

American Pet

All Pets Magazine™

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

2019
v6i1

BEST
2019
in print

February is
Homes for
Birds Month

National
Ferret Day
February 2nd

HOPE'S
HAVEN

Balance Dogs:
Love & Freedom

Camp Fire Recovery Center
Opens for Rescued Cats

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The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor

Hello Fellow Pet Lovers! We have another great issue for you with a lot of great information and stories. Thanks to ALL our contributors! After two years on a detour, **AmericanPet Magazine™** has come back bigger and better with more to come. Look for our **BOOK**, to be released later this year. Take the time to check out the **Best in Print**. There are links provided for you to purchase our author's books and to help with their animal-loving missions. #SharingIsCaring If you are interested in donating to our cause and help keep this magazine awesome, you may visit our website **SPONSOR** page at **www.AmericanPetMagazine.com**. In addition to our website, all of our Social Media links are listed on the back page for you to enjoy the Karp Katz stories and pictures. We are looking to open an online store this year offering all types of gifts and other items to help with our mission. Don't forget to read PeanutButter's Column. (pg 61) He took over for MissKitty, who was our first columnist. He is our *Kitty with Many Hats* and PURRS everyday. ~

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

One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

Have an AmericanPet Day!!

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

SUZIN KARP ❤️

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SAMMY LEE
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BEST
2019
in print

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"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals." ~Immanuel Kant



Author Photo: Author & DWAA Maxwell Medallion
Award Winner Dorothy Wills-Raferly
Photo by Jenn Holmquist

Award-Winning Book Cover: EPIc Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About
Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy

Books through ArcticHouse Publishing at www.ArcticHousePublishing.com
via PayPal, and also links to purchase via Amazon.com

Dorothy Wills-Raftery

**Author & AmericanPet
Magazine™ Writer,
Receives Prestigious
Awards for Her Work**

Congratulations to Dorothy Wills-Raftery, a long-time writer and photographer for our American Pet Magazine, who has received several prestigious awards for her work! Dorothy is a well-respected author of several canine books and many articles, creator & writer of the popular FiveSibes™ blog and #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness & Education Campaign, writer & host of “The Sibe Vibe” show on Dog Works Radio, and #Paws4Purple writer & partner with The Anita Kaufmann Foundation. She is a 9-time Dog Writers of America Association (DWAA) “Excellence” nominee, and in 2016 & 2017, DWAA awarded Dorothy the prestigious Maxwell Medallion for her outstanding photojournalistic work in FiveSibes.



Dorothy was also named a 2017 Finalist in the “Advocate” category for the Women in the Pet Industry’s Woman of the Year Award.

Her book, *EPIC Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy* received the Independent Press Award’s 2018 “Excellence in Reference Book” category, and the NYC Big Book Award for “Excellence” in the Pet category.

You can follow Dorothy

Facebook at FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews

Twitter at @FiveSibesMom and on her website at <https://FiveSibes.com>

Camp Fire Recovery Center Opens for Rescued Cats



Photo: Alley Cat Allies



CF107, the tabby, we believe is Alvin. Everything about his behavior and features, especially the "lipstick" pattern on his lips, matches what his owner has shared with us. We're hoping there will be another reunion!

MARYSVILLE, Calif. – A cat recovery center will be opened in Marysville, California by FieldHaven Feline Center, and will be named The Alley Cat Allies® Recovery Center thanks to funding from Alley Cat Allies. The center will help feline victims of the Camp Fire who are being rescued from the burn areas.

The Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center will be located at 620 Ninth Street in Marysville, and open from 9:00am to 6:00pm, seven days a week. The two organizations will also establish a mobile Transfer Station in Paradise.

Call 916-434-6022 or visit FieldHaven's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FieldHaven> for location and more details. All animals received will be scanned for microchips and held for several hours at the transfer station so their family has an opportunity to reunite with them before the animals are moved to the more substantial Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center in Marysville.

In November, the Camp Fire destroyed over 14,000 homes in the towns of Paradise, Magalia, and surrounding areas. People had to flee for their lives or were not home at the time and in most cases had no time to search for their animals. In the weeks following the fire, over 1,000 cats were rescued, but it is estimated there are hundreds of cats still in need of rescue.

"As we've seen so often, the weeks after a disaster slips from the headlines are very challenging for rescue organizations such as our friends at FieldHaven," said Alley Cat Allies president and founder, Becky Robinson. "It's important that they're able to open this new, critical recovery center and transfer station so residents can recover their animals. We appreciate their ongoing dedication to save animals and reunite them with their owners and caregivers."

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Photo: Alley Cat Allies

This is a charming neutered male trapped on Pacific Drive in Paradise on 12/17 by our trapper Thomas Reeves. In spite of him very obviously being someone's beloved cat, we have not yet located his owner. Friday morning he received a complimentary spa day. I haven't seen him yet but am told it took 4 baths to get all the ash and soot off him.

...Continued from Last Page

FieldHaven will operate The Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center as a shelter for cats who are continuing to be rescued from the burn areas. Trappers who rescue cats and are not able to immediately identify the owner can bring the cats to the recovery center. They will be sheltered and receive any necessary medical attention. A widespread network of volunteers will work to reunite the cats with their families.

“By opening The Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center in Marysville, we have a location that’s out of the disaster zone yet close enough to locations such as Paradise and throughout Butte County that it will be convenient for pet owners to come to the center and reunite with lost pets,” said Joy Smith, executive director, FieldHaven Feline Center. “Additionally, our temporary transfer station for cats in Paradise will be even closer to affected residents, and we encourage them to check for their cats there before making the drive to Marysville.”

Alley Cat Allies, the global engine of change for cats, has been providing expert guidance and assistance for FieldHaven and other organizations in California as the area responds to multiple wildfire disasters.

FieldHaven operated an evacuation center for cats in Sutter County for over three weeks starting on the day of the fire. That facility was closed on Nov. 30. Since then FieldHaven has been working with individuals and groups, assisting in reuniting trapped cats with their family. With the announced closure of the emergency pet shelters in Butte County early next month there is a need for ongoing support.

Robinson and Smith pointed out that while much of the work thus far has concentrated on finding lost pets and returning them to their family, they will also prioritize meeting the needs of community cats. Community cats, sometimes called feral cats, are unowned and live in their outdoor homes.

“Untold numbers of community cats have been displaced or injured by the fires,” Robinson said. “We will work to find them and ensure they will receive medical treatment and ongoing care into the future.” ~

About Alley Cat Allies

Alley Cat Allies, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., is the global engine of change for cats. We protect and improve cats’ lives through our innovative, cutting-edge programs. We are seen around the world as a champion for the humane treatment of all cats. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies has more than a half-million supporters and helps tens of thousands of individuals, communities and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide.

www.alleycat.org and Alley Cat Allies is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

About FieldHaven Feline Center

Founded in 2003, FieldHaven Feline Center is a novel, progressive non-profit animal welfare organization. Harnessing the power of a dedicated staff, an army of volunteers, and a professional Board of Directors, we support the health and safety of the animals in our community and the people who care for them. Our programs, such as 2nd Chance Ranch, Spay Neuter Assistance (SNAP), the leading-edge Community/Cat Assistance Team (CAT), vaccine/microchip clinics, and Pet Food Pantry, truly make a difference. We proudly offer cats and kittens for adoption and operate a thrift store: FieldHaven Marketplace.



Photo: Alley Cat Allies

The black kitty is CF110 whom we just found out is Sage. She went home with our family a couple of hours ago. We knew without a doubt that this is Sage. When her family walked into the room and started talking she immediately started talking back to them. A relative saw her picture online when we posted it.

Balance Dogs: *Love & Freedom*

We love the dogs in our lives, dogs that we care for, dogs that stand by our side—dogs that “balance” our lives. However, have we considered how dogs (and other service animals) help people who suffer from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)?

Symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS) tend to surface between the ages of 20 and 40. Some symptoms come and go, while others linger. Some patients have a single symptom, while other patients will go months or years without any other symptoms. Often, a symptom can occur just once and never return. No two people have exactly the same symptoms.

EARLY MS SYMPTOMS:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| * Arm or leg weakness | * Blurred vision | * Clumsiness | * Cognitive ability |
| * Numbness | * Lack of coordination | * Loss of balance | * Tingling |

THE SEVERITY OF SYMPTOMS VARY:

Unusual sensations: People may experience uncomfortable symptoms that feel like “pins and needles”; burning, itching, numbness, stabbing, or tearing pains. These sensations can usually be managed or treated.

Bladder problems: About 8 out of 10 people may have trouble emptying their bladder. Bowel problems such as constipation are common.

Trouble walking: MS can cause muscle weakness, spasms, fatigue, or balance problems.

Speech problems: MS can cause people to have long pauses between words. Often their speech is slurred or nasal. In more advanced stages of MS, patients develop swallowing problems.

Thinking problems: MS usually does not change intellect or ability to read and understand conversation, however, slowed thinking, poor attention, or fuzzy memory are common.

Tremors: About half of people with MS have shakes, making it difficult to do everyday activities.

Vision problems: Sight may be blurry, gray, or have a dark spot in the center. Patients may often complain of eye pain and/or temporary vision loss.

“People living with multiple sclerosis (MS) have difficulty moving from place to place due to numbness in their legs, which results in instability and lack of balance. MS-related fatigue can also cause people to fall or have difficulty walking. Aids such as canes can help, but Balance Dogs are becoming common amongst patients diagnosed with MS.”

However, MS doesn’t have to control someone’s life. Many patients work with their doctor to treat and manage symptoms. Most people stay healthy and continue to live life as they wish—that includes living with a special dog. These special dogs are called Balance Dogs.

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THINKING OF OWNING A BALANCE DOG?

- * You must loves dogs
- * You must be willing to work with your dog
- * You need to properly care for your dog
- * You can identify how a Balance Dog will assist you, given your individual level of disability



“One of the most important functions that these dogs fulfill for their caregivers are the provision of constant loyal companionship.” ~Unknown

PHYSICIANS DIVIDE MS SYMPTOMS INTO THREE GROUPS:

Primary: Damage to the protective sheath (myelin) around the nerves in the brain or spine. This damage causes scarring, which makes it harder for signals to travel between body and brain. This damage can lead to loss of balance, numbness, paralysis, tingling, tremors, vision problems, weakness, bladder and/or bowel problems. Physical therapy and medical treatments keep primary concerns under control.

Secondary: These symptoms follow primary problems of MS. For example, patients that are unable to empty their bladder can develop bladder infections. Physicians can treat secondary symptoms, however, the goal is to treat primary symptoms.

Tertiary: These symptoms are job-related, psychological, and social. For instance, if MS makes it difficult to walk or drive, people are unable to function well in the workplace. Because MS circumstances vary, it's best not to compare between two people.

HOW BALANCE DOGS HELP MS PATIENTS:

- * They assist patients move from room to room
- * They push buttons in an elevator
- * They open doors using a special device
- * They turn on and off lights
- * They pick up dropped items,
like a pen or telephone from the floor
- * They brace patients as they get up and down;
assisting them in getting in and out of chairs or beds
- * They sense when patients are fatigued
Balance Dogs encourage rest by gently nudging their patient toward a chair or wall

Depending on availability and level of patient disability, there's financial assistance for purchasing, training, and maintaining a Balance Dog. To discover options, patients can call their local MS care provider or MS Society chapter that serves people with disabilities. In addition to providing increased mobility when performing activities of daily living, Balance Dogs are becoming more socially accepted. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 'Service Dogs have every right to be anywhere that you have a right to be.'

THREE WAYS TO OBTAIN A BALANCE DOG:

1. **Trainer/Caregiver:** The dog is trained by owner. This option can be rewarding, but often can run the risk that the puppy develops health problems or a personality not suited for service.
2. **Professionally Trained Dogs:** Hired professional dog trainer to help train a Balance Dog. Same risks apply as above, but there's a greater chance of success. However, the costs will increase.
3. **Assistance Dog Organizations:** Obtain a dog who has already been trained for service. The quality of these dogs and their training may vary greatly. There are strict organization regulations. Be sure to research each organization and interview people who have obtained dogs from the same place you're considering.

Not all dogs make good Balance Dogs. While most dogs provide comfort to a MS patient, a true Balance Dog must meet the criteria to be able to handle such an important task. Common breeds used for service are: Great Danes, Golden Retrievers, and Labrador Retrievers.

A BALANCE DOG MUST:

- * Be large enough to support extra weight
- * Cannot have any health problems
- * Be trainable and well adjusted in society
- * Be able to focus on patient tasks that need to be accomplished
- * Connect with their caregiver and/or person suffering with MS
- * Be discrete (for example, some dogs are trained to hide under tables in restaurants) ~

“The single most important benefit a MS patient has when owning a Balance Dog is their independence ... the freedom to do things independently.” ~Genia Pappas

February 20, 2019 is **Love Your Pet Day**
Thank you for loving a Balance Dog

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Christina Bournias resides in Michigan with her 2-pack; two 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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RESOURCES:

<http://www.cute-calendar.com/category/animal-holidays.html>
<http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/love-your-pet-day/20031.html>
<http://www.arkanimals.com/service-dogs-for-multiple-sclerosis/>
<https://www.verywell.com/balance-dogs-for-multiple-sclerosis-2440768>
<https://www.dailystrength.org/group/multiple-sclerosis-ms/discussion/balance-dogs-for-ms>

Helpful Multiple Sclerosis Organizations:

Assistance Dogs International: This is a coalition of non-profit organizations that train service dogs.

American Dog Trainers' Network: This website includes listings of professional dog trainers, including trainers that specialize in service dogs.





Parrots as Pets

Written By
Lisa A. Bono,
CPBC

Parrots are the third most popular companion pet in the United States. Many people acquire them not understanding their needs and that leads to so many birds needing multiple homes through their life.

