



Fetch magazine

December 2007 | Volume 4 Issue 12

Yorkshire Terrier

Targeting Your Dog's Training

Getting Your Pooch Winterized

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Publisher's Letter

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." If you caught yourself singing that line, good... you're getting into the Christmas spirit. As you spend the next few weeks planning family gatherings and shopping for loved ones, remember to think of your pooch and his needs. Too often we "humanize" our pets in thinking that they enjoy loads of company walking all over their territory, food dropped on the floor by guests, and schedules that change by the minute...but they don't. When you open the door to guests, it may be best to close the door to your four-legged friend. Locking your pooch in a room with his bed, some toys, and maybe even a Kong filled with peanut butter is exactly where he wants to be. If your canine likes to work a crowd, by all means allow him to roam for a while but give him a chance to relax on his own for the remainder of the night.

We'd like to remind you during this Christmas season that puppies are not ideal gifts. During the month of January, animal shelters see an increase in dogs being surrendered by families that didn't realize the responsibility instantly given to them when the puppy popped out of the box. In addition, buying a puppy from a pet store continues to add to an ongoing problem brought on by puppy mills. If your family is seriously considering the addition of four legs and fur to the family, please talk to breed rescue groups and humane societies first. They will make sure you understand the commitment in living with a pet, how to provide proper care, and match you with the ideal dog that fits your family's lifestyle. Find a list of breed rescue groups and humane Societies at www.fetchmag.com.

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Cover photo of Puppy
courtesy of Vicki from
Milwaukee.

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Ask the VET

Q **Question:** I've heard people say they "winterize their pets." What does that mean?

A **Answer:** Cold weather can be hard on pets, just like it can be hard on people. Sometimes owners forget that their pets are just as accustomed to the warm shelter of the indoors as they are. Some owners will leave their animals outside for extended periods of time, thinking that all animals are adapted to live outdoors. This can put their pets in danger of serious illness. There are things you can do to keep your animal warm and safe. In other words..."winterizing your pet."

- Take your animals for a winter check-up before winter kicks in. Your veterinarian can check to make sure they don't have any medical problems that will make them more vulnerable to the cold.

- Keep your pets inside as much as you can when the mercury drops. If you have to take them out, stay outside with them. When you're cold enough to go inside, they probably are too. If you absolutely must leave them outside for a significant length of time, make sure they have a warm, solid shelter against the wind, thick bedding, and plenty of non-frozen water. Try leaving out a hot water bottle, wrapped in a towel so it won't burn your pet's skin.

- Some animals can remain outside safely longer in the winter than others. In some cases, it's just common sense: long-haired breeds like Huskies will do better in cold weather than short-haired breeds like Dachshunds. Small dogs that have to wade shoulder-deep in the snow will feel the cold sooner than larger animals. Your pet's health will also affect how long she can stay out. Conditions like diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, and hormonal imbalances can compromise a pet's ability to regulate her own body heat. Animals that are not generally in good health shouldn't be exposed to winter weather for a long period of time. Very young and very old animals are vulnerable to the cold as well. Regardless of their health, though, no pets should stay outside for unlimited amounts of time in freezing cold weather. If you have any questions about how long your pet should be out this winter, ask your veterinarian.

- If you live near a pond or lake, be very cautious about letting your rambunctious dog off the leash. Animals can easily fall through the ice, and it is very difficult for them to escape on their own. If you must let your dogs loose near open water, stay with them at all times.

- If you light a fire or plug in a space heater to keep your home toasty warm, remember that the heat will be as attractive to your pets as to you. As your dog snuggles up to the warmth, keep an eye out to make sure that no tails or paws come in contact with flames, heating coils, or hot surfaces. Pets can either burn themselves or knock a heat source over and put the entire household in danger.

- It's a good idea to have your furnace checked for carbon monoxide leakage before you turn it on, both for your pets'

health and your own. Carbon monoxide is odorless and invisible, but it can cause problems ranging from headaches and fatigue to trouble breathing. Pets generally spend more time in the home than owners, particularly in the winter, so they are more vulnerable to monoxide poisoning than the rest of the family.

- Pets that go outside can pick up rock salt, ice, and chemical ice melts in their foot pads. To keep your pet's pads from getting chapped and raw, wipe her feet with a washcloth when she comes inside. This will also keep her from licking the salt off her feet, which could cause an inflammation of her digestive tract.

- If left alone outside, dogs can be very resourceful in their search for warm shelter. They can dig into snow banks or hide under porches or in dumpsters, window wells, or cellars, and they can occasionally get trapped. Watch them closely when they are loose outdoors, and provide them with quality, easily accessible shelter.

- Keep an eye on your pet's water. Sometimes owners don't realize that a water bowl has frozen and their pet can't get anything to drink. Animals that don't have access to clean, unfrozen water are more likely to drink out of puddles or gutters, which can be polluted with oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other chemicals.

- Be particularly gentle with elderly and arthritic pets during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender, and they may become more awkward than usual. Stay directly below these pets when they are climbing stairs or jumping onto furniture; consider modifying their environment to make it easier for them to get around. Make sure they

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have a thick, soft bed in a warm room for the chilly nights. Also, watch stiff and arthritic pets if you walk them outside; a bad slip on the ice could be very painful and cause a significant injury.

- Go ahead and put that sweater on Princess, if she'll put up with it. It will help a little, but you can't depend on it entirely to keep her warm. Pets lose most of their body heat from the pads of their feet, their ears, and their respiratory tract. The best way to guard your animals against the cold is keeping a close eye on them to make sure they're comfortable.

When you're outside with your pets during the winter, you can watch them for signs of discomfort with the cold. If they whine, shiver, seem anxious, slow down or stop moving, or start to look for warm places to burrow, they're saying they want to get back someplace warm.

