



Fetch magazine

December 2006 | Volume 3 Issue 12

The Siberian Husky
Canine Weight Pulling
Animal Care Fund
The Healing Touch of Reiki
Selecting Correct Grooming Tools



In-Focus Photography



We have a name for people who treat their dogs like children. (customer.)

There are people who give their dogs commands and those who give them back rubs. There are dogs who are told to stay off the couch and those with a chair at the table. And there are some who believe a dog is a companion and others who call him family. If you see yourself at the end of these lists, you're not alone. And neither is your dog. We're Central Bark Doggy Day Care, and we're as crazy about your dog as you are.



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Publisher's Letter

Remember Christmas as a kid...paging through that catalog and circling all of the toys you wanted? The catalog was almost a gift in itself. At this time of year, we naturally think of gift giving for our human friends. But as our families grow to include the four-legged variety, we cannot forget to fill their Christmas stocking too.

Treat this issue of Fetch Magazine as you would any large toy catalog. There are gift ideas found on every page:

Doggy Day Care: Give the gift of playtime to your neighbor's canine family.

Homemade Treats: Keep Fido away from the Christmas ham with his own treat basket.

Photography/Artistry: Have a memory captured in art, suitable for framing.

Pet Sitting: Know someone planning a vacation next year? Ease their worries with Pet Sitting.

Dog Grooming: Neighbor's dog looking a little scruff? Surprise them with a gift of grooming.

Training: If your friend's dog greets you by jumping, a gift of training would be perfect.

From **Canine Poker Chips** to **Dog Camps**, **Apparel**, **Pet Waste Removal**, and even the gift of **Veterinary Care** for those without financial means, there are dozens of ideas present in this issue. Grab your red marker...it's time to start circling.

Joseph & Jennifer Kojis

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Cover photo of Linda's Molly courtesy of In-Focus Photography.

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Ask the VET

Question: What Is Elbow Dysplasia and How Can It Be Diagnosed?

Answer: The term elbow dysplasia encompasses a group of different diseases in young dogs with abnormal development of their elbow joints. Typically these diseases cause elbow pain and lameness in dogs aged 4 to 18 month with sudden or insidious onset. Breeds like Basset hounds, Bernese Mountain dogs, Bullmastiffs, German Shepherds, Golden retrievers, Great Danes, Labrador retrievers, Newfoundlands and Rottweilers have a high risk for the development of elbow dysplasia.

Function and Structure of the Elbow Joint

The elbow joint is formed by three bones: the humerus, radius and ulna. In dogs it serves as a hinge joint allowing flexion and extension of the forearm (Figure 1). While humans can rotate their hand and forearm in both directions, very little of this movement is possible in dogs. Subsequently this joint has very tightly fit bones and any minimal mismatch of the bone surfaces can cause major problems.



Figure 1. Radiograph of a normal elbow of a 1-year-old Golden Retriever. The humerus (H), radius (R) and ulna (U) form a tightly fitting hinge joint allowing flexion and extension of the forearm.

Disease Process

The causes of elbow dysplasia are not fully understood. We do know that it has a complex genetic basis and it is likely that environmental factors play a role.

There are two different theories for the cause of elbow dysplasia. One states that it is caused by osteochondrosis, a distur-

bance of the transition of cartilage into bone. Normally all long bones are originally made of cartilage which then gradually transforms into bone except for the joint surfaces which maintain a thin cartilage cover. Areas that do not receive enough nutrition may not mature, die and separate from the rest of the bone. The joint cartilage on top of such an area will then not be attached to the underlying bone; it may form a cartilage flap or completely break off. The bone has now lost a piece of its protective cartilaginous joint cover, which is painful. Also in a tightly fitting joint like the elbow, floating fragments cause further damage and pain.

The other theory states that elbow dysplasia is caused by uneven growth of the bones that form the angle of the elbow joint. This would lead to a suboptimal fitting, called incongruence, of the joint surfaces of the bones and also cause pain and joint damage.

It is possible that both theories play a role in elbow dysplasia, particularly since it includes different disease processes in separate areas of the elbow joint. Regardless of the causes the disease, it is followed by osteoarthritis, an irreversible painful process of further cartilage degradation and new bone formation around the joint (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Radiograph of a 1-year-old Rottweiler with elbow dysplasia and osteoarthritis. The joint space between the bones is unevenly wide and there is new bone formation along the radius and ulna (x).

Diagnosis

In a young dog with front limb lameness, your veterinarian will perform a thorough orthopedic examination. If the lameness can be localized to the elbow joint, standard radiographs should be taken of both elbows. Sedation might be necessary for this procedure. Elbow dysplasia is usually a bilateral disease but the dog will always show lameness on the more painful limb. For prognosis and assessment of treatment options it is important to assess both

elbows. Otherwise you could end up with a successfully treated dog only to be lame on the opposite limb! Treatment options include conservative (weight reduction, exercise restriction, medication), arthroscopic, and surgical procedures depending on the specific type of disease, severity and other concerns. Treatment of the developing osteoarthritis can be the real challenge, since this is an irreversible process.

Since elbow dysplasia has become such a widespread disease in the above-mentioned breeds, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has set up a screening program. For this test, elbow radiographs will be sent to the OFA and scored. It is important that breeders participate in this program and have their dogs screened.

Potential dog owners should know about the availability of this test and should only buy puppies from breeders that can provide good elbow scores for both parent dogs.

