

American Pet Magazine™

Volume 2
Issue 3
2013

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

**CATS, DOGS,
FERRETS, GERBILS,
PARROTS, CHICKENS,
AND MORE ...**

Senior Writer,
MissKitty Karp
RIP 5/10/2013
17 yrs old

**MISSKITTY'S
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

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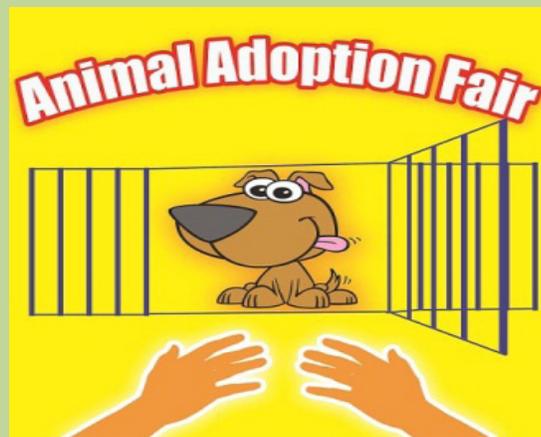
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The Publisher's Note



From The Desk of the Editor

This is a very special issue,

♥Dedicated to our *MissKitty*♥

She assisted in bringing AmericanPet Magazine to life with her desire to help Be a Voice for the Voiceless. MissKitty sadly and unexpectedly crossed the Rainbow Bridge on May 10th. Her persistence and love for life brought us enduring happiness.

Our special kitty is on the cover. There is also an article about her in celebration of National Pet Memorial Day on September 8th. MissKitty spent a lot of time in the office working on the creation of this publication and her *MissKitty Karp* column. She was a smart individual with an awesome spirit. Her presence and antics will be dearly missed!

Just like our holidays, pets have them too! Check out our Pet Celebrations page. We have informing articles about All American Pet Photo Day, Spoil Your Dog Day and National Dog Day. July 15th is I Love Horses Day too. Also, see what *Charlie Bear Woofs* about in this issue (pg 28) pertaining to National Pet Memorial Day.

Congratulations to the newlyweds, TITUS and his girl, Hailey! He is 'So Excitabulls' while he continues to bark about rescuing more animals like himself. He is an advocate for Tuff Tails Animal Rescue and raises money for the homeless. TITUS loves that his parents are Foster Failures and hopes many others are as lucky as he and his other furry family members.

There are some awesome events going on during the next few months. Paws for the Cause hosts many events throughout the year giving ALL proceeds go to Tri-County Humane Society. Then there is the American Federation of Aviculture Expo in August! For all you ferret lovers, make plans to go to Dooktoberfest in November.

We would like to thank our Advertisers, Sponsors and Writers for all your awesome contributions. It is the KarpKatZ desire and your helping hands that assist in making this magazine a success. We hope to continue to educate and entertain our readers while helping our fellow pets, furry or not.

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

The KarpKatZ, #GypsyPrince (18yrs old) & #PeanutButter (7yrs old) hope you have an AmericanPet Day!!

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

SUZIN
KARP

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"MissKitty Karp"
Photographer: ©SuziK



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a Haiku for You

無条件愛



MISSKITTY'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Written by Suzin Karp

The paw print that is left on your heart is forever. Unconditional Love is recalled daily. Memories of all the good times flood emotions. Individuality traits create tears, smiles and laughs.

Sadly, on May 10th, MissKitty Karp started having neurological problems. The dreaded decision to help her cross the Rainbow Bridge was made. We are blessed to have had her in our lives.



As one of the AmericanPet Magazine founders and Senior Writer, she worked on her MissKitty Karp kolumn often. She was a big influence in both the home and office. There has been such a great response of letters so AmericanPet Magazine will continue to publish the kolumn with GypsyPrince and PeanutButter's assistance.

MissKitty and I, we knew each other for a of couple years, we were neighbors. Her owner said she found her all dirty and alone so she brought her home thinking she was maybe about 2 years old. The indoors made her happy until one day a kitten was brought into the home and MissKitty preferred to be outside more often. Again her beautiful coat of fur became dirty and she didn't have a sweet spirit.



There always seemed to be unpleasant interaction when it came to MissKitty. All the neighbors called her 'Bitch'. In which they were right. But she earned that name the hard way.. by having to protect herself while outdoors.



She was a one-of-a-kind Siamese Hemingway (Polydactyl). Whoever she lived with during her earlier years had her front paws declawed so she relied on attitude and strength. It was incredible how strong those beautiful paws were. She could bruise a humans' leg. She also nipped when her space was invaded and she didn't want to be bothered. We grew to respect each other very much!

Sunday, September 8th is **National Pet Memorial Day**. Join us as we pay tribute to those specials souls that have touched our hearts so deeply.



Truly, a beautiful soul, who reassured me that the voiceless may be having a bad day and deserve another chance in life. She moved into my home on her own accord & I eventually committed to her. She became MY pet when I told the neighbor that she now lived with me and please do not feed MissKitty to confuse her of my intentions.

Her presence is everywhere as each day reminds us of MissKitty's quirks & odd behavior. She was a 'basket-case', loved any box left on the floor and hiding in all cabinets where she would unknowingly scare me when she was found.

Persistence was her middle name! I couldn't get away when she demanded it was time for the cat/human interaction. Her love was welcoming as I knew it was true and coming from her heart. She knew she was one of the special ones. Finding a Forever Home is not easy for many but she found hers for the last 10 years of her precious life.

A few years ago, the 3 KarpKatZ (GypsyPrince, MissKitty and PeanutButter) wanted to Be a Voice for the Voiceless and meowed it over with me. Their desire was to educate and entertain by creating a publication while generating proceeds for those in need. They wanted to 'pay it forward' because they each felt so grateful for finding a FOREVER Home and know that not everyone is as lucky.

MissKitty is survived by her 2 furry (non-related) siblings, GypsyPrince (18yrs) & PeanutButter (7yrs). She lived through being run over by a Blazer in 2006 with a fractured pelvis. A strong-willed creature who shared tons of love once she found the right family for her to fit in with. I couldn't imagine life without her and am honored that she chose me! Till death do we part ... until we meet again at the bridge.



Thank you everyone for the kind words during the unexpected loss of MissKitty. She was a bit part of our mission and wants us to continue on with no regrets. Everyday we celebrate the lives of all our special Furry Friends that have inspired us to create AmericanPet Magazine and Be a Voice for the Voiceless!

KarpKatZ' Personal Memorials ...

Their Unconditional Love is the Inspiration for Our Voice

National Pet Memorial Day

Sunday, September 8, 2013

People love their pets. We quickly grow attached to our pets.

National Pet Memorial Day is an opportunity to bring closure to the departure of our beloved pets. It allows us to fondly remember our departed pets. Your pet would want you to cherish their memory, then move on.

Ways to commemorate National Pet Memorial Day:

- 🐾 Spend a few minutes reflecting upon pleasant memories of your pet
- 🐾 If you buried your pet somewhere, go for a visit
- 🐾 Contribute to an animal protection group
- 🐾 Volunteer at an animal protection group
- 🐾 Create a small memorial in a flower garden in your yard
- 🐾 Plant a tree or a shrub as a living memorial

Origin of National Pet Memorial Day: This very special day for pet lovers was established by the International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories (IAPC)

PrettyBoy
December 1996-
December 26, 1998

MommaTogo
15 yrs old

Amelia Earhart aka MIA
July 1988 - August 2005

Tuffy
1973-
1981

Maxwell the Papaya King

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

CutiePie 11 yrs old
MommaTogo's Baby

MonkeyChow
June 2000 -
April 15, 2002

TabithaWitch SISTERS
April 8, 1989
March 21, 2004

ChillAnn
April 8, 1989
November 1998

Rest In Peace

One Pet at a time, One Day at a time, One Life at a time



PHOTO: MISSKITTYKARP
RIP 5/10/2013 ~ 17 YRS OLD
PHOTOGRAPHER: ©SUZIK

MissKitty, a 17-year-old Siamese Polydactyl, the professional expertise and insights of "MissKitty Karp kolumn". MissKitty lived in Fort Lauderdale with her human mommy and two kitty siblings, GypsyPrince and PeanutButter. When not working on her kolumn, she spent most of her time indoors scratching with her clawless front paws and enjoying catnip or soaking up the sun in her backyard. She also loved her hiding spots and boxes or baskets to sleep in all day until it was MissKitty (Persistence) Loving Time.

Hand Feeding Your Dog – Why You Should!

Written by
Mike Deathe

I always get one particular question from folks when they find out I am a dog trainer. “What can I do to make my dog pay attention to me?” Well that’s a bit like asking what a person can do to get better gas mileage. Trust me; there are more than just one or two answers! That being said, there is one thing I wish all dog owners would do. And of all the things I could teach them, the one thing that will produce the fastest and biggest change in a dog’s behavior is to *hand feed your dog*.

Okay, I know many of you are wondering if Mikey has finally lost it, but I really mean it. When you hand feed your dog, you make yourself more important, you teach bite inhibition and you get your pooch to pay more attention to you, all without being mean to your dog! Let’s break this idea down into the three smaller pieces to get the whole picture!

The first thing that hand feeding your dog does is make you more important in your dog’s eyes. Some trainers call this “being the pack leader” others call it “being the alpha dog.” I simply call it making yourself the most important or necessary thing in your dog’s life. To be honest, I don’t put any credence in the idea of pack theory or could care less who the “pack leader” is in my house (unless you are referring to my wife!) The way I look at leadership with my dogs is that if I control all the really important resources in Fido’s world, who is really going to be calling the shots? So, if I could get people to hand feed every piece of food to their dog for at least 30 days, the dog is going to very quickly understand that without Mom or Dad Fido might not get fed! This is not only a great way to bond with and build a better relationship with any dog, but it works even better when the dog is new to the family!



