

American Pet

All Pets

Magazine™

2016
v5i3

October 16th
**FERAL
CAT
DAY**

**October is
National
PitBull
Awareness**

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

Senior Moments

***The Holidays &
Buying Pets***

**Purple Pumpkins
Guide Dog Climbs**

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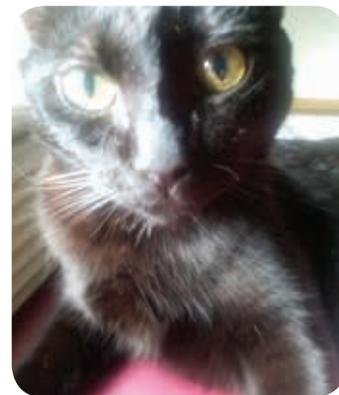
The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor

This issue is *Dedicated to our Senior Ghost Partners, GypsyPrince & MissKitty (RIP you two).* They started AmericanPet Magazine™ with the mindset of Being a Voice for the Voiceless.

Hello Fellow FurBaby Lovers! We have another great issue for you with a lot of great information and stories pertaining to *Pet Celebrations:*

National Pet Memorial Day
National Animal Safety & Protection Month
National Service Dog Month
National Feral Cat Day
National Pitbull Awareness Month
National Epilepsy Awareness Month
National Black Cat Day



One Pet at a Time..One Day at a Time..

One Life at a Time..YourVoice Matters!

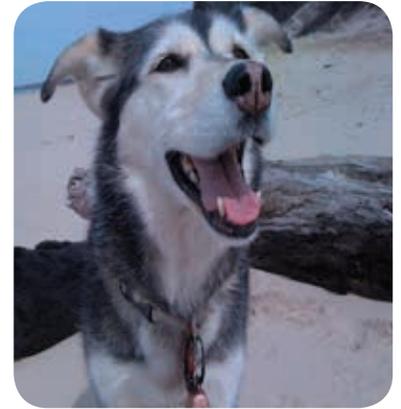
Have an AmericanPet Day!!

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

SUZIN KARP

We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 16) 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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Robert Stewart Photography

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HONOR EACH SENIOR MOMENT

Written by Christina Bournias

Photograph by Robert Stewart Photography
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“Azella”: My rescued Husky/German Shepherd mix.
***Azella passed in peace and dignity on July 7, 2016.**
Rest in paradise, Baby Girl. We had a good run together.
#TheresOnlyOneAzella

There’s nothing wrong with wanting a puppy, but there’s something special about deserving a senior dog.

I remember the first time I held my puppy. I admit, when the shelter asked me what my intentions were for the next 14+ years, I was oblivious to that “impossible” timeline. Cuddling this warm and wiggly pup in my arms, I felt like this joyous moment would go on forever. I was happy and proud. I never wanted this moment to end. But, eventually the puppy phase did. When my young dog grew into his big paws, I realized that it was up to me to earn his trust beyond just the early years.

I have fond memories of nurturing puppies, but it is the aging process—including surgery post op, administering pain meds, and fumbling with diapers—that I find most enduring. The raw vulnerability and sweetness that accompanies this critical time together is the greatest part of caring for a senior dog.

“There is something very profound about helping an old dog complete the circle of life surrounded by love and in the arms of the person who loved them at the end. It is the last gift we can give them.” —The Sanctuary for Senior Dogs

Having cared for many dogs, there’s always that one pal that leaves you with a gaping hole in your heart—even before you have to say good-bye. Some dogs just seem to leave a larger impact. It might be the circumstance in your life when that particular dog entered your world. It might be because of their relentless devotion to you, or the precious era you spend together. It may even be because they saved your life. Regardless, each senior dog symbolizes a significant chapter in life.

Nicodemus was my hero: I lost my first dog of my very own. There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t think of him. Years later, I still accidentally call out his name. I watched over my diabetic—once rambunctious—old buddy, who became blind due to stress-induced surgery. I slept on the floor alongside him, and injected insulin morning and night. I knew when Nicodemus ate too much, or too little. I knew when he had to exercise and when enough was enough. When I administered his pills, he automatically opened his mouth like a tiny duckling opening his beak for his mother at feeding time.

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During his superior years, Nicodemus was gentle and tender. He couldn't see, and yet he saw everything. Our allegiance was intense; our bond, inseparable. He trusted me with a kind of earned faith that demands respect. This faith was evident up until the end of his life. Nicodemus gave me permission to feed him for the last time. I held him close to my heart and read him a story. He blinked. Then, I quietly let him go.

With tangled emotions, I know that I'll soon lose *my Husky. As I prepare, I continue to earn her trust and gain her respect along the way. I realize more tears are unavoidable and I fight away my fears. I'm somewhere between acceptance and letting go.

“My goal is to support the adoption of older dogs and show those people who are on the fence, that they can make a difference.” —Senior Pooch, Adventures With Our Elder Canine Companions

THEORIES WHY SENIOR DOGS AREN'T ADOPTED:

People prefer a puppy.

They either want the most adorable or they look for a way to trade in for a younger model. Wiggling bodies, puppy breath, and endless energy sometimes outshine frail and fragile. Tip: Truly learn what dog aligns with your specific family and life circumstance.

People don't want to face reality.

With older animals comes additional responsibility (and bravery). We are helpless to the inevitable. Some cannot take on the role of caring for a special needs or older animal. Often, people can't handle the pain of losing a pet either. Tip: Prepare, but don't panic. Enjoy life's journey, not the end. Don't miss your opportunity to engage and interact with your dog. Cherishing good times will help you through the tough times.

People have financial difficulty.

Extenuating circumstances or economic conditions cause owners to let go sooner because of the extra financial burden. Caring for an aging animal is not easy on the wallet. However, with early, careful preparation, it is possible. Tip: Invest in pet insurance. A cost effective policy is worth it in the long run. With a suitable program, insurance can often defer costs; helping to plan ahead.