Tobias Schwarz, Dr. med. vet., DACVR
Assistant Professor of Radiology

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine is one of only 28 veterinary medical schools in the nation. It is a resource for pet owners, both through veterinary care of animals with complicated medical conditions, and through advancements in veterinary medical care. It also serves as a training ground for the veterinarians of the future, providing solid groundwork for their careers. For more information on the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, please click over to www.vetmed.wisc.edu.



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Training Bits

Bringing Up Puppy

Who can fathom the mind of a puppy? Squirrels drive them crazy, garbage is their favorite snack, and immediately after chewing your one-of-a-kind, handmade leather jacket into confetti, they can give you a look of such innocent love and adoration that you forget all about it. This kind of behavior can baffle and frustrate even the most conscientious of dog owners, and rightfully so. When you bring a puppy home, she becomes part of your family; you need to be able to trust her with your home, your belongings, and even your children. That's why controlling your puppy's behavior is the key to having a peaceful relationship with her.

The alpha owner

Though we'll never know exactly what your pooch is thinking when she chases her tail until she gets dizzy, we do have some insight into how dogs think about relationships. Wild dogs live and hunt in packs, and to your dog, you and the other members of your family are fellow pack members. This is an important model, because in every pack there are structured power relationships between members. If dogs have no dominant--or "alpha"--leader in their human "pack," if they learn that they can jump up on the couch when they want, drag you down the street on the leash, and get treats when they beg for them, some of them may decide they are running the show. Puppies who are never disciplined may begin aggressively testing their boundaries when they reach doggy adolescence. They may start ignoring commands, jumping up where they're not supposed to jump, and protecting their food or their "territory" with growls. In extreme cases, they can begin biting.

In order to have a peaceful, manageable relationship with your dog, it's important that you establish your position as the leader from the beginning. You do not have to use physical intimidation to do so, however. Some trainers have recommended that owners establish their dominance through a show of physical force

ranging from an alpha roll--flipping a dog over so her belly is exposed--to actually biting a dog on the muzzle. This can leave a dog feeling threatened and defensive, and may even provoke an attack. You don't need to raise your voice either; shouting can also make dogs nervous and provoke aggression.

The fact is, these aggressive displays of dominance aren't necessary and produce the wrong results. Most dogs are perfectly happy submitting to a leader; they actually gain confidence and a sense of security from having someone to follow. The job of a good pack leader is to project a sense of strength by using a deep, steady voice, reacting calmly to situations that make the dog nervous, and giving rewards only for good behavior. Training your dog to sit and lie down is helpful as well. Having her repeatedly take a lower, submissive position at your command reinforces your dominant position. If you're still having a hard time, ask your veterinarian or trainer about special exercises designed to establish your dominance without aggression.

The social life

Socializing is one of the most important things you can do to train your young dog. Puppies, like babies, are like sponges--ready to absorb all kinds of information about their world. In the first months of their lives, they learn the right places to sleep to catch the late afternoon sun and that the sound of the can opener means dinner time. In this same period, it's your job as a pet owner to teach them to bond with people and with other dogs and to be comfortable in unfamiliar situations. This is one of the most important things you can do for your fuzzy family member. The less afraid your puppy is of strange people and animals, the less likely she is to act defensively and attack another dog or even a child.

The socialization of puppies begins between three and four weeks of age, before most people bring their new pets home. This means that some of the work is out of your control. If your puppy has



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been raised by a careless owner or breeder, you may have an uphill battle to fight when you get her home. The good news is, she will continue the socialization process until she is about 12 weeks old, so you have plenty of time to give her good experiences. First of all, make sure she bonds with you and your family. Pet her, groom her, play with her, talk to her, and just generally give her lots of love. Show her that she can depend on you for affection, food, and gentle leadership.

Once your pup feels safe with you and she's had all her vaccinations, you can introduce her to the big, wide world. Take her to lots of new and exciting places--the park, a friend's house, or dog-friendly stores. Make sure she has plenty of chances to meet kind people and play

with well-socialized dogs. Try to make trips to the veterinarian fun, with plenty of petting from you and the friendly veterinarian and technicians. Introduce her to children, too, in a well-supervised environment. Show the kids how to speak calmly to her and pet her gently.

If you notice your puppy acting nervous in a new situation or starting to bristle at a strange dog, try not to scold her. Raising your voice will only make her more tense. Trying to comfort her will backfire too. If she gets a lot of petting, cooing, and attention every time she's scared or aggressive, she'll learn that reacting this way is a good thing. Instead, distract her as best you can. Toss a ball or a chew toy to her, or start playing her favorite game. When she

gets absorbed in the game and starts ignoring the people or the dog that scared her, give her lots of praise. Soon she'll associate the scary situation with fun and playtime, and she'll become a canine socialite.

Think positively

When most dog owners think about training their dog, they think in negatives. They want their puppy not to chew the furniture, not to piddle on the carpet, and not to jump up on guests. This can get a little confusing from the puppy's point of view, however. Imagine you were a puppy home alone, and you spent most of your day chewing on some loafers and spreading garbage around the kitchen. Then you nap for an hour and meet your family at the door when they come home. Suddenly they greet you with lots of yelling and shouts of "No!" What did you do wrong? Was it the chewing or meeting the family at the door? What were you supposed to do instead?