So how does hand feeding impact bite inhibition? I believe that all dogs need to be taught to be careful with their mouths and teeth when interacting with people. There is no better way to get this point across than by hand feeding. It gives me the perfect opportunity to focus on giving pieces of kibble, one or two at a time, and teaching the command “gentle”? If the dog touches my finger with teeth, I can squeal “ouch,” with a calm voice use the command “gentle” and withhold the food for, let’s say 10-15 seconds, then repeat the process. Before you know it, the shark you have been living with is now the polite and patient dog you wanted in the first place! In fact, if you do it right, you will find that when you say “ouch” anytime a tooth is felt, most dogs will actually begin licking you as a way to express their own apology and realization they got too rough. So simply by feeding our dogs by hand, we are teaching mouth skills (or bite inhibition) with humans who they need for the stuff they want. But wait there’s more...

It makes sense that hand feeding your dog would help get your dog to pay attention to you, right? But why does that matter? Regardless of whether you are dog or person, we all tend to pay way more attention to the person in our life that doles out the rewards, paychecks or praise. Unfortunately, the opposite can be said for those who punish, write up or take things away (we avoid them like the plague!) So by simply looking at the relationship between you and your dog, and determining who controls the resources, you can put yourself right at the top of Fido's list of people he/she needs to survive in this big old world!



'HARLEY'

Photographer: ©SuziK

I hope as you are reading this article you are starting to inventory all the resources that your pooch has and how you can use them in training. I do want to share with you a very critical distinction and mistake many people make when trying to control resources with a dog; that control has to be in some way negative. Think of it this way... spoiling a dog or child is thought to be a bad thing; but what if the spoiling only occurs when the dog or child has earned it? The ultimate goal is to be necessary in their life, not control that life! So get out there and hand feed your pooch and see the differences it will make!



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.

**August 10th is
Spoil your Dog Day!**



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www.iPetMemorial.com

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Around the H₂O BOWL

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

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

3rd Annual Animal Adoption Fair
www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com
Sunday, August 25, 2013 10am - 6pm
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
954-971-4432

Our Animal Adoption Fair is the War Memorial Auditorium at 800 N.E 8th St, Fort Lauderdale All indoors and air conditioned. Animal Friendly, Veterinary Care, Live Music, Raffles. Food. Fun! Looking for vendors & animal related services!



Have an American Pet Day!!



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

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

Written by
Dorothy Wills-Rafertry
Illustrated by Michelle Littler



MISSKITTY KARP *kolumn*

Dear MissKitty,

We are broken hearted that you have unexpectedly crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Learning to cohabitate by accepting each others funny ways has been an awesome experience! There were great times when one of us would climb into one of your 'hiding' spots only to find you there. Then Mommy would find us together and enjoy the moment or run for the camera. She literally has over 1400 pictures of just you!

You moved into a home with 3 elder cats and became an indoor once again even though you seemed like an outside loner. Mommy figured it out..You were happy as long as you had a loving, caring family. Our Fostered Friends & PetSitted Doggy Guests respected you. We have *unspoken* words that Mommy will continue to help us with. We will pursue our mission to Be a Voice for the Voiceless, now even more in memory of you! You will be dearly missed, our special sister! You brought Love and Laughter into our Hearts and Home!

Forever in our Hearts, Your Loving Brothers,

GypsyPrince & PeanutButter

P.S. Mommy has already told you but we wanted to say it too..Thank you for being you! She loves how you accepted PeanutButter as a kitten 7 years ago and how you gained his admiration and respect! See you at the Bridge! PURRS & MEOWS

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

Around
the
H₂O
BOWL



A year or so ago I wrote an article for *American Pet Magazine* on National Dog Week. But now, I'm writing about **National Dog Day!**

National Dog Day occurs on August 26 of every year. This year, that falls on a Monday.

National Dog Day even has its own website: www.nationaldogday.com

And what's it all about?

Celebrating dogs, of course! The idea is to get people to recognize how many dogs need to be rescued every year, but more than that it's all about getting everyone to acknowledge how much dogs mean to them.

Dogs are in law enforcement, sniffing out bombs, drugs, and other dangers. They help in search and rescue operations.

Dogs are in service to help people, whether they are guide dogs for the blind or deaf or those with other physical disabilities, or there for psychological assistance to those who need special help, or sniffing out seizures before they occur.

And, most important to the greatest number of people, dogs are our family members, giving us unconditional love.

According to its website, National Dog Day was founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige, a pet lifestyle expert and author. Its website also lists fifty ways to celebrate National Dog Day--everything from adopting a dog from a shelter, to buying your dog a new collar or toy or cute new outfit, to taking your dog to the beach or getting him training, to having a party or walking your senior human neighbor's dog, to pledging not to yell at or hit your dog.

But who the heck hits their dog??? Yelling's a different story. Okay, I grumble at mine now and then when they bark too long, but on National Dog Day I'll pledge to try to improve. Plus, maybe it's time for my Mystie to get another new ball and for Lexie to try another kind of healthy treat.

I'll ask my dogs how they'd like to celebrate. A special walk around the neighborhood? More outdoor time in our backyard so they can sniff and Mystie can chase birds? Even more lap time than they usually get? Or maybe all of the above... and more.

What will you do?

**August 26th is
National Dog Day**

Linda O. Johnston is the author of 33 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, Hounds Abound came out in April 2012, and Oodles of Poodles in February 2013. Both Beaglemania and Hounds Abound were reprinted with a special symbol to celebrate the Penguin Group's Read Humane program helping to support the Humane Association of the United States' Animal Rescue Team. 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. Visit Linda at www.LindaOJohnston.com or friend her on Facebook. She also blogs each Wednesday at KillerHobbies.blogspot.com.



THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AVIAN EXPO

LOOKING TO THE PAST – PRESERVING THE FUTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
3 WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE:

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-  July 15th
-  August 13th
-  August 26th
-  September 12th

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
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“Hi my name is
Durango.
I may look like
a tough guy,
but i'm just a **BIG**
sweetheart.”



Durango was adopted on April 25, 2005 by Dawn Parisi.

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KNOW YOUR DOG: TRAIN HIM WELL

Written by Christina Bournias

QUESTION: "So, how long until he's trained?"

ANSWER: "Expect a lifetime of learning."

No matter how good your trainer is, nobody is capable of swooping in wearing a cape and tights (and maybe a snack pack) to save the day. Nor, can a trainer save your dog. It is you, the dog person, who is ultimately held accountable for your dog's training success.

Dog training is often defined as a 6 to 8 week program. Or worse, it can be mistaken for a behavior modification crash course. Dog training is a lifetime commitment. One basic obedience class certainly does not mean that your dog is "trained." Obedience means your dog has merely started their journey of understanding his world with yours.

The success of your dog will hinge on the bond you form with him. If you are committed to continuing the learning process by participating in activities with your dog throughout their life, you will strengthen your relationship with your dog. If you allow training to be enjoyable, your dog will be more open to learning. And, and he will be most willing to please you.

Dogs tend to train people:

'ACE'

Photographer: ©SuziK

Commitment

Your dog's training success relies on devoted practice *every day*. Weave your dog into your life. Carve out two to three minutes each day to work with him. Your dog will be grateful for the time he spends with you, even if it is minimal. Quality versus quantity, in this case. Expecting to spend hours on end is unrealistic. Your dog will inevitably clock out.

Determination

Relentless efforts towards dog training stems from your *desire* to train. Train your dog without resentment. He will know when you are not having fun any more. Despite popular belief, nobody else can train your dog without you being present in their life.



Make Time

Timing is everything in dog training. Dogs live in the moment. Be in their moment.

Active Listening

Your dog doesn't listen to you? *Try listening to him.* Careful observation to how your dog learns will begin to resolve your individual behavior concern and help you find a positive solution to the problem.

Tough Love

Love is not enough. Any human relationship requires nurturing and a little work. The relationship you have with your pup is no different. Love him, but *help* him learn by remaining disciplined. Tough love means you might have to be stern in order to avoid over-doting on your dog, which often leads to undesirable canine behaviors. Missing a few puppy flaws is quite different than letting *everything* slide because of how cute he looks when he does something wrong.

Try Again

Expect imperfection and allow for mistakes. Permit an “oops” on occasion. Everybody has an off day once and awhile. A dog can only learn when you are willing to assist him. Be confident in his ability. Mark and reward what you want from him. Barking out orders does nothing for him—or you. Instead, showing calm, steady leadership provides a consistent pattern in his life.

Be playful

Have fun with your dog. Period.

Overnight Wonders Are For Night Creams

Dogs will be dogs. Celebrate each teachable moment. (You know what I mean.)

Confidence

Invest time in earning your dog's trust. He may not completely trust you when he is new to your pack. Show him you are there for the long haul, yet don't over rule the kingdom. Mutual relationships win. *Always.* With dogs, pack mentality is common. He is *not* the boss. But, either are you. Determine how your dog learns, expect mistakes, and always end on a high note.