You can also keep an eye out for two serious conditions caused by cold weather. The first and less common of the two is frostbite. Frostbite happens when an animal's (or a person's) body gets cold and pulls all the blood from the extremities to the center of the body to stay warm. The animal's ears, paws, or tail can get cold enough that ice crystals can form in the tissue and damage it. The tricky thing about frostbite is that it's not immediately obvious. The tissue doesn't show signs of the damage to it for several days.

If you suspect your pet may have frostbite, bring her into a warm environment right away. You can soak her extremities in warm water for about 20 minutes to melt the ice crystals and restore circulation. It's important that you don't rub the frostbitten tissue, however-the ice crystals can do a lot of damage to the tissue. Once your pet is warm, wrap her up in some blankets and take her to the veterinarian. Your veterinarian can assess the damage and treat your pet for pain or infection if necessary.

Hypothermia, or a body temperature that is below normal, is a condition that

occurs when an animal is not able to keep her body temperature from falling below normal. It happens when animals spend too much time in cold temperatures, or when animals with poor health or circulation are exposed to cold. In mild cases, animals will shiver and show signs of depression, lethargy, and weakness. As the condition progresses, an animal's muscles will stiffen, her heart and breathing rates will slow down, and she will stop responding to stimuli.

If you notice these symptoms, you need to get your pet warm and take her to your veterinarian. You can wrap her in blankets, possibly with a hot water bottle or an electric blanket--as always, wrapped in fabric to prevent against burning the skin. In severe cases, your veterinarian can monitor her heart rate and blood pressure and give warm fluids through an IV.

Winter can be a beautiful time of year. It can be a dangerous time as well, but it certainly doesn't have to be. If you take some precautions, you and your pet can have a fabulous time taking in the icicles, the snow banks, and the warm, glowing fire at the end of the day.

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Training Bits

Right on Target

Recently at a dog camp, I had the enjoyable task of presenting the topic "The Use of Targeting" in dog training. I have used targeting over the years every now and then but the more research I did on the topic the more excited I became. The seminar was very successful and I now look for more and more ways to incorporate targeting into my training exercises.

Targeting is described as teaching a dog to touch a certain object with a body part such as their paw, nose or hip. Whether teaching an agility dog to touch his contacts or introducing a puppy to the behavior of

ringing a bell to notify the owner it needs to go out, targeting can help communicate to the dog what you want him to do.

The command I use to teach my dog Kirby to make contact with his paw is "touch." He has always been a tactile dog so he naturally touched things with his paws. To get him to "nose" or touch with his nose I used a treat in my hand so he would target the palm of my hand. I haven't as of yet taught my dog to touch with his hip or tail but it can be done.

In the past few years I have become very involved in rehabilitation of adult dogs that come out of puppy mills. The dogs are often too shy to approach people but have a tremendous fear of being chased. I have found by teaching the dogs to target to my hand it is far less threatening than teaching the traditional come command.

Recently, I was working with a family in a home training where the dog was overly

friendly at the door when guests arrive. We worked on teaching the dog to target to a touch plate that was on a rug and then lay down until released by the owner. When the dog was released off the rug the dog was in a calmer state of mind. The dog thought it was a game.

When a dog is confident with the touch command it makes teaching a variety of tricks very easy. For instance, I have a dog treat dispenser that has a handle so a dog can be taught to touch with his paw or nose to release treats. It just took minutes to teach my dog how to maneuver this toy, so much so that I have to hide the dispenser.

In the sport of canine freestyle, a dog that is taught to target to a stick or hand can quickly be taught the weave through the legs, spin, bow and heeling on the left or right side.

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duct tape and then this star is later taped to the box. This helps the dog learn where to get up on the box.

Cute tricks can be taught by targeting with a paw.

To learn more about the benefits and details of training targeting I would recommend the book by Mandy Book and Cheryl Smith called Right on Target.

Patti Muraczewski is a certified pet dog trainer who has been instructing dog owners for over 25 years. She teaches the course "Man's Best Friend Made Better" at WCTC. Her school "For Pet's Sake" features training for practical obedience, show obedience and canine sports.



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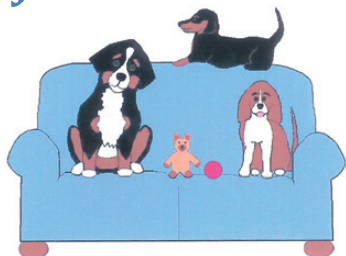
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Puppy, or not to Puppy?

That is the question.

There's no denying it. There's nothing cuter in this world than a puppy. With those big brown eyes and wiggly little butts, they just tug at your heartstrings. In our house we've decided that the overwhelming cuteness is actually a very clever survival tactic, designed to remove all anger no matter what the cause. Shredded shoes, not problem. Piddled on the new sofa, forgotten. It's hard to be mad when trying to stare down those big floppy brown eyes.

While it's hard to resist that puppy purchase impulse, before bringing home that warm little snuggly bundle of love, one needs to take a hard look at their life. Sometimes it wise to look past the allure of youth to someone with more experience and maturity, like an adult dog.

On the puppy plus side, there is that darn cuteness and you have the opportunity to mold your pup to your lifestyle. Want a beagle to be buds with your bunny or a terrier to tolerate your tabby? Dogs that grow up with other animals often consider them family instead of food. If your dream is to travel with dog as your co-pilot or have the most popular pup at the dog park you can make sure that your little one is exposed to car rides and socialized with other dogs from an early age.

Want that same terrier to tolerate your tot? Well, that can be a tough one. Small kids and puppies aren't always a good mix. Young dogs can be rough, not recognizing that a human baby isn't as sturdy as another puppy. Getting knocked over and nipped from an over enthusiastic puppy can all be expected while he's learning his boundaries. On the flip side, kids can also be the tough ones; despite the way they play puppies can be fragile. Supervision is an absolute must for everyone's safety.

