



American Pet

Magazine™
2016
v5i1

**HEIDI NEEDS
A FOREVER HOME**

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

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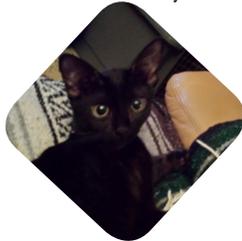
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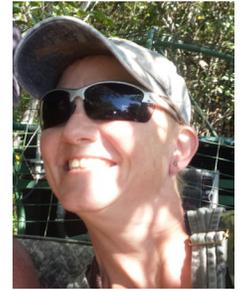
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The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor



"Gibson" of the FiveSibes™

January 6, 2006 - December 16, 2015

Now the air is colder.
 Now the moon is
 always full.
 Now the light
 is silver
 and it breaks and
 shimmers on fields
 of bright snow.



Now there are no
 roads, no walls, no
 pens, just endless
 space to run.
 This is where
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by MakWortme

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 and Mercedez
 aka Bubba!



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One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

Have an AmericanPet Day!!

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

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HEIDI

Photo by:
SuziK



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**HEIDI NEEDS
A FOREVER HOME**

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SOMETIMES HE LISTENS. Other Times, He Loves Squirrels



Written by Christina Bournias

My dog Enzo minds me well. He listens and obeys.* He has a vocabulary equivalent to a five year old and performs tricks like some sort of dog magician. He's a big star on his basketball court and he's a little alpha in the park. He solves puzzles, masters complex agility equipment, and clears high jumps in seconds. He tiptoes on his teeter-totter, weaves around my ankles, and prays to Jesus. He hops on the balance ball—then he hops in my arms.

Enzo yields to my every wish; deferring to me for information.* He stands by my side and lines up for duty. With a 'park it' cue, he retreats to his crate and settles on his bed. He helps with the laundry, hits the snooze button, and fetches my slippers. He even seems to miss me when I'm gone.

Enzo is my watchdog.* While his unique shenanigans make the world giggle, his behavior teaches me tough love. His bark is bigger than his bite. He's loud, but he's a lover. He certainly turns heads, as people take a few steps back. He plays hoops and he plays the field—with squirrels, that is.

"Whenever he looks at me with those big brown eyes, I feel like giving him a nut," she said. She even started calling the squirrels running around in the park Mr. Whitmans." —Kerstin Gier, Ruby Red

Enzo comes when I call him.* But, he tunes me out when it's not convenient. And when there are squirrels around, it's not convenient. While his recall is impressive, I can't seem to compete with Mr. Squirrel. No matter how disciplined and trainable Enzo is, I don't stand a chance when there's a frisky critter or two performing acrobatics in the yard—swinging from tree to tree and fence to lamp post. Twitching and nibbling, these little guys twinkle their nose and hold a nut like it's a nugget of gold.



When Enzo spots his inferior counterparts, he shoots out the door like a cannonball. It's like he sounds an alarm to the rest of his K9 unit, and our backyard becomes alive with action. There's no slowing him down. It's non-stop determination to win the squirrel race. With Enzo in the lead, my dogs initiate hot pursuit for every pesky rodent who invades their territory without permission. As my dogs blaze a trail for the wild animal, I chase after my own wild beasts.

Running behind my three pack, I replay in my mind what I fear most. By the speed of pursuit, I'm certain this can't end well. However, nothing amounts to this reckless abandon. The squirrels are way too clever and my dogs are outnumbered.

The thrill is in the chase.

I turn the corner. To my surprise, the thundering paws pounding the ground begin to slow, then stop. The clammer ceases and the backyard becomes unusually still. I sense three sets of concerned eyes looking at me.

...Continued on Next Page

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Come to find out, when my pack have the chance to pounce, they don't. Instead, I find my herding dogs and my curious Husky looking down lovingly at a baby squirrel (kitten). Presumably it had fallen from a tree nest. Instead of grabbing for it's neck to finish the job, my dogs sat in silence and beamed at this tiny, beautiful creature with compassion.

“Honor God’s every little creature, as they may not have a voice.” ~C.Bournias

The kitten crawled a bit, then froze. It must have realized how much larger we all were as we surrounded its once protective circle. As it lie still, my dogs were somber and quiet. They circle and take a bow in front of the baby. Enzo picked up on my concerned energy and searched my eyes for instruction. They walk away to their respective corners in the yard and continue to look at me, blinking. They wait for further direction, watching my every move.

“Simple things which other animals easily learn, he (man) is incapable of learning...In an hour I taught a cat and a dog to be friends. I put them in a cage. In another hour I taught them to be friends with a rabbit. In the course of two days I was able to add a fox, a goose, a squirrel and some doves. Finally a monkey. They lived together in peace; even affectionately.” — Mark Twain, Letters from the Earth: Uncensored Writings

I released the kitten safely into the wilderness and it was on its way.

What would dogs do if they didn't chase squirrels? While squirrels can be considered a nuisance, these small animals are quite interesting. I believe my fur family found a renewed appreciation for the species too. There seems to be a deeper admiration for these critters. In fact, there are many squirrel characteristics to appreciate:

DID YOU KNOW?



Squirrels exist in nearly every habitat on Earth.

Squirrels are found on every continent. There are 285 species scattered across the globe. In order to escape coexisting with squirrels, you'd have to visit our planet's Poles (Antarctica and Australia). Gray Squirrels reside in Eastern U.S. and are found in many Western states, Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa.



Squirrels help trees.

Each season, one gray squirrel buries thousands of acorn caches for later use, none of them they ever rediscover. The squirrels take acorns from underneath an oak tree and bury them somewhere else. This ritual is called scatter hoarding and gives trees increased dispersal.