Accept Responsibility

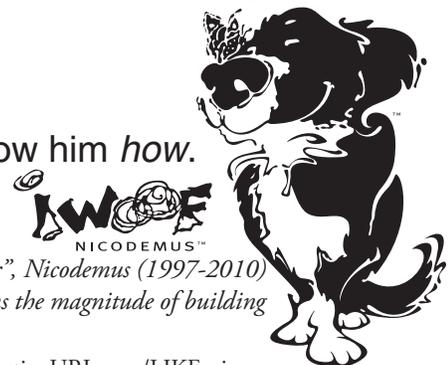
Gain your dog's respect by believing in his success. And yours.

Remember: your dog wants to please you. He just needs you to show him *how*.

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 the bond between a dog and their person(s) by means of respectful communication and enduring admiration.

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

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Are you Ready to Be a Ferret Owner?

A ferret's lifespan is 6 – 10 years... are you ready to be a ferrent?

Do you have enough money?



for cage, water bottle, food dishes bedding, hammocks, toys, litter pans, etc?

These items can cost anywhere from \$200-\$400 for starters.



for food, treats, shampoo, litter and so on? High quality food can cost more than \$400 per year & litter can cost \$200 per year!



for vet care including neuter/spay, vaccines, ear mite/ heartworm prevention, implants preventing adrenal disease & more? Vet care for a healthy ferret can cost as much as \$200-\$300 per years and surgeries can exceed \$1000!

Do you have enough time?



For adequate out-of-cage time – at least 4 hours per day?

For human interaction time and supervised play?

For time for proper training and to care for daily needs like grooming, litter changes?

Can you ensure a ferret's safety?



Will your ferret be safe from another pet?

Will other pets whom ferrets consider prey be safe?



Will a ferret work in your space?

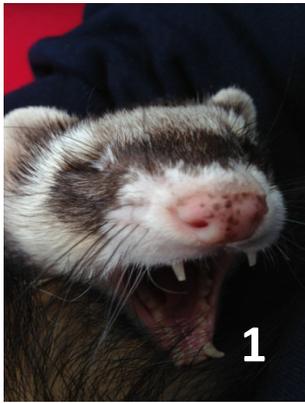


Is your home one that can be ferret-proofed?

Can your living arrangements be made secure for a ferret?

Still considering a ferret? Check shelters for ferrets in need of good homes. Or, consider getting one from a reputable, private breeder, where you can actually spend hands-on time with the ferrets beforehand. Do not make an impulse buy from a pet store. Make sure a ferret is right for you!

Sleep Styles of the Fab & Ferrety



Sleeping Ferrets

1 – Trouble (J. Larsen)

2 – Maks, Minu & Peanut (S. Lombardo)

3 – Chaos & Mischief (J. Larsen)

4 – Karu & McMahan (R. Landes)

5 – JBF's 3-week old jills (V. McKimney)

6 – Lizzy (L. Tootle)

7 – Chaos (J. Larsen)

8 – Fwin (R. Landes)

9 – JBF's Mojito (V. McKimney)

Visit the American Ferret Association to learn all about ferret care, foods & more!

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Phone: 1-888-FERRET-1 Fax: 1-240-358-0673

E-Mail: afa@ferret.org

“Joey” THE TRAINED FERRET!

“Joey! Roll over! High five!” And the remarkable little ferret does just that! There is a new star on YouTube, “Joey the Trained Ferret!”

While ferrets have become more and more popular as pets in recent years, most folks do not realize that ferrets can learn tricks and be trained! Joey’s trainer and ferrent (ferret parent) is Courtnie Gregory. Joey is a privately bred ferret from Ground Effects Ferretry in North Carolina. He is a black sable mitt ferret who was born on March 17, 2012.

It was natural for Courtnie to train Joey as she claims she has had a passion for training animals as long as she can remember. She said, “I have always trained all of my pets just because I love it! When I was a kid, I trained the family dogs to do all sorts of tricks. This hobby did not stop as an adult, so naturally I decided to train Joey as well.”

There is a common misconception about ferrets and the inability to train them, but Joey’s skills help dispel this myth! Courtnie started training Joey at 3 months of age when she first brought him home from the breeder. She explained, “The first skills I taught him were the basics: using the litter box, no biting and trusting me. Having your ferret trust and bond with you helps with developing a great temperament. It is important that when you get a ferret that you spend a lot of time petting and holding him so he develops a lasting connection with you.”



Training methods can vary, but Courtnie uses clicker training and boiled chicken as the positive reinforcement for the majority of Joey’s training. The basis for Joey’s training has been to reward the desired behavior with a chicken treat while using a clicker. Once the behavior is consistent, she elaborates, “I add a hand signal as well as a verbal command. Once Joey has connected that he needs to do the behavior after the signal is given, I remove the clicker.” In this way, Joey has mastered quite a repertoire of tricks as well as having good general household behavior.

Joey can stand up, roll over, give a high five, come, spin, touch an object, pick up an object, jump through a hoop, and jump over Courtnie’s arm. Because ferrets can be easily diverted, training sessions should be brief. As Courtnie explains it, “Ferrets are very easily distracted. The biggest challenge is getting them to watch you and pay attention while training. I never train more than 5-10 minutes a day because I feel that if you over train, your ferret will become frustrated and uninterested.” In addition to practicing his many tricks, Joey loves running around like a maniac, sleeping in his hammock and playing with his stuffed frog.



While training Joey, Courtnie began to record videos of his tricks. She said that she did this “...to show to my fantastic ferret vet, Dan H. Johnson, DVM, DABVP-ECM. When I would e-mail the videos to him they wouldn’t always work correctly, so I figured I would just post them on YouTube to show him and my friends.” As Courtnie continued to train and take videos of Joey, she posted more on YouTube. She began to get inquiries about how she had trained Joey to do certain tricks. Her YouTube channel began to grow from there. She began to receive comments and a video from other ferrents showing her how they were trying her methods, a very flattering response!

“Ferret lovers from all over the world have been subscribing to my channel.” Courtnie said. She even provides coaching to viewers from whom she has received messages, helping other ferrets to successfully learn tricks! Her motivation, she says is that “It is so great to hear when ferrets are learning these tricks and bonding with their owners. I want people to learn that ferrets are not just caged pets. They are intelligent animals that are capable of more than most believe.”

Julie Bender, Joey’s breeder at Ground Effects Ferretry, is respected in husbandry and training of both ferrets and dogs. A supporter of Courtnie’s training and the sharing of Joey’s videos, Julie said “What Courtnie is doing with Joey’s mind is outstanding, and so goes to show that ferrets are highly trainable companion animals. I love seeing all of the work she’s done, and I’m even more pleased that she’s sharing her training techniques with the community so more people will catch the training bug and build better relationships with their ferrets. That Courtnie takes the time to video and share her training sessions is wonderful, it can only help solidify perceptions of these amazing little creatures as companion animals rather than the common misconception of cage pets or mindless ‘rodents’. My hat is off to Courtnie and all of the amazing things she’s doing with her little friend, she is without hesitation a breeder’s dream come true kind of adopter.” Joey is not the first ferret that Courtnie has trained. Her first ferret, Eddie, was deaf. She still managed to train him. She discusses the training of deaf ferrets in some of her YouTube videos. She said “I want people to know that deaf ferrets can be trained too! I, of course, never used a clicker with Eddie, but instead I made sure my timing of giving him his treat was perfect. Deaf ferrets are more visual. This can be an advantage while training because they focus on you more than hearing ferrets sometimes do!”

An important motivation for Courtnie’s creation of the “Joey the Trained Ferret” videos is to encourage ferret owners to use training as a way to bond with their ferrets. She believes “It is important to only be positive with your ferret and to have a lot of patience! I feel that teaching your ferret tricks is a great way to stimulate their mind which helps alleviate boredom.” She has acquired a large following among members of the American Ferret Association, proving her efforts are appreciated.

The YouTube channel for “Joey the Trained Ferret” has nearly 500 subscribers in just a few short months, offering more than a dozen instructive and delightful videos. Courtnie added, “I hope I have inspired ferret owners to train their fuzzies and to have fun with them!” She continues to challenge Joey as he masters more and more tricks. She is currently training him to put a toy in a mini basketball hoop. Many a ferret owner and admirer will await the posting of this new trick on YouTube... good boy, Joey!

Courtnie Gregory lives with Joey the Trained Ferret in North Carolina. She has a degree in psychology and business and coached gymnastics for many years. Her love of coaching and her passion for training animals was one inspiration for her popular videos which can be viewed at youtube.com/JoeyTheTrainedFerret

Robin Landes, the author, is the Education Committee Director for the American Ferret Association.

Photography by Rebekah Boan





Smooching Friends March 1958



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

Puppy on a boat



www.thepetmuseum.blogspot.com

“Dogs have more good in them than men think they do.” –

Chinese proverb

Proverbs

& Sayings

Written by Andree Larson

Dogs have been part of human history for so long that anywhere in the world you go, you’ll find them as part of local wisdom. The dog’s loyalty, heart, and even its well-known love of treats have all become phrases mirroring human nature. After all, just as you can’t change your basic self, “a dog is a dog whatever its color,” as the Danes say. A Gaelic saying adds, “the big dog’s nature will be in the pup,” that is, the brave come from brave parents. The hound-loving British know that “every dog is a lion at home,” but the Japanese also point out “even the street dog has his lucky day.”

Some Chinese sayings speak volumes about the loyalty and generous affection of dogs: “The dog has no aversion to a poor family.” “From the lowly perspective of a dog’s eyes, everyone looks short.” “Dogs have so many friends because they wag their tails, not their tongues.” In Italy they know “there is no dog so sad but he will wag his tail.” So what cheers up a dog? Food! And who can resist a begging pup? “Do not give the dog bread every time he wags his tail,” is said across Europe, but so is “Even the dog gets bread by wagging his tail.” They get other tasty rewards too, for “a good dog deserves a good bone.” Here are a few more sayings on Fido and food:

Too much pudding may choke a dog. – England

Why does the dog lick the pan? Because he cannot eat the pie. – England.

