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Fall 2010 Volume 7 Issue 4

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COVER DOG

This issue's cover dog, HazelNut was featured in the Smile Pretty pet photography article in the Summer issue of Fetch. We couldn't help but feature her again and one look at our cover will tell you why.

HazelNut lives with Fred and Donna Matti. Fred had this to say about our cover dog :

HazelNut enjoys the great outdoors, but only when the sun is shining. She JUST discovered fireflies and doesn't quite know what to make of them. For the most part, she is well behaved and social. She always makes sure her bed is filled with the evening buffet before she retires. She enjoys her daily walk (Enjoys? more like insists on her daily walk) where she almost always gets to play with Danny, a black lab and Zeus, a Boxer.

HazelNut, I think you have stolen my heart for a second time.



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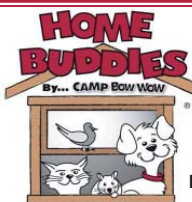
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Publisher's Letter

Well, you know what they say about the best laid plans. Our plan for our family vacation in July certainly didn't include an encounter with a tornado nor being pinned under a fallen pine tree during one of the worst storms I've ever seen. What had started out to be an innocent camping trip morphed into a dramatic evacuation in a lightning storm, subsequent surgeries and now a stint in rehab at Froedtert Hospital.

While recovering, I've been learning lessons in patience and endurance. Things are going well but it will be awhile before I can once again be making my rounds as part of the Fetch team. One of the biggest joys that has come to me during recovery has been in the hospital's tolerance towards visits from family pets. Many people have brought me comfort, but its been those times that our dog, True, has been able to visit me in my room that have had the most impact. Just watching her familiar shape as she guarded my door or burying my face in the familiar scent of her fur has been the best balm of all.

My thanks go out to Joe Kojis who came out of Fetch retirement in order help us produce this Fall issue. Joe, you are amazing in your talent and your willingness to share your personal time so that Fetch could meet its publication date. In addition, much love and thanks go to Marie, my Fetch business partner, for shouldering the load during the past month. I know it wasn't easy to make all the decisions yourself, but, as usual, you nailed it time and again.

As for our Fetch readers, I wish you health and happiness during the beautiful fall months ahead. Most of all, I wish you the love and comfort of a good dog. If you are so lucky as to have one of these gems in your life, hold on tight.

Onward to better days.....!

Ginny Theisen



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Fetch is looking for a few cute mugs!

Dogs Around Town is one of our favorite pages in the magazine. Who can blame us? We get to look at the cutest mugs in town. We know there's one in your house! Load up a photo of your pooch at

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Humane Society Adoptables



Elmbrook Humane Society
262-782-9261 www.ebhs.org

Kira is a 6 year old white and tan spayed female Pitbull mix who weighs 65lbs. She was transferred over to us from another facility and is now awaiting her new forever home. Kira has been in the shelter system for over 2 years and deserves a loving forever home. She would need to go to a home without cats or children under the age of 12 years old. She is good with most other dogs, preferably calm ones and no more than a 20lb size difference. Walking Kira is a delight, as she is very good on a leash. Kira never forgets her manners and, in fact, is used for demonstration at our manners class. She knows how to sit, wait politely at doors, and take treats very gently. She is fun loving, but also very calm and gentle soul. She'd be the perfect companion inside and outside the house. If Kira sounds like someone you're looking for, stop in and see this sweet and beautiful girl today!



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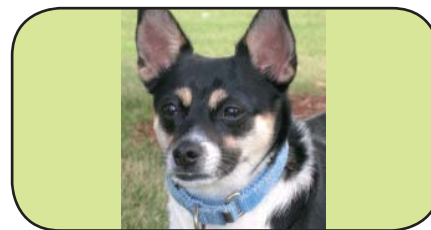
This is the story of Stuart & Shadow, two very adorable, very healthy, well-adjusted kittens, who were born in foster care on July 2, 2009 – and have been with us ever since. When Stuart & Shadow recently celebrated their FIRST BIRTHDAY at the Milwaukee Animal Rescue Center, we had to scratch our heads and wonder, "Why are these wonderful boys still with us?" It's a mystery, because Stuart & Shadow are a delightfully bonded pair – where one is, the other is sure to be. These happy boys play together, cuddle together, run together, and take shelter together. Maybe they just haven't yet found their purr-fect forever family. Maybe that family is you? If so, Stuart & Shadow are still waiting patiently for a home to call their own!



Washington Co. Humane Society
262-677-4388

www.washingtoncountyhumane.org

Molly is picture perfect! She is a 2 year old spayed female pit bull mix that enjoys the company of other dogs. She loves to play and chase with them, and she's good with older kids too. This girl is a volunteer and staff favorite because she is fun, playful and enjoys taking long walks! Molly attends training classes and knows several commands, and she's become the "teachers pet"! She will win your heart with just one look.



