



Fetch magazine

August 2008 | Volume 5 Issue 8

Irish Wolfhound

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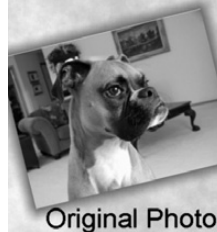
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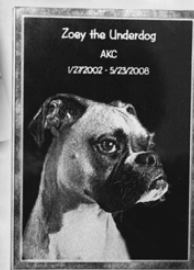


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Publisher's Letter

A Life Fulfilled – The decision to end the life of a companion is tiring and complex. The hardest part of living with companion animals is the point of not living with them. We all hope the end is many years away and approaches softly and quietly during a deep sleep. But unfortunately, due to various reasons, many of us spend an agonizing amount of time calculating when a decision should be made. For me, that time came last month.

The life I'm referring to is that of my 14 year old West Highland White Terrier – Kramer. For those of you who have been reading this publication since the beginning, he was the first 'cover dog.'

This is my first experience in losing a dog...a buddy. For all of you who have lost a companion, my sincere condolences go out to you. I encourage everyone who has questions or would like to hear others share their stories, to attend Pet Loss Support groups that meet monthly at local Humane Societies. Check our event calendar for upcoming dates.

P.S. I would like to thank the staff members at HAWS for their sincere thoughts and comments. A special thank you to Mark Hess for guiding Kramer's last moments with us. Your compassion was evident through your patience and kindness.

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Ask the VET

Question: Most companion animal owners can identify a broken leg and race to the local emergency center for help. However, will many people also notice a broken tooth? If a broken tooth is found, what can be done? Are there treatment options? How quickly should treatment be provided? What will treatment cost?

Answer: Broken or fractured teeth are an extremely common presentation for veterinarians. Recent research has identified that at least 10% of dogs have one or more broken teeth. At the Animal Dental Center of Milwaukee and Oshkosh, we see at least one case daily. The large premolar and molar teeth are typically injured from chewing hard objects. The typical offenders that result in broken teeth are cow hoofs, ice cubes, nylon bones, rocks and other hard objects. The canine (fang) and incisor teeth are frequently fractured from trauma. This trauma can be due to two dogs playing aggressively or even a clumsy dog bumping his teeth into poles or walls. A slip and fall may be all it takes to break a tooth. We even see dogs having broken teeth from trying to play ball with children, golf with adults, or from playing "fetch."

The extent of the fracture helps to determine the most rational treatment plan. It may be obvious, with vital (live) pulp exposed or it may be more subtle. The non-vital (dead) exposed pulp is often not apparent as calculus (tartar) may cover up the fracture site. Additionally, the non-vital tooth may have the pulp chamber exposed without the bright pink or red pulp tissue visible. The extent of a tooth fracture may only involve the outer enamel or it may involve deeper structures such as the dentine or pulp (nerve and blood supply). It is important to establish an accurate diagnosis prior to deciding on the best treatment for fractured teeth.

Dental radiographs with periodontal probing allow for an accurate diagnosis and optimal treatment plans. Many pets benefit by saving their teeth rather than extracting every tooth with problems. There are benefits in extracting teeth as well as saving them. Think of healthy functional teeth as assets and broken painful teeth as liabilities. Our goal is to create a healthy comfortable mouth.

Current dental procedures can transform a broken tooth (liability) into a healthy and functional tooth (asset). If a broken tooth cannot be transformed to a comfortable functional tooth, it can be surgically removed. We feel very strongly about providing thorough dental and oral surgery consultations. This allows for informed decision making for each patient.

Do fractured teeth hurt?

The anatomy, physiology and nervous system of our companion animals is incredibly similar to our own. It is only logical to assume animals experience pain from fractured teeth as we do. The degree of pain is related to the extent and the duration of the fracture. If the pulp is exposed from an injury such as being hit from a baseball bat or golf club, there is immediate and excruciating pain. Many times we fail to notice our pets have had fractured teeth. These teeth may be very painful or pain free, depending on many factors. Please don't judge whether a pet has pain simply on the basis that they are eating. I remember when my father broke several ribs. He had excruciating pain but he continued to enjoy each meal.

As the tooth becomes infected through the fracture site, it may die and become non-painful. If the infection spreads to the alveolar bone supporting the tooth, pain often returns. The bone and local soft tissues may become infected and eventually abscess. The abscess may result in an intraoral swelling (inside the mouth) or an extraoral facial swelling (outside the mouth) and eventually become a draining track. Swollen faces are tremendously painful in our experience with patients. We also notice that the pain is reduced when the abscess "bursts" and drains. These draining tracks may form intraorally (within the mouth) or extraorally. Treatment of fractured teeth eliminates the pain. Treatment also eliminates the swellings and draining tracks that sometimes develop. Our experience has consistently been that pet owners are very surprised on how dramatic the improvement in their pets' behaviors is abruptly after treatment has been provided. Many of these owners did not realize how much pain their pets were in until we provided treatment. These owners often feel a terrible sense of guilt from failing to identify the problem or failing to seek appropriate dental care earlier. Seeing their pets improve is a tremendously positive feeling.

What treatment options are available for fractured teeth?

Option 1: Extraction

Removing teeth is one treatment option; however, it is rarely the only option because dental specialists are available



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continued from page 6

to help as part of your veterinarian's team. There are times when extraction is the best treatment option. Some teeth are not able to be saved. Meticulous oral surgery technique can minimize risks and resolve problems quickly. Dental extraction eliminates teeth that are painful or nonfunctional. Risks associated with tooth extraction include fractured teeth, fractured jaws, excessive bleeding and infection. At times, an extraction procedure fails and a tooth remnant is left in the alveolus or it ends up in a sinus or other vital structure.

Option 2: Endodontic Therapy

Root canal therapy and vital pulpotomy with pulp capping are two treatment options for fractured teeth. Endodontic therapy transforms teeth that are liabilities into non-painful functional teeth (assets).

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Big vs. small

does size matter?

Thinking of adopting a dog? Are you having a hard time deciding if you want a big dog or a small dog? Truth be told, there are pros and cons on both ends of the spectrum. Big doesn't always mean more and small doesn't always mean less – that is when you're talking about attitude and behavior.

If you're thinking of adopting a big dog, here's a few things to consider. First, you'll need a little more space. Larger breed dogs do require more exercise and room to run. Second, you'll need a little more money for vet bills. Usually the bigger the dog, the bigger the medical problem can be. Though it seems natural that big dogs would require more food, this is not necessarily the case. When they aren't growing, large dogs on average, can consume about the same as any dog...minus those so-called 'teacup' dogs whose consumption is measured in ounces.

"Nipping behavior issues in the bud is a definite must do with larger breed dogs," says Margo Wichman, an experienced large and small breed dog owner in Johnson Creek. "Whenever you're dealing with a behavior issue in a larger dog, that behavior problem is multiplied by 100 pounds – or whatever the dog might weigh," she explains. This makes it easier to not notice a behavior issue in a small dog who might be doing the same thing.

Though behavior and sheer size can be a con in owning a larger breed dog, sheer energy might be their biggest pro.

"I've always grown up with bigger dogs including a Springer Spaniel, Chesapeake Bay Retriever and yellow Lab," says Jana Waller of Fort Atkinson. "Since my family enjoys the outdoors, it's nice having a bigger, heartier dog that can hike through snow drifts, swim in the pond, and walk through the thick woods. Our dog Otis weighs 97 pounds and is very sturdy. I've taken him on five mile runs and eight hour hikes in the woods while looking for deer antlers. He's big, but he's also a big baby. I wouldn't want it any other way."

