

American Pet

#AllPets

Magazine™

2019 SUMMER

Dogs,
Cats,
Ferrets,
Parrots,
Rabbits,
Guinea Pigs
Chickens,
Horses,
& More

National Pet
Memorial Day

Sept 8th
RIP all our beloved

BEST
2019
in print

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

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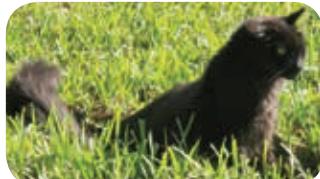
American Pet Magazine™

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The Publisher's Note

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#YourShareMatters #AllPets

Our mission is to Educate & Entertain while being a Voice for the Voiceless. 100% of Sponsorship, Donations, Fundraisers, etc goes for the AmericanPet Rescue (Medical, Healthcare, other expenses) & the mission of AmericanPet Magazine™

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One Day at a Time, Your Voice Matters!*

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Have an AmericanPet Day!!

Thank you again and
HAPPY READING!

#Meow #Woof

#Rescue #Adopt #Foster
#NoKill #FureverHome



SUZI
KARP

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A percentage of proceeds are 'paid forward' to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.

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*On the Cover
PeanutButter
& PercyPrince*
Photograph by
SuziK Designs



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BEST
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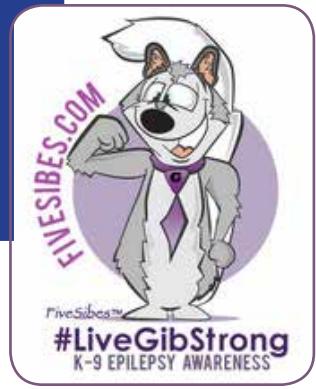


PHOTO: GYPSYPRINCE KARP

RIP 3/25/1995 - 6/29/2013

18.5 YRS OLD

PHOTOGRAPHER: ©SUZIK

OCTOBER 29th
NATIONAL CAT DAY

NOVEMBER 17th
NATIONAL BLACK
CAT DAY



GypsyPrince Travels

Written by Suzi Karp



As I laid in bed last night, I realized that every day since June 29th I have felt a huge hole in my heart for my GypsyPrince. His strength and soul inspired the idea of AmericanPet Magazine™ and the past 17 years have been an incredible journey with this special feline. Our amazing connection and newly discovered mission is well on its way to creating so much good in helping other pets in need.

GypsyPrince was ‘left for dead’ when he was a kitten. It’s the old story of how a person leaves the neighbor 2 cats, twenty dollars and a promise to be in touch soon. Well, he wasn’t taken care by his pet sitter and his ‘owner’ did not reappear until many, many months after he found a new home that loved him immensely. There is a longer story about how GypsyPrince ultimately stayed FOREVER HOME with me but that is for another time. We belonged in each other’s lives and we let nothing get in the way.

His name came very natural. Gypsy was a wanderer. He wandered the neighborhood and through the alleys. He wandered into my yard everyday for 6 months. It was then that he had a nasty fight and was tore up bad. It became very apparent that he was to fend for himself so I took him to the vet. I was told if he received medical care any later he would have died.

Being rescued by this black beauty changed my life forever. He became the Prince of the house as he and I bonded. We traveled across several state lines together on many occasions via airplane and vehicle. We spent nights at other peoples homes. He seemed to love his new life and was confident that he owned me. GypsyPrince had me wrapped around his finger. There is a phrase defining how he ‘ran’ my life but I don’t want to offend anyone.

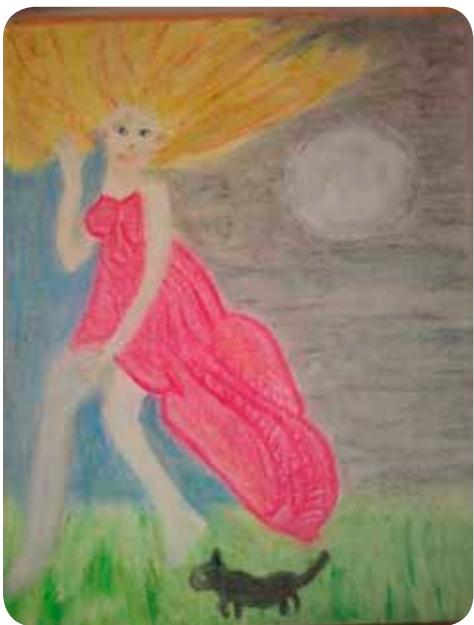
He was always under my watchful eye due to various medical issues throughout the years, diagnosed with ‘equivocal to FIV’ shortly after he came into my life. Later his vet suggested we make him a princess because he had Cystitis. I didn’t want him to go through surgery for fear of losing him. We learned how to keep the reoccurring issues under control.



Together we concurred some major hurdles. In October 2010 he was rushed to a specialist and was given less than one year to live. Right then our lives change drastically, which allowed us to spend a lot of time together. The ‘in-home hospice’ care that he received from me blessed us with 3 more years filled of Unconditional Love and Life!

GypsyPrince: stray at 1 year old

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GypsyPrince
& Me

I want to commemorate GypsyPrince for all the years he put up with being in the camera's eye. Photography is my interest and he became more of an easy target as I updated and learned new equipment every few years. Eighteen years of videos filled with his presence and well over 11,000 still shots. Great Memories & Fun!

GypsyPrince was just over 18 years old when I was sitting with him and all of a sudden he spoke to me in a different tone than usual and then it happened. His body locked up for what seemed like a lifetime. I knew then what he was telling me and it broke my heart. It was the most difficult decision to ever make for me ... to have him put to rest. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge on June 29th, 2013. It was a devastating time for both myself and PeanutButter. We were all still mourning our MissKitty, who passed 7 weeks before.

Of all the stories I have heard, I had never heard of a cat that had THREE soul mates during his life. PrettyBoy, MonkeyChow and PeanutButter, respectively. He survived his older 'siblings', AmeliaEarhardt, TabithaWitch, ChillAnn and ThrasherMan and his younger 'siblings', PrettyBoy, MonkeyChow and MissKitty. He is survived by PeanutButter. PeanutButter was the 'Cat's Kitten' meaning he 'belonged' to GypsyPrince, who was 11 years his senior.



His life brought meaning to my life (& many others) and for that I am so grateful! My heart has been touched like never before. He was 'The One' for me. My GypsyPrince, my most faithful companion, 'traveled' beside me for all those years in a way that no one else has. He will continue to travel for AmericanPet Magazine from across the Rainbow Bridge to help bring meaning to others lives. I hope you hear him ROAR as you join our cause!! ~



GypsyPrince moved in :-)

Featured Guest:
Suzi Karp, Owner/Editor, AmericanPet Magazine™

THE SiBE ViBE

January 2019

ON AIR

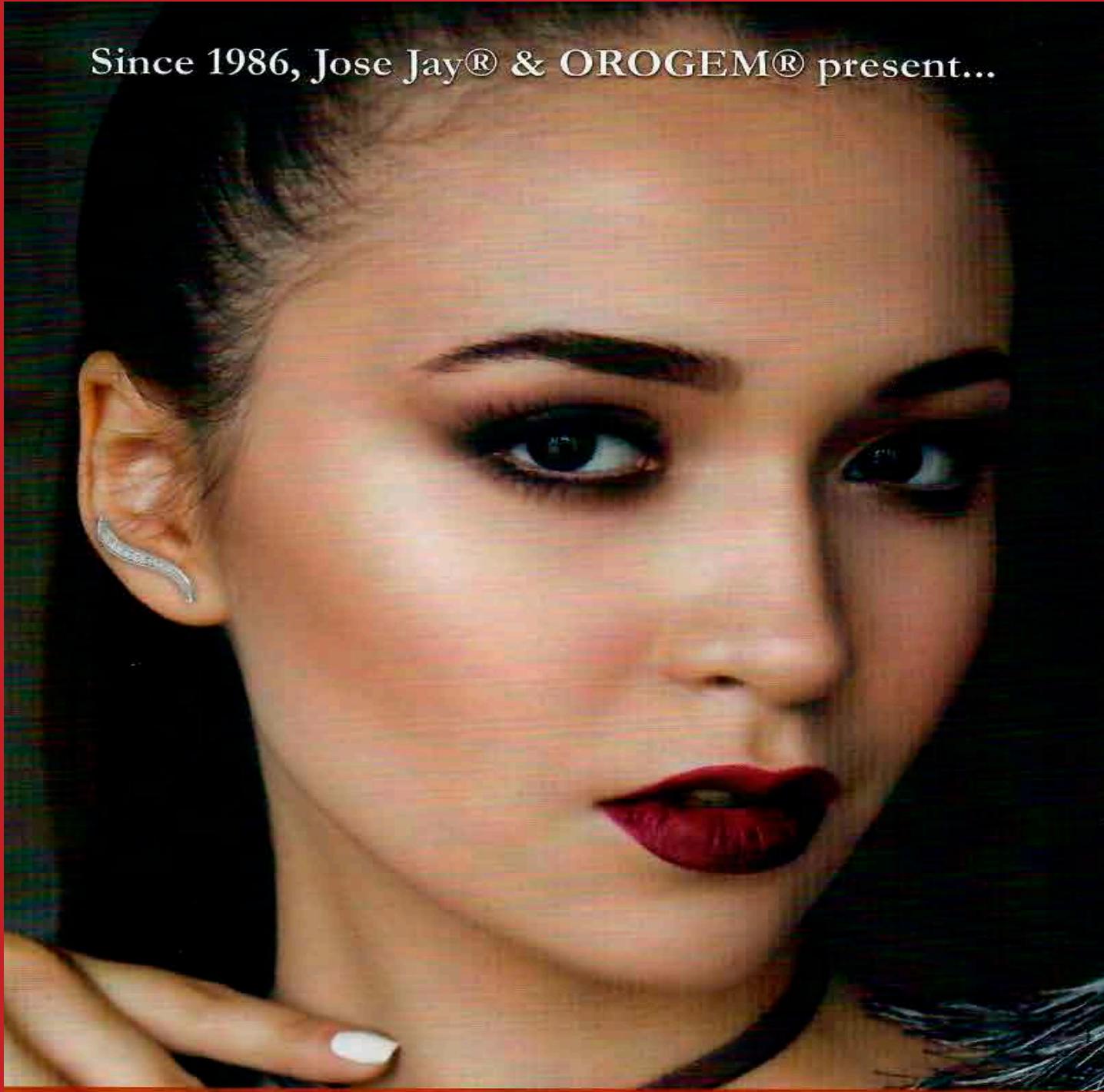


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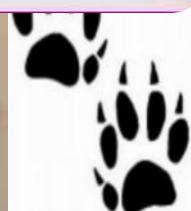
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Learn more about the American Ferret Association's Color and Pattern Standards at:

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

- 1- Jennifer Larsen's GFX's Chaos (Black Roan Mitt)
- 2- Morgan Tangren's Gwendolyn (Sable)
- 3- Lynn Toole's Augustus of THHG (Panda)
- 4- Morgan Tangren's Penelope (Roan)
- 5- Robin Landes' JBF's Karu (Black Sable)
- 6- Vickie McKimmey's JBF's Lolita (Dark Eyed White)
- 7- Vickie McKimmey's JBF's Cocobodo (Chocolate)
- 8- Yu-ri Luke Bando's Free Verse (Champagne)
- 9- Ruth Heller's General Quarters of RN (Blaze)
- 10- Vickie McKimmey's PFH's Abbi of JBF (Albino)

Pets: True Life Changers

Written by Christina Bournias

We believe in the quality of our pet's life and we change their lives every day. As pet caretakers, we have a responsibility to keep our pets happy and safe in every stage of their life.

Starting from day one, the commitment to change your pet's life is very real. From the moment you hold your pet for the first time, you change their life.

How Do You Change A Pet's Life?

1. Provide food and shelter.

When you own a pet for keeps, you promise to provide essential necessities and continue to care for them throughout all stages of their life. Pet parents and animal lovers do everything it takes to keep their animals safe and happy. And, you try your best to keep them healthy and well adjusted in their environment.

2. Love them like they love you.

Love comes naturally to true pet parents. You adore your pet and put up with their quirks. Even when they misbehave, we all seem to forgive them. Our pets do a spectacular job at teaching us forgiveness with unconditional love.

"I'm furious! Wilber is a little stinker, he chewed the corner of the couch today. But, when I look at his face, I melt all over again." —Virginia B.

3. Invite them into your home and make them family.

Our pets are not just animals. They're more than 'just a cat' or 'just a dog.' They're members of our families. Their cute expressions show us their personality and keep us entertained.