Squirrels hurt trees.

North American red squirrels eat pine cone seeds or hide them in secret larders where the seeds remain moist and have little chance of germinating. While great for squirrel survival, this hiding reduces the chance of trees reproducing.

...Continued on Next Page



Squirrels have food storage strategies.

Squirrels know the difference between white and red oak acorns and store them according to which ones germinate quicker. (White acorns germinate almost as soon as they hit the ground. Squirrels eat them immediately since a germinated acorn loses nutritional value. Squirrels prefer to bury red acorns for wintering snacking because they don't germinate until spring.)

If squirrels run low on acorns, walnuts, and hazelnuts, they harvest maple syrup directly from trees, scoring the maple's bark with its teeth. They let the sap leak and dry up, then return to lick it later.



Squirrels eat mushrooms.

Red squirrels hang fungi out to dry between tree branches. This handcrafted mushroom jerky keeps better during winter months and is less likely to infect their larder with insect larvae or nematodes.



Squirrels are built to be acrobats.

Squirrels can leap 10 times their body length, jumping a distance of 20 feet. Their ankles can turn 180 degrees to face any direction when climbing. Squirrels can fall up to 100 feet without hurting themselves. They use their tail both for balance and as a parachute. Squirrels back feet have five toes and four sharp front toes used to grip tree bark when climbing. Their hind legs are double-jointed, helping them run up and down trees quicker.



Squirrels have exceptional eyesight.

Squirrels learn from copying other species—including humans. Their eyes are positioned in such a way that they can see some things behind them.



Squirrels are survivors.

Squirrels can eat their own body weight (approximately 1.5 pounds) every week and the hibernating arctic ground squirrel is the only warm-blooded mammal able to withstand body temperatures below freezing.

Squirrels have clever ways to fend off predators such as rattlesnakes. They have fantastic reflexes, reacting fast enough to dodge a snake during the fraction of a second that it takes for the reptile to lunge.

Thursday, January 21, 2016

NATIONAL SQUIRREL APPRECIATION DAY



If squirrels notice a snake first, or if an ambush is likely to ensue, they raise their tail and flood it with blood, causing the tail to become warm. This gesture stands out like a beacon to snakes. Snakes recognize this squirrel warning as defusing their surprise, so they don't bother to attack.

Squirrels also deter predators using scent. They find a dead rattlesnake, chew its skin, and then lick themselves, leaving squirrels smelling like snakes. Scientists believe this squirrel plan tricks animals into thinking that their dwelling is home to a venomous danger, rather than a tasty mammalian snack.



The word “squirrel” is a Greek word meaning “shadow tail.”



Longview, Washington is considered Squirrel Lover's Capital of America.

In 1963, a kindhearted local built a bridge called Nutty Narrows Bridge so that squirrels were not killed trying to cross the busy highway. This 60 ft. bridge is placed above the road with a live web cam feed. Longview plans to install three additional squirrel bridges and now holds an annual Squirrel Fest to showcase squirrel enthusiasm.

Enzo barks without letting up when he spots a squirrel. He barks and he barks and he barks.

Peculiar, today there's no noise. Everything is unusually still. I peer through the window to confirm the silence is emanating from our yard. Outside, I find Enzo at the base of the tree. He's looking up, gently wagging his tail. There seems to be one particular squirrel that Enzo has grown quite fond of.—one little squirrel that has managed to captivate his attention. We call him Mr. Squirrel.

I whistle. Enzo looks back at me, relaxed. Then glances upward again. He smiles up at the tree and wags his tail some more.

Resources:

<http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/squirrel-appreciation-day/18430.html> http://www.squirrelnet.com/squirrels/103_squirrel_facts.asp
<http://www.backyardnature.com/cgi-bin/gt/tpl.h,content=501>
<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2014/09/26/squirrels-animals-fall-winter-science-united-states-surprising-facts/>
<http://listverse.com/2014/01/20/10-nutty-facts-about-squirrels/>
<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/squirrels>

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

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Cuckoo for Coconut Oil: A Healthy Choice for Your Dogs

Written by
©Dorothy Wills-Raftery

If you like coconut oil, you are in good company! It's a healthy choice, one that has many benefits not only for your own hu-family, but it is a great addition to your dog's diet as well.

So, what's so great about adding coconut oil to your pet care? According to Dogs Naturally, the possible benefits includes clearing up certain skin conditions such as flea allergies, contact dermatitis, and itchy skin, and eczema; helps coats become sleek and glossy; deodorizes odor; prevents and treats yeast and fungal infections; promotes healing of cuts, hot spots, dry skin, bug bites, and stings. It also can help with your dog's digestion; aid in healing digestive issues; can help tone down stinky doggie breath and coughing; and is a great asset to a dog's immune system and bone health, including helping with weight loss, increasing energy, and improving arthritis and ligament issues. Check with your vet on just how much coconut oil to give your dog.

Ken Schlegel and Ralf La Belle of House Woof All Natural Dog Biscuits located in Vermont, also sing the praises of adding coconut oil to a canine's diet and as part of their healthcare. "Not only is coconut oil good for your canine, fresh and dried coconut are excellent sources of dietary fiber." They do caution to watch the amount of coconut oil given to start. As with introducing anything new, always start off in small increments "while the body adjusts." Schlegel and La Belle also suggest other coconut theme treats for dogs. "They will also enjoy coconut chips, cream, and spread, just be sure they are all natural and contain no preservatives in them."



