

# American Pet

#AllPets

Magazine™

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

2019  
v6i2  
SPRING

BEST  
2019  
in print

WORKING  
DOGS

Artist  
Spotlight

Rescuer's  
Relief 



Rabbit  
Rescue

Hoppy  
Easter!

PUBLISHER / EDITOR

SUZI KARP

CO-EDITOR

DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY



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PERCY PRINCE

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HEIDI GIRL

PHOTOGRAPHY

OREO COOKIE MAN



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## The Publisher's Note

Thank you for reading  
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**#YourShareMatters #AllPets**

We invite you to tune into The Sibe Vibe radio show to hear all about our magazine:

[www.dogworksradio.com/suzi-karp](http://www.dogworksradio.com/suzi-karp)

There is excitement about the Karp Katz having their very own online store to help generate funds for vet visits PLUS emergencies for themselves and our rescues. VISIT: [www.offerup.com/p/3217589](http://www.offerup.com/p/3217589) to check out all the great items available.

There are some awesome rabbit pictures on pages 14 & 15. Stay tuned for more rabbit articles to educate and entertain you. Also, for our special upcoming Therapy Dog issue where you can read Bellin's story (see page 63)!

Don't forget to visit & LIKE our Facebook page @AmericanPetMagazine so to be a part of our awesome quarterly events and issue releases.

See You There, Virtually!

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

SUZI KARP 

*We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 28) by passing along this copy of AmericanPet Magazine™. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.*

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*On the Cover*  
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43, 46, 48 & 60**

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Featured Guest:

Suzi Karp, Owner/Editor, AmericanPet Magazine™

# THE SiBE ViBE

January 2019

ON AIR



[HTTP://DOGWORKSRADIO.COM/SUZI-KARP](http://dogworksradio.com/suzi-karp)

# Working Hard To Care For Working Dogs

Detection dogs have an intense and important job. These elite, majestic canines are an integral part of keeping our community safe.

As a positive partnership of a K9 Unit, these canines go through rigorous training and extraordinary circumstances. They're highly motivated to seek out dangerous predators, yet many are gentle giants that protect children.

## What Do Detection Dogs Do?

Canine jobs are intense. Common tasks that require specific K9 teams:

-  Bed Bugs: Assisted Living, Nursing Homes
-  Contraband: Tobacco, Spirits, Ivory, Cellular Devices
-  Drug Detection: Narcotics; Marijuana, Hashish, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Heroin
-  Explosives: Bomb Threats, Military
-  Patrol: Crime
-  Guard: Security
-  Search & Rescue: Avalanches, Fires, Storms
-  Tracking: Missing Persons

Reputable private K9 firms are hired by businesses, schools, and organizations to conduct discretionary sweeps. While not considered law enforcement, private K9 firms are selected for preventative measures for airports, cargo warehouses, correctional facilities, events, hospitals, manufacturing plants, marinas, and/or private home searches. Some working dogs are even trained to seek out child pornography from glue that seals computer screens.

Detection dogs are considered multipliers to police departments and abide to the dictations set in law. Not every dog can graduate to work on the frontlines. There are common traits successful K9's must possess in order to be recognized as working dogs. Certain breeds and characteristics are paramount to their ability to thrive within the industry.

### Working Dog Breeds With Terrific Sniffers:

-  American Pit Bull Terrier
-  Beagle
-  Belgian Malinois
-  Border Collie
-  Bloodhound
-  Coonhound
-  English Springer Spaniel
-  German Shepherd
-  German Shorthaired Pointer
-  Golden Retriever
-  Labrador Retriever
-  Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
-  Rough and Smooth Collie

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### Winning Characteristics:

-  Acute sense of smell
-  Agility
-  Consistent canine behavior
-  Desire to learn and chase objects
-  Innate curiosity to seek objects that are out of sight
-  Low reactivity
-  Natural instinct and motivation to hunt
-  Positive response to rewards
-  Stamina

### What's The Difference Between Police K9 Units and Private K9 Firms?

Police K9 Units are trained to sniff out illegal drugs. Private firms are trained to seek out both illegal and legal drugs. This difference is especially important as many states are legalizing marijuana in the United States.

While Police K9 Units can be called in for emergencies, these units will only come out to a location if there is an active threat. Private K9 firms are a large part of the planning process, particularly for events of scale. Private firms are often in the public eye from start to finish of the event.

If a family member is suspected of possessing narcotics, sweeps are done in complete privacy with homeowner discernment of next steps. Police K9 Units are obligated to prosecute. Private firms aren't obligated to prosecute, which keeps these K9 sweeps discretionary.

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# Working Dog Care

## 1. Strong bloodlines

Mixed breeds are not uncommon, however, working dogs are typically bred to work. They come from a heritage of dogs that have elite bloodlines.

## 2. Partnership and bonding

The dogs typically reside with their handler. Within the same household, they aren't your typical "pet." They're treated like family.

## 3. Protection and shelter

Working dogs are protected from severe circumstances and extreme weather elements. During extreme temperatures and inclement weather, these canine's paws and coats are safeguarded. During the winter months, handlers keep ice, salt, and other irritates from getting trapped between their dog's pads. Shielding ointment and boots are used when necessary.

K9 Units keep cool in the summer heat too. When temperatures rise, handlers provide cooling towels and proper rest during down times. It's important that their dog's core body temperature maintains consistent by hydrating with plenty of water.

Working dogs are secured in safe crates in roomy vehicles and holding areas before deployment. Their bodies are protected with bullet proof vests, goggles, first aid kits, and other protective equipment.

## 4. "Tip to tail" veterinarian medical care

Because these dog's work is so intense, it's vital that these working dogs are healthy. Regular annual veterinarian appointments are scheduled. Working dogs have to stay in top shape. They're fed well and exercised on a daily basis. Mental stimulation keeps their minds sharp and alert.

## 5. Regular grooming

K9 units are in the public eye and are touched often. Their fur needs to remain clean and smelling good. They're petted so much and it's important that these dogs stay presentable.

## 6. Proper rest

Working dogs need appropriate rest. To minimize risk of injuries during heavy times of training, these canines get adequate play and relaxation. Taking time off from their daily difficult challenges gives working dogs a chance to recharge. They have a sense of joy to rediscover themselves. They chase balls, watch squirrels, and relax on the floor at someone's feet—every day.

## Treated Like Royalty

These beloved, hard working canines are respected and well cared for. Not only do these canines fight the fight, they're treated like family. Next time you encounter a K9 Unit, pause in awe at their beauty and ability.

#####

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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“Hi my name is  
**Durango.**

I may look like  
a tough guy,  
but i'm just a **BIG**  
sweetheart.”



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

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# A 20-Year Saga of Rabbit Rescue



Twenty years ago, right after Easter, my husband and I returned home from work, let our spaniel outside in the fenced yard, and went in the house. Bridget the dog refused to return, riveted to something white beyond our fence. Long story short—our neighbors had moved out that day, leaving behind a yard full of refuse . . . and one baby bunny. The poor wee frightened thing felt like bird fluff in my hand. I immediately dubbed him Precious.

So began our saga of rescuing rabbits. As we learned how to care for these long-eared wonders, we discovered that the busiest season for rescue is after Easter.

That's when bunnies and chicks bought for people's children are later abandoned, left to manage on their own. Many believe that rabbits can survive outdoors, but house rabbits are a different breed from wild ones and cannot do so.

Including Precious, we have rescued fifteen bunnies and fostered four. The most we've had at one time is seven. We began with one, and the number crept up as we learned how loveable and individual each bunny is. They bring such joy into our lives that it's hard to keep from rescuing more. Sadly, as the numbers grew, so did my allergies. Now with just three, my allergies aren't too bad, and I can interact with them more.

When Precious was small, I was going through a bit of depression, working too hard, not enjoying life much. One weekend I sat on the floor with him, watching him hop around and explore. The open door to the dishwasher fascinated him. He plopped his front paws on top of that door and sniffed all around. I watched his antics for thirty minutes, amazed by the joy he made me feel. I date the lifting of my depression from that time. Some people say "stop and smell the roses." But I say "stop and enjoy your bunny."

A house rabbit's lifespan runs from five to ten years. We didn't know at first that the upper end is geriatric and hard to attain. Imagine my sorrow when I came home one day to find Precious, at age five, dead in his cage, his body still warm. Desolate, I called my husband and asked him to hurry home. When he told his boss why he was leaving early, the guy guffawed. "A rabbit?" he said, laughing hard. The next day another man confided to my husband that he understood our family tragedy—he'd just lost a beloved hamster.

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Rabbit health is precarious. One can die quickly without your knowing it's even sick. An animal of prey, it knows to be still when hurt or sick. Consequently, you must learn your bunny's habits and watch closely to see it remains healthy. Had we known that when Precious was five, we could've saved him.

Each of our bunnies has a distinct personality. Some are more nervous than others, some more energetic. Smokey made noises, so loud we heard him growl from another room. He was the smallest breed, thus the most scared. Traumatized when we got him, he took months to calm down.

One rabbit can bond to another, and a bonded pair is very affectionate. One will grieve when its partner passes on. Even one of our un-bonded bunnies realized when another died recently. Current research into animal emotions recognizes what we animal lovers already know—yes indeed, animals do have feelings.

The New Zealand breed—with white fur and startling pink eyes—are the hardest to place in adoptions. That shocks me as that type is iconic to me. Think of the rabbit friend of Alice in Wonderland—or the typical depiction of the Easter bunny. Yet, up close, those pink eyes spook many people. Precious was a New Zealand. Later we adopted Benny, another New Zealand, who stood on his hind legs and begged for Cheerios. With an undiagnosed genetic heart defect, he lived less than a year. I vowed then never to have another bunny as it was too hard losing them. One week later we were back at the shelter to adopt Rufus, so far our only lop-eared rabbit.

My husband and I are active in Houston's Bunny Buddies organization <bunnybuddies.org>, the Texas affiliate of House Rabbit Society <<http://rabbit.org/>>. Both websites offer information about caring for rabbits. (The recent recall of romaine lettuce created havoc at our house. Romaine is a staple food for our rabbits. But never give iceberg lettuce to a bunny. It could die)

The three bunnies now gracing our home—Bella, Midnight, and Precious Jr.—asked me to say you should consider adopting some of their relatives. The third most abandoned animals in U.S. shelters are rabbits. They're waiting for you to go meet them, fall under their spell, and offer them a caring home.