They say the average bird has eight homes. I have personally helped hundreds of them through my years in aviculture. Many, several years later, needed different homes after I placed them.

I think a lot of people jump in and get a bird with little no research. Whether they think it's cool to have a talking pet, something more exotic or some even trying to reach a certain status of wealth and thinking a bird is something good to flaunt that. That is far from the truth.

Close up & Personal-Emma Lynn

Birds are messy, loud, demanding and can bite. With that said, they will also steal your heart like no other companion animal can.

I get emails all the time from people seeking out "a quiet bird who does not scream or yell. They must get along with all the family members and not bite. They must be "trained" and have no behavior issues". My typical response is "Have you ever lived with a bird?" The only parrot that describes is a stuffed one.

Like humans and other animals, each parrot is an individual. To demand these behaviors from a living creature is almost absurd. Any human family can tell you even the most well-behaved children can and may make bad choices at times. Parrots do too, but they are also hardwired to behave different being considered a prey animal.

Parrots are not domesticated, with the exception of parakeets, cockatiels and love birds and often two to three generations are removed from the wild. All birds have hardwired instincts that carry over into our homes. More often than not, those instincts prove not to mesh with many households or people just grow wary and give up.

Just like any other living being, parrots may need a little guidance, training and patience to achieve this. An older or rehomed bird is not for everyone. You may need to reach out to a behavior consultant to understand what is happening once the bird is in your home. Unwanted behaviors can be modified or changed. In my opinion there is no such thing as a starter bird, though there are some species that are easier to work with than others. Keep this in mind when considering adopting any companion parrot.

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(left to right)
EmmaLynn,
Abigail &
Sammy



Know there are many sanctuaries out there that are looking for volunteers to help them out. Many rescues and sanctuaries are quickly running out of room and are turning parrots away, leaving them virtually homeless. Volunteering at a rescue is a wonderful way to learn more about the species you are considering bringing in as a family member.

I currently reside with 6 parrots. I can boast that I have lived with birds for over four decades. They have taught me a lot. Many of them rehomed. I use the word “rescue” lightly. Unless a parrot is in dire straits or about to lose its life, I consider them rehomed. Four of my current are rehomed.

Our relationship is wonderful and they even tend to be better well behaved than my hand fed babies. Not sure what that says about my mothering skills, but I know I am good with my healing skills.

Stirling is in his late 30’s. He lived with my father and I grew up with him. When my father grew ill and could not care for Stirling anymore, he came to live with me.

Emma Lynn is a disabled bird with a twisted neck. There are not a lot of people who would take something like that on with unforeseen future medical issues. To me, it didn’t matter. And she has no idea she is different.

Abigail was abandoned outside an animal hospital and one of my wonderful vets took her in. When he needed to find her a home, I agreed to welcome her into ours.

Sammy Lee was the last one to need a home. She was the constant companion and love of one of my very dear friends. I had always promised my friend should Sammy ever need a place to land, I would make sure she was safe. So she is with me.

Each one of these birds and I have a different, yet special relationship. Along with Sydney and Ollie, we make a wonderful little flock.

As readers of American Pet Magazine™, you will be learning a little more about us in future issues. ~



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



www.thepetmuseum.com



WWW.TITUSANDHAILEY.COM

HOPE'S HAVEN

A Fiction Story Written by
©Dorothy Wills-Rafty

The nurse glanced up at Sarah Madison, who was sipping a hot coffee, waiting to go back into Nick Stafford's room. Sarah looked in to where he was lying in bed, his knee bandaged above where his leg once was. He stared vacantly at the ceiling. "I don't know how you get over what he's been through. I just know he has so many people who are thankful he is alive."

The nurse offered an empathetic smile as she patted Sarah on her shoulder.

Sarah returned a hesitant smile as she pet the soft, silky coat of the black and white Siberian Husky that sat next to her, ears perked, blue eyes watching each person who walked by in the hospital hallway. Wrapped around the Husky was a blue vest with large white letters that spelled out "Therapy Dog" on one side and his name "Diesel" on the other.

After visiting hours were over, Sarah sighed as she slipped into her navy wool coat. Nick had been pretty unresponsive, even to Diesel. But, she knew it was only a matter of time before the dog would help Nick come back to their world.

Sarah wrapped a white knit scarf around her neck and stepped through the hospital's glass doors, where she was instantly greeted by the biting January cold and snow. Pulling in the collar to her coat, she walked the short couple of blocks to where her family's old, but well-kept blue Victorian house sat, perched on top of a hill in the small upstate New York town of Riverview. The property overlooked the Hudson River and was surrounded by evergreen trees and the most recent addition of an eight-foot tall white privacy fence for her rescue dogs. The house has been in her family for generations, originally sitting on many acres of farmland, before the town and surrounding city grew. Over the years, her ancestors sold off parcels to keep the farm running in the black. Years ago, after her father passed away, Sarah's mother turned the house into a prosperous bed and breakfast. The local media called it a "slice of the past" and "a showpiece of the city." To Sarah, it was simply home. A home she periodically shared with visitors from all over the country, including abandoned or abused Siberian Huskies. Her own two beloved dogs were rescues after folks in New York City bought them from a breeder "because they were beautiful," not realizing the care and exercise required for such energetic, working breed dogs. They had been kept cooped up in kennels all day, and when their family came home from work and finally let them out, they destroyed pretty much everything in the small apartment, and then had been returned to their kennels for punishment. Not a good life for any animal, especially the Siberian Husky. Eventually, they were dropped off at a local shelter, where Sarah found them and immediately adopted them. Now they roamed free around her fenced-in property. Ever since, her door has been open to any Husky or Husky mix needing a safe haven or foster home. While she fell in love with every one that came across her doorstep, Sarah also enjoyed the rehab and placement process of finding new, loving homes for the rescued dogs. Many of her wonderful human boarders wound up being wonderful parents to her canine boarders.

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As she walked home, she enjoyed the falling snow that had now blanketed the ground in a shimmering white cover, reflecting like a thousand diamonds in the moonlit night. Once she reached her porch, Sarah closed her eyes, savoring the cold flakes as they hit her upturned face. Somewhere in the distance, she could hear the sound of a truck as its plow crunched through the snow. From out in her backyard, she could hear her two Siberian Huskies enthusiastically chasing each other through the snow, sounding out an occasional playful howl that echoed through the quiet.

Shoving her hands deep into the pockets of her coat, she sighed deeply, her warm breath circling out into the night air. She was worried about Nick. They practically grew up together in Riverview. Sarah, just six years his senior, had babysat for him when he was five. Although it had been some 20 years since then, Sarah had remained close to Nick and his family. She attended most of the family events, including his high school graduation and going away party for when he joined the military. Shortly after boot camp, he was deployed overseas. They corresponded periodically, until the news broke about his unit being ambushed while out on patrol. While she and his family were jubilant that he was alive and safely back home, Nick was having a much tougher time adjusting.



The sudden woo-woosing call of her two Huskies jarred her back to the present. Back inside the house, Sarah set about preparing their dinner. At the sound of the crunchy kibble hitting the two stainless steel bowls, both dogs came thundering across the deck stopping at the kitchen door, their crystal blue eyes pleading to come inside for the food they knew awaited them. Sarah opened the door and was greeted by her snow-covered fur babies—Diesel, a three-year-old black and white male, and his constant companion, Nanuk, a wolf-gray female. Happily, they bounded into the kitchen, the metal tags on their collars jingling as they shook off the snow that had gathered on their fur. They circled each other incessantly, waiting for their dinner.

“Okay, kids, it’s almost done.” To which they answered with several more “woo-woos.”

After mixing some reheated boiled chicken from the fridge along with pureed cooked green beans and pumpkin, and a dash of liquid omega-3 oil into their food, Sarah placed their dishes down. She gave them each a gentle pat on the head, checked for fresh water, and watched as they eagerly wolfed down their dinner. When they finished, Diesel and Nanuk pawed their empty dishes, sending them skittering across the hardwood floor.

“Are you guys finished already?” she asked as she dropped down on the floor, where she was nuzzled and given lots of kisses by the two Huskies. A smile spread across Sarah’s face. *This is my bliss.* Suddenly, she knew exactly what she needed to do. She gave both dogs a big hug, and went to make a few phone calls.

“Thanks for giving me a ride home, Sarah,” Nick said a few days later as Sarah zipped up his jacket and tucked a blanket around him in the wheelchair.

“I’m happy to do it. Hey, remember when you were little and I’d babysit you and bring you over to my house to ride on the tire swing in our yard?”

Nick nodded, sliding on a pair of sunglasses. “We’re not kids anymore, Sarah. A lot has changed since then. Nothing is the same.”

Sarah knew he was right. She couldn’t change what happened to him, but she could try to cheer him up and maybe bring that inner spark of life back. Besides, if her plan worked out, he would be helping her as well.

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FiveSibes™
Home of the FiveSibes,
FiveSibes Blog, and
"The Sibe Vibe" Radio Show!



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When they arrived at Sarah's house, Nick stared out the car window. "I thought you were bringing me home?"

"Mmmm, actually, what I said was, 'I'll give you a lift.'" She smiled over at him.

"Ah, I see. Very tricky, Sarah!" Nick smiled back before staring up at the grand Victorian. "Your mom would always have milk and brownies for us whenever I came over. I always felt like she was my other mother. How's she doing?"

"Mom's good, enjoying life as a snowbird. She has her group of friends in Tampa and they stay busy. She'll be back up in May, and will be thrilled to see you."

"So why am I here?"

"I want you to meet some special friends of mine."

"I don't need any friends. I lost my buddies when—" his voice trailed off.

Sarah frowned. "I know. I'm sorry. Truly I am, Nick. I promise, you will love these guys. And they won't take 'no' for answer."

Nick grunted some type of response Sarah couldn't understand.

After Sarah settled Nick into the drawing room, she went into the kitchen where her two Huskies were busy playing with some toys. "I have a job for you two." Understanding, Diesel and Nanuk cocked their heads to the side and glanced past Sarah toward the drawing room. "Go to Nick," commanded Sarah as she pointed toward Nick, and off they went.

"Whoa!" yelled Nick. Sarah chuckled, and then busied herself in the kitchen making sandwiches and pouring two glasses of sparkling water. Loud, deep laughter sounded from the drawing room. How good it was to hear Nick laugh again, thought Sarah. She smiled to herself, feeling very proud of her dogs. She knew no one could resist their charms. When she entered the drawing room, Nanuk was perched on Nick's lap, licking his face, while Diesel was sprawled out at his feet, chewing on his shoe.

"Who are these guys?" Nick said with a grin. "I know you wrote you had dogs, but these pups are awesome! Real beauties, too."

Sarah placed the tray of refreshments on top of the mantel, and handed Nick a few dog biscuits. Both Huskies immediately sat for their treats. "These are my babies—Nanuk, who I see has made herself right at home on your lap, and Diesel, my certified working Therapy Dog."

“They are beautiful, and quite social!” he said as he handed them each their treat.

“Yes, they are! I actually operate a Husky rescue here in addition to the bed and breakfast. Fortunately, all have been placed, but this weekend I’m heading to Manhattan to the ASPCA, where a two-year old red and white girl has just come in.”

Rubbing the thick fur on the back of Nanuk’s neck, Nick shook his head. “Who could give up such beautiful animals?”

“Their beauty captures people right away, and thanks to some TV shows and movies, everyone thinks they should have one. But if folks don’t do their homework on the breed, they get frustrated and give them up. It’s really heartbreaking, Nick. There has become such an epidemic of homeless Huskies. Rescues across the country are full of them.”

After a few minutes, she asked, “So, what are your plans now that you are out?”

Nick reached down and rubbed Diesel’s head. “I don’t have any really. I have to get fitted for a prosthetic leg, then physical therapy. Beyond that, I don’t really know.”

Sarah chewed on her lower lip. “Feel like taking a ride with me to Manhattan this weekend?”

Nick glanced up and raised a curious eyebrow in her direction as Nanuk snuck in a big lick.

Several months later, a warm spring was in full bloom. From Sarah’s back porch, there was a breathtaking view of the river below, which was quite busy with watercraft traffic. While the birds chirped their choruses, Diesel and Nanuk romped through the green grass, chasing each other, biting each other’s tails, and tumbling across the immense fenced-in yard in true Husky play. Nick’s parents, Sarah’s mother, and several boarders with cool drinks in hand, watched from the porch, laughing at the fun-loving antics.

Down on the lawn, Nick leaned against a picnic table as two white one-year-old blue-eyed Siberian Husky brothers, the newest rescues, frolicked around his feet. Sitting atop the table tucked under his arm was his brown-eyed girl “Spera,” which translated means “Hope” in Romanian. It had been love at first sight for Nick and the red and white Husky they had picked up in Manhattan back in January. They were inseparable, as Sarah secretly had hoped.

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©Dorothy Wills-Rastery

“The twin pups are looking good, Sarah. They finally put on some weight,” he called out.

Sarah glanced over her shoulder as she dragged the garden hose to where a bright blue plastic kid’s pool sat on the grass. “That’s all your TLC, Nick. They are just about ready to be enrolled in training. I think they will both make excellent Therapy Dogs.” As she turned on the nozzle, the water came out with a loud splattering spray. Suddenly, the ground under them thundered as all five Huskies came running to the pool and jumped in, slid around, jumped out, and bit at the hose trying to eat the flowing water. Nick chuckled and grabbed the set of crutches that were leaning on the nearby picnic bench and made his way over to where Sarah was now spraying the dogs with the hose water.

“You’re getting better with that,” she nodded to his prosthetic leg.

“I need to keep up with these guys, you know! When do we pick up that four-year-old from the Jersey shelter?”