Training is a gradual process, and it can be a difficult road to walk alone. It's important that your entire family commits to a training plan, that you all agree to respond the same way when your dog misbehaves as well as when she behaves perfectly. Remember, when you train, you need to be persistent, and above all, patient. Your puppy's going to make a lot of mistakes, and she may just destroy a few of your belongings, but she's mostly just eager to please you. She needs your love, attention, and guidance to be the good dog you know she can be.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is an international association of more than 32,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. Established in 1933, AAHA is well known among veterinarians and pet owners for its standards for hospitals and pet health care. Over 3,000 veterinary hospitals voluntarily participate in the AAHA hospital evaluation program.

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*Kim
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 **Fetch**
magazine

Hair of the DOG

Combused? Are you brushing your lab endlessly without results? Combing your poodle daily only to find her matted? Perhaps the answer lies in what type of tool you are using. Long hair, short hair, curly, straight, shedding, non-shedding, and the list goes on. For every type of hair coat, there are dozens more brushes to choose from. You may also find that you may need several different tools for your pet.

Slicker brush: There are dozens of brands and sizes of slicker brushes. A slicker brush generally has a cushion base with bent steel pins. It seems like a harsh brush for a tiny shih-tzu or toy poodle, but for longer coated pets, this is the best tool to keep tangles at bay. The trick is to part the coat down to the skin, grab some coat with the pins, and pull outward, rather than raking downward on the skin. The pins should not actually touch the skin, but flip the hair outward, freeing it of tangles. Slickers work well on most dogs with coats longer than 1 inch, including feathering on breeds such as Golden Retrievers and Springers.

Rake: Rakes work very well on double coated breeds such as Huskies and Newfoundlands. A rake can be used to pull out dead undercoat during high shedding times, and keep the coat from packing up into mats if used weekly. Rakes can vary from fine to coarse, and

long teeth to short teeth. Sometimes you need to experiment with a few different sizes to find out which is best for your pet's coat. Rakes tend to be a course tool, and may not always reduce shedding or pull out fine tangles.

Shedding blade: This tool, a horseshoe shaped metal blade, is helpful at removing fine undercoat that seems to shed constantly. It tends to work best on larger breeds such as Labs, although care should be taken, as it has teeth that can be abrasive to the skin.

Comb: There are many shapes, sizes, and types of combs. Generally, a medium/coarse comb works well for everyday combing or slightly bulkier coats. Fine combs are great for ears and beards, between toes, and even for finer de-shedding. Flea combs work great on legs and faces of short, thick coated dogs. A comb is a must have for breeds such as Poodles, Shih-tzus, and Cocker Spaniels. Slicker brushing will do the bulk of the work, but combing will catch the smaller tangles and fine hair that brushes miss. Combs also work very well on cats, removing clumping hair before it forms matting.

Curry brushes, hound gloves: Usually a rubber tool or mitt, these are wonderful for smooth and short haired pets. A good going over with a curry will not only remove dead coat, but usually feels like a relaxing massage to your pet!

Anti-shed tools: There has been a recent boom in anti-shed tools. There are several out there, and they work very well. The technology behind these tools is quite simply a process known as carding, which is a process removing the dead undercoat with a very fine tooth comb. Carding is an excellent method to reduce shedding and keep coats shiny and healthy looking.

Pin/bristle brushes: One of the most popular and useless pet brushes on the market. Unless you are showing your dog and worried about breakage, or ready to step into a show ring and need a final fluff, pin brushes will not get the job done. Pin brushes most resemble human hair brushes and are very gentle, but will work only with daily brushing and combing. Generally, a pin brush will slide over mats and tangles, making the top coat look pretty, while leaving clumpy coat

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stuck to the skin. Imagine trying to comb your own hair with a washcloth; this is about how effective pin brushes are.

The list goes on, but these are the basic tools that can help keep your pet tangle free. If you are unsure about which tool is right for your pet, an online search or phone call to a professional groomer can help. Grooming tools also make great gift ideas for your dog owning friends!

Helena Buettner has 11 years of professional pet styling experience, has worked with a range of animals for the last 20 years, and has a degree in Animal Science. Helena is a member of the International Society of Canine Cosmetologists and is currently working to achieve Master Stylist Certification. Pets are Pheebee the poodle and Balthazar the cat. Helena Buettner owns and operates Madra Pet Styling. 414-332-2289 www.madrapetstyling.com

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Just in time for the Christmas shopping season, Happy Tails Barkery & Bowtique has opened its doors. Located just three blocks north of 55th and Lincoln Avenue, you'll find delicious homemade treats, birthday cakes, brownies, and cookies, plus frozen yogurt...for canine consumption. Although looks can sure be deceiving!

Inside Happy Tails Barkery & Bowtique, you'll peruse through an assortment of leashes, collars, shampoos/spritzers (from Pet Aromatics), toys, bowls, and feeders for canine and feline companions.

For those of us who not only enjoy pampering our four-legged companions, but also ourselves, there are unique items available such as picture frames, t-shirts, baseball caps, robes, pajamas, treat jars, breed-specific pillows, Christmas ornaments, mugs, and much much more. You'll even find distinctive paw print purses, wallets, and Michelle Allen novelty clocks. Looking for the perfect fragrance to overpower the smell of wet dog? A wide selection of Colonial candles awaits.