Humane Animal Welfare Society
262-542-8851 www.hawspets.org

Ava is a Rat Terrier mix who will turn 2 years old in November. This pretty tri-colored girl is respectful of adults and is crate-trained. She is independent and likes her own space but may not appreciate child-like enthusiasm. She'd love to go for walks with you and enjoy the fall colors!



Safe Harbor Humane Society
262-694-4047
www.safeharborhumane.com

Lorenzo is a really nice, tri-color Beagle. He came in to us as a stray and is about 1 year old. He is a nice calm Beagle and a nice guy. Lorenzo needs your help, he has been tested positive for heart worm. His treatment will be costly. We are looking for a foster home and/or donations for the funds to treat him since we are a non-profit organization. Beagles have very long longevity and this will give Lorenzo the years of happiness and love he desires.

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Taking the Time to Find Animals the Right Home

The Elmbrook Humane Society is the “mom and pop shop” of shelters, said Karen Sparapani, Executive Director of the Elmbrook Humane Society (EBHS). “We’re the little shelter.”

EBHS started in 1964 as a group of volunteers who picked up strays in an old school bus and cared for the animals in their own homes. Then the volunteers used an old garage for a shelter until EBHS built a shelter facility in 1976. “We had a slow start and a small population of animals. We are able to help animals that couldn’t be helped. We grew organically,” Sparapani said.

Located at 20950 Enterprise Avenue in Brookfield, Wisconsin, EBHS is on the line between rural and urban. It serves the City of Brookfield and the

Villages of Elm Grove, Chenequa, Nashota, and Butler, as well as the Towns of Brookfield and Delafield. Strays turned into the shelter have included animals more suited to the farm like goats, llamas, ducks, turkeys, peahens, pigs, and tortoises. The shelter has even placed tropical fish. Most of the animals at EBHS, however, are dogs and cats, with other small mammals like rabbits and hamsters. “We only have animals from Wisconsin. Forty-five percent come from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), and the rest come from owner surrenders,” said Sparapani.

Because of its size and small population of animals, EBHS can tailor its adoption process to the people and the animal. The process is the same

for all adopters, but “everything here is slower,” Sparapani said. “There’s more hand holding.” Before being adopted, dogs must meet all the people who live in the home, as well as all the other animals. The highest incidence of “issues” occurs between dogs. “We want people to have the right dog or cat. I want the animal to go home to the right home,” said Sparapani.

All adopters of puppies are required to take a puppy training class offered by EBHS. Sparapani said it’s equally important for adopters of older dogs to take classes. “It builds a bond between the people and dog.” It can be a refresher for both or teach new techniques.

While a small facility, there is a lot of room outside for the shelter dogs to exercise and play. Every indoor kennel is linked to an outdoor kennel for

-- continued on page 10



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-- continued from page 9

health reasons, and each outdoor kennel has a small swimming pool. There are also large enclosed play yards for volunteers and adopters to play with the dogs. Play groups of various dogs are organized to help socialize and exercise the animals.

Services provided by EBHS include safekeeping for the pets of victims of domestic violence. This service has expanded to serve the large population of senior citizens in the area. EBHS takes longer-term fosters for seniors in the hospital, for example. It fosters pets for the homeless, for people whose homes have burned down and for victims of the flooding a few years ago. Safekeeping of the pets is provided for free.

Something unique about EBHS is that it adopts out a lot of pit bulls. "No one wants to adopt a pit bull," said Sparapani, "but a lot of pit bulls walk out of here." EBHS has started Abbey's fund, because there are not enough homes for all the pit bulls. The fund honors a pit bull that was loved by the family who adopted it. The fund provides free spaying/neutering for pit bulls, free classes for life, and resources.

EBHS has a group of volunteers devoted to the animals. It even involves employees in the immediate area as dog walkers on their lunch hours. EBHS offers fund-raising events throughout the year, including Wag Fest in September and Wine and Whiskers in February. There is also a resale shop called Well-Bred Bargains that accepts donations of items to benefit the shelter. See the EBHS web site for details about events and programs at www.ebhs.org.

Kris Majdacic

Kris Majdacic is a writer and an online writing instructor at Axia College of the University of Phoenix. She lives in Glendale, Wisconsin.

DOGS IN THE HOOD | Milwaukee East Side

Finnbar is a handsome German Shepherd/Greyhound mix, who is the faithful companion of East-Sider Tom Mills. August 8th of this year marked the fifth anniversary of Finnbar's adoption by Tom, and for the last five years, the two have been inseparable.

At the age of five, Finnbar was surrendered to The Wisconsin Humane Society, because his claws scratched his previous owner's hardwood floors. Because Finn is afraid of both water and basements, Tom believes that Finn was kept crated for long periods of time in a basement, and perhaps hosed down as a punishment.

All this is behind Finnbar now. Before adopting a dog, Tom did his homework. One of the books he read was "How to be Your Dog's Best Friend". Initially, Tom thought he wanted a smaller dog, but there was just something about Finnbar. From the first meeting, Finn seemed to choose Tom, walking calmly at Tom's side, ignoring all the other dogs as they left the viewing area.