“Tomorrow. My vet will check him out do some bloodwork when we get back, and I think we already have a home for him, too! My boarders, the McKlellan Family, they are very interested in him.”

“Great! They’re a perfect family for a Husky.” A long easy pause hung between them before Nick spoke softly. “Sarah, I don’t think I ever thanked you for, well, everything.”

“I’m just glad you’re here,” smiled Sarah.

“Me, too,” he said as he held her gaze for a long moment before being swarmed and licked by five wiggly wet and happy Huskies. ~

The End

About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Rafferty is an award-winning author and photojournalist, including canine books *What’s Wrong With Gibson?*, *Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*; *Getting Healthy With Harley*; *Buddy, The Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Tale*; and *EPIC Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy*, which received the 2018 Independent Press Award for “Excellence” in Reference Book Category and the 2017 NYC Big Book Award for “Excellence” in Pet Book Category.” She is the creator, writer, and photographer of the internationally recognized *FiveSibes™* blog, and a regular contributor to *American Pet Magazine*, *4Knines* blog, and *Hudson Valley Paw Print Magazine*. Her work has also appeared in *Caring for a Senior Dog*, *Ruff Drafts*, *The Sled Dogger*, and *Kings River Life Magazine*. Dorothy is the writer and host of the “The Sibe Vibe” podcast, which airs on Dog Works Radio. Dorothy was named a 2017 Finalist in the “Advocate” category for the Women in the Pet Industry’s Woman of the Year Award. In 2016 & 2017, Dog Writers Association of America awarded Dorothy the prestigious Maxwell Medallion for her work in *FiveSibes*. Named “Best Author” in 2015 & 2016 by *Hudson Valley Magazine*, all four of her canine books were named “Best in Print” by *American Pet Magazine*. An official International Purple Day® for Epilepsy Ambassador since 2012 and a volunteer case manager for The Wally Foundation-Canine Epilepsy, Dorothy is the creator of the *FiveSibes #LiveGibStrong* K-9 Epilepsy Awareness & Educational Campaign inspired by her own Siberian Husky, Gibson. On Purple Day® 2018, Dorothy partnered with The Anita Kaufmann Foundation for the *#Paws4Purple* educational program. You can read more on her *FiveSibes* website at <https://FiveSibes.com> and her blog at <https://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>, and follow *FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews* on Facebook.

Louisa County Rescue

*Written By
Anne Meador*

If a goat hadn't gotten out and wandered down Old Mountain Rd., the situation might have gone on a good while longer with even worse consequences. As it was, it was one even experienced animal welfare workers called the most disturbing thing they had ever seen.

On November 27, 2017, a Louisa County animal control officer, responding to a call about the loose goat, discovered hundreds of animals living in appalling conditions. Among mounds of tires, parked school buses and old cars loitered starved goats, horses, cows, sheep and emus. Inside a low-hanging shed, chickens ran free among piles of garbage and feces, while pigeons, cats and guinea pigs were confined in small cages without food and water. In the back, there was a single peacock.

It turned out to be the largest case of animal hoarding in Virginia history. In all, more than 500 animals of 17 different species were found suffering from malnutrition, parasites, broken limbs, infections, and injuries. The neglect was staggering.

After animal control, Louisa Community Animal Response Team (CART) and Virginia State Animal Response Team (SART) were first on the scene.

"They were in pretty bad shape," recalls Louisa CART team leader Donny Embrey. "A lot of lack of care. Everything was underweight. There were a lot of parasites, just about everything you could imagine."

Embrey said it took the response teams 30 hours to triage 561 animals. Nine were found dead, and a few guinea pigs and goats had to be euthanized on the scene because of their condition. Five hundred twenty-five survivors were taken in trailers to the Louisa County Fairgrounds, where they were again triaged by veterinarians, divided by species and placed in temporary shelter.

This was just the beginning of an enormous operation to treat and heal the injured and malnourished and find permanent homes for them. Questions remained. Could responsible people be found to care for more than 500 animals? Had maltreatment and neglect scarred companion animals so much that adoption was impossible? How was all of this going to be paid for? And who had collected so many animals and left them in such a deplorable state?



**Louisa County Animal Control Officer,
Duke Grady with goat**
Photo: Louisa CART Facebook page

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Animal hoarding is a poorly understood phenomenon. It's more than simply having more than the typical number of companion animals, according to the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium. Suffering from a psychological disorder, hoarders fail to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care.

In this case, it was 77-year-old Clara Collier who owned the 40-acre farm and eventually pleaded guilty to five counts of animal cruelty. Conditions for animals who are victims of hoarding often get worse after a crisis event, and that's what happened when Collier broke her leg and was immobilized in July. Family members shared in the delusion that nothing was wrong. Her son insisted that the animals were "plenty fat."

By many accounts, Collier loved animals very much. Rightly or wrongly, that's how the prosecutor saw it--as a situation that got out of control and deteriorated from there. "Mrs. Collier is an elderly woman who did not maliciously mistreat her animals," he said after she was sentenced to 500 hours of community service and a fine of \$7,500. A 30-month prison sentence was suspended.

Embrey speculated along the same lines. "It seems she might have started out with good intentions but then just got over her head with the amount of animals," he said, adding that her age likely kept Collier out of jail. She was also prohibited from owning animals, except for two birds who will receive regular visits from animal control. Many horses, cattle and sheep remained on the farm, but it now has a new owner who is caring for them properly.

Long before Collier was prosecuted, however, a huge rescue operation involving animal welfare organizations near and far moved in to assist Louisa CART. Veterinarians and community members volunteered hundreds of hours. The Louisa County community at large stepped up to adopt animals and provide sorely needed donations. Local businesses, including Southern States and PetSmart, donated food and supplies.

Nonprofit rescues and shelters took on the costs of transport, medical care, food, spaying and neutering and placement in good homes. And those costs were astronomical. The Richmond Wildlife Center could never have planned for such an emergency, according to co-founder Melissa Stanley. Many of the rescued animals needed antibiotics and surgery, she told a local TV station, and the Center had to have additional enclosures to house them. A chicken coop alone cost \$1,200.

**Dr. Melinda McCall, a veterinarian who
volunteered many hours, with a rescued goat and
her two kids at the Louisa County Fairgrounds
Photo: Louisa CART Facebook page**



Midge & Trinket
Photo: Becky Wilson, MGPR

Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue board member, Becky Wilson, traveled from the Washington, D.C. area to Louisa County to pick up 41 guinea pigs, some of them pregnant females. It soon became obvious that they had permanent damage from their ordeal.

They had been crammed into 1' x 2' cages, and as they reproduced, they became packed so tightly they couldn't move. Wilson believes they didn't get much to eat besides chicken feed until that ran out too. Their growth is stunted as a result. Many of the twelve babies born will never reach full size and weight.

Some of them had eye injuries requiring surgery to remove them, and all of them had missing or shredded ears. In cramped conditions, guinea pigs will often fight and bite each others' ears. But the wounds weren't consistent with guinea pig teeth, Wilson said.

"At first we believed that it was a congenital malformation, but then twelve babies were born with perfect ears. Then we realized that their eyes and ears had been pecked by the chickens," she said.

Wilson believes Collier started out with just two to four guinea pigs. "That's where they all came from. It can be very easy with guinea pigs for breeding to get out of control very quickly," she said. "It probably took less than 6 to 8 months for this to turn into such a mess with these guinea pigs."

Despite the stress and terror they experienced, the Louisa pigs were gentle and sweet, and they bonded easily with humans, Wilson said. They were famous among the rescue's foster parents for their winning personalities, and within six months they were all adopted.

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Vivaca Things
Photo: Becky Wilson, MGPR

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Enclosures with rescued animals at the fairgrounds
Photo: Louisa CART Facebook page

Many other rescues and shelters assisted in finding permanent homes for the Louisa County survivors. The Louisa County Animal Shelter took in guinea pigs, cats and smaller birds. Most of the chickens went to Carolina Waterfowl Rescue and Izzie's Pond, both South Carolina nonprofits. Richmond Wildlife Center took in 88 animals, and the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA took twenty-four cats and kittens. Project Perry gave twenty parakeets and cockatiels a permanent home at the Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary. Since the birds had never been handled by humans, they couldn't be adopted into homes.

Animal hoarding is a community problem, according to the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium. It also has community solutions. The community in Louisa County and surrounding areas found animal cruelty to be unacceptable. Its members found time, energy and money to volunteer and cover costs. They willingly took traumatized animals into their homes for lifetime care. Organizations like Louisa CART and all the rescues and shelters involved will continue to raise awareness and try to prevent situations like this one from happening again.

Animal rescues deal with out-of-control breeding all the time--it's not just animal hoarders who can become overwhelmed. MGPR's Becky Wilson has some words of advice for animal lovers, *"It's important to do something proactive very quickly, instead of waiting a little bit," she says. "If you see something like this starting to happen, maybe it's time to step in with some gentle words. Reach out for help sooner rather than later."* ~

RESOURCES:

Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue - <http://mgpr.org>

Louisa CART - <http://louisacart.org>

Louisa County Animal Shelter - <https://www.louisacounty.com/158/Animal-Shelter>

Richmond Wildlife Center - <https://www.richmondwildlifecenter.org>

Project Perry - <https://www.projectperry.com>

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue - <https://www.cwrescue.org>

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Did you know that ... January is National Train Your Dog Month?

by Linda O. Johnston

According to their website, the event was begun a few years ago by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers to call attention not only to their important profession, but also to the benefit to dogs of being taught good behavior.

Why? Well, there are a lot of dogs that aren't taught well who wind up being turned in to shelters by their frustrated owners. Some simply don't follow instructions, even basic ones. Others attack other animals. Worse, some even attack people.

Yet, if the people learned how to train their dogs and had taken the time to do so, they would most likely have had a well-behaved family member instead of a difficult pet.

There are certainly owners who keep their dogs untrained and just learn to live with it but who would be happier if they'd trained their companion dogs to obey--to sit, stay or even shake paws--rather than having their dogs train them.

There are lots of training methods, generally involving rewarding the dogs when they obey a command. The rewards can vary, though--often, they're treats but professional K-9s are more often taught to react well to praise or games instead. If you have a pup who needs lessons, check out the various training schools and facilities around you till you find one that fits your needs.

And remember. Even though January is National Train Your Dog Month, that training may begin in January but for your sake and your dog's it should never end!

The size of the dog makes a difference, of course. It's easier to live with a smaller untrained dog that you can pick up and move somewhere else when he misbehaves than trying to drag a large one to someplace else.

Why am I so interested and concerned? Well, I'm one of those people who've always been trained by their dogs, and that's never bothered me with my Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. However, I'm currently conducting research on training dogs for a new series of books I'm writing--and I'm highly impressed by those people who actually engage in teaching their dogs what they need to know, so much so that I intend to start my next puppy in training young so we both can learn together. ~

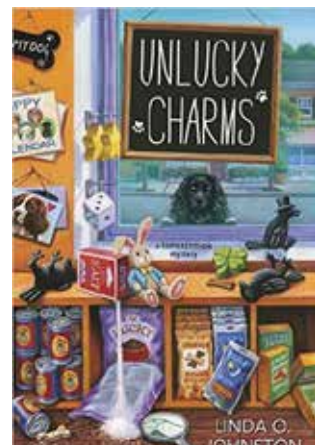
BEST 2019 in print

Unlucky Charms

Written by Linda O. Johnston

Rory Chasen, manager of the Lucky Dog Boutique in Destiny, California, hopes her new line of good-luck doggy toys will be a hit, especially the stuffed rabbits with extra-large feet. The timing of the line's debut proves ill-fated, though, as several local shops, including Rory's, are ransacked and vandalized with spilled salt and other unlucky charms.

The most likely culprit is disgruntled real estate agent Flora Curtival, whose issues with the town give her a motive. But after Flora is murdered and one of Rory's toy rabbits is found with the body, Rory needs all the luck she can get while trying to determine just who killed the superstitious vandal.



To Catch a Treat

Written by Linda O. Johnston



Carrie Kennersly, veterinary technician and owner of the Barkery and Biscuits bake shop, agrees to a day of hiking with her brother, Neal, mostly because she wants to meet, and critique, his latest romantic interest, Janelle Blaystone. But instead of judgment, Carrie has only sympathy for Janelle, whose beloved black Labrador, Go, was recently dognapped along with many other purebred pets.

Janelle thinks the culprit is Ada Arnist, a wealthy homeowner spotted at the dog parks where Go and the others were stolen. Soon after Janelle confronts her, though, Ada is found dead. With Janelle and Neal on the suspect list, Carrie must solve the mystery before the police bark up the wrong tree.

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.



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Pet Poison Hotline


Written by Mike Deathe


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


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

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

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

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

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

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



BEST 2019 in print

People often ask what inspired me to start writing?

If you had told me ten years ago I would be a writer, I would have said you were crazy! I hardly had the patience or time, but this one little soul entered my life one day and changed my life forever. So with a pen in hand and an amazing story I sat to write the story of a twice lost and found greyhound that taught me the power of hope and courage.

My first experience with a greyhound occurred one Thanksgiving Day – a lost greyhound that had escaped from his home and ran past me like a blur. I was able to coax the greyhound to come to me and return him to his pet sitter who was out searching for him. I never forgot the big beautiful creature named Zeus and vowed to own a greyhound some day.