CHLOE AND HARLEY OF THE FIVESIBES GREET ACUPUNCTURIST AND NUTRITIONAL COUNSELOR CARRIE ANDRESS WITH SOME SIBE KISSES. PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY

I, personally, am a huge proponent of using and/or incorporating holistic and natural ways of healing in combination with traditional medical and veterinary care, all depending on what it is that I and my Siberian Huskies need. So, how did I, personally, start thinking about using coconut oil? Well, first let me start by saying that my own personal acupuncturist and nutritional counselor (and former Siberian Husky parent) Carrie Andress, M.S., L.Ac. of Andress Acupuncture (www.andressacupuncture.com) in upstate Ulster County, New York, has been recommending the use of coconut oil for more than 15 years, and she says she has seen the benefits in both humans and canines. "A lot of people in today's society have compromised immune systems due to toxins that could be from what is in the air and water; and/or toxins that get built up in the body from stress and food choices. Many people are also on acidic diets, which is detrimental to the body as a whole," explains Andress. "We need to amp up more on greens, veggies, fruits (and a great way is by making green smoothies) seeds, and fermented foods products (probiotics), such as coconut kefir and coconut yogurt, as well as grain-like seeds such as quinoa and millet."

CHLOE OF THE FIVESIBES SNIFFS OUT HER DISH!
PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY

“The great thing about someone who is trying to clean up their own or their pet’s diet by incorporating organic coconut oil is that it works down to cellular level and has a positive effect on overall body health.”

~Carrie Andress, M.S., L.Ac.

Andress explains that the benefits of using coconut oil “can be used for inflammatory problems, gut issues, autoimmune disorders, such as rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, etc.” Andress also touts the benefits of coconut oil for canines and their humans alike. “The great thing about someone who is trying to clean up their own or their pet’s diet by incorporating organic coconut oil is that it works down to cellular level and has a positive effect on overall body health. Benefits seen could include weight loss, improved fungal and candida issues, improved skin disorders, such as eczema, psoriasis, etc., and gastrointestinal issues, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and colitis.”

One of my Siberian Huskies, who at 10, has bouts of IBS and arthritis that has set in her hind legs, is a great candidate for coconut oil. After speaking with my vet, I began adding it to her morning food, a little at a time, and have seen great improvement to her gastrointestinal health. I also started my other Huskies on it as part of a pro-active healthcare plan. Not to mention that the sweet smelling coconut also encourages even my pickiest of eaters to nibble at their food! We certainly are cuckoo for coconut oil here! And, as always, just a reminder that when introducing something new into your dog’s diet or healthcare plan, please always consult with your veterinarian first.

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Dorothy Wills-Rafertry is an award-winning photojournalist and the author of *What's Wrong With Gibson?*, *Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*, *Getting Healthy With Harley*, *EPIC Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About Dogs Living & Loving Life with Canine Epilepsy*; and *Buddy, the Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Miracle* (all published through ArcticHouse Publishing). Wills-Rafertry hosts "The Sibe Vibe" radio show that broadcasts online at Dog Works Radio and on iTunes. She authors the globally top-ranked FiveSibes™ blog (<http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>), and is soon launching the FiveSibes.com website. You can follow her and the lives of her five Siberian Huskies, as well as news and reviews on northern breed dogs and all-things canine on her FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews Facebook page and on Twitter and Instagram under @FiveSibesMom.

Coconut oil can also be used in recipes!
This is one of our FiveSibes' favorite healthy dishes:

CUCKOO-FOR-COCONUT CANINE

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A FiveSibes™ Canine Cooking Corner Recipe

www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com

(Yields: Enough mix-ins to serve 5 medium-sized dogs)

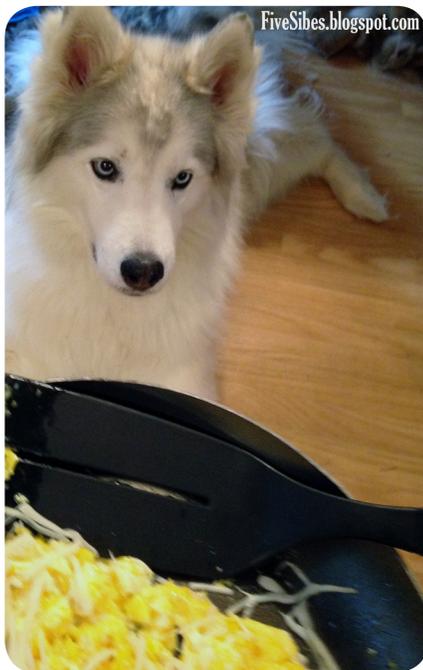
Ingredients:

1 tsp. Organic virgin coconut oil
3-4 Farm fresh eggs (or egg whites)
1 c. Steamed/cooked carrots & peas or pureed green beans, cooled
1/2 c. Low-fat shredded mozzarella cheese*
Water
Reduced serving of dog's favorite healthy kibble



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HARLEY OF THE FIVESIBES LOVES COCONUT OIL!
PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY



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GIBSON OF THE FIVESIBES WATCHES AS OMELETTE IS WHIPPED UP!
PHOTO BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY

Directions:

Melt coconut oil in skillet over low heat. Add eggs and scramble lightly. Add in cooled cooked veggies and shredded cheese* until melted and eggs done. (*If your dog has a dairy intolerance, skip the cheese). Remove from heat. Cool. Place kibble in bowl(s). Add cooked egg mixture to kibble. Sprinkle in some water to moisten, mix with a spoon, and serve! Bon(e) Appetit!