A dog is never offended at being pelted with bones. – Italy

The dog’s kennel is not the place to keep a sausage. – Denmark

A modest dog seldom grows fat. – England

He loves you as well as a dog loves onions. – In other words, not much! Italy

When he’s not hoping for a snack, “a dog has nothing to do and no time to rest,” as the Tamil say, perfectly describing the canine art of enjoying the moment. When it comes to seizing opportunities, the Turkish knew a dog was no slouch: “The dog of the master of the house gets up on the best sofa.” As any dog owner knows, sometimes their pet’s judgment is better than their own, as in the Scots adages “a well-bred dog goes out when he sees them preparing to kick him out,” and “an old hound bites sure.” To this the Italians add, “every dog is allowed one bite.” For those few mongrels cur or human who won’t behave, the French recommend “to a bad dog a short cord.” Very few pups give us such grief. Usually the only tears our friends make us shed are due to their short lifespan, as a German proverb explains: “A fence lasts three years, a dog lasts three fences, a horse three dogs, and a man three horses.”

So it doesn’t matter in the long run that “caress your dog, and he will spoil your clothes” (English), for “what has a dog to do with a bath?” (Greek). What’s most important about every dog was said best by New England clergyman Henry Ward Beecher: “For fidelity, devotion, love, many a two-legged animal is below the dog . . . Happy would it be for thousands of people if they could stand at last before the Judgment Seat and say ‘I have loved as truly and I have lived as decently as my dog.’”

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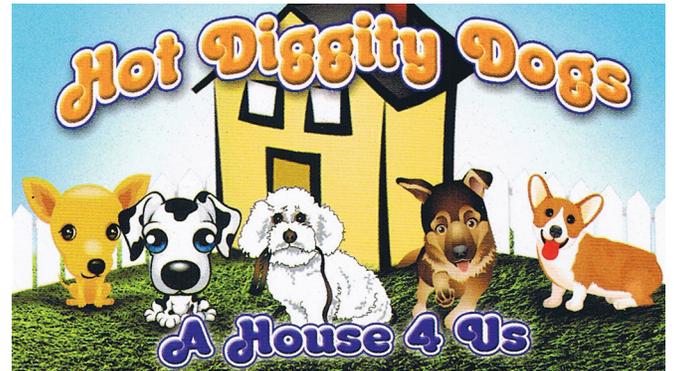
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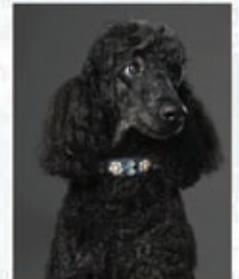
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I was found roaming the streets in Los Angeles, fending for myself with no one to care for me. If I'd been taken to a shelter, I would have never made it out because I had a bunch of issues: I threw temper tantrums, guarded my food and toys, and was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



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

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

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Written by B.J. Taylor

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER IS?

IT'S **NATIONAL PET MEMORIAL DAY**. I'M STILL HERE OF COURSE, SO WE AREN'T MEMORIALIZING ME, BUT THERE'S A SPECIAL DOG THAT WAS HERE BEFORE ME.

HIS NAME WAS REX AND THE FUNNY THING IS, HE TAUGHT ME A BUNCH OF STUFF.

Top 5 Things I Learned from my Pet Master

- 🐾 SHOW LOTS OF LOVE TO OTHERS WITH LICKS AND KISSES AND A HAPPY WAGGING TAIL.
- 🐾 BE COOL, COMPOSED, AND QUIET. NO UNNECESSARY BARKING.
- 🐾 SLEEP SOUNDLY AND WAIT FOR YOUR PEEPS TO GET YOU UP (NOT VICE VERSA).
- 🐾 NO BEGGING AT THE TABLE.
- 🐾 USE THE OUTDOORS FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT. ALWAYS. ALL THE TIME.

I'LL NEVER FORGET REX AND NEITHER WILL MOM AND DAD PEEP. THEY TALK ABOUT HIM OFTEN AND SOMETIMES SAY: "LOOK AT CHARLIE BEAR. HE'S CHANNELING HIS INNER REX." YUP, I LEARNED A LOT FROM THAT OLD MAN AND WHEN HE LEFT WE ALL CRIED. MOM FOUND SOME SOLACE IN THE RAINBOW BRIDGE POEM. MAYBE YOU WILL TOO:

P.S. Don't forget to spread the word:

Rescue Dogs Make Great Family Pets!

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head; and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

~Author unknown



*Woofs and Wiggles and
have a fabulous summer.*

**On Sunday September 8th,
I'll join you in
remembering my
Pet Master and your
beloved pets. We'll hold
their memories close
to our beating hearts.**

Lessons Learned from the Flock

CHICK QUESTIONS

Written by Wendy Thomas



WHEN I TEACH MY CHICKEN WORKSHOPS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEW BACKYARD FLOCK, THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS OF WHICH I AM SO SURE TO BE ASKED, THAT I HAVE AN ONGOING BET WITH MY KIDS TO GIVE THEM ICE-CREAM IF I AM NOT. SO FAR I HAVEN'T LOST MY BET. ALTHOUGH YOU MAY KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, CHANCES ARE THERE MIGHT BE SOME OF YOU OUT THERE WHO DON'T AND SO FOR YOU:

DO YOU NEED A ROOSTER TO GET EGGS FROM YOUR HENS?

PEOPLE TEND TO THINK OF EGGS AS A TYPE OF BABY THAT IS ONLY BORN WHEN IT IS "READY." THIS IS NOT THE CASE. NOT TO GO COMPLETELY ZEN ON YOU, BUT WITH CHICKENS, AN EGG IS JUST AN EGG. THE EGG IS A PROTEIN, CALCIUM WRAPPED PACKAGE THAT A HEN IS PROGRAMMED TO DELIVER EVERY FEW DAYS (SOME BREEDS EVEN LAY ON A DAILY BASIS) WHETHER A ROOSTER IS AROUND OR NOT. JUST AS A FEMALE HUMAN HAS A CYCLE, SO DOES A FEMALE HEN AND NO ROOSTER IS GOING TO STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING.

FOR AN EGG TO BE FERTILIZED AND THUS HAVE A CHANCE AT CREATING A CHICK, YOU'LL NEED A ROOSTER IN YOUR FLOCK. THE ROOSTER WILL COPULATE WITH YOUR HEN CREATING "FERTILIZED" EGGS THAT ARE NOW CAPABLE OF HAVING EMBRYONIC GROWTH WITH THE POTENTIAL OF BEING ABLE TO HATCH. IN SHORT, IF YOU WANT EGGS FOR EATING, YOU'LL NEED A HEN. BUT IF YOU WANT CHICKS, THEN AND ONLY THEN YOU'LL NEED A ROOSTER.

HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR FLOCK IN THE WINTER? WE LIVE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND

MANY OF MY FIRST TIME CHICKEN OWNING FRIENDS START SHOWING CONCERN ABOUT THEIR CHICKENS WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DROP. BUT THEY NEEDN'T BE WORRIED. CHICKENS ARE OUTDOOR BIRDS (JUST LIKE WILD TURKEYS.) IF YOU'VE PROVIDED A WIND-PROOF SHELTER ALONG WITH ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER, YOUR CHICKENS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE IT FROM THERE. CHICKENS WILL ROOST TOGETHER WHEN THE WEATHER GETS VERY COLD. THIS MEANS THAT THEY WILL LINE THEIR BODIES CLOSELY TO EACH OTHER WHILE THEY SIT ON A RAISED BAR. IF YOU HAVE CHICKENS, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STICK YOUR HAND BETWEEN TWO ROOSTING BIRDS TO FEEL THE HEAT GENERATED BETWEEN THEM. IT'S PRETTY AMAZING.



CHICKENS ALSO LOOK A LOT FLUFFIER IN THE WINTER. THIS ISN'T BECAUSE THEY HAVE PUT ON EXTRA WEIGHT, INSTEAD IT'S BECAUSE THEY KNOW TO FLUFF UP THEIR FEATHERS IN ORDER TO TRAP AIR UNDERNEATH. THIS AIR IS THEN HEATED BY THEIR BODIES AND HELPS TO KEEP THEM EVEN WARMER. IN ESSENCE, IT'S NATURE'S ORIGINAL DOWN COAT.

September 23-29 is
National Farm
Animal Awareness

CHICKENS ABSOLUTELY DON'T NEED ELECTRICAL HEATERS IN THE WINTER (UNLESS YOU ARE USING ONE TO MELT THE DRINKING WATER) AND IN FACT, MANY COOPS CATCH ON FIRE FROM THE MISTAKEN USE OF HEATERS BEING USED AROUND FLAMMABLE BEDDING.

IN THE END, CHICKENS ARE PRETTY SMART AND HARDY BIRDS. THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND THERE'S A REASON WHY YOU ALWAYS SEE THEM ON FARMS, CHICKENS ARE EASY TO CARE FOR. IF YOU PROVIDE THE BASICS — SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER — THEN THEY ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO TAKE IT FROM THERE.

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

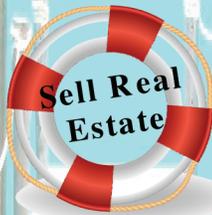


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OMD... #TitusBARKS

SO EXCITABULLS!