In his previous life, Finn wore down his upper fangs in what must have been attempt after attempt at freeing himself from his captivity. Now Tom does everything he can to make up for Finn's early years. Finn walks freely next to Tom on their daily, two hour plus walks. It is a dream come true for both Finnbar and his best friend Tom.

Finnbar goes to work with Tom too. Tom tends bar at Champions Pub, and Finn is happy to mingle with the customers (while staying close to "Dad" of course). People have commented to Tom that Finnbar is "so polite". He is indeed, and in fact Tom often refers to him as "the David Niven of dogs".



Finally, on August 8th 2010, as he has done every August 8th for the past five years, Tom made a generous donation to The Wisconsin Hu-

mane Society in honor of Finnbar, and to help other sweet dogs find their forever homes.

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By the mid-1800's a few dozen were imported to the US, and as they became popular, American tourists started buying the little dogs in Mexican border towns. The American Kennel Club accepted the breed in 1904 and appropriately honored “Midget” with the first registration. In 2009 Chihuahuas ranked 11th of 164 registered breeds. Oh yes, they're quite popular. If you're not seeing a lot of them out there, you're just overlooking them.

Toys?

Not really. “Chihuahuas have my heart,” says Kim Rauen Eichorst of Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue in Monticello, Wisconsin. Kim has owned and rescued Chis for 19 years, and one of the things she loves most about them is their inability to realize their own size. “How much power there is in that little body. They will take on the world proudly and confidently if they've got the emotional stability behind them. They're just certain the world revolves around them!”

Kim would like for people to appreci-

ate that that little body contains a big dog. “And don't underestimate it,” she warns. “It's all dog. You need to train it and love it—it's not a toy.” Her dogs are willing to sit in a carrying purse for trips to the store, “but when we get home, purse-time is over. They're not toy poodles; they're not ornamental. They're hardworking, fast, smart dogs. They want to work, to think; they want to figure things out. They herd my goats from pasture to pasture.”

According to Barbara J. Andrews, author of *Chihuahuas* (Kennel Club Books 2003, 2004), Chihuahuas also make terrific watchdogs. Note: that's watchdogs, not guard dogs. “When our Akitas bark at night, we roll over and go back to sleep knowing that some night creature has just passed through our yard. But if the Chis join in, we get up to check. Our Chis bark when something's amiss, and once we've been alerted, they go right back to sleep.”

According to Barbara, a Chihuahua never “strolls about as might a Pekingese. No, a Chihuahua struts his stuff because he's a busy dog with excit-



ing things to do and, while on the road to wherever it is, he believes no doubt that he owns every inch of the way!"

Superdog

Debbie Chambers, owner of Belles Chis in Hartland, Wisconsin, has owned Chihuahuas for ten years. "I really didn't know that much about the breed, but we got one and just fell in love with him." They named their new dog Clark Kent because his sister's name was Lois Lane. And it seems to fit him, sister Lois or not, because typically Chihuahuas believe they have Superman powers. Otherwise, why would they challenge Doberman Pinschers, German Shepherds, and every other size dog they meet on "their road"? When this happens, a Chi owner needs to quickly take charge and pluck their little Superman from his scene of delusion.

Two years after Clark Kent moved in, Debbie decided to breed Chihuahuas. She raises her little dogs in their home. "They're all a part of the family, and I don't let my puppies go until they're at least 10-12 weeks old." One of Clark's sons is ranked No. 6 in the U.S. and is only one point away from No. 5.

American Kennel Club Standard

Here's the ideal specimen of a Chihuahua, or the breed standard, from top to bottom: Large ears held high when alert and at a 45-degree angle when resting. He may flatten his ears when he's uneasy or moving fast, but ears are never cropped. Eyes are large and dark, or in a light-colored dog, they're ruby red and glow in the dark! The dog's head is smooth and "apple-domed." Newborn pups may have a soft spot in the skull where bones have separated to ease the birthing of their "apple heads." Some Chihuahuas retain this opening or "molera" their entire lives, and the AKC breed standard includes "with or without molera."

The little dog's body should not exceed six pounds and is slightly longer than tall with a level, flat back. His tail is set high and carried up over his back.



Photo courtesy of InFocus Photography

The Chi's coat comes in all colors and color combinations sporting two styles. The smooth coat is short and close to his body, occasionally with an undercoat. The long coat, measuring an average one and a half inches, always comes with an undercoat but actually sheds less. He has a ruff around the neck, a plume on his tail, wispy hair on the back of his legs, and long hair on the buttocks. Both styles can show up in a litter.

Training Myths

Don't choose a small dog thinking you don't have to train it. Yes, you can easily pick up your Chi to control most situations, but control isn't the only issue. Your dog longs to please you in as many ways as possible. Taking the time to teach him good behavior and basic commands will make you both happy. Besides, why would you want to waste that superior canine intelligence? Like a smart kid in school who isn't challenged, your smart Chihuahua could engage his brain in pursuit of mischief. And don't kid yourself. A small dog can find plenty of mischief.

Who's He Kidding?