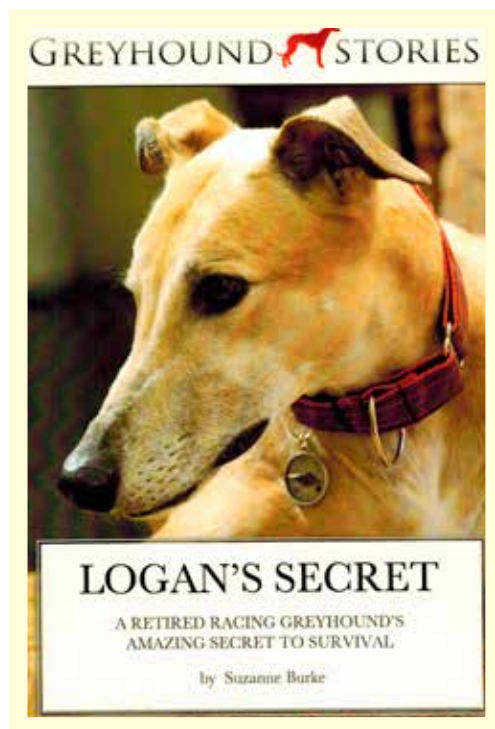
Two years later I adopted my first greyhound from the Greyhound Adoption League of Texas (GALT). Her name was Allie and she was the most gregarious, loving, and protective ebony black greyhound. She would become known years later to her brothers and sister as the “fun police” for keeping her pack in line.

Six months later I fostered my first male greyhound named Huston and failed fostering in less than a week. I became a volunteer with GALT and loved working with the retired greyhounds – I had found my calling!

Three years later, the most extraordinary greyhound named Sam entered my life. He was a large gorgeous fawn boy with a five o'clock shadow and heavy eyeliner. His adventure from track to lost greyhound twice over inspired me to tell his true-life story. His was a story of a greyhound that decided it was time to quit racing – on his own terms to find his forever home. But, his story did not end with his first adoptive family. Sam had many obstacles to overcome before he would finally find the home that was meant to be his.

Written in Sam's voice, Logan's Secret was published in mid 2012. It is a story of courage, patience, and fortitude teaching children and adults about the power of visualization and hope. Once Sam found his final forever home, he was renamed Logan.

Readers of Logan's Secret asked about a follow up book. I did not anticipate writing a second book! My original goal had already been met.



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A book series was born! Logan would be transported through time on adventures to historical periods where greyhounds held prominence. The book series is intended to teach readers valuable social lessons while teaching them history in a fun adventurous way.

Logan and the Mystical Collar was the start of Logan's time travel adventures – transporting him back to an era where greyhounds were valued – Ancient Egypt. It's a historical adventure story that contains greyhound characters, Cleopatra, Alexander the Great, and one of the most interesting ancient wonders of the ancient world in Alexandria, Egypt, the Pharos Lighthouse. The manuscript was finished later that year in December 2012.

Logan began to limp and I'll never forget a TV appearance we made in early December where he was nervous and fidgety – not his normal cool demeanor. I was familiar with the signs of bone cancer since I had lost Huston to it, so I quickly had Logan x-rayed. The results were what I feared – bone cancer in his rear leg.

I spent every free moment with Logan and worked steadfastly to finish the manuscript for Logan and the Mystical Collar.

Painkillers were no longer working their magic and Logan let me know it was time. On the evening of December 29, 2012, I sat down with Logan to read the final manuscript of Logan and the Mystical Collar to him. I remember Logan looking up at me with approval in his eyes. I told Logan he left an incredible legacy to teach others of courage, positivity, and calm assertive leadership. He was our pack lead and was highly respected by all of his canine brothers and sisters. I vowed to keep writing his stories. The next day we let Logan go to the rainbow bridge.

Logan and the Mystical Collar was published in 2013 and in 2015 was awarded two medals in the Global E-Book awards.

It took almost two years to complete the third book in the Logan series; The Rise of the Phoenix since I had returned to work full time and it was recently awarded three gold medals in the 2016 Global eBook awards. ~

***All books are written through
the eyes of greyhounds and are
available on Amazon in both
Kindle and print versions.***

Suzanne Burke, a native of Richmond, Virginia currently lives in a suburb of Dallas, Texas, with her retired racing greyhounds. She has more than ten years' experience working with the greyhound breed as a volunteer for the Greyhound Adoption League of Texas. Suzanne also has more than 15 years experience in the information technology field in project management and technical writing.

Jack, Perry, Odin & Amber





DRIVE™ Dog Seat Cover from EzyDog *EzyDog combines durability and comfort in new back seat cover for pets*

Expanding on their growing line of automotive travel products for dogs, EzyDog is proud to announce the DRIVE™ Dog Seat Cover. Designed from water resistant quilted Ripstop Nylon, the DRIVE™ Cover is both hard wearing and comfortable. The non-slip base adds stability to the cover, keeping dogs relaxed and the back seat fully protected. With a 51" width and neutral color, the DRIVE™ Cover fits most vehicle back seats. Side seat protector flaps add an additional 8" of coverage on each side.

The DRIVE™ Dog Seat Cover is part of EzyDog's ambitious effort to provide products that make traveling with dogs worry-free, safe, and most importantly—Ezy. The seat belt access holes allow the cover to be used with the crash-tested (and certified) DRIVE™ Harness or with human passengers.

The DRIVE™ Cover is available now with an MSRP of \$65.00 USD



***www.ezydog.com**
Phone: 877-339-9364*

The Zero Shock Leash combines the ultimate comfort, control, and protection, while not compromising on style and quality! The Zero Shock Leash has been designed using our Zero Shock Technology — a shock absorbing component that drastically reduces strain and pull on the dog and the owner. The leash is equipped with a neoprene handle, making it waterproof and comfortable to grasp, Reflective stitching for nighttime safety, Accessory D-Ring for attachment of keyring or any item with a clip.



ABOUT EZYDOG

Based in the mountain ranges in Idaho, EzyDog makes a line of products encompassing the rugged outdoor lifestyle dogs love along with the comfort and style pet owners prefer. EzyDog is the manufacturer of the Original Shock Absorbing Leash that combines the latest in sports technology with the durability dog owners demand. Their unique and highly functional leash systems are designed for comfort, control and safety, paying special attention to dogs that pull or are in training. All EzyDog Products are designed to help both owners and pets get more out of the great outdoors. EzyDog products can be obtained at pet specialty retailers nationwide, by calling 877-339-9364 (877-3EzyDog), or by visiting www.ezydog.com. Also check out the company's leashes, collars and backpacks for dogs that love adventure!

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

www.iPetMemorial.com



**iPet
Memorial
APP**

The Rein Coat™ is a therapeutic calming coat that is being well received throughout the pet industry. The technology of The Rein Coat™ is totally different than other dog shirts that are tight fitting and restrictive.



What is The Rein Coat™?

The Rein Coat™, is a patent pending therapeutic “calming coat” that’s a harness and a coat that reduces the anxiety of scared, oversensitive, frightened, alarmed and aggressive pets. The exterior of the coat is water resistant with a plush interior that keeps your pet warm.

The Rein Coat™ is designed to provide a custom fit for all shapes and sizes of dogs and cats with its unique strapping system. The Rein Coat™ fits dogs from 5 pounds to 250 pounds with neck sizes ranging from 6 inches to 35 inches. There is no other K-9 garment that will accommodate a wide array of dogs, from toy breeds to giant breeds. We are the only product in the world that works in this innovative, gentle and nurturing fashion!

How does The Rein Coat™ work?

The Rein Coat™ works by replicating a naturally occurring behavior between animals and their offspring in a gentle and nurturing manner. Picture this: A mother dog picks up her puppy by the scruff of his neck instantly calming the puppy. The puppy relaxes and almost goes limp because he knows his mommy is taking him safely out of harm’s way. The Rein Coat™ is designed to lightly touch your pet on the nape of the neck (just like the mommy dog) triggering the production of oxytocin released by the brain that reduces fear and anxiety. In numerous trials The Rein Coat™ has proven effective in reducing anxieties while allowing your pet to move freely with no constraint. The Rein Coat™ offers a safe, affordable, drug-free solution to all types of pet anxieties.



**Pip, who is a baby of one of those rescued
during the Louisa County Rescue
Photo/Owner: Anne Meador, MGPA**



PET CELEBRATIONS

January

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

February

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

KarpKatZ

Playground



8th Annual Animal Adoption Fair

www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com

DATE: April 28, 2018

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

954-971-4432

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

Animal Aid, Inc.
www.Animal-Aid.com

a Non-Profit South Florida
Pet Adoption Shelter

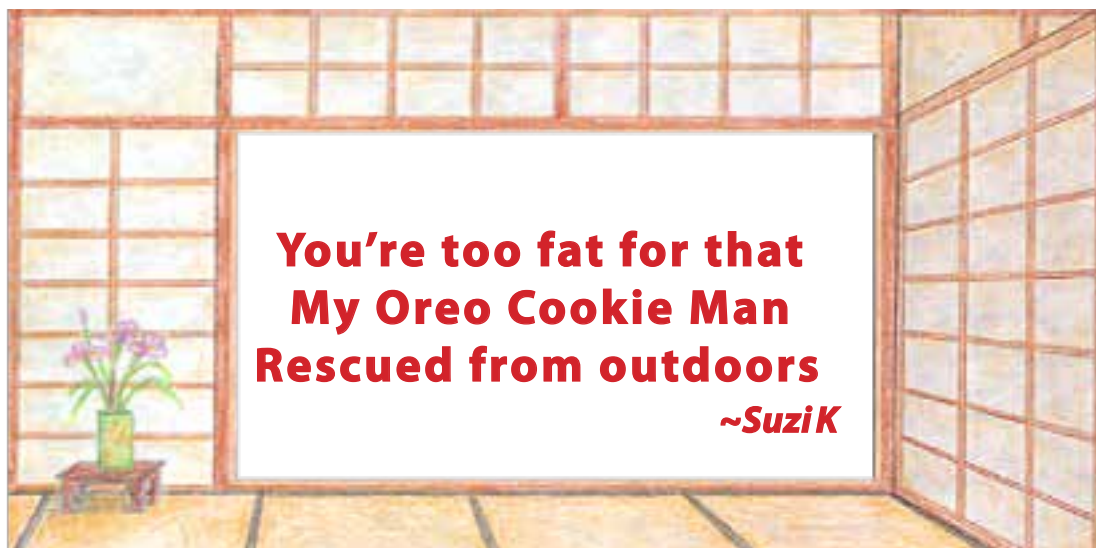
754-223-5378

Our recovery and adoption
center takes in injured,
neglected or unwanted
cats and dogs from county
shelters. We are supported
completely by donations.



a Haiku for You

無条件愛



**You're too fat for that
My Oreo Cookie Man
Rescued from outdoors**
~Suzi K



His Savior, His Life and His Friend

*Written By
Tracy Ahrens*

I have finally found the emotional strength to share with you a new story about my dog, Trucker. Many have followed my stories of his antics through American Pet Magazine.

Sadly, this story is of his passing. It has been hard for me to relive it all, but I wanted his followers to know. I will share with you here a modified post I made to Facebook in January, shortly after he died.

In July 2015 Trucker developed a small, soft mass on his left upper leg and other similar masses on his body. All were tested and the one on his leg had mast cell cancer present.

He was operated on to remove that mass. His legs were long and the skin to work with was scarce. The doctor did an excellent job removing the mass and surrounding tissue and scored the skin to help it stretch out. I was told that cancer could return if the margins were not clear.

In June 2016 I was diagnosed with Stage 2B breast cancer. While I was undergoing chemotherapy and very ill, I noticed a bump on Trucker's leg above where the incision was before. It began growing quickly. I made an appointment to see his local vet and the mass was tested, revealing cancer had returned.

I was told that he needed to see an oncologist at a veterinary teaching hospital over an hour drive from where I live. I made an appointment to visit them for a consultation in October 2016. I was too sick from chemotherapy to take him sooner.

Trucker didn't have much loose skin left to remove the mass. It was certain he'd have to have his leg amputated to remove the mass and definitively diagnose the grade of cancer. The higher the grade, the more advanced the cancer would have been.

I discussed all options with the oncologist and asked her to be brutally honest with me. Trucker was 12. The maximum life expectancy for a dog his size was 8-12 years. The oncologist did a needle biopsy of his spleen that day to see if cancer was present. I was told that mast cell cancer ultimately ends up in the spleen in the advanced stage. She also biopsied an armpit lymph node to see if cancer cells were present.

Results showed that cancer was in the lymph node but not the spleen. Since it was already in his lymph node, we knew it was travelling in his body. Even if we amputated his leg, the cancer was probably elsewhere.

I chose not to amputate his leg. He needed to live his life as a happy dog in the last year or two remaining. If he had his leg removed, he would have still needed chemotherapy. Chemo would have been only 30-40 percent effective.

Factoring everything, I chose conservative means to treat his cancer. I also had to think of my own health as I was battling cancer. I was also facing upcoming surgery and radiation.

I discussed all of this with the oncologist and she understood my decision to treat him conservatively, trying to keep the mass at a smaller size.

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I discussed what “the signs” would be that cancer had taken over his body. She told me he would have 6-12 months to live. She said the mass could abscess. At that stage, his health would be very poor. She told me that he could develop swelling in the leg which would be painful.

I gave Trucker four Benadryl a day, which made him tired but kept the mast cells from getting to active. I also gave him the maximum amount of prednisone he could take to keep the mass smaller. Prednisone made him want to drink and eat more.

In the last few weeks before he was euthanized, the mass started to grow and I could see the pressure on his skin. He was also pacing more because of the prednisone and possible pain.

A day before his passing, the leg had suddenly swollen upward towards his armpit. The skin was red and hot to the touch. He was more tired than normal. He laid on the floor gingerly and had trouble pushing himself up. I had to lift him from the floor a couple times. He also had trouble climbing stairs.