Titus is my namie n Rescue is my gamie!

Afta bein rescued dare is nuffin in dis world I want to do more den helpie more animals likie mees. I lived n breaved da shelter lifie n it is not fun at all. I seed doggies bringed into da back room to never return n yous no wut, I nos wut happened to dems n it is not rite or fare. Too many doggies is losin dare lifies acus dere is no room for dems. All of dis wood end if peeples spayed n neutered dare doggies buts dat is anoder stowy all togedder. Afta livin in a shelter n finawy bein rescued I insistied dats Mommy let me help her in her cwusade to helpie da homieless. I can not fisically pull da animals fwom da shelter but I can help advocate n raise moneys for dems n our rescue!

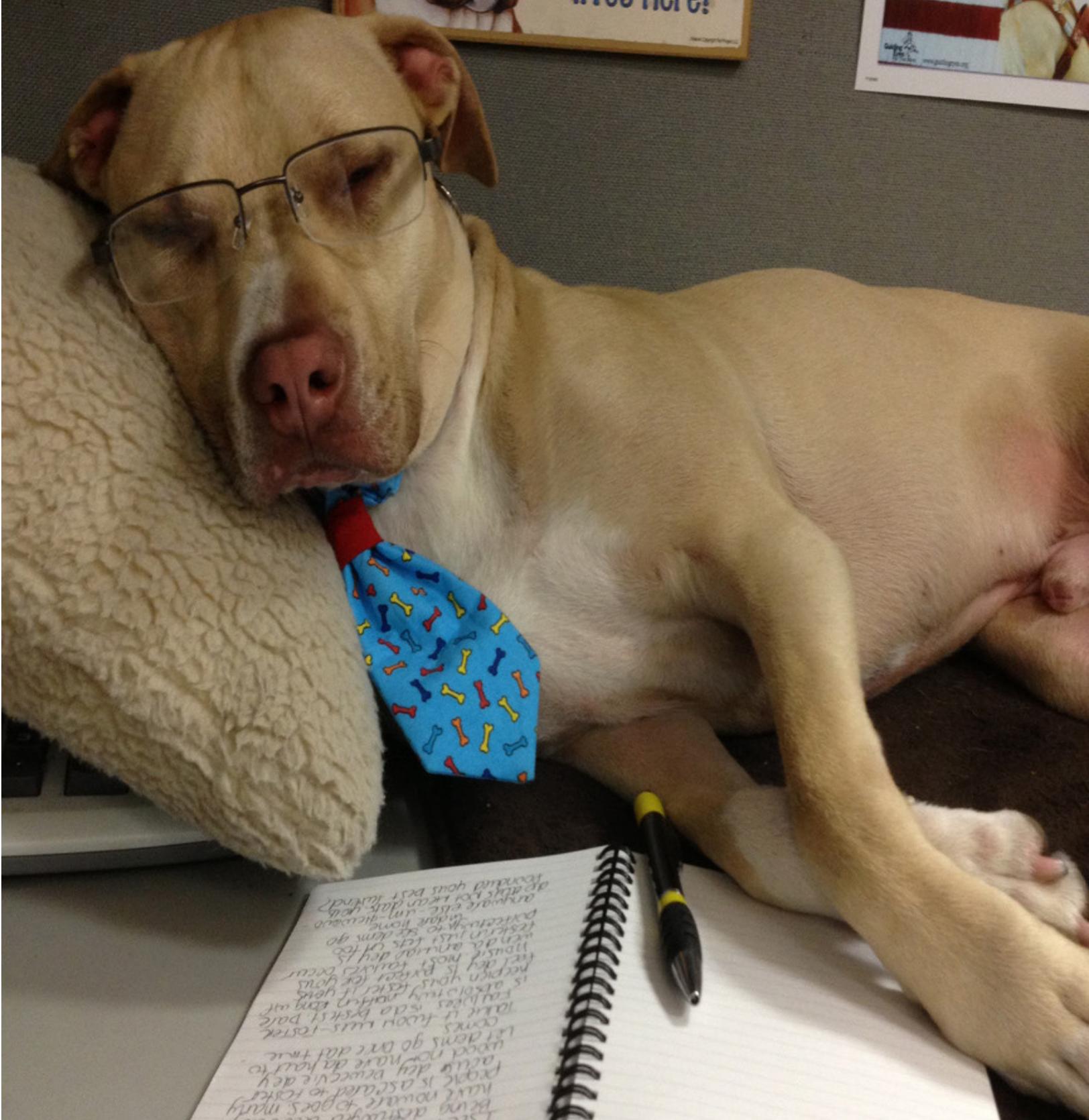
One fing I have been postien about lots lately is fostering. Fostering is da most important part of rescue. Wifout fosters, we can not save more animals. Rescues rely on solely on donashons n unfortunatwy can not spend all dat money on bording da doggies dey save. Many rescues is not fortunate enuff to have a pwace to housie dare animals dats dey rescue. Dats ware foster pawents come in to pway. Most rescues will onwy askie yous to keep da doggie or cat comfy till dey find dare furever homie. Da rescue will pay for food, vet care or any udder need yous may have whilst fostering. So wy do yous say dats yous can not foster.....it can not bees acus of da money part of its acus, as I sed, rescues will pay for evewyting, alls yous got to do is keepie da animal safe n happy! I see way too many animals needlessly being destwoyed (murdered) acus dey have no ware to goes.



Now, here is a stowy dats I hear way to offen....."I do not want to foster because I will fall in love and not be able to let go" Ummmmmm, yeah, and????? Dos dat not mean dats yous have foundied yous best fwiend? Is dare weally somefin rong wif dats? Takie it fwom mees.....foster failures is da bestest. Dare is absolutwy nuffin rong wif keepien yous foster if yous feel dey is a perfect fit for yous famiwy. We get so many posties on our pagie askin if we can helpie a poor doggie locked up in da shelter buts unfortunatwy, unless we gets more fosters, we can not bees dat much helpies. In da future we will look to findie a shelter for our animals buts for now, we need yous help....become a foster today, I pwomise, it will bees good for yous hart! Hey, yous never nos....yous cood wind up wif a perfect doggie likie mees. (I is not bwaggin, it is just wut Mommy always sais).

Make for an
"Mister" "Master"

Titus



I see destroyin' on
being noware 'n' goes, many
have noware 'n' goes, many
people is a scared to foster
acuse dey brewevle dey
good now have da heart to
let dems go are dat true
comes
take it fudon luss-foster
is aso'ly may night em wif
fosteres is da bestst part
recep'n your foster if you
feel dey is perfect for you
foster just for you
you da arn't let of the
foster just for dems go
anyware else - am you
ap'ly for them dat you
found you best friend?



Mommy twied her hardest to findie mees da perfect homie but in da end wealized dats I was alweddy dare! Dat, I must say, was da bestest day of my lifie. May 28th, 2011, is a day dats I will never forget. I foundied outs dats I was gonna bees able to stay wif My Girl for da rest of my lifie n enjoy wut puppy pawadise has to offer! My sweet lil lifie!

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

Wut I is twyin to say is pwease do not bees affwaid to foster. Becomin a foster is not onwy savin da life of yous foster doggie but it makies room to save anoder homieless animal. Mommy sed dats becomin a foster pawent was good for her hart...evewy time she looked at mees she seed a gwowin n healing boy n newd dats she was helping mees become all I cood bees. She now tells mees dats I is da best doggie in da housie n wifout fosterin mees she cood have never foundied a better doggie. Unfortunatwy, I can not tell yous wut happened to mees whilst I was livin on da stweet but I can tell yous dats it was scawy n dare was not too many nice peeples dats I cood walkie up to for food or some lovin....it was bewwy lonely n scawy n I wish dats upon no udder animal. Dats wy I is twyin to helpie however I can!

Dis July 14th will bees a bewwy speshal day for mees n My Girl. We is celebewatin our love for each udder by becoming unities in holy muttrimony! We will bees celebratin at our housie wif a fundraiser/wedding to benefit Tuff Tails Animal Rescue. I will have my Kissy Booth set up, Hailey will have her cookie decorating table, dare will bees vendors, food, dwinks, 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, a dj, fotogwapher, videogwapher n we is twyin to do live feed for all of our faciebutts fans that can not attend. Mommy just gotted Haileys wedding dwess n fwom wut I hear she is gonna lookie likes a pwincess...um, I alweddy finked she was a pwincess. I have been finkin about dis day since Feb of 2012, wen I pwoposed to My Girl n now it is becoming a weality!

SO EXCITABULLS! I never finked it wood bees as big as it is becoming wif peeples flyin in fwom all over da US....OMD, I can not wait to finawy meets evewyone!

***TITUS' beautiful furry family:
Kiah, Titus, Aistin, Hailey, Mercedes***



I wood likie to bwing up one more bewwy important issue.....Da 4th of July is rite awound da corner. Dare is a 30% incwease in lost pets between July 4th n July 6th. Onwy 14% of dese pets is re-united wif dare owners*, dat means da rest of dems gets killed (I say killed acus it is unjustified to euthanize a healthy, adoptabull animal). Pwease, if yous animals is affwaid of da fireworks, keep dems safe in da house n if dey have to go outs, puts dems on a leash n walkie dems so dare is no chance of dems escapien n gettin lost and bein scared all by demselfs. It is scary enuff for an animal to have a fear butts to have dat fear, all alone, wif no pwotection or anyone to tells dems it will bees oday, is even scarier! Keep yous pets safe dis 4th of July, pwease! Mees n my sisters aktuawy ruffs da fireworkies n twy to scare away da noises n booms butts we is a bewwy rare group of doggies....at leest dats wut Mommy sais... I is finkin rare means pawsome n just da bestest ever? BOL

We wood like to takie dis time to send our condolencies to my Aunt Suzin. Her MissKitty maded da journey to da Rainbow Bridge on May 10th. Aunt Suzin, we is finkin abouts yous n will missie MissKitty bewwy muchies.