As Christmas is fast approaching, now is the best time to see what's new in store for your favorite furry friends. Happy Tails Barkery & Bowtique is located within Animal House Gym at 2030 South 55th Street in West Allis. For a list of hours, call 414-384-1300 or 414-672-0233.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New
Year



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As an avid dog lover, you probably have dozens if not hundreds of photos featuring your four-legged family members. In that shoebox of moments, pick out your favorites. Would you simply throw those photos into a frame? This is 'man's best friend' we're talking about. You buy designer collars, fashionable clothes, and food bowl stands resembling fine furniture - you pamper your pup. Your photos deserve more. How about a Pop Art Petrait?

Susan Lukas recently launched Pop Art Petraits which transforms typical photographs into portraits emanating from the famous Andy Warhol-ish style. A simple photograph becomes a piece of art suitable for hanging on the wall.

To begin the process, you can either submit a photograph, digital or print, to Lukas or have her conduct a photo shoot of your canine companions. Lukas, a professional photographer for 18 years, will travel to a customer's home anywhere in south-eastern Wisconsin or northern Illinois.

Once a photo has been selected, Lukas uses a process called solarization that removes tones from an image, adjusts the colors, and adds filters - plain, pop, or noise are choices available to the customer. Petraits are printed as 8x10 and completed with an archival mat board to a final framed dimension of 11x14. Costs begin at \$109 with part of the proceeds donated to various animal shelters in WI.

Pop Art Petraits can be contacted at www.popart-petraits.com or 414-481-3399.

Holiday Shopping Made Easy!



The holiday shopping rush means many people are pushing their way to the hot ticket sale items before a "sold out" sign appears. Hitting the stores this time of year also means long check-out lines and difficulty finding parking spots.

Shopping has never been made this easy in time for the holidays with Animal Antics' new online pick-up service! Animal Antics, the retail store for creature comforts located within the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies, launched the new service on November 15, just in time for the holiday season! There is no other service like it in the area.

People can order numerous companion animal-related products from the convenience of their home and Animal Antics staff will package the products together for them. All online shopping customers simply need to do is pick up their bag of goodies without the hassle of waiting in line to purchase their items! Another great perk for Animal Antics customers is that they don't have to

worry about paying for the products while in the store (they avoid check-out lines); plus there is no shipping fee and WHS and OHS have ample free parking.

Whether you need a festive holiday collar for your pooch, the latest cat nip toy or a fashionable Wisconsin or Ozaukee Humane Society jersey, Animal Antics has products just for you. All of the proceeds from Animal Antics help save the lives of animals at WHS and OHS. For a comprehensive list of products available at Animal Antics including product descriptions, item prices and photos, visit www.wihumane.org or www.ozaukeehumane.org.

For more information about the Wisconsin Humane Society, please call (414) ANIMALS. Additional information about the Ozaukee Humane Society can be obtained by calling (262) 377-7580.



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True Devotion

Passion for animals led to development of Joyce and Skipp Britt Animal Care Fund

Joyce Britt has a huge heart and she'll be the first to admit she's a softy when it comes to animals. In fact, it was Britt's love of animals that led her to the creation of fund to help pay for the care of sick or injured pets of elderly or low-income individuals. Each year hundreds of people who rely on their pets for companionship lose them because they can't afford care, but the Skip and Joyce Britt Animal Care Fund was designed to change that.

The development of the fund, sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, came about after the Britt's four-and-half year old German Shepherd, Pepper, became ill and was cared for at the Animal Emergency Hospital on Silver Spring.

"We were sitting there in the waiting room when all of a sudden this old man came in with his dog who had been hit by a car," explains Britt. "The dog, which was just a Heinz 57 dog, was badly injured and when the doctors came out and told the man the situation with the dog, he just cried and said he couldn't afford the treatment. The dog was all he had in the world, yet he knew he couldn't afford the treatment. I just felt so horrible for this man, I just wished there was something I could do," she says.

Deeply troubled by the experience at the hospital, Britt began thinking of a way she could help those who couldn't afford care for their companion animals.

"I felt so grateful that my husband and I could pay for Pepper's treatment, but I just couldn't stop myself from thinking about how many other people, like this gentleman, who lost their pets due to

medical costs and I knew there had to be something I could do."

It wasn't long before Britt sought the help of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to begin setting up an endowment fund. But, just to get the ball rolling, Britt needed to raise \$10,000 to start the fund. Through the generous help of family, friends and the community, she met that goal within two years. Nearly seven years later, the fund is still going strong due to Britt's undaunted determination. Her new goal is to reach the \$25,000 mark within the next few years. "We're getting very close, but we still have a lot of work to do," she says.

Currently the fund is set up for use at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Those eligible to receive assistance are able to receive funds to care for sick or injured pets treated at the humane society.

"The individuals at the humane society are just wonderful to work with and the humane society is extremely grateful for the help a fund like this provides," says Britt.



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Though she's overjoyed at how well the fund has done in the past six years, Britt says there's always more work to do. "I do all the work myself, I send out mailings, do all the P.R., it's a big job, but I just love animals so much and I think it's very important."

As an example of how important the fund is to her, Britt says for a monumental birthday, she insisted that no one give her gifts at a party thrown in her honor. Instead, for those who wished to do so, she simply asked that donations be made to the Animal Care Fund. "I just didn't see the point to giving me gifts, when it would be more of gift to me to give something to the fund."

Though she never thought she'd find herself on this path, Britt says she'll never give up on the Animal Care Fund as long as she's able to do what she does. "In the beginning even my husband wasn't sure this would all work out, but even he's amazed at how it's taken off."