We went to the vet January 12, and when she saw Trucker she said, “He’s not the same dog.” I knew this. On the ride to the vet he laid in the back seat of my car and rested his head on the seat. He never did that. He always wanted to stick his head out the passenger window. I kept one hand on him as I drove, holding his leg with the mass in my hand.

When we got to the vet clinic he was slightly dragging his back leg when he walked.

I learned he was swollen in his shoulder, both sides of his chest had swollen lymph glands, his leg was swollen most of the way up, the side of his face was swollen in his neck area, his heart rate was 150 instead of normal 120, and he was having trouble walking with that back leg.

The thoughts from the doctor were that the mast cells had spread fast, his heart rate was troubling and could have been due to anemia, his abdomen seemed a bit distended (perhaps his spleen or liver was also affected now) and the leg dragging could have been due to pain or a neurological issue. Bottom line, the cancer had taken over his body.

He laid down on a large quilt when he was euthanized. He always loved blankets. He was strangely at peace and didn’t tremble or fight to get up.

Trucker never showed his age. He didn’t get grey hairs on his face until this past year. He was always active and loving.

When he was euthanized, the veterinarian cried before I did. She loved him as many people did. I told her I couldn’t cry because it would upset him. I would not cry until he left. I fed him bits of treats as he was put into a sleepy state before being set free.

I told him that I loved him, I thanked him for caring for me, I said I would see him again, that I would keep fighting and that he would not have to worry about me now. Just after 11 a.m. he went heavy in my arms and I finally cried.

My vet told me she felt I made the right decision based on everything she saw that day. He could have died at home or while spending the night with my neighbor who babysat him. I worked nights and was set to go back to work three days later.



I did not want Trucker to suffer. His health was declining fast and I felt this was the time – peacefully.

I knew when I went to that vet appointment Trucker was not doing well. I did not know it was that bad. I know he hid so much from me because he was taking care of me during my battle with cancer. Animals can hide things so well.

I pray he is held by Jesus and those who have left before me. I pray that he heard me, that he understood and that he knows I loved him.

The day Trucker left was brutally raw. I was on the floor holding him, my head covered in stubble after losing my hair to chemotherapy. He was also fighting cancer and I had to let him go.

I asked God to bring me peace that I made the right decision and that Trucker was now watching over me. His life was hard before meeting me (he was 5 when adopted). I did so much to bring him peace in the almost eight years we knew each other. He was loved by many people near and far, a life he never would have had.

Trucker had been discarded three times, forgotten by so many people, like a child bouncing around from foster home to foster home. He had severe separation anxiety and fear of storms. Then he met me during a pet adoption event and he learned about peace and love. He was free to be himself. I never raised my voice to him or scolded him when he acted out due to anxiety. I told him “I understand” and “It’s ok.”

Because of my patience, he stopped cowering and was thankful.

I understood him. I also fought anxiety in the past. Plus, both of us had been abandoned by people we loved over the years.

I shared Trucker with the world through my stories and photos of our life together. I was his therapy. He was mine.

As a friend said, “You were his savior, his life and his friend.” Thank you all for loving him, too. ~

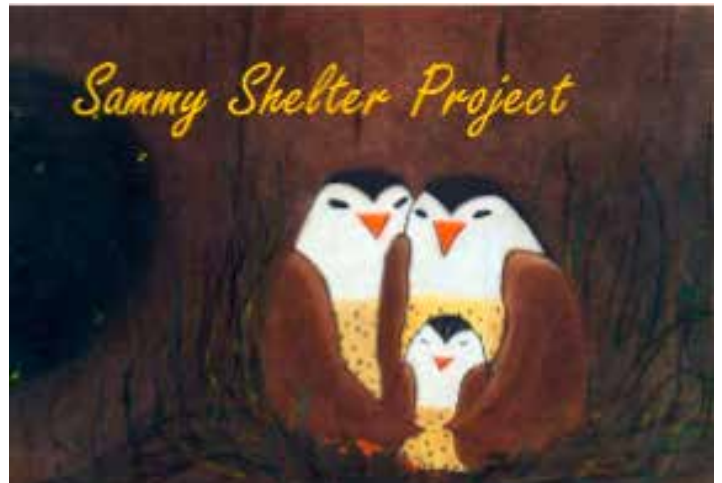
Footnote: Two months after Trucker died I met another dog, a senior I named Angel, who picked me as her new guardian. I plan to share a couple more stories about my years with Trucker and now stories about Angel who has a following on Instagram (@raisingmyfurrychildren) and Facebook (facebook.com/goatangel/)



Tracy Ahrens is a veteran journalist, author, artist and mom to three rescued cats and one dog. See her web site 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.

BEST 2019 in print

I was on holiday break from college and sat on the floor in my bedroom using chalks to free images for the story that lived in my mind. The images have been tucked away in a scrapbook album until now. “Sammy Sparrow’s First Flight” (ages 2-8) was released Dec. 25, 2014 by Guardian Angel Publishing. It is my third children’s book. In conjunction with the book, I have created the Sammy Shelter Project to help NINE area humane organizations with the book sales. By ordering through the project website, ALL FUNDS from each book purchase will be donated to the organization chosen and noted on the form.



Use this link to visit that page

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

Current humane organizations set to benefit from this project are: It's a Pitie Rescue (Peotone, Il.), New Beginnings for Cats (Bourbonnais, Il.), River Valley Animal Rescue (Mokena, Il.), Cache Creek Animal Rescue (Anna and Joliet, Il.), Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County (Beecher, Il.), Iroquois County Animal Rescue (Iroquois, Il.), Kankakee County Humane Foundation (St. Anne, Il.) and Because Animals Really Kount (Kankakee, Il.). 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. ~

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 9-year-old Havanese 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


Opposable Thumbs?





Did you know there's actually a day set aside on March 3 for "What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs?" Really?

So what do they do? Funny you should ask:

 **Type.** Mom Peep does my typing for me. It's imperative that you hit the space bar with your thumb, unless you do the hunt and peck method where you use your fingers. lol

 **Grab things.** Opposable thumbs can help you close fingers and thumbs around all kinds of things: my food container, my food bowls, my bowl of water which gets filled under the tap or from the refrigerator, the ball she throws me (which I don't fetch...I'm not into fetching), the hinged clasp on my leash which attaches to my collar so we can go on walks or hikes.

 **Pick things up.** If Mom didn't have thumbs, could she pick me up? Snuggle me close? Stroke my fur with her gentle hands?

 **Hold things.** Ever seen a dog clutch a bone? Hold a Kong toy while licking out the peanut butter? We can do it...but it would be so much easier if we had opposable thumbs.

Cats almost have them. Have you ever looked closely at their paws? They can wrap their arms around each other, like my friends, **Diamond and Red**.



Diamond and Red

Alas, dogs can't hold a toothbrush, and we can't open a can of dog food, but we can love up on you and show you how much we appreciate all that you do for us.

And really, isn't love what we are all about? ~

Woofs and Wiggles!

BEST 2019 in print

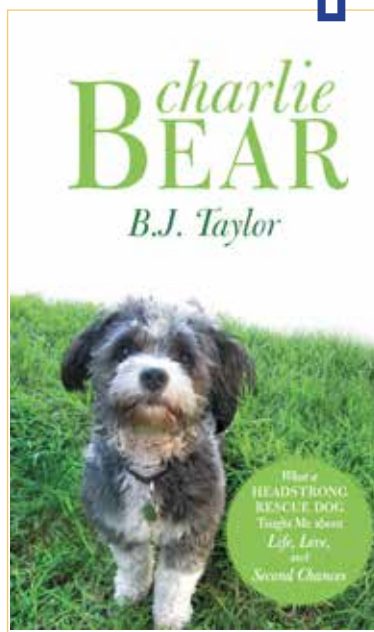
CHARLIE BEAR:

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.

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?



Purchase on Amazon
and check out B.J.'s website at

www.bjtaylor.com

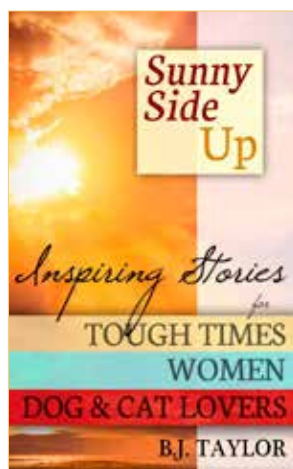
Woofs to you from Charlie Bear!

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.

Sunny Side Up

Written by B.J. Taylor

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



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

BEST 2019 in print

EPic Dog Tales

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raferly

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

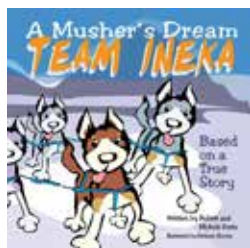
Buddy, the Christmas Husky

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

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



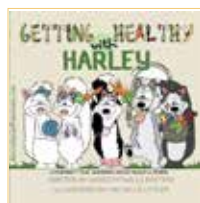
Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds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



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

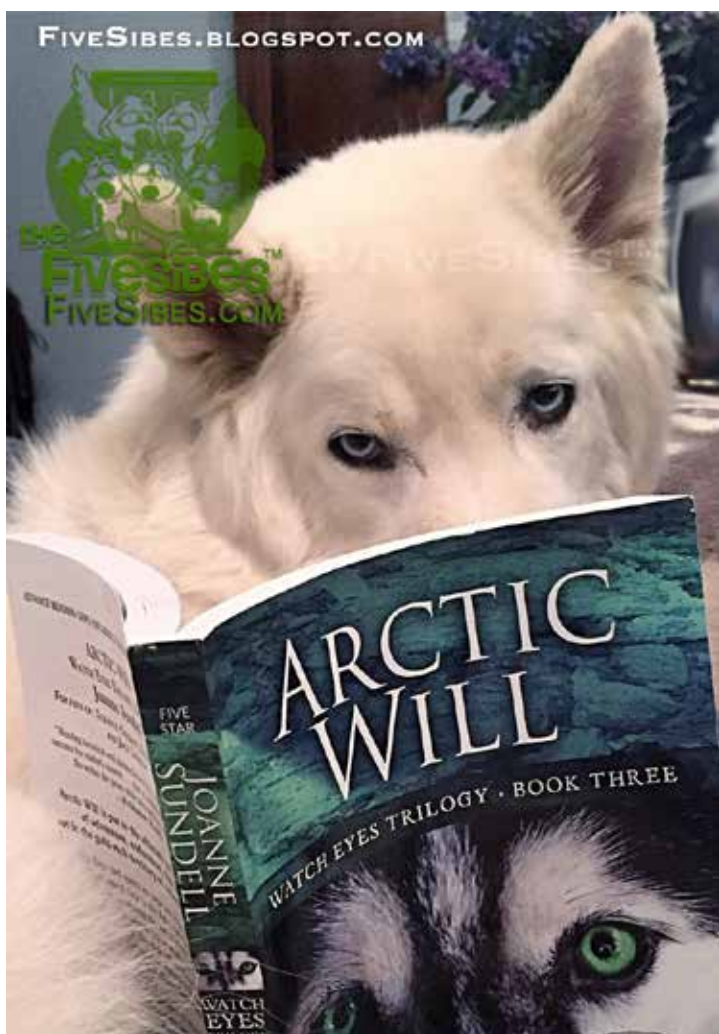
Written by Dorothy Wills-Raferly
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

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.



WWW.TITUSANDHAILEY.COM



Get Hooked on a Good Book!

Chatting With Joanne Sundell,
Author of Watch Eyes Trilogy

By Dorothy Wills-Raftery

“Thirteen-year-old Anya is a Chukchi shaman, a medium able to pass between the spirit world and the human world. She will do anything to protect her dogs. Forced onto a deadly journey to save them, a chance meeting with sixteen-year-old seafarer, Rune Johansson, puts him on the same path as her own. Both have to make a stand against enemies hiding in shadow, waiting to strike. The ice storm is coming.” ~JoanneSundell.com

I love to keep an eye out for exciting new pet books, don't you? While I have an eclectic love of many genres, I will admit I particularly enjoy books about dogs and the amazing things they do and are capable of, as well as books based in true history, and those with a dash of adventure and romance. There is something especially appealing about a book that weaves all of these things together in one terrific tale that can transport a reader to an exciting faraway land.

Being a Siberian Husky aficionado, I especially love to read about northern breed dogs, so when I had the opportunity to read *Arctic Storm*, the first book in the Watch Eyes trilogy, I was pretty excited! Only a few pages in and I immediately fell under the magical spell of the superbly written story by Joanne Sundell! I also had the pleasure of reading and reviewing the entire exciting three-book series of *Arctic Storm*, *Arctic Shadow*, and the last installment, *Arctic Will*, in my FiveSibes blog*. Joanne easily blends the factual and interesting history of the Siberian Husky breed of dog into an exciting and vivid fictional mythical adventure! The series spans from Siberia to Alaska, and the story is not only steeped in fictional fantasy, but also pays homage to the magnificent Siberian Husky we know today and its true roots to the gentle Chukchi sled dogs.

So who is the creator of this adventurous Arctic world? Joanne, a licensed nurse, has been married for over 43 years to her husband, Sy, a forensic psychiatrist, and previous Medical Director for the Department of Safety, City and County of Denver. Together, they raised three children in the mountains in Colorado, and now have four wonderful grandchildren, two living in California and two in Colorado.

* To read the FiveSibes post, visit:

<https://fivesibes.blogspot.com/2016/08/what-fantastic-friday-anniversary-book.html>

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Joanne proudly states that their youngest daughter has followed in her father's footsteps and is an Army Major and pathologist – and whose Epi-dog, Ziften, was one of the stars of my book, *EPIC Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy*, and how I came to know the very talented Joanne!

