

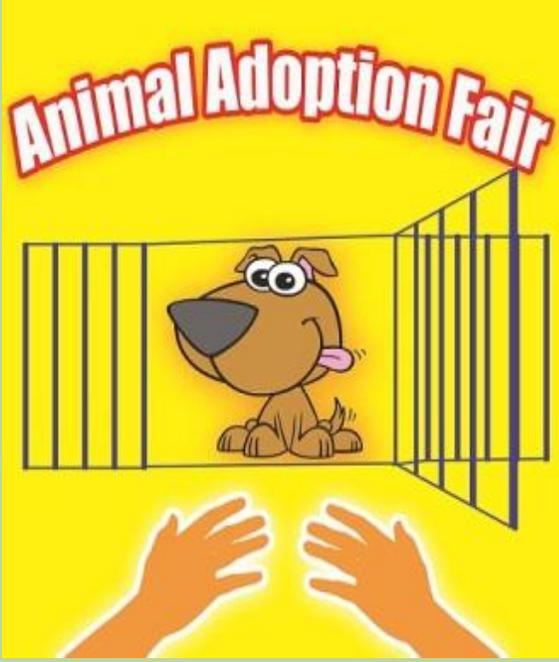
American Pet Magazine™

Volume 3
Issue 2 2014

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

**END
BSL**
END IGNORANCE

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

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The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor



♥Dedicated to *our*
PeanutButter♥

for all his hard work in taking on a larger work load than he ever expected. His huge heart continues to grow as he works on AmericanPet Magazine™ and his mission every day. He has started long distance traveling and even takes time to visit Granny. She loves watching him take control of her house. PeanutButter makes Granny laugh when he plops up on the chair and watches us as we talk.

The cover model is our Titus, who shows off his shirt to promote what he believes in. In this issue, #Titus Barks (pg 22) about ending BSL (Breed Specific Legislation) .We are so proud of Titus and his girl, Hailey and thier 3 other siblings. They continue to be ambassadors for other furbabies that aren't as fortunate as themselves.

Please, take the time to enjoy reading the pet celebration articles. Annaliese Morgan (pg 25) writes about Pet First Aid Awareness Month. She explains how detrimental it is to be prepared for in case your furbaby gets hurt. *Charlie Bear Woofs* (pg 17) about National Pet Day. You may read about Charlie Bear in his book written by B.J. Taylor (pg 21).

Take your Dog to Work Day is June 20th. Linda O. Johnston (pg 28) writes about bringing your dog to work and how it adds to the moral for the day. Dobie Houson (pg 26) lists *10 Reasons NOT to Breed*.

Animal advocate, Dolores Paddock, writes about Puppy Mill Action Week (pg 18) in May. She writes about this week to educate and inform everyone about the big problems that puppy mills create. Dolores stresses the fact that it is better to adopt than purchase your furbaby from one of these places.

Dorothy Wills-Raftery has found an awesome organization and shares it with us (pg 6). Paws to People brings awareness to the links between human and canine diseases, such as epilepsy, cancer, arthritis, etc. They are also reaching out internationally.

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

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

Have an AmericanPet Day!!

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

**SUZIN
KARP**

We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 31) by passing along this copy of AmericanPet Magazine. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.

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Photographer: Laura Morgillo

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PET CELEBRATIONS

April

- National Heartworm Awareness Month
Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month www.asPCA.org
National Pet Month
National Pet First Aid Awareness Month (Page 25)
Pets Are Wonderful Month
Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month
1-7 International Pooper Scooper Week
*2 National Ferret Day www.Ferret.org
8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
11 National Pet Day (Page 17)
18 Pet Owners Independence Day www.Wellcat.com
20-26 National Pet ID Week
22 Earth Day
24 Sylvester the Cat's Birthday
26 Hairball Awareness Day www.ScienceDiet.com
26 National Kids & Pets Day
26 Veterinary Day
27 Woody Woodpecker Day (Creator Walter Lant's Birthday)
28 International Guide Dog Day
30 National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

May

- Microchip your Pet Month
National Pet Month
National Duckling Month
International Respect for Chickens Month
3 National Disabled Pets Day
4 International Respect for Chickens Day
4-10 Be Kind to Animals Week www.americanhumane.org
4-10 National Pet Week www.petweek.org
5-11 Puppy Mill Action Week (Page 18)
10 Animal Disaster Preparedness Day
18-24 National Dog Bite Prevention Week
23 World Turtle Day

June

- Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month
National Pet Preparedness Month
1-7 Pet Appreciation Week
4 Hug your cat day (I do it EVERYDAY!)
10 World Pet Memorial Day
16-20 Take Your Pet to Work Week (Page 28)
20 Take Your Dog To Work Day (Page 28)

“Paws to People: Bridges to Cures”

~ Supporting Comparative Studies Research for

Catastrophic Diseases in Canines & Humans

Written by

©Dorothy Wills-Raferly

There’s a new “kid” in town that is bringing awareness to the links between human and canine diseases, such as epilepsy, cancer, arthritis, etc. The “kid” is actually the new organization Paws to People, Bridges to Cures (P2P) was incorporated in New Mexico April 24, 2013, and was founded by president, Susan Sehi-Smith (pronounced See-Hi), along with her partner and husband, Steve. P2P is registered with the state’s Attorney General’s Office as a charity organization. The paperwork for their 501C3 has been filed and they are awaiting certification for tax-exempt non-profit status.