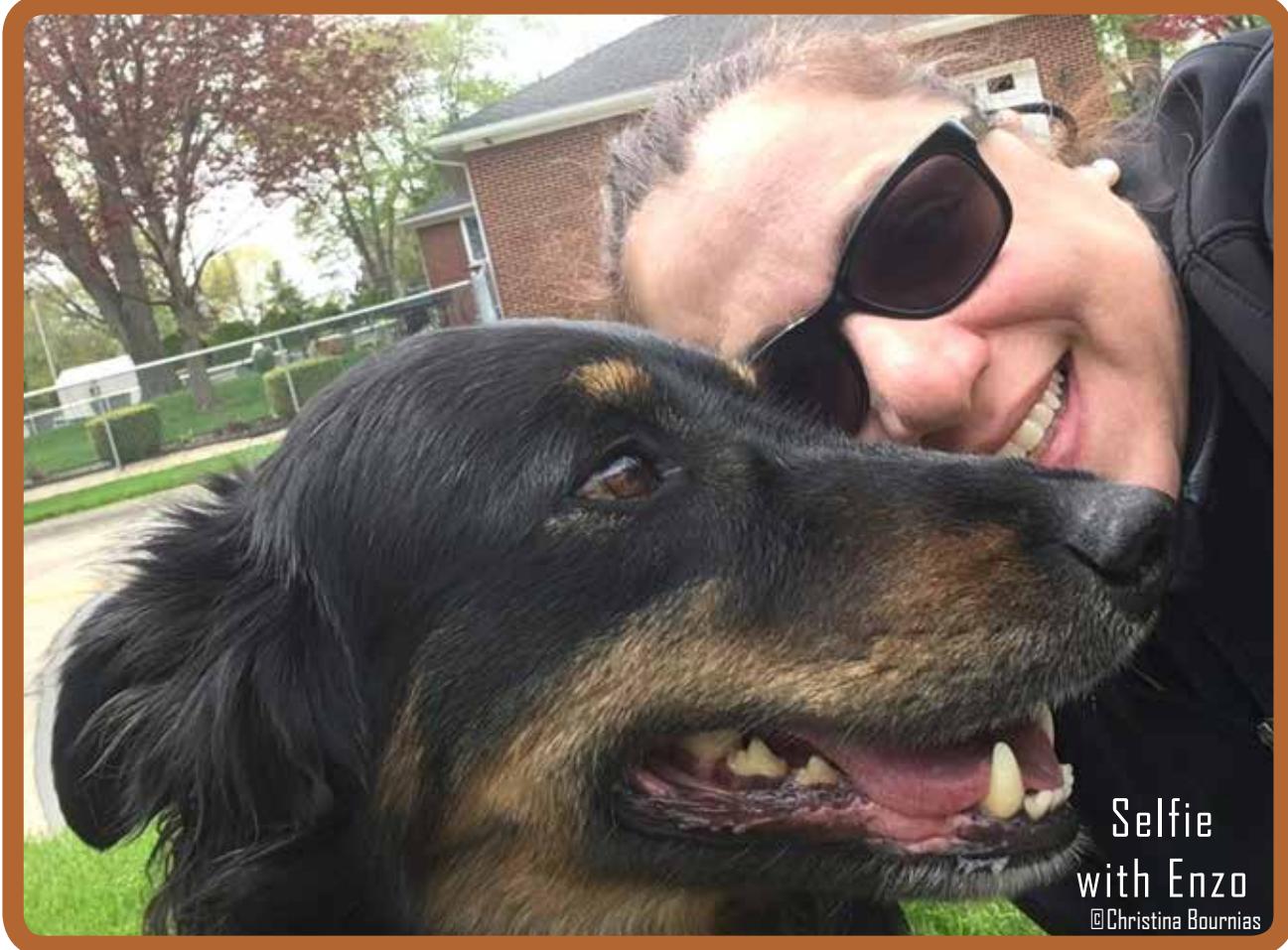
"Dogs make more facial movements when a human is paying attention to them...What was thought by the team before was that animal facial expressions were unconscious. However, studies show that dogs raise their eyebrows and even make their eyes bigger when they are trying to get attention from their owners or a person." —iheartwild.com, Scientific Reports Journal

4. Work with them.

You stimulate your pet's mind by teaching them tricks and attending training classes. Puppy school is fun, but training is not only for obedience.

Signed up for a class can help build trust and mutual respect at any age of your pet's life. Training classes give you a chance to build a healthy bond.

...Continued on Next Page



Selfie
with Enzo
© Christina Bournias

“Let your pet think through each command. Try to avoid getting excited when your dog begins to understand and perform your desired trick. Squealing and rewarding too soon can distract them, causing lost concentration and missed connections. Allow Fido enough time to figure it out for themselves first. Your dog wants to please you. You just need to show them how. Allow them the chance to succeed.” —Chris B.

When class is complete, be sure to take time to play. Play time will bring joy into their lives.

5. Exercise together.

Your pet is your running partner, your friend—your confidant. Make the time to walk with them. Really enjoy walks and talk with them throughout the stroll. You may even have a favorite beach or dog-friendly park where they can properly socialize.

Many pet parents take their pets to their favorite daycare where they can exercise their social skills and keep an active body—and mind. Find a place that’s friendly, clean, and safe. Daycare and boarding allows your dog or cat to be themselves in a fun, different environment. Just be sure to look for pet caregivers who take caring for your pets as seriously as you do.

6. Polish their appearance.

A clean, shiny coat and bright brushed teeth keep your pet happy and healthy. Whether you have a cat, a dog, or a hamster, good hygiene and grooming is a large part of proper pet ownership.

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7. Spoil them with lots of toys and treats. (Ok, this is extra.)

Your pet means the world to you. You treat them like you would like to be treated. Even if your pet has “enough” toys, we change our pet’s life by showering them with gifts. Toys and more toys.

There always seems to be that one more teddy bear that they’d like to snuggle up with, or a new crazy piggy squeaky toy to try out. Oh, and what about more crunchy cookies to eat or irresistible chewy bones to nibble on?

Yes, we change their lives alright. You walk into a pet store with a dog and a leash, and you leave with at least two more toys!

Our Pet Changes Our Life Too

 Pets love with no limits.

They love you unconditionally and keep loving you. Your pet sets no conditions on how or when to love. They just love.

 When a pet needs you, it changes your outlook on life in general.

Because of this kind of bond, you tend to care more about other creatures in the world. You have compassion for human beings and animals alike. When your pet relies on you for everything, you’re his or her whole world! Isn’t that a nice feeling?

 Pets make us happy.

Really happy. Your pet doesn’t take itself too seriously either. They live in the moment. If they do have an off day, they get over it—quick. And will greet you with a wagging tail if you have a bad day.

Changing Lives Goes Both Ways

You’re the pet parent who will be with them from the start—and sadly, when you must say good-bye. This lifespan of love changes your pet’s life and their perception of the world. Their world is brighter with you in it, and your world is much more interesting with them around. ~

**So, go ahead, keeping changing more lives.
Your pets love you for it.**

Resources: <http://ihearthewild.com> ; <https://www.bestfriendspetcare.com>

#####

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.”**

**National
Dog Week
Sep 22-28**



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

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Cooper the Pooper



God just gained another Angel ❤️🐰❤️ Rest In Peace my beautiful boy, you brought us so much love and joy. You taught us what true love really is and taught me so much, you opened so many doors for me and brought so many wonderful people into our lives. Thank you for allowing me to share your journey with you. I love you Cooper to the moon & back ❤️



Andrea
& Cooper

COOPER THE POOPER

His name was Cooper
And he was a pooper
With two little ears.
He was beautiful for me!
Now he's in heaven,
He was always an angel
And forever we'll miss
A bunny like this.



@COOPERTHEPOOPER

The original Cooper the Pooper

Personal Blog

Cooper | Est. 2009 | 2lb. Netherland Dwarf

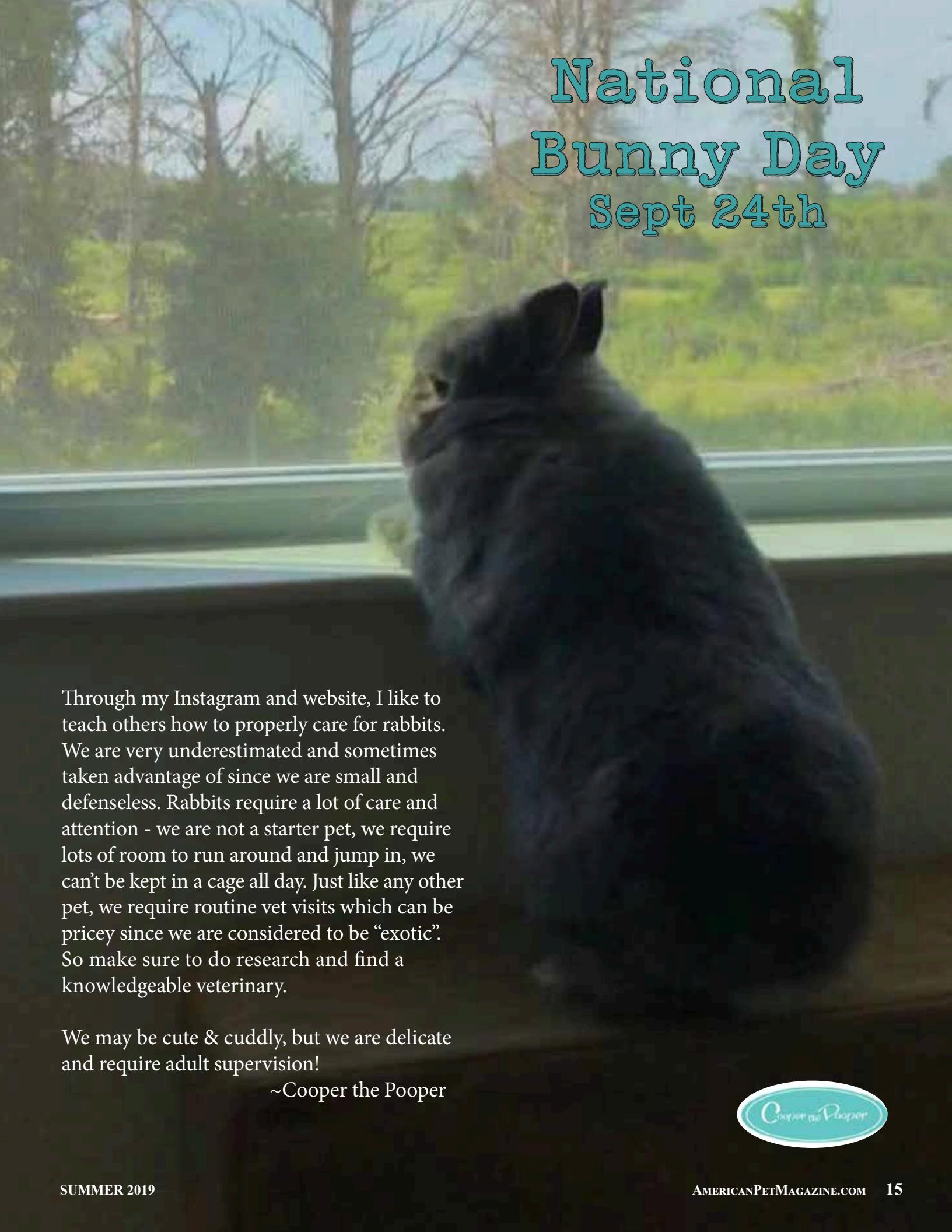
Promoting rabbit welfare

Orlando, Florida

Learn more

cooperthepooper.com





National Bunny Day Sept 24th

Through my Instagram and website, I like to teach others how to properly care for rabbits. We are very underestimated and sometimes taken advantage of since we are small and defenseless. Rabbits require a lot of care and attention - we are not a starter pet, we require lots of room to run around and jump in, we can't be kept in a cage all day. Just like any other pet, we require routine vet visits which can be pricey since we are considered to be "exotic". So make sure to do research and find a knowledgeable veterinary.

We may be cute & cuddly, but we are delicate and require adult supervision!

~Cooper the Pooper



It Takes a Village to Help Huskies in Need

Written By
Dorothy Wills-Raftery

Author Jennifer Skiff stated, "Dogs, for a reason that can only be described as divine, have the ability to forgive, let go of the past, and live each day joyously." No truer words

have been spoken, especially for dogs that have been rescued from neglect, abuse, and abandonment.

#BreedEducate2Relate is my new FiveSibes™ initiative to help keep dogs out of shelters by helping to spread the word about first educating oneself on the traits and needs of the Siberian Husky, or any other breed, BEFORE bringing one home to ensure it is the right breed for you and your family so the dog will be a loved, FOREVER member of your family.

People are instantly drawn to the Siberian Husky's stunning beauty. From their beautiful eyes—ranging from startling icy blue to striking amber, and beautiful brown to mesmerizing green. Some Siberian Huskies have almost mystical eye colors called bi- or parti-eyes, meaning either each eye is a different color, or a splattering of one color is splayed across another color, giving the eyes an almost marble-like artistic look. To look into a Husky's eyes is to certainly fall in love!

a Popular Dog

Then there is that silky, fluffy, sometimes wooly double coat of many colors that have caught many an eye.

Once the rulers of snow, these dogs are landlubbers, too! Whether pulling sleds across snowy terrain or leading bikes urban mushing across dry land, dockdiving, showing, hiking up a hill, or simply being a loving and goofy family member, these dogs are full of personality, mischief, and love. They are so much more than their stunning beauty!

Siberian Huskies (also referred to as Huskies and Sibes) have grown in popularity as they star in TV shows, movies, and in product and auto-mobile commercials, bringing these stunning dogs right into everyone's living room and amping up the desire to get one. This creates a widespread issue of these beautiful dogs being

purchased, and then abandoned when folks who are uneducated on the breed's needs and traits, find out all too soon the dogs are "too much" dog to handle, and then just as quickly as the whim to get one, they dump the Husky. This not only makes the unsuspecting Husky wonder what it did (that wasn't in its nature) to suddenly be abandoned and family-less, but it also adds to an already overcrowding of Huskies in shelters, many that are high kill shelters due to the ridiculous number of dogs being either abandoned or owner-surrendered.