About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Raferly is an award-winning author, photographer, journalist, and host of "The Sibe Vibe" Dog Works Radio show (available on iTunes and at DogWorksRadio.com). She is our magazine's "Best in Print" 2015 author, a three-time Dog Writers Association of America "Excellence" award nominee, Hudson Valley Magazine's 2015 "Best Author," and her canine books are available through www.ArcticHousePublishing.com. Her five Siberian Huskies, known as the FiveSibes, are also muses for her globally top-ranked, award-winning FiveSibes™ blog (<http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>). Dorothy also administers the popular FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews community Facebook page, and is on Twitter and Instagram as @FiveSibesMom.

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Top 5 Things To Consider When Potty Training A Puppy

Don't get a dog if you don't have time to potty train the dog...

This is especially important to consider when you are thinking of buying a dog as a gift especially around the holidays! Dogs are a serious investment of time and responsibility... After all, we have enough dogs in shelters right now. We don't want to add another once you decide potty training is too much work!

Use a crate....

No one ever thought using a play-pen on your kids was cruel... If you cannot actively watch them or pay attention to them they belong in their crate. Dogs do not and will not (unless they physically cannot hold it) poop or pee where they sleep. Crate training is the first and most important step in potty training your new furry four legged friend!

Don't rub a dog's nose in an accident....

Most current research suggests that dogs have a similar intelligence level as that of a preverbal toddler... In other words a two to three year old. So if you think it is Ok to rub a dogs nose in their accident, ask yourself if you would pull a dirty diaper off a three year old and rub the diaper in the child's face saying "See what you did, you bad child"???

Use Potty/Poochie Bells....

These are simply bells that you hang on your back door to train Fido to ring when he needs to go outside and "relieve" himself! One of the most common mistakes in potty training is to miss or simply ignore Fido's signals that he has to go outside. All dogs give signals, period! Unfortunately some dogs don't send us very clear signals, so why not teach him to ring an obnoxious bell to let you know (while you are watching American Idol and not paying attention) that he has to go to the bathroom???

Don't give your dog freedom in the house until he earns it....

Another common mistake is giving Fido too much freedom too soon! After a week or so we decide to let Fido roam the house with all the freedom of a 2-3 year old dog because we are tired of training and managing Fido's potty training habits. Human learning theory says we have to do something 21 times before we can consider ourselves having a new habit. Why on earth would we think after 10-12 days Fido is done with his "potty training"? I tell people that it will take at least 30 days of Fido going in the right spot without a mistake before correct potty training can be considered done... While you might think 30 days sounds like a long time the average dog lives about 10-11 years, so ask yourself which sounds better 30 days of training on the front end or 10 years of potty training mistakes on back end...

MARCH 23rd National Puppy Day

Mike Deathe is a stay-at-home dad who found his passion as a dog trainer in 2008. He is the author of Keep It Simple Stupid (K.I.S.S.) Pet Blog. In 2009, he and his wife Kate founded Muttz "R" Us, a t-shirt and pet product company with the motto of "Saving Pets... One T-Shirt at a Time" In 2010 KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID (KISS) DOG TRAINING was born and since then has been teaching dogs and owners at Broadmore Kennels, located in western Shawnee, Ks.



WHY WE LOVE DOGS

Why is it we, as humans, have decided dog is man's (or woman's) best friend, and just what is it that makes them a great pet? Well for me, the answer is simple, "Unconditional Love!" Let's face it ... dogs are the only animal in the world that are honestly always happier to see us than we are to see them. They greet us at the door wanting nothing but our attention and affection.

MY GENEROUS HUNTER

Trucker and I were taking a stroll one evening when he dropped behind me a few steps about half a block from home.

I didn't think much of his lagging since we had walked a ways and he was tired. It was during a short approach up our driveway that I looked down at him beside me to see a severely decomposed squirrel carcass, as flat as a frying pan, sticking out of his mouth – front legs on one side, tail on the other.



He had managed to scoop up the furry pancake so quietly from leaves piled along the road that I had no clue he was carrying it. He nearly brought it in the house with him.

My eyes must have grown wide when I saw it. He surrendered it proudly as I grabbed it barehanded, in a panic, from his mouth.

I realize that he was just “being a dog,” perhaps bringing me/us home a snack, presenting me with this gift of love.

Sometimes I think that he mimics my arrival home from grocery shopping, weighed down with bags full of goodies and boxes of dog biscuits like a hunter that just dragged home a dead animal to feast upon. The joy he displays upon my arrival from grocery shopping, however, doesn't look like my expressions when he brings me decomposing creatures. Despite my shock, I always remember to thank him for his efforts.

The flat squirrel that evening went into the outside trash can. It wasn't the only carcass the can has seen.

Case in point one summer afternoon as I tended my perennial gardens. Trucker was roaming around our backyard and our landlord's yard next door. We live along a river and a small brushy area lies just to one side of my driveway.

I heard a crunching noise and looked up to see Trucker nestled in groundcover plants along our fence, chewing on dried up squirrel remains. Again, my bare hands removed it from his jaws with the gentle words of, “No-no. Icky.”

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I then placed the squirrel parts in the trash can.

Back to yard work I returned. Trucker disappeared for a few minutes. Again a crunching noise caught my attention and I looked up to see him lying in the same place gnawing on the rest of the dried up squirrel body.

I snatched it from his mouth and wondered where he had the rest of it stashed and how soon he'd return with more.

Dog biscuits and bully sticks are abundant at my home for Trucker to munch on. Trucker, however, apparently has a taste for dried squirrel.

This winter as I unloaded groceries from my car in our driveway, Trucker bounced around like an excited child. I noticed him disappear into the brush while I carried bags into the house.

On one of my trips from the car to the back door I heard his collar tags jingle beside me. Thankfully I looked at him before letting him dash into the house.