But, if you're looking for more of a "cuddly companion," perhaps a small dog is more

your speed. Melissa Guld of Johnson Creek enjoys owning smaller dogs because they're easier to snuggle with and take up less room on the couch. In addition, she says, if a person isn't committed to spending a lot of time training their dog, it's easier to walk an ill behaved small dog than an ill behaved larger dog. On the other hand, she adds, a small dog can trip you because they are so small and sometimes aren't noticed if they get under a person's step. "But, my sister's Vizsla just completely knocks me over, so I'm not sure which is worse, being tripped or knocked over," she laughs.

In terms of potty training, there is a myth that small dogs are more difficult to house train than larger breed dogs. This is not always the case. Some individual dogs may be more difficult to train, but size is usually not a determining factor. Smaller dogs, however, may not always enjoy going outside in cold or inclement weather due to their inability to stay as warm as a larger dog.

When it comes to size, both large and small breed dogs have their ups and downs. To decide which dog is right for you, first decide how much time, energy and space you personally have. This may help you decide what size and breed of dog is right for you. After all, putting a St. Bernard in an apartment might be as beneficial to him as locking yourself in a closet. In addition, if you adopt a small

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dog, but expect her to entertain herself 12 hours per day, then you may want to consider adopting a cat instead.

Jamie Klinger-Krebs is a freelance writer who writes a regular monthly column "Pet Talk" on <http://www.gmtoday.com>.



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The Great Garlic Debate

Animal health associations label garlic as toxic and potentially fatal for dogs.

Pet supplement makers say garlic is a necessary part of a dog's diet and helps ward off fleas.

What do you think? Share your thoughts at www.fetchmag.com.

Models Wanted: Clothing Optional

Does your dog strike a pose when you bring out the camera? Does your cat smile when you say "cheese"? The Wisconsin & Ozaukee Humane Societies' calendar contest is back and entries are now being accepted!

One lucky pet will be chosen for the highly coveted cover photo and twelve others will be selected as a "Pet of the Month." The first 500 photographs submitted are guaranteed to be included in the calendar. Thousands of copies of the calendar will be printed.

There is a \$12 non-refundable entry fee for the first photo; each additional entry is \$10. All proceeds from the calendar benefit the shelter animals. Local celebrity judges will determine the top 13 photos. Be sure to read the contest guidelines at www.wihumane.org and submit your photo! Don't delay, enter today!

Portable Pet Groomers Adds Second Vehicle to Meet Increasing Demand

Despite the fact that gas prices are at an all-time high, Portable Pet Groomers, a mobile grooming service for dogs and cats in Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha counties, has expanded its service to accommodate the growing number of pet owners seeking a stress-free, convenient grooming experience. The company's second van is now fully operational, open for appointments six days per week from morning through early evening.

"We added another vehicle in response to steadily increasing demand from pet owners seeking the convenience of mobile grooming," said Shelley Koenings, Owner.

In addition, Koenings also notes that extremely high gas prices are prompting people to seek out a variety of mobile services. "By using Portable Pet Groomers, pet owners save themselves a trip to and from the salon—twice—because they don't have to drop off their companions and the pick them up several hours later," she said.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for your loyal companions, go to www.portablepetgroomers.com or call (262) 895-4725 or (877) 268-2874.

Local Resident Turns Her Love for Animals into a New Career

Most people don't want to hear their business is going to the dogs but these days it could be the ticket for a thriving business. Just ask Laura Kriofsky, who left the certainty and structure of the corporate world to pursue her dream career with Central Bark Doggy Day Care.

Kriofsky served as a distribution coordinator for Ocean Spray Cranberries for nearly two decades but it was her part-time profession that she truly enjoyed. Always an animal lover, Kriofsky regularly volunteered at a local no-kill animal shelter for 14 years and decided to take her familiarity with and affinity for her four-legged friends to the next level. She began researching concepts that employed her past experience as well as her future goals and found Central Bark Doggy Day Care to be the perfect match for both.

"I've always loved animals, especially dogs, so I thought owning a Central Bark would be a great new career," said Kriofsky, 42. "I've rescued and fostered countless dogs over the years and knew that experience would lend itself to this new role." Given this background, Kriofsky decided the best way to celebrate the grand opening of her Central Bark on June 28th was with a Fourth of July-themed picnic and adopt-a-thon in conjunction with the Society of Saint Francis No-Kill Animal Shelter, Canine Pet Rescue and Safe Harbor Humane Society at her Kenosha facility located at 7600 75th St., Suite #202.

It is estimated that "dog parents" spend more than \$40 billion a year on their pets – a statistic the folks at Central Bark are well aware of. Central Bark is the nation's largest network of day care for dogs that offers programs specifically designed to enhance the safety and well being of dogs in its care, while still providing a social outlet for "dogs to be dogs." Services are not just limited to doggy day care. Other services include dog training, grooming, overnight sitting and the Central Bark Boutique, which specializes in canine products and gifts for the discriminating dog-loving shopper. Doggy birthday parties can also be arranged.

Since opening her business in March, Kriofsky has been providing her clients and their pets with the best care possible and is constantly looking for new ways to improve upon her already impressive offerings in the future.

Learn more about day care options or sign your pooch up at 262-694-DOGS (3647).



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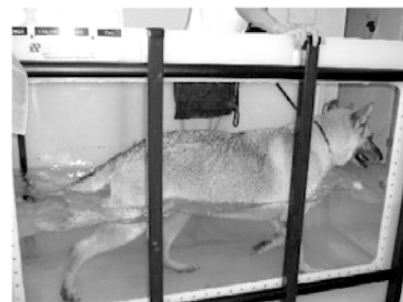
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PRICELESS LOVE

No one can say pet lovers aren't doing their share to support a sagging U.S. economy. Last year we spent \$41 billion on our beloved animals, and we're expected to top that figure in 2008. While soaring food and gasoline prices urge us to change some of our spending habits, why aren't we more reluctant to whip out the cash or credit cards for our pets? And what are we buying for them?

Good health, for one thing. Almost 20 billion of our pet dollars were spent for veterinary care and over-the-counter medicine. We've come a long way from believing a pet becomes too old to treat; we now want the same quality of health care offered to humans, and the options are plentiful—massage, acupuncture, chiropractic, reiki, nutritional supplements, to name a few. While improving the quality of a dog's life, these modalities can also extend our time together making it well worth the cost. And if we've purchased health insurance—yes, pet insurance is approaching mainstream—some of the dog's health care might be covered.

Along with our commitment to care for a dog throughout its life, comes our responsibility to help the animal at its time of death, a process that would naturally happen for them in the wild. In addition to the costs of ending a beloved pet's pain and suffering, we have more options



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz Photography, copyright 2008.

than ever before to ease us through a most difficult time—cremation, casket, plot purchase and burial, funeral service, and grief counseling. If our dog should outlive us, we need not worry—legal services now include the creation of pet trust funds. This service has actually increased the number of available homes for dogs, as older people now feel freer to get a pet, knowing that it will be taken care of in the event of their own death.

Traveling either with or without our dogs has become easier, at a price of course. Improved boarding facilities and pet hotels help us leave our dogs behind guilt-free, because we know they will have a good time in our absence. When we take them along, travel planning is

now easier and more fun. Hotels have realized that our dogs are part of the family, and that a mere "Pets Allowed" policy or an "onsite boarding" feature no longer does it for us. We want luxury accommodations for the whole pack, and hotels across the country have responded with packages priced according to our selection of dog amenities. If you're familiar with the human spa experience, you can imagine how your canine will enjoy a "Dog Spaw." (Really, that's what

they're called.)