Kay Kendall lives in Texas with her Canadian husband, three house rabbits, and spaniel, Wills. She writes the Austin Starr historical mysteries series. Her first two books are set in the 1960s: *DESOLATION ROW* (2013) and *RAINY DAY WOMEN* (2015), Austin is a young Texas bride, forced to the frontlines of societal change by her draft-resisting husband. Austin copes by turning amateur sleuth. The latter mystery won two Silver Falchion Awards at Killer Nashville. Her new mystery is a prequel featuring Austin's grandmother in small town Texas during Prohibition. *AFTER YOU'VE GONE* has hot jazz and cold dead bodies, and another female amateur sleuth who longs to become Sherleen Holmes, after her hero Sherlock.

###



# HOPPY

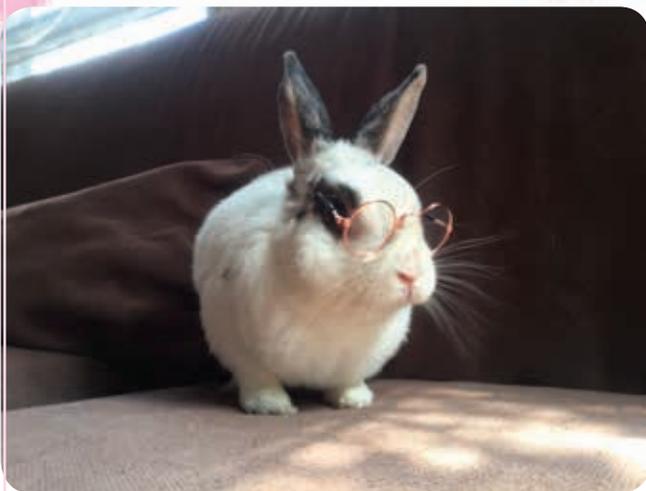
Hello! My name is WinterBerry aka WB, or as some fondly refer, to me "White Bunny." My story began last Easter when I was first discovered. Being white can bring a lot of attention especially at Easter. All the kids want that adorable white bunny in their basket. As time passed so did my cuteness and one day at just 6 months old I found myself left alone, literally alone in a big world of Colorado. I thought they would be back and at first it was exciting to run and play free munching grass.. but they didn't come back, and little did I know that this open freedom also had a dark side and what could become a horrible end. With night comes the predator, fox, mountain lion, bears, and birds of prey. Being white was not to my advantage in this case, and I became frightened with my new found freedom. That's when I met her .. my rescuer. At first it wasn't easy to convince me to cooperate in her effort to catch me, but then after hours of resistance I gave in and I was lovingly embraced in the comfort and safety of her arms.

I believe fate played a role that day, I think I was meant for wonderful things ahead. I'm grateful for second chances. I have the heart and zest for life! Perhaps my story can become an inspiration to others, that bunnies matter too! Love, WB



**"When a man has pity on all living creatures then only is he noble." - Buddha**

This is Oreo McFurry, an approximately 4 year old bunny I got from a family rehoming her on kijiji (like craigslist). She was kept in a small cage, rehomed because the parents don't have



time for all four rabbits anymore as their kids grew up. They told me that she just sits there and does nothing all day but that's far from the truth! I moved her into my room where she's allowed to free roam and as I bonded with her, she showed me how bright and bold her personality is. Her favorite past time is destroying cardboard houses from the inside out and kissing every human that comes her way. She is spayed, completely litter trained, and can even do some fun tricks like spin, standing up, waving a wand, and hopping over/ crawling under something. She is the perfect bunny for me and an amazing study buddy.

# Easter!



Milton was found wandering the streets on Christmas morning after likely being dumped in the streets. Our local rescue, Rabbit Rescue Inc., stepped in and rescued him from out of the winter cold. Milton joined us the following day as a foster and we quickly fell in love with his personality and spirit. We decided to permanently adopt him and to provide him with the permanent home he deserves. He is extremely curious and loves adventure. He lives in a cage-free environment in our home with 5 other buns - one of which he quickly bonded with and now considers his bunwife. \*Instagram and Facebook: The Beach Buns

Cooper aka Cooper the Pooper  
Helping educate rabbit owners on proper rabbit care through his social media platform. Cooper's main focus is bringing awareness!



Stomper  
the Bunno

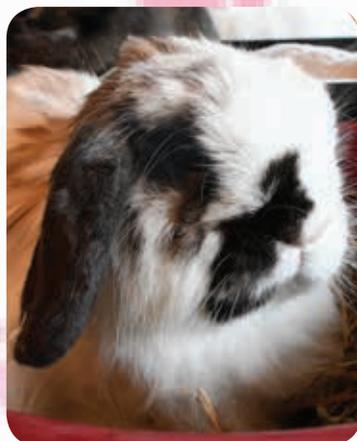


Photo Credit:  
Leslie Hefty



the Buns of Anarchy:  
Gillan, Bunnie, Torme,  
Keef, Iommi, and Ozzie



## E FOR EMMA LYNN

# National Disabled Pets Day

Written By  
Lisa A. Bono,  
CPBC

Parrots are the third most popular companion. Emma Lynn is a 5 year old, differently abled Congo African grey. I first found out about her by searching the internet and finding an ad for someone trying to find a home for a disabled grey.

I started writing to the breeder who told me the story of her life so far. She was the only egg out of two clutches to survive. The parents were two younger greys that the breeder just rescued out of a garage. The first time she set them up to breed, all was fine, till they cracked the eggs in the nest. She took off the nest box and boosted up the calcium intake and fresh foods. Soon after that, another clutch was laid, and soon after the 3rd egg(Emma) the parents broke the first two and Emma was pulled. She was placed in an incubator and that was her home. We theorize Emma's egg may not have been turned as much as it would have been by her bird parents if left in the nest or there was some sort of deficiency in the parent birds. That is what leads us to what makes Emma special.

Emma's condition is called Torticollis and it left her permanently disabled with a twisted neck and spine. Congenital torticollis (present at birth) may be caused by wrong or faulty position of the head in the egg, or by an injury of the muscles, nervous system or muscles. The exact cause of this condition in her case will remain unknown.

## Meeting Emma

It was love at first site, when the breeder sent me her picture. A little baby, not all her feathers, wearing an awful neck brace. I cried when I saw her because I had just lost my beloved Sampson Bell. She reminded me so much of him. From the little red band on the same leg as Sampson, down to the awful neck brace they shared. Sampson left this world, and his last days, wearing a brace, that Emma was starting her life wearing. It tore me apart.

I printed out her picture, and kept it with me. I would spend hours just staring at her picture on the computer screen, waiting for another update. It was not known if Emma would ever be able to perch, fly, eat on her own or talk. At that time in my life, I was going through a divorce, was very sick, and was \$7,000 in debt over Sampson's remaining bills. Each time I even considered that I might be coming close enough to get her, something came up.

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**“WHAT?”**  
EMMA LYNN



At the same time, my father became very ill with Vascular Dementia, a disease that has no cure. I took my dad’s two greys, Bubba and Stirling, out of his house since he could no longer take care of them. A day later, my dad ended up collapsing and being rushed to the hospital, never to return home. I now had two African greys on my dining room table, and a VERY small house. I had no room for Emma.

All this time I was in contact with the breeder. She would still send me pictures. I would send Emma toys so I felt part of me was with her. Nine months after Emma was born, and still without a home, I went to go pick her up. Emma was finally coming home to spend her life with me. It was one of the best days of both our lives.

Emma has come a long way. She is able to perch, eat, fly in circles and even talk, somewhat. Emma has been to one of the best Avian Vets available to her, for a check up to make sure all is well. It is a good possibility that Emma will have Arthritis down the road. But other than that, everything else looks good. I must admit, I worry about what the future holds for my little girl. Emma has learned to thrive in her environment. Little things are different with her, say compared to the other birds in our home. Her cage is shorter, so she doesn’t have far to fall off her perch when she is sleeping. Her playpen is also lower. She has a hard time eating certain things, such as chick peas, and they happen to be one of her favorites. She is very loving and trusting. Because of her disability, I have actually met several people with birds that have the same disability as Emma.

While the easy questions about normal greys are answered, the hard ones for me remain. Who do I have to talk to about what the future holds for Emma? The answer is the people who have taken in these special birds way before I did and with them, I am able to find comfort.

*“She was not quite what you would call refined. She was not quite what you would call unrefined. She was the kind of person that keeps a parrot.” -Mark Twain*



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WRITTEN BY HEATHER WALLACE

# Confessions of a Timid Rider



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# Confessions of a Timid Rider

An Interview by  
©Dorothy Wills-Raferly

*"I've come a long way since I took that first step back to horsemanship as an adult. When I say I am a timid rider, it is not because I am scared to ride. Oh no, it is because I am scared to fail. I am scared that I cannot live up to my own expectations. That my insecurities will hold me back. Or that I will let my anxiety be greater than my passion once again and step away, or worse, not try to be the person I want to be. My self-doubt tries to hold me back, but I refuse to give in. These are the Confessions of a Timid Rider." ~Heather Wallace*

As an author myself, I absolutely love to read other writers' works, and love all sorts of genres of books. For me, it's such a wonderful escape, a vacation of sorts, to lose myself in amazing adventures in print. Many readers know me for my love of Siberian Huskies and my own FiveSibes™ (FiveSibes.com), but I was also an equestrian in my youth! My father, a cowboy in his youth, introduced me to horses, and for this former city kid to become a cowgirl was so exciting! Needless to say, I loved reading everything I could find about horses then, and went on to write equine poetry and become a teen advocate to protect the wild horses of America. I still enjoy equine books today, so when I learned Heather Wallace had her book *Confessions of a Timid Rider* was published (which also is the winner of the 2018 Equus Film Festival WINNIE award for Best Non-Fiction English, and #1 Hot New Release on Amazon), I knew I had to read it!