Molding that puppy into the perfect, cat tolerating, child loving travel companion does not happen overnight. It takes training and patience; translate that into work, a lot of work. Training is an

- continued on page 12

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absolute must for having a well-behaved dog. As our trainer told the class, don't expect more back than you plan to put in. Don't forget everyone's favorite, housebreaking. That's right, they don't come out knowing how to scratch at the door. Until he gets the manners and housebreaking down, be prepared for some wet spots on the carpet and chewed personal possessions.

In order to prevent your favorite sneakers from becoming a snack, you have to watch that little bugger like a hawk. Even when you're not training him to sit, heel or love Mr. Whiskers, puppies require constant supervision and interaction. While you're home, someone has to

be watching him and when you're kenneling, those tiny bladders can't be left for more than a few hours. Dogs can still have their own personality so even with all that working and watching and training your dream dog is not guaranteed.

So how about those adult dogs? Sure they may not have the puppy looks anymore, but that doesn't mean they aren't awfully adorable too. While you didn't have the opportunity to mold him yourself, that just means that some of the work has already been done. They're also more likely to be housetrained or have bladders larger than a kidney bean, so you can often leave them for a regular workday, or until a lunchtime pit stop.

With an adult dog you'll also get to see his adult personality, then you'll know that your dog loves cats and car rides. He'll also be larger, calmer and might make a better companion for your kids. Many humane societies, like the Wisconsin Humane Society, test adoptees' personalities so you'll know if your getting a 'busy bee' or a 'couch potato' and if he'll love or loath your seven year old. Afraid he'll bring more baggage than his dinner bowl? While there are dogs with issues there are many whose families were moving or other situations that never involved behavior problems. Since no humane society wants to see a repeat pup, you're sure to be informed of any potential problems and how to solve them.



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While you're contemplating whether your life better fits a puppy or an adult, I'd also like to give a howl out to the senior community. Senior dogs can make wonderful pets. I've met many 'retirees' whose energy masked their true age and with better nutrition and health care dogs are living longer. While a Golden in her golden years can still be up for fetch or a walk in the park, a senior dog is calmer and apt to lay at your feet for a rainy day instead of bouncing off the walls. Plus you'll feel good knowing you gave a great dog who might have been overlooked a second leash on life.

Keri Weyenberg has had the good fortune to have spent the majority of her life in the company of canines. She currently shares her home with Sophie, a Golden Retriever, and Rufus the rebel beagle.

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A Cat in the Dog House

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So your dog has the rule of the roost and he's the king of the castle - then you decide to get a cat. You may stop and wonder, is this a good idea? Don't fret, cats and dogs can live harmoniously in the same house. In fact, sometimes they even get along better with each other than with members of their own species.

When Steve and Stacy Tornio of Greenfield decided to add a new cat to their home already inhabited by two dogs, they were cautious and wanted to be sure they were making the right decision for their family.

"As we talked about introducing a new cat into our household of two dogs, I realized that our concerns were similar to when we talked about having a second child," explains Stacy. "We asked ourselves a number of questions. Will our other pets be jealous? Do we have enough time to devote to another animal? What will happen

if they don't get along? How do we handle the "transition" period? Will the dog chase the cat?"

Before they took the step and introduced the new cat, the Tornios did a little research and found their concerns weren't uncommon.

"We learned that we shouldn't put all the animals together right away. We were supposed to slowly introduce the new cat into our home environment. Then the biggest lesson we learned is that the animals might not all be happy right away. The sources we read warned us that it could be weeks or even months before we were all living as one big happy family. This was the biggest key for us," says Stacy.

When integrating a new cat into your home, patience is the key to a successful transition. Animals need time to adjust to their surroundings, and other animals

need time to adjust to a new member of the family. Never expect the group to be all cuddly cozy all at once. It's always a good idea to confine the cat into a small area by itself before allowing it to explore the household. This also gives the dog some time to get used to the new scent of the cat. Once the cat has had time to get used to its new surroundings, it's then time to remove the dog and let her loose to explore. Once this has been accomplished, then it may be time to introduce the two together.

Wisconsin Humane Society offers these helpful tips for the introduction process:

- Once it seems safe for the animals to be together, they will begin sorting out their relationship. One animal will be dominant. Dominance struggles tend to be more pronounced, or visible to you, with dogs than cats. Some fighting may occur, but most situations can be worked out by threat displays that stop short of any serious physical harm being done. This is especially true of animals of the same species.

- Be sure each animal has its own food bowl, water bowl, bed, toys, litterboxes, etc., to minimize the temptation to fight. Continue to reassure your first animal that you love her, even after she has learned to accept/tolerate your new animal.

- Give your first animal lots of love to assure her that she isn't being replaced.

For the Tornios, the process has been a successful one.

"Fortunately, we had a fairly easy transition," Stacy explains. "One of our dogs did try to chase the cat a few times. We let the cat establish its own boundaries, though, and only had to intervene a couple of times. We have a happy home with dogs and cats. Both animals are intriguing in their own ways, and I'm glad we found a way to have the best of both worlds."

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

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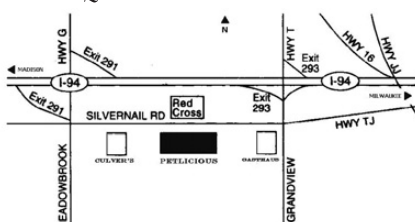
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Raising a Paw to Breast Cancer Awareness

Supporting the fight against Breast Cancer is nothing new to Milwaukeeans. We show our support by running in the Komen "Race for the Cure," raising donations by wearing pink ribbons, and volunteering at events to bring an even higher awareness level of screening and treatment options. But, for what could be a first in this town, support has come from a most unlikely source, four legs and a body of fur. To those who know this pooch, he's better known as "Fast Eddie Wagner."