Sehi-Smith, a seasoned writer, self-proclaimed “grassroots activist,” and hu-mom to the “White Dog Army” of rescued American Eskimo dogs she writes about in her blog, the White Dog Diary (www.whitedogblog.blogspot.com), birthed the P2P group out of sheer “passion” and says it is the result of “not being happy with the amount of donor dollars being spent on research on the national canine cancer organization I was involved with for a couple of years. I had fundraised and organized events and participated at the national level, as well as served on their board of directors, and when I saw their financials, I was shocked to discover only 18 cents on the dollar was going to research. The great core team of volunteers that I had here in Albuquerque agreed we wanted more, and when we looked around we found nowhere else that focused on comparative studies. So we made the choice to begin Paws To People, Bridges to Cures with the goal of raising awareness and funding for comparative research that attacks catastrophic diseases that affect both pets and humans. Additionally, we built into our charter documents a resolution that 80% of donor dollars is our goal for research funding with that percentage NEVER dipping below 55 cents on the dollar...even in this, our founding year.”

Sehi-Smith says she is driven to “connect, educate, share, and challenge,” something she is striving hard to accomplish through educational awareness and events. In a recent radio interview on “The Sibe Vibe” aired on Dog Works Radio (<http://dogworksradio.com/the-sibe-vibe/>), Sehi-Smith states she believes that “each person has an obligation to work toward making the world a better place and that a measure of one’s character is the effort and focus applied to making a difference.” And the P2P mission is being “committed to furthering comparative studies research in catastrophic diseases to save the lives of humans and pets.”

One may ask just how does studying domestic pet help in these studies? Sehi-Smith explains, “Looking at domestic pets in particular offers tremendous insight in comparative studies because these animals completely share the human environment and lifestyle. They live in our houses, walk on our fertilized lawns, drive in our cars, eat our leftovers, suffer our stresses...they are models of the human experience that, because of their shorter lifespans, run in fast forward. Comparative studies research uses that natural link to explore the real world impact.”



Photo on right: Susan and Steve Sehi-Smith of Paws to People, Bridges to Cures and their “White Dog Army.”

Photo on next page: Paws to People, Bridges to Cures founder and president Susan Sehi-Smith’s American Eskimo spokesdog “Siku Marie” and purple epilepsy awareness balloon at a recent Paws to People, Bridges to Cures Epilepsy Awareness event in New Mexico.

Photos courtesy of Susan Sehi-Smith.

Sehi-Smith, sadly, is no stranger to catastrophic illnesses in both the canine and human worlds. Her furangel Sheltie, “Sheena” lived with liver cancer, her Eskie furangel “The Mighty Quinn” suffered from seizures, one of her current furbabies, 12-year-old “Oso” has arthritis, and her beloved aunt had uterine cancer that Sehi-Smith said, “spread to her breasts, her lymph nodes, and finally, to her brain. She defied all predictions of six-months to live by fighting on for five years.” But, she uses those experiences to hopefully help others through P2P. Sehi-Smith also has 5 years of previous active experience in raising awareness and fund raising for the cause of comparative studies, specifically comparative oncology. She introduced the concept to the general public in Albuquerque and for three years spearheaded events to spread the word and fundraise for a national organization’s New Mexico Chapter.

According to Sehi-Smith, “Research takes place all over the country and abroad. It is our hope to at least initially fund smaller projects that focus on commonalities, causes, and preventions since these are most often overlooked by big Pharma and are underfunded. Ideally, at least the first few awards will be made to SW groups, but we are open to finding the most promising projects.”

While it takes one person to spearhead an idea, such as Sehi-Smith, she is the first to acknowledge that it takes a village of caring people to make it all happen. “We are very fortunate to have a significant brain-trust in the southwest of those involved in comparative research,” credits Sehi-Smith. “Here in Albuquerque, Dr. Barbara Kitchell, a world-class comparative oncologist, just took over the reins of VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and there are plans to make this a crown jewel of treatment and research. Additionally Dr. Jeff Nichol, a behaviorist, is doing some ground-breaking work on plaque buildup in the brain and Canine Cognitive Dysfunction; the hope is that his work will then bridge over into the human realm. Of course, Colorado State University is the birthplace of comparative studies here in the United States and Texas A&M has several projects underway. There is also a fairly vital group of independent researchers with projects that involve causal studies and environmental impacts (such as water contaminants by district versus rates of specific diseases—both canine and human).”

Sehi-Smith says Paws To People has assembled a “wonderful” Advisory Board, who are “all volunteers committed to comparative research and highly respected experts in their own rights, to guide our review and decision making process when the time comes for us to begin funding: Dr. Julia Skains is an award winning local vet with a balanced understanding of both traditional and alternative healing (she is the choice of the White Dog Army); Dr. Jeanette Kelly, veterinary oncologist and researcher; Dr. Phil Ries, canine geriatric internist; Dr. David Leibowitz, human oncologist; Dr. Diane Polasky, human alternative medicine healer; Lisa McKitrick, bio-medical researcher; and Gene Tooley, CPA.”

At this time, P2P is building momentum and public awareness in New Mexico, but have begun reaching out internationally. “Right now, our focus is on building a local grassroots base and public awareness that knows us for our work, our operational transparency, and our commitment to directing donor dollars to actual research not to organizational costs. We DO have supporters and followers all over the country...in fact, internationally. I think there is an understanding that comparative research will benefit us all no matter where it is conducted. If we are to be successful in our mission, we will at some point need to go broader, but not at the cost of becoming one of those organizations that currently has everyone questioning where their donations go and the embarrassing salaries that are paid (we are an all-volunteer organization). It is important to our mission that we stay above reproach and form Bridges, not just to Cures, but also to lasting relationships and support.”

To follow the P2P events, and find out more about Paws to People, Bridges to Cures, you can follow them on their Paws to People Facebook community page, or visit their website at www.bridgestocures.org.

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

Ferrets Visit the Great Outdoors!

OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES

Ferrets adore going outside. And while there are many precautions to be aware of when walking your ferret on a leash or creating an outdoor enclosure, it is an awesome way for them to exercise and allow them to experience new sites and sounds! Many ferret owners have created outdoor enclosures to enrich their ferrets. Some of these are temporary while others have been integrated into the garden or landscape. Above all else, if allowing your ferrets to enjoy nature, be certain to always supervise their time. Never leave ferrets alone outside!