Check out website <https://FiveSibes.com> for lots of info including "All About the Breed" & "Rescue" Links!



"Wooly" Siberian Husky Gibson of the FiveSibes

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Many times people mistake the Siberian Husky as a wolf. Siberian Huskies are not wolves. We have all seen the beautiful Siberian Husky on TV; some mistakenly portrayed as “direwolves,” which are based upon the now extinct real dire wolf, a species whose scientific name is *canis dirus* meaning “fearsome dog.” With direwolves starring in the very popular television series Game of Thrones, the number of Huskies purchased because of their resemblance, and then abandoned has skyrocketed. Siberian Huskies are not direwolves.

Whatever first attracts people to the stunning Sibe, whether they see one on TV or in an ad or even their neighbor walking one, the result is the same—they think they just “have to have” or “need” one.

Until they don’t.

Then these gorgeous “must have” dogs are suddenly surrendered to a shelter or worse, dumped and abandoned, all because folks did not do their homework on the breed and their specific needs, which is easily discovered by a few clicks on the computer to any registered Siberian Husky rescue, the American Kennel Club, reputable Sibe breeder, and the Siberian Husky Club of America that all have an educational page on the traits and needs of a Siberian Husky.



Buddy, the Christmas Husky: From abandoned and abused to rescued, fostered & loved for life.

Sadly, the numbers of abandoned or “dumped” Siberian Huskies have exploded in population at shelters and resulting in rescues being so overloaded. Rescues work against the clock in some cases to help save Huskies from high kill shelters, puppy mills, owner-surrenders (for a myriad of reasons), or found abandoned—all because of their natural habits, which are widely disclosed and written about so there should be no surprise there. Unfortunately, people do not take the time to find out what the specific needs are for this beautiful breed before they get one. And quite honestly, no matter the breed, people absolutely need to research the breed’s needs, quirks, traits, possible genetic health issues, etc., to be sure the dog is a good fit and becomes a FOREVER family member.

Talk to any of the hard-working, Siberian Husky-loving rescue folks, and they will tell you that these beautiful dogs, along with their equally beautiful cousins the Alaskan Malamutes, are being abandoned at alarming rates. So much so, that rescues are not only in dire need of adoptive families, but also foster families, to help save as many as they can who have been abandoned by their families to high kill shelters, or worse, just set loose. Some of these Siberian Huskies who are rescued have medical issues that have arisen from being poorly cared for or neglected, to some who even require emergency surgery from injuries that were never tended to.

A rescue not only takes in the dog, but they also work to evaluate the dog, have a veterinarian check, and see to any necessary medical attention. They then work with the dog to rehabilitate and help the Husky readjust to life outside of the scary, stressful pound they quite suddenly found themselves in.

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Homeless Huskies Have Become An Issue Of Epidemic Proportions...

“Siberian Huskies are the cutest puppies and grow into gorgeous adults, but looks aren’t everything!” says Shari Baillargeon, also known as “Mama Shay” in the Husky rescue world, and a forever foster mom who says all of her Huskies chose her to be their advocate! Known for her Facebook page Buddy, the Christmas Husky (www.facebook.com/BuddyTheHusky), named after the famous now furangel Buddy (pictured above in the banner showing his poor condition when found, to his beautiful condition after Shari’s care). Buddy was rescued from being abandoned and abused (and also the star of his own book I wrote called Buddy, the Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Miracle about his journey from abandoned and abused to rescued and loved).

Buddy was featured in American Pet Magazine (www.americanpetmagazine.com - Issue #9)



Shari, who volunteers with MUSH Rescue of Atlanta, GA (www.mushrescue.com) is currently fostering 10 dogs, many with special needs, and she understands Huskies. “So many people do not research the breed and understand what their needs are. They are also pack animals and most do better when they are in a home with another Husky or similar sized dog. You become part of their pack and they expect to spend time with you and the family. They are happiest when they are with you, whether it is hiking or just watching a movie.”

Shari also notes that potential Husky families really need to understand that these dogs are, “a very high energy breed that needs to be stimulated daily to stay out of trouble. They are well known for their ability to escape confinement and will travel for miles in a short period of time. They can be very destructive if they are bored. They will chew up things, dig holes like you have never seen a dog dig before, and totally re-vamp your landscaping to meet their specifications. I like to say that everything in and out of my home has been ‘modified Siberian style.’ Not knowing what a Siberian Husky’s traits and needs are before purchasing them is what puts so many into our shelter and rescue system.”

Steph Konz, executive director of Taysia Blue Rescue (www.taysiablue.com) in Nebraska that rescues both Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes states, “Huskies and Malamutes are independent thinkers, therefore, most of them will decide if it’s worth it to them (treats or attention) to listen, unlike some other breeds that just want to please their person/people. We do breed education for first time owners, which is super important, and we are a life long resource for the adopter. We never want our adopters to feel like we adopted a dog to them and disappeared.”

Warm-Weather Sibes Need Homes, Too

When one thinks of a Siberian Husky, an image of a beautiful furry sled dog running across a snow-covered field may spring to mind. But, Huskies are also very popular in the warm climate areas as well. “Huskies can certainly deal with the Florida weather!” states Janet C., the social media coordinator for Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc. (SHRF at www.siberrescue.com) who has been a Siberian Husky mom herself, and has been working in rescue since 2005.

“You should have the same level of commitment to your dog as you do to your child or grandchild.”
~Janet C., Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.

Janet emphasizes the need for people to educate themselves on the breed prior to bringing a Husky home. “We have people who get a Husky because the dog is cute, and they always wanted a Husky. They need to know that this is a working breed. A bored Husky can be very destructive.” If the Husky does begin to get destructive, “they are not getting enough physical or mental stimulation,” explains Janet, who depending on the issue, recommends getting a behavior specialist and/or a trainer. “Someone who knows the breed. You WANT to keep the dog. That is the most important thing; to keep your family member. What are you going to do when your kids are acting up? You should have the same level of commitment to your dog as you do to your child or grandchild.” ...Continued on Next Page

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"We have an education section. People need to read...and ask questions. Sometimes what people are seeing is typical Husky behavior and they should have known that BEFORE getting the dog." Janet also emphasizes some additional points: "These dogs cannot be off-leash in an unfenced area." And, "you've got to know you have enough money should your dog develop a health issue (such as cancer, epilepsy, CCL injuries, etc). Whatever you do for your child, you should do for your dog."

Beware of Hollywood "Huskies"

According to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals-www.peta.org), the rescues in the United Kingdom, since Game of Thrones originally aired 8 years ago, has seen a shocking "420% increase in the number of homeless Huskies." Four-Hundred and Twenty percent! And that is in the UK alone!

Game of Thrones actor Jerome Flynn ("Bronn") has even stepped forward to encourage people to not buy Huskies, but rather adopt one from a local shelter. See his YouTube video at: <https://youtu.be/8MqhGXxGX3M>

Flynn's Game of Thrones co-star Peter Dinklage ("Tyrion Lannister") has also partnered with PETA and back in 2017 he sent out an urgent plea to save Husky pups after fans were intrigued by the show's direwolves and as a result, bought Huskies without doing their research, which only drove up the number of Siberian Huskies eventually being dumped. Stated Dinklage, "Please, please, please. If you are going to bring a dog into your family, make sure you that you are prepared for such a tremendous responsibility and remember to always, ALWAYS, adopt from a shelter."

The Struggle is Real

Rescues are struggling to save as many homeless Huskies from shelters and animal control centers, and many are "high kill" shelters and the need to help these dogs is truly a critical race against the clock.

Janet says their rescued Huskies in Florida usually come from kill shelters. "They get our first priority for foster homes. We can't save them fast enough."

According to PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals), the rescues in the United Kingdom, since Game of Thrones originally aired 8 years ago, there has been a shocking "420% increase in the number of homeless Huskies."

Excuses, Excuses

With the rise in popularity of Siberian Huskies, the numbers in need of rescue have also risen exponentially, and rescues simply cannot keep up with huge number of these healthy, beautiful dogs who are being "owner-surrendered" or simply put, dumped—because, why? A myriad of excuses, such as:

"I didn't realize s/he would be so destructive and eat my sofa." · "My Husky is crazy. Went after my little cat." · "I walk my Husky every day on a leash for at least 10 minutes, and all s/he wants to do is break out of my yard and run." · "My Husky jumped my yard fence and chased my neighbor's chickens." · "S/he dug up all my plants and escaped under the fence."

And the reasons just keep piling up. Every single one of these abandonment excuses could have been avoided had the people simply done their homework on the breed! And then there are the ridiculous excuses:

"I'm allergic." · "I'm moving and can't/don't want to take my Husky to the new place." · "I'm having a baby." · "I want a different dog." · "My Husky is old now."

All things to consider BEFORE welcoming a Siberian Husky into your home.

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“The Siberian Husky is an exceptional breed. They are extremely intelligent, athletic, attractive, and incredibly goofy. We know they aren’t for everyone, but those who accept them for who they are and understand their needs find that they are the most loving and devoted dogs.” ~Jodi Klein, Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue

Education is Key

“Never ever get a dog without doing your homework first,” emphasizes Janet of SHRF. “This is a working breed that needs umpteen hours to exercise. I used to do six miles a day with my Ranger. He was a handful, but you have to be in for the long haul.” While you must live in Florida to adopt a Husky through SHRF, they also feature an in-depth educational page on Siberian Huskies for anyone anywhere who is interested in the breed. You can find the information on their website at www.siberrescue.com.

“Huskies and Malamutes are independent thinkers. We do breed education for first-time owners, which is super important, and we are a life long resource for the adopter.” ~Steph Konz, Taysia Blue Rescue

“We love to educate potential adopters and we have no problem telling them the good, the bad, and the ugly!” says Sarah Garcia, volunteer with Free Spirit Siberian Rescue (www.huskyrescue.org) in Illinois. Free Spirit is celebrating 20 years of rescuing and over 3,000 Huskies saved! “First they must understand the energy level and the constant need for exercise. Many think that just letting the run in the yard is adequate exercise and then quickly find out it is not. They also need to realize that they shed...and a lot! Huskies require constant grooming and therefore their owners must like to vacuum.”

Sarah says their best advice to Husky families is in order to give their new Husky a happy forever home is “love, patience, and persistence. There will be challenges along the way with any new Husky, but if you are willing to put in the time and the work to making a positive relationship with them and allowing them to thrive it will all be worth it.”

“You have to be willing to look at your dog as a family member, and to commit to it and to training, and also if they have medical issues. Whatever you do for your child you should do for your dog. If you cannot treat your dog properly, do not have one in the first place. They deserve the love and respect you give your kids.”
~Janet C., Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.

Surrendering a Sibe

Now, sometimes there is a legit reason for the need to surrender a Husky, or any dog for that matter—and that would be if the pet parent passes away and has no family who can take in the dog, or the human becomes so ill they can no longer take care of their dog. There are many ways to try and help the dog find a loving home, such as contacting a local rescue for advice and possible help rehoming the Husky into a new, loving forever home.

“Sometimes dogs just aren’t in the right home,” notes Steph of Taysia Blue. “If someone truly needs to re-home their dog, the best thing to do is reach out early...not a week before you need the dog moved. The majority of rescues run at max capacity all the time. Therefore, there is a waiting list for dogs to come into rescue. We often, as owners, foster the dog while we find them a new home. If the rescue has the owner foster the dog, please be flexible and work with the rescue. Try to remember we are trying to help and we are all volunteers.”

Prior to contacting a rescue to surrender your animal, make sure your pet is current on all vaccines; that will be one less thing the rescue will have to deal with. Be up front and honest about why you are re-homing your pet, this will save everyone a lot of time and frustration.”

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"There will be challenges along the way with any new Husky, but if you are willing to put in the time and the work to making a positive relationship with them and allowing them to thrive it will all be worth it."
~Sarah Garcia, Free Spirit Siberian Husky Rescue

Please Adopt!

Rescued Huskies up for adoption are not "damaged" dogs. They are wonderful furry family members waiting for a second chance at a forever loving home. High numbers of them are abandoned purebred Huskies, as well as Husky mixes, all seeking nothing but love.

"Although Huskies are an amazing breed, they are not for everyone," notes Danielle Lahmeyer, creative director for Husky House Siberian Husky & Fellow K9 Rescue (www.huskyhouse.org) in New Jersey. She works closely with president and founder Lorraine Healy to help educate the public on the Siberian Husky breed. "Please do your research prior to bringing one home. Remember, you are making a long-term commitment by adopting a Husky, or any other breed!"

"Please, please, please. If you are going to bring a dog into your family, make sure you that you are prepared for such a tremendous responsibility and remember to always, ALWAYS, adopt from a shelter."
~Peter Dinklage, Actor, "Tyrion Lannister" on Game of Thrones

Adds Shari, "If you research the breed and decide that a Siberian Husky is the right breed for you, PLEASE check your local rescues before you purchase a pup. Rescues have dogs of all ages and colors. Adopting from a rescue opens a spot for another needy pup to be helped."

"Dogs, like people, are individuals, but many breeds do frequently display some common characteristics," says Brad Johnson, vetting coordinator for Northern Lights Sled Dog Rescue (www.facebook.com/NLSDR.)