Airlines also realize that we want more comfortable accommodations for our dogs—no more stashing them like cargo in the cold or hot belly of the airplane. Small dogs in carriers may accompany their owners on board, while larger breeds now fly in a temperature controlled section especially for them, below but separate from baggage. Pets flying Midwest Airlines even earn frequent flyer miles.

If you travel by car with your dog or dogs, you probably know which auto manufacturers are marketing directly to you. If not, you must check out some websites including dogcars.com. You can also purchase seat belts and car seats designed to fit your dog at snoozerpetsproducts.com.

Our dogs' food bills have soared right along with our own. We're feeding them better, and it's costing us more. In our recent past, scanning the ingredients list instead of price checking on a bag of dog kibble or a can of dog meat signified responsible pet care. Today more research is required, as our choices have expanded from dry vs. wet to an overwhelming menu of raw meat (turkey, chicken, beef, duck, fish, bison), with or without vegetables, fruits, herbs and supplements; home-cooked; organic; vegetarian; Kosher; and locally grown. More costly than kibble, these often human-grade selections vary in price and grow in popularity.

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As the baby boomers expand our aging population, many dogs are replacing kids at home. More of us are getting dogs for more reasons than ever before, and as technology and work-at-home lifestyles tend to disconnect us from each other, we rely on our dogs for companionship. We develop deeper bonds with them, and we gladly spend our money on them for their pleasure and our own. But they love us whether we do or not—a dog's love is priceless. (And for everything else, there's MasterCard.)

Jean Scherwenka loves dogs, writing, and the opportunity to combine the two in her articles for Fetch Magazine.

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Puppy Lovin'

101 Dalmatian's Pongo and Perdita had their puppy love. Walt Disney's Lady had her Tramp. Other than adorable cartoon characters, however, can dogs really fall in love?

"I believe in animal instinct," said dog trainer Jim Perry of Waukesha about canine romantic love. Jim has worked with hundreds of dogs in a career that spans forty-eight years and more than one continent.

Never-the-less, just for fun, Mr. Perry recently attended a doggy "wedding" at Petlicious Dog Biscuit Bakery in Pewaukee and provided a photo of the canine bride and groom with their cake.

Dr. Nan Boss from Best Friends Veterinary Clinic in Grafton weighed in on

the topic by adding that "... from a scientific point of view I haven't run across any studies or evidence to show whether pets have the same brain chemical release or MRI changes that people do when interacting with loved ones."

As for doggy love? Dr. Boss says, "Certainly as a pet owner I would like to think my pets love me back, but I'm guessing it's not the same type of feeling we have because dogs, cats and horses don't form long term pair bonds like people do. In nature I don't know if a pack of wolves or dogs have a fondness for each other? I would think that they do. Mothers and offspring certainly can be very closely bonded if they live together long term, and sibling dogs or cats raised together may grieve for months if one dies. I think grieving is one of the most telltale signs of love, and we've all heard stories about dogs who seemed to miss their owners terribly after they died. Even if it's not quite the same sort of love

humans feel it is at least a very strong attachment, involving feelings of dependency, understanding, and trust."

But doggy weddings – what does a veterinarian think about canine romance and "falling in love?" "My thought is that dogs don't feel romantic love – their sexual behaviors don't support that sort of feeling. But companionship love – absolutely," clarifies Dr. Boss.

So there is love, and then there is love. Or, perhaps because dogs are not humans, we just can't really know for sure about this whole doggy-love subject.

Mary Beck, volunteer at Labrador Education and Rescue Network of Northern IL and Southern WI (L.E.A.R.N.) says that dogs are happy every time we walk in the door; they definitely like to hang out with their people. But she questions whether their tails are wagging because these canine companions feel love for us or whether they're just doing what dogs do, namely, showing doggy exuberance and loyalty. "As much as I'd like to believe that my own two Labs along with the Labs I've fostered for L.E.A.R.N. over the years love me unconditionally and as much as I love them, I have resolved myself to the fact that they do these things because they are pack animals. Because they are willing to give out Labby kisses and have a high tolerance to my hugs I secretly pretend it's because they love me, but I know they are just normal, well-adjusted dogs behaving like an appropriate pack member should," suggests Mary. Go ahead and feel that your dog does what he does because he loves you, is Mary's advice, as she believes there is nothing wrong with this as long as you understand that your dog

- continued on page 19



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Sat., August 2nd, 12:00 p.m. Mon., August 11th, 7:45 p.m.
Wed., August 6th, 6:15 p.m. Sat., August 23rd, 9:00 a.m.

Dog Manners Class (over 5 months of age):

Basics like down, stay, drop it, come and much more. Learn all the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test.

Sat., August 2nd, 1:30 p.m. Sat., August 23rd, 10:30 a.m.
Wed., August 6th, 7:30 p.m. Thur., August 28th, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., August 11th, 6:30 p.m.

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):

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Mutt Mattresses:

Making Your Own Dog Bed

It's not unusual to spend upwards of 100 dollars on a place for your pooch to rest himself. There are many reasons to purchase a pre-made bed. Manufacturers claim anti-bacterial filling, or mattresses that support a dog's joints. There are also quite elaborate styles such as miniature canopy beds and even pet Murphy beds that fold up to save space.

But if the prices seem a bit too high and you're looking for a project, making a dog bed is a very special way to say 'I love you' to your faithful companion.

There are instructions to make pet beds just about everywhere. From the many plans and patterns, there are a number of things to consider.

First is cost. You want to make sure it is inexpensive. Buying fabric on sale is ideal or using something you have around the house. Old sheets, drapes, or scrap fabric sewn together will work. Old sleeping bags, pillow or cushion foam make excel-

lent bed fillers. And recycling this old material is environmentally positive too. The cover should be removable and machine washable. It needs to stand up to daily use and hide any stains. Fabrics with a design are recommended for this purpose. Consider medium to dark colors too.

Having a separate cover also means it's easier and less expensive to change the look when you redecorate.

There are three-styles of dog beds: pillow beds, ortho/foam beds and bolster beds. When deciding which type of bed to make, consider if your dog likes to burrow (pillow), just wants to lie on something soft (foam), or prefers to lean against something (bolster).

Pillow beds

Dog pillows are the simplest bed. Make sure your completed pillow will be six inches larger than your dog. Turn the fabric inside out and sew three sides (or use the fold as one side and sew two sides). On the fourth side (for a rectangle) leave 3 to 5 inches open when you sew up the ends. Use the opening to turn the fabric right side out. Then shove stuffing into the hole.

You can also purchase a pillow on clearance. To make a larger bed, put several pillows together, either sewing the edges together or using a fabric under-the-bed storage container that keeps the pillows snuggly together.

Foam beds

For a firmer, flat bed, use an old foam cushion or buy some upholstery foam. It's available at both large craft stores and local mattress retailers. It's possible to use inexpensive egg carton foam as well. Simply cut it to size and glue thin pieces together to get a thicker pad.

For added washability, glue a vinyl table cloth over the foam (like wrapping a present). It's also possible to incorporate both the foam and the pillow styles. Make the foam base first and add pillow stuffing on top, inside the cover.

Bolster beds

Bolsters give your dog something to lean against. Craft guru Carol Duvall showed a detailed bolster pet bed on one of her shows (which you can find at DIYnetwork.com). She rolled quilt batting into a cylindrical shape, securing it with

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tape every foot or so. Then she covered it in fabric and sewed it to a base with a large needle and thread. The completed bed looks like a miniature couch.