Outdoor enrichment is so beneficial. The natural light and weather support overall health and mental well-being. The variety of surfaces and opportunities to play provide extra exercise that enhances muscle tone, agility, increased appetite and overall health. And, maybe most importantly in the eyes of the ferret, playtime outside is mentally challenging with new things to do and smell. It is also a novel and different experience during which you and your ferret can bond, or for the ferrets themselves to bond with each other. Lastly, it can potentially be a way for the owner to get out and exercise as well. So get out there!



Location, location, location... When selecting a location for an outdoor ferret enclosure, be sure to choose a place that is free of gardening chemicals or pesticides. You must also plan for other animals that may be present or have access to the area that can impact your ferret. Ferrets who are experiencing the great outdoors for the first time will be highly stimulated and could be easily frightened by cats and dogs who are already comfortable outside. Not only your own pets, but also neighbors' pets must be accounted when your ferret plays outside. Awareness of wild animals such as raccoons, rabbits and squirrels with which it would not be safe for the ferret to interact should be considered. Protection from larger birds and birds of prey such as hawks is also critical.

Under construction... When planning and building a ferret enclosure, key factors in determining construction materials and method are that ferrets are adept climbers and love to dig! Your primary goal should be to prevent the "great escape!" Choice of materials should take into account the possibility of ferrets toenails, toes or feet getting snagged or entangled and causing injury. Smooth surfaces or fencing with limited openings may work best. The walls or fencing must also be rigid and sturdy enough so that clawing and pushing cannot allow escape. Never forget how tenacious ferrets can be! The walls must also extend far enough below the ground surface so that ferrets are not able to tunnel beneath or the enclosure must be located on a hard, non-diggable surface such as stone or concrete. Some enclosures ground surface are grass, some dirt and others mulch.

Be mindful when selecting mulch. Be certain not to use the newer shredded rubber mulch as ferrets are attracted to it and may choke on it or even suffer a blockage if it is ingested. Natural, hard wood mulch nuggets without dyes are safer than the dyed versions and shredded ones.

The need for a "ceiling" or overhead covering to prevent ferrets from scaling the walls and breaking free over the top is a good idea. This also diminishes accidental access by other pets and wildlife. Another strategy for preventing climbing out of the enclosure is for fencing or walls to extend inward at the top. Within the enclosure itself, many ferret owners provide activity areas such as fountains, areas for safe digging, tunnels and pots. Having these areas may lessen the desire to escape.

...Continued on Page 10

The Taj Majals of Ferret Enclosures

Marie Bartholdsson, of Sweden, has two large outdoor enclosures with an enormous variety of enrichment areas. Marie explained, “I have ferrets that live primarily indoors and go outside for play and exercise, and I have ferrets that live primarily outdoors and come inside for play. It all depends on their individual needs.” It is common for ferrets in Europe to spend more time outside.

Melissa Jones, a veterinarian in Maryland, has nine ferrets for which she spent the past summer building a garden. She wanted to provide enrichment and also said, “I have some engineering minds in my bunch and I know I had to outsmart Earl to make sure I wasn’t going to be chasing him all around the neighborhood”

Lorraine Lordi lives in Virginia and has several ferrets that enjoy the large, outdoor enclosure’s entrance is accessed from her screened porch. She created tunnels using PVC pipe with drain holes to allow any water to drain. She also used septic clean-out fittings at both ends to allow either end to be capped off, so no mice could come in or to not allow ferrets access to the outside pen after dark.

Becky Stewart Leonard built a special outdoor enclosure for her ferrets Wolfie and Bandit. She made several adjustments to ensure their safety and to prevent her little Houdinis from escaping.

Jennifer Larsen’s ferrets, Mischief, Trouble, Chaos and Mayhem, travel frequently with her. She has mastered the skill of creating safe, temporary enclosures for use when traveling but also has an area set up in her own back yard.



American Ferret Association (AFA)
www.ferret.org

...Continued from Page 8

Let's play!... A wide variety of enrichment possibilities can be created outside.

 Pools and fountains are ferret favorites as most truly enjoy playing in the water, as long as it is on their own terms (and not bath time!). Be sure the water available in these is fresh to avoid problems with bacteria or insect larvae.

 Ball pits are great fun for ferrets.

 Large planters can be added in which ferrets can dig chemical-free soil that is provided for them. These pots can also be safe-havens for ferrets that become startled. Towels or easily cleaning bedding can be added to these for ferrets who need a break or a nap.

 Yard sculptures or stones and even old tree stumps that cannot be moved or knocked over provide climbing opportunities.

 Tunnels (dryer vent tubing or more rigid tunneling sold for ferrets) can be added to satisfy ferrets' natural desire to tunnel and can also provide safe havens.

 Plantings within the enclosure must be selected with safety in mind. Many plants are toxic to ferrets, including amaryllis, azalea, baby's breath, begonia, carnation, castor bean, chrysanthemum, cyclamen, daffodil, gladiola, hosta, ivy, all lily species, milkweed, morning glory, oleander, poinsettia, pothos, sago palm, tomato plants, tulips, narcissus, rhododendron and yew.

...Continued on Next Page



NATIONAL FERRET DAY April 2nd



...Continued from Last Page

When can we go out?...A primary concern when taking ferrets out-of-doors is to consider the temperature. It should not be not too hot or too cold. Make certain to bring fresh water for proper hydration and even a few treats to entice the ferret. Durable toys can be kept outside or brought in and out. Having something familiar to ferrets one their first few outings may even reassure them. Having a chair or bench as the place for humans to sit and observe may also reassure ferrets as they will learn where to run to you if they feel threatened.