Over the past few years, Fast Eddie has participated in numerous causes; from running in Bastille Days' "Storming of the Bastille" to showing his support for unleashing dogs from constant backyard exile. Now, in what may be one of his greatest shows of support, Fast Eddie has become the first canine to paint a square on the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse Collaborative Canvas Project. The canvas, which was auctioned off for \$4,000, will help award grants to cancer researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Although most who know him consider Fast Eddie a frontrunner in supporting local causes, even his own Rescue Group, "First Friends Animal Rescue," the time he spends attending an event or sharing his talents is something that can be done by any of us. Whether you grab the leash and include Fido in your walk for charity or find your own unique way for your canine companion to support local non-profit organizations, a little time spent by all of us amounts to a huge reward for these worthwhile organizations.

We would like to thank Betsy and Brenda Lewitzke, Photographers from Pawsitively Purrfect Pet Photography 414-405-1909/8333 for providing these shots.



Teva Leads Founders to Paw Naturaw

Dogs can improve the quality of our lives above and beyond the comfort and companionship they offer. Take the example of Teva, the little blond Cocker spaniel from Jefferson, WI who lived the first six years of her life in miserably poor health. During that time she led the Brill family on a long trail through vet clinics, two university vet schools, reams of research, and ultimately to their new family business in Lake Mills, WI, Paw Naturaw. Here's their story.

"We were at a loss and looking for anything that would help her," says Jeff Brill, CEO of Paw Naturaw. As a last resort, they tried raw food. "The next day she did not throw up the yellow bile she'd been throwing up every day." Over the next few months Teva continued her recovery- skin and ear infections cleared up, eyes brightened, her breath sweetened, she played with her toys and loved her daily walks. Teva went from "looking like a 13-14 year old animal to active as a puppy," says Jeff. Her blond coat took on a healthy shine and fullness the Brills had not seen before.

Jeff's parents, Jill and David Brill had owned and operated their own restaurant in Jefferson, WI for the last 30 years, and they were looking for a change. David had been producing Teva's raw meals in his basement, and her dramatic recovery inspired the Brills to consider a raw dog food business. They proposed the idea to



Jeff, and he was interested. "It was something I could believe in and thought I could really enjoy doing on a day to day basis," he says. He returned to his hometown from post college travels, and the family began more research.

They discovered a few different philosophies in the raw dog food industry, and two in particular took their interest: the prey model, evolved from carnivores, and the complete and balanced diet model, designed from the belief that dogs are omnivores. "Our personal philosophy is that they are omnivores which is why we add anywhere from 15-25% fruits and vegetables to the diets," says Jeff. "We went for the optimal nutrient needs of canine companions rather than the bare minimum nutrient requirements that the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) recommends."

Striving for excellence, the Brills adopted a quadruple bottom line of pets, people,

planet and profit. "We want to make sure we have each of those variables matched as we grow and develop," says Jeff. "The best nutrition we can think of personally, we want to provide. We want to provide healthy and happy existences, and we want to raise awareness about pet foods in general." He explains the differences between pet food definitions and human definitions. "For example, with our beef, we use human definitions as well as human grade products. We don't use the pet food definitions that allow companies to use heart, sinew, blood and other products under an umbrella definition of 'meat.'"

Believing that organic leads to better health for pets, people, and the planet, the Brills designed four 100% organic recipes specifically for dogs: Organic Beef



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"We're definitely setting standards," says Jeff. "We want to be a part of building up the green movement, a part of good social practices." The family has proven this commitment in a number of interesting ways. They recycle the heat output from their freezers and coolers into their in-floor heating system; they constructed their building from eps foam core panels; they used recycled brick on the outside of the building; and grass pavers will pave their driveway instead of blacktop, allowing rainwater to naturally soak into the ground rather than overtaxing the surrounding watershed properties. The Brills reclaimed the old colored brick pavers that were used on the streets of early 20th century downtown Jefferson. They will use the historic bricks to pave their parking area, "a sort of homage to the area," Jeff explains.

Paw Naturaw's building uses energy-saving lighting and plumbing. Only recycled paper and soy inks are used for all marketing literature and brochures. The Brills collaborated with a couple of other U.S. companies to design the first adhesive label in this country made from polylactic acid, a film made entirely from corn kernels and used extensively in Europe. [749] "We take pride in being pioneers," Jeff says. "We like to be first."

Starting with little Teva's warm greeting at the door, Paw Naturaw seems like a happy place to work. Jeff says they like to treat their employees as part of the family, asking for input and respecting opinions. Every summer they all gather to decide on how and where to locally donate 2% of the company's previous year profits.

For retail locations throughout Wisconsin and in seven other states, check Paw Naturaw's website. You can also order on Amazon.com.
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Jean Scherwenka loves dogs, writing, and the opportunity to combine the two in her articles for Fetch Magazine.





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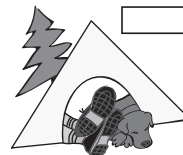


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The Legal Beagle

Til Death Do Us Part:

How Pets Fare in the Dissolution of a Family

Tupperware. Craft supplies. Deer antlers. The TV. There are just a few of the items of property that I have seen divorcing couples come to fisticuffs over in the divorce proceedings in which I have been involved. The court in a family law action ultimately resolves the battle - often no one leaves happy - but the court divides the couple's property, right down to the Tupperware.

So, what happens when a divorcing couple fights, not over inanimate items of property, but over the beloved family pet? How does a divorce court decide who gets the pet, if the divorce court decides the issue at all? The answer is "it depends."

Pets occupy the same legal status in a divorce as the Tupperware. Of course, there are fundamental differences between the family dog and the family Tupperware. However, divorce courts have traditionally refused to recognize these differences. The reason: Both are property under the law.