A Certified Equine Sports Massage Therapist (ESMT) and Certified Canine Massage Therapist (CCMT), equestrian, mom, dog mom, and author, Heather—as many of us today do—wears many hats, which makes her so relatable! In addition to her blog *The Timid Rider* (TheTimidRider.com, formerly *Bridle & Bone*), Heather has also written *The Equestrian Handbook of Excuses* 1st Edition and *The Equestrian Handbook of Excuses, Photography Edition* in addition to writing for equine magazines including, *Holistic Horse Magazine*, *Sidelines Magazine*, and *Equine Info Exchange*. So when she released her newest book, *Confessions of a Timid Rider*, I was pretty psyched to read it! And it did not disappoint. While the title at first refers to this as being a “horse book,” it is so much more that will appeal to so many—not just horse lovers, but anyone who has ever faced fear in their sport, hobby, job, and even in social circles.

Heather speaks about her own experiences and how fear wound itself into the very fibers of her being as she struggled with confidence in the saddle. She shares her personal story of how she left riding as a teenager due to anxiety, but returned years later as an adult and mother herself, finding it different the second time around, and with a new set of challenges. She speaks candidly and refreshingly as I “galloped” through the pages of her book, empathizing with her experiences, and cheering her on when she rose above her fears to enjoy her favorite of all past times: riding horses. She takes us on her personal journey interwoven with her equestrian experiences, starting in her youth, then once again as an adult after a self-imposed break from riding.

I was thrilled to interview Heather, and share here with you some insights and excerpts from her book and her life as a “Timid Rider!”

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**DOROTHY WILLS-RAFTERY:** YOUR LATEST AWARD-WINNING BOOK, *CONFESSIONS OF A TIMID RIDER*, IS NOT ONLY REFRESHING AND INSPIRATIONAL, BUT ALSO MOTIVATIONAL. WHAT FIRST INSPIRED YOU TO PUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AND LIFE INTO A BOOK?

**HEATHER WALLACE:** Thank you so much for saying so, as that was exactly my goal! I've always been a writer and wanted to write a fiction novel. I kept writing fiction and then trailing off, never to finish it. When I started my blog, *The Timid Rider*, I began to write posts that inspired me during my journey as a returning adult equestrian. While sharing these with the public, something that was truly frightening, I was amazed at the positive feedback. Very quickly I had the public support of other equestrians, but it was the private messages that truly motivated me to continue. I was overcoming my struggles while others were looking to me and realizing they aren't alone. I can't tell you how many private emails and messages I receive that make me cry. Knowing I've helped someone by sharing my own anxiety is priceless. Struggling with confidence is still such a dirty thing to talk about, like admitting we aren't perfect is somehow anathema. I want to change that. Let's acknowledge that we all have something that scares us. You don't have to talk about it like I do, but knowing we don't alone give us strength. For me, it was important to share this to a wider audience. While *Confessions of a Timid Rider* is written with horses as the metaphor, this book is for everyone. Mothers, entrepreneurs, writers, anyone who has a passion, but is scared of failing. I want them to know that if I can push past my fears so can they. After all, I'm just like them.

**DOROTHY:** AS A FORMER COWGIRL AND EQUESTRIAN, I FOUND MYSELF FALLING UNDER THE SPELL OF THIS BOOK AND RECALLING ALL MY DAYS RIDING, TRAINING, AND SHOWING HORSES. I NODDED MY HEAD SO MANY TIMES AT YOUR WRITTEN WORDS AND MEMORIES! WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING TO TACK AND GROOM A HORSE AS WELL AS LEARNING TO RIDE, I SHOUTED OUT A RESOUNDING "YES!" SOMETHING I HAD EMPHASIZED WITH MY YOUNG RIDERS (WHO ALL DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE CURRY BRUSH, JUST HOW SOON THEY COULD GET IN THE SADDLE)! YOUR EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO THE SHOW WITH "FLAME" AND HOW THE HORSE KNEW YOU WERE NOT READY, IS SOMETHING SO INSTINCTIVE IN THAT AMAZING EQUINE-HUMAN BOND, IT IS ALMOST PSYCHIC. TODAY, HOW IMPORTANT ARE THOSE MESSAGES HORSES GIVE THEIR RIDERS AND JUST HOW EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS IT THAT THE RIDER BE IN TUNE?

**HEATHER:** The connection between horse and rider is a beautiful thing. Horses are our mirror in many ways and teach us something about ourselves, even if we don't necessarily like what we see. They are so completely honest but we have to listen, especially with the quieter, stoic horses. They learn to internalize a lot and we can often misread that as contentment, then one day they explode and we wonder why. My pony Ferrous is quiet but sensitive. I've learned to read him very well and that has helped us build a bond and trust each other, thereby increasing my confidence. When I'm feeling rushed or too tense, he often will not move or kick out in frustration. That isn't helping either of us to enjoy our time together. As a result, I will often take several deep breaths or at the last minute decision to do something we will both enjoy and relax while doing. I've learned to trust him when I feel insecure and he does the same. It's a partnership. A few years ago I was working at the barn doing turn in, turn out, and feeding. There were two large thoroughbreds that could get a little wild. The other barn worker complained one day that she was rushing with her music on and both horses reared up, almost knocking her over.

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*CH* CALLIE HEROUX  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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She started to cry and decided to quit. Alternatively, I had never had a problem with these geldings. Sure, they were a handful, but knowing that I was careful to always take a few deep breaths, talk to them, and be in the moment. We were both horsewomen who knew what we were doing, but our approaches were different. Our mindset creates a reaction, especially with animals as sensitive as horses.

*“In facing my fears and taking that step forward, I have so many amazing opportunities that I never imagined.” ~Heather Wallace*

**DOROTHY:** HEATHER, LAST YEAR, YOU WERE PART OF THE GOBI DESERT CUP, “AN ENDURANCE HORSE RACE AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN MONGOLIA” AS MEDIA CONSULTANT. IT TAKES AMAZING ENDURANCE AND HAS BEEN NOTED AS BEING “CHARACTER BUILDING.” TELL US ABOUT BEING MEDIA CONSULTANT AND WHAT LESSONS ARE LEARNED WITH REGARDS TO HORSEMANSHIP AND SELF-AWARENESS YOU SAW AND/OR LEARNED ALONG THE WAY, AND DID YOU RIDE IN IT AS PART OF YOUR WORK?

**HEATHER:** I am so proud to be part of The Gobi Desert Cup. It was a big leap of faith to apply as their publicist and travel halfway around the world to work with strangers and semi-wild horses. However, I just knew in my gut that it would challenge me and change my life. I’m not exactly a camper and would live in the desert for almost two weeks. During the event, I watched equestrians from around the globe experience the adventure of a lifetime riding six different horses across the vast reaches of Mongolia. The horses were trained and conditioned for the race, so although they lived wild they were much calmer to ride than I had anticipated but not easy.

The riders’ horsemanship skills were absolutely tested. As the photographer and official storyteller, I remained close to the riders and lived vicariously through their adventures, becoming more and more envious. I found that the riders who didn’t try so hard and connected to their horses had the best rides and results. Not so for some others whose horses refused to move faster than a walk! The herdsmen were laughing and had to help a few by racing with them for a short distance. So on the last day of the race when Ride Director and Co-founder Camille Champagne suggested all the officials have a short race, I jumped at the chance. That is until it was time to mount up. I was petrified. Shaking, white as a ghost according to the other riders, and looking for any excuse to get off. I wanted to ride so much but the anticipation was killing me. The riders and other officials cheered me on, and the herdsmen took pity on me by providing a gentle, kind horse I nicknamed Spanky. The nomads don’t name their horses, usually only referring to them by a physical trait such as “Brown.” But he looked like a Spanky to me, and I whispered in his ear, asking him to take care of me.

Once we walked to the finish line my nerves were better. It was decided we would start at a trot and slowly increase pace only galloping at the end. Well, so much for good intentions. I turned around and instead of trotting, my horse decided to canter in a nice, collected way. My colleague, Camille took on the challenge and the next thing I know we were racing full out neck and neck across the Gobi Desert! I was still scared but my competitive instincts kicked in. I was determined to finish what I started and when I came over that finish line to the cheers of the riders and nomads alike, I felt like I’d won. I came in 4th of six riders, but it didn’t matter to me at all. I didn’t let my fear stop me from doing something I really wanted to experience. Now, this August, I plan to ride with the herdsmen before the race and really explore the horses for myself.

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**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GOBI DESERT CUP, VISIT [WWW.GOBIDESERTCUP.COM](http://WWW.GOBIDESERTCUP.COM)**

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**DOROTHY:** YOUR BOOK MAY BE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP OVER THE YEARS WITH HORSES, BUT THE FEELINGS OF ANXIETY, FEAR, AND BRAVERY TRANSCEND JUST BEING A HORSE OWNER—IT CAN APPLY TO ANYONE FROM A DOG PARENT TO A PERSON WORKING IN ONE JOB, BUT DREAMING OF BEING IN ANOTHER, WHICH IS WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK SO RELATABLE. WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR “TAKE-AWAY” MESSAGE IS TO READERS?

**HEATHER:** The message I hope my readers will take home is that we all have something that scares us whether it is the fear of failure, wanting to avoid embarrassment, or knowing we can be better. That fear can prevent us from doing something we love and actually will be the source of failure. We can't be successful if we aren't honest with ourselves and step a little outside of our comfort zone. Be honest about what is really holding you back. But if you set small, yet challenging goals that you can achieve your confidence will grow. Don't reach immediately for that lofty goal you have in mind because odds are that you will get frustrated and quit before you have really started. Choose a smaller goal that will be a stepping stone to your ultimate dream, and build a plan to get there despite that little voice that says you aren't good enough. Let your passion be greater than your fear and try anyway. Be bold.

**DOROTHY:** IF YOUR CURRENT-DAY-YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK AND MEET THE 9-YEAR-OLD-GIRL-ON-THE-GRAY-PONY-YOU, WHAT WORDS OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE HER?

**HEATHER:** Don't get off the horse! I cried that day after I dismounted and said goodbye to that little gray pony that I fell in love with in Arizona. I didn't cry because I wouldn't see the pony again. I think even then I knew that I would regret not riding through the desert on him and that I too easily give in to my fear. I was disappointed in myself. There is a difference between choosing not to do something because you are nervous and choosing not to do something because it is dangerous. I felt like a quitter. It took me a long time, until in my late 30's, to be self-aware and truly understand the difference.