A high energy, young Siberian Husky might not be the best choice for a sedate senior couple living in a small apartment, but would be a great companion for an active young jogger looking for a running partner. Everyone wins if you adopt a dog that fits your lifestyle," adds Brad, who has not only fostered short term, but who also currently has three Huskies and Husky mixes of his own.

The NLSDR's mission is "to advocate for and/or rescue stray, abandoned, displaced, or abused dogs. In particular we focus on northern breed dogs facing euthanasia in the Midwest/Great Lakes region shelters." For anyone interested in adopting a dog from NLSDR, please contact the adoptions coordinator at adoptasleddog@aol.com for more information or to request an adoption application.



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Foster Families—Huskies Need You!

With Siberian Husky rescues full beyond capacity and many that do not have on-site facilities for the Huskies saved, they rely on foster families to help the homeless Huskies.

“Fostering is a wonderful way to see if a dog is a good fit for you,” adds “Mama Shay” Shari. “All rescues are usually in need of fosters and are used to “foster failure,” where the foster family adopts the dog they are fostering.”

“Fostering a dog is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have, other than adopting, of course!” Husky House’s Danielle proudly exclaims.

Over at Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue (TOTTSHR at (www.siberescue.com) in Pennsylvania, vice-president Jodi Klein has fostered more than 25 Huskies for over 15 years, including Huskies with special needs, and says of fostering a dog, “It’s extremely beneficial. Fostering gives a new family the chance to know exactly what they are bringing into their home.”

Jodi also recommends that potential fosters, “Ask a lot of questions from a seasoned foster home. The most important factor is being open minded, knowing your own household and what will fit in it and being committed to learning while helping.”

“Fostering a dog is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have, other than adopting, of course!”
~Danielle Lahmeyer, Husky House Siberian Husky Fellow K9 Rescue

Getting the Message Out

So how can we educate others on the needs and traits of a Siberian Husky to ensure that it’s home becomes a forever one? “One of the best ways for us to get the message out is being a judgment free zone, where people feel comfortable asking questions and for help along the way,” answers Steph of Taysia Blue. “If people feel like they are being judged they aren’t going to listen or ask for help.”



“The Siberian Husky is an exceptional breed,” notes Jodi from TOTTSHR. “They are extremely intelligent, athletic, attractive, and incredibly goofy. We know they aren’t for everyone, but those who accept them for who they are and understand their needs find that they are the most loving and devoted dogs.”

“Dogs, like people, are individuals, but many breeds do frequently display some common characteristics. A high energy, young Siberian Husky might not be the best choice for a sedate senior couple living in a small apartment, but would be a great companion for an active young jogger looking for a running partner. Everyone wins if you adopt a dog that fits your lifestyle.” ~Brad Johnson, Northern Lights Sled Dog Rescue

In order to have a successful relationship with your Siberian Husky so it will become a forever loved member of your family, Janet from SHRF offers this advice, “You have to be willing to look at your dog as a family member, and to commit to it and to training, and also if they have medical issues. Whatever you do for your child you should do for your dog. If you cannot treat your dog properly, do not have one in the first place. They deserve the love and respect you give your kids.”

Every aspect to adopting and fostering is a positive one. More dogs can be saved by the rescues if there are homes—adoptive and foster—for the Huskies to be loved and cared for. Fostering also gives people the opportunity to become familiar with Siberian Huskies, learning about their traits and needs, which in turn helps them become successful, loving, forever adoptive families.

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Is a Husky for You?

I am so thrilled that Susan Nation of Talent Hounds, founder of the TV series that is now an expansive and informative “Content Hub and Community for Dog Lovers” has joined in to get the message out about knowing the breed before you get a Husky in her recent post. Please visit her website (<https://talenthounds.ca>) and be sure to catch Talent Hounds’ (p)awesome video interview “Do Huskies Make Good Pets?” interview by Ashley, one of the stars of Kids’ Pet Club! This young gal did a phenomenal job of interviewing Jess of Gone to the Snow Dogs fame at the Canadian Pet Expo. So many of us in the Husky world know of Jess and her snow dogs, but if you don’t, Jess is a phenomenal Husky resource and another multi-Husky mom. Jess has been on my show “The Sibe Vibe,” plus her website and social media sites feature daily life with her Huskies and some phenomenal recipes! Watch a few of her videos to get a great idea of what life with Huskies is like! Also, be sure to bookmark Talent Hounds as a great resource and entertainment center for all things dog!

Looking for a rescue near you?

Check out our listings (national and international) over at <https://FiveSibes.com>

If you’d like your rescue listed, simply drop me an email at FiveSibes@gmail.com

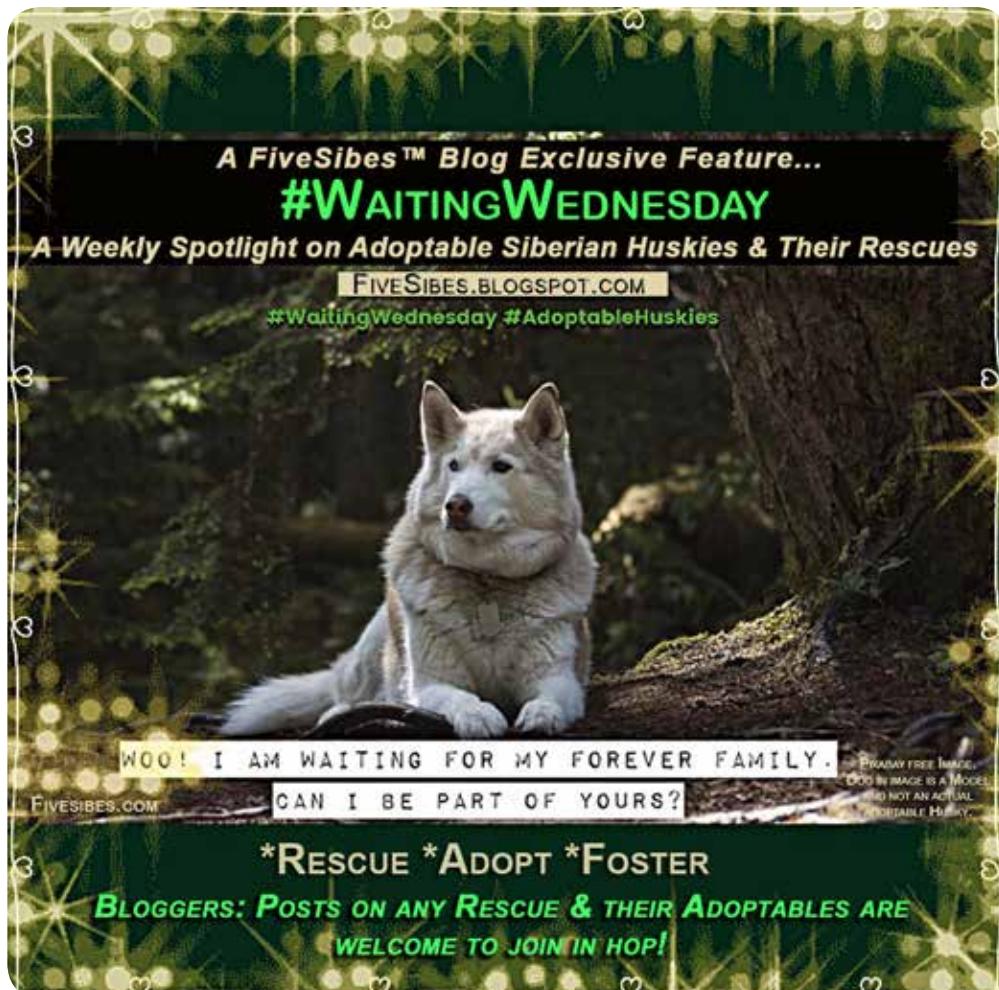
The advertisement features a central cartoon illustration of a Husky dog with grey and white fur, sitting upright. It has its tongue slightly out and is looking towards the viewer. To the left of the dog is a black and white striped suitcase with a paw print on it. The word "Adopt" is written vertically on the left side of the suitcase, and "Me" is written vertically on the right side. Below the illustration, the website address www.FiveSibes.com is displayed. At the bottom of the ad, the slogan "**Please Love Me Forever!**" is written in a large, stylized font.

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FiveSibes™ #WaitingWednesday Blog Hop!

Every Wednesday we will be featuring a Siberian Husky & Northern Breed Dogs rescue and some of their beautiful adoptable dogs “waiting” for their forever homes!



Each Wednesday I will be highlighting a rescue and some of their beautiful Siberian Huskies, Husky mixes, Alaskan Malamutes, and northern breed sled dogs available for adoption and fostering along with their contact information. I encourage everyone to join me in becoming “a village” by not only sharing the posts each week across your social media in the hopes of helping these homeless Huskies find their forever families, but also by joining in our Blog Hop to share any rescue animals you highlight in your own blog!

Invite to Rescues...

Do you work with Rescues of northern breed dogs (and mixes of both)? Then send me your info and some of your adoptables to highlight in an upcoming “Waiting Wednesday” feature! Feel free to Email info and photos to FiveSibes@gmail.com and put “Waiting Wednesday Adoptable” in subject line!

And remember our new hashtag:

#BreedEducate2Relate

Because we cannot do it alone; it takes a “village” to help rescues help homeless Huskies!

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"Fostering also gives people the opportunity to become familiar with Siberian Huskies, learning about their traits and needs, which in turn helps them become successful, loving, forever adoptive families. Now that is truly a win-win for both Husky and human.

~Dorothy Wills-Raftery,
Author & Siberian Husky Hu-Mom

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

~Immanuel Kant

This article originally appeared in the FiveSibes™ blog at <https://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>

To order book, visit ArcticHousePublishing.com



A portion of sales benefits the Save Our Siberians Siberspace Rescue Fund (SOS-SRF.org)

About the Author: Dorothy Wills-Raftery 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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"The Sibe Vibe" Radio Show!





Mom, Can I Get a Guinea Pig?

By Becky Wilson,
Director Metropolitan
Guinea Pig Rescue

As a life-long guinea pig owner and now director of a large rescue, I have spent many hours thinking about how so many guinea pigs end up in our care. This year the rescue saw a huge increase in returns. More returns than we have had in our entire history

came back this calendar year. Young pigs, old pigs, single pigs, six pigs, healthy pigs, and sick pigs. Back they came to us, an avalanche of guinea pigs. In the end it usually comes down to foster families being unprepared and under educated in the fundamentals of guinea pig ownership.

You walk in the pet store for a bag of dog food and before you know it, you're hooked. Your child really wants one. They are so cute, so sweet, so little. It can't be hard, just get a five gallon aquarium or a small desk-top cage and everything will be fun for the year or two that they live. It's easy to get on board with a small expenditure and you walk out with that cute little pet. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

A well cared-for guinea pig should live five to seven years. Five to seven years! Your children will grow; everyone's priorities will change except for the guinea pigs'. The eleven-year-old child that is asking for the guinea pig will be a senior in high school or off to college and there will still be a cage to clean and a guinea pig to love. Younger children of 5-8 years really can't handle guinea pigs. Guinea pigs are too large and frisky for small children. The less time that your guinea pigs are handled the wilder they become. Then no one is happy. It's a vicious cycle and the humans and guinea pigs are all unhappy in the end. The only way this is going to end well is if the adult household members want and love the guinea pigs.



Then there is the cage issue. Guinea pigs love to run and move around. They need space to do that. The minimum space according to the Humane Society of the United States is 5.7 square feet for a single and at least 7.3 square feet for a pair. That isn't going to be a small cage that sits on the side of your desk. It is going to be a significant addition to the furniture in your room. We often suggest that adopters use something to lay out that space in their room and really see what it looks like. The other cage issue, especially if you try to home guinea pigs in a cage that is too small, is the odor. A dirty cage is a smelly cage. A small cage is always dirty so it's always smelly. Again a cycle that's hard to break out of. So, now we've talked about the two main reasons guinea pigs end up in rescue, at the local shelter or worse yet, taken outside and turned loose in an environment they can't possibly survive in.

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SUMMER 2019

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By now you are probably wondering why anyone would ever want to own a guinea pig, much less two. Guinea pigs are social herd animals so they really do need to be in pairs. Spayed and neutered pairs, or same sex pairs, but that's a different article.

Guinea pigs are sweet smart pets. When interacted with on a regular basis most of them are loving and respectful of their owners. They love to be held and many of them can be trained to do simple things. Ok, the smart ones will train you to give them treats when they stand and beg. However, it's best to come into a relationship with a guinea pig only expecting great amounts of love. That's not really such a bad thing is it?

Guinea Pig Appreciation Day July 16th

Even this can seem unobtainable in the beginning. It can take a guinea pig four to six weeks to really settle into your home and decide that it owns you. It may happen much sooner if you are opening your home to a guinea pig that has had a lot of interaction with humans. New owners must be mindful of the fact that a pet store guinea pig may have had no interaction with people. You will need to be patient and let them grow used to you through gentle words and gentle handling, consistently please, every single day.

Becoming a guinea pig owner will be a very rewarding experience for those of you that have done your homework. There is a lot to learn. Remember, this is a family pet. So Mom, before you say yes, be sure you are willing able and want to take a pet into your home that will be with you for quite a few years.