Therefore, in the dissolution of the family, pets occupy a sort of no-man's land, if



anyone has thought of them at all. Unfortunately, a significant number of pets end up homeless when their human families break-up. Because no one wants to be troubled with them, these casualties of divorce end up in local animal shelters where the lucky ones find new families. Divorce is one of the most common reasons that pets end up in animal shelters.

However, family courts across the country are reexamining the historical treatment of pets in proceedings involving dissolution of the family. This subtle trend is developing in light of the increasing number of divorcing couples who are not only unwilling to get rid of their pets at divorce, they are willing to go to extreme lengths to keep them. Such disputes are not limited to married couples, but also to non-married cohabitating partners who share a family pet.

For example, in one recent case, a dispute between a non-married couple, a court in New York determined custody of a cat named "Lovey" by examining a "best interests of the cat" standard. Raymond v. Lachmann, 264 A.D.2d 340, 341 (N.Y. App. Div. 1999). A standard typically applied only to children, the New York court recognized that determining the fate of the family cat should not be the same as determining the fate of the Tupperware. The court considered what was in the cat's best interests, much like how divorce courts make placement and custody decisions about children - by considering what is in the child's best interests.

Although some divorcing parties are willing to go the extra mile for their pets, some courts have little patience for pet custody disputes. In one divorce case in California, a divorce court resolved a three day trial over placement of the family dog by advising the parties that if they could not resolve the dispute themselves, the court would order the dog sold and the parties could split the proceeds. Brooks Braun v. Patti Dalby, Civil No. 99HL04290 (Cal. Super. Ct., Orange Cty. 2001). The wife promptly gave up the fight, citing concern for the welfare of the pet. The court then awarded the pet to the husband.

Divorce courts are equally divided on whether divorcing couples can be awarded placement or visitation schedules with their pets. Because pets are legally classified as property, many courts hold that divorcing parties are no more entitled to a visitation schedule with a family pet than they are with the Tupperware. Other courts have permitted placement or visitation schedules with pets, recognizing that due to the emotional attachment of the divorcing parties to their pet (and the pet to the divorcing parties), some sort of visitation to maintain the bond is a fair result.

Neither the Wisconsin Legislature nor Wisconsin appellate courts have yet answered these difficult questions. However, one Wisconsin Legislator, Republican Sheryl Albers of Reedsburg, has proposed legislation that would require divorce courts to make provisions for the care or custody of a family pet in a divorce proceeding. Under the proposed legislation, if the couple cannot agree on who should have placement of the family pet, the court can either pick a spouse or send the pet to a local animal shelter. The proposal is the first of its kind - drawing both praise and criticism - and creating a dialogue about how courts should handle pets in divorce proceedings, if at all.

Conclusion

Public policy often weighs heavily in a divorce court's analysis of how to treat pets in divorce proceedings, and there are strong considerations on both sides of the issue. As a society, should we devote valuable judicial resources to disputes over the custody of pets when there are already not enough judicial resources to devote to the welfare of children? On the other hand, does it make sense to treat



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family pets like inanimate items on a balance sheet in a property division? There is no easy answer. However, one thing is certain: We're not having this debate over the Tupperware.

Megan A. Senatori practices civil litigation at DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C. in Madison. She teaches courses in animal law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School. Megan is also Co-Founder and President of Wisconsin United for Furry Friends, Inc. ("WUFF"), a non-profit animal welfare organization dedicated to recognizing the link between family violence and animal abuse. www.wuffinfo.org.



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All classes below use reward based training techniques through the use of a clicker. Puppy ABC's, Dog Manners, and Beyond Manners Classes all run for 6 weeks and are \$100 (WHS Adopted) and \$120 (Non-WHS Adopted).

Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):
 Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.
 Friday, December 2nd 7:00 pm
 Saturday, December 15th 12:00 pm

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.
 Friday, December 15th 1:30 pm
 Friday, December 21st 6:30 pm

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

Clever Canine Tricks Class (over 6 months of age):
 Teach your dog to be creative and learn how to get the behaviors you want from your dog (not just tricks!). Length: 4 weeks. All dogs \$60.00
 Beginning in January '07. Call for times.

Behavioral Consultations: One-on-one assistance & training to solve behavioral issues. (414) 431-6173
Dog (per session): \$60 (WHS Adopted) \$70 (non-WHS Adopted)
Cat (per session): \$30 (WHS Adopted) \$35 (non-WHS Adopted)

BREED PROFILE:

The Yorkshire Terrier

Toy-Sized Popularity and Big Dog Attitude

The Yorkshire terrier, also known simply as a Yorkie, is more than just a pint-sized accessory. Yorkies are appearing on the arms of celebrities in glossy magazines more than ever, and this diminutive dog has jumped to the number two spot in the U.S. purebred popularity ranking, according to the AKC earlier this year. It is somewhat surprising for such a small dog to win this accolade. But yes, celebrities with Yorkies probably have a lot to do with it.

The original breeds most likely responsible for the Yorkshire terrier are now extinct. The obsolete breeds of Clydesdale Terrier, Waterside Terrier, and Old English Terrier were likely bred very selectively to miniaturize the toy terrier, which was given the breed name in the early 1870's. Like other terrier breeds, the Yorkshire was surely developed for catching rats and other vermin and as well as for a hunting dog that could penetrate into badger and fox burrows. Breeding to a smaller size has not diminished the Yorkie's "big dog" attitude, however. Usually oblivious of its small size, the Yorkie is ever eager for adventure. This little dog is highly energetic, brave, loyal and clever. Don't be fooled by celebrity Yorkies -- they're not all timid little lap dogs and purse adornments. With their hunting instinct, Yorkies can be inquisitive, adventurous, and sometimes into trouble.