Jessica Forinash and her husband rescued two-year old "Mardi," as their first dog as a married couple. He's now five, and Jessica really

likes Mardi's loving nature and loyalty. "He's the quintessential 'I'm so excited you're home!' dog. He loves the two of us and always wants to be with us." Mardi usually gets along with other dogs, but sometimes he shows what Jessica believes is his Napoleon complex. "He went crazy barking at a Burmese Mountain dog! The Burmese just looked at him like, 'Seriously? What are you doing little man?'" Jessica promptly picked up Mardi and rescued him from possible embarrassment, or worse.

Chihuahuas are known to burrow under soft things—blankets, pillows, sweaters; they like to snuggle and feel covered when they sleep. "At night Mardi will go under our covers, down to the foot of the bed, and sleep there all night. We've gotten used to it."

Celebrity Chis

Famous Chihuahua owners include Latin American bandleader Xavier Cugat, Marilyn Monroe, Rosie O'Donnell, Madonna, and Martina Navratilova. According to Andrews' book Chihuahua, men who are confident in their own masculinity love Chihuahuas, which probably explains California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger having one. The Gov's dog walks must present a real study in contrasts.

Websites:

Kim Rauen Eichorst

Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue, Inc.
www.wischirescue.petfinder.org

Debbie Chambers, Belles Chis

www.belleschihuahuas.com

American Kennel Club

www.akc.org

Jean Scherwenka

Jean Scherwenka loves dogs, writing, and the opportunity to combine the two in her articles for Fetch Magazine, Dog Fancy, Natural Dog, and Animal Wellness.

Around the *Water Bowl*

Sable, the Sewer Sniffing Dog *Nancy Greifenhagen*

We have heard of drug sniffing dogs, bomb sniffing dogs, cadaver sniffing dogs, but have you heard of a sewage sniffing dog? Scott Reynolds of Environmental Canine Services (ECS) has just that kind of dog! Meet Sable, a raw sewage sniffing dog. Sable, a 4 and half-year-old German Shepherd mix, is able to detect raw sewage and detergents (surfactants) flowing into sewers which pollute our rivers.

After an extensive search for just the right dog, Sable was adopted in March 2007 as a 15-month year old from the Mackenzie's (no-kill) Animal shelter in Lake Odessa, Michigan. Sable's extensive scent tracking training program started in April of 2007 and by August, he was out in the field investigating and finding sources of pollution.

Today, it is more and more important for cities to detect illicit discharging of pollution into our rivers. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Programs have been formed in major cities as a result of the NR216 storm water discharge permit generated by the Department of Natural Resources because of pollution found in rivers from aging infrastructure. Other sources of pollution are the result of complex sewer networks and even illegal hookups of the sanitary system.

Dry weather investigation of outfalls into rivers is a requirement of the IDDE program. Water discharging from an outfall structure during dry weather is an indicator of possible pollution. Water samples are collected and then tested. Testing for E-coli (human raw sewage) in the water samples is one way to confirm the illegal connections, or leaking sanitary systems. Positive

results of the tests require further investigation and tests.

Continued water sample testing or using dye tests in houses until the source is found is time-consuming. Sable has been working for 3 years and has over 500 recorded site visits to outfalls and upstream investigations. Sable has had an 87% accuracy record proven by a previous research project in 2009, however a new research project done this year in Santa Barbara, California will most likely prove Sable's improved accuracy results showing distinctions between animal and human waste DNR markers in the test results.

For more information on Scott Reynolds and Sable, go to:

www.sablethesniffer.com

Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies Compete to Save Lives

During the months of September and October, the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies will be competing together against 49 other animal shelters across the country in the Save More Lives – ASPCA \$100K Challenge. The goal is to increase the number of lives saved by 300 or more during the three-month period, compared to the same months in 2009.

WHS and OHS have set an overall goal of 3,040 lives saved for the three-month challenge. \$100,000 will go to the shelter that achieves the greatest increase in lives saved. \$25,000 will go to the shelter that engages the largest number of members of the community who help in saving more lives.

For more information about the ASPCA 100K Challenge and how you can help, visit www.wihumane.org.

HAWS Chosen as 2010 Non-Profit of the Year

HAWS, the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County, has been named the 2010 County Executive Awards Large Non-Profit of the Year. The award is chosen by an independent panel of judges including business executives, community leaders and past award winners, who "assess how each nominee contributes to the success of Waukesha County and the people they serve." Nominations are requested by the office of Waukesha County Executive Daniel P. Vrakas.

In a release from the Department of the County Executive, Vrakas stated he "is pleased to announce the winners for the excellence they demonstrate as a successful organization in the community. We received many outstanding nominees for the County Executive Awards this year. The number of exceptional business, government and nonprofit agencies available to residents in Waukesha County make all of us very proud."

"We are so proud to be a part of Waukesha County, and tremendously honored to be recognized in this way," said HAWS Executive Director Lynn Olenik. "As a community-based organization we know how important it is to have the support of those we serve. This award will make us strive even harder to fulfill the needs of our community and remain a strong organization for the Waukesha County area."