Three Great Resources:

- 🐾 Animal Planet's Book, "Guinea Pigs"
- 🐾 "A Grown-up's Guide to Guinea Pigs" by Dale Sigler
- 🐾 www.theguineapigguide.com by Leslie DeSantis

Tip for Guinea Pig Enrichment:

Fill a used toilet tissue roll with hay and let your guinea pigs chew and play.



PET CELEBRATIONS

July

- 1 American Zoo Day
- 10 Don't Step on a Bee Day
- 11 All American Pet Photo Day
- 15 I Love Horses Day
- 16 Guinea Pig Appreciation Day
- 18 Cow Appreciation Day
- 21 Monkey Day
- 31 National Mutt Day



August

- 4-10 Int'l Assistance Dog Week - AssistanceDogWeek.org
- 10 Spoil Your Dog Day
- 17 National & International Homeless Pets Day
- 26 National Dog Day - NationalDogDay.org

September

- 8 National Pet Memorial Day
- 28 National Bunny Day
- 22-28 National Dog Week
- 22-28 National Deaf Dog Awareness Week
- 21-28 National Farm Animals Awareness

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR
PETS SAFE
ALL YEAR LONG!!**

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Alley Cat Allies
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Brookhaven Animal Sanctuary
www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com

Animal Aid
www.Animal-Aid.com

The Pet Museum
www.ThePetMuseum.com

Rescuer's Relief - Lisa Watson
www.facebook.com/RescuersRelief

Greg Wickenburg
www.facebook.com/greg.wickenburg

Dorothy Wills-Raftery
www.FiveSibes.com

Dawn Eves
www.DawnEvesPhotography.com

American Ferret Association
www.Ferret.org

Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue
www.mgpr.org

Tony Knight
www.TonyKnightDogListener.com

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LOST CAT FINDER

By Kim Freeman



With the general chaos of summer parties, fireworks, kids and guests coming and going, it's important to keep an eye on pets.

Missing cats are harder to find than dogs and require special techniques beyond flyers and a visit to the shelter.

Would you know what to do if your cat escaped? Take these steps to prevent an extremely stressful situation that can happen to even the most careful owners.

As a full-time lost cat finder, I see an uptick of lost pet reports on July 4th and New Year's Day. Here are 15 precautions and tips to prevent a worst case scenario and have you prepared to swing into action if your cat ever escapes or goes missing.

HAVE THE SEARCH ZONE READY

If you have an indoor-only cat, be ready with a map of where to search. With indoor cats who escape, they are most often hiding within a 300-foot radius of the escape point. Outdoor access cats have a larger territory, so they are going to be usually within a 600-foot radius. Use Google maps to outline your home and search circle so you are ready if they get out.

SAFE TRANSPORT

This sounds basic, but you'd be surprised how many pet owners lose cats on the road or in parking lots. A cat inside a car can escape when involved in a traffic accident, or jump out prematurely when a door is opened (see the case of this cat slipping out at gas station at night). Cat carriers have been known to break open during traffic accidents, in vet parking lots, and on conveyor belts at airports. No matter how crabby your cat becomes with confinement, make sure you transport him/her in a secure carrier.

HAVE PHOTOS READY

Keep a recent photo of your cat on hand showing their face and body markings in case you need the photo for a lost cat flyer and poster. The ideal photo for a lost cat poster is a standing or sitting side view with the cat facing you, in a position strangers would see them out in the world.

PREPARE A LOST CAT KIT

Store photos, microchip number and a mock-up lost cat flyer where they're easy to access. Should you ever need them, this kit will save you precious time and stress. The best preparation is to at least skim the e-book and video "How-to-find-a-lost-cat-tips" so you can swing into action with the appropriate steps for your situation while avoiding all the common mistakes and bad advice (like putting out food or cat litter).

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GPS TRACKER

It seems like GPS on a collar would good for adventurous cats who like to roam, but so far, they are still expensive, bulky and easily foiled when the cat is under something. There are several devices on the market including the unwieldy Whistle, but based on my clients' lost cats, I've found that a lighted collar or an RF tag work best in terms of finding a cat's exact location.

COLLAR & MICROCHIP

Make sure your cat is microchipped AND wearing a collar, preferably orange (as it's the most noticeable color to the human eye). The one we use and recommend is day-glow orange and lights up at night such as this Cat Tracking Collar.

Even if you never let your cat out, you never know when an accident could happen and your cat escapes. A visitor or child may leave a door or window open, cat carriers can break, or a burglar could break into your home, leaving the door open for your cat to escape outside. Firemen and Paramedics may have to break into a home, and usually leave the door open during emergency procedures.

We've even seen pets ejected from cars in traffic accidents. Most people never think these events will never happen to them. But once something does happen, it will be too late to count on ID getting them back to you. This is why even indoor-only cats should wear a collar, tag and microchip because if they DO escape outside, they're at risk of being found and assumed stray or ultimately ending up in an animal shelter long after you have stopped searching. Make sure the collar you use is 100% breakaway and does not have a metal ring on it.

Micro-chipping is equivalent to implanting a serial number in your pet as a means to return property to their rightful owner. Check with your local shelter, rescue groups, and veterinarians to have this simple procedure performed (a quick shot in which a microchip the size of a rice grain is implanted under your pet's skin).

Microchips are not GPS pet trackers. They are purely for Identification, which is read with a microchip scanner used by shelters, veterinarians, and rescue groups. Make sure your cat is micro-chipped AND that the chip is registered to YOU with your CURRENT address and phone number and update the info each time you move.



PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Be able to demonstrate proof that you own your cat, as there is no guarantee the person who finds your pet will be willing to give it back to you. You will need to have something to show an officer to prove that this animal belongs to you. The best method to show proof of ownership is your microchip records. If your pet has any special markings, markings inside their mouth, scars, tattoos, etc., photograph these areas and keep these photos in a special location with your cat's vet records.

THIS IS HENRY



He's not lost, this is my number just in case he's in your way, teasing a dog, or causing any trouble for you at all. Please call and I'll come get him!

404 996-0116

KEEP PHOTOS WITH YOUR VET

It is a good idea to keep a set of records and current pet photos with your veterinarian (they can be attached to your pet's file). This way, your pet's photo will still be available if the photos you kept at home get lost or destroyed.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AND JULY 4TH

There are the main days of the year when your cat is especially at risk of escaping. Put your cat in a safe room with all creature comforts and lots of places to hide and blankets to drown out noise and keep them feeling safe from the sounds of fireworks parties and strangers.

BE NEIGHBORLY

Make sure your neighbors know you have a cat —both if your cat is indoor-only or goes out. That way, if your cat ever escapes, neighbors will know who it belongs to and be more likely to call you right away instead of assuming it's a stray.

If your cat routinely roams and stalks birds or poops on your neighbor's property, make sure you have preempted any complaints by asking neighbors to SPEAK UP if your cat is a problem for them in any way. Be a responsible cat owner.

SECURE YOUR PROPERTY

Check carefully along perimeter of your fence for spaces or holes that you can fit a hand or fist into. Cats can get through tiny spaces, so add rocks or pack dirt to close them up. You'll prevent your cat's potential escape, as well as keep other critters from popping under for a visit.

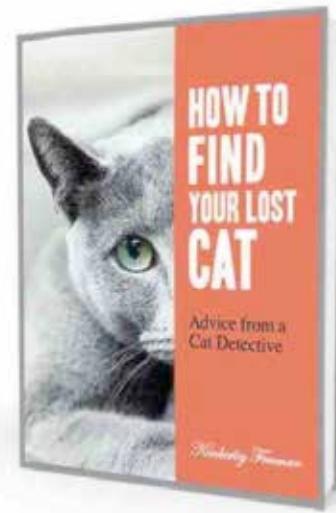
For those who let their cats out into the backyard, be warned; I've had many cases of cats who "always stayed in the backyard" yet vanished. Cats can jump five times their height, so unless you have secured the holes AND have a catio or roll-top fence, your cat may unpleasantly surprise you with ninja escape abilities.



Look carefully from a low level: push on all boards to see if any are loose. Humans typically look downward and don't see what our pets see. Pets have the time and interest to look, poke, and push in their efforts to escape. From their level, they may have found a small hole or loose board you did not see so look for clues like claw marks to determine their point of escape.

Remove any items next to or leaning on your fence. Woodpiles, garbage containers, kid toys, boxes, etc. along a fence are a great springboard for cats to scale any fence, so make sure you're not offering an easy route out.

BEST
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COLLECT AND STORE SCENT & DNA

In the event your cat becomes lost and you need an animal trained to track lost pets, you'll want to have a clean unadulterated sample of your pet's scent. Save whiskers especially as they have a root attached which can be used to determine DNA. If no whiskers are available, put on a rubber glove, use a sterile gauze pad and wipe your pet's body – wipe back, tummy, and mouth. Place the gauze pad inside a plastic bag. Write the date and your pet's name on the outside of the bag.

Try to have your cat's DNA on hand in case it's needed for making a positive ID. Collect a whisker, toenail clippings, and a few hairs that you have pulled from your pet which include the root. Shed hairs will not do— you need the root (which contains the DNA). Place all of these AND your gauze pad into the bag and place the bag in the back of your freezer. If you have multiple pets, make separate bags for each of them.

TRAIN YOUR CAT

Train them to come when you call, let you pick him up when outside and to enter a baited humane trap. Humane traps are one of the primary tools to recover an indoor-only cat. If you know that your cat will never be allowed free access outdoors, then teach your cat that humane traps food and safety.

Simply get a humane trap (available here) and prop open both ends with a bungee cord and feed your cat inside the trap every day for a week until he enters and leaves without fear. If your cat should ever escape outdoors, you will increase your chances of recovery as your cat associates traps with food and is not afraid to enter. DO NOT train your cat to enter a trap if you live in an apartment complex in case the manager or a pest company sets up traps to remove feral cats.

BIRD ALERTS

Should your cat ever escape, listen to the birds. They will issue raucous alarm sounds to let others know there is a predator in the area. Even if you just want to know where your outdoor access cat is at the moment, learn to listen to bird language to know when your cat has been spotted by these air spies. Blue jays and mockingbirds are very vocal when they spot a cat and make a specific call you can learn and tune into.

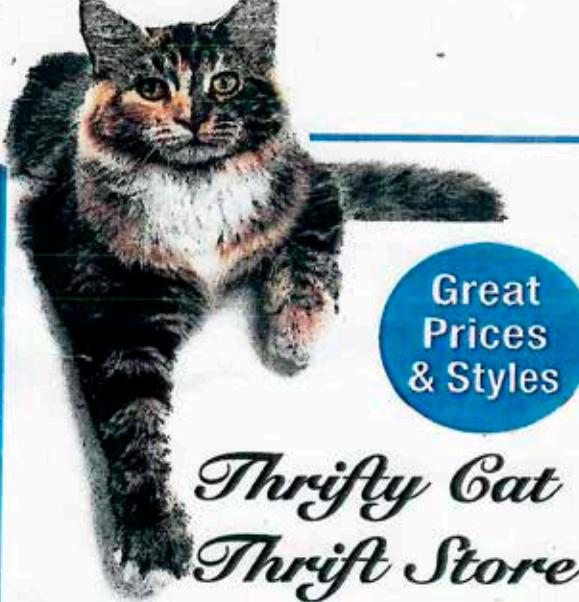
GET PROFESSIONAL HELP

If you find yourself in the stressful situation of searching for a missing cat, take action right away. Too many put foolish hope in social media and waste the key first ten days when recovery chances are highest.



Consider ordering Freeman's on-demand tutorial and e-book, or ask her to come out in person. Above all, remember, cats require special tactics. Make sure you use the right ones for your cat's personality! Examples of bird alarms on cats are included in her e-book, *How to Find a Lost Cat* as well as a chapter on tracking, coyote signs and clue assessment.

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“Chloe” of the

JANUARY 19, 2008

*Now the air is
colder,
Now the moon is
always full.
Now the light is
silver and it
breaks and
shimmers
on fields of
Bright Snow.*



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a Haiku for You

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**Human Word of Mouth
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~Suzi K



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



Tomorrow Can Be a Better Day

*Written By
Steve Fontenot*

Such a simple message of hope that Bellin, a very special Siberian Husky, brings to the children in crisis he visits with as a registered Pet Partners animal assisted therapist. Its lesson of perseverance is one that Bellin, himself, had to live & learn before he could share it with others.



©San Antonio Animal Care Services

**Bellin Before -
1st pic of Bellin after city seizure**

In 2011, Bellin began to learn its meaning when he was saved from a life of severe abuse and neglect. Saved by the neighbors decision that they could no longer stand by and witness the horrific cruelty. Demanding action, Bellin was seized by the City of San Antonio and placed in the care of Texas Husky Rescue. Beaten, starved and psychologically devastated, Bellin was embarking on a long road of healing.

The recovery would take a long time. A full year for the complete physical transformation and even longer to completely heal the spirit. With each tomorrow Bellin healed a little bit more. The bruises faded, his hair grew back in the sections where it had been ripped out and his vibrant color came washing back over him. As Bellin bloomed, so would his spirit and confidence. He slowly began to see the world with wonderment instead of fear and that people could be nice not just mean.

It was a special day with Bellin at work with his hu-parents where he would meet a lady that would change his life yet again. She was as afraid of dogs as he once was of people. Upon hearing Bellin's story she decided "if he can overcome the fear of people beating him, then I can overcome my fear of dogs".