A promotional banner for FiveSibes. On the left, there is a photograph of five husky puppies in a snowy setting. To the right of the photo is the text: "FiveSibes™ Home of the FiveSibes, FiveSibes Blog, and 'The Sibe Vibe' Radio Show!". On the far right is a cartoon illustration of a husky wearing a purple suit and tie, with the text "FIVESIBES.COM", "#LiveGibStrong", and "K-9 EPILEPSY AWARENESS" around it.

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

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**DOROTHY:** AND IF THAT 9-YEAR-OLD GIRL COULD TRAVEL TO THE FUTURE, TODAY, WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF THE ADULT YOU?

**HEATHER:** Wow, I hope she would give me a high-five! I like to think that I am helping others be honest with their confidence struggles and pushing just a little past the fear. I'm a big fan of the slow and steady approach. Plus, I finally have the pony I've always wanted!

Let's start a conversation about anxiety, self-esteem, and holding sometimes unreasonable expectations of ourselves. No one is perfect and that's okay because it is our imperfections that make us special.

**DOROTHY:** WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR YOU, "THE TIMID RIDER?"

**HEATHER:** I confess I have some big plans! I have three book projects that I am working on currently, Confessions of a Modern Mom, a book on inspirational women in the equine industry, and an account on my experiences in Mongolia last year. More, I'm still working with The Gobi Desert Cup and will be in living in Mongolia once again this August. The twist is that I'll now be helping to produce a film about how the endurance race provides cultural sustainability to the nomadic culture.

I always wanted to be an author, but I was too scared to try. Now in facing my fears and taking that step forward, I have so many amazing opportunities that I never imagined. I have worked really hard to get where I am. While there may be some who criticize, there are many more people who will identify and even support you. Be happy, be yourself. You've got this."

## The End

An extended book review and article will be available on the FiveSibes™ blog at <https://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>

Confessions of a Timid Rider is available through Heather's website at [TimidRider.com](http://TimidRider.com) and on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

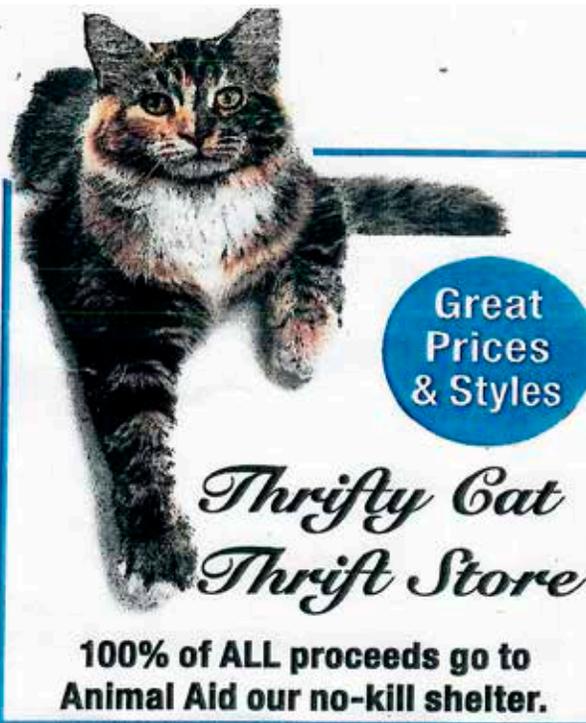


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About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Raferly is an award-winning author and photojournalist, including canine books *What's Wrong With Gibson?*, *Learning About K-9 Epilepsy*; *Getting Healthy With Harley*; *Buddy, The Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Tale*; 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.

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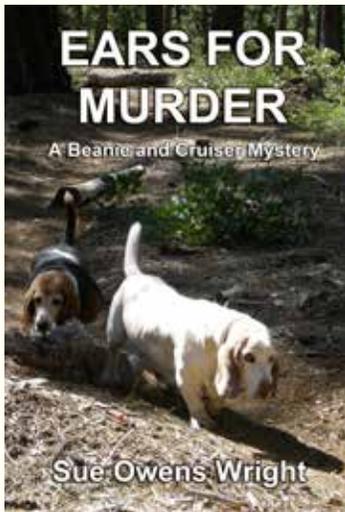
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# BEST 2019 in print



EARS FOR MURDER by Sue Owens Wright has won a Maxwell Award for Fiction from the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA). This is the fifth book in the Beanie and Cruiser Mystery Series and her third Maxwell, which is awarded annually for the best writing on the subject of dogs.

I quickly discovered that I had made a mistake in allowing Calamity off her leash for our morning walk. Before I could say Fleabiscuit, she scurried off, creating a cyclone of dust in her wake.

“Calamity, come back here!” I shouted, but she showed no sign of slowing her pace. Soon, all I saw was a dirt devil instead of the dog as she vanished from my sight. What had I done? I shouldn’t have trusted that dog off her lead for one instant. Nona would never forgive me if I lost her dog while she was away, just as I’d never have forgiven her if she lost Cruiser.

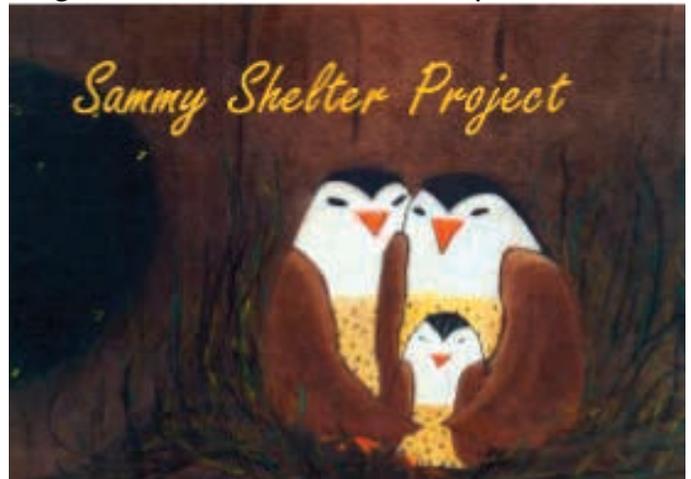
By the time I caught up with Calamity, I felt like I had sucked up half the mountain into my lungs. I sputtered and coughed, trying to catch my breath from running after her and inhaling all that dust. Why I’m not as svelte as my runway model daughter is anyone’s guess. It seems like I spend most of my time chasing after wayward canines. Cruiser had passed me somewhere along the trail and was busy helping Calamity investigate something. I approached to see what they’d found that was so doggone interesting that they made me run half-way up the mountain to see it. A couple of coyotes spotted us and vanished in a cloud of dust. That could have been the howling I’d heard and what attracted my dogs here. When the dust settled, I discovered something else besides my two hound dogs marking a surviving tree. They had led me straight to a man’s bloody corpse.



[www.SueOwensWright.com](http://www.SueOwensWright.com)

# BEST 2019 in print

**Tracy Ahrens** - Creative since childhood, it wasn't until I attended college that I learned I could draw. "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight" was created within 1 to 2 weeks during a holiday break when I was in college. I 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 10 area humane organizations with the book sales. ALL FUNDS from each book purchase will be donated to the organization chosen and noted on the form.



Use this link to order through the project website:

***[www.tracyahrens.weebly.com/sammy-shelter-project](http://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 (Momence, 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. ~

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# 5 Things to Teach

Written by Mike Deathe

*OK, so the Easter bunny is gone and the dog you have affectionately begun refer to as the Hell Hound has arrived. Not to be melodramatic but springtime seems to bring out the worst in some dogs.*

**For example:**

- 🐾 Pulling on the leash
- 🐾 Running for the hills every time they get loose
- 🐾 Jumping all over everyone including you
- 🐾 Not paying one ounce of attention
- 🐾 The onset of humidity (bringing full frontal the smell of all those accidents you never noticed from over the winter)

Don't despair, there is hope but it ain't gonna be fast and it ain't gonna be easy but if you can be persistent and consistent in a matter of weeks you can begin to bring things back into the realm of sanity.

I basically cover 5 topics with my clients whenever I begin training a new client and they help create, if you are consistent, a dog that actually pays attention, has impulse control, understands house rules, and is actually mentally and physically worn out. In other words, a good dog!

**These basic ideas are:**

- 🐾 Hand Feeding Techniques
- 🐾 Sit Say Please Protocols
- 🐾 Installing Non-Negotiable Rules
- 🐾 Dealing with Problem Behaviors Utilizing The "15 Minute Ignore"
- 🐾 Using a Hydraulic Model to Explain Energy Levels and Problem Behavior in Dogs

Now for the good news, while this "little" list seems quite daunting. These are ideas and techniques I can teach anyone in usually just one session! Don't misunderstand me. It will take you around a month of practice to see the fruits of your labor but you will only be paying me to teach you once. I then leave it up to you to teach your dog. Remember, here at Kiss Dog Training, we Keep it Simple Stupid, by training the people and not their dogs.

The only question now is, just how long you are gonna wait before calling me so that we can all get to work making your dog the dog of your dreams...

**I can't wait to teach you how to speak dog!**

Mike Deathe 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."



# BEST 2019 in print

## EPic Dog Tales

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty

EPic Dog Tales : Heartfelt Stories About Amazing Dogs Living & Loving Life With Canine Epilepsy by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty, 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](http://www.ArcticHousePublishing.com)

## What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty  
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.

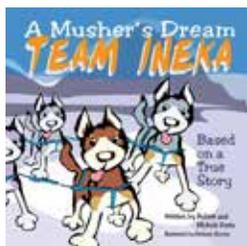
## Buddy, the Christmas Husky

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty  
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.