“We don't believe in reducing fees for older dogs. It sends the message that they are not as valuable as younger dogs, and nothing could be further from the truth. And old dogs will need regular medical care after they are adopted as well.” —The Sanctuary for Senior Dogs

NOVEMBER 2016 IS “NATIONAL SENIOR PET MONTH.” THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING A SENIOR DOG FOR ADOPTION WHEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR NEXT FOREVER FRIEND.

Christina Bournias resides in Michigan with her 3-pack; three beautiful adopted miracles. As her “Angelwriter”, Nicodemus (1997-2010) is the wisdom behind the stories Christina shares. (#nica_knows) 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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It's Back-to-School Time!

Are Your Pets Ready?

Written by
©Dorothy Wills-Raferly

With summer in our near rear-view window, Back-to-School season is back in full swing! With shopping for school items and drives to settle college kids into their dorms, try not to forget the furkids in all of the excitement. After spending all summer playing, swimming, vacationing, and lazing around with the family, the excitement of back-to-school can translate into stress for our family pets. To help them adjust to the sudden empty-house syndrome, try preparing them ahead of time, before school starts. If your kids are all grown and away at college, you may want to consider bringing a second pet buddy into the home as a companion for your dog. Or, why not consider fostering a pet from a nearby shelter or rescue and bring him or her home for some visits and play dates with your dog. It will be greatly beneficial to them both! When the school buses are ready to roll, your entire family can be prepared, including your pets! Here's our FiveSibes infographic with a few tips to help make going back-to-school a smooth, stress-free transition for pets (SEE PAGE 7) ~~~~~ >





FiveSibes™ TOP 10 Back-to-School Dog Tips

BY DOROTHY WILLS-RAFFERY



#1 DO a simple run-through of what the new typical work/school day will be with your dog a few days before the new schedule.



#2 LET your dog escort your child with you to the school bus stop or ride along in the car if you drive your child to school.



#3 KEEP the mood happy, upbeat & positive.



#4 LET your children tell their furbaby that they will be back after school to play.



#5 HAVE the radio or TV play while everyone is away so your dog hears voices and doesn't feel alone.



#6 CALL in from the office periodically to leave happy voice messages for your dog on your answering machine!



#7 TREAT your canine to a "doggie" snack when your child has his/her after school snack. After all, who doesn't bond well when food is involved!



#8 SET aside some time after school for your dog to have some fun playtime with your children! After all, your dog has been patiently waiting all day!



#9 LET your child read/study with the dog nearby. Some tummy rubs and head scratches go a long way in making your dog feel loved & happy!



#10 KIDS away in college? Some additional hugs, kisses & evening walks together with your dog will work wonders to chase away the blues for you both!



STOP!

Be careful!
School is in Session!



Please... be alert and drive careful! STOP for those school buses! Keep an extra eye on your furkids to be sure they don't slip out the open door as the kids leave for, and return home from, school. And be sure all collar tags and microchip info is up-to-date!



Hi! FiveSibesMom here! It's a great time to enroll your puppy or dog in a class, too! There are so many to choose from: behavior, agility, dance, etc., and include your kids in the dog's training, too!

Top 10 Back-to-School Dog Tips by Dorothy Wills-Raffery
FiveSibes.blogspot.com ~ @FiveSibesMom on Twitter
FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews on Facebook

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Every Halloween, Paint Your Pumpkins Purple for Canine Epilepsy Awareness

AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED AND WITH IT COMES FUN FALL HOLIDAYS LIKE HALLOWEEN AND ALL THE STUNNING COLORS MOTHER NATURE HAS TO OFFER – FROM THE GOLDEN YELLOW TO CRIMSON RED LEAVES, ALL THE BRIGHT ORANGE AND PURPLE PUMPKINS FOR HALLOWEEN...PURPLE PUMPKINS? WHY ARE THE PUMPKINS PURPLE? THEY ARE PURPLE, THE COLOR FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS.

Purple Pumpkins for Epilepsy Awareness

Here at the FiveSibes, we highlight awareness for Epi-dogs, dogs with Canine Epilepsy, all year long. My wooly Siberian Husky “Gibson” was diagnosed shortly after his third birthday with idiopathic Canine Epilepsy, meaning no known cause for the seizures. Through a regimen of nutritional changes, supplements, anti-seizure medications, and alternative therapies, my Gibson lived the last seven years of his life seizure free! Gibson was and always will be my inspiration and as the face behind my #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness campaign, where the goal is to spread the word that with some special care, dogs can, and DO, live happy, full lives with Canine Epilepsy. Through #LiveGibStrong, we also offer support, resources, and information to families of dogs with a seizure disorder, and fundraise for Canine Epilepsy non-profit organizations. In order to help these Epi-dogs and the caregivers who love them, it is very important to network and talk about Epilepsy so no one feels they are alone on this journey, and to not fear adopting or caring for a dog who has seizures. So while every day is a good time to talk about Epilepsy awareness, one way folks can show their support of both humans and pets with Epilepsy in a fun manner is participate in the Epilepsy Foundation’s Purple Pumpkin Project® to show the world your purple pumpkins on Halloween, October 31st, the eve of November’s Epilepsy Awareness Month.

What is the Purple Pumpkin Project®?

The Purple Pumpkin Project® was founded by Ron Lamontagne, whose son was diagnosed with Epilepsy when he was just four. Ron was brainstorming ideas on how to spread awareness about Epilepsy and was inspired by a local pumpkin patch! He thought that while kids and families were carving pumpkins for Halloween, they could also paint, decorate, or make a purple pumpkin that would then prompt folks to ask the question, “Why is your pumpkin purple?” to which the replies would be “for Epilepsy awareness!”