Joanne tells me she first fell in love with the Siberian Husky when she lived in Colorado, and went on to have several as part of her family over the years. Her genuine love of the Siberian Husky breed shines through in these books. They are the stars! So what is the most fascinating fact she learned about Siberian Huskies through her research for the books? “Learning the breed could have easily been wiped from history. They came close to disappearing for all time.” With all her extensive research and writing for this three-book series, I asked Joanne what she hoped her readers walk away with knowing about the Siberian husky breed and also the human-husky bond?

Replied Joanne, “The Siberian Husky was bred to have an incredibly strong bond with their human guardians. This grew out of need; out of the will to survive. I used ‘guardians’ in my trilogy since this is proven in history. This breed is a survivor breed...a serious, intelligent, loving, loyal, and hard-working breed. The human-husky bond doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Both...must put in the time and earn each other’s respect and good will. If this is done, the reward is ‘till death us do part.’

Lynn Bueling, a book reviewer from *Roundup Magazine* and member of the Western Writers of America, states that Joanne’s work “is a work of historical fiction written for young adults, but it just might entertain readers of any age...Sundell’s knowledge of the Siberian Husky breed shines, and she gives them a prominent role in this well-written story.”

Curious about how this story unfolds? You’ll have to read the trilogy to find out! Be prepared to be transported to a different and exciting world filled with sled dogs and mystical beings—but always remember, in Joanne’s book series, *Watch Eyes*—in the Arctic, the ice storm is coming, and it is one you’ll certainly enjoy!

This article contains an excerpt from my FiveSibes “The Sibe Vibe” show on Dog Works Radio. To hear more of the interview, visit: <http://dogworksradio.com/the-sibe-vibe-presents-joanne-sundell> (available via website, on Podcast app on iPhone and iPad, and also on iTunes)

To order the Watch Eyes trilogy books, visit www.JoanneSundell.com ~

About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Rafferty is an award-winning author and photojournalist, including canine books *What’s Wrong With Gibson?*, *Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*; *Getting Healthy With Harley*; *Buddy, The Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Tale*; and *EPIC Dog Tales: Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy*, which received the 2018 Independent Press Award for “Excellence” in Reference Book Category and the 2017 NYC Big Book Award for “Excellence” in Pet Book Category.” She is the creator, writer, and photographer of the internationally recognized FiveSibes™ blog, and a regular contributor to *American Pet Magazine*, *4Knines* blog, and *Hudson Valley Paw Print Magazine*. Her work has also appeared in *Caring for a Senior Dog*, *Ruff Drafts*, *The Sled Dogger*, and *Kings River Life Magazine*. Dorothy is the writer and host of the “The Sibe Vibe” podcast, which airs on Dog Works Radio. Dorothy was named a 2017 Finalist in the “Advocate” category for the Women in the Pet Industry’s Woman of the Year Award. In 2016 & 2017, Dog Writers Association of America awarded Dorothy the prestigious Maxwell Medallion for her work in FiveSibes. Named “Best Author” in 2015 & 2016 by *Hudson Valley Magazine*, all four of her canine books were named “Best in Print” by *American Pet Magazine*. An official International Purple Day® for Epilepsy Ambassador since 2012 and a volunteer case manager for The Wally Foundation-Canine Epilepsy, Dorothy is the creator of the FiveSibes #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness & Educational Campaign inspired by her own Siberian Husky, Gibson. On Purple Day® 2018, Dorothy partnered with The Anita Kaufmann Foundation for the #Paws4Purple educational program. You can read more on her FiveSibes website at <https://FiveSibes.com> and her blog at <https://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>, and follow FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews on Facebook.

BEST 2019 in print



Watch Eyes Trilogy, Book 1: Arctic Storm

Written by Joanne Sundell

This story begins in 1908 when the gentle Chukchi sled dog is traded away from its native home in Siberia and set on a perilous course across the Bering Sea for the gold-rich territory of Alaska, landing them in a fight for survival they didn't start.

Worlds ever brush past, both human and spirit. Good and Evil are born into each, some become master; some do not. Available through www.JoanneSundell.com and Amazon.com.

Watch Eyes Trilogy, Book 2: Arctic Shadow

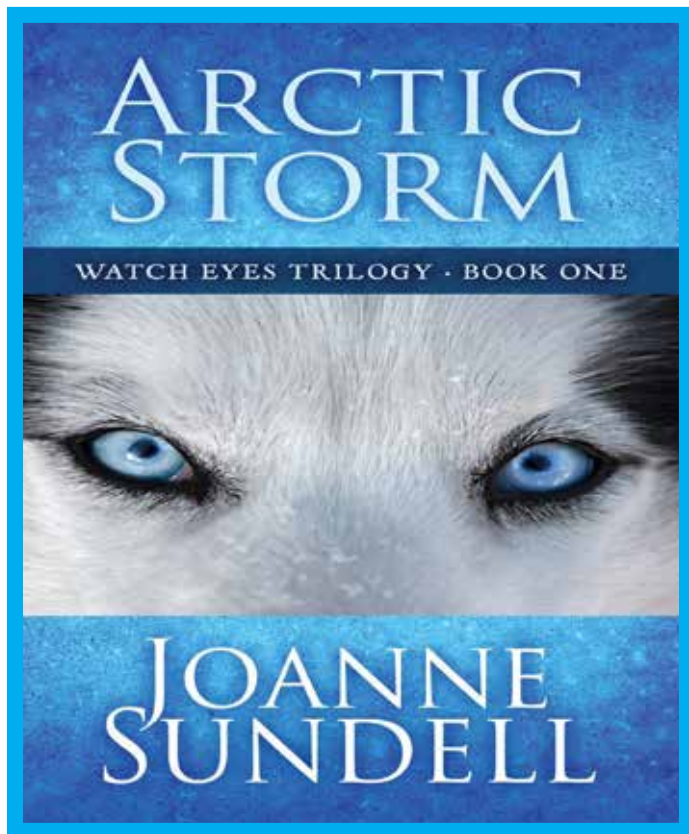
Written by Joanne Sundell

Arctic storms bring arctic shadows. America's last frontier has become a battleground of spirits when this epic tale of heroism, endurance, and young love picks up again in the frozen North—where *Call of the Wild* meets *Brother Bear*. Available through www.JoanneSundell.com and Amazon.com

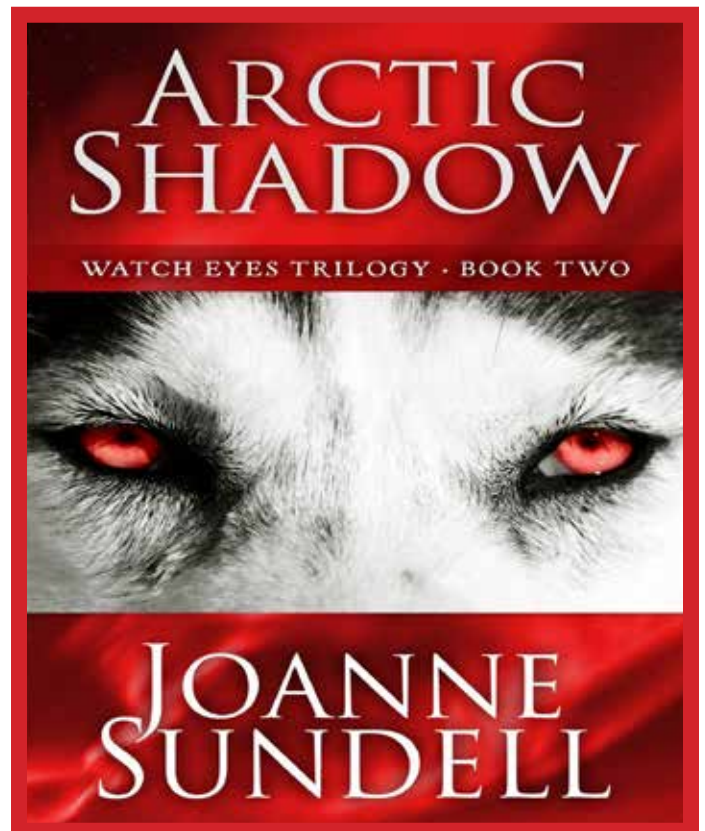
Watch Eyes Trilogy, Book 3: Arctic Will

Written by Joanne Sundell

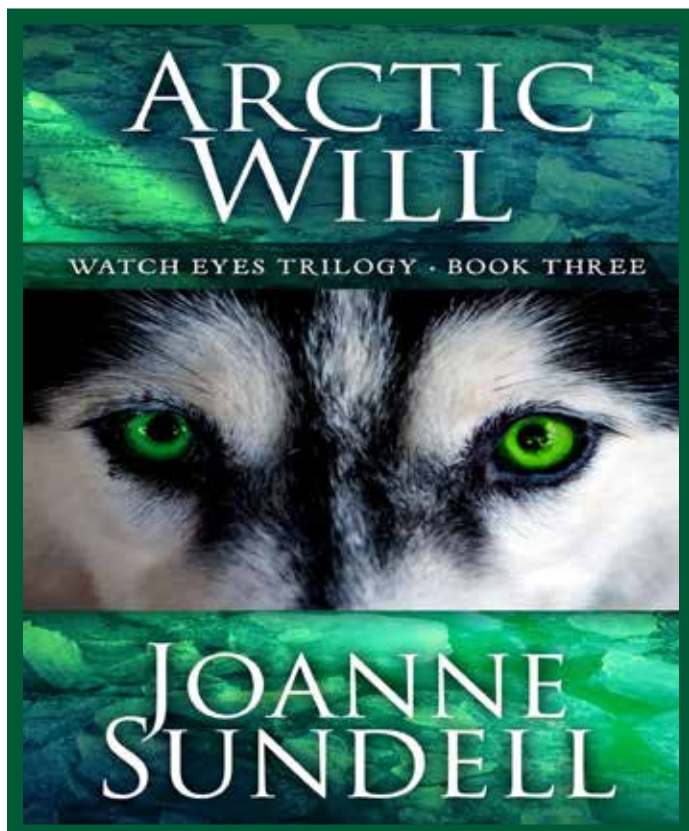
The Chukchi people of northeast Siberia, over thousands of years, wisely bred and developed the Siberian husky we know today. This work of fiction is set in the context of real events that took place in northeast Siberia and on the Alaskan frontier in the early decades of the twentieth century. Available through www.JoanneSundell.com and Amazon.com



**Watch Eyes Trilogy,
Book 1: Arctic Storm**



**Watch Eyes Trilogy,
Book 2: Arctic Shadow**



**Watch Eyes Trilogy,
Book 3: Arctic Will**

Bird Thefts on the Rise

Written By
Lisa A. Bono, CPBC



A few times a week we hear of birds being stolen from their homes, vehicles or from pet stores.

Stores need to invest in a good security system and safety enclosures to ensure the well being of the birds in their care. The lack of these things along with inattentive employees makes snatching birds a lucrative action. Many stores have been hit in the dark of the night. Some of these birds will not survive due to the fact they are babies, often still being hand fed.


Thieves know the value of the birds after visiting a store and it's a quick couple hundred in their pockets. Very few end up staying in the homes of the people who actually stole them to begin with.

To safeguard your parrot at home there are a few things you can do to minimize the attention they can draw:

- * Do not have the cage in the front window. This advertises them to anyone that passes. Keep them more protected by a rear or side window.
- * Do not have them left outdoors unattended. They are not protected from predators that can come in any form.
- * Do not leave them alone and visible when traveling in your car.
- * Don't keep empty cages visible from the road in your yard or on a porch.
- * Be smart and be protective of what you post on social media outlets.
- * Be friendly with your neighbors. You can never have too many allies watching your homestead.
- * Invest in a home security system to deter thieves even more. ~

***Our companion animals rely on us to keep them safe.
Remember "You become responsible,
forever, for what you have tamed."***

~Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A close-up photograph of a Congo African grey parrot perched on a person's arm. The parrot has grey feathers with a distinctively patterned, scale-like texture on its neck and chest. It has a large, dark, hooked beak and a yellow eye. The background is a window with white lace curtains, showing a glimpse of a snowy outdoor scene with bare trees.

Miss Sammy Lee (ON THE COVER) is a 27 year old Congo African grey. Lisa is her fourth caregiver.

Her first owner gave her to a rescue who adopted her out to someone who just recently passed away. Lisa was friends with this woman for many years and promised that Sammy would always have a soft spot to land should she need it. Sammy has been a wonderful addition to Lisa's flock. She's adjusted well and offers Lisa comfort with the passing of her friend.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

*By Tony Knight
Dog Listener*

I know from long experience that I will not be the only one using the idea of new resolutions to once more take control of my diet. The problem with all that food is that it is soooooo good! I am always impressed with my body's ability to gorge food as if it is going out of style – a trait that we all retain (along with the stored calories) as part of our instinctive make-up to survive. Give me an empty plate and a buffet and the instincts to balance as much food as possible on it is still very strong. It takes willpower to not come away with a mini Mount Everest of Gluttony...



This natural instinct comes from a time when we didn't know the next time we were going to eat – something which is still a stark reality for a fair amount of humans on the planet. The body is designed to fast and feast, and the temptation to take in as much as is physically possible is at its strongest when surrounded by food during the festive period.

The reason that obesity is a growing problem (no pun intended) in more affluent countries is down to this nature in conjunction with the ability to eat at will. Food quality is also an issue as the body needs more time to digest less natural food stuffs (and not having the time to do so). In the not-too-distant past, corpulence was seen as a sign of wealth. Now it is commonplace in many societies and the new fight is the battle of the bulge.

Needless to say, this phenomenon is also responsible for the ever-growing of dogs with ever-growing waistlines. Canine obesity is much more common than we think and even with the best intentions, our dogs can succumb to it. My dog Pru once stayed with friends while I was out of the country working. They made the error of not shutting the door to the pantry properly when they went out for a short while. Pru succeeded in opening the door and finding the big bag of dog food therein. My friends returned to find her in a food coma, stomach like a balloon, lying right by the now half-empty bag of food. Fortunately, she was OK but not keen to move for several hours...