HAWS, a non-profit organization established in 1965, assists over 6,000 animals each year and welcomes more than 31,000 human visitors to our shelter annually. For more information call (262) 542-8851 or log onto our website at www.hawspets.org.

KEEPING GUIDE DOGS SAFE

It wasn't easy. In fact, it took a lot of self-restraint to not reach down and give Kirby just one quick pat. I knew I couldn't because Kirby was working. Thanks to Kirby, Meghan Whalen – the young woman I was interviewing – arrived safely at the University of Wisconsin Union Terrace to meet me.

Guide dogs have the important role of keeping their blind or visually impaired handlers safe while going to school or work, running errands, and attending events. In turn, members of the community have an important responsibility to make sure every guide dog can safely do its job.

Approximately 10,000 people with visual impairments in North America use guide dogs, including Meghan, who graduated from the UW in May with a degree in English. Kirby, a long haired German Shepherd, has worked with Meghan for 3 years. She is trained to stop at curbs, stairs and steps, and to safely navigate Meghan around hazards in their path. As a guide dog on a campus of 40,000 students, Kirby learned to make way through swarms of pedestrian traffic, and once, she even cued Meghan to stop before stepping in front of a moped zooming down the street. "She's done some awesome things," Meghan says.

Georgie Heisel, who has had four guide dogs over the years, expresses a similar sentiment about her current yellow lab, Dugan. "I will never go back to a white cane if I can have a guide dog," she explains, "We take care of each other. (Dugan) is responsible for my safety when I'm out independently."

Following are some suggestions from Meghan and Georgie.

General Tips

If a guide dog is working, don't try to pet it. "Any service dog is a working professional," says Georgie. Dis-

tracting a dog at work can create a serious safety risk for both the dog and handler.

If a guide dog is not working, ask before you pet, and don't be offended if the handler says, "no." Guide dogs are trained not to seek attention from people. Too many pets from adoring strangers can ruin a dog's focus when it's time to go back to work.

Ask before offering assistance. Often, well-meaning people rush over to grab the guide dog's harness or the handler's arm, assuming that help is needed to cross a street or board a bus. Doing so can interrupt a training situation. Before pulling someone along or pushing the button at the crosswalk, check with the handler to see if help is desired.

It's all right to tell a handler her dog is gorgeous, but please don't yell to get a guide dog's attention. A startled guide dog will be unable to safely navigate.

When You are with Your Dog

Keep your pet dog under control during walks. Georgie and Dugan have experienced a dangerous mid-street tangle with a man and his dog that had free rein with a flexi-leash.

When your path crosses with that of a guide dog, announce to the handler that you and your pooch will stay put to the side while they safely pass by.

If your dog is in the yard, make sure it cannot escape the fence to eagerly greet – or aggressively attack – a guide dog.

When You are with Your Kids

Don't let children offer treats to a guide dog. Guide dogs work everywhere from libraries to restaurants. They ride buses and board airplanes. Any change to a guide dog's daily food regimen – even one seemingly harmless treat – could make for stomach upset and a resulting mess in a public place.

If a child reaches to pet the doggie, talk with the person, rather than just focusing on the guide dog. When Georgie hears the footsteps of a toddler running her direction, she and Dugan stop, wait for the parents to catch-up, and then Georgie likes the opportunity to explain Dugan's "work uniform" and his job.

When You are Driving

Most injuries to guide dogs and handlers happen due to inattentive drivers. Use extra caution when backing out of driveways and pulling out of alleys. Look twice when turning right on red.

If you have a hybrid car, be even more careful. Hybrids are extremely quiet, especially when stopped at intersections. A person who is blind or has low vision may be unaware of your presence.

Don't stop in crosswalks. Guide dogs are trained to stop when the path ahead is obstructed. If your vehicle has crossed the line, you've halted someone's progress.

One Last Thing

Rest assured that the life of a guide dog is not "all work and no play." Kirby and Dugan get lots of playtime, tummy rubs, and goodnight kisses after a day's work.

Thanks for keeping them safe!

*10,000 guide dogs estimate from Guide Dogs for the Blind website

Amy A. Free

Amy A. Free lives in Madison and is on staff at the University of Wisconsin-McBurney Disability Resource Center. She enjoys studying languages, learning about animal behavior, and believes there's more to animal communication than we realize. She is Editor of the Wisconsin House Rabbit Society newsletter. Thump!

Raw vs. Cooked Dog Food Diet –

A Vote for Cooked

She seemed like the kind of pet owner that veterinarians love. Her friendly Springer Spaniel was well-exercised, well-groomed, well-trained, and up to date on medical care. She had brought him to my emergency clinic because he was having uncontrolled, explosive, bloody diarrhea. “I just don’t understand it,” she said. “It isn’t like I let him eat garbage.”

“And what kind of food does he eat?” I asked.

She proudly named a well-known recipe for raw food. My heart sank, because my job as this dog’s veterinarian had just become much more difficult.