Though the success of the Skip and Joyce Britt Animal Care Fund is mainly due to Britt's determination, to her, it's a dream come true just to reach out and help those in need. Though she never saw the old man who lost his dog again, she sleeps better at night knowing that she may have saved the companion animal of another individual in the same situation.

"I never in my life dreamed that I'd ever be doing something like this, but I guess that just goes to show that you can never say never," says Britt.

For those interested in contributing to the fund, send checks or money orders to:

**The Greater Milwaukee Foundation (in care of the Skip and Joyce Britt Animal Care Fund),
1020 N. Broadway,
Milwaukee, WI 53202.**

Jamie Klinger-Krebs is a freelance writer who lives in Jefferson County and writes the monthly column "Pet Talk" on www.gmtoday.com.



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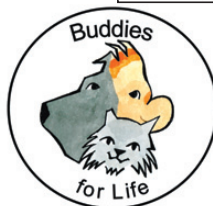
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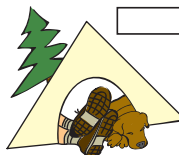
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Dogs Pulling Their Weight

The athlete's muscles twitch with anticipation. His eyes fierce with determination, he's trained for this, it's what he does and what he loves, he's ready. The crowd is riveted and he can see his trainer patiently waiting. Today he might move as much as 1,000 pounds.

Think I just described the last Olympic weight lifting competition? Not quite, the idea is sort of the same but the competitors are a little hairier. The goal in a dog weight pull event is to move a weighted cart or sled sixteen feet within one minute. For each successful pull, a predetermined additional amount of weight can be added on the dog's next round. The goal is to pull the most weight and be the last dog left.

Sounds a little cruel right? Forcing a dog to drag large amount of weight? Well than your dog must be better trained because I know my dogs love nothing more than to drag me through the park. Once, while tethered to a picnic table, one managed to drag the table, with a child on it, a considerable distance in pursuit of an errant tennis ball. Some dogs just love to pull and they're good at it.

There are different associations dedicated to weight pulling, some like the International Weight Pull Association, represent all dogs, including mixed breeds. Others, like the Alaskan Malamute Club of Wisconsin focus on one breed, but sometimes welcome others at their events.

No matter what breed is their focus, they all stand for the same thing, safety first. Dogs cannot be encouraged to complete a pull. Owners cannot touch their dog or the sled during a pull and no coercion can be used, including treats! The dog must be completely willing to participate on his own. Rich Zielinski, current president and weight pull chairman of the Malamute Club, recalls times when his champion Malamute would lay down and wag her tail. He knew "that was it - she was done." The AMCW has 4 pages of rules dedicated to the dogs' safety and since the IWPA started in 1984 not a single dog has been hurt.

Zielinski, who has been participating in weight pull events for 31 years, remarks how much his dogs enjoy the sport. "When they see the vehicle being loaded and they see the crates, they don't quite down until they're in the car, they love it. Malamutes were meant to pull." Between the training and the weight pull events, there are about 10-11 a year, the dogs stay in great shape.

Although certain breeds excel, like those designed for draft work such as Malamutes or with lots of physical strength such as Pit Bulls, any kind of dog can participate. Dogs compete in one of eight different weight classes, so no Cocker Spaniels are going head to head with a Saint Bernard. Dogs that belong to the organization can earn points for winning and all dogs can win prizes, usually dog-related items such as food. Dogs can also win points for pulling the most weight and for the most weight per pound of the dog's body weight.

Interested? All you need is a dog that likes to pull and the appropriate harness; it has a spreader bar behind the dog to protect his sides. The best way to get started is to visit a weight pull event and talk to the participants, they are always happy to talk about the sport they love. Occasionally there are novice pulls to let newbies get a feel for it. Area events can be found at www.iwpa.net for the International Weight Pull Association, www.AMCW.org for Malamutes or contact many of the local training clubs listed in Fetch Magazine for their schedule of upcoming classes. You can also check the web for the local association that pertains directly to your breed.

Keri Weyenberg has spent her life surrounded by the joy of companion animals. She's worked, volunteered and educated others to provide a better life for pets and their people. She now spends her days writing and spending time in the company of her friends and family, both with and without fur.

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Basics like down, stay, drop it, come and much more. Learn all the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test.
Thursday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 13th, 7:45 p.m.

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):
Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
Beginning in January '07. Call for times.

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"I have lived with a changing pack of dogs for nearly two years while my pet sitting business evolved into what it is today. My clients loved the idea of having their dogs spend time with me rather than being alone; so into my home they came. New dogs were always tested to make sure they could integrate into my pack and the same pre-camp qualifying occurs today.

A personal working relationship with my clients is the hallmark of my business. Customer service also tops the list. Providing pick up and drop off as a complimentary service for overnight campers allows families to say goodbye to their pet at home and return to kisses and welcome wags.

The scout camp is located near Mitchell International Airport and I94 which makes customer drop-offs on the way out of town and pick-ups on the way back as convenient as it gets.

For all those little scouts that are unable to enroll, a neighborhood pet sitter is found to accommodate in-home visits while parents are away.

Milwaukee Pet Sitters Scout Camp for Dogs is a member of the American Boarding Kennel Association and adheres to a code of ethics regarding the treatment of the doggie campers. An unusual love for dogs completes the package that keeps Milwaukee Pet Sitters clients happy to entrust me with their loved ones.