From his mouth protruded the twisted wreckage of a creature so decomposed it was barely discernible. It looked like multiple carnival-size soft pretzel twists intertwined.

I was carrying in bags of food at the time, so I think that Trucker wanted to carry in his own frozen contribution. Stunned again, with wide eyes and bare hands, I removed the dead creature from his mouth.

Trucker smiled and stepped inside of the house while I left his prize outside in the driveway to photograph. I sent the image by phone to a friend with the words, "Tell me what this is," attached to it.

The response from my friend was an, "Lol," and, "Looks like something dead."

This body also went into the trash can.

I don't know why these remains keep surfacing for Trucker to find. Although we are in a location where wildlife flourishes.

I do know one thing for certain, Trucker would never let us go hungry. He is a generous hunter who graciously and delicately presents me with these startling surprises.

Use this link to visit

www.tracyahrens.weebly.com/sammy-shelter-project

Tracy Ahrens is a veteran journalist, author, artist and mom to three rescued cats and one dog. She shares her pet stories with several publications including Catster.com and Dogster.com. See her website at www.tracyahrens.weebly.com and add her children's book, "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight," to your collection. All proceeds help 9 humane organizations.



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Award-winning

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For more information, images or product samples contact Dianne Howles at Poochie-Pets, LLC 860-408-9003 or dhowles@poochie-pets.net



Paws for the Cause www.pawstricounty.com Events Benefiting Tri-County Humane Society

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a 100% NO-Kill! 100% of the proceeds from every monthly social event they host is for the tender loving care of at-risk, unwanted dogs and cats from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties benefiting Tri-County Humane Society.

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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!



'PEANUTBUTTER'

Photo by: SuziK©

Hi Everyone! As always, I do not know where to start. I am almost 10 years old and I do not know how the time flies. When I was a kitten things were different. I have learned a lot from all the kittens we fostered last year. PercyPrince being our biggest foster failure! Mommy and I both fell in love with him. She sometimes takes him on weekend trips and I get upset because I miss him. But we have Heidi, our newest foster, to keep me company for now.

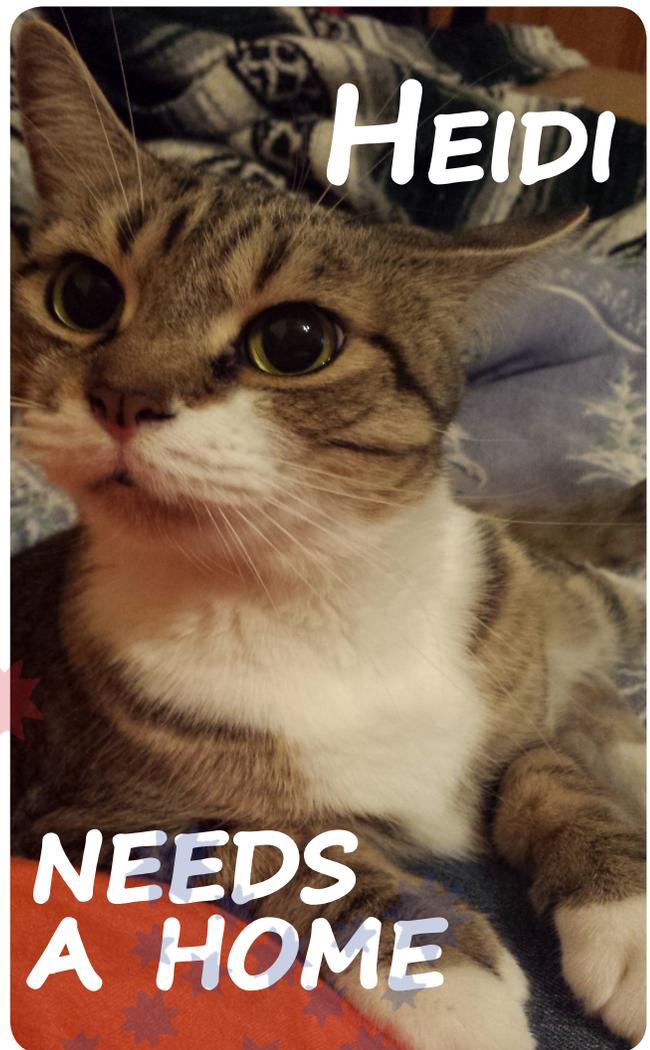
Which is another topic of discussion here, Heidi. She is in search of her forever home. She and I get along rather well so I know she can live with an older cat, more mellow than Percy the Kitten. We don't know about dogs though. Mommy can not believe what an incredibly, loving kitty she has become. Heidi has so much love to give. If you know anyone who is interested in meeting Heidi, please contact me. Thanks!

THANK YOU AGAIN AND
HAPPY READING!
#RESCUE #ADOPT
#FOSTER #NOKILL

I want to send our condolences to both Titus' family and the FiveSibes family! Two incredible furbabies have crossed the rainbow bridge. Mercedes aka Bubba and our very own, Gibson of the FiveSibes™. They were both a big part of AmericanPet Magazine™ and will be greatly missed! Very special purrs sent.



BUBBA SMILES



Have an
AmericanPet
Day!!

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

PURRS & MEOWS, PeanutButter

PET CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

February 2nd is Groundhog Day

MARCH

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

APRIL

- National Heartworm Awareness Month
- Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month (www.asPCA.org)
- National Pet Month
- National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- 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
- 14-20 National Pet ID Week
- 18 Pet Owners Independence Day (www.Wellcat.com)
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Sylvester the Cat's Birthday
- 26 Hairball Awareness Day (www.ScienceDiet.com)
- 26 National Kids & Pets Day
- 27 Woody Woodpecker Day (*Creator Walter Lant's Birthday*)
- 27 Veterinary Day
- 28 International Guide Dog Day
- 30 National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

April 2nd is National Ferret Day

Communicating with Chickens

We recently welcomed three new bantam hens into our chicken flock and animal family. Coco, Beauty, and Mixie were raised with a lot of love, handling, and care, and they have brought a beautiful energy of sweetness and joy to our home.