As well, Yorkie enthusiasts say that the breed can be fun in performance events. Because of their size and demeanor, Yorkies will generally draw a crowd in the obedience or agility ring. There is something very charming about a Yorkie flying through the tunnels and leaping over the agility jumps, even if, on occasion, it's the wrong one! (Even trained Yorkies, ahem, have minds of their own.) Yorkies are said to excel in flyball and Frisbee, too.



A matchbox-size Yorkshire terrier owned by a man in Blackburn, England was reportedly the smallest dog in recorded history, standing just 2.5 inches tall at the shoulder and weighing just four ounces. When it comes to Yorkies, however, there is actually no such thing as a "Teacup" or "Micro" or "Baby-doll" Yorkie, despite what the pet retailers may tell you. Do not be fooled by pet stores who claim that their Yorkies come from reputable breeders. No reputable breeder would subject their puppies to a pet store -- those dogs come from puppy-mills and irresponsible breeders.

The Yorkshire Terrier Club of America (www.ytca.org) has a Code of Ethics which precludes the use of the words "teacup", "doll faced", or any similar terminology by its members, and for good reason. An unusually small Yorkie can occur with any breeder, although no serious (to-the-standard) breeder breeds for this trait. Expert breeders know a weight range of four to seven pounds retains desired Toy qualities while maintaining optimum health. The Yorkshire Terrier Standard states weight "must not exceed seven pounds", and even at seven pounds, the Yorkie is still a small dog. Special circumstances often come with

extra tiny dogs. They are susceptible to both hereditary and non-hereditary health problems, including extra and expensive tests prior to routine teeth cleanings and surgeries. Small canines are more likely to have poor or lethal reactions to anesthesia.

Additionally, tiny dogs are more easily injured by falls, being stepped on, being attacked by other dogs, and behavioral issues. Most extremely small toy breeds also have dental problems. These health consequences result in large veterinary bills.

Potential Yorkie owners need to make purchasing a healthy, normally-sized pup, a top priority when considering litters. The novelty of a mini-sized pet is not worth the pain, heartbreak, or extra expense. Indeed, all toy breeds are comparatively small. A healthy puppy will more likely grow into a healthy adult, all the more important when considering an eleven to fifteen year commitment (life span) with your Yorkie. Most reputable breeders breed to improve health, temperament, and quality, thus taking into consideration that a healthy size adult of five to seven pounds will be more likely to produce a viable litter.

Reputable show breeders produce Yorkie pups with beautiful dark steel-blue and tan coloration. Yorkshire Terriers are born black, gradually attaining their





blue and tan coloration as they mature. The coat is not coarse, but is fine and silky to the touch. It is also said that Yorkies have no undercoat and do not shed, but require daily grooming. The hair on top of the head, if grown long, is usually secured with a band or bow (to keep it out of the food and water bowl and provide maximum visibility). However, if the Yorkshire terrier is not a show dog, the coat may be clipped short. Ears and eyes often require daily cleaning, and routine dental hygiene is also a must.

Yorkies of every size and temperament are waiting patiently for "forever" homes, according to the dedicated volunteers at United Yorkie Rescue. Start by checking out the website at www.unitedyorkierescue.org. While on the web, www.YorkieTalk.com provides another place for gathering candid information about the breed on the chat boards and regional forums. Finally, a terrific Yorkshire terrier resource is your local veterinarian, who could also advise on the suitability of the Yorkie in an individual family situation.

The well bred Yorkshire terrier is a proud, high spirited, exciting little terrier who thinks it's as big as a Great Dane. Labradors take note: the popular Yorkie is on your heels!

Deb Voss Quail (now also known as Mrs. Neulreich) lives in Ozaukee County with Jim, the love of her life, and Duke, the terrier with personality plus. Duke's favorite new activity is going to soccer games where he does NOT watch the field but socializes with and distracts the spectators.

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News

Receive the latest, breaking news as it happens. Plus, find out who's opening up a new store, launching a cool product, or hosting a fundraiser.

Canine Marketplace

Find a local Pet Sitter, Groomer, Dog Day Care, or anything else canine related in over 25 categories. New listings added daily. Check back often.

Articles & Columns

Not only will new articles be posted throughout the month, you can search for past articles going back four years on any topic.

Event Calendar

Plan your weekend outings or attend local canine seminars and fundraisers by reviewing our Event Calendar, updated daily.

Breed Rescue Groups

Along with Humane Societies, you'll find no other place better than a Rescue Group to find your next four-legged member of the family. Find breed-specific listings for local Groups here.

Training Calendar

Does the command "sit" result in the canine cocked head? Access the training schedules of local Dog Trainers all in one convenient calendar. Schedules to be posted soon.

Dog Park Guide

Where's the closest Dog Park? How do I get involved with groups trying to get more parks in my area? Find all of those answers and more here.

Dogs Around Town

Whether you're submitting a photo or want to see other wacky canine personalities caught on film, you'll find it hard to stop looking once you're in.



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Rescues

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ATRA-Airedale Terrier Rescue & Adoption
715-526-5961, www.aire-rescue.com
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heavenlyrescue@excite.com
www.hhr.petfinder.com

Operation Bring Animals Home S&R Team
262-224-1964, www.obahrescue.com

American Water Spaniel

414-840-7411, rescueaws@yahoo.com
www.americanwaterspanielclub.org

Basset Hound

Basset Buddies Rescue, Inc., 262-347-8823
info@bbrescue.org, www.bbrescue.org

Beagle

BrewBeagle Rescue
midwest@brewbeagles.org, brewbeagles.org

Bichon Frise

Little Buddies Rescue, 1-888-581-9070

BPB Rescue

(Bordeaux, Pug, & Boston Terrier)
262-573-7837, bordeauxdogue@gmail.com

Border Collie

MidAmerica Border Collie Rescue
414-449-0888
www.midamericabrcrescue.com
MidAmericaBCRescue@yahoo.com