We're walking... Taking a ferret out for a walk should be done with a leash and harness. Purchase a harness made specifically for ferrets and one from which they cannot escape. 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. Also be aware of the surface temperatures of any asphalt or concrete on which your ferret will be walking. Make sure to let your ferret know that no matter what, you will protect them. Be sure to bring along water for proper hydration and even a few treats to entice the ferret or reward them for their time on the leash.

Health & safety... Your ferrets' health is an important concern when providing outdoor enrichment. It is critical for your ferret to have had its vaccinations against both rabies and Canine Distemper. The latter is highly contagious and always fatal in ferrets. For more information on vaccine protocols, see the American Ferret Association's web site: <http://www.ferret.org/read/vaccinations.html>. Flea and pest prevention is also important. Ferrets can be treated with products such a Revolution, which can be prescribed by your veterinarian. Commercially available flea and tick collars are not safe for ferrets. You should never use pesticides inside the ferret enclosure, as these can be toxic. After playtime outside, always inspect your ferrets feet and foot-pads. Make certain they do not have any debris that could cause irritation. You may want to "dust off" your ferret a bit so that less of the outdoors comes inside when playtime is over. Remember, ferrets should never be left outside without supervision.

Robin Landes, the author, is the Education Committee Director for the American Ferret Association (AFA). The goals of the AFA are to promote, protect and provide for ferrets. Visit the association's web site at www.ferret.org.

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Around
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*MissKitty
sitting pretty*
Photographer: Suzik[©]



Hi Everyone! PeanutButter here.

We are finally done with this issue of AmericanPet Magazine™ and I couldn't be happier. Life has totally side-tracked me and I haven't been focusing on getting these awesome articles out to you as much as I should.

Let me explain, as many already know, my two much older siblings were both very sick last year and they crossed the rainbow bridge within 7 weeks of each other. It was a very sad time. Many of the duties here in the office were all put on me (& Mommy).

It has been almost a year and we are still adjusting around here. It used to be very busy with everyone working together but now it is even busier with just the 2 of us. We are continuing to find great information and articles for your reading pleasure.

I grew up as a Cat's Kitten. I followed my older siblings ways and have grown into a big cat with a huge heart and a mission. My mission is to help other pets in need. Mommy and I are constantly donating to the No-Kill shelters that are close to home. We hope that you too will do the same. Every little bit helps, either it be a money donation, item donation or even volunteer your time.

We look forward to an incredible future.

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

Thank you again and HAPPY READING!

#Meow #Woof #Rescue #Adopt #Foster #NoKill

PURRS & MEOWS, PeanutButter

Have an AmericanPet Day!!



*GypsyPrince
soaking up the rays*
Photographer: Suzik[©]

**4 of the 9 KarpKatZ:
Amelia Earhart (Mia),
PrettyBoy,
Tabitha the Witch and
ThrasherMan**

Photographer: Suzik[©]



CELEBRATE WONDERFUL

Written by
Christine Bournias



I look up inside my house that was once perfect. A twice over remodel, it now looks tired.

Wonderful. The light bulb burns out. Ok, we got this. Replace it, and carry on. I attempt to change the bulb, however, this idea doesn't work. A simple task turns into a chore. The light cover won't budge. It's stuck.

The light bulb is not replaced, and the "to do" list gets longer. As the fixture hangs there, broken, I wonder why life isn't easier. A collapsing roof, bills piling up, and a leaking spicket—it makes the car accident and backed up sewer seem trivial.

I look down and continue to work on a project for a buck ninety eight.

My dog, Devlin works on his Chewy.

I've often been the 'glass half full' type, reassuring everyone with positive affirmations and encouragement. But since this last recession, The Little Train That Could is sputtering and losing fuel, fast. Close to falling off the tracks altogether, the saving grace comes to me in the form of a tolerant rescue dog. Devlin isn't Mr. Wonderful, but he is my Mr. Man. He needs me when nobody else does. When I am lost, he finds me. And, he loves me, even when I'm a jerk. Devlin rescues me more times than I am willing to admit.

Feeling stuck living in a sleepy town half way between Yawnsville and the coveted Whosville, big dreams seem a thing of the past. My environment isn't welcoming to high hopes. Too many memories attached to a place we call "home", I'm ready to leave this area.

Devlin pauses, scratches his ear, then goes back to work with gusto.

Have you ever been so stuck in the dark you don't even recognize yourself? So blue and broken that if you did own rose colored glasses, you would've backed over them while pulling out of the garage. But, I am special. After all, I'm that "creative-God gifted-you're-so-talented-I-wish-I-was-you" person—otherwise known as—starving artist. If Artists are gifts from God, the compensation package just might reflect its special honor. They say success comes to those who work hard. Well, let's just say I am very successful.

...Continued on Next Page

...Continued from Last Page

So, I keep working on the project awarded to me. And Devlin keeps working on his Chewy.

He is enthusiastic, unscathed, and content. His tattered dog bed is just fine, and being short one light doesn't bother him a bit. The darkness only heightens his sense of smell. In fact, to Devlin, the scent of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the fourth day in a row is simply divine. He needs nothing more than what he has. Devlin is happy with what is. Perfect with love alone, his life is wonderful.

The Midwest snowstorms have been cruel and have overstayed their welcome this season. The shoveling has gotten the best of us, taxes are due in a few days, and evidently, I am "over-qualified" for every job there is in this world.

I again pick up the busted shovel. With a bent and cracked handle, I go out to conquer the white stuff. Round 3: Crazy Dog Lady vs. Driveway.

Devlin, who's adopted name means "fierce courage" in Gaelic, looks up from his work, as if to read my mind. He pants, then smiles at me.

I decide to take Devlin outside first. He couldn't be any happier. The unforgiving March snow stings my fingertips, and I am mad. Devlin is not. He forgives Old Man Winter. Even with bitter cold raw paws, he holds no grudges.