If you prefer to use stuffing (and have lots of it) you can make a hollow tube out of fabric for the bolster and stuff it instead of using batting. An adult could sew the fabric together and kids could stuff the cotton inside.

All important cover

For any style dog bed, make sure you pick a functional and fun fabric for the cover. It can be sophisticated and match your décor. Or, sassy to match the personality of your dog, but it should be machine washable.

Make sure you measure your fabric twice. You want to fit it over the bed. You can make a simple pillow case cover by using the instructions for the pillow bed. Leave the fourth side open or sew on closures like Velcro along that side.

To make a more fitted cover for the bolster bed, reorientate the typical pillow case cover, so the open side will be on the bottom (and the fold will be the top). Make the pillow case 4 inches wider, but no longer than your bed. This extra fabric will be tucked under the bolster. Sew some elastic on the open side to keep it on the bottom of the bed. This cover would be similar to a slip cover on a couch.

Fido Flare

Details make a cover look professional or home made. Many store bought beds use multiple fabrics. They have a gusset, a stripe between the top and bottom. There are edge details such as piping around the seams. They often have other designs too, such as embroidery. Certainly, embroidering your dog's picture on the bed would be a grand gesture, but if you don't have the inclination to take needle to cloth, you can purchase iron on patches and cut out fun dog shapes, or even the letters to spell his name. To make it a family project have kids decorate the cover with fabric paints. Your pooch won't mind how his bed looks, just how comfy it is. Make his special place look unique and fun. He'll appreciate the thought.

Emily Refermat is a dog lover and long-time writer who just isn't content without a pen in hand and the prod of a cold nose.

“Bark in the Park” Dog Fair Welcomes You!

As dog lovers, we cherish wide open spaces for our canine companions to romp and play. In almost every neighborhood throughout southeastern Wisconsin, a local park needs some sort of upkeep to maintain its beauty and safety. From play areas for kids to simple park benches, every park has its own needs. On September 13th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Enderis Park (72nd & Chambers) requires your help.

The Enderis Park Association, in affiliation with the Enderis Park Renewal Project and the Enderis East and Capitol West Neighborhood Associations, will be hosting the Enderis “Bark in the Park” Dog Fair.

Now in its fourth year, this lively event features activities for dogs and their owners, education, training demonstrations, raffle prizes, retailers with dog items for sale, and refreshments for both humans and canines. All well-socialized dogs are welcome to join in the festivities.

Recent park improvements include a new running track, wheelchair access to the field house, a new playground area and the Magic Grove sculpture in the children's area. Proceeds from the Dog Fair will help keep Enderis Park a wonderful park for neighbors to enjoy now and in the future.

Mark Saturday, September 13th on your calendar and make your way over to Enderis Park to support this neighborhood gathering place. The cost to attend is only \$5 per dog, and humans get in free. Don't miss this family-friendly event!

For more information, contact Cynthia Bade at 414-873-0661 or cbade@wi.rr.com.



continued from page 16

is a dog. But Mary also said, “If you want to show your affection for your dog and return the love you think they are offering, I say go for it and enjoy.” Believing that your canine buddy has fallen in love with the neighbor's pooch doesn't hurt a thing either.

Maybe it's time to pop in a DVD and watch “102 Dalmatians,” the sequel!

Deb Neulreich misses Duke, her beloved terrier sidekick, who went to doggy heaven last month. Deb imagines that Duke is chasing squirrels all day long, and finally, catching them all.

Proper Paws University Announces Annual Dog House Party

Southeastern Wisconsin's Premier Dog Daycare and Canine Education Center announces the celebration of its 5th anniversary on Saturday, August 9 at its Kenosha Campus located at 5150 60th Street, from 1p.m. – 4p.m. Admission is free. Leashed dogs are welcome! Afternoon activities include:

- Participating in the K-9 collegiate games for kids and dogs
- Browsing unique pet product vendors
- Talking to local pet rescue organizations
- Listening to educational mini seminars
- Observing dog sport demos such as Agility, Flyball, Obedience and Rally Obedience, and giving them a try
- Getting your pet questions answered by “Ask the Trainer” and “Ask the Vet”
- Food, entertainment and much more

The afternoon will be topped off by a fabulous performance by Popeye and SweePea at 3p.m. Alex (aka “Popeye”) and his amazing dog trick act have performed throughout the US, Canada and Europe, including appearances on David Letterman and Pet Star. SweePea's amazing tricks include tightrope walking, ball balancing, and jumping rope. In addition, SweePea has recently set two new world records for walking forwards up stairs while balancing a glass of water on her head and walking backwards down stairs while balancing a glass of water on her head.

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A Lesson in Love and Loyalty

A Reader's Personal Experience

If you're picking up this story from the July issue, we left off at Wilson receiving news of a confirmed diagnosis. If you haven't read part one, log onto www.fetchmag.com and you'll find a link to it on our home page.

January 8, 2007 Wilson was tested and thought to have Blastomycosis. I can still see the vet's face when he came back into the room with the x-ray. I cried and said, "It is Blasto!?" He looked at me. I asked, "Does he have a chance?" Dr. Reynolds said, "Yes he does. Look at him. He shouldn't even be standing and he is. He has a strong will to live." I shared Wilson's strong will to live but needed the expertise of our vet to tell me when the treatment was too much for Wilson to handle.

This was one of the worst days of my life! I had a good idea of what Blasto (for short) was because another dog at the park had just recovered from it. I just could not believe this could happen to Wilson. Here was a dog that had endured so much in his short life yet was showing incredible progress in his new life with us. I cried and cried! All my worries were now a nightmare.

I was up for the fight and I know Wilson was as well, but I couldn't help wonder if making him go through treatment was selfish on my part. I loved him so much and did not want to lose him. I had so much to show him, trips to take, and boat rides to experience. I now had to go home and tell Joey.

I walked in the door and started balling. Chance ran up to me and tried so hard to lick away all my tears. Joey took the news very well. He said, "I know Wilson will be fine and make it through this." I wish I had his strength and faith. We decided to go ahead and order the meds to treat Wilson for Blasto. As we waited for the meds to arrive and test results to come back, it seemed like a lifetime. Sick with worry I went to the Chapel at work. Sister Janella was there and I asked her to say a prayer for Wilson and for the meds to work as they should. The prayer was answered about an hour later. Our vet called and said the test results came back positive. No, not the ultimate answer we were hoping for, but at least I knew exactly what Wilson was fighting against. About 45 mins later another call came from the vet. The meds had arrived and Wilson was to begin the treatment tonight.



January 11, 2007 Wilson started his treatment. Itraconazole to treat the Blasto. Previcox for pain and swelling of his legs and fever. His symptoms were: lameness, lesions, high fever, lethargic, enlarged lymph nodes, lack of appetite, very heavy breathing, panting, x-ray of lungs looked like a snow blizzard, and swelling in all four legs. Looking back at our time in the woods, we believe the puncture wound had weakened his immune system and that Blasto must have been on the stick that scratched his leg.

This first week of treatment was horrible! I was told the meds alone can kill him and it will get worse before better. I thought how much worse can it get? Let me tell you it gets worse. So bad I can not even begin to put it in words. The next few days I made camp on the living room floor. Wilson was very restless and uncomfortable. He was told not to jump onto my bed and I knew he would if I was there.

I went to work during the first couple days of treatment and locked Wilson in my bedroom, hoping he would just sleep all day. It was painful for me to leave him at home and even more painful to think what I may come home to in the evening. I never want any of my dogs to leave this world alone.