Mission: #DareTo Talk About Epilepsy

The Purple Pumpkin Project® supports the mission of the Epilepsy Foundation, which is “to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with Epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives” and hopes to offer support to those who have seizures. The key is to talk about Epilepsy, Canine Epilepsy, and seizures and share stories about the people and pets who live with Epilepsy. #DareTo is the Epilepsy Foundation’s campaign where they challenge “people to better understand Epilepsy...to recognize seizures, and to learn proper first aid.”

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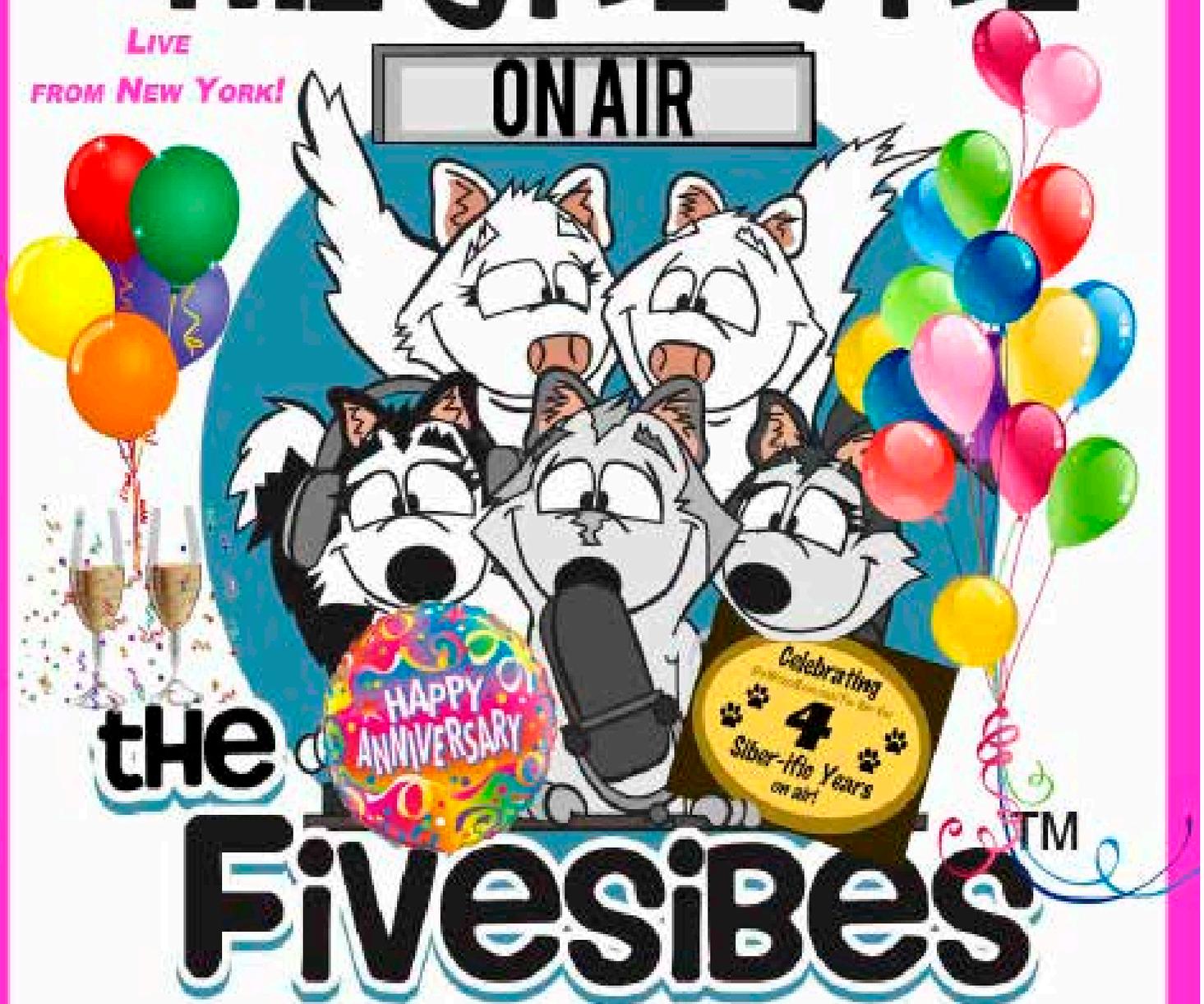
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ALASKA'S TEAM INEKA LEAD MUSHERS ROBERT & MICHELE FORTO

Show Us The Purple!

Show the world your purple pumpkins! Paint a real or artificial pumpkin purple, buy a plastic purple pumpkin, or make one out of paper! Then add your own personal touches and be creative from drawing or carving silly faces, adding glitter, sequins, ribbons, bows, fabric, anything your creative muse designs! For more fun ideas, visit www.epilepsy.com and click on the link for Get Involved, the Purple Pumpkin Project. Then, share your purple pumpkin pictures on your own social media, and be sure to hashtag #PurplePumpkinProject and #DareTo, and include #LiveGibStrong on your photos so we can share your pet's purple pumpkin pics on our FiveSibes social media, too! You can follow The Purple Project® on Facebook and Twitter at @PurplePumpkinPr, the Epilepsy Foundation at @EpilepsyFdn.

Education is Key

By helping to spread the awareness about Epilepsy with others, we can join together to help folks overcome any fears or misconceptions they may have. Through the Purple Pumpkin Project® and FiveSibes #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness Campaign, we can offer our support to both humans and canines living Epilepsy. So whether you paint your pumpkin purple, cut out paper purple pumpkins, or even glue purple pom-poms on your pumpkin - have some fun and get the conversation started with your family, friends, and neighbors about Epilepsy, and why your pumpkins are purple!

Dogs Across the World Show Us Their Purple Pumpkins!

Check out the FiveSibes Purple Pumpkin Project® video slideshow on the FiveSibes YouTube Channel (<https://youtu.be/KnJiSsgDhGY>) where beautiful dogs from across the globe join Gibson in showing off their purple pumpkins to prompt people to ask, “Why is your dog’s pumpkin purple?” so you can reply, “For Canine Epilepsy awareness!”