Of all the things that pet owners disagree about, the debate on what to feed seems to be a particularly touchy subject. People hold opinions with a vehemence usually reserved for religious beliefs. A quick search of the Web will find statements ranging from well-informed to bizarre.

When choosing a diet for your pet, you need the facts. Facts can be hard to find and harder to interpret, but the scientists who have made a life’s work of studying pet health and nutrition do have answers. Every type of diet has its downfalls, and raw foods are no exception.

Proponents say raw foods are closer to a dog or cat’s natural diet. The fact, however, is that dogs are not wild animals. Your average Bulldog, for example, is so far removed from its wild ancestors that it cannot survive, let alone reproduce, without human assistance. Even for animals such as cats, the fact that a diet is “natural” does not mean that it is the healthiest option. On the average, wild animals do not live as long as pets. Wild animals do get para-

sites and bacterial infections. They do suffer and die when bones break their teeth, get stuck in their intestines, or perforate their stomachs. “Natural” is a word that makes people feel good, but nobody should feel good about feeding their pets bacteria and chunks of sharp bone.

Research has repeatedly demonstrated that commercially available meats are often contaminated with bacteria like *E. coli* that can cause serious disease. This is true of human-grade meat sold to restaurants and grocery stores, and it is even more likely to be true of meat sold for pet food.

Freezing does not kill all harmful organisms, though it can destroy some parasites and slow the growth of bacteria. And, contrary to popular belief, dogs and cats are not immune to *Salmonella* or other bacteria. Very young pets, older pets, and those with other illnesses are even more susceptible. Worse, humans might be exposed to bacteria through contact with their pets. The Delta Society, a non-profit organization that trains volunteers for animal-assisted therapy, recently issued a statement that they would decline pets fed raw proteins because these animals are more likely to shed dangerous levels of bacteria.

So why would anyone want to feed a raw diet? It is easy to find anecdotes of pets that had health problems which seemed to improve after they were switched to raw foods. Some of them are likely to be true, but assuming “raw is better” may not be right. Most of the time, there is no way to know whether the diet change really caused the improvement. Sometimes, things were just going to get better anyway or the new diets avoided ingredients that caused food allergies.

Many people think cooking food destroys its nutrients. Actually, it is rare for a cat or dog to suffer from malnutrition. I have seen it only in pets that were neglected and starved, or in those fed an unbalanced homemade diet. Unless formulated by veterinary nutritionists, diets are almost certainly unbalanced—just like the diets we eat. It is not too difficult to give your pet an appropriate amount of protein, fat and carbohydrates, but micronutrients such as calcium and phosphorus are very difficult to balance appropriately. Adding a few bones to the bowl may not do the job, as they may not be adequately digested. Mineral imbalances can have catastrophic results for young, growing pets and can cause kidney disease in adults.

Veterinary nutrition has come a long way from the days when commercial cat foods had inadequate levels of taurine, as claimed in an outdated study cited on every raw-food website.

“But I don’t trust those big pet food companies,” the Springer’s owner told me, when I gently broke the news to her that her dog’s intestinal *Campylobacter* infection came from the raw chicken in its diet and that a commercial formula might be safer. “Their stuff is all filler. Don’t you know that corn is bad for dogs?”

“There are a few dogs who can’t tolerate corn in their food,” I agreed, “but for most dogs it’s a perfectly acceptable carbohydrate source. There are grain free diets available if you think your pet does better on them. They do cost more, of course.”

“What about all those recalls when the pet food was contaminated?” she argued.

I agreed with her that it was frightening to hear about how a dangerous chemical, melamine, had made it into processed pet foods a couple of years ago. No food source is perfectly safe, of course, but we can be sure that responsible pet food manufacturers will be checking their suppliers more carefully in the future to avoid a repeat of the melamine incident.

"But I hate to give him that boring dry kibble. The raw food just looks so much more appetizing."

I reminded her that we were talking about a species that drinks out of toilet bowls and eats carrion. "They don't necessarily like the same things we like, so to him the kibble may look delicious. In any case, a dog that won't eat a good quality dog food is a dog that just isn't hungry. And that's okay."

She gave it her final effort: "And his stool was so much bigger and smellier when he used to eat a processed food."

"May have been," I agreed, "though I can't exactly say it's pleasant right now."

She had to admit I was right. In the end, she agreed to try a course of antibiotics and to switch the dog to a cooked diet.

The next time I saw the Springer, he was doing well on a commercial diet from a pet store and he hadn't had any more colitis. The owner confessed that she didn't miss the drudgery of concocting the homemade raw diet and she felt better knowing that she wasn't handling dangerous bacteria frequently. I felt better knowing that both dog and family were at less risk for serious medical problems.

For more information about raw diets, check out the Food and Drug Administration's website, www.fda.gov, and search for "raw pet food." For more information about the Delta Society's position statement, see www.deltasociety.org and search for "raw

food." For the American Veterinary Medical Association's information links on food safety, go to http://www.avma.org/public_health/default.asp#food_safety. For questions about your own pet's health and nutrition, go to your veterinarian!