When the weekend came, Wilson seemed worse. All of his legs were now swelled up 3x's the size. Breathing so heavy and rapped, I could not see how he was still fighting so hard to live. His eyes seemed to show more worry for me than for himself. I've never been with a dog that's so unselfish.

Since Wilson was given strict instructions to limit activities, even walking, I was in charge of carrying him outside for bathroom

breaks. Our house has seven steps on the porch and 17 steps going up to the house. It was my daily exercise.

During Wilson's treatment, we found ourselves with a lot of time on our hands (paws). After all, he wasn't allowed to participate in any activities, go for walks, or even romp in the backyard. So, I would talk to him, tell

him stories about picnicking and butterflies and Joey and the other two dogs playing in the water. I would reassure him that we were going to beat this. May sound like a strange way to pass the time, but Wilson's a member of the family. Unfortunately though, during all of this endless time, I couldn't shake the feeling of guilt. I blamed myself for allowing this to happen. I think Wilson sensed my worry since he would try to act normal, as best he could given the situation. I would tell him that I could not wait for him to do his crab walk (turn into a U shape and walk backwards) and smile at me once again.

Treatment was rough for Wilson. He did not want to eat, even with my consistent prodding. However, slowly he would gain enough energy to dig in.

The weekend came and passed so fast yet Wilson seemed worse. Blasto, I felt, was going to take him. Monday at work, a coworker asked me how he was feeling. I told her about the long weekend and how Wilson didn't look any better...and then I started crying. I told her I felt I was keeping him alive selfishly. I just did not want to lose him – not yet! I even told her that it may be time to make a decision.

On the way home from work, the weather echoed my pain...rainy and gloomy. At one point the sun attempted to shine through the clouds, like a light coming to take Wilson. I found myself crying again at the next stop sign and shouting, "Wilson, you will beat this!"

That night, Wilson showed the first signs of responding to the meds. He appeared more alert, even walking on his own into the kitchen. Some of the swelling in his legs began to subside. I was in pure

amazement. I gave Wilson a huge hug and told him how proud I was of his determination.

Wilson's treatment continued with weekly check ups at our veterinary clinic. After each visit, I would take him to Grant Park and relax at a place in the park that seemed to give him hope. At least it did for me.

As time went on, Wilson showed improvement, but very slowly. Each week I would notice something on his body that began healing. One week it was his lesions that began to close, another week it was his foot healing under the sock he needed to wear. These little changes each week continued to give me hope. Soon we were visiting the vet every two weeks, then every three weeks. Wilson was even beginning to go on short walks through the neighborhood. A trip into the woods even took place, with a short leash of course. Going into the woods brought out a lot of joy in Wilson. His smile was back.

Once the lesions, swelled lumps, and lymph nodes healed, it was hard to tell if Wilson was still responding to the meds. What kind of damage still existed inside? Our check-ups with Dr. Reynolds helped reassure us of Wilson's progress. After seven months of enduring treatment, I received the best news of my life, "Wilson is a survivor of Blastomycosis!" All he needed to do was finish up the meds and stop by the vet for a check up every couple of months. After what we all just went through, those two instructions were easy to follow.

September 26, 2007 Wilson took his last pill. Believe me; it was hard to stop the meds. They had been his lifeline for such a long time. I do not know how we did it. More importantly, how Wilson did it. But we all made it. The year 2007 seemed like a lost year in our lives. I look at the photo albums showcasing the fun we had before this nightmare. Through the treatment, I had forgotten how to live, how to enjoy life. This is all changing now, this summer is going to great!! The family is whole once more.

Kristin Meiller – Cudahy, Wisconsin

Since this story was written, Wilson has received additional check-ups. Learn more about his life after beating Blastomycosis and answers to help you fight this horrible condition if you find yourself in a similar situation. You'll find a link to this story on www.fetchmag.com.

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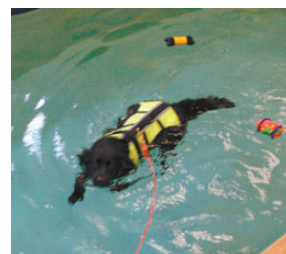
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BREED PROFILE:

The Irish Wolfhound

IRISH WOLFHOUNDS – Dignity Personified (Except When They Are Eating Your Couch)

The myth that Irish wolfhounds are guard dogs was quickly dispensed when Risha Cupit-Berzins' friend came home to find her door wide open, her house robbed, and her Irish wolfhounds relaxing on the sofas. Weighing in at 100+ pounds with a 2 ½ foot shoulder height, Wolfhounds are certainly a visual deterrent. However, their intelligent and thoughtful demeanor will make them more likely to quietly contemplate a burglar than to do much else.

Their intelligence also makes Wolfhounds deem trick-training and playing fetch quite boring. "They do not do tricks," Jane Banaszak firmly states. "You can throw the Frisbee once. They will look at you and look at the Frisbee and then walk away." When Mary Ann Russell followed the standard advice of spending a concentrated amount of time each day training, her Irish Wolfhound would sit and look at her as if the training were "sheer hell."

What is the allure of Irish wolfhounds for the people who love them? Risha Cupit-Berzins and Dave Berzins, who are currently enjoying the company of four Irish wolfhounds, including three one-year-olds from the first litter they bred, said, "It's how they interact with you, know you and understand you. They are the sweetest, most gentle dogs. They just have a way of understanding things." "They are open and warm. They pick up on your feelings and thoughts," echoed Jane, who along with Mary Ann, runs the Wisconsin Area Irish Wolfhound Rescue. Mary Ann had her first Wolfhound in 1967. When a litter of puppies came a few years later, Jane took one of those puppies. When Jane would vacuum, her Wolfhound would sit next to the baby. If the baby fussed, the Wolfhound would come and get her.

Wolfhounds come in a variety of colors including grey, pale yellow-brown, brindle, red and black among others. Grooming needs include occasional brushing and, especially if the dog is being shown, some hand-stripping of the rough coat.



There are many things that someone contemplating getting an Irish wolfhound should know. Like most dogs, Irish wolfhounds definitely need exercise. Some Wolfhounds enjoy lure coursing. Dave takes his pack to the dog park about five times a week. Jane's 15 month old puppy, Aibhlinn, needs to run two or three times a day. Dog parks are a blessing because Wolfhounds must be kept in a secured area or on-leash. According to Mary Ann, "I wouldn't dream of turning my dogs loose. They are sight hounds and if they see something moving, they will take off and pursue. They cannot be trusted on the recall."

Risha states "One Wolfhound, being mischievous, can do a lot of damage. If you love your sofa, a Wolfhound may not be the breed for you." Mary Ann mentioned that some of them like to dig holes in the back yard "that can, understandably, be a real irritation to people." Jane's dog, Aibhlinn, likes to play with the plastic pots that plants come in. Unfortunately, she doesn't necessarily wait until the plant is already out of it.

Because of their size, medical expenses are a consideration especially if they need antibiotics. The vet should be familiar with Irish wolfhounds. Mary

Ann said if anesthesia is needed, the vet needs to know how to not overdose a Wolfhound. Additionally, as Wolfhounds have long backs, several people should lift the dog onto a cushioned table if they under go any procedure.

Wolfhounds are prone to bone cancer, heart problems like cardiomyopathy, and gastric torsion (bloat). Because Wolfhounds are susceptible to bloat, it is best to serve them several smaller meals instead of one big meal.