Boston Terrier

WI Boston Terrier Rescue
414-534-2996, Ollie1022@sbcglobal.net
www.wisconsinbostonterrierrescue.com

Boxer

Green Acres Boxer Rescue of WI
info@greenacresboxerrescue.com
www.greenacresboxerrescue.com

Brew City Small Dog Rescue

414-313-2040, www.brewcityrescue.org
Heather@brewcityrescue.org

Brittany

American Brittany Rescue, 1-866-brit911
www.americanbrittanyrescue.org
info@americanbrittanyrescue.org

Chihuahua

Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue, Inc.
608-219-4044
www.wischi Rescue.org, chigirl@wischi Rescue.org

Cocker Spaniel

Wisconsin Cocker Rescue
262-255-0246, WiCockerRescue@Juno.com
www.geocities.com/WiCockerRescue

Shorewood Cocker Rescue

262-877-3294
www.cockerrescue.net, elaine@cockerrescue

Collie

Minnesota-Wisconsin Collie Rescue
612-869-0480,
collietalk@aol.com, www.mwcr.org

Dachshund

Badger Dachshund Club, 414-299-9609

MidWest Dachshund Rescue, Inc.
608-833-2992 evenings
rescue@mwdr.org, www.mwdr.org

Dalmatian

Dal-Savers Dalmatian Rescue Inc.
414-297-9210
loveadal@yahoo.com, www.dalrescue.net

Save Our Spots Dalmatian Rescue, Inc
414-365-2679
sosdalrescue@earthlink.net, sosdalrescue.com

Doberman Pinscher

Wisconsin Doberman Rescue, Inc.
414-536-4477, www.wi-doberescue.org
widoberescue@aol.com

Shadow's Doberman Rescue
262-662-4838
draffhorseinn@aol.com, www.draffhorseinn.com

English Springer

English Springer Rescue America, Inc.
715-845-8716, www.springerrescue.org
kcmcheinking@verizon.net

German Shepherd

German Shepherd Rescue Alliance of WI
414-461-9720, www.gsraw.com
yur_rtr@execpc.com or gsdrsq@hotmail.com

Good Shepherd K-9 Rescue
608-868-2050, ccow@ticon.net
gshpherd@gsk9r.org, www.gsk9r.org

Badgerland German Shepherd Rescue
24hr. Message service 414-256-1325
gsd4me@bgsr.org, www.bgsr.org

ARF's German Shepherd Rescue Inc.
www.arfrescue.com, gsd@arfrescue.com

German Shorthaired Pointer

Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, Inc.
414-327-5102 or 414-614-5102
lisa_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com
www.wgspr.com, www.wgspr.petfinder.com/

Glen of Imaal Terrier

lakerun@execpc.com

Golden Retriever

GRRoW (Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin)
(888)655-4753
president@grrrow.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
262-542-0331 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
rescue@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
www.midwestigrescue.com

Jack Russell Terrier/All Dog Rescue

414-747-8726, 414-297-5104
pwagner@foley.com

Labrador

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

Penny Romasko
www.labradorconnection.org

Maltese

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

Mixed Breed

Happy Tails Dog Rescue
414-321-4929, www.happytailsdogrescue.com

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

Great Lakes Pug Club
www.Greatlakespugclub.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.wirottrescue.org

Saint Bernard

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

WI St Bernard Rescue
414-764-0262
wtresq@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
schnauzer@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@edsboats.com
www.petfinder.com/wiwestieresue

Yorkshire Terrier

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

Event Calendar

December 2007

1 Saturday

What: Midnight Magic Open House
Visit www.fetchmag.com for list of activities.
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070, www.forpetsake.cc

What: Reiki I Class
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: Noon - 3:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

What: Holiday Open House (raffles, treats and prizes)
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Goldens Holiday House
Where: N61 W128 Hemlock Ct. Menomonee Falls
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (\$5 donation, kids free)
Info: 262-252-4334, www.waagr.org

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 9:00am (12 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

What: Holiday/ Family Portraits by SliderPhoto
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: 414-444-4110, www.sliderphoto.com

2 Sunday

What: Basic Animal Comm. Class w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservation required)
Cost: \$125.00
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Nail Clipping
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 2:00pm - 4:00pm (cash only please)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

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

What: Indoor Puppy & Dog Play (Only \$5)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: Noon (Puppies), 1:00pm (Adults)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

4 Tuesday

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

5 Wednesday

What: Basic Nutrition Class w/ Dr. Sandra Miller
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30pm - 8:30pm (reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 6:30pm (12 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

What: Essential Oils Class
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

What: Homeopathy Consults
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

6 Thursday

What: Puppy Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 7:15pm (6 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

7 Friday

What: Agility Fun & Games Night
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

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

8 Saturday

What: Let's Talk About Boarding Your Pet
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 1:00pm
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

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

What: Reiki I Class
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: Noon - 3:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

9 Sunday

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: Homeopathy for your Pet (Intro)
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 11:00am - Noon
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

10 Monday

What: Puppy Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 5:00pm (6 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

12 Wednesday

What: Essential Oils Class (Intro)
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

14 Friday

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

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

15 Saturday

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

What: Reiki II Class
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: Noon - 3:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

16 Sunday

What: Indoor Puppy & Dog Play (Only \$5)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: Noon (Puppies), 1:00pm (Adults)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

19 Wednesday

What: Homeopathy Consults
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

20 Thursday

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

21 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

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

28 Friday

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

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.**Every Monday****What:** Conformation Run Thrus**Where:** For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago**When:** 7:40 pm**Info:** 1-888-581-9070**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**Every Thursday****Who:** Amiable Dog Training with Amy Ammen**Where:** Channel 14 (MATA/MCM)**What:** T.V. Show 6:00 p.m.**Every Saturday****What:** Happy Hounds Hour (playtime)**Where:** Release the Hounds DDC, Muskego**When:** Morning**Info:** 414-412-8264**What:** Playtime at the Playground**Where:** Puppy Playground, Oak Creek**When:** 9:00am - Noon**Info:** 414-764-PUPS**Who:** Amiable Dog Training with Amy Ammen**Where:** Channel 14 (MATA/MCM)**What:** T.V. Show 10:30 a.m.