Plans for community involvement through fundraising events with local Boy & Girl Scout troops will be part of our mission as well as teaching the public about activities for dogs and their people.

For more information on free roaming day camp or overnight camping, call Milwaukee Pet Sitters Scout Camp for Dogs at 414-403-1257. We'll be happy to set up a tour and temperament test for your little scouts. Visit www.milwaukeepetsitters.com for pictures of the facility and to see some of the guests in action.

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Well, maybe a cold-weather, snowy climate would be better for this dog than say, Palm Springs.

With origins in the Arctic and a surge of publicity later for its work in Alaska, the Siberian Husky keeps growing in popularity because of its cheerfulness, energy and intelligence.

Cold Beginnings

For centuries, the Siberian Husky were exclusive to the Chukchi people in Siberia. The strong, sturdy, hardy dogs were ideal to pull sleds across long distances in the inclement, harsh weather conditions of Siberia.

They worked well in small packs and proved to have great stamina, enduring the long work hours of pulling sleds, herding reindeer and keeping an eye on the camp site, without much problem.

The Siberian Husky was thrust into the public spotlight in the early 20th century. Fur traders in Malamute brought the breed to North America. Later, the Siberian Husky got attention for the role it played in delivering medicine to those suffering in the diphtheria epidemic in Nome, AK.

The Siberian Husky, too, proved to be a reliable partner in the Antarctic expeditions of Admiral Byrd from 1928 to 1930. In fact, the last advice given to Byrd before he set out on his "assault on Antarctica"?

"Take a good plane, take plenty of dogs and only the best men."

Built for the Brrrrr

"Quick," "free," and "graceful" are words that describe this medium sized dog's



movement. The Siberian Husky wears a medium length coat that doesn't get too long. You can always see the outline of the dog's body. The coat is doubled - the undercoat is soft and dense and supports the outercoat. According to the American Kennel Club, the guard hairs of the outer coat are straight and somewhat smooth lying, never harsh nor standing straight off from the body. The absence of the undercoat during the shedding season is normal.

This thick, wooly undercoat and a soft outer coat is said to be able to withstand temperatures as low as -58 degrees to -76 degrees F.

The coats are shed twice a year, and each shed lasts about six months. In the spring, expect an intense period of shedding of the winter coat. Another less intense shedding will occur in the fall to help bring in the winter coat.

Siberian Huskies usually grow to be 45 to 60 pounds, and bitches 35 to 50 pounds. The life expectancy of a Siberian Husky is between 12 and 15 years.

Experts say there are very few breed-specific problems for the Siberian Husky.

As with many medium and large sized dogs, hip dysplasia is not uncommon for the Siberian Husky. They have been known to encounter eye problems (juvenile cataracts, corneal dystrophy, crystalline corneal opacities). Hypothyroidism, a disorder associated with low circulating thyroid hormone levels, is also seen in the Siberian Husky.

Warm Personality

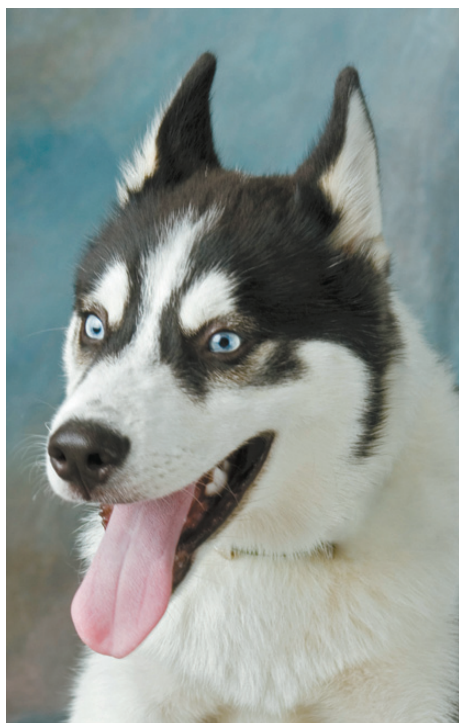
Despite the barriers it puts up to endure the cold, the Siberian Husky is known to be friendly, social and gentle. Interestingly enough, despite its background in "watchdogging" functions in the Arctic, don't consider this breed a reliable watchdog anymore. In addition to its friendly nature and outgoing behavior,

Siberian Huskies don't always show the possessive qualities of a guard dog. The AKC notes that the breed isn't overly suspicious of strangers or aggressive with other dogs. They don't bark a lot, either.

Other characteristics to keep in mind when considering the Siberian Husky:

- They can be playful, but mischievous and clever.





- Even though they don't bark, they can howl - especially when they're bored.

- Training may take longer because they are intelligent creatures and seem to obey only if they see a point to the exercise or command.

- Sometimes they can be difficult to housebreak.

- They eat less food than you would think they need.

- Because of their speed and endurance, they're good jogging companions, that is, if it's not too hot outside. They like to roam and explore the landscape.

- To see the world, the breed will go to extremes to see that landscape. The Siberian Husky can climb over fences and get through gates to explore.

- If not a run, this dog needs exercise and a lot of it. It demands attention.

- They do not like to be alone. Like some other dogs, when it is lonely it looks for trouble, and that sometimes brings out destructive behavior.