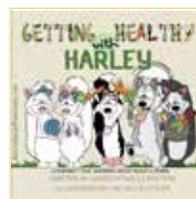
Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds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

# Cooling Down an Epi-Dog: Where Do I Put Cold Packs?!

## Placement of Cold Packs & Other Cooling Tips for Preventative, Seizure, and Post-Seizure Care

by Dorothy Wills-Raferly, FiveSibes™ #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness

Dogs who have Canine Epilepsy, overheating and/or excessive heat can be a trigger for seizures. A seizing dog's temperature rises and prolonged exposure to high body temperatures can be extremely dangerous to the health of your dog. The tips in this graphic are for placement of a cold pack (ice pack) during a seizure, as well as tips on post-seizure and (hopefully) preventative care to help keep your Epi-dog cool. Take care not to drop your dog's temperature too quickly as s/he could go into shock. A plastic bag of crushed ice (or in a pinch, a bag of frozen peas or veggies) may be used. These are the methods I used on my Epi-dog, a wooly Siberian Husky, "Gibson" of the FiveSibes. If your dog has a single coat, or has a short, thin, shaved, or no fur coat, please wrap all styles of ice/cold packs in a towel to avoid skin injury. **As with all new therapies, treatments, and care, please always check with your dog's vet first. If your dog has a seizure, please contact your vet or emergency vet hospital immediately.** ~Dorothy Wills-Raferly, Author, FiveSibes/#LiveGibStrong Writer/Creator & "The Sibe Vibe" Radio Show Host

**During A Seizure:** Apply and hold a cold pack on mid-lower back (between thoracic and lumbar vertabrae). \*Normal body temperature is 102°F and often during a seizure it will go over 105° or 106°. It is vet recommended to do ice packs until temperature drops to 103°, then remove ice packs and keep dog in a dry blanket. If it drops too quickly, the dog can go into shock. Take temperature every few minutes and if seizure persists, go to vet immediately.

**Preventative & Post-Seizure Care:** Apply cool, wet (wrung-out) towel to tips of ears.

**Preventative & Post-Seizure Care:** Cooling Water Bed.

**Preventative & Post-Seizure Care:** Cooler collar.

**During A Seizure:** Apply ice packs (or in a pinch, a bag of frozen veggies) under the "armpit" areas. Ice pack/crushed ice bag can be wrapped in a towel or cloth for short hair dogs. Remove after.

**Preventative & Post-Seizure Care:** Cool off paw pads by applying cool (not cold) water to paws.

"Gibson" portrait by Cameo Anderson, Artist & Illustrator

"Gibson"



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Educating the public not to fear epilepsy  
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akf.us.org purpledayeveryday.org

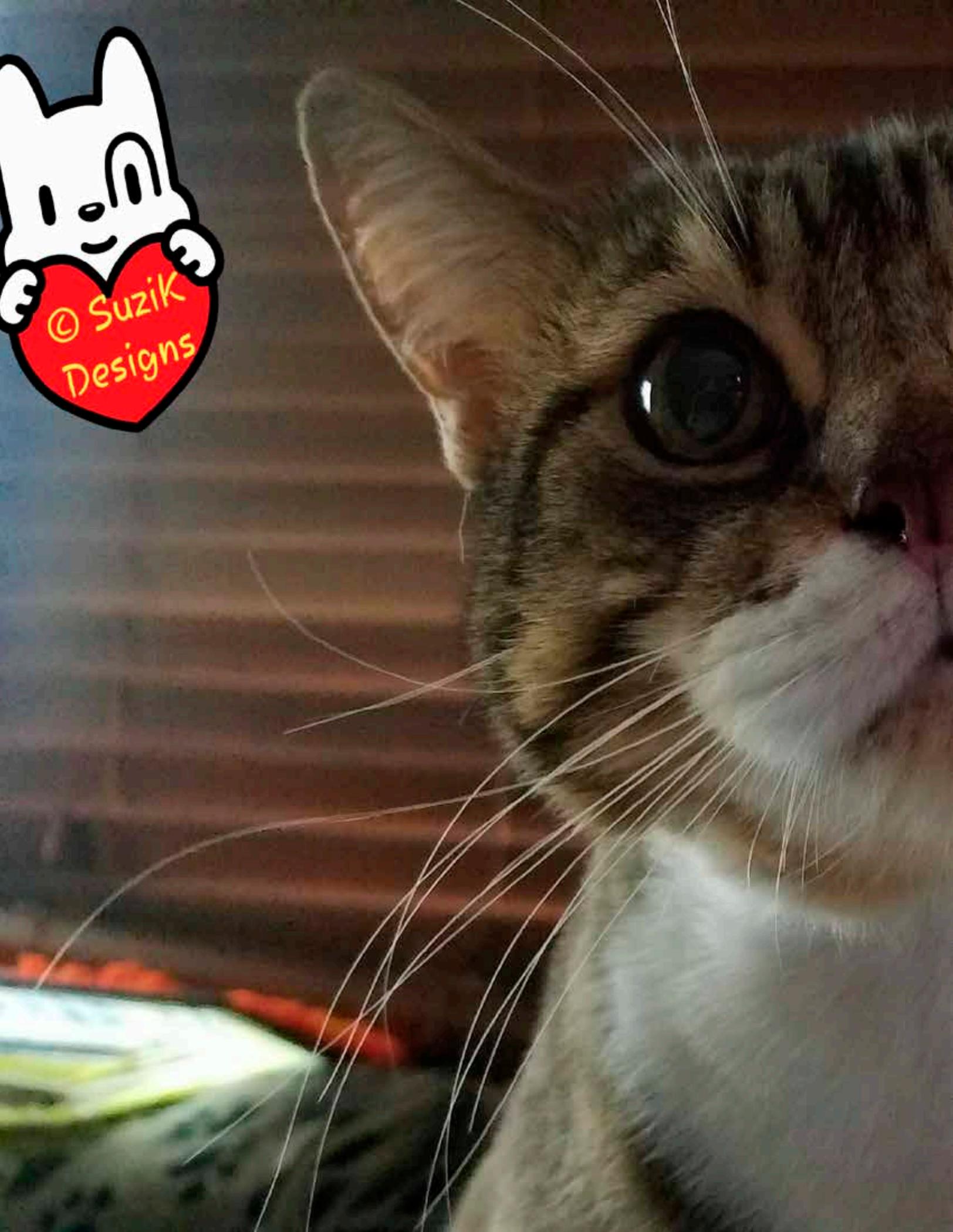


Websites: [FiveSibes.com](http://FiveSibes.com) ~and~ [PurpleDayEveryDay.org/Paws-4-Purple](http://PurpleDayEveryDay.org/Paws-4-Purple)  
FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews on Facebook \* @FiveSibesMom on Twitter  
Email: [FiveSibesLiveGibStrong@gmail.com](mailto:FiveSibesLiveGibStrong@gmail.com)

A special note of appreciation to Dr. Arnold Rugg, Founder, Kingston Animal Hospital

#Paws4Purple #LiveGibStrong







HeidiGirl says...  
Have an  
AmericanPet Day!

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



## **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](http://www.ezydog.com)  
Phone: 877-339-9364*

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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.



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### **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](http://www.ezydog.com). Also check out the company's leashes, collars and backpacks for dogs that love adventure!*

**FLASH** .. Memorials to be created for all kinds of animals. 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**

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***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.

# PET CELEBRATIONS

## April

- National Heartworm Awareness Month
- Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)
- National Pet Month
- National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- Pets Are Wonderful Month
- Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month
- 1-7 International Pooper Scooper Week
- 2 National Ferret Day [www.Ferret.org](http://www.Ferret.org)
- 8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
- 11 National Pet Day
- 14-20 National Pet ID Week
- 18 Pet Owners Independence Day [www.Wellcat.com](http://www.Wellcat.com)
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Sylvester the Cat's Birthday
- 26 Hairball Awareness Day
- 26 National Kids & Pets Day
- 27 Woody Woodpecker Day
- 27 Veterinary Day
- 28 International Guide Dog Day
- 30 National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

April 2nd is  
National Ferret Day

## May

- Microchip your Pet Month
- National Pet Month
- National Duckling Month
- International Respect for Chickens Month
- 4 International Respect for Chickens Day
- 3 National Disabled Pets Day
- 5-11 Be Kind to Animals Week [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)
- 5-11 National Pet Week [www.petweek.org](http://www.petweek.org)
- 6-12 Puppy Mill Action Week
- 11 Animal Disaster Preparedness Day
- 19-25 National Dog Bite Prevention Week
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 30 Hug your cat day (I do it EVERYDAY!)

## June

- Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month
- National Pet Preparedness Month
- Pet Appreciation Month
- 4 Hug your cat day (I do it EVERYDAY!)
- 10 World Pet Memorial Day
- 17-21 Take Your Pet to Work Week
- 21 Take Your Dog To Work Day

**KarpKatZ**

**Playground**



**8th Annual Animal Adoption Fair**  
[www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com](http://www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com)

DATE: April 28, 2019

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!

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[www.Animal-Aid.com](http://www.Animal-Aid.com)

a Non-Profit South Florida  
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**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



**HuMumMum Loves Pets  
Life is Grand with FurBabies  
The heart is joyful**

**~SuziK**



# Sleeping spots: shaking things up

*Written By  
Tracy Ahrens*

## **What funny locations have you found your pets sleeping in?**

New Year's Day, 2016 I was sitting on the living room floor surrounded by three big dog beds. My cat, Jack, was in a bed before me. My dog, Trucker, was in one behind me. When I looked to my right, I did a double take.

There curled up in a ball on the third bed, on a Snoopy motif fleece blanket, was my cat, Forest. While this may not seem like a big deal, this was a first for Forest.

Forest prefers to lie on his back, belly up in the open. Usually he stretches out on the floor in rooms or hallways so that I have to step over or around him.

This past summer I routinely found him lying upside down in a corner at the top of my stairs. When I placed a small flannel quilt there for him to lie on, he slowly lost interest in the location. I have found him in other favorite spots, such as stretched out against the wall beside my bed, upside down behind my nightstand, and for a time sandwiched between my open bathroom door and the wall.

If he is lying on my bed, he must be on top of my clean clothes or a blanket, or beside my pillow. My other pets like to be covered up with blankets. Not Forest. One touch of a blanket over his body and he will move to another spot to rest.

New Year's Day, Forest decided to curl up on the pillow-top dog bed as his brothers enjoyed resting on the other dog beds around me. I quickly took his picture to prove this sighting. This episode made me think of the funny behaviors dogs and cats have, changing up where they like to sleep or sit after months or years of resting in the same spots. The changes strike you so odd that you laugh or panic trying to find them.