Rest in Peace sweet angel!



To follow my daily adventures bees sure to visit us at Titus and His Girl Hailey on faciebutts and pwease be sure to become a fan of our rescue page, Tuff Tails Animal Rescue! Can not wait to sees yous dare!

*<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/6/prweb9654760.htm>

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

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

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

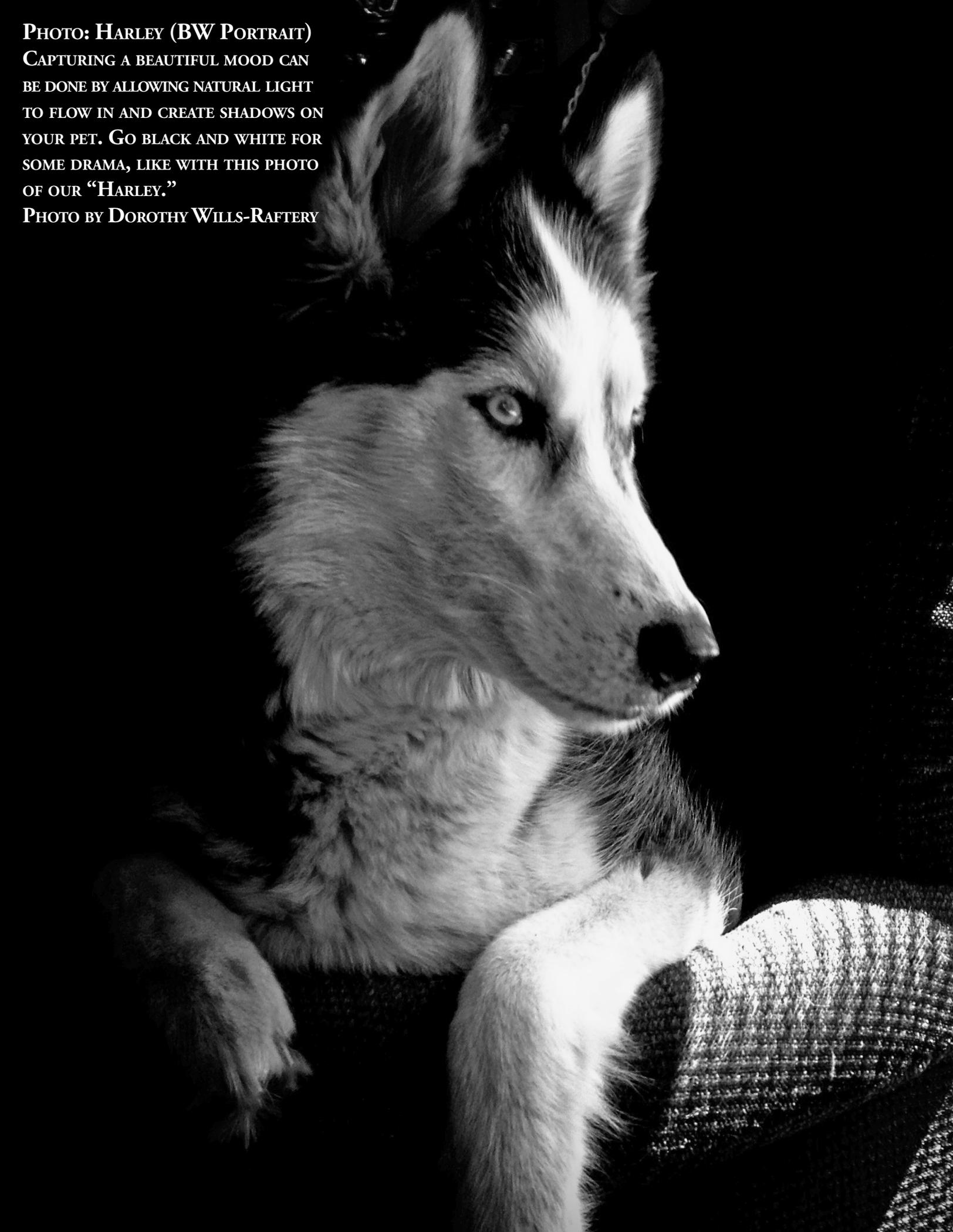
TUFF TAILS ANIMAL RESCUE IS A NON-PROFIT 501(c)(3) TAX-EXEMPT NO-KILL RESCUE AND ADOPTION AGENCY. WE RELY SOLELY ON THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY OF ANIMAL LOVERS LIKE YOU WHO OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO HELP US TAKE CARE OF THE ORPHANED ANIMALS THAT DESPERATELY NEED US.

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

“OUR TASK MUST BE TO FREE OURSELVES...BY WIDENING OUR CIRCLE OF COMPASSION TO EMBRACE ALL LIVING CREATURES AND THE WHOLE OF NATURE AND ITS BEAUTY”

~ALBERT EINSTEIN

PHOTO: HARLEY (BW PORTRAIT)
CAPTURING A BEAUTIFUL MOOD CAN
BE DONE BY ALLOWING NATURAL LIGHT
TO FLOW IN AND CREATE SHADOWS ON
YOUR PET. GO BLACK AND WHITE FOR
SOME DRAMA, LIKE WITH THIS PHOTO
OF OUR "HARLEY."
PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY



EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY:

TIPS ON PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET

Every picture does indeed tell a story. While July 11th is the official “**All American Pet Photo Day**,” we pet parents certainly do not need a special day to capture our furkids on film (or digital disk), but it is a perfect time to talk about how to take some great photographs of our pets, whether it’s on a camera or a camera phone.

Written by ©Dorothy Wills-Raftery

As both a photographer and a pet parent to currently five Siberian Huskies and a feral-now-adopted cat, and having been an equestrian, one of my favorite subjects to photograph are, and always has been, my pets! Throughout the day, every day, they bring such joy, laughter, and smiles to our lives and what better way to document that than through a photograph?

Whether it’s a gentle moment of a puppy licking a baby’s face, a cat sleeping in the sunlight, a dog in mid-air happily catching a ball, a horse in mid-gallop across an open field, or a bunny nibbling on a carrot...these are all very special moments in time that we can relive over and over again by looking at a photograph. What is the best way to capture your pet’s memory?

Here’s a few photography tips to bring that moment frozen in time to life:

Point of View: Think eye-to-eye. Get yourself to your pet’s eye level for some truly engaging shots. If your dog is on the floor and playing with a toy, get down on the floor with him and use that as your point-of-view for a true-to-life shot. Or if you are riding your horse, take some from up in the saddle from the horse’s viewpoint, and be sure to include the back of his ears in the pics for a unique perspective!

Lighting: Not all photos are best taken with a flash. Check your room’s light source and shoot some pics with the flash off for a softer, more natural tone. Let light cast shadows for a photo showing mood. Depending on how low the lighting is, you may need to steady your camera by using a tripod. In a pinch, if you don’t have a tripod with you, you can support your camera by leaning on something stable such as the floor/ground, a table, the mailbox, a picnic table, or even the car’s hood (be sure the motor is off!)

Props: Toss your dog a fetch stick, drop a ball into the dog’s pool, use a cat toy to entice your feline, etc. to emulate “a day in the life of my pet.” Show the happiness they are experiencing!

Accessories: Don’t be afraid to try out different lenses and filters. A fish eye can add so much interest to a photo, while different filters (whether for the camera or photo application) can give the pic a whole different feel.

Action: Whether it’s a galloping horse or a running dog, if your camera has an auto sports mode, use it. If not, move your camera along with your moving pet keeping the subject in the viewfinder and then snap the photo while moving the camera along with the pet. This will give a great freeze-frame shot that shows the animal in motion.



PHOTO: CAMERA PIC~DON’T HAVE A CAMERA? USE YOUR CELL PHONE’S CAMERA! HERE, “CHLOE” AND “HARLEY” OF THE FIVESIBES POSE FOR THEIR PICTURE! PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY

