before taking on an animal. It is a very expensive animal to feed and the vet bills can be very expensive if they are injured. That being said I love my horse and she is part of my family. Haley is a Thoroughbred Mare and is super sweet!

THE SUN SHINES



Haley
Andi

When We're Together

Finding Your Stolen Pet

The following tips are offered to help you find your stolen companion.

- **Contact Animal Agencies**
-
- **Notify Others**
-
- **Search The Neighborhood**
-
- **File a Report**
-
- **Use The Power of Scent**
-
- **Don't Give Up**
-
- **Advertise - Post fliers**

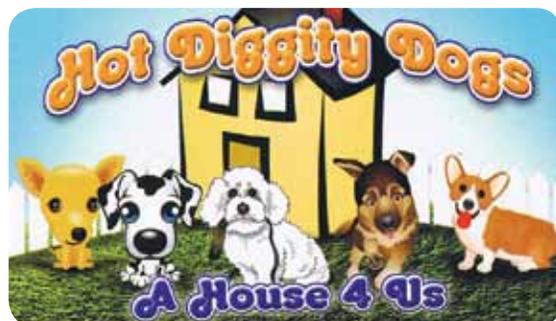
And The Next Time ...

Protect your pet from getting stolen or lost.

ALWAYS keep a collar and identification tag on your pet. An ID tag is a lost pet's ticket home. Permanent methods of pet identification, such as tattoos or micro-chips, are readily available from most veterinarians. License your pet as local law requires. Other important steps include keeping your pets supervised at all times and having them spayed or neutered. Finally, keep a photo of your pet on file in the event he or she is stolen or strays.



PET THEFT
Awareness Day
February 14



MARKETPLACE DIRECTORY

A Special Thanks to our Contributors & Writers!

MissKitty Karp kolumn
www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

Sid Korpi
www.GoodGriefPetLoss.com

Bill & Nena Gulbrandsen
www.iPetMemorial.com

Liz Mellott
www.PeteysPromise.org

Linda O. Johnson
www.lindaojohnston.com

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

Kara Kennedy
www.KennedyResourceDevelopment.com

Dobie Houson
www.FindingForever.org

Stu Goldman

Businesses

www.emilyskinsoothers.com

www.ThugCustomCycles.com
954-581-1801

www.HWGrantPhotography.com
South Florida
305-753-1200

American Pet Sitter
South Florida
954-557-0325

American Ferret Association
www.ferret.org
1-888-FERRET-1

Sarah Hosick
www.sarahhosick.com

Vickie McKimmey
www.jbferret.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

Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation
303-617-3955
www.stymieccf.org

Dumb Friends League
303-751-5772 ext 1378
www.ddfl.org/catfest

www.humanebroward.com
954-989-3977

Grateful Paws Dog & Cat Rescue, Inc
954-462-8840

www.balancedK9.com
320-241-7913

Mike Deathe
www.muttzmembers.blogspot.com

Dorothy Wills-Raftery
www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com

www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
954-971-4432

Dolores Paddock
www.Hand4Paws.com

Carole Diane Heslin
www.bijouterie.us

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

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

Be a Voice!

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

DON'T LEAVE US HANGING AROUND!

Let Us Know What You Think

Visit www.AMERICANPETMAGAZINE.com

Email AMERICANPET@usa.com

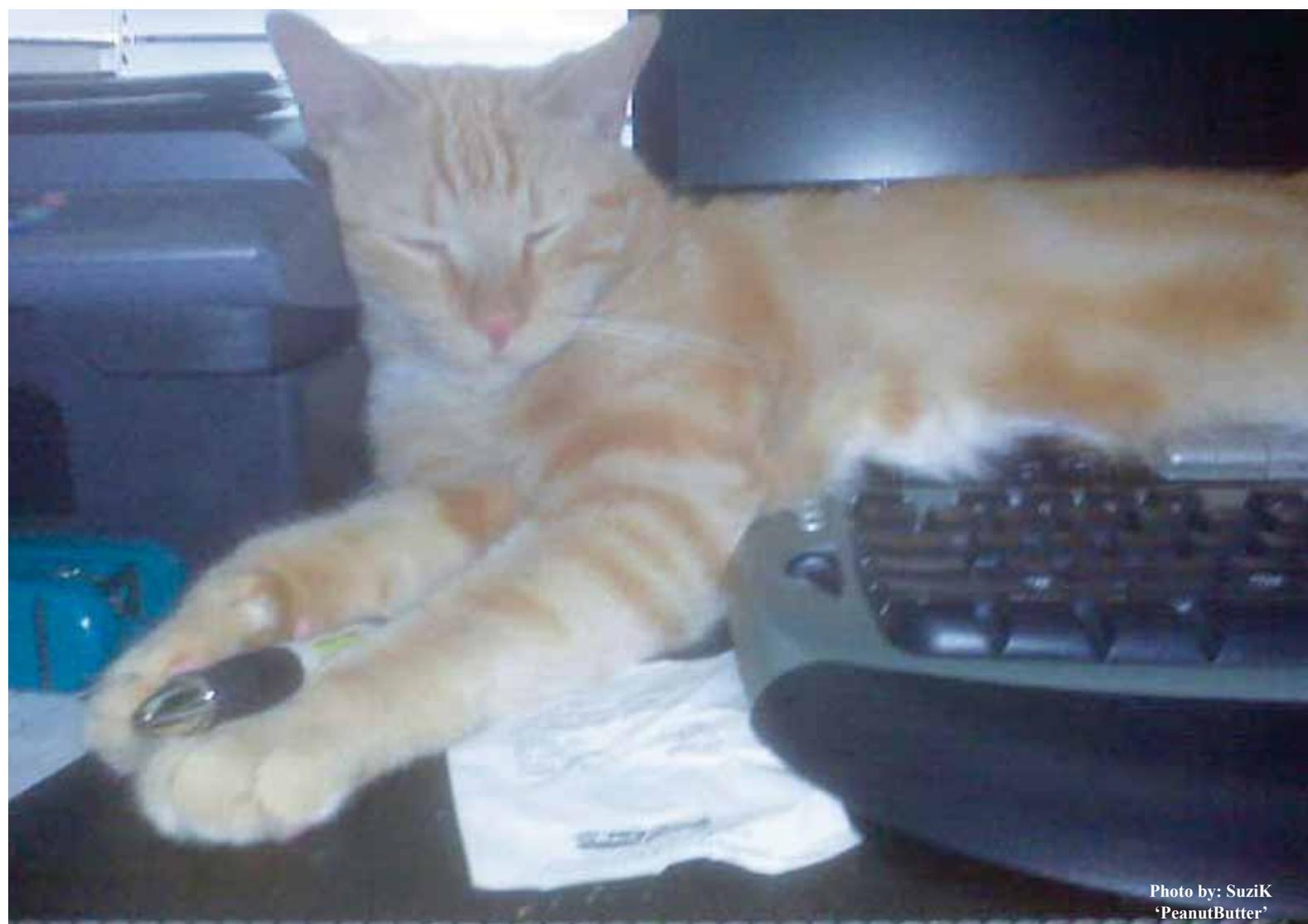


Photo by: SuziK
'PeanutButter'

FaceBook (LIKE) AMERICAN PET MAGAZINE

Twitter (FOLLOW) @AMERICANPETMAG

YouTube (SUBSCRIBE) AMERICANPETMAG

Pinterest (FOLLOW) AMERICANPETMAG

WordPress (FOLLOW) AMERICANPETMAGAZINE