Experts in feng shui (the ancient Chinese art of placement) say that both dogs and cats pick up on energy patterns that flow through a home. Dogs love positive energy while cats are drawn to negative energy. It's stated that cats can absorb negative energy in a spot and convert it into positive energy (see feng shui).

My mom has found her black cat, Pokey, sitting on top of her refrigerator. I recently spotted his orange eyes glowing as he sat in a pass-through from her kitchen to her dining area. We searched all over her house one day to find her cat, Tiger, only to discover him sleeping behind her sewing table.



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My dog, who is always within my site, disappeared one evening and I found him lying on a small rug in front of the front door on my porch.

A friend once found his Australian shepherd sleeping on his kitchen table when he came home. She is deaf, so he startled her when he walked up and touched her there.

An acquaintance on Facebook has found two of her pit bulls sitting or lying on her dining room table, sometimes with their butts strategically placed on a newspaper.

My senior cat, Joan, loves to scare me from time to time by vanishing in the house.



I always do a head count of my pets before I leave home, when I come home and before I go to bed. One day I came home and could not find Joan. I called her name, shook a jar of crunchy treats and received no response. I finally located her black and white body in the back of my bedroom closet, up against the wall sleeping so sound that I had to touch her to wake her. She has moved around lately to new sleeping locations. For months she was sleeping under my bed. Now she rests beside my pillow on my bed.

For several weeks she had a special hiding place – or “hidey hole” as my mom calls it – that put me and a friend into a frenzy trying to find her.

My first frenzied search led me to a small coat closet located in the back entryway of my home. The closet’s bi-fold door stands open several inches and Joan was sleeping on the floor behind a vaporizer humidifier machine box, between hanging coats. Her black fur camouflaged her well until she looked at me, flashing the white fur around her nose and up the center of her forehead. When my friend come over to babysit my pets, I forgot to tell him about Joan’s new hiding place. To make matters worse, my cat, Forest, decided to join her there because he was worried about the pet sitter’s presence.

My friend spent what seemed like eternity trying to find them both, exploring under furniture and in closets throughout the house. He informed me that the little “pooops” (to put it delicately) had him beside himself in worry until he found Joan on one side of the closet floor and Forest on the other. Both were peacefully resting with one leg stretched forward watching him pass by, hysterically calling their names.

Finding my pets sleeping in odd places makes me visualize the energy patterns flowing through my home. I have my cats to thank for acting as speed bumps to negative energy and converting it into positive.



Tracy Ahrens is a veteran journalist, author, artist and mom to three rescued cats and one dog. She shares her pet stories with several publications including Catster.com and Dogster.com. See her website at [www.tracyahrens.weebly.com](http://www.tracyahrens.weebly.com) and add her children’s book, “Sammy Sparrow’s First Flight,” to your collection. All proceeds help 10 humane organizations.

# Are You From Paradise, CA and Looking for Your Cat?



If you have been impacted by the recent wildfires in Paradise, California your cat may be waiting for you at the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center<sup>®</sup> located in nearby Marysville, California!



Every day, the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center<sup>®</sup> is rescuing cats from the aftermath of the 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest wildfire in California history. Over 250 cats have already come through their recovery center's doors and more are being rescued each day.

Visit the link below to view cats that have been located and are being cared for by the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center<sup>®</sup>.

<https://www.alleycat.org/take-action/are-you-from-paradise-ca-and-looking-for-your-cat/>

Click on the picture of a cat to view details, including the sex of the cat, weight, current location, and information about where the cat was found.

Please disregard the "age" listed for each cat, as it is incorrect.

#### 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](http://www.alleycat.org) and Alley Cat Allies is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube*

NOT RESPECTING A DOG  
FOR WHAT IT IS CAN EVEN  
LEAD TO THEM BEING KILLED  
FOR NO REASON!  
~TONY KNIGHT



A photo of me and some dingoes in a sanctuary in Australia. I used the same techniques that I use with domestic dogs and got great results - even the people that look after them every day couldn't believe how much they interacted with me :)

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

### How Many Chances Can One Dog Get?



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](http://www.bjtaylor.com)

The label "Unadoptable" was almost slapped onto my file. My rescuer and foster mom didn't know what to do with me. I couldn't seem to shake my myriad of issues. Then, they hired a behaviorist. For me? A dog? Yup, seems they didn't want to give up on me.

After working with that guy for a few months, I learned a few things. But it was hard, because I wanted to keep falling back into my old habits. Does that ever happen to you? I also learned how to manipulate the situation. If I wanted something, I could turn on the charm. I bet you know how to do that too.

But this one couple saw through me. I went to their home on a trial basis for adoption and did the charm thing by jumping right up onto the Dad Peep's lap. I let him pet me and say calm words to me. I had him eating out of my hand. Mom Peep, not so much. But they decided to give me an opportunity to prove myself. I was given two weeks probation. Or return to foster. I tried, I really tried, but the old me came out anyway.

So in her words, here's what Mom Peep learned, which she wrote about in the book that tells the story of the first year in my life with them. The book is called *Charlie Bear: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances*:

 Life isn't always easy. When you commit to something, there will be days it is incredibly hard. Hang in there.

 Love isn't all kisses and snuggles. Barking, biting, and growling will crop up just after you've had a lovely day of warmth and closeness.

 It's all about second, third, and fourth chances. Do you really want to give up on this dog that you (most of the time) love? Look for the good. Praise it. Repeat.

Mom Peep says to remember that rescue dogs really do want love, but they don't always know how to show it. A stubborn streak emerges, or fears make us rescue dogs snap. She says to always see beyond the behavior of the moment. Walking away is a good strategy, she says, to give both you and your incorrigible love-mutt a breather. Like a time-out for a toddler.

She is happy to say that I am still here with them. I'm one of the lucky ones. They love me to pieces, even when I still spin or throw a temper tantrum...yup, even at nine years young. I'm super thankful that Mom and Dad Peep have given me many, many second chances.

## *Woofs and Wiggles!*

# BEST 2019 in print

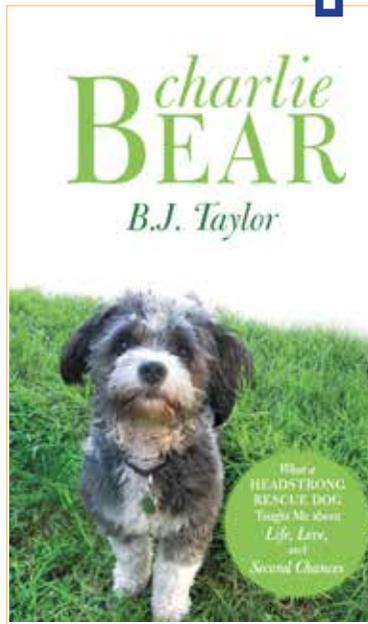
## **CHARLIE BEAR:**

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](http://www.bjtaylor.com)

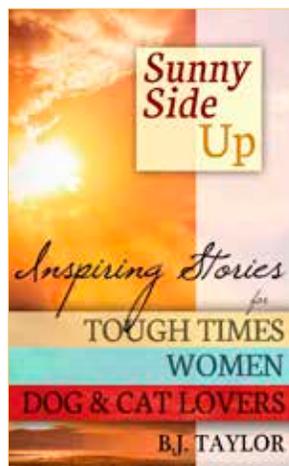
**Woofs to you from Charlie Bear!**

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.



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



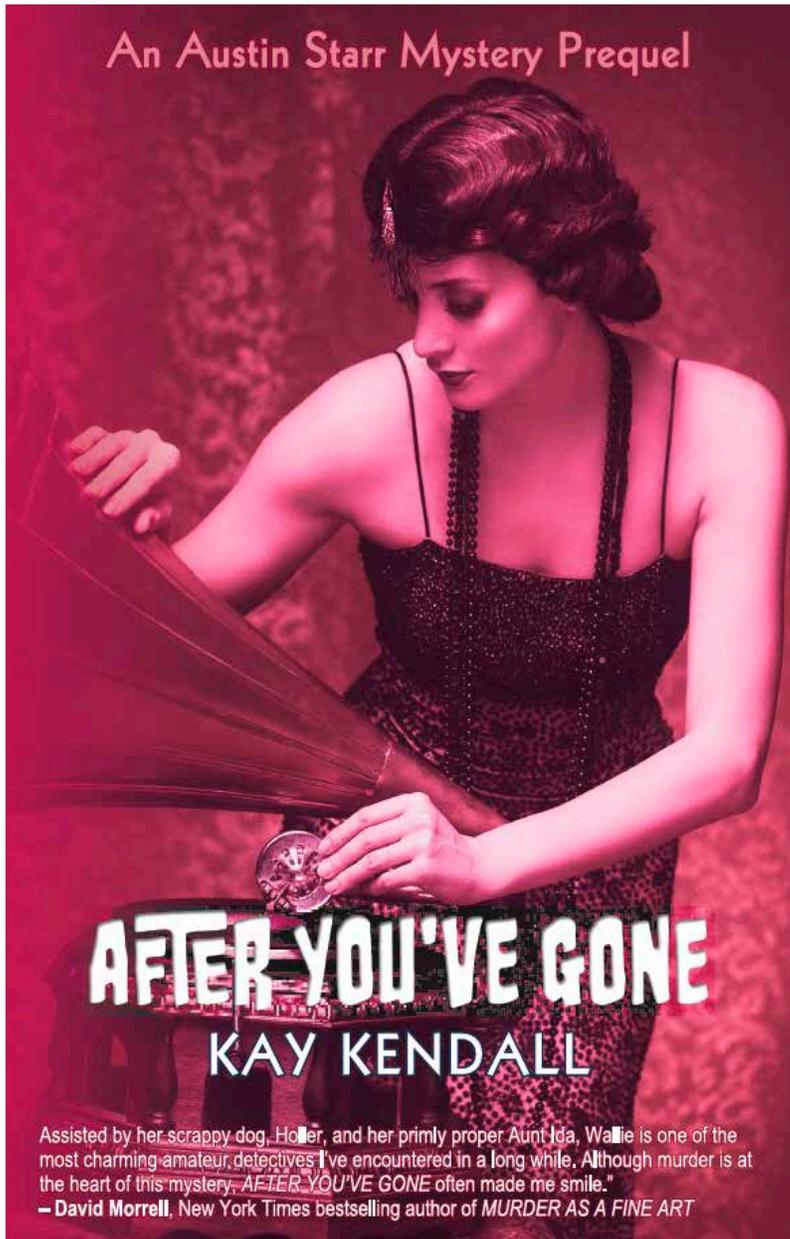
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**[www.ThePetMuseum.com](http://www.ThePetMuseum.com)**



[WWW.TITUSANDHAILEY.COM](http://WWW.TITUSANDHAILEY.COM)

# BEST 2019 in print



Kay Kendall is an award-winning author of three historical mysteries. Her second book, *RAINY DAY WOMEN* (2015), won for best mystery and best book at Killer Nashville in August 2016. It is the second in her Austin Starr mystery series. The first was *DESOLATION ROW* (2013), published by Stairway Press. *After You've Gone*, an Austin Starr prequel, was released February 12, 2019.