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It was a beautiful moment when they opened up and connected. For Bellin, a whole new path was opening up for him. Working with the Therapy Animals of San Antonio, Bellin would train and pass his Pet Partners therapy evaluations in February 2013. He was now ready to share his new found love with the world.

Over 500 times, Bellin has strapped on his therapy vest to bring his message of hope to children in need in a wide range of settings. At The Children's Shelter where he visits with children whose stories match his own, Bellin's story "from healing to healing" comes full circle. Deep bonds are formed as the children find the strength to open up while running their fingers through his hair.

Dr. Bellin's healing love can also be found in the pediatric emergency room of Methodist Children's Hospital. Working with the docs and staff, Bellin helps to calm the nerves of worried parents and bring smiles to a sick child. Every visit is different and challenging, at any time an ambulance or life-flight could come rolling through.

One of the most in-demand fields of therapy work has been with expanding grief services. Bellin was one of the founding teams for The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas animal therapy pilot program. Starting in the sibling loss support group,

Bellin and his friends now serve in several specialty programs such as loss from suicide or violence and have worked on a case by case basis with survivors of national level mass tragedies such as school & church shootings. The program has gained much notoriety and is now beginning to be emulated by Centers around the country.

For Bellin, the therapy visits are just part of his give back to the community that saved him. He can regularly be found at rescue adoption events, educational seminars and special appearances to advocate for animal and children's rights. Including a special trip to the Texas State Capitol where he met with lawmakers to push for an expansion in benefits for child abuse survivors.

Doing whatever it takes, meeting with whomever he can, Bellin is always striving to prove that "Tomorrow can be a better day." You can learn more about and follow Bellin's adventures at

www.facebook.com/teambellin

Bellin visiting a child in the hospital





www.metmuseum.org Gift of Roberto Berdecio, 1960 (PD)

For Cinco de Mayo I'm bringing you this sprightly wood-engraved scene by Jose Guadalupe Posada. Here in *Mujer bailando con gato* (Woman Dancing with a Cat, c. 1900) a dancer steps out in her fine fringed shawl, surrounded by her similarly decked friends. But why's the cat in a tailcoat? After doing a little reading on Posada (like here), I think this is his way of lampooning a personage, a fat cat. You have to admit that cat isn't skinny, and the fancy coat has long been shorthand for identifying bankers, politicos and other possibly-corruptible callings. Is this poking fun at an official playing at being "man of the people"?



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A SENIOR SKILLED AT STUFFICIDE

*Written By
Tracy Ahrens*

It felt like a spontaneous support group session.

I stood at the checkout counter of a pet store and the manager was scanning my purchases, including a stuffed pink giraffe dog toy.

He asked me what kind of dog I have. I shared with him and paused before noting that my dog, Angel, 11, just started playing with stuffed toys, two months after adoption.

Embarrassed that I may own a demonically possessed canine, I noted, “She likes to rip their legs and ears off.”

The manager laughed and put my confession to shame. His dog “goes for the throats” of stuffed toys, ripping out their jugulars. He was shy to describe his house full of throat-less stuffed animal toys.

My house is a graveyard for limbless, earless, antlerless, tailless creatures.

A fellow dog owner refers to these attacks on innocent stuffed creatures as “stufficide.” Her dog, Bart, is like my Angel. He instantly chews off limbs and, she said, “There’s always a bit of glee in Bart’s eye when he’s performing a medical procedure.”

That same giddy, demonic look comes over my Angel as she performs clean-cut amputations of stuffed animal parts with a grinding molar action.

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When Angel came into my life she was given several stuffed toys by a shelter volunteer and I bought her a couple. I had no idea if she liked toys, as she was found with no background information or a name.

One of the toys I gave her was a small Wonder Woman doll with a squeaker in it. She slept in a bed with it, but ignored it. But two months later, something snapped. She got a feisty glimmer in her eye, picked up Wonder Woman in her mouth and started to chew on her. I laughed to myself watching her, until she spit out an arm. Then, the other arm.

The “bracelets of submission” that Wonder Woman uses to deflect gunfire, small missiles and other projectile weaponry, were cut off with the geriatric molars of a shepherd-husky.

This was the start of her obsession with removing appendages from stuffed creatures.

We now have a dinosaur missing a spiky plate from its back, a monkey with one leg, a pink dog with three legs, a pink rabbit with one ear, a cat face with one ear, and that giraffe I bought during my in-store counseling session, it is now missing one ear and one antler.

As the mood strikes her, she strikes another toy, chewing off parts and spitting them out in her beds or on the floor. At first I had a small collection of parts, but I have since disposed of them.

Spoil Your Dog Day
Aug 10th

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

Until We Meet Again

Written By
Lisa A. Bono, CPBC



SAMMY LEE

I know what you're thinking.

You think I'm dead.

Because you cannot see me with your human eyes, cannot feel me with your hands or hold me in your arms, you think I am gone forever. You recall how I looked when I left this earth and you cannot remotely imagine that I am alive in another place. You are racked and torn by the pain of our separation and it blinds you to that which is right in front of you...me.

How many times since I left your immediate sight have you been told that I'm dead and you should "get over it"? How many times have you cried yourself to sleep because you feel like an outcast, believing you're supposed to get over me because that's what people say is normal but somehow you can't and no one seems to understand? How many times have you put yourself through such excruciating pain because you aren't willing to consider that I am not, by any means, dead?

I want you to do me a favor and go back in time with me. Remember the glorious day you brought me home - was I not the most intriguing creature you'd ever met? Did I not make you laugh and giggle? Did I not look at you with such adoration that you wanted nothing more than to spend the rest of your life with me?

I wanted this too.

Remember the days when I was in my prime and we did many things together. You were so proud of me! I was a good friend and I took care of you when you cried, were angry or felt down and unhappy. When you didn't have a lot of time for me because of your obligations, I waited patiently for you. I was always there when you needed me.

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Did I not look at you with such acceptance and patience that perhaps at times you felt a bit unworthy? You were never unworthy in my eyes. Remember when age crept up on me, my wings became stiff and my movements slower. Still I called to you when came home and followed you around. We'd been together for so long, I was your very best friend regardless of what you were doing, saying and thinking. Did I not look at you with such kindness and understanding that you felt overwhelmed?

I couldn't get enough of you.

Remember the last time we saw each other with earthly eyes. You tried to be brave but I knew you were crying...I know you so well, better than anyone else in the world. Did I not look at you with such pure trust and love that you yearned only to hold me close and keep me with you always? Did you not promise that you would love me forever?

I believed you. If this is so then why have you let me go by thinking I no longer exist?

Remember the depth of love in my eyes when I looked at you. Who created this love? Would the Creator diminish the song of our laughter that grew and flourished in this love? I am no longer an earthly figure, this is true. My body was only part of who I really am and it would have been but a mere shell on earth if it were not filled to overflowing with my soul, my spirit and my loving light.

When we met you thought I was cute, pretty and adorable. What kind of relationship would we have had if this were all that I'd been? How could you have loved me if I'd had no spiritual substance? We are all made up of energy that resides far deep down inside of us, it is our core and our soul, spirit and loving light. It is the energy that is all of life...it has no beginning, it has no end. It simply is and always will be and without it there is no life. You can't see it with the naked eye nor can you hold it in your hand, it is simply a certain knowing that this energy does exist. It's a knowing just as you know that our love existed on earth - you couldn't see our love in a solid sense, you couldn't gather it all up and confine it to one place. But you *knew* it existed. There was no doubt in your mind.

There are those who demand you get over me, insisting that I'm dead and you'll never see me again because birds don't go to Heaven.

Oh really? I'm here to tell you different.

You were as worthy of my love and undying devotion on earth as I was of yours. Do you really believe this love would be snatched from us *forever* by a loving Creator simply because I wasn't human? Was I not a living, breathing creation with personality? How could I have been so if I didn't possess the energy of soul, spirit and loving light? And if this energy is and always will be, then how can it be that I am dead?

If my core is not the energy that is all of life then I was never alive to begin with. But you know better. You cry because you miss me, this I understand.

I miss you too -



SAMPSON

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SYDNEY BELL



*"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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I miss the tickles, hugs and kisses that we shared. But life does go on beyond these wonderful, fulfilling physical connections. I came to this place to continue on in a new life, not because I didn't love you anymore or because I wanted something better. I came here because it was time for me to go to the next phase of my existence, something all living creatures must do eventually. It is the normal progression of life. I was not taken away from you because you cannot take away that which was never owned. My presence in your life was and is a gift to be cherished and honored just as I cherish and honor you. Life is not simply about being born into a body, living a certain number of years and then dying.

Energy cannot die.

We are blessed with time in a body so that we can learn, share and grow. It prepares us for the next phase of our eternal life. The body holds within it the true life force of our existence...our soul, spirit and loving light. Without these our bodies would be empty, blank, void of feeling and expression. Without our energy we would indeed be dead and could never have experienced our love for each other.

You say that all you have left are memories but this is not so.

You see, when I took leave of my earthly body I left a little something behind for you. You can't touch it, hold it or examine it, for what I left behind is far too uninhibited for confinement.

I left in your tender care a piece of my soul. I placed it right next to your own which is quite fitting as we were always side by side in our earthly life together.

I love you too much to have left you with nothing but memories that tend to fade and grow cloudy as the years go by.

I love you too much to have vanished without a trace. How selfish it would be of me to remove love and light from your life. I understand your tears, each one you shed is testament to your love for me and I am honored and humbled. But don't forget the good things we shared - remember and smile.

This is an honor for me as well.

When you need me I will be here. Close your eyes, relax, take slow, deep breaths and picture me in your mind. Shut off the world and your notions of what you think death is and give me a chance.

Look for the subtle signs I send you.

Don't stop being proud of me, I am a friend to be proud of, I am still your friend and part of your life. Don't memorialize the death of my body but instead honor and celebrate my never-ending life for it is eternal and forever as is my love for you.

Until we meet again...

*In memory of my own flock through the years.
Polly, Sampson Bell, Otis & Harley as well as all our
members babies who have flown over the rainbow bridge.*

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DRIVE™ Dog Seat Cover from EzyDog

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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!

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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.

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

*Sing with me...I'm a Traveling Dog...
made a lot of stops...all over the...*



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

Okay. I can't carry a tune, but you get the drift. Are your Peeps taking a long road trip this summer and bringing you along?

My Mom and Dad Peep travel long distance with me in the car twice a year, and just like with kids, it's all in the planning and preparing.

Paw Prints Favorite Things. You have your favorites, be sure to bring mine. I like my little one-eared squirrel and my green banana (oh, and always the green and yellow turtle).

Paw Prints Bedding is Everything. Sleeping in bed with my Peeps is a no-no because I spin when I get startled (like when they move their feet or throw off the covers). They used to bring my crate into hotel rooms, but now bring my oversized comforter and put it in a corner of the room in a pool of coziness. It smells like home.

Paw Prints Pet Friendly Hotels. Easy to find online, these places welcome furry friends with relief areas and sometimes a treat at the front desk. What's nice is when Mom and Dad go out to eat, or swim in the pool, if I bark when I hear something it won't raise a red flag. Check the pet fee—it varies.

Paw Prints Stop Often. Just because my humans don't have to go doesn't mean I can hold it. There are apps for their phone that will tell them the exit number for the next rest area. (They always go too.)

Paw Prints Look for the Green Stuff. Rest areas and pet-friendly hotels usually have grassy areas for me to walk on. I like that better than rocks and stones.

Paw Prints Treat Me. When they order a cheeseburger and fries in the drive thru, they give me a little bit too. Makes me a very happy traveler.

Paw Prints Collapsible Plastic Bowls are Nifty. Have you seen them? They're like an accordion. They push out to hold food or water and pop flat when done. Mom keeps two of them in the car at all times. Pack my usual food and treats and try to have me eat a good meal at night. A nice walk afterwards will feel great.

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 **Prepare for Possible Cranky Pet.** There's something about a long drive that keeps me awake. I know, weird, huh? I stand up with my nose to the window almost the whole time. One time I got a cramp in my leg and really scared my Peeps. They thought they'd have to find a vet in the next town but I eventually worked it out. Talk about cranky though.

 **Bring my Meds.** You probably take something every morning, and maybe I do too. Don't forget to pack them in the hotel bag or have them handy in the car. I get a glucosamine treat every day. Helps with my joints...I am almost 10 you know.

Looks like a long list, right? But really not too bad. Mom Peep's got it down to a science and you will too. What's better than being able to bring me along when you travel?

Woofs and Wiggles!

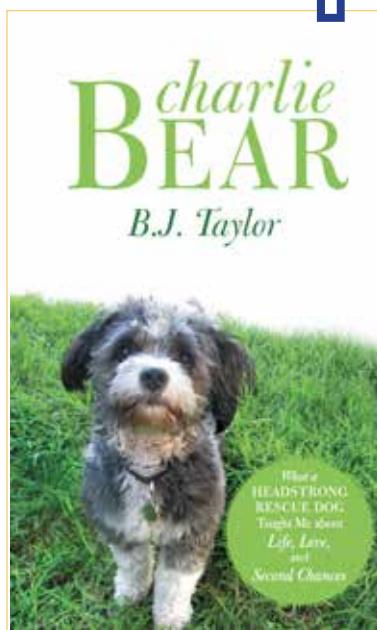
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CHARLIE BEAR:

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.