When getting an Irish wolfhound, research the breeder. The breed's average lifespan is six years meaning that while some dogs can live to 10, it is not unheard of to lose a wolfhound at age 2 or 4. Dave and Risha said that the longevity of the breeder's line should be taken into consideration although there are never any guarantees. Mary Ann recommends that people should visit as many Wolfhound owners as possible to learn firsthand what life with a Wolfhound means. Risha, Dave and their Wolfhounds are usually invited to Irish Fest every year to give people the opportunity to get to know the breed a little better.

Mary Ann did not intentionally head down the path of rescuing Irish wolfhounds "but as someone who loves your breed, it is something that you find yourself doing." Wisconsin Area Irish Wolfhound Rescue is an informal organization has taken care of one Irish wolfhound this year but has taken care of three or four





in some past years. They also have been involved in rescuing mixed breeds, cats and horses as well as helping an Iowa shelter that was destroyed by flooding.

Some of their Wolfhounds were true rescues whereas others came from a home where an owner died. The Irish Wolfhound Club of America assists by paying for the spaying or neutering. After completing an application, people who are interested in adopting will talk to both Mary Ann and Jane. The interview process includes such topics as family members and other pets. Additionally, both Jane and Mary Ann stated it is absolutely imperative to have above ground fencing. A home visit will likely be the next step. Even though Wisconsin is part of the rescue's name, they will place dogs in any appropriate location as they have contacts throughout the Midwest. Mary Ann says, "It is really important to have a backup Wolfhound person available in the area" to assist the new dog owners. The network of contacts that Mary Ann and Jane have built is an integral part of the rescue effort. Any fostering assistance is always appreciated.

If a person is contemplating a Wolfhound, Mary Ann reminds potential owners that it is a commitment for the dog's lifetime. "Think about what will happen if a baby comes, a new home is moved into or a new job is taken.

Irish wolfhounds are fiercely loved by their owners. As Dave said, "It is a testament to the dog that even though they only live a short time, that Wolfhound owners cannot imagine living without a Wolfhound."



Websites:

Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association
www.gliwa.org
 The Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
www.iwclubofamerica.org/
 Wisconsin Area Irish Wolfhound Rescue:
www.iwclubofamerica.org/rescue.htm

Books:

The Irish Wolfhound: Symbol of Celtic Splendor
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Marie Tubbin loves spending time with her two best buddies, her husband, Mike and her dog, Louie. She met Mike at Burger King and Louie at HAWS and considers those two of the luckiest days of her life.

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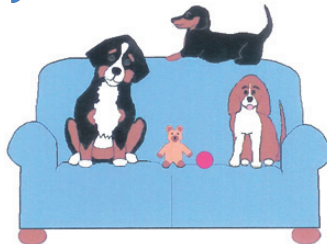
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The sweet old Australian shepherd is living proof that some things do turn out right. Like many dogs who end up in rescue, Linden Acres Geez Louise had a sketchy life her first five years. But that's ten years behind her. In 1999 she came into a family where she's the center of the universe – thanks to a little bit of luck and a lot of hard work by Aussie Rescue volunteers.

The good fortune of finding Louise (now named Couver), prompted her family to start the Aussie Picnic. The idea was to organize an event that would generate support for rescue volunteers. With more support and better public awareness, Aussie Rescue can help more great dogs find safe and happy homes.

This year will be the 9th Annual Aussie Picnic. It's promoted as a picnic for Australian shepherds and their families. But really, all dogs and people are welcome. Food, soft drinks, and prizes are all donated by generous supporters. Vendors are welcome to donate and advertise but cannot sell goods. With everything at the picnic being free, families are encouraged to make a donation to Aussie Rescue and Placement Helpline (ARPH). Some people give a little; some give a lot; some give nothing. Over the years, this strategy of inviting free-will donations at the picnic has generated thousands of dollars for ARPH.

Sue Storski has driven up from Racine with her daughter and two dogs for five Aussie Picnics. She proclaims, "It's fantastic. All the dogs are so wound up when they get there. An hour later, a hundred or more dogs are settled in and lounging around like they're at home. We love coming back each year to see the people and dogs who've become our friends." Like the dogs themselves, there is nothing pretentious about the picnic. The barbeque is served up from the Nesco, the hand-painted signs, the games, and the whole laid-back, friendly mood of the event all smack of an old-time country social.

Admission to the park is free. Daily dog permits at Dane County Parks cost \$4. Six-foot leashes must be used at the picnic, but there is an inviting off-leash area just a short walk away. For more Aussie Picnic information, email rekoske2@aol.com.

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Golden Retriever

GRRoW (Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin)
(888)655-4753
president@grrow.org, www.GRRoW.org

WAAGR (WI Adopt a Golden Retriever)
414-517-7725
www.waagr.org, president@waagr.org

Greyhound

Greyhounds Only Inc., Adoption & Rescue
414-559-0445 or 773-297-GREY (4739)
goinc@aol.com, www.greyhoundsonly.com

Greyhound Pets of America - WI
414-299-9473, www.gpawisconsin.org

Herding

Southeastern Wisconsin Herding Dog Rescue
262-554-2048, www.wiherdingrescue.com

Irish Setter

Irish Setter Club of Milwaukee
920-734-6734, muttsgo@aol.com

Irish Wolfhound

262-968-3421, 262-547-3705
jbanaszak@yahoo.com

Italian Greyhounds

star279@juno.com, 414-559-0445
www.midwestigrescue.com

Jack Russell Terrier/All Dog Rescue

414-747-8726, 414-297-5104
pensjackpack1@att.net, www.ffari.org

Labrador

Labrador Education and Rescue Network
847-289-PETS (7387), www.labadoption.org
learn dogs@labadoption.org

www.labradorconnection.org

Labs N More 414-571-0777
LabsnMoreRescue@yahoo.com
www.LabsNMoreRescue.petfinder.com

Maltese

Northcentral Maltese Rescue Inc.
262-633-9371, malteserescue@hotmail.com
www.malteserescue.homestead.com

Mixed Breed

Fluffy Dog Rescue
www.fluffydog.net, 262-538-2535

Neapolitan Mastiff

www.neorescue.net, mhweglarz@msn.com

Poodle

920-625-3709
poodclubofamerica.org, mj.doege@yahoo.com

Pug

NIPRA (Northern IL Pug Rescue & Adopt.)
nipra@pugrescue.org, www.pugrescue.org

Pug Hugs, Inc.
www.MilwaukeePugFest.com, 414-531-9301

Rat Terrier

Wisconsin Rat Terrier Rescue INC.
608-697-7274, wrtr@bigfoot.com

Rottweiler

True Hearts of Rottweiler Rescue (THORR)
www.thorr.org, trueheartsofrottrescue@yahoo.com

Wisconsin Rottweiler Rescue
608-224-0272, www.wirotfrescue.org

MidAmerica Rottweiler Rescue
www.adoptarott.org

Saint Bernard

AllSaints Rescue
414-761-6305, www.allsaintsrescue.com
allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net

WI St Bernard Rescue
414-764-0262
wstresq@jmuch.com, www.wstresq.com

Shar Pei

Shar Pei Savers
www.sharpeisavers.com, info@sharpeisavers.com

Shih Tzu

Fuzzy Pawz Shih Tzu Rescue of WI Inc.
fuzzypawz@gmail.com
www.fuzzypawz.org, 414-731-1682

New Beginnings Shih Tzu Rescue
920-722-3070, AWood52140@aol.com
414-801-3763, living_floor_mops@yahoo.com
www.nbstr.org

Standard Schnauzer

Standard Schnauzer Club of America Rescue
schnauzr@gmail.com, www.standardschnauzer.org

Vizsla

Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club (CWVC)
Grusnick@wi.rr.com, 414-759-4161, www.cwvc.org