All at once, as if slapped in the face, I turn my attention to the black and white love machine; romping in a snow bank, diving in for his ball. He hops around like a bunny on Easter Sunday. I observe Devlin in curiosity. I know exactly what makes life easier. An upward curve begins to form on both sides of my mouth. Devlin's nose is covered with snow, and his eyes twinkle in wonderment.

The happiness is contagious. I give in. I throw a snowball and hop around too. The wind whips my face, and I laugh. I am happy with what is. A winter wonderland—if you let it be.

After we play, I whistle as I shovel. Then, I head back inside to change the light bulb. Three taps, and the cover is set free. I replace the bulb, and carry on. Thank you Devlin, for showing me that nothing is ever that bad.

April commemorates Pets Are Wonderful (PAW) Month.

***Note from Author: Pets are wonderful—each day of the month;
any month of the year.**



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

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

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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:

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

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

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

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

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

For current events visit this link:

<http://www.pawstricounty.com>

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



Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old muttigree who believes he won the lottery. No way could life have been predicted to turn out this good. In fact, his Mom Peep, B.J. Taylor, wrote the story of Charlie Bear's first year in their lives. It's an emotional, heart-tugging story that includes the big dog, Rex (Mom Peep's forever love): *Charlie Bear: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances* www.bjtayloronline.com

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Written by B.J. Taylor

There's a very special day designed just for me. Okay, maybe not only for me, but I like to think it is. April 11 is NATIONAL PET DAY...a day to honor pets – like me!



I'm here to give you the scoop (the 4-1-1 information) on how you can best celebrate your pet on April 11th. Here's what I would do for pets that you love (like me):

- 🐾 Feed me extra food. Just for the one day.
- 🐾 Cuddle me, hold me, snuggle with me extra long.
- 🐾 Walk me for a very long time.
- 🐾 Take me on an outing to the pet store.
- 🐾 Meet a friend and their pet at a pet friendly restaurant (with me of course).
- 🐾 Drive me to the dog park and let me sniff and play.
- 🐾 Give me an extra special treat or two.

So there you have it. You could do paper cone-shaped hats on our heads, balloons that proclaim your love, cakes with our name on them, or even a gathering of our furry friends with your family and loved ones.

But in honor of National Pet Day, really, truly, all we want is your love. And that doesn't cost a cent. Just open your arms wide, let us jump right up into your lap, and hug us. Ahhhhh....bliss.

Thank you for loving all of us pets on April 11th (and every day thereafter).

P.S. Just so you know, National Pet Day was founded by Celebrity Pet Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige and is sponsored by the Animal Miracle Foundation and Network. Cool, huh?

Woofs and Wiggles!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT APRIL 11TH IS?
IT'S NATIONAL PET DAY

PUPPY MILLS

Written by Dolores Paddock

**MAY 5-11 is ...
PuppyMill
Action Week**



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

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

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

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

ADOPT! CLOSE DOWN THE PUPPY MILLS!

Business Marketplace

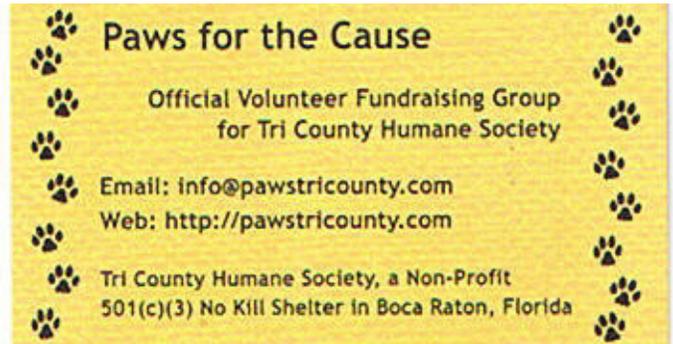


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2014 in print

Buddy, the Christmas Husky

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

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



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

Forever Home

Written by Mike Deathe

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

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



Teacup Turbulence

Written by Linda O. Johnston

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



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

See Page 28 for Linda's article on **Take your Pet to Work**



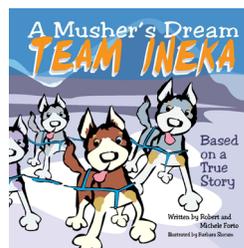
Raising My Furry Children

Written by Tracy Ahrens

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

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

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



A Musher's Dream: Team Ineka

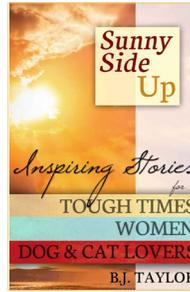
Written by Robert & Michelle Forto
Illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum

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

Sunny Side Up

Written by B.J. Taylor

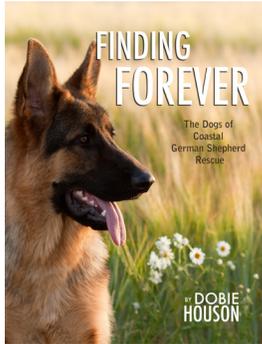
"Behind the clouds there is always the sun." SUNNY SIDE UP is filled with inspiring real life true stories. In the DOG & CAT LOVERS section you'll recognize the abundance of love we all have for our furry friends and the love they give us in return. A BONUS SECTION is devoted to short vignettes from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



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

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

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



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue

Written by Dobie Houson

Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue, is a heartwarming, profound, and joyful book about 26 amazing dogs and their search for a forever home. Anyone who has ever gazed into the soulful eyes of their animal companion and wondered what they were

thinking will fall in love with these German Shepherds and their beautiful stories. Find it on Amazon.com at <http://ow.ly/cHA5B>

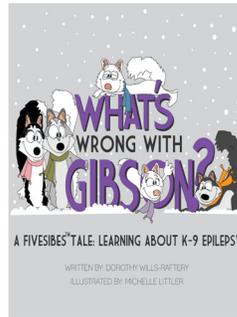
See Page 26 for Dobie Houson's article '**10 reasons NOT to Breed**'

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

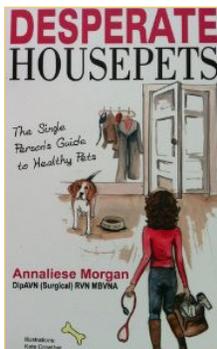
Welcome to the world of the FiveSibes™! They are five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading. The first book of the series, What's Wrong With Gibson?