In her previous career, Kay was an award-winning international PR executive, working in the US, Canada, Russia, and Europe. She has graduate degrees in Russian history and was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar at Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Kay and her Canadian husband live in Houston, Texas. They've rescued abandoned pet bunnies for twenty years and currently have three rabbits and a bemused spaniel, Wills.

Buy links for *After You've Gone*:

Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/After-Youve-Gone-Mystery-Prequel/dp/1949267164/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmrnull\\_1?keywords=after+you%27ve+gone+kendall&qid=1550673530&s=gateway&sr=8-1-fkmrnull](https://www.amazon.com/After-Youve-Gone-Mystery-Prequel/dp/1949267164/ref=sr_1_fkmrnull_1?keywords=after+you%27ve+gone+kendall&qid=1550673530&s=gateway&sr=8-1-fkmrnull)

Barnes & Noble:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/after-youve-gone-kay-kendall/1130303178?ean=9781949267167>

# Artist Spotlight

## *'Woodpecker Ear Cleaning'*

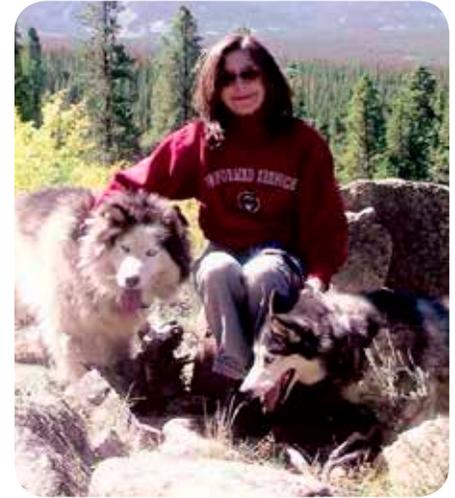
*It's my Papillon Service Dog, double exposed on a Saguaro Cactus with a Gila Woodpecker on it. All done by me, just in my camera, no editing.*

*I am paralyzed shoulders down, I hold the shutter cable in my mouth to take pictures. I have both these in landscape mode, but I cropped them to portrait mode.*

*~ Greg Wickenburg*

**Photo Credit:  
Greg Wickenburg**

# 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](http://www.JoanneSundell.com) and Amazon.com.

## Watch Eyes Trilogy, Book 2: Arctic Shadow

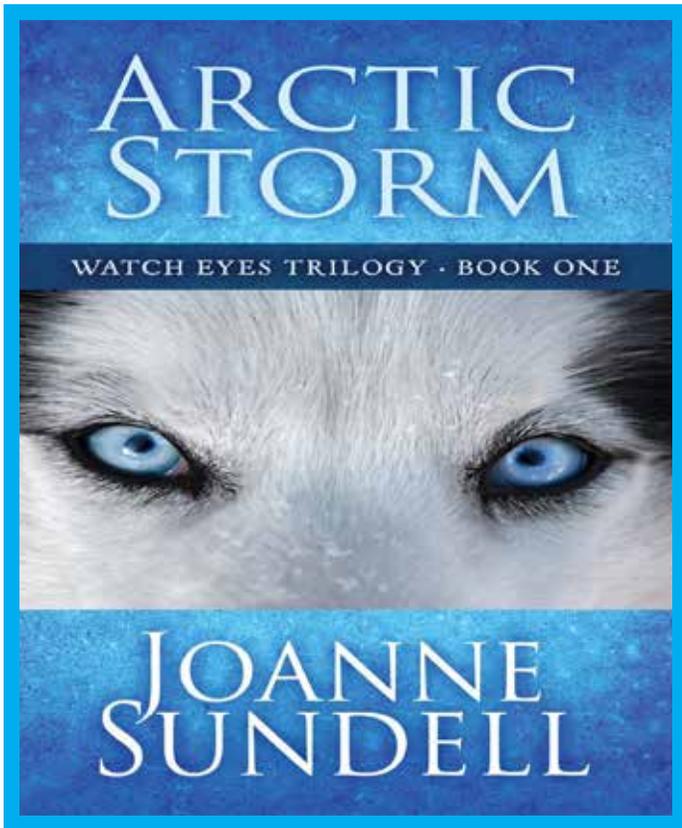
Written by Joanne Sundell

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](http://www.JoanneSundell.com) and Amazon.com

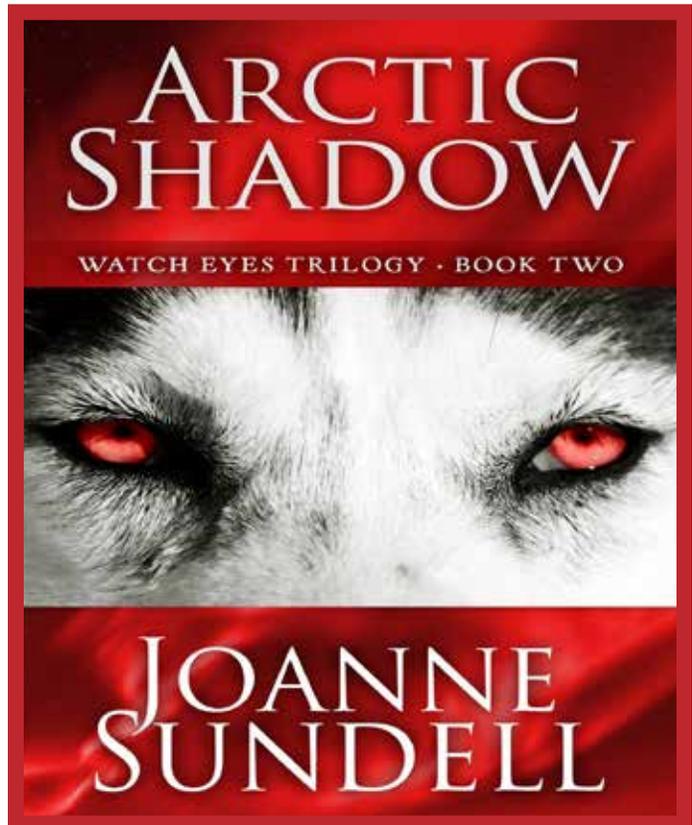
## Watch Eyes Trilogy, Book 3: Arctic Will

Written by Joanne Sundell

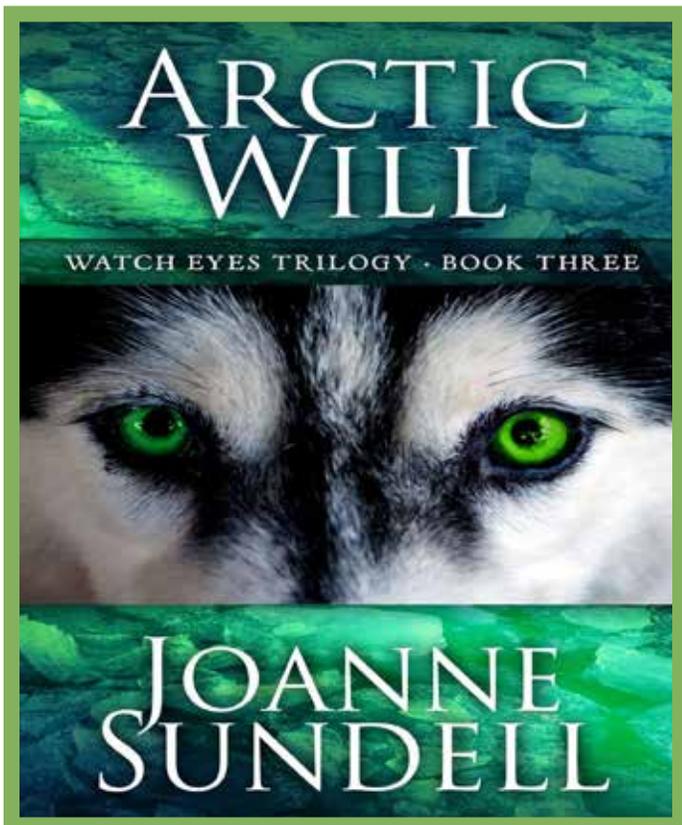
The Chukchi people of northeast Siberia, over thousands of years, wisely bred and developed the Siberian husky we know today. This work of fiction is set in the context of real events that took place in northeast Siberia and on the Alaskan frontier in the early decades of the twentieth century. Available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

# MEET THE KARP KATZ

AmericanPet

Thrift online:

[OfferUp.com/p/3217589](http://OfferUp.com/p/3217589)

HeidiGirl

OreoMan

PercyPrince

Karp Katz  
Rescue &  
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PeanutButter

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



# *PeanutButter* **PURRS**

**'PEANUTBUTTER'**

Photo by: SuziK©

Hi Everyone! It's official. HuMumMum is going to apply for a Non-Profit 501(3)(c) for us. Like it says on the cover, One Life at a Time..One Pet at a Time..One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters! We live by that and do as much as we can for others not so fortunate. HeidiGirl, PercyPrince, Oreoman, Feral MommaMary & myself are here in the sanctuary for life and have committed to our mission for rescuing our fellow furfriends to give them a chance in finding a forever home. In the past years we have helped 5 kitties & 3 big dogs, who were on death row. Also, helped in finding 4 dogs & 1 cat, who was missing for over 6 weeks. It looks like HuMumMum is becoming more of a professional in helping find Lost Pets. She says she will start to offer her services to help families whose furbabies have gone missing. Not everyone is well-versed on how to find a Lost Pet. I am grateful I stayed in the yard the two times, in 13 years, that I escaped from inside. ~PeanutButter 



Photo by:  
©SuziK Designs



**LIVING IN HER FUREVER HOME**

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

PURRS & MEOWS,  
*PeanutButter*  
**Have an**  
*AmericanPet*  
**Day!!**

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# DEBUNKING THE DEBUNKERS

*By Tony Knight  
Dog Listener*



## Why those who call pack theory outdated are themselves outdated.

I was once thrown off an on-line chat room for a dog behaviour group for posting the comment, “A good leader inspires trust, not fear.” I received a message from the President of the group, telling me categorically that there was no such thing as pack hierarchy. I pointed out the irony, considering that she was the President of a group.