Westie

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.
920-882-0382, westies@new.rr.com
www.wisconsinwestierescue.com

Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin
414-747-0879, shyorkiemom@yahoo.com

Event Calendar

August 2008

1 Friday

What: Rally Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 pm (\$6)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

2 Saturday

What: HAWS Mobile Adoption Center
Where: Pick 'N Save in Sussex
When: 10:00am – 2:00pm
Info: www.hawspets.org, 262-542-8851 x200

3 Sunday

What: Small Dogs, Big Potential
Where: Amiable Dog Training, West Allis
When: Noon
Info: www.dogclass.com, 414-289-7785

What: Nail Clipping
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 2:00 – 3:00pm (\$2/paw)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

7 Thursday

What: Pet Loss Support
Where: Wisconsin Humane Society
When: 7:00 – 8:00pm (\$10)
Info: 414-431-6156, www.wihumane.org

8 Friday

What: Obedience & Rally Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Gate entries (6:30-7pm), Run thrus 7pm
Info: www.cudahykennelclub.org

What: Movie Night w/ Your Dog
Where: CBDDC in Oak Creek
Info: 414-571-1500, www.centralbarkusa.com

What: Obedience Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 pm (Novice), (Open) Follows Novice
Info: 1-888-581-9070 (\$6)

9 Saturday

What: Canine Massage
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon – 4:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Let's Talk About Boarding Your Pet
Where: Animal Motel in Butler
When: 1:00 – 2:00pm
Info: www.animalmotel.net

What: Canine Massage
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 – 4:00pm
Info: www.petsupplies-n-more.com

What: 5th Anniversary Dog House Party
Where: Proper Paws University, Kenosha
When: 1:00 – 4:00pm
Info: www.properpawsuniversity.com, 262-925-7297

10 Sunday

What: Washington Bark Dog Day
Where: Washington Park, Milwaukee
When: 11:00am – 4:00pm
Info: 414-475-9072

What: Pet Fair for Non-Profits
Where: Madison's Pet Corner, Madison
When: Noon – 3:00pm
Info: www.madisonspetcorner.com

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon – 5:00pm (reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

11 Monday

What: Seminar on Organic Whole Food Supplement
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 7:00 – 8:00pm (\$3 donation)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

14 Thursday

What: Dog Behavior Seminary
Where: Wisconsin Humane Society
When: 6:30 – 8:30pm (\$10)
Info: 414-431-6156, www.wihumane.org

15 Friday

What: Agility Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Gate entries (6:30-7pm), Run thrus 7pm
Info: www.cudahykennelclub.org

What: UKC Agility Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 pm (\$6)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

16 Saturday

What: Pet First Aid Class
Where: HAWS in Waukesha
When: 1:00 -4:00pm
Info: 262-879-0165, www.hawspets.org

What: Spinal Manipulation & Acupuncture w/ Dr. Lisa
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am – 4:00pm (reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Cooking w/ Essential Oils Class
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: Noon – 1:30pm (\$25)
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

17 Sunday

What: 4th Annual Doggy Dips
Where: Sheridan Park, Jackson Park, Washington Park
When: 5:00 – 8:00pm
Info: www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

What: "BEACH PARTY"
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon – 2:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Summer Fun in the Sun Photos w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 11:00am – 3:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

20 Wednesday

What: All Breed Lure Coursing Fun Day
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society
When: 6:00 – 8:00pm (\$10/2 runs)
Info: www.ebhs.org, 262-782-9261

22 Friday

What: Adult Dog Play Session
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:00 pm (\$10)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

27 Wednesday

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 2:00 – 6:00pm (20min/\$40)
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

29 Friday

What: High Fives Flyball Tournament
Where: Jefferson County Fair Grounds Jefferson, WI
Info: www.flyball.com/high5

30 Saturday

What: High Fives Flyball Tournament
Where: Jefferson County Fair Grounds Jefferson, WI
Info: www.flyball.com/high5

What: Pet First Aid Class
Where: Emergency Clinic for Animals, Madison
When: 1:00 -4:00pm
Info: 262-879-0165

31 Sunday

What: High Fives Flyball Tournament
Where: Jefferson County Fair Grounds Jefferson, WI
Info: www.flyball.com/high5

Every Sunday

What: Journey through Companion Loss
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society
When: 1:00 – 3:00pm
Info: www.ebhs.org, 262-782-9261

What: Puppy Social
Where: Best Paw Forward Dog Training
When: 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.
Info: 262-369-3935

What: Puppy Parties
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 12:45 p.m. (except holiday weekends)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

Every Monday

What: Conformation Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:40 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Get Your Dog's Nails Trimmed
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 5:00 – 7:00pm (only \$10)
Info: 262-679-6776 (no appt necessary)

Every Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class w/ For Pet's Sake
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (7 week course)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Agility/Confidence Drop-in Classes
Where: Teaching Dogs, Oak Creek
When: 7:45pm
Info: 414-416-1406

Every Wednesday

What: Conformation Drop-In Training
Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 7:30 p.m.
Info: www.grkc.org

What: Get Your Dog's Nails Trimmed
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 5:00 – 7:00pm (only \$10)
Info: 262-679-6776 or 262-662-0104

Every Saturday

What: Playtime at the Playground
Where: Puppy Playground, Oak Creek
When: 9:00am – Noon
Info: 414-764-PUPS

What: Reiki Sessions w/ Jeanette
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 8:00am – 11:30am
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

The information for the Event Calendar is provided to Fetch Magazine by many sources and is accurate at the time of printing. We encourage you to call ahead to confirm event details.



Check out fetchmag.com today!

Wisconsin Humane Society Agrees to Assume Assets of State's Largest Puppy Breeder

In an unprecedented move locally and nationally, officials of the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) announced today that they have reached an agreement to buy the assets of Puppy Haven Kennel in Green Lake County, located about 20 miles northwest of Waupun. The owner, Wallace Havens, who runs one of the largest dog breeding facilities in the nation, has agreed to sell his dog breeding business assets to the Wisconsin Humane Society, who will cease operations at the Green Lake facility and find homes for more than 1,100 dogs who have been residing there.

Margaret Stratton, president of the board of the Wisconsin Humane Society said, "Assuming the assets of this facility will allow us to provide wonderful homes for more than a thousand dogs. These dogs will soon enjoy the love and companionship of people who will treat them as members of their families. To our knowledge, this groundbreaking action is unique in the humane movement. This is consistent with the Wisconsin Humane Society's mission to build a community where people value animals and treat them with respect and kindness. We are always working to educate people interested in obtaining a dog that they must consider the physical, social and emotional needs of the dog and find out as much as they can about the dog's background."

Havens estimates that he sells about 3,000 dogs per year. All of the dogs that the Wisconsin Humane Society obtains from Puppy Haven will be spayed or neutered, thus ending the production cycle that has kept them housed at Puppy Haven their entire lives. WHS veterinarians are currently evaluating many of the dogs and are readying them for adoption.

"Havens is proud of the fact that the dogs from his facility will be going to the Wisconsin Humane Society. He is retiring and not interested in pursuing a future breeding business. For that reason, Havens was willing to discount the sale of the kennel assets," said Tony Enea, Wisconsin Humane Society board officer. According to Havens, "At this time in my life, selling the kennel assets to the Wisconsin Humane Society is the best choice for me and my family because the dogs that I bred will be in the best possible hands."

Victoria Wellens, executive director of the Wisconsin Humane Society, reported that the transfer of dogs will occur over several months so each dog can be provided with the best possible care while WHS continues to serve animals from the community. To date, about 300 dogs from Puppy Haven Kennel have been transferred to WHS to find homes. According to Wellens, a variety of unique resources will be required to place all of the dogs since many of them will need time to adjust and become accustomed to living closely with people.