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

Woofs to you from Charlie Bear!

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

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?

9th Annual Animal Adoption Fair

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THE #1 REASON FOR ALL DOG BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

*By Tony Knight
Dog Listener*

From pulling on the leash to complete lack of recall, from barking non-stop at everything that passes the home to howling all day while the humans are away, from aggression to separation anxiety, from stealing food to destroying the home, in the last two decades I may not have seen absolutely every possible dog behavior problem, but I would be very surprised if I haven't (I once saw a dog fake having a broken leg to get attention).

For over 20 years now, I have been travelling around the world helping people to better understand their dogs and help them solve all kinds of behaviour problems. No matter what country I find myself in - this summer alone I will be in Ireland, the Netherlands, France & Switzerland (so sometimes even the language of the people is not even the same) - the same problems come up over and over again. Every time, the root cause of the issue is the same.

Firstly, let's dispel a few myths about why a dog could be behaving badly. A common mistake people make is to blame the breed of the dog for bad behavior, to the extent that some poor folk are convinced that there is no hope for them. Anyone who has ever had or met more than one dog of the same breed knows that they are not clones. My sister and I could not be more different, despite the same upbringing and ancestry.

Btw if anyone knows Barbara Streisand, could they ask her to reply to my tweet about her cloned dogs? I am fascinated to find out if they have different personalities...

My two English Springers, Kez and Pru, perfectly illustrated this point. Not only were they the same breed, but also father and daughter. Incidentally, far from being the hyperactive balls of energy that English Springers are supposed to be (according to breed specific stereotypes), I used to watch them for ages just to see if they were still breathing – they were that relaxed. Anyway, despite being family, their personalities were accurately reflected by their birthdays. Kez was born on St. Valentine's Day and could not have been a more affectionate and loving pooch. His daughter, on the other hand, was born on Hallowe'en...!

It is all too easy (and lazy) to blame certain behaviors on the breed of a dog; once while giving a talk in London, I was asked what to do about a Doberman that pulled on the leash. After giving a full answer (including miming the actions to do) I was immediately asked by the owner of a Yorkshire what she could do about her dog... pulling on the leash! She had heard the word "Doberman" and automatically decided that this was nothing to do with her even though her dog had the exact same problem.

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The personality of a dog – regardless of breed or age – will determine the questions that they ask and the behavior that they will act out. Luckily, the same reason lies behind all of it.

As well as blaming the breed for certain bad behavior, you will often hear people give human reasons for their naughty pooch. For example, a dog that chews up the house when the humans are away is branded as “bored”. In many cases, the magic solution is to buy a hollow, rubber toy so the dog can have something to play with (and even something to eat if it is stuffed with treats). Chewing actually releases a natural endorphin that helps to calm down the nervous system. When I watch England play soccer, I bite my fingernails. I can assure you that I am not bored, but I am not enjoying the experience... Ironically, dogs can use this toy to actually reinforce the notion that they have something to worry about (more on that shortly).

It is eternally fascinating to me how humans can appreciate all other animals on the planet for what they are (cats can literally get away with murder), yet a dog’s nature is completely denied. In fact, should a dog act like a dog, there is often shock and outrage on the part of the human

N.B. There is one other animal whose true nature is consistently denied – homo sapiens.

Instead of disrespecting a dog’s true nature, it is much more helpful to manage it and use their way of thinking to solve the problem. The #1 reason for all dog behavior problems comes from how they actually think about us and the world into which we have put them.

So – I hear you ask with baited breath - what IS the #1 reason for dog behavior problems?

To put it quite simply, the reason is that dog has too much responsibility. Dogs know instinctively that there must be someone in their family who is the one to trust and learn from; that individual is responsible for the wellbeing and education of everyone else. The problem arises when a dog does not see any members for their group as being good enough to do this vital (and I mean that in the literal sense) job. Nature abhors a vacuum, and in keeping with this a dog will take the responsibility upon its own shoulders. The problem is that they have no understanding of the world in which we have put them (for example, a dog can bark like mad at an animal on television, not knowing that this is just a TV show). Also, they do not get one bit of training or advice on how to do the job that they know must be done by someone.

Given that they are completely out of their depth, it is perfectly understandable that many dogs out there panic. Nervous aggression is one of the most problems I am asked to help with. Others will do their very best but do so in a way that becomes a problem. A dog that pulls like crazy on the leash thinks that is has to get there first to protect and decide. Recall issues stem from the dog believing that they will decide when the best time to come back is (and not one of the kids).

Others shut down completely or seem to cope (although this delicate state of affairs can deteriorate at any moment with sometimes the slightest change in circumstance). Moving home, losing or gaining a member of the group, even new neighbors can be the catalyst to a dog suddenly going from quiet to riot.



©Mike
Deathe

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The one thing that a dog has to help it try to do its best is its instinct. After all, their instinct helps wild canines to survive (albeit in a world they understand with help from others with whom they can communicate effectively). Therefore, in order to help them pass the torch of responsibility to us, we need to show them in a way that they actually understand that we are capable of being the one to trust. Basically, bad behavior can be solved by proving ourselves worthy of taking the responsibility away from our dogs.

Be prepared for them to ask us questions during this process – if I told you that you could trust me with your life, I think you'd ask a fair few questions before being convinced. Giving dogs the right answer is the way to help them to calm down and relax. They will ask questions every day – all we have to do is give them the right answer and they can be reassured and reminded whenever they need it. Depending on their personality, you might need to remind your dog once in a while or every day. The good news is that as long as you give them the right answer, they will calm down much more quickly. After all, this is a matter of Life and Death to them so they will not take it lightly.

Once you have established to your dog that they can trust you, any other training you wish to do with them is like icing on the cake. If there is no cake underneath however, it doesn't matter how much time and effort you put into icing, the structure is weak and can collapse under the slightest pressure. Maybe you have been to obedience classes and seen some dogs perform all the tricks in the book, only to drag their humans out of the ring back to the car. Lots of icing – no cake.

When we respect a dog's nature and understand their language, it is much easier (and takes a lot less time and effort) to give them the right signals. I have lived in France for over 12 years now and I can categorically confirm that being able to speak French makes my life a lot easier...



www.TonyKnightDogListener.com



i'm not here
TO BE
Average
I'M HERE
TO BE
Awesome

'PeanutButter'

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

Hi Everyone! As always, it has been very busy around here. We have rescued, fostered and did some pet sitting too during the past year and a half. HuMumMum was a #FosterFailure, but just once, during this time. OreoMan is an incredible soul! He gets along with all of us, even Percy. Our mission is to help others have a 2nd chance in life, like all of us here have. It is a blessing we all found this one incredible home and are very happy together.

One another note, I would like to bring attention to Pet Memorial Day. There are many great articles and pictures for you to commemorate with us and our awesome contributors. The articles on GypsyPrince and MissKitty are both reprints from 2013, when they both passed. They accepted me into their home as a kitten after I was 'returned' twice. It was some years later when AmericanPet Magazine™ became a reality. All of the precious souls who crossed the Rainbow Bridge before us are an inspiration to continue to bring you this entaining and educational publication and to be a Voice for the Voiceless whenever possible.



PURRS & MEOWS ~ PEANUTBUTTER



Lessons Learned from the Flock



CHICK QUESTIONS

Written by Wendy Thomas

WHEN I TEACH MY CHICKEN WORKSHOPS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEW BACKYARD FLOCK, THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS OF WHICH I AM SO SURE TO BE ASKED, THAT I HAVE AN ONGOING BET WITH MY KIDS TO GIVE THEM ICE-CREAM IF I AM NOT. SO FAR I HAVEN'T LOST MY BET. ALTHOUGH YOU MAY KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, CHANCES ARE THERE MIGHT BE SOME OF YOU OUT THERE WHO DON'T AND SO FOR YOU:

DO YOU NEED A ROOSTER TO GET EGGS FROM YOUR HENS?

PEOPLE TEND TO THINK OF EGGS AS A TYPE OF BABY THAT IS ONLY BORN WHEN IT IS "READY." THIS IS NOT THE CASE. NOT TO GO COMPLETELY ZEN ON YOU, BUT WITH CHICKENS, AN EGG IS JUST AN EGG. THE EGG IS A PROTEIN, CALCIUM WRAPPED PACKAGE THAT A HEN IS PROGRAMMED TO DELIVER EVERY FEW DAYS (SOME BREEDS EVEN LAY ON A DAILY BASIS) WHETHER A ROOSTER IS AROUND OR NOT. JUST AS A FEMALE HUMAN HAS A CYCLE, SO DOES A FEMALE HEN AND NO ROOSTER IS GOING TO STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING.

FOR AN EGG TO BE FERTILIZED AND THUS HAVE A CHANCE AT CREATING A CHICK, YOU'LL NEED A ROOSTER IN YOUR FLOCK. THE ROOSTER WILL COPULATE WITH YOUR HEN CREATING "FERTILIZED" EGGS THAT ARE NOW CAPABLE OF HAVING EMBRYONIC GROWTH WITH THE POTENTIAL OF BEING ABLE TO HATCH. IN SHORT, IF YOU WANT EGGS FOR EATING, YOU'LL NEED A HEN. BUT IF YOU WANT CHICKS, THEN AND ONLY THEN YOU'LL NEED A ROOSTER.

HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR FLOCK IN THE WINTER?

WE LIVE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MANY OF MY FIRST TIME CHICKEN OWNING FRIENDS START SHOWING CONCERN ABOUT THEIR CHICKENS WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DROP. BUT THEY NEEDN'T BE WORRIED. CHICKENS ARE OUTDOOR BIRDS (JUST LIKE WILD TURKEYS.) IF YOU'VE PROVIDED A WIND-PROOF SHELTER ALONG WITH ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER, YOUR CHICKENS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE IT FROM THERE. CHICKENS WILL ROOST TOGETHER WHEN THE WEATHER GETS VERY COLD.

THIS MEANS THAT THEY WILL LINE THEIR BODIES CLOSELY TO EACH OTHER WHILE THEY SIT ON A RAISED BAR. IF YOU HAVE CHICKENS, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STICK YOUR HAND BETWEEN TWO ROOSTING BIRDS TO FEEL THE HEAT GENERATED BETWEEN THEM. IT'S PRETTY AMAZING.

CHICKENS ALSO LOOK A LOT FLUFFIER IN THE WINTER. THIS ISN'T BECAUSE THEY HAVE PUT ON EXTRA WEIGHT, INSTEAD IT'S BECAUSE THEY KNOW TO FLUFF UP THEIR FEATHERS IN ORDER TO TRAP AIR UNDERNEATH. THIS AIR IS THEN HEATED BY THEIR BODIES AND HELPS TO KEEP THEM EVEN WARMER. IN ESSENCE, IT'S NATURE'S ORIGINAL DOWN COAT.



**September 21-28 is
National Farm
Animal Awareness**

CHICKENS ABSOLUTELY DON'T NEED ELECTRICAL HEATERS IN THE WINTER (UNLESS YOU ARE USING ONE TO MELT THE DRINKING WATER) AND IN FACT, MANY COOPS CATCH ON FIRE FROM THE MISTAKEN USE OF HEATERS BEING USED AROUND FLAMMABLE BEDDING.

IN THE END, CHICKENS ARE PRETTY SMART AND HARDY BIRDS. THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND THERE'S A REASON WHY YOU ALWAYS SEE THEM ON FARMS, CHICKENS ARE EASY TO CARE FOR. IF YOU PROVIDE THE BASICS – SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER – THEN THEY ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO TAKE IT FROM THERE. ~

Wendy Thomas is an award winning journalist, columnist and blogger who believes that taking challenges in life will always lead to goodness. She is the mother of 6 funny and creative kids and it is her goal to teach them through stories and lessons. Wendy's current project involves writing about her family's experiences with chickens at www.simplethrift.wordpress.com.

WRITTEN BY HEATHER WALLACE

Confessions of a Timid Rider is available through
TimidRider.com and Amazon.com

Confessions of a Timid Rider

I Love
Horses
Day!
July 15th



BEST
2019
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American Pet
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Volunteers as Readers



Have you ever walked into your local shelter and been greeted by a wall of noise...all of the barking, growling, and howling in one huge cacophony of sound? Now ask yourself, how many people that are looking for dogs and then hear all of that noise, turn right around and leave the shelter?

The importance of socialization in dogs, how anxiety can create problem behaviors like barking, and even how dogs who were never taught to like being around people are fearful and thus create barking. The good news is by introducing a reader position within the volunteer ranks can and will help fix this problem. Read on and find out how.

Readers will work in three basic environments:

- 🐾 The shelter itself
- 🐾 Outside on a leash or outdoor kennel
- 🐾 The quiet/isolation room

Let's start in the shelter itself. The goal of "Readers" is simple; getting dogs used to being around people and to get them to be calm/quiet when they see people. The first thing a reader is going to do inside the shelter is grab a folding chair, a book or newspaper, and sit down and start reading. The reader is to completely ignore all barking, whining and growling they hear and just read. As the minutes go by the dogs are going to realize something new is happening. This person sitting here in my kennel area is not looking at me, talking to me or 'God forbid', walking up to the kennel or cage and looking at me...