- continued on page 28

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Rescuing Dogs with Reiki

Reiki Master/Trainer Diane Herold loves to rescue animals—from shelters to give them a home and from physical problems to restore their health. Her Reiki practice started with humans in 1993, "but animals have always been a little part of that," she says. "And now it's almost half and half."

Reiki is an ancient Japanese healing art dating back thousands of years ago. All practitioners go through an initiation process and different levels of training. This connects them in a very specific way to the energy that surrounds and flows through all of us all of the time, giving us our life and vitality. This amplified connection enables Herold to offer healing energy to areas in a dog's or person's body where blockages are causing physical and emotional problems.

"Generally, animals are easier to work with than people," says Herold. "They're much less complicated. We [humans] have so many different layers of emotional baggage that we build up and stuff into different places. Animals are able to let go of things more easily."



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz Photography, Copyright 2006.

Working with animals' smaller bodies requires less time; a session can take a half hour or less. Also, animals are more open, less resistant. "They're more at ease. They're doing just what they need to do to get better, and they have their own idea of what they need and don't need," says Herold.

Some of her canine clients also have their own timing for things, their own idea of "whether they're ready to work on something or not. They're pretty clear

about that," she says. "They'll walk away or get restless when it's time to do the work. Or energetically, I can feel like there's this wall, that they're pushing me away." She respects those messages, and waits until the animal feels and acts ready.

Although a Reiki practitioner can touch the body when directing energy flow, Herold prefers to hold her hands "a little bit off the body. Sometimes I make a point to physically touch them because they'd prefer that. But if they're badly injured, it's not

practical to touch them." Or necessary. "You can work through bandages, a cast, or any other sort of medical equipment," she adds.

Herold finds that Reiki works well in emergency situations. It calms the animal and speeds up the healing process. She also works with emotional problems, such as anxiety or depression. These issues can often manifest as eating problems, where an animal seems insatiable.

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"Emotional eating is fear based. It's a way for the animal to comfort herself and calm herself down," she says.

An animal's primary problem is not always the apparent problem. For example, a dog's limp could indicate a sore leg or a back pain. Herold can tune in and sense where the bodywork is needed-the muscular system, skeletal system or a specific body part.

One of Diane's favorite success stories is her own 8 year old American Pit Bull, Hero. She rescued him when he was 10 weeks old, and "he had a lot of physical issues-digestive, urinary, skin," she says. Emotionally, he needed re-parenting, so "I carried him around in a towel for a month, because he had no clue about bladder control. And first we had to work through his separation anxiety."

They accomplished that and more. It took Diane considerable time working with flower essences, herbs, supplements, and lots of Reiki. But it all paid off. Today Hero "still has a strong personality, it's a part of who he is," she says. "But he's healthy, mellowed out, smart, and a wonderful companion."

To schedule an appointment for you or your dog, or to inquire about Reiki trainings, contact Diane Herold at 414-481-8569.

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

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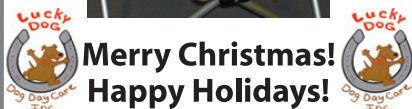
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Event Calendar

December 2006

1 Friday

What: Obedience Run Thrus
Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: www.grkc.org

2 Saturday

What: Canine Massage
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Holiday Bazaar
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Info: www.cudahykennelclub.org

What: WAAGR 2006 Golden's Holiday House
Where: Menomonee Falls
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: www.waagr.org, 414-517-7725

What: Holiday Pet/Family Portraits by SliderPhoto
Where: Pawprints Across Your Heart, Greendale
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: 414-423-5800, www.sliderphoto.com

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 9:00am - 10:45am
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

What: Animal Communication Sessions
Where: End of the Leash, Mukwonago
When: 10:00am - 2:00pm (20min/\$40, 30min/\$60, Reservations Req)
Info: 262-363-3338, www.endoftheleash.com

3 Sunday

What: Specialty Breed Training Class
Where: Amiable Dog Training
Info: 414-289-7785 (call to register)

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: Noon - 5:00pm (20min/\$40, 30min/\$60)
Info: 414-482-7387 (call for appt.)

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

5 Tuesday

What: Basic Animal Communication Workshop
Where: End of the Leash, Mukwonago
When: 6:00pm - 9:00pm (\$125, Reservations Req)
Info: 262-363-3338, www.endoftheleash.com

6 Wednesday

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

What: Basic Animal Communication Workshop
Where: End of the Leash, Mukwonago
When: 6:00pm - 9:00pm (\$125, Reservations Req)
Info: 262-363-3338, www.endoftheleash.com

7 Thursday

What: Pet Loss Support Seminar
Where: Wisconsin Humane Society, Milwaukee
When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Info: 414-431-6156 (\$10 - receive \$5 for Animal Antics)

8 Friday

What: Obedience & Rally Correction Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Entries 6:30 p.m., Start 7:00 p.m. (\$5 per dog)
Info: 414-769-0758, www.cudahykennelclub.org

What: Rally Drop in Classes
Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 6:30 p.m. (advanced), 7:30 (novice)
Info: www.grkc.org

9 Saturday

What: Pet Massage with Geri
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$15/session)

What: Basset Buddies Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

What: Dave & Carole-ing for Christmas w/ Amy Ammen and Able the Dancing Dog
Where: Riverside Theater, Milwaukee
Info: www.riversidetheater.org/klh.html

10 Sunday

What: Holiday Open House
Where: Release the Hounds Dog Day Care, Muskego
When: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Info: 262-679-0160 (reservations suggested)