Our flock now consists of 8 chickens: our rooster, Mr. Rosie (aka Methuselah...he's nine years old this year, and going strong...I think that's about 742 in human years...); and seven hens ranging from one to seven years old.

Our chickens are often animal teachers for my animal communication classes. People who aren't familiar with chickens are often surprised to realize how intelligent, sensitive, aware, and fun chickens are, and how interesting and sweet it is to communicate with them.



BEAUTY



MIXIE



COCO

I have learned so much from spending time with and communicating with my chickens. Here are a few of the gems of chicken wisdom that I've received from my flock:



Be delighted by everything.

One of the things I love most about chickens is how easily they are delighted...and what small things are such a big, joyful deal to them. New leaves and dirt in their run...grasses...treats like watermelon rinds, meal worms (aka Chicken Crack), soft lettuces and fruit...the smallest things become an ecstasy of excitement and joy for our chickens. I'm reminded over and over again by our flock that it is indeed the simple, small things in life that are the most beautiful and delightful.

Here's the latest "Chicken Enrichment" fun: a head of lettuce hung from a rope. The chickens peck at it like a tether ball...and before long, it's gone! Chickens are fabulously fun and entertaining. We have chairs set up outside our chicken run, and I can lose complete track of time watching the enchanting antics of our flock. My friends tease me about watching "Chicken TV"...it's so much fun to share in their pleasure and joy!



Raise your voice often and express how you feel about things.

Not everyone loves the crow of roosters, but I do. Our neighborhood is full of roosters, and there is nothing sweeter to me than hearing the rooster chorus, or being greeted by our elder rooster, Mr. Rosie, as we come and go.

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MR. ROSIE crows for all kinds of occasions: greeting us, announcing his good care of his flock of hens, expressing joy at new food treats, answering other neighborhood roos, and singing to the full moon. There are many different songs and calls for all important events in chicken society.

Here are a few:

THE EGG SONG: This song starts with a hen announcing her intention to lay an egg, then moves into the “I laid an egg! I laid an egg! I laid an egg!” song. Then, there is an echoing chorus from the other hens: “She laid an egg! She laid an egg! She laid an egg!” Sometimes this song will go on and on, with many choruses and variations. When they sing it, I feel the excitement and joy that the hens experience when they lay their eggs.

THE DUSTBATH COO: This is my personal favorite...the chickens go into a little trance when dustbathing...and make sweet, gentle, contented little coos and clucks.

THE DANGER ALARM: This unmistakable alarm/shriek lets us know if any danger, or perceived danger, is near the chicken run. We have our chickens completely enclosed and safe from predators, but they will still alarm if they see or sense that something is amiss. Frequently it’s one of our cats in the cat yard...but occasionally it’s been a hawk or raccoon that is important for us to know about.

THE BOY GERMS SHRIEK: This is the one that the hens sing when they are avoiding Mr. Rosie...he’s easily avoided, which is good for the hens, not so good for him.

There are also dozens of other variations in chicken language and song. It’s fun for me to listen, and then to tune in telepathically and find out what each song and variation is about.



Enjoy your body and connect to the Earth.

My chickens show me how much they relish their connection with the earth...how they love the feel of dirt, leaves, and the sun; how much they enjoy the cool wet mist and mud that we provide for them in the summertime when it’s hot; how they love to feel their feet touching the ground and the sun and fresh air on their bodies.

Chickens also see in amazing Technicolor...it’s completely different from human vision. They see colors, motion and objects in a much more sensitive and precise way than humans and other mammals do. I’ve learned so much about chicken behavior and perspective from asking them to show me how they see and perceive the world around them. Here’s an interesting article on chicken vision.

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Don't judge and evaluate situations from your perspective. Find out what the perspective is of those involved before jumping to conclusions.

I've learned this lesson mostly from my reluctance to accept some aspects of chicken society. That pecking order thing...yup, it's a bit of a tough one for me. Chickens can be brutal to each other from a human perspective. We only have one rooster, so we don't have a problem with rooster-rooster aggression, but the hens can enforce the pecking order quite harshly at times. I hate to see blood, and I hate to see the low hens getting run around and picked on. We introduced the new hens carefully over several days, and so far, thankfully, all have integrated into the flock peacefully.

Here's the thing about the pecking order: it works as long as everyone knows, and stays in, their place in the hierarchy. It's important for chickens to have enough space, and lots of options for avoiding each other if necessary. As long as those things are in place, and everyone agrees who is in charge and what the order is, there is peace and harmony.

My chickens have shown me that they have a feeling of safety and security from knowing their place in the flock. Certainly, no one likes to be beat up, and thankfully that doesn't happen very often. But their perspective on their society is completely different from mine. What looks violent to me is a simple fact of life for chickens...and they are very matter of fact about it.

My emotional response to the pecking order is a human projection...but not one shared by the chickens. I try to remember this lesson any time I'm tempted to judge or draw conclusions about another's reality...I don't really know what's true for anyone unless I understand it from their perspective.

Communicating with chickens and having relationships with them is one of the great joys of my life. I love each of them, and I love to feel and understand their unique and beautiful perspective on the world. Chickens have spiritual awareness and sensitivity, as do all animals...and having them in our home and family is a wonderful blessing of sweetness, joy, and fun.