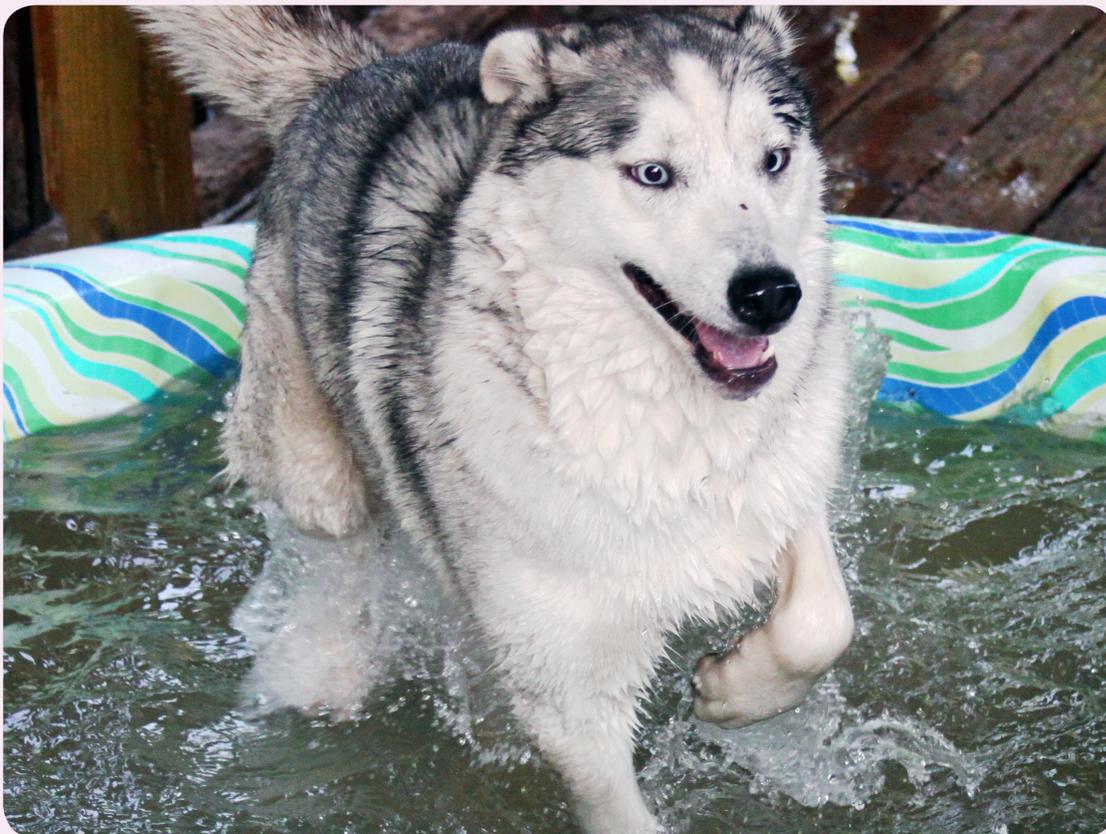
Backgrounds: Before clicking that shutter button, check the background. Is it crowded by objects? Why not remove that trashcan out of the photo before taking the picture? Of course with the many digital photo programs now available, you can erase any background interferences, but if you can set up the scene beforehand, do so to keep the integrity of the shot.

Be Daring: Go ahead and tip the camera's lens on an angle, or lay on the floor and shoot up as your dog is howling, or stand up on that chair for more interesting photographs. Shoot some black and white photographs, or change the color mode to black and white in a photo program, for a dramatic mood.

Portrait Time: To capture your dog's eyes and expression in a portrait-style setting, use a squeaky toy or treat to draw her eyes to where you want them to be. Don't forget to reward your dog after the photo is taken!

Backdrops: If you don't have a studio backdrop (canvas, muslin, cotton, etc), you can create a makeshift one by hanging a blanket or sheet. Run a few tests shots first to be sure the material shows up well on film.

Special Events: If a pet is part of a wedding party, pose him with the bridal party, with his parent (bride or groom or both), with a bouquet of flowers, or even place a crown of flowers or a bowtie around her/his neck for a unique formal photo. If there's a graduation going on, how about a cute pic of the happy grad in the gown with (wo)man's best friend wearing the mortarboard? And don't forget those birthday parties! Snap a few photos of your dog enjoying a lick of the ice cream cake or wearing one of the party hats with balloons in the background.



No matter what the reason you whip out your camera or camera phone, have fun taking photos of your pets! Rolling around in the grass with your cat, snoozing with your bunny, going for a horseback ride, or running in the snow with your dog can sometimes result in the best moments caught on "film" and will become a happy lifetime memory!
Happy Snapping!

PHOTO: POOL ACTION: PHOTOGRAPH YOUR DOG DOING WHAT SHE LOVES TO DO BEST, LIKE OUR "BANDIT" PLAYING IN A KIDDIE POOL, AND CAPTURE THE JOY! PHOTO BY ©DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY

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



**WEDDING PHOTO: IT'S YOUR WEDDING DAY!
DON'T FORGET THE DOG! HERE, "SAGE" IS ALL
DECKED OUT IN A FLORAL NECKLACE WAITING IN
THE LIMO TO WALK HER MOM DOWN THE AISLE!
PHOTO BY ©DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY**



Advocates 4 Animals, Inc.

Rescue. Rehabilitate. Reform.

We Saved Each Other

Written by Stacey Ritz

Her teeth violently gripped the metal cage bars. The chunky brown and white Chihuahua had every reason to be angry. After seven wonderful years together, her human guardian had abandoned her in the local high-kill shelter.

As co-founders of Advocates 4 Animals Rescue, Amy and I were at the shelter that day to save the lives of a group of orphaned newborn kittens. However, when we learned the Chihuahua's story, we knew we had to help.

Pure panic embraced the Chihuahua as the shelter staff reached into her cage with a catch pole. But the moment her paws hit the floor and a leash was slipped over her head, her tail began to wag. Although we didn't know anything about her, other than the fact that the gas chamber had an open door waiting for her if we didn't pay the safety fee and walk out the door with Margo by our side we knew we could save her life ... and so we did.

The bond between us grew instantly. Margo stuck by my side and I stood by hers. She slept snuggled up next to me at night. She wasn't fond of anyone else, only me and after a period of time this began to concern me. I loved the bond that we had, but I knew if Margo were ever going to have the chance to be adopted into a forever home, she would need to learn to be welcoming of others. I began to take her on short drives, on regular walks and she was always present when regular company arrived. She would throw her small fifteen-pound body in front of my legs when another human approached to say hello. She would snarl and bark; she was protecting me. Having had recently endured a difficult time in my life, I became concerned that Margo was sensing my fear of the world. Was Margo protecting me because she knew I was terrified of being harmed again? Was she simply protecting me the way I had protected her?

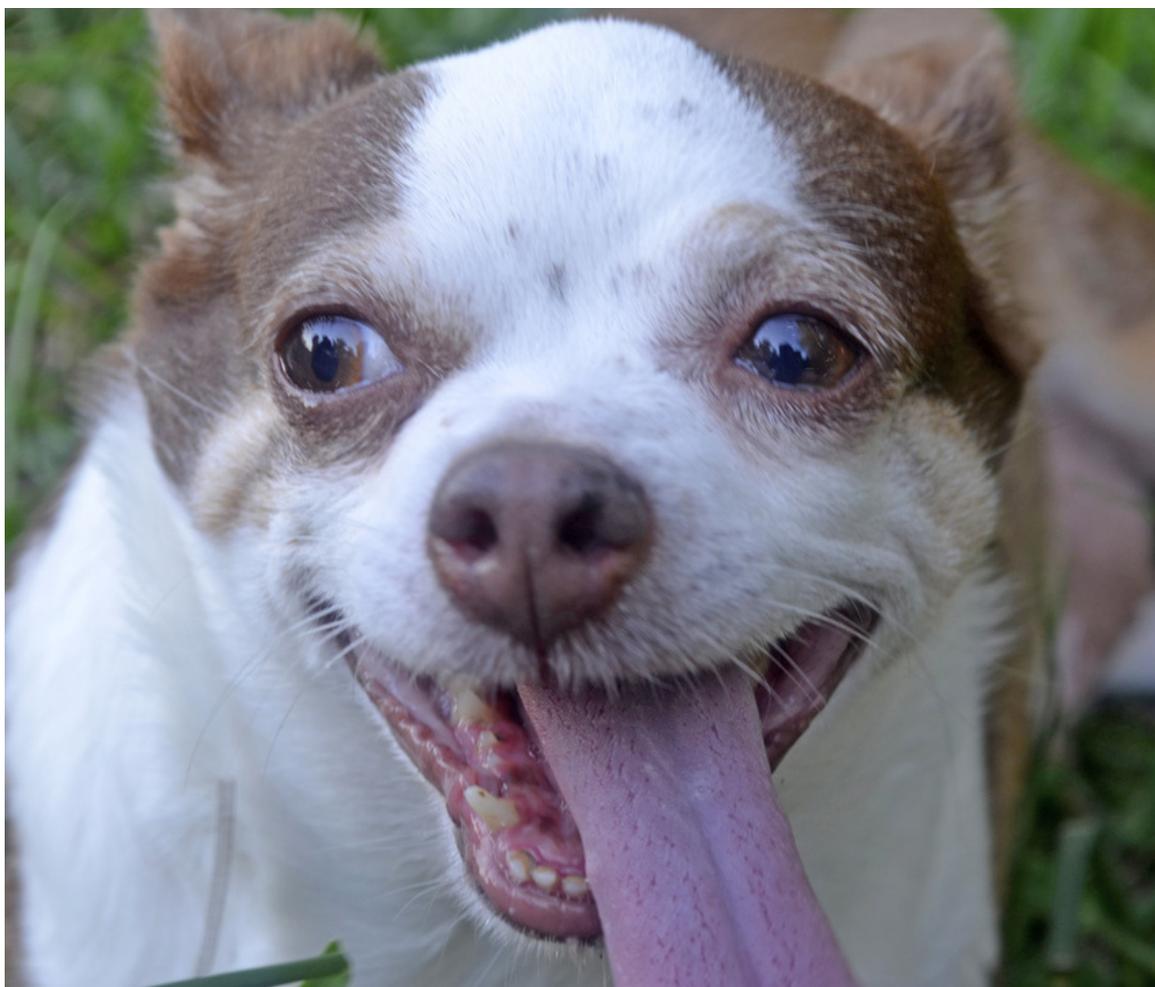
If Margo was picking up on my internal struggle to reconnect with safe world, I had to change. Although it had been several years since the sexual assault had occurred, I had never sought therapy. Margo made me take another look at myself.