Megan Tremelling, DVM.

Dr. Tremelling practices emergency and critical care medicine at Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Hospital in Port Washington. Her family is owned by a Rough Collie, two cats and a cockatiel.



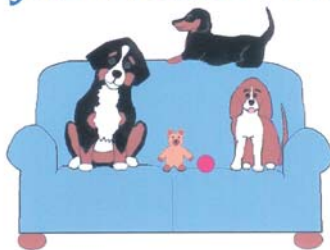
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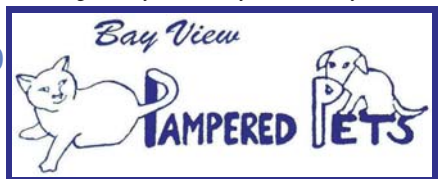
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Help! My Dog is Looking at Me Funny!

A Day in the Life of an Emergency Vet Care Representative

It's nine o'clock on a Sunday night and you've finally put the kids to bed. The candles are lit and you're just about to step into a warm, lavender-infused bubble bath when, from the corner of your eye, you spot a half-eaten bag (the one-pounder size) of chocolate raisins, directly next to your pup's droopy eyes. Your mind quickly races to all the warnings you've heard about dogs and chocolate. Sirens go off in your head, blaring out cautionary shouts against letting your pet near grapes of any kind. You ask yourself, are raisins considered grapes? Call it a bad tummy ache or a plea for a second helping; your dog definitely appears to be in need of a doc. Or is he?

That's precisely the conundrum that Angie Weidner and Jane Greene are expecting you to be in. They are two of ten Customer Service Representatives who are employed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center (WVCR), and they are dedicated to soothing the frazzled nerves of dog owners while offering sound advice for every concern related to your pet's health and behavior.

Jane tells me, "We get a wide variety of calls each night...everything from 'Help! My dog is looking at me funny' to more serious concerns related to a possible poisoning or a broken bone". Both reps have a quick ear for warning signs that a caller may need to get their dog into the clinic for emergency care - pronto. They are also willing to spare you the extra cash by advising that your dog's situation

may not warrant a pricy trip to an animal hospital at 4am in the morning. Music to my ears.

Angie explains how she differentiates between those calls that are relatively easy to treat and those that are more challenging to hear, based on the information provided by the dog owner. "We listen for tell-tale signs that a dog may be suffering from Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), a condition in which the dog's intestine will twist inside the body and cut off circulation". Also known as bloat, it is common more for the larger breeds and does require immediate care. Warning signs of GDV include retching (non-productive vomiting), a bloated or descended abdomen and constant pacing.

While calls like these require a special sensitivity on the part of the representative, Jane and Angie give equal treatment to all callers, including those that, at first glance might not seem to be top priority. Even the dog owner whose pooch was giving her "strange looks" has a valid complaint, Jane concedes.

So whether you need someone to talk to because your new puppy is a bit more lethargic than usual, or you suspect something more serious, Veterinary Care Representatives like Jane and Angie are always just a phone call away which should give everyone some peace of mind.

Colleen Terry

Colleen Terry is the owner and writer of Douglass Avenue dog Tales, a service that provides customers with "The Framed Fairy Tale of You and Your Pet". Visit her at www.yourdogtale.com. She lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin with her husband Paul, and she is proud "mama" to Cocker Spaniels, Oliver J. and Carmen Rose.



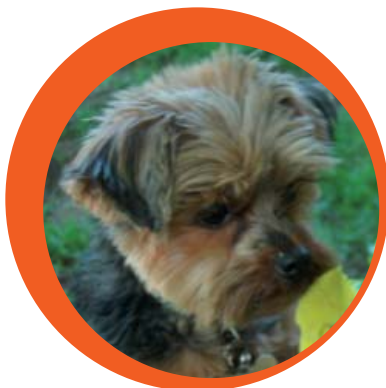
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Kids - K9's - Grown-Ups
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DOGS AROUND TOWN



Puppet - Oconomowoc



Bonzai - New Berlin



Bean - Kewaskum



Chloe - Wayne



Finn - Wauwatosa



Melvyn - Wauwatosa



Harley - Milwaukee



Bentley Bean - Milwaukee



Hova - Milwaukee

Sporting Dogs

Three Rules for Selecting Your Hunting Puppy

Puppy. Say that word and all dog lovers smile. But, after that initial reaction, seasoned dog owners think about all the work of raising the puppy. Hunting dog owners think of that too, but we also think of the result. Fall days in the marsh, woods, or prairies pursuing ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, or other sporting game. A great flush, point, and retrieve. A great hunting companion and friend! This is what drives the hunter to select and train that cute wiggly pup. Follow my three rules in selecting your hunting puppy and you'll likely end up with a solid hunting companion.