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



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

Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing



Desperate Housepets

Written by Annaliese Morgan

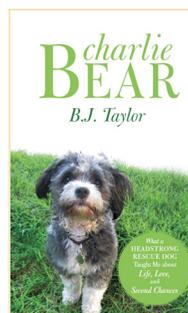
Desperate Housepets is a reflection and extension of Annaliese. It's the professional information and 'how to' you need and wonder about it, but offered with a dose of her humour, sense of fun and also reality. A practical guide to keeping a healthy pet, with advice on subjects ranging from health, nutrition,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

See Page 25 for Annaliese Morgan's article **National Pet First Aid Awareness Month**

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 17 for *Charlie Bear Woofs* on **National Pet Day**

#TitusBARKS

OMD....

SO EXCITABULLS!

Lately da subject of BSL has become a hilite on faciebutts. Afta hearin da stowies n reading about da circumstances of most of da dog bites, I is wonderin if we shood not bees passin a PSL law (Peeples Specific Legislation). I have come to find dat most of da causes of dog bites is due to neglect of a pet or a childs carelessness n a parents inability to properly care for n keepie an eye on dare children.

Case in point: Mom levies 2 yr old child, alone in a room, wif dare Pit Bull, dat dey had for 8 years, hoo had never showed any pwevius aggweshon. Mom comes back, not weally none how long she was gone for, to findie her 2 yr old child dead. Da dog killed da baby. As bad as I feel for da pawents n da loss of dare baby, I is more sowwy for da dog, dat will more den likely bees killed. Now I askie, if dis dog had been wif da child for 2 years n never shoed aggweshon, wut did da child do to cause him to bite? A dog such as dis pet for 8 years wood not just decide to kill a child wifout some kind of provocashon. Now da Mom is twyin to get all Pit Bulls banned fwom Georgie, acus of her inability to pwoperly takie care of her child. I finks she is twyin to takie da blame away fwom herself n dat is so not fair to dis dog.

We hear stowies about dogs, pit bulls, runnin loose, terrorizing naborhoods. Hoo shood we bwame for dat? Da dogs? No, dey belonged to someone at one time or still do. It is da owners reponsability to makie sure dare doggies is safe n keptied confined to dare pwoperty unless being walkied on a leash. We weally need to have more laws in pwace for peeples dat do not takie care of dare pets or children.



Mommys mind has totawy changed abouts Pit Bulls since adoptin mees n Hailey. She sais we is da sweetest, funniest, most lovin doggies she has ever had n we is gwate wif children. She is not a pawent of a non furchild n she still nos not to leevie any dog alone wif a child. It weally is common sense. Even as pawsome as we is wif kids, she still wood never dos it. So I askie, is most pawents just dat stooped? Maybees we shood fixie some peeples so dey can not repwoduce. I have seed videos of pawents lettin dare babies jumpie on dogs or poke dems or pway wif dems whilst dey have tweets, toys or bones. Yous nos dey is gonna bwame da dog if it ever hurt or bit dare child n da dog wood end up payin da ultimate pwice, wif his life.

Da most recent stowy is hartbwakin....we is all fitin for a dog namied Mickey, hoo fru no fault of his own is awaitin his fate, behind bars at a shelter. A nabor kid wandered into Mickey's yard, whilst he was chewin a bonie, n twied to takie da bonie away! Da child was bit n da dog was handied over to animal contwol, by its owners! Now, I askie yous agan....hoo shood have been blamed for dis? Not da dog, hoo was mindin his own business in his own yard. Da person dat was in charge of da child shood bees held responsabull n da owner of da dog, is blamin da dog.

...Continued on Page 24

hard-at-work



TITUS

Unfortunatwy, due to da fact dat Mickey was surrendered by his owners, he do not even have a chancie of bein adopted. He was scheduled to bees killed on March 3rd but du to da overlumin support system he now has in pwace, to bees his voicie, he may bees able to bees rescued by a rescue gwoup. We is still waitin on da outcome but weally, shood it have come down to dis?

Afta seein n reading all da stowies, it weally makies mees wonder if we is banning da rong species. I is finkien we shood bees banning all da stooped peeples dat is letting us Pit Bulls continue to get a bad rap. It is not fair to us or da responsabull Pit Bull pawents. We workie daily to pwove to da world dat we can bes da bestest dogs ever if raised into a lovin filled homie. Pwease do not let all of our hard work gos to waste. Ewevy chancie yous gets, put da good word out for us n if BSL ever comes to yous naborhood, pwease fite for us n aganst da peeples dat is actin on hearsay n not actual facts.

Wif dat sed, pwease do not bwame a hole breed based on how some choose to raise dare pets. If we is raised da rite way, we will bees da most lovin animal yous will ever have, dats a pwomise! We shood ban BSL all togedder n start goin afta da peeples responsabull for dare dogs actions.

Common sense weally!