Very quickly the dogs are going to figure out that barking doesn't get them any reaction whatsoever and that there is no real reason to continue. They might resort to some other behavior instead of barking such as jumping up on the kennel doors, spinning in circles or pacing, but in the end the dogs begin to realize that all this commotion is really a waste of time and is not getting them anything so they might as well quit it. We are going to slowly but surely condition the dogs that the presence of people is normal and nothing to get worked up over. The next step is to begin adding an alternative behavior that we can start rewarding in addition to ignoring the barking...

Just what is that alternative behavior is going to be? Yep, you guessed it... "SIT". Our goal here is to give no attention whatsoever to barking, thus making the behavior unrewarding. While at the same time adding the desirable behavior of sit, which we can reward! After all, what self-respecting dog will waste energy doing something that gets them nothing? Pair that with a new behavior that gets us a reward and you are on your way to a quieter kennel! Now ask yourself a simple question "Which dog will get adopted faster the barker or the dog who sits"? Now that you understand what we are trying to accomplish, let's discuss the how to of this equation.

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Let's say the volunteer is there for an hour, they have their book or magazine, their chair and they are actively reading and ignoring the dogs. I now want the volunteer to stop at least three times an hour and walk through the kennel. However, I do not want them to look at, talk to or otherwise communicate with the dogs in any way. Rather I want them to keep a watch from the corner of their eye at each kennel door, pause and wait, let's say for 20-30 seconds.

Now our end goal is a quiet, sitting dog, but to expect this right off the bat is unfair. So in the beginning, we might only get a dog that stops barking at you, or maybe they are sitting but still barking. Either way if something good (sitting or quiet) happens the reader tosses a treat in the kennel and moves to the next one. In dog training we call this shaping a behavior.

We are accepting a partially correct response and rewarding it so that the next time we can delay the reward and get a little closer to what we really want. If the dog does not quit barking or sit, the choice is simple, move on to the next kennel. After going through all the kennels, go back to your chair for another chapter of reading (or about 20 minutes) then repeat the process. Try by try, hour by hour and day by day you are going to see less barking and more sitting. The reason...the dogs are simply learning by association that barking and crazy gets us nothing while being quiet and sitting gets us a cookie!

At the same time, we are desensitizing the dog to the presence of people. Honestly, the more readers you can have in the kennel at once the better, so that the dogs get used to more than just one person being present. Another thing to consider is the ability that dogs have of learning from each other. Trust me; the noisy ones are going to start putting together why George in the kennel next door keeps getting all the treats! No matter what angle we look at the reader position from, we have begun to teach dogs that certain behaviors are rewarded while others are ignored and not worth continuing...

Obviously, the reading position is the perfect position for our green volunteers. This is a way of volunteering that requires very little training and/or management. But don't get me wrong, I honestly think these folks are going to be the ones that create the biggest change in the dogs at any shelter! So treat 'em good and take the time to explain the process to them so they buy into the idea after all they are your front line in the war to get more dogs adopted!

How about taking a dog out on a nice day and just sitting under a tree and reading a book? My whole goal with the idea of readers is to create dogs that are okay being around people and not having to be attended to or being pushy about getting our attention. Dogs, like people, must realize at some point in their life that some periods of quiet are necessary to be balanced. It also helps dogs to become independent!

Face it, dogs at some point in their life will have to be alone for a period of time, and those dogs that have human interaction and attention 24/7 become what I call Velcro Dogs. Those are the dogs that have to be around their owner all the time or they break down, some even enter the world of separation anxiety and that, my friends, is a terrible thing to witness.

Remember that down time, alone time and independence are all things dogs need to be balanced. Unfortunately, this again is where our humanness gets in the way, we feel the need to hold, cuddle and make everything better by giving into every request for attention. I don't want you to think that giving your dog attention is a bad thing rather that dogs should give us appropriate behaviors that then are rewarded by our attention... Think of your attention as the paycheck and the behavior we want from our dog as the work!

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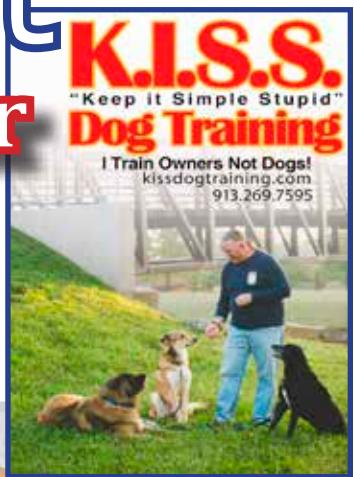
BEST 2019 in print

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"



**Image Source:
Humane Society
of Missouri**



Don't think the green volunteers get all the fun here, there are plenty of opportunities for more seasoned red and yellow volunteers to use this same technique. For example, what if a particular dog is scared of, anxious or even possibly snippy around people? In that case why not have a seasoned volunteer start a desensitization program with the dog using the reading method. Start with the reader sitting outside the dog's kennel and just reading.

Rewards come as the dog investigates or is quiet around the person. You could then graduate to removal of the chair and have the person sit right in front of the kennel, still outside the kennel but close enough so that the dog can start to sniff the stranger. All the while, the dog is learning that this person is not scary and is in fact someone who will reward the dog being brave, allowing the dog to investigate at their own pace, growing more confident and relaxed.

The next stage might be reading in a "quiet room" where the dog is loose along with the reader who still at this point is ignoring the dog, waiting for that glorious moment when the dog comes up and investigates the person and is rewarded with a treat! Of course treats are given during the entire process. The key here is to let the dog grow braver and reward appropriate behaviors.

Our only job is to ignore the dog, allowing the dog to progress at their own pace gaining confidence and CHOOSING to progress. That being said, a very dog savvy person is required in these instances, typically red volunteers and occasionally some very strong yellow volunteers.

Call your local Humane Society, Shelter & Rescues to volunteer today. Be a Voice for the Voiceless!

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

BEST 2019 in print

EPic Dog Tales

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery

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



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

All books are available online from www.ArcticHousePublishing.com

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

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



Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, is based on one of the author's Huskies, Gibson, having a seizure, which is translated into a short tale that makes it easy for children (who may have Epilepsy themselves, know someone who does, or have a pet that has it) to understand. As the short story unfolds in easy-to-understand rhymes accompanied by colorfully adorable illustrations, the three young pups discover that their big brother has Canine Epilepsy and they get a hands-on lesson about care and first aid from the pack's alpha leader, Harley. A percentage of proceeds from the book will be donated to the non-profit Canine Epilepsy Resources center.

Buddy, the Christmas Husky

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

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

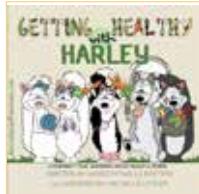
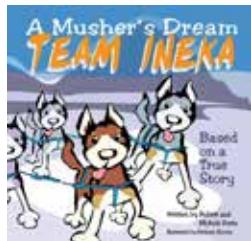


Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as "Buddy, the Christmas Husky," discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book's proceeds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

A Musher's Dream: Team Ineka

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

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



Getting Healthy With Harley

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

Welcome back to the world of the FiveSibes; five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading.

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



FiveSibes
Always Remember 9/11

FiveSibes.com FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews on Facebook

MISSKITTY'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Written by Suzi Karp

The paw print that is left on your heart is forever. Unconditional Love is recalled daily. Memories of all the good times flood emotions. Individuality traits create tears, smiles and laughs.

Sadly, on May 10th, MissKitty Karp started having neurological problems. The dreaded decision to help her cross the Rainbow Bridge was made. We are blessed to have had her in our lives.



As one of the AmericanPet Magazine founders and Senior Writer, she worked on her MissKitty Karp kolumn often. She was a big influence in both the home and office. There has been such a great response of letters so AmericanPet Magazine will continue to publish the kolumn with GypsyPrince and PeanutButter's assistance.

MissKitty and I, we knew each other for a couple years, we were neighbors. Her owner said she found her all dirty and alone so she brought her home thinking she was maybe about 2 years old. The indoors made her happy until one day a kitten was brought into the home and MissKitty preferred to be outside more often. Again her beautiful coat of fur became dirty and she didn't have a sweet spirit.



There always seemed to be unpleasant interaction when it came to MissKitty. All the neighbors called her 'Bitch'. In which they were right. But she earned that name the hard way.. by having to protect herself while outdoors.



She was a one-of-a-kind Siamese Hemingway (Polydactyl). Whoever she lived with during her earlier years had her front paws declawed so she relied on attitude and strength. It was incredible how strong those beautiful paws were. She could bruise a human's leg. She also nipped when her space was invaded and she didn't want to be bothered. We grew to respect each other very much!

Sunday, September 8th is National Pet Memorial Day. Join us as we pay tribute to those special souls that have touched our hearts so deeply.



Truly, a beautiful soul, who reassured me that the voiceless may be having a bad day and deserve another chance in life. She moved into my home on her own accord & I eventually committed to her. She became MY pet when I told the neighbor that she now lived with me and please do not feed MissKitty to confuse her of my intentions.

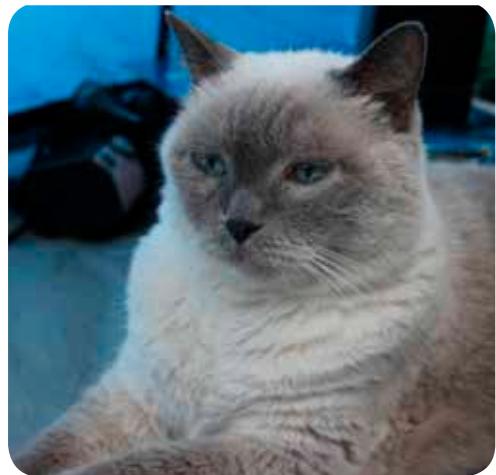
Her presence is everywhere as each day reminds us of MissKitty's quirks & odd behavior. She was a 'basket-case', loved any box left on the floor and hiding in all cabinets where she would unknowingly scare me when she was found.

Persistence was her middle name! I couldn't get away when she demanded it was time for the cat/human interaction. Her love was welcoming as I knew it was true and coming from her heart. She knew she was one of the special ones. Finding a Forever Home is not easy for many but she found hers for the last 10 years of her precious life.

A few years ago, the 3 KarpKatZ (GypsyPrince, MissKitty and PeanutButter) wanted to Be a Voice for the Voiceless and meowed it over with me. Their desire was to educate and entertain by creating a publication while generating proceeds for those in need. They wanted to 'pay it forward' because they each felt so grateful for finding a FOREVER Home and know that not everyone is as lucky.

MissKitty is survived by her 2 fury (non-related) siblings, GypsyPrince (18yrs) & PeanutButter (7yrs). She lived through being run over by a Blazer in 2006 with a fractured pelvis. A strong-willed creature who shared tons of love once she found the right family for her to fit in with. I couldn't imagine life without her and am honored that she chose me! Till death do we part ... until we meet again at the bridge.

Thank you everyone for the kind words during the unexpected loss of MissKitty. She was a bit part of our mission and wants us to continue on with no regrets. Everyday we celebrate the lives of all our special Furry Friends that have inspired us to create AmericanPet Magazine and Be a Voice for the Voiceless!



**KarpKatZ' Personal Memorials ...
Their Unconditional Love is the Inspiration for Our Voice
National Pet Memorial Day
Sunday, September 8, 2019**

People love their pets. We quickly grow attached to our pets.

National Pet Memorial Day is an opportunity to bring closure to the departure of our beloved pets. It allows us to fondly remember our departed pets. Your pet would want you to cherish their memory, then move on.

Ways to commemorate National Pet Memorial Day:

- 🐾 Spend a few minutes reflecting upon pleasant memories of your pet
- 🐾 If you buried your pet somewhere, go for a visit
- 🐾 Contribute to an animal protection group
- 🐾 Volunteer at an animal protection group
- 🐾 Create a small memorial in a flower garden in your yard
- 🐾 Plant a tree or a shrub as a living memorial

Origin of National Pet Memorial Day: This very special day for pet lovers was established by the International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories (IAPC)



Rest In Peace

**One Pet at a time, One Day at a
time, One Life at a time**



PHOTO: MISSKITTYKARP
RIP 3/25/1996 - 5/10/2013

17 YRS OLD

PHOTOGRAPHER: ©SUZIK

MissKitty, a 17-year-old Siamese Polydactyl, the professional expertise and insights of "MissKitty Karp kolumn". MissKitty lived in Fort Lauderdale with her human mommy and two kitty siblings, GypsyPrince and PeanutButter. When not working on her kolumn, she spent most of her time indoors scratching with her clawless front paws and enjoying catnip or soaking up the sun in her backyard. She also loved her hiding spots and boxes or baskets to sleep in all day until it was MissKitty (Persistance) Loving Time.

#RESCUE #FOSTER
#ADOPT SHELTER
#FUREVERHOME
#PETCELEBRATIONS

DON'T LEAVE US HANGING AROUND!

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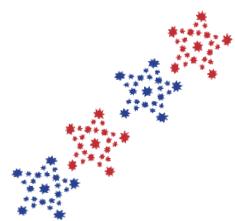
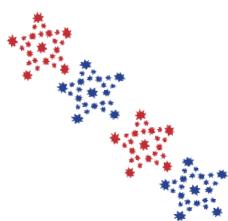
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One Pet at a Time..
One Day at a Time..
One Life at a Time..
Your Voice Matters!