We Can Make A Difference

Together we can make a difference, and help support people and canines living with Epilepsy. Gibson was an amazing dog. He loved life and never let any challenge keep him down. Canine Epilepsy did NOT define him. Life did. Epi-dogs are amazing, strong, determined, and inspirational. Our #LiveGibStrong message will always be that Epi-dogs can, and do, live full happy lives, however long we are blessed to have them. May all Epi-dogs #LiveGibStrong!

About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Raftery is an award-winning author, photographer, journalist, and host of “The Sibe Vibe” Dog Works Radio show (available on iTunes and 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.  **©Dorothy Wills-Raftery**

NATIONAL AWARD NOMINATION FOR “EXCELLENCE”



FiveSibes “The Sibe Vibe” Dog Works Radio show’s episode “Talking Canine Epilepsy” with Dr. Karen Munana & Julie Nettifee-Osborne of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, received an award nomination for “Excellence” from the Dog Writers Association of America. Host/Writer: Dorothy Wills-Raftery – Executive Producer/Co-Host: Robert Forto. Dorothy also received two more nominations for “Excellence” in Graphics/Photography & Humor Blog Post.

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With Guide Dog Tennille, the Sky is the Limit for Blind Hiker

Trevor Thomas has always had a passion for extreme sports. Suddenly, his entire world changed at age 35 when he learned that he had a rare autoimmune disease with no cure, leaving him blind within eight months. Thomas says, “I thought I’d been issued a death sentence. I went from being perfectly normal to having to learn everything all over again.”

After receiving encouragement from a blind hiker, Thomas began training. While he completed his first blind hike in 2008, he endured several broken bones. It was then he reached out to guide dog organizations across the United States with a request for a dual-mode guide dog that not only could perform normal guide duties, but also handle extreme hiking and navigating the back country.

Denied by all but one organization, his request was finally answered by Guide Dogs for the Blind. In 2012 Thomas and Tennille, an energetic black lab, graduated from training, marking the start of a truly unique and life-altering friendship.

To date, Thomas and Tennille have crested over 6,000 miles and are aiming to reach 7,000 this year. He says one of his biggest successes was completing the Colorado Trail, since he attempted it in 2011 and was unsuccessful without Tennille. “There are no other guide dogs that I know of that do what Tennille does. She’s enabled me to do things not only personally but professionally that I otherwise would not have been able to achieve; in a sense, she saved me.”

While Thomas says they err on the side of caution, sometimes things can be unpredictable while in the backcountry. According to Thomas, “Safety for Tennille and I is my priority when in the back country. No matter who you are, things can go wrong and my SPOT Gen3® is the most important piece of gear that I have to let folks know where I am and summon for assistance if needed,” comments Thomas.



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Not only does he carry a SPOT Gen3 for himself, but Tennille also has her own SPOT device which she carries on her pack. “She is very important to me and while I know she would never voluntarily leave me, if something were to go wrong and we were separated, her SPOT will be pinging and we could find her,” he says.

When they aren’t on the trail, Tennille holds Trevor to a strict schedule. “Every day we hike 8 to 15 miles. She can tell time and will definitely give me attitude if I am working inside all day and we haven’t gone on our daily hike.” Tennille also enjoys car rides and visiting their local grocery. “People are always amazed when we walk into a store and I tell her my list and she will bring me to the items. We end up with an audience following us around.”

According to Thomas, Tennille has a very strict diet she must adhere to as all guide dogs do, and that “trail angels” will often bring her some of her favorites including bananas, baby carrots, mangos, broccoli, Greek yogurt and green beans. When they complete a thru-hike or a special trek, he says they have a tradition, “We both get filet mignon!”

Upcoming adventures for the pair include a thru hike of the John Muir Trail to summit Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States. Completing this climb will make Tennille the first guide dog ever to do so and set a new altitude record for a blind person and guide dog at 14,997 ft.

In addition to supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind, Thomas is also passionate about his foundation, Team FarSight Foundation, Inc., which he founded in 2013. Through outdoor activities, Team FarSight Foundation helps visually impaired young adults develop self-confidence and adaptive skills needed to succeed in mainstream society.

Ever optimistic, Thomas feels that every day is an accomplishment, focusing not on what they have done, but on the challenges ahead. He looks forward to taking on these challenges with Tennille by his side, saying, “She makes life more enjoyable because she is my best friend. She helps me to do expeditions that I wouldn’t be able to do by myself. The sky is the limit.”

During the month of September, Team Farsight Foundation will receive \$5 from every SPOT Gen3 purchased on FindMeSPOT.com using promo code TENNILLE at checkout. In addition, supporters of Trevor’s inspiration and mission can make a donation to either organization by visiting GuideDogs.com and FarSightFoundation.org.



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The Holidays & Buying New Pets

So the holidays are coming up and you are thinking about getting a puppy.... Well, have you thought about everything that entails? I need to be painfully honest about what you are about to go through.

Number one and most important...puppies do not come potty trained. So during the holidays, and in between family, eggnog, toy assembly and traveling “over the hills and through the woods to grandma’s house”, you will have to make sure to let the dog out at least every 2 to 3 hours. You will have to watch the pup like a hawk when he/she is loose and running around with the kids. Keep in mind this does not mean the dog can be put in the crate while you are gone and left in solitary confinement... Oh and one more thing, you will also have to get up once or twice a night with the pup to take them outside unless you want them to learn to pee and poop in that very crate, right?

Number two...puppies have a very short and critical developmental period that lasts from about week 3 to only about week 20. During that time they need to be exposed to all the things life will throw at them for the rest of their lives, and all of these experiences must be positive and properly conditioned. This will require meeting new people while at the same time having positive associations with them. My rule of thumb for clients is the puppy must meet and experience 50 new things a week. Remember, if you get your pup at 12 weeks you only have 8 weeks to properly socialize the pup. Now ask yourself, are the Holidays the right time to take on this important task? Remember...all the associations must be positive!