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

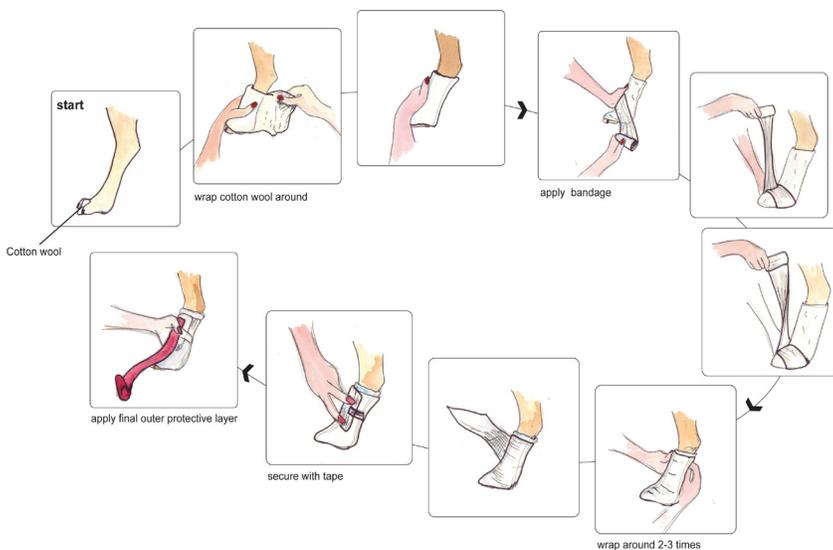
Pet emergency..call 911!

Written by
Annaliese Morgan
DipAVN(Surgical) RVN MBVNA

As we wave goodbye to winter and welcome in the spring, your pets start living it up outdoors and circulating more. You're out walking your dogs more and it may even inspire dietary changes to shift those wintery cuddly bits. That's all great, until something goes wrong.

Cut paws are a nuisance and can make us think 'I haven't time to deal with this' edged with a tinge of guilt for thinking it in the first place. Let me help you out with some advice until you can check in with your vet.

Pets are great at getting themselves into all sorts of mischief. They can accidentally stand on glass or rip a nail. Or you might cut their paw pad with scissors while attempting to be Vidal Sassoon clipping the long fur on their feet. These all result in the same problem. You need to stop the bleeding and protect the wound. Here comes the how:



🐾 Flush the cut with saline or water to remove any dirt from the area. **DO NOT** remove any object stuck in there, as this is helping to stem the bleeding... let the vet sort that bit.

🐾 Prevent further bleeding. Apply digital pressure (i.e. by the fingers) with gauze/any clean material for 5 minutes.

🐾 Don't push the object further in, apply pressure around it.

🐾 Cover the wound and bandage.

🐾 If bandaging equipment is not available, control the bleeding and cover with a sock, glove or small plastic bag and tape it on.

🐾 Contact your vet.

Here are my suggested items for a pet first aid kit to keep in the car or house. Be prepared so you're confident when dealing with a situation you don't want!

- 🐾 A pre-cut long length piece of bandage which you can use as a muzzle if needed or tourniquet
- 🐾 No flashing blue lights for your car – sorry!
- 🐾 Pen and paper to write down any instructions
- 🐾 Vaseline-impregnated wound dressing
- 🐾 Cotton wool, bandages, outer protective wraps, plastic bag
- 🐾 Your vet's phone number and emergency contact details
- 🐾 Extra swabs or cloths to help stem bleeding
- 🐾 Gloves – the latex kind, not leather
- 🐾 Cling film
- 🐾 Micropore tape
- 🐾 Sterile saline solution
- 🐾 Scissors
- 🐾 Space blanket or bubble wrap
- 🐾 Gauze pads

<http://www.annaliesemorgan.com>

APRIL is NATIONAL PET FIRST AID AWARENESS MONTH

FINDING FOREVER

Written by Dobie Houson

A Book For A Cause



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.



Flash and Venti, therapy cats

Written by Jaetta Ferguson



Flash The Therapy Cat, here to show some of our highlights of 2013. I was in AmericanPet Magazine™, Cat Fancy Magazine, my local paper, and went on a photo shoot. My biggest highlight was my sister, Venti, finally becoming a therapy cat like me. So, now we are a team. We mainly visit nursing

homes but last year we finally were able to do library visits. The library visits are where the kids read to us. That is a lot of fun.

This year we will be doing hospice visits ... stay tune for those visits.

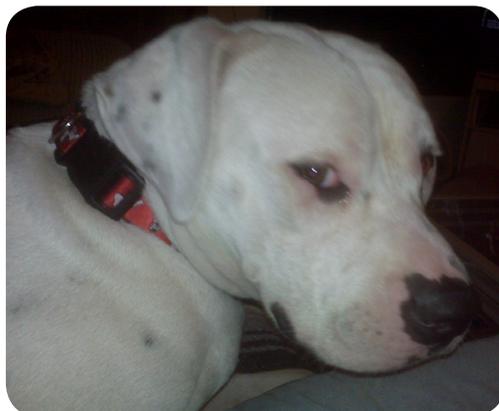
Another huge event was my mom and dad getting married. Venti and I were in the wedding. I went as “Best Cat” instead of Best Man. Venti went as “Cat Of Honor” instead of Maid of Honor.

Venti and I also have started doing some hands on stuff with our patients. Follow all our adventures on Facebook at facebook.com/FlashTheTherapyCat. In the next issue of AmericanPet Magazine™ we will share more pictures and introduce you to a few other therapy cats.

Until next time, hugs from Flash and Venti, the Therapy Cats.



I'm a writer. I work in my home office, so every day is Take Your Dog To Work Day for me. But for people who work in other, more traditional kinds of offices, be aware: June 20 of this year is the annual **Take Your Dog To Work Day®**.



Take Your Dog To Work Day was begun in 1999 by Pet Sitters International. Yes, pet sitters celebrate this holiday even if it means there's a day when dog owners won't need their services. It's held during **Take Your Pet To Work Week™**, which this year is June 16-20. If your office is already closed on Fridays, your company can celebrate Take Your Dog To Work Day during another day of that special week. Plus, your office can join in the celebration of other kinds of pets, cats and more, that week.

Take Your Dog To Work Day is celebrated each year on the Friday after Father's Day. There are certain parameters for celebrating that you may want to consider. For example, before bringing your dog to work with you, it would be a good idea to check with your employer. In fact, why not promote it to your employer? Get the entire company to join in the celebration. Have lots of dogs around to enjoy the day.