After over 20 years as a Dog Listener, I am still often confronted online and in person with an outdated argument against my own “outdated” pack theory in dogs. When told that there is no such thing as pack theory in dogs, I often reply by asking if anyone has told dogs

that. The fact that the way I help people is kind, calm and – above all – works really well doesn’t seem to matter. Facts and evidence aren’t always appreciated (try showing a member of the Flat Earth society photos and films of the planet that they are standing on).

There is one fundamental flaw in the argument against pack. There is almost a universal belief among them that the Alpha, or pack leader, uses physical dominance and force to achieve that position. Unfortunately, this is not helped the other extreme of certain “trainers” who indeed use force and physical dominance to “show the dog who’s the boss.” Some of the films I have seen from these people are cringe worthy. These trainers are also mistaken in their belief that the Alpha uses force to achieve its position of authority. Have you ever worked for a bad boss? How much effort did you give them? How much respect did they get? How did you feel when you left?

Have you noticed that these trainers get bitten a lot? I wonder why?

Classically, the “evidence” touted by the anti-packers comes from a study of captive wolves in the 1970s. Any decade that makes parents think that dressing up their son in brown, corduroy dungarees is a good thing should be treated with suspicion (the trauma still lives on). One of the main arguments used to debunk this study is that the captivity of the wolves makes the findings null and void. However, what are dogs if not canines in captivity? If anything, it would make the findings more relevant, not less. Of course, over thousands of years, humans have genetically engineered canines to have lower levels of adrenalin (which also led to the accidental appearance of the first dog breeds). However, a dog’s language and instincts are still alive and well. These include the concept of a pack structure and a hierarchy of responsibility.

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This natural instinct of hierarchy is not only and well in dogs, but also in humans. Take for example my friend, the President of her dog behaviour group. I am sure that in that organisation there is also a secretary, treasurer, and maybe even other elected (a key word) members that make up the committee. Similarly, just like canines, humans are still tribal animals with a strong sense of territory. Do you support a sports team (and as a result hate a rival team)? Maybe you are proud of where you live. Perhaps you love, and would protect, your family. These are all perfectly natural instincts and part of our make-up to this day.

Secondly, the notion of leadership is all around us too (and not just in the case of our friend the dog group President) Monarchs, presidents and prime ministers are at the top of the tree in their countries. A good leader strives to make sure their compatriots succeed and flourish. Of course, there have been, and continue to be, certain individuals in charge that use force, but fortunately they are increasingly in the minority, and those of the past have been judged and often meet with a sticky end. However, the need for leadership is still imperative so we as humans can feel secure. France had its revolution to remove the monarchy, yet less than 20 years later they had an Emperor. On a smaller scale, parents are obviously above children when it comes to who is responsible. On a much larger scale, the ultimate hierarchy figure must be God. In fact, in certain beliefs, there is even a hierarchy among the gods themselves!

Here is the key difference between the belief of the debunkers and the reality of pack hierarchy. A good leader inspires trust, not fear. They are responsible for their group and it is their job to look after those in their care. This is essentially where those that argue against pack theory and the Alpha role make the mistake. They think that leaders use force, yet all around us there is evidence that the best leaders earn trust by example. That goes the same for both canines in Nature and those who live with us. A pack animal feels secure in a structure where they know their place. If nobody is there to be the decision maker, another must replace them.

As a Dog Listener, I know that the #1 reason why there are problem dogs is that they have been inadvertently given the role of leader of their family in our world, a world they do not understand. Little wonder that a lot of dogs out there have problems. The only thing they possess to help them even try to do this job is their instinct, which comes directly from their cousins and ancestors. My job is to show owners how to convince the dogs that they can trust the humans with this responsibility. This is done using no physical dominance or force. Neither does it use complicated gadgetry or drugs. Once you understand the way dogs communicate, you can give them the information in their language.

One final point – I have also heard it said that dogs know we are not like them physically, so it is ridiculous to think they would accept us as members of their pack. Have you ever seen a dog and cat from the same family get along? Conversely, have you ever seen what happens if that cat sees another dog and vice versa? Monty Roberts, also known as the Horse Whisperer, is the first to tell you that he is not a horse. However, he does know their language.

A quick look on social media is a very good reminder that extreme points of view pay little or no heed to facts and reality. In the case, of a dog's nature, neither extreme addresses the way that a dog actually thinks and behaves. It is obvious that pack structure is alive and well (even in human beings today). It is much wiser to accept this nature and use it to our advantage, rather than to deny it. Also, remember that being a good leader does not mean using force and dominance. People and dogs will follow someone they can trust, but that individual needs to earn that trust. Those who call pack theory “out-dated” – and those who think that using force works long-term - may need to update their own knowledge by actually taking a look around their immediate surroundings, rather than living in online chatrooms.



# *Interview with Lisa Watson; Executive Director Rescuer's Relief, Inc.*



Rescuer's Relief, Inc. was created to provide an opportunity for dedicated ferret rescuers to take a much needed respite.

I have been dedicated to the care of ferrets since 2004 when one little ferret changed my life forever.

Kodo (our first ferret) brought my daughter out of depression and saved my daughter's life. He gave me my daughter back, brought purpose to my life and expanded my world.

I am forever in his debt.

In 2005 I began repaying this debt by opening Wind & Willows Ferret Rescue in Fallon, Nevada. WWFR had rescued, rehomed, and provide a safe haven to nearly 300 ferrets before closing its doors.

In 2013 my focus changed due to several heart attacks and with some late night/deep thinking in a hospital bed.

Rescuer's Relief became 501c3 as of August 2013.  
We hit the road April 27th, 2014.

Currently I travel solo or with a ride along volunteer. Occasionally, we take care of the shelters, do fundraising, PR, etc. We have our volunteer Board of Directors that advise and pitch in many ways to ease the work load.

## **What is the purpose of the program and what do you do?**

Short answer : We are pet sitters for ferret shelters.

Long answer: We travel North America meeting, networking, and providing opportunities for respite to ferret rescuers.

No matter if they are "official" rescues or not.

Most ferret rescues are mom & pop operations run out of homes and on tight budgets. In fact, most receive no community funds and can't apply for aid. They manage on personal finances and perhaps help from friends. They dedicate themselves 24/7 because they LOVE ferrets and know someone has to be there when no one else is.



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**What did you have to give up?**

**(Jobs, health insurance, friends, pets, hobbies, and so on)**

I gave up a stress filled job with amazing FREE employer provided health insurance. Honestly, by year three I knew I had found my calling. However, it came at a cost. My husband and I realized this was not a happy life for him. We ended our 34 year marriage last summer.

**What have you gained?**

Confidence, friendships, a much shorter bucket list, respect of piers and a true sense of purpose.

**How do you keep things going financially?**

So far we have stuck to our budget pretty well. Monthly online auctions and fundraising campaigns have covered much of the related expenses. I created Rescuer's Relief, but the ferret community is what makes it possible.

**What have you learned from starting this organization?**

You can count on others and many times they will have your back but in the end the one you must turn to is yourself. Know your skills, know your limits, and above all else, ask for help when you need it.

# Rescuer's Relief, Inc

Lisa and Don's RV has become a symbol of "RELIEF" to so many shelter operators throughout the United States.



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### What do you like best about doing this type of work?

It's a toss up. While I love meeting and helping ferret people, it really is about the ferrets. I love dedicating my life to these amazing animals.

### In which states have you visited ferret rescues or ferret homes?

Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, West Virginia, Alabama, Idaho, New Jersey, Maryland, and recently, Ontario.



### How do you like to spend your down time?

A few times a year I take a bit of time off in each area to see the sights and smell the roses. I won't do anyone any good if I burn out.

### What do you want for the organization's future?

I want to be able to offer our services for longer at each stop and to be able to find a way to help take some of the burden off the shoulders of each rescue. We have recently begun a program we call The Ferret Fairy Fund. Our goal is to maintain this fund with enough in it to help restock supplies, pay down a vet bill, or provide for some type of other need at the shelters in need as we visit. We would love our visits to really reward the rescuers for a job well done.

Twitter ... Lisa Watson @rescuersrelief

Facebook ...<https://www.facebook.com/RescuersRelief>

*April 2nd is  
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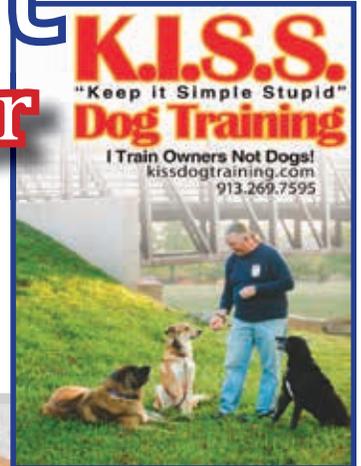
**‘Boots’**  
A rescue of  
Dawn Eves

# 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. ~Mike Deathe

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# “Bellin” A Pet Partners® Registered Pet Therapist

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upcoming Therapy Dog issue  
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“Bellin was rescued in 2011, a survivor of severe cruelty. It would take a long time for him to heal, to trust, to love. After significant rehabilitation, Bellin would go on to achieve his Pet Partners® Therapy Registration. For the last six years, Bellin has compiled 500 official visits, bringing love and comfort with children in crisis all over San Antonio, Texas. Specializing in the fields of abuse and grief recovery, Bellin gives back what he, himself, received.”

~Steve & Kassia Fontenot,  
Bellin's Hu-Parents and Handlers

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