Number three...puppies need a lot of visits early on to the vet, and just as many to the pet supply store. Boosters, physical checkups, chew toys, crates; the list is in some cases is never ending. Plus, all of these medical visits and shopping trips have to be done on a pretty strict time table. You cannot just wait until after the holidays to start vaccinations or to buy that all important crate. I know you may figure the pup can just sleep with the kids or be put in the bathroom for a week or two until the Holidays are over, but this can and will set training back! It’s important to remember that during the Holidays, many vets and pet supply stores might very well be closed several days in each week for staff and crew to spend time with their family. Ask yourself again...are the Holidays really the best time to get a new pet, especially a puppy?

This brings me to fourth and final point...the idea of giving dogs/puppies as gifts. First, if this is a gift to an adult, let’s say a spouse or girl/boyfriend; I totally disagree with the idea. A new puppy is a huge responsibility and even though cute and cuddly at the moment of gifting, they can and will change the way that person will need to live their life, forever. If that person is not ready for this responsibility, this will become a pup that ends up in a shelter! Please remember, never buy someone a pet unless that person is involved in the decision making process, period.

Now giving dogs/puppies as gifts to kids is a totally different ball game. In my opinion, the age a child should get their first dog is at least 9 or 10 and no younger. Why you ask? Because with those children younger than 9 or 10, it will be you taking care of the puppy on during the Holidays as well as on a day-to-day basis going forward! This is because younger children typically can’t handle the responsibility of taking care of a puppy. Something else to consider is that younger children do not understand how to treat an animal; and this skill is one that has no business being taught during the busy time of the Holidays...

I am writing this article, not to preach or to be bossy, but simply to list some of the common pitfalls I see folks make each year near the Holidays when they buy or adopt dogs/puppies. The Holidays are already a high stress, busy and chaotic time, and in most cases, really not conducive to introducing a new pet to the family. So please take this article for what it’s worth. From this dog trainer’s point of view a gift certificate to your special person for a puppy in February is a far better choice, not only for you and that special person but also for the dog! Happy Holidays!!! Mike

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



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Playground



The **Road Runner** is the ultimate leash if you are looking for a hands-free dog walking experience. The sliding side-release buckle allows you to alter the length of the leash or unclip to wear it around your waist or shoulder.

Perfect for anyone who is active with their dog, the Road Runner uses our proprietary Soft Touch Webbing and Zero Shock Technology to absorb any sudden shocks. Reflective for night time safety and a neoprene lined handle for your comfort when used as a standard leash.



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Poochie-Pets named U.S. distributor of new, innovative pet leash tie-out. With an easy-glide, no harsh pull mechanism that allows the leash cord to smoothly retract into a 360° swivel case as the pet moves about, 3Sixty Fun securely keeps the animal from pulling and getting tangled. By twisting the handles, a steel spiral stake is secured into the ground, thus eliminating the need for tools. Lightweight and transportable with a 16' leash extension, 3Sixty Fun is designed for small to mid-side pets weighing up to 55 lbs. <http://poochie-pets.net>

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



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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.

7th Annual Animal Adoption Fair www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com

DATE: TBA 2017
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
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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!

HEROES ROCK



Help "Rescue One To Rescue Another":

EVENTBRITE TICKETS \$25: tinyurl.com/09-17-16-Save-The-Date

(IT'S HOW WE ROLL!™)



WHO: Fun concert benefit event for everyone who cares about Veterans and dogs. Enjoy great music and sweet artwork! Eat tasty pizza, pretzel snacks + frozen custard, while supporting a good cause.

WHAT: "Hero" Celebration Concert Benefit supports Stiggy's Dogs—a 501(c)(3) organization that matches Veterans with rescue dogs

WHERE: St. Clair Shores VFW 1146 Bruce Post
28404 Jefferson Ave.
SCS, MI 48081

WHEN: Saturday Sept. 17, 2016
12-6pm; Music: 1, 3, and 5pm
Refreshments: 2-4pm
(Adults ONLY/Service Dogs welcome)

WHY: Author of Iwoof Nicodemus™ c/o Brilliant Orange LLC™ would like to honor heroes + stiggysdogs.org

\$25 TICKET COST INCLUDES:

Live Entertainment: Jimmy Jack Band
Refreshments: Food & Soft Drinks
Silent Auction: In Kind Donation Items
Artwork Display: Shayne Art
(Art available, CASH sales separate)

*If attendance not possible, Eventbrite.com donation button available online until 9/17: tinyurl.com/09-17-16-Save-The-Date



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THANK YOU! Coats to match and train a Veteran/Rescue Dog pair = \$10K+. Net proceeds from every ticket will support in giving a second chance to each dog and new hope to each Veteran.

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PET CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER

- 8 National Pet Memorial Day
- 24 Rabbit Day
- 22-28 National Dog Week
- 23-29 National Farm Animals Awareness

OCTOBER

- National Pitbull Awareness Month
- Halloween and Halloween Safety Month
 - National Animal Safety & Protection Month
 - National Animal Wellness Month
 - National Service Dog Month
 - Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month
- World Animal Month
- 1-10 National Walk Your Dog Week
- 2 World Farm Animals Day
- 6-12 Animal Welfare Week
- 4 World Day for Animals
- 9 National Pet Obesity Awareness Day
- 16 National Feral Cat Day (www.nationalferalcatday.org)
- 13-19 National Veterinary Technician
- 21 Reptile Awareness Day
- 29 National Cat Day (www.nationalcatday.org)

**November 4-10 is
National Animal Shelter Appreciation Day**

NOVEMBER

Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month
National Epilepsy Awareness Month
Pet Cancer Awareness Month
Pet Diabetes Month

4-10 National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week
17 National Black Cat Day
28 THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

2 National Mutt Day
13 National Day of the Horse
15 Cat Herders Day

a Haiku for You

無条件愛

**All Cats Love to Play
They are so Therapeutic
Happy Purr Purr Love**

~SuziK



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



www.thepetmuseum.blogspot.com

A light-colored dog, possibly a pit bull mix, is shown in profile, facing left. It is wearing a black t-shirt with white text. The background is dark.