That of course suggests that you'll provide guidelines to your fellow employees, including making certain that the dogs who participate are healthy, vaccinated, neutered or spayed--or at least that females aren't in heat--and that they get along well with other dogs. Plus, they should be leashed. And you can probably come up with a whole list of dos and don'ts that work for your organization.

Some places besides home offices consider every day Take Your Dog To Work Day--for example, the American Humane Association's L.A. office, a delightful place where I've visited for research.

I'm also a lawyer, now inactive, but years ago I worked in a law firm, and after that I was in-house at a major oil company. I didn't know about Take Your Dog To Work Day then and suspect that my employers wouldn't have been exactly welcoming. But, heck, it never hurts to ask!

By the way, both Take Your Dog To Work Day® and TYDTWDay® are registered trademarks of Pet Sitters International, and Take Your Pet To Work Week™ is trademarked, so if you're going to promote your special day somehow, you'll need their permission. Find out how at their website that's all about the special day: <http://www.takeyourdog.com/index.php> They also have a Facebook page devoted to the celebration: <https://www.facebook.com/takeyourdog>

And if you celebrate Take Your Dog To Work Day by taking your dog(s) to work with you this year, just imagine how happy you, and they, will be!

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

Marcello's Journey

Written by: Ofc. Jared K Daeffler
Safe Harbor Animal Rescue of the Keys
<http://keysrescue.org/>

On July 4th, 2013, as a country, we celebrated two hundred and thirty seven years of independence. Key West illuminated the sky with fire-power, despite the opposing rain. While we were joined in celebration, 31 Cuban citizens were somewhere in the Florida Straits, drifting in the black of night, and hoping to set foot onto this land we so fortunately inhabit. Among these fatigued but faithful people was Marcello, a tan and white, unaltered, Chihuahua.

The report came to the Florida Keys SPCA, a call that was not unfamiliar. Refugees had washed up and the authorities needed someone to take their dog. The on call officer responded to the arrival of our new fellow citizens. Border Patrol officers gave Marcello to the animal control officer with no implication of future contact. Marcello was so skinny you could count his ribs and see his muscles working as he moved. This would soon be rectified as no animal at the Florida Keys SPCA goes to sleep hungry.

As is the usual protocol for such situations, Marcello was placed on a 15-day hold. There was no contact made by the owners for several days. Our attempts at finding the owner were met with the all too common run around that animal care workers are so used to receiving. The dead ends and endless phone calls no longer discourage us. One thing the animal field teaches you is persistence, the squeaky wheel gets the grease and no life is too small as to disregard.

As the spirit of Key West would have it, the gentleman who drove Marcello's owners to their Miami destination made contact. The family had touched this man, a native of Cuba as well, in such a way that he took it upon himself to see that Marcello found his way home.



A full week passed before a window of opportunity opened. I happened to be traveling to Miami the weekend of July 13th and staying less than 15 minutes from the owners hotel.

Seeing the inhumanity of this field on daily bases can certainly callus an individual. To absolutely forget how exhausted you are, the moment this family climbed out of a passenger van, down trodden, skinny, darkly tanned, it was like being on my first call. They arrived with the clothes on their back and a dog in their arms. They had been given clothes and shelter, they had been welcomed as an American family and, as a liaison for our country and of Monroe County, I was able to return the last piece of their family to them.

The driver translated for us. They said that they felt like they had been 'reborn into a new, beautiful country.' I was hard-pressed to find words to properly welcome these people. They had fought for their freedom, they did not give up on Marcello, and they had earned my utmost respect. I welcomed them but mostly I thanked them. They reminded me how much I take for granted, and of the devotion that comes with enduring hardship as a family.



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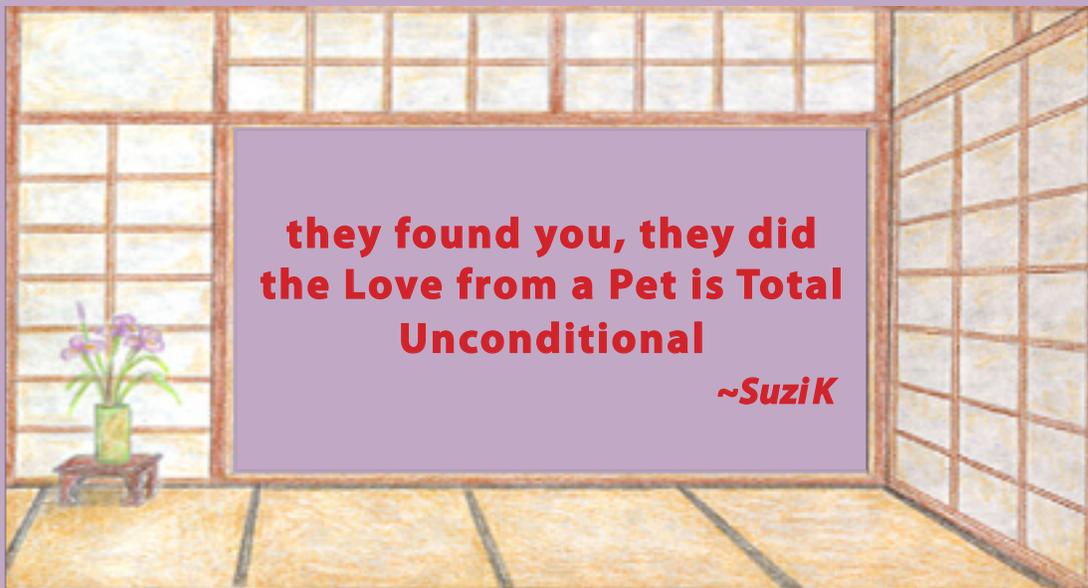


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