For dogs and humans, being overweight has a detrimental effect on health. In addition to the obvious problems, extra weight on joints can be a serious issue for certain breeds of dog that have inbred conditions such as hip dysplasia or early arthritis. Our Golden Retriever Kobe is just such a case. At 14 years, age is also a factor. It also means that simply giving him more exercise will make things worse, not better. We don't expect pensioners to keep healthy by making them run marathons! Adding pressure to already weakened joints is a recipe for disaster.

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The easiest solution to avoiding a chubby Chihuahua or a blobby Bloodhound is to feed them less. There are “formulated foods” out there that claim to be good for dieting, when in fact a remarkable percentage of them simply add fillers to make it look like a dog is getting enough food, while actually they are only getting a relatively small amount of nutrition. If you feel that you need a degree in chemistry to understand the list of ingredients on a bag of dog food, it’s probably best to steer clear of it. We know that our bodies find it easier to process natural foodstuffs and it is a good idea to keep that in mind when feeding our dogs. However, even the best quality food can make a dog fat if they are given too much of it. Therefore, quantity is also as important as quality. If you’re thinking that this is too simple a solution, you’d be right (and there is nothing wrong with that).

Dogs are also – with some exceptions – quite robust when it comes to what they can eat. Let’s be honest; dogs can eat disgusting stuff sometimes! A healthy mix of kibble, meat and vegetables is fine in a smaller meal. It is easy to take your eye off the ball, though. Once, when I suddenly noticed that my dogs were a little wider in the waist department over a period of time, I reduced the amount of food. The problem was resolved in a



couple of weeks. Of course, they would always seem to be hungry (for which the Guilt Fairy blamed me), but then again they did that even when they were getting more than enough. Maybe you have thought that when your dog acts like they haven’t eaten for days the moment you make yourself some toast 5 minutes later...

Some begging is not so subtle... I always like to keep things simple, so as well as knowing the general weight range for your dog’s breed (N.B. this cannot realistically apply to multi-pedigree dogs who have parents of surprisingly different sizes) my basic rule for knowing if your dog’s weight is correct is to feel their ribs. If you can feel them but can’t necessarily see them, they are probably fine. If there is a fair layer of blubber around them, give them less. The exercise element to better health should not be done to their detriment, especially if they are prone to injuries as a result of their

breed or age. Gentle exercise for a short time is good, even when they are in good health. There’s no need to stick them on a treadmill and run them into the ground.

You don’t really need to weigh these two to find out who needs to drop a collar size... In short, good nutritionists will advise that there is no such thing as a successful fad diet. A permanent change with a healthy balance of ingredients (in an equally healthy quantity) is the key to weight loss. The same goes for our dogs. Remember that their instincts will tell them to eat whenever possible (those individuals who seem to be fussy with their food are doing it for a completely different reason – that subject is for another time) so it is up to us to make sure that they aren’t eating themselves into health problems. Taking responsibility for their eating habits makes the difference between a healthy hound and a paunchy pooch. ~

Tony

www.tonyknightdoglistener.com



Enter a Ferret SHOW!

What color is your ferret? What pattern?

*Written By
Robin Landes,
American Ferret
Association*

*If you have never considered these questions,
you probably have never entered your ferret in a show!*

Color and pattern describe the color of the ferret's guard hair, undercoat, eyes, and nose and the pattern refers to the concentration and distribution of color on the body, mask and nose. For instance, a DEW is a dark-eyed white, a roan has 50% to 60% colored guard hairs (any color) vs. 40% to 50% white guard hairs, while a blaze must have a long white blaze from the forehead, between the ears, down the back of the neck, preferably to the shoulders. These are important things to know if you want to enter your ferret in a show!

The American Ferret Association (AFA) sanctions ferret shows across the U.S.A. and everyone is welcome to enter! Ferrets from a pet shop, private breeder or shelter can enter. The only restrictions on showing are related to age (16 weeks to 6.5 years of age) and they must be vaccinated, ADV tested and in good health.



Ferret shows are organized by classes. There are classes for breeder ferrets as well as companion ferrets. And there are also specialty classes for different colors and patterns, physically challenged, passport (ferrets with foreign bloodlines) and for seniors. Doreen Anderson has successfully shown senior ferrets for several years. She shared, "Showing ferrets can be so rewarding, especially when showing a hearty, healthy super senior. When they do well in the show ring, it's such a sense of accomplishment. Not only have you prepped your ferret well for the show, but placing well means you have been providing good care for a significant length of time. Hearty, healthy seniors are hard to come by and earning a ribbon is a nice pat on the back! I'm proud to be owned by Maggie, the 2016 Companion Ferret of the Year, who is now 8 years old or so. Not bad for a ferret found on the street six years ago."

Attending a ferret show is exciting and educational. The judges will help you learn about optimal ferret health and maintenance. You will meet other ferret owners with whom to share funny ferret stories, advice and tips. Many shelters and rescues attend shows and even enter ferrets looking for their forever home, so it is a great place to make connections to adopt a ferret.

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Breeders also attend so you can discuss acquiring a kit (baby ferret). And, there are vendors selling exclusive and special products for your ferret and you. Long-time show-goer Amanda Loche says, “I show for the chance to get together with fellow ferrants (ferret parents). To admire and enjoy the ferrets bred for the purpose of bettering the species. I learn something every time I attend a show and the memories are always a joy to look back on.”

Are you considering attending a show and entering your ferret yet? Advance planning is important. Your ferret’s diet should contain a minimum of 32% protein and a minimum of 18% fat. Poultry and other meat products should comprise the first few ingredients listed on the bag. Exercise is critical for your ferret to develop proper muscle mass. This should include at least three to four hours of play and exercise outside of their cage every day. Interacting with your ferret is important to socialize them and develop good temperament, a factor the judges consider. Lastly, grooming is something judges will look for evidence of when examining your ferret. You should regularly trim your ferret’s nails, clean his ears, brush his fur, and brush his teeth.

Now, have you actually entered your ferret in a show yet? Once you have, pre-show grooming is a must! Two to three days before the show, trim your ferret’s nails. By trimming them this far in advance, you give the freshly clipped nail edges a chance to smooth and round over. Next, check your ferret’s teeth. You should brush and/or scale your ferret’s teeth several days before the show to be sure that the gums are clean and healthy on the day of the event.

Your ferret will also need a bath one or two days before the show. You should shampoo with a ferret or kitten shampoo. You may also want to apply a conditioner. At this point, you will also want to make certain your ferret’s cage and bedding is clean and fresh. Lastly, you will need to gently clean your ferret’s ears. Wait to do this on the morning of the show and then again right before you enter the ring. Morgan Tangren, a veteran show-goer and professional groomer advises, “Make sure to use a shampoo that is sulfate and alcohol free, as these can dry out the coat and skin.

You can also follow with a conditioner. Trim the nails two to three days before a show so that they don’t have freshly sharpened nails, and make sure you don’t miss any!





Resources for Showing Your Ferret:

Exhibitor's Guidebook -

<http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/ExhibitorGuidebook.pdf>

AFA Show Calendar -

<http://www.ferret.org/events/shows.html>

Ferret Color & Pattern Standards -

<http://www.ferret.org/events/colors/colorchart.html>

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*photo credits to:
Patty Fazen*

*Written By
Robin Landes,
American Ferret Association*



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Be sure to clean ears the morning of the show, and check the ears before each class your ferret is in, because loose wax may have surfaced. Some pet-safe wipes are good to have on hand in the show hall in case your ferret decides to make a mess.”

Once you are at the show, you will have many opportunities to learn more about your ferret, meet other owners, enter raffles and auctions and SHOP. Many shows have photographers on hand to take professional quality photos of your baby! Some shows offer educational sessions presented by knowledgeable owners and veterinarians about things like nutrition and health related topics. At a recent show called Dooktoberfest, there is a wine auction and Joey, the Trained Ferret’s trainer, Courtnie Gregory, presented on training your ferret to do tricks! At the AFA’s Winter Nationals, there will be silent auctions for themed stockings and a crazy sock exchange. At the Ferret Buckeye Bash held each year in August in Ohio, fun ferret events are scheduled including a paper bag escape, tube races and costume contests.

Remember, ALL ferrets are welcome at the shows. Erica Hohing shows ferrets that she adopted from the Washington Metro Area Ferret Outreach, operated by Bonnie Russell in Maryland. Erica says, “Showing is a great activity. You meet so many helpful ferret people, learn more then you would ever think, make friends and there is the shopping! And don’t forget the ferret envy!” Most of all, Erica says, “Its very rewarding to take your adopted kids to the shows, even if they don’t get first they get a ribbon! And sometimes they do really well.”

Most shows offer sponsorships for shelter/rescue ferrets. This means someone has donated the entry fee so that these ferrets are entered, meaning they get exposure to possible adopters, not to mention special attention and socialization. Patty Fazen, Editor-in-Chief of the AFA’s magazine, adopted her ferret, Shermy, who came from Nirvana Ridge Ferret Rescue in Virginia, after he was in a ferret show. He won several ribbons and had many people interested in providing him with a forever home after they met him at the show. The judges who evaluate and score the ferrets are trained to assess their color and conformation. Particular attention is paid to each ferret’s head, skeletal frame, muscle structure and tone, color and pattern, body proportions, health and maintenance and disposition. After being judged, ferrets receive a score and comment cards. Winning ferrets then receive ribbons and trophies. AFA Senior Judge Mary McCarty enjoys the shows saying, “I love seeing people and their ferrets win their first trophies! That is such an awesome feeling! And for the owners and their ferrets, it truly is!” ~

WWW.Ferret.org



Meet the Karp Katz



Heidi Girl

[www.AmericanPet](http://www.AmericanPetMagazine.com)



PercyPrince



OreoCookieMan

[Magazine.com](http://www.AmericanPetMagazine.com)



PeanutButter



It's a
Pawful Day!
🐱🐱🐱🐱

FB/Karp Katz




PeanutButter **PURRS**

‘PEANUTBUTTER’

Photo by: Suzik©

Hi Everyone! Happy New Year 2019! I can not believe all the changes that life has brought me. AmericanPet Magazine™ took a detour for the past two years. We now have a much bigger FurFamily. At one time, this year, we had SEVEN Kitties in our home. HuMumMum rescued three babies and found one home for two of them, Mia and Newbie. We couldn't be happier that they are furever together! Newbie and his litter of siblings were the APM™ cover shot back in 2015 when they lived with us. He was owner-surrendered and we could not say no. Mia was a tiny, feral kitten when she was rescued and she has come a long way with socialization in the past year. I am going to write stories about them for future issues because we hold them both dear to our hearts. Oh, and then there is Oreo Cookie Man. He was rescued with Mia and he is currently still living with us. Between you and I, I think he is here to stay just like somehow Heidi Girl is still here after 3.5 years ;-)

~PeanutButter 



LIVING TOGETHER, *MIA & NEWBIE*

Photo by: Paula Bronfeld, thier Human



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One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

PURRS & MEOWS,
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Purple Day® is March 26th!

#Paws4Purple: Dogs Celebrate Purple Day®, Too!

Meet the FiveSibes: Siberian Husky dogs (pictured l-r): Bandit, Wolf, Harley, Gibson, and Chloe! They join their #paws4purple, along with support from their human family, in celebrating Purple Day® Every Day to show people that dogs who have Canine Epilepsy can—and do—live full, happy lives!

Gibson was diagnosed at age 3 with idiopathic Canine Epilepsy after a series of grand mal and cluster seizures. Harley had her first seizure at age 12 after developing hypothyroidism. Seizures do not stop these dogs from enjoying life! They love to run together, play in the snow, fetch, splash in a pool, howl, eat snacks, and snuggle with their human family and friends!



Canine Epilepsy—Get the Facts!

www.purpuledayeveryday.org/paws-4-purple

Read More on the FiveSibes™ Blog

<https://fivesibes.blogspot.com/2018/03/presenting-paws4purple-on-purple-day.html>

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A donation to AKFUS.org, although not necessary, is always welcome and appreciated to help defray printing & mailing expenses.