*October is
National
PitBull
Awareness*

**END
BSL**
END IGNORANCE

WWW.TITUSANDHAILEY.COM
WWW.AMERICANPETMAGAZINE.COM

When I was a pup just one year old, I was found roaming the streets in Los Angeles. The lady who rescued me discovered my issues: I threw temper tantrums, guarded my food and toys, and was sensitive to touch. She took me to a foster home and that nice lady helped me get adopted. I'm one of the lucky ones.

MEET *Charlie Bear* the Rescue Dog



Written by B.J. Taylor

Charlie Bear is a 5-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.bjtaylor.com

Moving? Ugh. I like same-o, same-o. When Mom and Dad Peep moved to a new house everything I came to know and love was thrown out like the baby with the bath water. Where in the world did that expression come from? Can you picture that? Unacceptable.

Anyway, back to relocating. It was tough. Rooms weren't in the same place, windows were in different spots, my food and water bowls were in an odd kitchen. And the furniture? Someone came in and repositioned it all. But you won't believe what happened.



Here's what Mom and Dad Peep did to make it easier for me to adjust (maybe you can do it too):

 **Visit the new place often.** I sniffed around, wandered, and then they gave me a "find it" treat and left me there for very short periods of time. They always came back (I was anxious at first, but I learned they would return). We visited the new house often (it's great if you can) and they went away for longer and longer times, always giving me a Kong with peanut butter in it or find it treats. When we finally moved in for good, I was well adjusted.

 **Bring all my comfort items.** There's a tendency to get rid of the years-old half-shredded blanket, the scruffy toys, the chipped food bowl. Don't do it. Bring the favorite blankie, little stuffed squirrel with the missing ears, crate with the chewed up edge, and sleeping bed that leans to one side and is all squashed in the corner. Transition out the old over time.

 **Keep up my normal routine.** Feed me on time. Use my same bowls. My same food. Take me for my normal walks. If you always did it at 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., then try your best to keep doing it at those times. Believe it or not, I do know what time it is.

 **Be sure I get my ZZZ's.** You may want to stay up late and unpack boxes, but not me. I'm cranky if I don't get my 8-10. I even need a nap during the day. (Admit it, you'd like a daily nap too!)

Moving is hard on everyone. And a crabby dog who barks all the time will get on everyone's nerves. Take these steps to make the transition easy for the entire family (dog included).

P.S. And if you are traveling...do #2, #3, and #4. It will comfort me big-time!

Your job is to help me, protect me, do everything you can to prevent dog bites. I look to you as my human shield. Do all you can and I'll do my best, too. Deal?

Note: When I got adopted, I had a big dog mentor named Rex who helped me through my issues. He's a big part of the book: CHARLIE BEAR: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love and Second Chances. (<http://amzn.to/1vinAKT>) Maybe you have a mentor dog, too?

**Woofs
and
Wiggles!**

PeanutButter **PURRS**

'PEANUTBUTTER'

Photo by: SuziK[©]

Hi Everyone! How is 2016 going so far? I can't believe it's already Autumn. I live in Sunny South Florida so that doesn't really mean much to me. I would LOVE to romp in some leaves right now. Things are interesting around here at AmericanPet Magazine™. PercyPrince is over 2 years old already! He is a crazy kitty and I am glad that Mommy let him stay. He keeps me on my paws, helping me to stay young and playful. I don't know what I would be doing if I were alone. Probably nothing much. Heidi is still living with us. Everyone says she is here to stay but Mommy says she is our Foster Cat & when the right home comes along, Heidi will know it. Mommy wants her Forever Home to be perfect and will not settle for less. Percy doesn't get along with her for the most part but I do. We tend to hang out together throughout the week. She isn't as spastic as Percy. We are both older and more mellow than him.

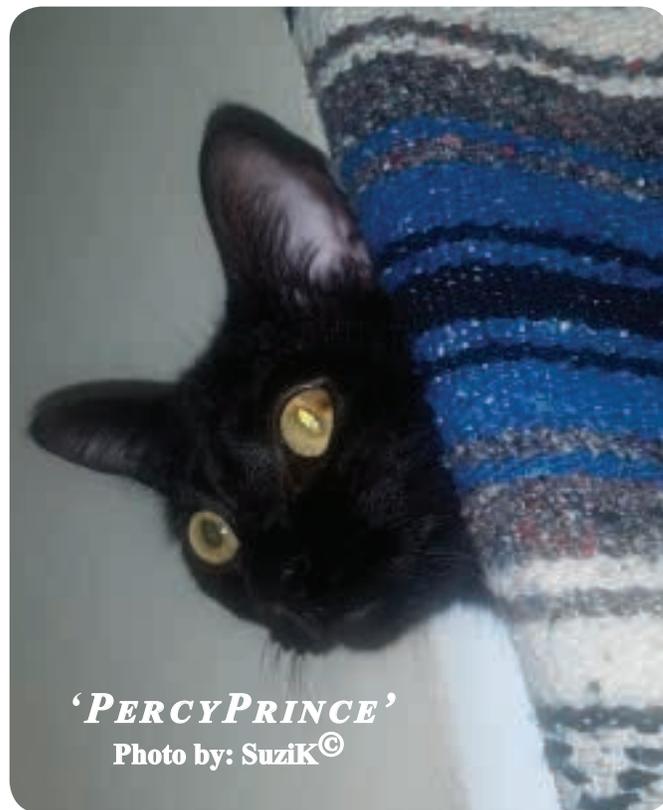
We all wish you Happy Holidays this season! I wrote to Santa already. I am hoping to get more scratch posts & catnip. Can never have enough!