Nancy Windheart is a Telepathic animal communicator and healer for all species. As an Animal Communication Teacher, Reiki Master/Teacher (ICRT), Registered Yoga Teacher and Lifestance Yoga Practitioner, Nancy provides animal communication consultations, animal communication classes and workshops, teleconferences, and training programs, as well Reiki treatments and classes for people and animals. She is also a certified yoga teacher and Lifestance Yoga® practitioner, specializing in yoga therapy for people with anxiety and depression. Nancy works with clients internationally by phone and Skype. <http://www.nancywindheart.com>



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

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*



Written by B.J. Taylor

Charlie Bear is a 5-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

Guess what happens the first part of every year. You got it ... resolutions! Record numbers of humans sign up for Jenny Craig or Weight Watchers, or join a 24 Hour Fitness. They want to quit smoking, exercise more, lose weight. And that's all really good stuff. In fact, every year I make a resolution to lose a little weight, and to become a better dog. Here's how I work on it:

1. **Start with small steps.** Puppy steps, if you will. Define your goal. My goal is to maintain my weight of 20 lbs. It's tough, cause I like treats.
2. **Be real. I'm not cutting out ALL treats.** That would throw me into a tizzy (and I do enough spinning and twirling). No, I'm having Mom give me smaller treats at bedtime and when she likes to reward me. Instead of an entire Jerky Stick, I get half of one.
3. **Set a date/target.** My goal is to lose half a pound in the first month. For me, that's a big deal. Now Mom Peep...she's different. She's planning to lose 2 pounds by the end of January then another 3 in February.
4. **Share your resolution.** Tried that in the past and hated when you failed? Yeah, me too. There's this cute girlie dog at the dog park and I told her my goal last year. Then when I saw her again she said I still had a butterball butt. Not good. But here's the thing. If you don't tell anyone, then how can you be accountable? How about telling me. I won't tell anyone else. Email me (Charlie Bear the hunky dog) at bj.taylor@verizon.net (Mom Peep reads all of my emails to me).
5. **Don't quit.** Even if you stumble and eat three Jerky Sticks in one night, don't give up. Get right back into your program the next day. You'll feel better about yourself if you do. Trust me.
6. **Ask for help.** Finding it hard to stay out of the treat bag? Me too. So I ask Dad Peep to be kind and don't overindulge me. It's hard for him, but when I ask him to help me keep on track, he complies. Good human! *So there you have it. A way to keep YOUR new year's resolutions!*



Note: I had a lot of issues. I also had a big dog mentor. It's all in here from Mom Peep's point of view (and a little of mine): CHARLIE BEAR: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love and Second Chances. <http://amzn.to/1vinAKT>

Woofs and Wiggles!

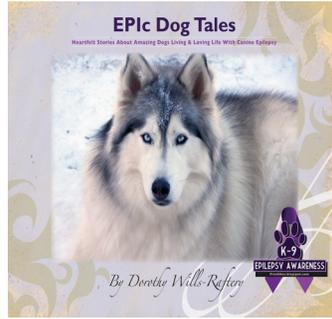
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BEST 2015 in print

EPic Dog Tales

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery

EPic Dog Tales : Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy by Dorothy Wills-Raftery, is a beautiful, coffee table book that is a collection of more than 120 truly inspiring and heartfelt stories about dogs who have lived/are living with Canine Epilepsy and how they do not let seizures get in their way of living life to the fullest.



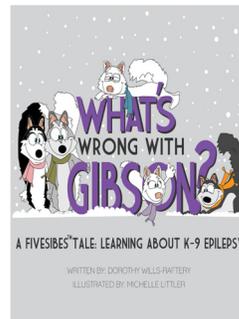
The book also contains a valuable library of online resources and information available to help navigate the sometimes stormy waters of Canine Epilepsy. A portion of proceeds from the book will benefit the Canine Epilepsy Resources Epil-K9 Foundation's "Emma's Seizure Fund" through the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine Neurology Department.

All books are available online from www.ArcticHousePublishing.com

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.

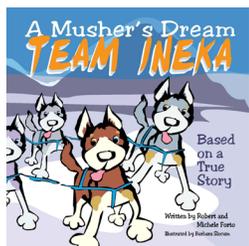
Buddy, the Christmas Husky

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
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.



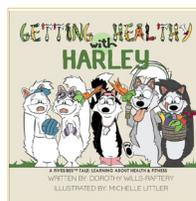
Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds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



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.



Getting Healthy With Harley

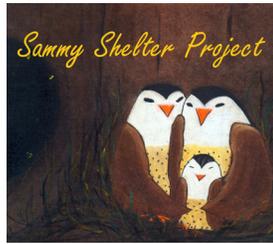
Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

Welcome back to the world of the FiveSibes; 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 second book in the FiveSibes™ Tales series, Getting Healthy With Harley is based on one of the author's Huskies, the pack's alpha queen, Harley, as she has her annual vet visit and afterwards decides to help all of the FiveSibes adopt a healthier lifestyle through nutrition and exercise. The story unfolds through easy-to-read rhyming text and adorable colorful illustrations. A portion of proceeds from the book will be donated to the Save Our Siberians Siberspace Rescue Fund.