For more information on Canine Epilepsy, visit www.FiveSibes.com. A Purple Day® ambassador since 2012, FiveSibes™ #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness is a partner of The Anita Kaufmann Foundation. Educating the public not to fear epilepsy and seizures. www.akfus.org Global Sponsor for Purple Day®



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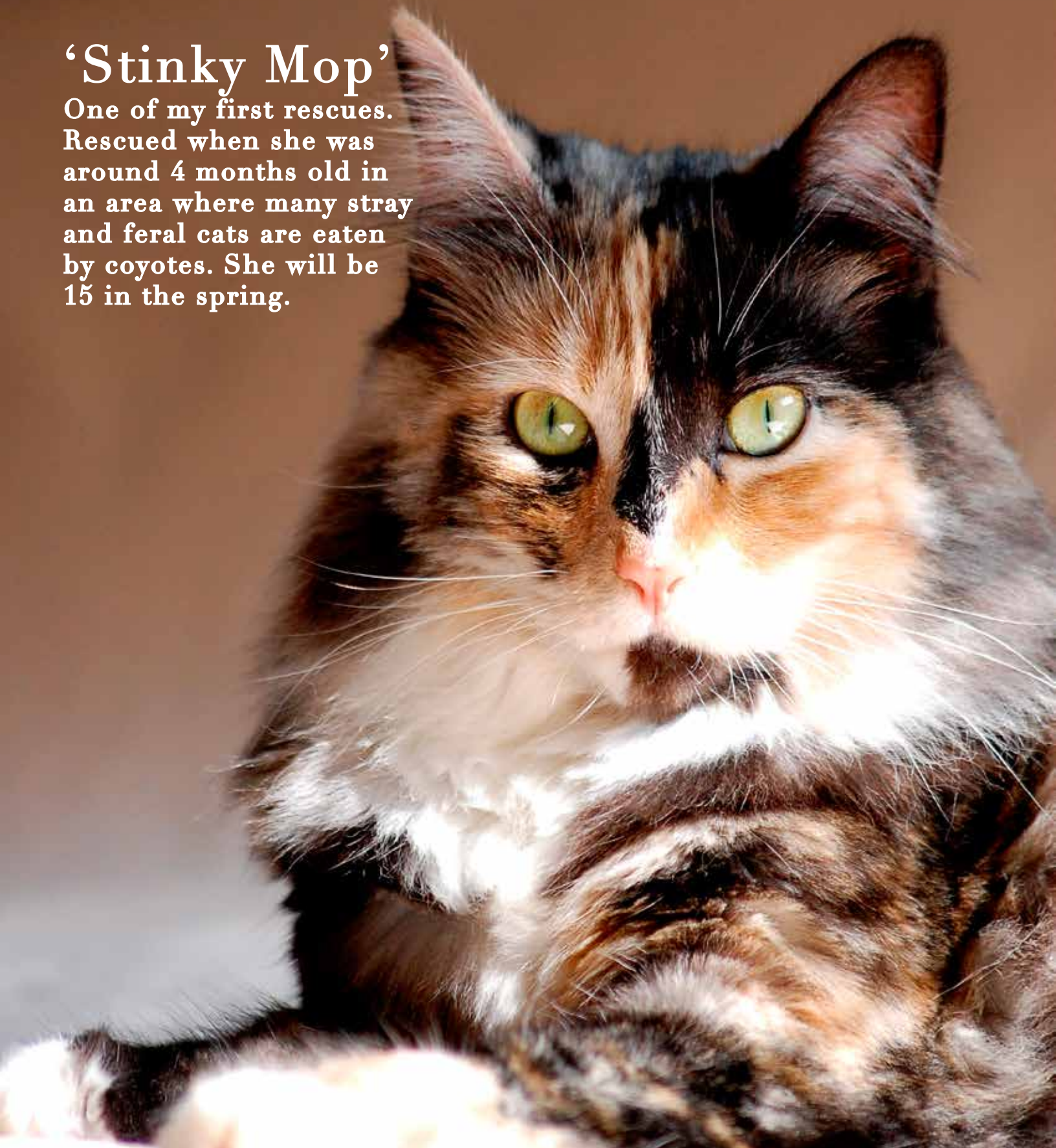


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DAWN EVES PHOTOGRAPHY

‘Stinky Mop’

One of my first rescues. Rescued when she was around 4 months old in an area where many stray and feral cats are eaten by coyotes. She will be 15 in the spring.



DOG TRAVEL

*Written By
Paula Prickett*

Every evening there's a soft snoring sound that drifts from my bedroom. It's not my husband. In spite of the plethora of dog beds spread around my bedroom, my black Lab, Dormie is practically melted into our king sized bed. Dreaming of chasing squirrels or snagging a juicy steak off the grill, she's entranced in a deep sleep upon the ultra plush comforter and most likely has her slightly graying muzzle propped up on one of the many extra pillows that reside on my bed. I never have the heart to move her. Because she's not just our dog, she's family.



And what is a family vacation without all of the family? More and more people are traveling with their pets and more and more places are becoming pet friendly.



Black Dog Luxury Travel

Here are a few things to keep in mind if you're thinking of bringing Fido on your next family trip.

Information is everything. Always educate yourself on the regulations of traveling with your pet. If you're flying, learn about the airline regulations. Most airlines only allow one pet per person to fly on a plane and they have requirements about what size carrier can fit under the seat in front of you. A carrier that fits under the seat is also considered a personal item and you're only allowed two on board, so you'll want to account for that.

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Airlines need to know in advanced that there will be a pet on board and most have a fee for flying with a pet. Some airports are more pet friendly than others, I like to get an airport map ahead of time and note all the pet relief areas on that map. If I cannot find them, I contact the airport and ask them where they are located. Only certain crate types are allowed to fly in the pressurized cargo area and there are regulations as to what can be allowed in the crate with your pet during the flight, so you'll want to learn these prior to your trip.



If you're going to be taking a family road trip, map out your route ahead of time and note potential stopping areas. One time I had noted a park on my route that I planned to stop at and take my dog for a walk, it turned out that it was a cemetery! Whoops! I quickly found an actual park nearby for our exercise instead! As a general rule, I like to stretch my dogs and myself every two to three hours when driving.

If you have visions of your dog playing in the ocean, biting at the waves and fetching sticks in the sun, make certain that your destination is dog friendly. Nothing will disappoint both of you faster than finally arriving and finding out dogs are not allowed on the beach. This also applies to any public outdoor space. Some restaurants, shops, wineries and more will allow well-behaved dogs but not all of them. Always check with the management.

The list of pet friendly hotels and resorts is never ending. Several cater to them almost as well as you do at home, offering beds, bowls and their own version of puppy room service. They will be as comfortable on vacation as they are at home. I can almost hear the snoring now. ~



I have a lot of passions in life. Two of my favorites are traveling and helping people achieve their dreams. When I became a luxury travel planner, this allowed me to combine those two passions and positively impacted the lives of others.

I know that you're going to return home from your travels a different person. Whether it's because you've checked that box off your bucket list, enriched relationships on the golf course, relished in a different culture, or because you saw some of the world's most amazing offerings, these experiences enhance your life and complete my purpose.

THAT-is why I do what I do. I don't take routine travel orders or make run of the mill travel plans. Every place that touches you is also made better by having known you, even if only for a short time. I love being part of giving that gift to the world.

PAWLTERGEIST

by Sue Owens Wright



***"If there are no dogs in Heaven,
then when I die I want to go
where they went." –Will Rogers***

"They're heeeeree."

That may be just a line from a spooky movie about ghostly manifestations, but anyone who has ever lost a beloved pet knows that our pets remain with us, at least in memory. Some animals go a bit further than that. Sometimes they come back!

Anyone who has ever looked into the loving eyes of a companion animal understands that it has an essence, a soul, and that the spirit of an animal doesn't die when the light leaves those eyes. Even though a pet no longer has a physical form, his or her unique soul always remains a part of our lives. I believe our pets also send us signs to reassure us and let us know that even though they couldn't stay with us as long as we wanted them to, they are ever present. And just as when they were alive, they have attention-getting ways of making their presence known.

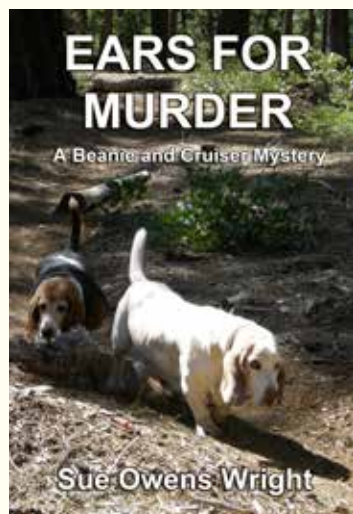
No, I'm not talking about clanking choke chains or levitating dog bowls, although you may have thought you heard the faint but unmistakable jingle of dog tags that echoes through the suddenly too-empty house. People frequently claim they hear a familiar click of toenails on the kitchen floor or the sound of paws padding across their bedroom in the night. Or you might fancy you hear the happy "welcome home" drumming of Fido's tail or feel Fluffy circling your ankles rhythmically to the whirring of the can opener. There is other evidence of the presence of these benevolent pawltergeists, if you're paying close attention.

One theory about the appearance of these furry phantoms is that when one has felt great love for an animal or grieves constantly over its loss, it causes the animal's spirit to return for a time to console its owner. Since they know how to do this so well in life, it makes perfect sense that they should seek to do the same for us in the afterlife. As we begin to heal from the pain of their loss, the visitations grow less frequent until we are finally able to let go.



...Continued on Next Page

BEST 2019 in print



Ears for Murder is Sue Owens Wright's fifth book in the acclaimed Beanie and Cruiser Mystery Series, which features basset hounds.

Sue Owens Wright has been nominated for a Maxwell Award for her novel, EARS FOR MURDER, by the Dog Writers Association of America (She's listed in Book, Fiction category, #42). This is her 12th Maxwell Award nomination. It will be her 3rd win, if chosen. Dewclaws crossed! ;)

...Continued from Last Page

Life is too brief and even briefer for our pets—for some more than others. I grieved harder for my basset hound, Dolly, than for any dog I'd ever had. Soon after her sudden passing from a genetic disease, she sent me many signs, such as the mourning dove that alit and lingered at the exact spot where she last lay upon the grass in our back yard. I saw dog-shaped clouds and Dolly sunsets, what I call the kind I saw the evening she left me that match her beautiful russet coat. I believe that she sent these signs to comfort and guide me.

Skeptics might explain the wren fluttering at the back door the morning after Patience, another of my bassets, died as nothing more than a bird that had seen its own reflection in the glass and mistaken it for another bird. But I knew that the wren, which is known as the magical King of all Birds in Irish folklore, had brought me a message from beyond Rainbow Bridge that Patience is young, happy and healthy again, just the way I should always remember her.

Dolly lived only six years. She gave me so much joy, affection, and companionship in that short time, it's as if she had lived far longer. Perhaps it's the knowledge that our time with animal companions is fleeting that makes it all the more precious. Neither our pets nor we live forever, but the love we feel for them and that they feel for us never dies. ~

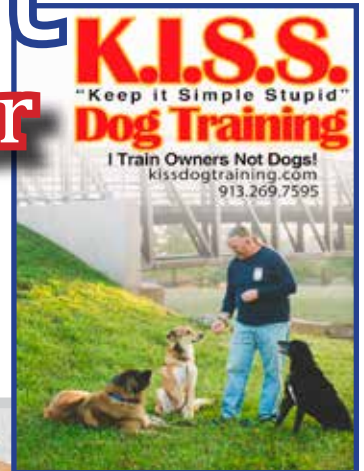
Sue Owens Wright is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction. She is a twelve-time finalist for the Maxwell, awarded annually by the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) to the best writer on the subject of dogs. She has twice won the Maxwell Award and earned special recognition from the Humane Society of the United States for her writing. She writes the acclaimed Beanie and Cruiser Mystery Series, including Howling Bloody Murder, Sirius About Murder, Embarking On Murder and Braced For Murder, which is recommended on the American Kennel Club's list of Best Dog Books.



BEST 2019 in print

Mike Deathe, Owner/Trainer

Mike has authored many books including, The Book of Pee and Poop, as well as The Five Steps to the Perfect Pet. Mike began KISS Dog Training in 2008 and continues to train thousands of pet parents on how to live with their beloved pets. *His motto is, "I train owners, not dogs"*



Whoa Dog Whoa

It's beautiful outside, and a perfect day for a walk! You call for your best four legged friend, hook them up on the leash, and open the door. The next thing you know you are sitting on your butt, shoulder throbbing in pain, and you catch a fleeting glimpse of your dog barreling down the street away from you. You wonder why you even try to walk this damn dog! Every time you try, you end up in pain or tears. At best, you end up holding on for dear life, and praying for the torture to end.

Dog Owners Book of Poop and Pee

The Keep it Simple Stupid Dog Owner's Book of Poop and Pee is just that: an easy to read, and an even easier to understand guide to getting Fido to "go" at the right time, in the right place, without ruining your carpet and without pulling your hairout in the process. Don't get me wrong, this is not one of those "potty train your dog in three easy steps" books. I know (and deep down, so do you) that this is a process over time, not a quick fix.

Downward Dog

This book is for all the folks who cringe when the doorbell rings, because they realize that the games are about to begin... Whether you have the dog who rushes the door barking like a maniac, or the dog who jumps up on every single guest that comes into your home. This book will give you simple and easy techniques to get the problem under control. It will even work if you are the only person that your dog jumps on!

5 Steps to the Perfect Pet

This is a book I've wanted to write for several years now. Five Easy Steps to a Perfect Pet Dog — what a name! If I had not been teaching these five basic ideas to my clients for the last three years, that title might just scare me a little. But I've seen over and over how these ideas change not only dogs, but also their owners.

Forever Home

About a year ago I was asked by a local shelter to put together a presentation for their volunteers that covered dog training basics, canine body language and my thoughts of what volunteers should actually be doing with dogs in a shelter. After many presentations and supplemental clinics, I realized that a book needed to be written on this topic. While this book may not ever be a best seller, I feel it is way overdue. Additionally, while its goal is to improve the shelter world, it will no doubt also help folks with their own dogs at home; and isn't that the end goal? Heck, I have even put video highlights from the presentations up on our Kiss Dog Training website to help those who don't like to read! I could really care less how the information gets out there, all I know is it needs to spread like wildfire! How to make your dog come without being a butthead. Okay, please don't misunderstand me. I am not trying to insult you with the title of this book. Rather, I want to get your attention. The goal of teaching you how to get your pooch to come back to you when you call them is secondary. My primary goal is to get you to think about dog training in a different way!

Ravings of a long-haired dog trainer

Back in March of 2010, I started writing articles for a local pet magazine in Kansas City. I had just started my own business, Keep it Simple Stupid (KISS) Dog Training, created a blog and, to be honest with you, I enjoyed the process of writing. Almost five years later, I had the idea for what I sarcastically started calling "Ravings of a Long Haired Dog Trainer." Well, the idea and the title stuck, and now we begin our journey into some of the topics I felt were important way back then, and still do...

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