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

**PURRS & MEOWS,
*PeanutButter***

THANK YOU AGAIN AND
HAPPY READING!

#RESCUE #ADOPT #FOSTER #NOKILL



'PERCYPRINCE'

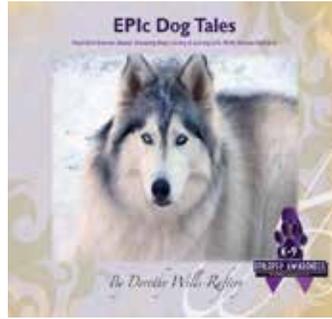
Photo by: SuziK[©]

**Have an
AmericanPet
Day!!**

BEST 2016 in print

Epic Dog Tales

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry
Epic Dog Tales : Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry, 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-Rafertry
 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.

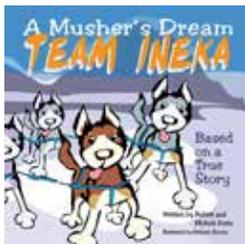
Buddy, the Christmas Husky

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry
 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.



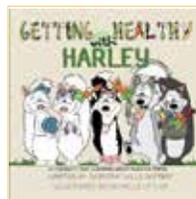
Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds 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 true story of how the Iditarod-bound racing Husky dogs of Team Ineka came to be.



Getting Healthy With Harley

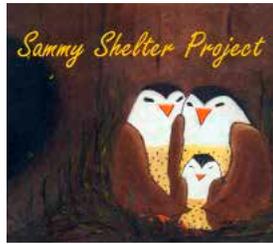
Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafertry
 Illustrated by Michelle Littler

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 Tracy Ahrens

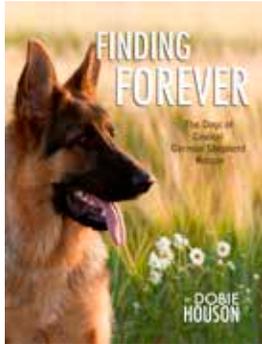
In "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight," a young sparrow named Sammy quickly learns why parents set rules. He was told not to fly alone at night. His wings are weak and Sammy falls into a bush below. The world looks scary from the ground. A friendly owl flies Sammy back home to sleep under his parents' wings.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

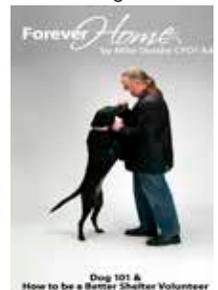
Written by Mike Deathe

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

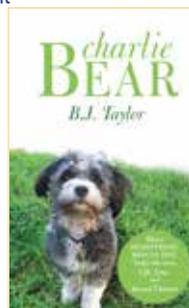


the pups back to LA. But Lauren didn't count on rescue worker Teresa Kantrim coming along for the ride. Teresa has cared for the dogs since they were found and doesn't trust anyone from LaLa Land to take over the job. Her biting comments clearly haven't earned Teresa any new friends, but when she turns 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.

www.bjtaylor.com



ROO, MY LIFE

Written by
Greg Wickenburg

This is a story of how I, once rescued, have become the rescuer. When people think of a service dog, they often think of those big Golden Retrievers or the large Labs. They don't realize that even a 10-pound little Papillion like myself, can do the work of the big boys.

I was only four months old when the Wickenburg family went online, looking for a small dog to adopt. Greg, who is a quadriplegic, was hoping to find a little lap dog, one that would lay on his lap and join him on walks—he using his power wheelchair and his dog walking beside him on a leash hooked to his chair or sitting on his lap. He told me once that he did not want a puppy; he thought house training a puppy while being paralyzed from the shoulders down seemed too difficult a task. But when the family first saw me on-line, and saw that I too, was disabled, they of course instantly fell in love me. Of course the fact that I was so cute didn't hurt either, with my puppy pappy hair sticking out like Einstein's. I don't remember anything from back then, but apparently my previous owners had young children who accidentally broke my leg, and they didn't want to pay the expensive bill to fix me, so they left me all alone at the Humane Society. Luckily, this sad story of abandonment ended happily for both me and my now best friend, Greg.

After I was old enough, and my leg had healed and the cast was off, behavioral training classes began, (I hate school!) The family took Greg and me to a dog training class (I can't drive...yet).

I was hoping to teach Greg how to learn my language (I speak treats). He just wanted me to behave well—to sit, stay, and all that stuff. After the program and all that work, everyone but us was called forward to receive their certificates. Greg and I were left alone on the training floor. We had failed, so with my long Papillion ears dragging, we went home. Again, the family had to drive, while I sat on Greg's lap in the back of the van.

The transformation from flunky to service dog all started on our walks. A mile away (about seven miles for my little legs) is a small golf course where we would walk the sidelines almost every day. I'm just a ball lovin' dog, and I really wanted some of those golf balls. I knew that I couldn't carry more than one at a time, so I started to pick up stray balls and put them between Greg's feet on the footrest of his wheelchair. Then he would take them home for me. On my best day, I found eight golf balls on our morning walk. I was one happy pappy. I hoped that he would realize that I was one smart cookie by getting him to carry all of my new treasures home. Of course, I knew all along I was, and now I was beginning to realize he too was trainable.

In the beginning, I didn't like to do things that I thought were not necessary—sit up, sit down, lay down, stand up, sit down again. But... I'll do it all day long for treats. Once Greg learned of my passion for those tiny treats we were on our way.

...Continued on Next Page

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I don't want to brag, but I even learned to fix the corners of the rug under the kitchen table that Greg's wheelchair keeps flipping over when he turns his wheelchair around. I did that the very first time he pointed at the rug and said, 'fix it.' I was amazed that I could do it myself! But the most important thing I do is call for help when he needs it, and it happens a lot.