When I pulled out my yoga mat at home, Margo would rush to my side. As I stretched, Margo would lay on her back, all four paws up in the air, staring at the ceiling. As I relaxed and gained confidence; she did too. As I began to re-embrace loved ones in my own life, Margo began accepting them in hers. We were going through a journey of discovery together. Margo demonstrated a newfound sense of freedom in her life. She began to play with toys, she ran freely in the yard with other dogs, she greeted guests at the door...she had become a loyal, loving and devoted canine.

Nearly 6 months after her rescue we received a great adoption application for Margo. We had been through an emotional journey together, we had an unbreakable bond. Was I ready for this? Was Margo? She had already been abandoned once in life (at the shelter); I didn't want her to ever feel that abandonment again. Yet, I knew if this turned out to truly be the perfect match for Margo, it was what would be best for her. And with Margo's adoption, my home would again be open to help another shelter pet in need.

On adoption day Margo trotted after me as I approached the front door to leave that evening. I bent down to say good-bye and turned to leave. Nearly a week after her adoption, her adopter contacted me with updates. I loved knowing that Margo had found exactly what she needed. Not only that, but Margo had helped me to begin the journey of rehabilitation myself. She allowed me to recognize the pain I had held inside for so many years and the importance of dealing with that pain instead of keeping it bottled up inside where it turns to fear.

We're all on life's journey and life is best lived when we help each other out along the way. Whether or not you remember those who lifted you up when you most needed it, what's important is that you have learned who you are and that you have surrounded yourself with love.



*Stacey Ritz is an award winning freelance writer and is the Executive Director of Advocates 4 Animals, Inc. - 501c3 nonprofit organization. Ritz is a professional member of the CUA (Cats Unties Association) and DUAA (Dogs United Association of America).
www.Advocates4Animals.com FaceBook: Advocates4Animals Twitter: @A4A*

2013 BEST in print

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Litterer

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

Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing



Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, is based on one of the author's Huskies, Gibson, having a seizure, which is translated into a short tale that makes it easy for children (who may have Epilepsy themselves, know someone who does, or have a pet that has it) to understand. As the short story unfolds in easy-to-understand rhymes accompanied by colorfully adorable illustrations, the three young pups discover that their big brother has Canine Epilepsy and they get a hands-on lesson about care and first aid from the pack's alpha leader, Harley. A percentage of proceeds from the book will be donated to the non-profit Canine Epilepsy Resources center.

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

Written by Mike Deathe

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.

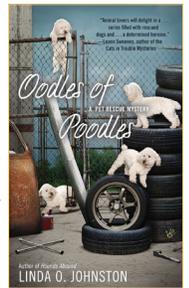
As with any of my works, it is only the first step in learning to speak dog as a second language (DASL!) The second step is your work with your dog, and the third step should always be with a professional trainer if problems persist. Expecting anything else is silly! www.KeepItSimpleStupid.com



Oodles of Poodles: a Pet Rescue Mystery

Written by Linda O. Johnston

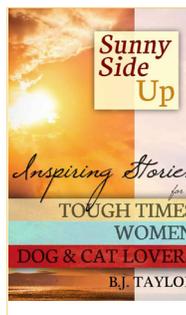
Shelter manager and pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver once again takes on the role of amateur sleuth when there's a murder on a film set . . . Has Hollywood gone to the dogs? Pet rescuer Lauren Vancouver is observing production on a new movie called Sheba's Story. The title character—a white Miniature poodle—is 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.



Sunny Side Up

Written by B.J. Taylor

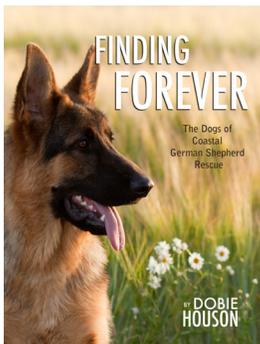
"Behind the clouds there is always the sun." SUNNY SIDE UP is filled with inspiring real life true stories. In the DOG & CAT LOVERS section you'll recognize the abundance of love we all have for our furry friends and the love they give us in return. A BONUS SECTION is devoted to short vignettes from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



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

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

See Page 19 for *Charlie Bear Woofs* on **National Pet Memorial Day** / Sunday, Sept 8th



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue

Written by Dobie Houson

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

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

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



Empowering Children Through Story™

“God loved the birds and invented the trees.

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

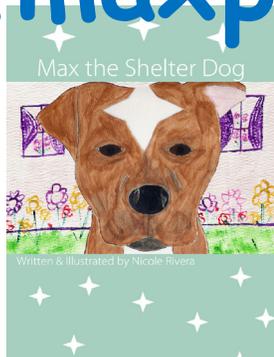
Although they may not be able to verbally express themselves, animals are filled with love, loyalty, compassion, strength, knowledge, and bravery. The love from an animal is not comparable to anything that I have ever experienced. It has been scientifically proven that animals can add to the health and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

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

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

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

www.maxpproductions.com



Max
A Glimpse Into Max's World



Max's Mini Puzzle Book

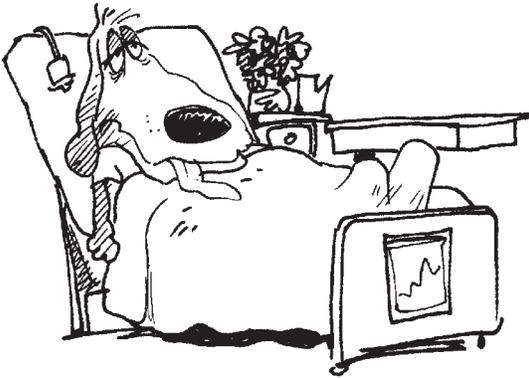
PET INSURANCE

Written by Meredith Wargo

Recent technological advancements help our dogs live longer. Treatments once reserved for humans — chemotherapy, organ transplants and pacemakers — are now available in veterinary medicine. However, with those advances come higher medical expenses. Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterinary services have risen an estimated 79% from 2000 to 2010, while veterinary fee inflation has averaged 5.6% per year since 2000.

Pet insurance is one option for offsetting some of the costs of long-term veterinary care, but it's not for everybody.

"It comes down to how disciplined we are in putting away money for our pets when they need it," says René Carlson, D.V.M., president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "If you never want to worry about money for your dog's healthcare when something comes up, then having insurance might make sense."



What's covered?

Not all pet insurance plans are the same. You can enroll with a low monthly premium and no deductible, or customize a plan to fit your budget. Plans have differences in yearly or monthly premiums, deductibles, copayments, pre-existing conditions, exclusions for hereditary conditions and discounts for insuring multiple pets.

Depending on the provider, some plans cover basic veterinary care, such as annual exams and vaccinations. Other policies only cover accidents and illnesses. In most cases, pre-existing conditions are not covered. Many plans also have age limits, which can reduce the coverage that older dogs are eligible to receive.

"Because of the pre-existing exclusions, I suggest owners purchase insurance plans as soon as possible," Carlson says. "However, if you start when your pet is young, you will be paying insurance premiums a lot longer. You may never need the insurance, but it does provide peace of mind if your dog develops health issues down the road."

Some breeds require higher premiums because of hereditary or congenital conditions. Retrievers and German Shepherds are prone to develop hip dysplasia, so some insurance providers exclude coverage for these breeds. Other companies require higher premiums for covering them. Because plans differ among providers, it's important for owners of purebred dogs to read the fine print and determine which conditions are covered.

Riders can also be purchased separately to provide specific coverage. Cancer treatment is a common rider, not only because it is the No. 1 disease-related killer in dogs but also because of the costly treatment.

Deductibles, premiums and claims

Some plans offer a set deductible for every visit, regardless of the reason for the visit. Other policies have sliding deductibles depending on the situation. For example, routine exams might have a low deductible, whereas a dog that gets hit by a vehicle might require a higher deductible. “Ask the insurance company if it’s an annual deductible or if it’s a per incident or per visit deductible,” Carlson says. “Also determine whether the premium goes up automatically with the age of the pet or whether it goes up based on claims.”



Payment

Pet insurance differs from human health insurance in that the pet owner pays the veterinary bills up front and then files a claim with the insurance provider for reimbursement. “Since you have to pay the bill initially, ask the insurance company how claims are processed and what the turn-around time is for getting reimbursed,” Carlson says.

If you don’t have insurance or if you can’t afford to pay your bill while waiting for reimbursement from your insurance company, some veterinarians offer payment plan options, such as CareCredit. “CareCredit is an option for people who want a no-interest payment plan that allows them to budget the expense over a set number of months until they get reimbursement from their pet health insurance company,” Carlson says. However, high-interest penalties can accrue if you miss a scheduled payment or if you don’t pay the balance in full by the end of your account’s promotional period. CareCredit also offers an extended payment plan if more time is needed to pay for a procedure. The extended plan includes an annual interest rate and fixed monthly payments until the remaining balance is paid.

Is it worth it?

Care For Your PET

Some owners with insurance might actually spend more over time on their pets than those without. To determine if pet insurance makes sense for you, calculate your annual veterinary costs and compare it to a year’s worth of insurance premiums and deductibles. If the costs are more than your annual bills, then pet insurance might not be warranted. However, the expense might be justified by one unforeseen medical event, such as a catastrophic illness or injury, which can total thousands of dollars.

Meredith Wargo is an accomplished writer with 28 years experience in writing, editing and marketing for the legal, real estate, architectural, engineering and construction industries. She’s known for having a way with words — both written and spoken. Her technical writing skills have been honed from positions within several large and respected companies.

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