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

What: Specialty Breed Training Class
Where: Amiable Dog Training
Info: 414-289-7785 (call to register)

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

15 Friday

What: Agility Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Entries 6 p.m., Start 7 p.m. (only \$5 per dog)
Info: 414-769-0758, www.cudahykennelclub.org

17 Sunday

What: WAAGR Night at Pizzeria Piccola
Fundraiser for Wisconsin Adopt A Golden Retriever
Where: 7607 W. State Street, Wauwatosa
When: 4:00pm - 9:00pm
Info: www.pizzeriapiccola.com, www.waagr.org

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

22 Friday

What: Agility Run Thrus
Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: www.grkc.org

28 Thursday

What: Guardians of Rottweilers & Pit Bulls
Learn about Ordinances for City of Milwaukee
Where: Wisconsin Humane Society, Milwaukee
When: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Info: 414-431-6156

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

Who: Amiable Dog Training with Amy Ammen
Where: Channel 14 (MATA/MCM)
What: T.V. Show 6:00 p.m.

Every Saturday

Who: Amiable Dog Training with Amy Ammen
Where: Channel 14 (MATA/MCM)
What: T.V. Show 10:30 a.m.

Every Sunday

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

Who: "Your Family Pet" with Amy Ammen
Where: WRRD 540AM The Word
What: Radio Show 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Info: Hear expert interviews and pet-related news.

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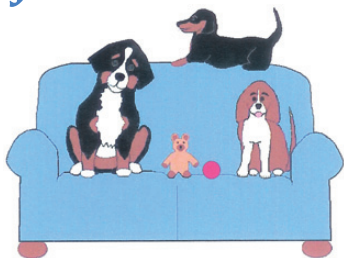
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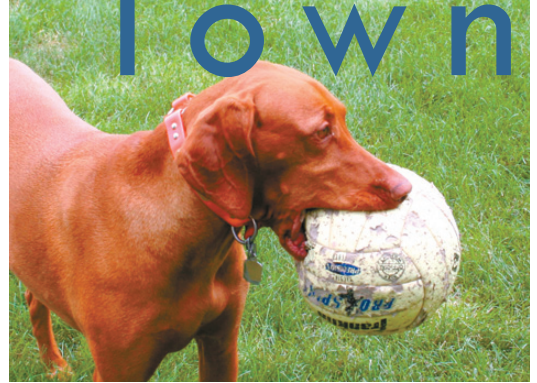
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continued from page 21

- Siberian Huskies are known to dig. In the summer, they are known to dig holes to cool themselves. In the winter, these holes form cozy nests to keep snuggled, away from the cold and wind and other ugly Arctic-like elements.

For more information about the breed or opportunities to adopt a Siberian Husky, visit Adopt A Husky Inc.'s website at www.adoptahusky.com. Adopt A Husky is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that serves the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. Since 1998, it has placed more than 1,000 Siberian Huskies into new homes.

An avid dog lover, Milwaukee native and accomplished freelance writer, **Mark Edmund** has spent the better part of his life with canine companions.

 **Fetch**
magazine

New Doggy Day Care Opens in Oak Creek

On November 4th, 2006 Central Bark Doggy Day Care - Oak Creek celebrated its Grand Opening. The facility is conveniently located just north of Rawson Ave between 10th and 13th Streets at 1075 W. Northbranch Dr. in Oak Creek, WI. Owner, Sue Ann McCotter, was thrilled to welcome over 200 two and four legged guests to the Grand Opening. There was plenty of food and games and fun for all. "We were so honored that State Representative Mark Honadel was on hand to cut the ribbon at our opening ceremony," says McCotter.

It is estimated that Americans will spend in excess of \$3.8 billion on their pets this year. The trend continues to grow rapidly and McCotter saw a



demand for Doggy Day Care in the Oak Creek area. McCotter left a 27 year career in Corporate America to follow her dream of opening and operating a Central Bark Doggy Day Care. "It was a lot of hard work to open, but it's been so worth it. The community here has really supported us."

Dogs have moved off the front porch and into their own rooms and beds inside the home. Today, more than ever before people recognize the benefits of dog training and socialization. We like our dogs to be

good canine citizens. Central Bark Doggy Day Care supports and promotes this in our program. Customers consider us a necessity rather than a luxury.

Already, McCotter and Phyllis O'Brien, Assistant Manager, have brought in two additional employees to assist in playing (i.e.: working) with the dogs. "Who would have thought work could be this much fun," says O'Brien. "We get to spend our days around so much unconditional love, nothing beats that!"

For more information on day care for your four-legged companions, contact Central Bark Doggy Day Care - Oak Creek at 414-571-1500 or check us out at centralbarkusa.com.

Christmas Caution List

Train your dog to stay away from the tree. Some dogs will be tempted to lay beneath it, but it's not safe. Dogs can break ornaments and get cut or swallow small pieces.

Young family and friends who are not familiar with dogs could sit on your dog or pull his tail or fur. If your dog reacts to stress by fighting back, these children may be in danger of being bitten. Keeping your pooch away from the party scene can maintain a safe environment.

Dogs can get ill from drinking and eating rich foods which are different from their usual diet. Do not allow your guests to feed four-legged family members.

Confine your dog to a separate area of the house and put up a sign warning guests that there is a dog inside and "Do not open the door."

Make sure your dog is wearing traceable identification in case he sees the open door and bolts.





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