I'm very proud to say, I have rescued Greg many times now, and a number of times it was very critical. He often falls forward or sideways in his wheelchair, and being paralyzed from shoulders down, he can't sit himself back up, so he is stuck with his face planted in his lap. I heard him tell his mom that some quads have died from asphyxiation from this, so when I saw it had happened, I was frantic, and having never been taught to do so, I started barking uncontrollably and non-stop in my loudest soprano voice until someone came downstairs to see what was wrong.

Another time, he had a severe medical situation when we were in bed (yes, I sleep on the bed) and no one heard him call for help. So I came to the rescue, figuring my barking helped the first time, so I'd try doing it again, and it worked. I'll never forget the day Greg accidentally ran his chair off a curb and got stuck on a slow traffic road, with the wheels of his chair off the ground and his face in his lap, again. So I barked non-stop until I got the attention of some nice man who came and helped me rescue him.

...Continued on Next Page





You're probably wondering why Greg's in the Chair. In 1982, when he was only 17 years old (way before I was born), he was in an automobile accident that left him a C-4/5 quadriplegic, paralyzed from shoulders down. That means that he can't use his fingers, wrists, hands, or legs, and has minimal use of his arms. He has some use of his biceps but no ability to use his triceps. So he has a specially equipped power wheelchair, driving it with a joystick. Living in the Pacific Northwest at the time of his accident, Greg was very susceptible to cold weather. So, for health reasons, they moved to the Phoenix area. That's where they rescued me.

It has now been over ten years since I started taking care of Greg, and during that time I have developed Pancreatitis. As long as I stay on a bland diet, I remain healthy. But I still have a little puppy left in me, and I can be a sly little guy. When no one is looking, I jump onto a chair, then the kitchen table or I jump up on a bed and climb onto a nightstand, looking for anything to eat, even though I know I'm not supposed to because of my physical condition. I just can't seem to help myself. I have become very ill and in pain because of this on a number of occasions, close to going to the big dog park in the sky. I actually sat right outside the gate of the big dog park more than once. Come to think of it, maybe I'm not as smart as I think I am. But one thing I know for sure: I Sure Love My Daddy!

Now I am trying to help again with a new and very important job. I'm using my charm, and my movie-star good looks, to help bring attention to a very big problem. You see, because of his disability, Greg needs specially equipped transportation—a wheelchair accessible van. Between moving here and adopting me, his life has changed dramatically—for health reasons, emotional reasons, and physical reasons. He enjoys being more active and going out and doing things. I enjoy it, too. However, his wheelchair accessible van is very old and prone to frequent break downs. It's basically falling apart.

The van is over 20 years old. It has over 200,000 miles on it, and it's costing him more in upkeep than it's worth. It has left us stranded more than once in the desert, with temperatures over 110 degrees. Overheating can cause more medical issues for Greg than most people because his body is unable to control temperature so he overheats rapidly. On top of that, the van has no air conditioning in the back where we ride, and boy does it get hot in Arizona!

Getting a new van would be great, or even just a newer, used one. To be able to go out without worries of breakdowns (I love the dog park) would be a tremendous relief for us. Recently, we heard about the website, GoFundMe, and we started our own page, hoping people will help raise funds for a wheelchair accessible van. You can help us both by going to our GoFundMe page and donating. Even small donations can add up fast.

You can read more about Greg and me, our situation, his injury, and more at our GoFundMe page at: www.gofundme.com/qe6wk5jg
Or for more information, contact us at vanfund@cox.net

Thank you so much, Roo, Ruff Ruff



ALLEY CAT ALLIES ANNOUNCES 2016 NATIONAL FERAL CAT DAY® THEME

BETHESDA, Md., USA – June 28, 2016 – Alley Cat Allies, the only national advocacy organization dedicated to the humane treatment of cats, today announced “All Cats All Communities” as the theme for this year’s National Feral Cat Day on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016.

“The theme reflects our belief that every cat’s life is important – nationally and around the world,” said Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies. “As we gear up for another fantastic National Feral Cat Day, we encourage cat advocates from across the globe to educate their communities about humane policies, like Trap-Neuter-Return, that help save cats’ lives and work to protect all cats in all communities.”

This year’s goal is to inspire 1,000 different National Feral Cat Day events across all 50 states. Thousands of events have taken place on previous celebrations of National Feral Cat Day, including volunteer-led spay/neuter clinics, educational workshops, official governmental proclamations, and fundraising to support local Trap-Neuter-Return and Shelter-Neuter-Return programs. An updated list of National Feral Cat Day events and activities, as well as ideas that people can use to celebrate in their own community, is available on the interactive National Feral Cat Day website at www.nationalferalcatday.org.

Alley Cat Allies established National Feral Cat Day in 2001 as a call to action to raise awareness about community cats, promote Trap-Neuter-Return, the only effective method of stabilizing cat populations, and empower and mobilize the millions of compassionate Americans who care about cats everywhere. Community cats, also known as feral cats, are the same species as pet cats, but they live outdoors and are unowned and not socialized to people. Through Trap-Neuter-Return, community cats are spayed or neutered, “eartipped” (a small portion of their ear is removed while they are anesthetized), vaccinated, and returned to their outdoor home where they live out a healthy life.

What began as individuals taking action has grown into a movement and is now mainstream. Today, more than 575 local governments have enacted ordinances or policies supporting Trap-Neuter-Return, as well as hundreds of communities and shelters across the U.S. that are successfully carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return and Shelter-Neuter-Return programs.

Look for updates on the 2016 National Feral Cat Day throughout the coming months, as cat advocates celebrate cats in every corner of the world underscoring the importance of feline life wherever they live, from the most urban settings to the most rural. For this and other Alley Cat Allies news and announcements, sign up for eCommunications at www.alleycat.org/stayinformed.

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About Alley Cat Allies

Alley Cat Allies, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., is the only national advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies has more than 600,000 supporters and helps tens of thousands of individuals, communities and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide. Its website is www.alleycat.org, and Alley Cat Allies is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ and YouTube.

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'Heidi'
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