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.

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The Simple Life with Paris??

As I recall, the conversation went sort of like this:

Carol: *I have a lady who said she "found" this Italian Greyhound on the side of the road.*

Me: *Oh, do you want me to foster it?*

Carol: *Can you? Maybe just for the weekend?*

Me: *Is it a male or female?*

Carol: *(knowing I prefer males) Ahhh, it's a female, and it's small.*

Me: *Well, OK I'll try it.*

Carol: *Oh yeah, it's also a puppy.*

Having never fostered a puppy before, I left to meet the woman in the parking lot of a nearby restaurant. Needing moral support I also took my 17 year old daughter who adores all animals. The dog was in a crate in her car. She said she can't pick the dog up. She lets it come to her. Red flag #1. She brought the dog over to my crate and placed it inside. Sheepishly, my daughter and I peered into the crate. She signed the surrender papers and we quickly said goodbye. As we climbed back into the car I angrily whispered to my daughter "That is not an IG, it's a flippin' Chihuahua." Red flag #2.

As soon as we got home I immediately called Carol at her work to inform her of this momentous error. I didn't even want to bring it out or introduce it to my dogs since I assumed it wasn't going to stay WITH ME? One hour later Carol was at my door. She went to take the little girl out of her crate and the puppy went ballistic and tried to wiggle, kick and bite her way out of her grasp. Red flag #3. I then learned the professional trick dog people do when they handle a difficult dog--they wear gloves. What a concept? Work or garden gloves make it a lot easier to deal with a fearful 3.5 pound puppy. I was about to ask Carol how quickly we can get rid of this Chihuahua when she announced it was an Italian Greyhound. The type they were breeding 30 years ago for a miniature size. Oh God, now what do I do? Carol offered to take her



for me. My insides screamed "Take it, take it" but my daughter's face said something else. My head spinning, I sat immobile. Right now I should tell you a secret, Carol is not only the local IG Rescue Coordinator, she is also psychic. Reluctantly, I agreed to "try to foster it--whatever it is" and on the condition I get to keep the garden gloves. Deal. Carol put her in a harness and made a tiny collar out of a cat collar with smaller holes. Her parting words to me were "In 24 hours this might be a totally different dog?" As the door closed I had that sinking feeling of dread and doom. Will this be my first IG foster who will be unadoptable?

I gave the puppy a little time to settle in, get used to her crate and our house. Mustering up all my courage, I approached the small crate, and would wrap her up in a blanket with my big gloves on. I must have looked ridiculous holding onto a 3.5 pound dog, like it was some kind of wild animal. I petted her and talked gently to her for a few minutes every few hours. No lie, within 24 hours the gloves and blanket were gone and this tiny little girl would not leave my lap. I enjoyed showing her off to my family since she was so

incredibly small. I joked that she isn't really a dog, but a wind-up toy. We tried thinking of an appropriate name for her, most didn't fit. My sister came up with Paris since she resembled the type of dog the heiress carries around. Paris now enjoys everyone she meets. She is learning commands and knows her name. She bounces around in our backyard like a rabbit and has at least four adorable outfits to fit her and keep her warm. We worried about her size and climbing stairs and jumping on furniture. Paris has no boundaries. She goes up and goes down anywhere she wants to. Paris is an IG who loves to snuggle under your favorite blanket with you, but has also been known to put my older, bigger IG's in their place if they approach her without respect. My husband enjoys recreating the opening scene of "The Lion King" while holding Paris up as Simba. I have learned so much living with Paris, including the process involved with indoor training a small dog. Her personality is huge compared to her size. We all adore Paris but no, we will not adopt her. Someone wise once told me I could do a lot more good fostering, than just keeping a lot of dogs. Paris's life starting out with me was anything but simple, but she has really come into her own and is ready to brighten the lives of another family. When she leaves I'm really going to miss the little Chihuahua....I mean Italian Greyhound!

Karyn Sehmer lives in Waukesha with her husband, 2 teenage daughters and her "boys" Joe and Eddie, both adopted through Italian Greyhound Rescue. For 5 years she has fostered Italian Greyhounds and helps teach puppy classes at For Pets Sake. She jokingly regrets the day she ever met her mentor, Carol Sumbry head of IG Rescue for getting her started into this whole dog thing.



Check out [fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com) today!

Seven Tips for a Doggone Joyous Holiday

Want to keep your dog safe and serene this holiday season? With the right planning, it's not difficult to squelch anxiety and misbehavior, no matter how hectic your household may become.

It's true that a dog owner's frustration can rise at this time of year; the season's abundance of decorations, goodies, and gregarious guests all add up to increased opportunities for canine shenanigans. And because changes in routine often reduce normal exercise levels, the average owner can be faced with a recipe for disaster.

Nationally known dog-behavior expert Amy Ammen offers these suggestions for preventing problems from arising in the first place:

1. Leave no food within your dog's reach.
2. Supervise around gifts and decorations.
3. Increase her exercise and access to fun toys.
4. Ask your guests not to fuss over him.
5. Give and enforce commands to regain control.
6. Keep her leashed in new surroundings - indoors, too.
7. If you're too busy for him, get help!

For suggestions on calming techniques, quick energy burners and trouble-shooting tips for any time of the year - or if you've made a resolution to improve your dog's behavior in 2008 - Ammen recommends consulting her book *Hip Ideas for Hyper Dogs* (Wiley, 2007).



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