"Our employees and 900 volunteers are well prepared for this challenge to help provide a wonderful future for the dogs," Wellens said. Wellens also stated that PetSmart Charities has provided a generous gift of equipment to care for the animals, including leashes, collars, toys, food bowls and grooming supplies. There are many needs that still remain, which will be posted on the online WHS Wishlist.

The Wisconsin Humane Society has a 130-year history of providing leadership in the humane animal welfare field, and hopes that this action will be a catalyst for people to come together to enact stronger laws and regulations to end exploitation of breeding dogs.

For more information, visit our website: www.wihumane.org; or call (414) 431-6104.



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A Dog Auction...

My Own Personal Experience - Part three

If you didn't have the chance to read the first two parts of this story, please go to www.fetchmag.com and click on Features & Articles.

"There he is Margie, that's him." I was actually attached. The protest leader outside had told us when we asked how she felt about people rescuing the dogs, "If you take a dog out of there today, the best thing you can do is make sure to make a story out of him. Show the people how he looks, what his illnesses are, how he behaves. Don't let his story go untold."

And so it was... During the auction, I had named him Thorp. It was the town the auction was held in and it actually seemed to fit him. Later, I would wonder if giving him that name would hinder his future. Naming him after his past. But, I would decide that truly, it is not our past that defines us but we make of our future. That would be Thorp – a dog with a new future.

There were two dogs ahead of Thorp and I had been thinking what if I was about to bid against a rescue? I wouldn't want them to pay more than they had to. Margie and I had no real proof that there were any rescues present, but there had been a lot of evidence to suggest that there were rescues there. There was one woman in particular who always seemed to bid on the ones in bad shape. We were fairly certain she was a rescue.

Without hesitation and with newly found courage, I got out of my seat and practically ran to her chair. I sat next to her and in seconds blurted out, "Are you a rescue?"

Hesitant to reveal her purpose to me, she asked, "Who are you?"

I explained my purpose as a volunteer writer for Best Friends and that I was interested in saving the Chinese Crested and just didn't want to bid against her.

Satisfied with my answer, she told me, "Yes, I am a rescuer."

A moment of pure relief came over me. It was the first time that day, I actually felt a sense of comfort. She explained that she was low on funds to save him, but



thought that the Chinese Crested Rescue would take him.

So, I bid. #171 started at \$20.00 and with determination and not a lot of interest from anyone there – I won #171 for \$60.00.

It still breaks my heart.

Because of my bluntness, we had broken through the invisible wall and now all the rescuers were coming over to us. Margie had joined me next to my new "friend," Carol. We were suddenly part of the circle. And, it felt good to no longer be so alone.

Instantly, they were telling us who rescued what. Thankfully, all the Doxies Margie had concerned with went to rescue. We were exchanging emails and backgrounds and learning so much about this entire ring.

While sitting there, more dogs were being auctioned. It was nearing the end. They were doing mixes now. These were all very hairy, floppy dogs. The kind all of my friends know I love. Margie kept pushing me to bid and in an unexplainable action – I had just "won" another dog. A Bichon-Poo.

I openly admit that it was an irresponsible thing to do. #171 was more than I could handle, what would I do with this one? At least it had escaped another day in Hell.

The auction ended and we began friendships with a group of concerned and caring rescuers. They had started a circle at a previous auction in Thorp so that they would know not to bid against each other. Everyone was making plans for

even better communication before the next auction in the fall.

I got in-line to pay for the two lives I was so proud to save and yet so anxious because I had no idea what I got myself into. In line, I stood with Carol and a few other rescuers and was meeting even more.

The woman in front of me was a Humane Officer from Violas County. We talked and she said how she wished she could save more, but only had a limited budget. Without thinking, I asked if she would take the Bichon.

She would love to! Thank God. She said that at the last auction they rescued a large group. The auction was on a Saturday and by Monday afternoon, they had adopted out all the dogs or had them in foster homes. She said people are already waiting for us to get back to help these dogs.

In the last hour of the auction, we met so many wonderful people trying to change the fate of a small portion of these dogs. Trying to make a difference.

That difference is a controversial topic in the animal welfare world. Many of the protestors outside oppose saving any of the dogs. They believe it just contributes to the puppy millers profits and keeps the cycle going. There is no doubt that it does.

On the other hand, it is impossible to see these helpless creatures and not want to change their fate. Sadly, this difference in the animal welfare world, is slowly dividing the group.

It's unbelievable that any state would allow such abhorrence to society. I would challenge even the most stoic leader to attend a dog auction and not feel ashamed or guilty for the treatment of these animals. There can be no reasonable way to justify such inhumanity. It is a senseless act of humane indecency.

Relieved that I found a home for the Bichon, I paid for my rescues and eagerly went to find them. I got the Bichon to the Violas County rescue. She told me, "He will go fast. We have so many seniors who want dogs just like him."

It was a perfect ending to a horrible beginning for that fuzzy little guy. I petted him and wished a good, well-deserved new life.

Then, without further hesitation made it to cage #171. My heart was racing and the tears were welled up in my eyes. I went to him and said, "It's over. The Hell is over for you. I promise that everything is going to be okay."

Tears were streaming and I asked the Mennonite man if I could have MY pup. I showed him my paper and he handed him to me.

#171 was shaking and licking my finger. He was in such bad shape. It was the worst and best day in my life. Though I was holding him and grateful that I could change his fate, it was still painful to look around and see many more whose fate probably didn't change. They would leave here and go to yet another cage in another cold barn and wait until the next auction or...

Many rescuers came up to us and thanked us for getting him out. "He needed to be saved, he was the oldest one." "Look at how bad his fur is." "Thank God he gets a chance for a new life."

Margie and I said our goodbyes to all the wonderful people we met and made our plans to come back in the fall. Carol had befriended a Mennonite man who asked if she would come to his farm and take more Chihuahua puppies. She agreed to go along with 4 other rescuers.

We walked out of the barn; out of the nightmare we had stepped into only hours ago. Our lives would be changed forever. So would #171's – the puppy mill dog we now call Thorp.

In 2004, **Becky Monroe** resigned as Human Resources Manager from Corporate America with the intent to give back and follow her passions. That goal led her to working in a wildlife sanctuary, animal control, and to become a News Writer for Best Friends Society in Kanab, UT. Most recently, she co-founded a charity for her county animal shelter. In just four years, she has already experienced so many wonderful and sad things concerning animals. However, her soul strongly seeks to end the cruel life dogs endure in puppy mills. Becky lives with her husband and daughter in Woodstock, IL.

NOW WHAT? We hope at the very least this story has touched your heart. The images provoked by the description of this auction may still be lingering in your mind, and, yes, the horrific images of the dogs are just as bad in person as you're imagining them.



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However, you don't need to jump in the car and protest a puppy mill to make an impact. There are basically two things that you can do that make a real difference in helping to rid Wisconsin of puppy mills:

#1 Never purchase a dog from a pet store or irresponsible breeder.

#2 Tell anyone else you know who is looking for a dog to follow #1.

It's that simple. Puppy Mills stay in business because we as a society keep them in business. If a pet store isn't able to sell their 'inventory,' they have no need to order more. Same for irresponsible breeders. If no one comes to buy their puppies, they have no reason to continue 'manufacturing' them.

If you'd like to get more involved, either with your time or resources, visit the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project which is a Wisconsin-based organization dedicated to eradicating this state of puppy mills.



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