Sammy Sparrow's First Flight

Written by Rebecca Sanchez

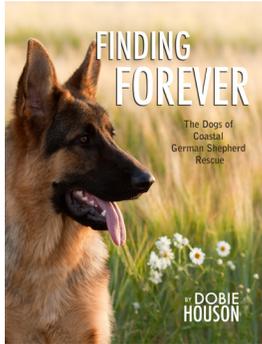
In "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight," a young sparrow named Sammy quickly learns why parents set rules. He was told not to fly alone at night. His wings are weak and Sammy falls into a bush below. The world looks scary from the ground. A friendly owl flies Sammy back home to sleep under his parents' wings. The story is based on my



childhood years of rescuing baby sparrows that fell out of a multi-room birdhouse high up on a pole in a neighbor's backyard.

The book sales help 9 humane organizations in the Chicago southland. All proceeds per book sold by use of a form provided through the website are donated to the organization selected by purchaser.

<http://tracyahrens.weebly.com/sammy-shelter-project.html>



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd

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>

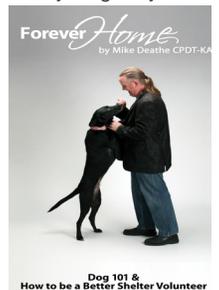
Forever Home

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
<http://www.kissdogtraining.com/blog/>



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

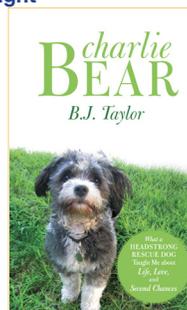


to LA. But Lauren didn't count on rescue worker Teresa Kantrim coming along for the ride. Teresa has cared for the dogs since they were found and doesn't trust anyone from LaLa Land to take over the job. Her biting comments clearly haven't earned Teresa any new friends, but when she turns up murdered,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

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.



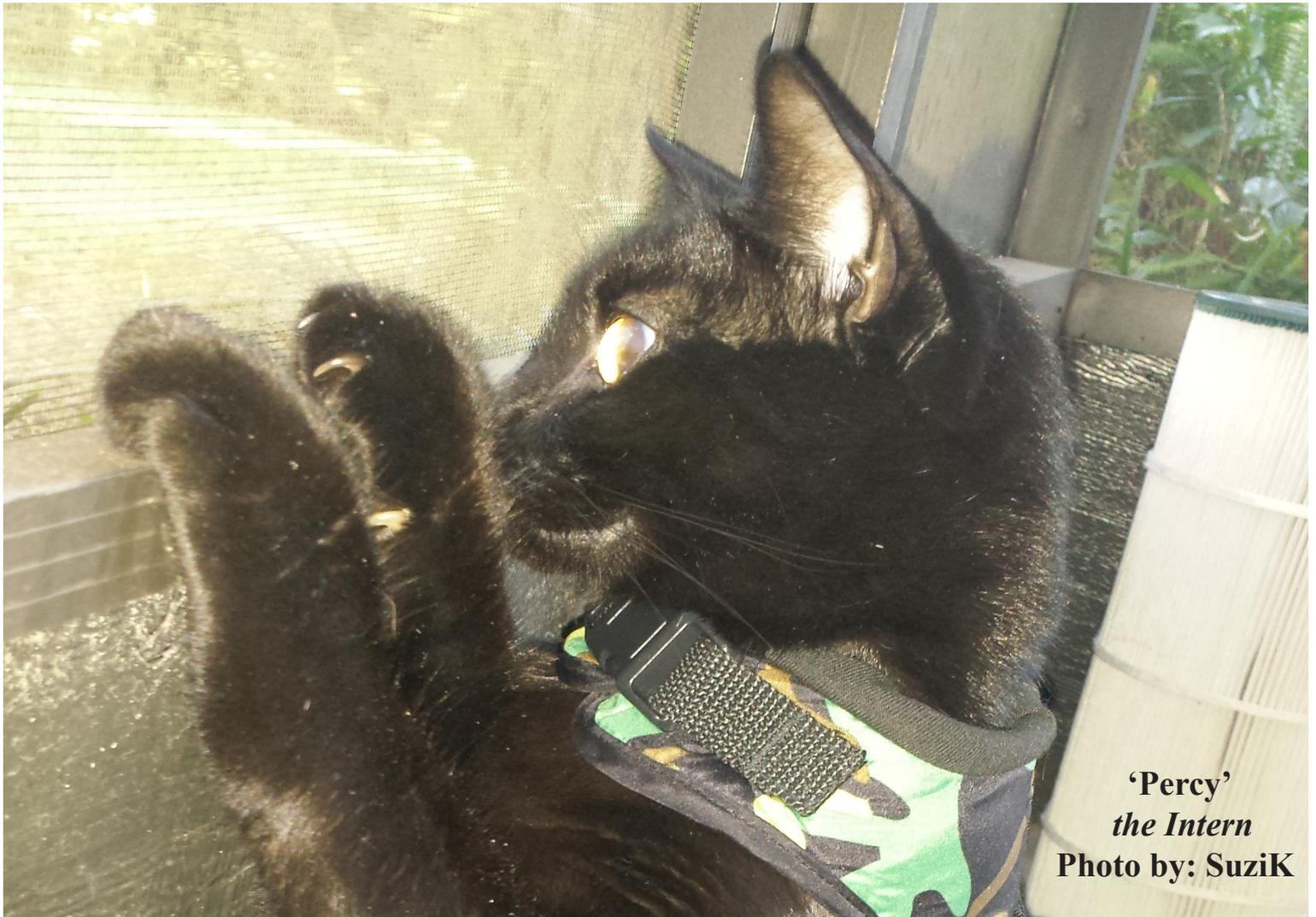
Although B.J. doubts their sanity in adopting Charlie Bear after he repeatedly attacks their other dog, Rex, she is determined to make it work for the sake of her husband, who has fallen in love. But when B.J.'s world begins to fall apart, she shares how time, patience, and faith helped her realize that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

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