First you need to find a breeder. The American Kennel Club website (www.akc.org) can get you started. Simply go to their Home page and click on Breeders Classified. The AKC also recommends going to the breed's website. These breed specific websites list numerous certified breeders and can inform you of local breed clubs. Go to your local hunting club and talk to other hunters and dog owners. They can provide excellent information about breeders in your area that produce quality hunting dogs. Finally, talk to your hunting friends that have a good hunting dog and find out where they got their dog.

Once you've selected a breeder, talk to them. Visit them if you can. You'll want to verify that your breeder breeds for hunting dog standards first. Remember, for a hunting dog to be a top-notch hunter, it will likely be a good physical specimen, but unfortunately a good physical specimen may not necessarily be a good hunter. You often can quickly determine if the breeder meets the criteria you desire. If so, then you can ask about puppy availability. If not, try the next breeder on your list. You've probably noticed that I haven't mentioned getting a puppy from a humane society, the local classified ads,

or a casual friend. Why not? The answer is my rule number 1 when selecting a puppy for hunting:

Rule #1: Getting a free or a bargain puppy for hunting is almost never a bargain.

Sure, you may luck-out and get a good hunting dog cheap, but you'll likely end up frustrated. Good hunting dogs come from good hunting parents and these dogs cost money to breed, train and develop. It's that simple. If you want a good hunting dog, the original cost is unimportant. The purchase price of that puppy is really just a very small portion of the overall cost of owning and maintaining your dog. Look at it this way – if you can't afford the price of the puppy, you can't afford to keep him anyway!

How do you know the breeder's puppies will be good hunting dogs? This leads to my rule number 2 when selecting a hunting puppy:

Rule #2: One or more of the puppy's parents and grandparents must be good hunting dogs.

You can see if they are good hunting dogs by looking for their field or hunt trial championship titles. These titles are easy to find as they are listed with the dog's pedigree. Field and hunting titles can be confusing since there are so many clubs and titles within each club. Ask your selected breeder to explain his or her dog's titles to ensure that they comply with your hunting requirements. In the absence of title, insist that you watch the dogs hunt. It's easy for a seasoned hunter to spot a good hunting dog. If the parents and grandparents are good hunting dogs, then chances are good that their puppies will be, too.

Selecting the puppy at this point is

easy. The only remaining question is selecting the sex – male or female? I've hunted with both and have found no clear best sex for a hunting dog. Some hunters say males are harder to train but have more stamina. Some hunters prefer females since they tend to be less aggressive with other dogs. But a female may come in heat during the hunting season and may have to be kept from the field. From a hunting perspective, get whatever sex that you prefer. You'll probably have reasons other than hunting for choosing either a male or female.

This leads to my third (and final) rule when selecting a hunting puppy:

Rule #3: If you've done your homework, it really doesn't matter which puppy you select.

What? Have I lost my mind? No glove tossing to see which one brings it back? No clapping your hands together or baby talking to see which one comes first? No and no. Do these things if you like, but remember they're puppies. Go back tomorrow and you'll probably get a different one to respond first to each of these tests. Trust your homework. You've selected a reputable breeder that has good hunting bloodlines. The parents and grandparents have hunting titles and maybe you've even seen how well they hunt. At this point all of the litter will likely be good hunting dogs. So, pick one and let the adventure begin!

John Theisen

John Theisen grew up on a dairy farm near Allenton, WI and had many mixed dog breeds on the family farm. He now lives in West Bend with Ginny, his wife, and they can often be seen out and about with their Chesapeake Bay Retriever named True.

Fall Pet Safety Tips

Fall is in the air. School is back in session. And, soon the leaves will begin to change color. The Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals offers these tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this autumn.

The use of rodenticides increases in the fall as rodents seek shelter from colder weather. Rodenticides are toxic to pets as well, and can cause internal bleeding and death if ingested. If you must use these products, put them in places inaccessible to your pets and save the package for future reference.

School is back in session and parents with young children know that means stocking up on school supplies. Most of these items, such as markers, crayons, and pencils are non-toxic, but could cause gastrointestinal upset or even an intestinal blockage if ingested. Make sure your kids keep these items out of your pet's reach.

Planning on trick-or-treating with your pet? Watch your pet closely for signs of stress, such as heavy panting. Keep your pets confined in a quiet place when trick-or-treaters are coming to your door. Remember that chocolate is toxic to dogs, so do not share Halloween treats with your pet. The initial signs of chocolate poisoning are those of stomach upset, vomiting, and diarrhea. If sufficient chocolate is consumed, your pet may become restless and uncoordinated and could suffer heart failure and/or respiratory failure. As little as one ounce of baking chocolate or eight ounces of milk chocolate can kill a 10-pound dog. Like other poisonings, chocolate poisoning requires emergency medical treatment.

Although Thanksgiving is a time of sharing, remember that it is best not to share your holiday leftovers with your

pet. Turkey and chicken bones are hollow and can easily splinter into sharp pieces and may even need to be surgically removed if ingested. Fatty foods can cause pancreatitis, a potentially life-threatening condition. Vomiting, a decreased appetite, and abdominal pain are symptoms of this condition.

If you put up any decorations for the holidays, keep your pets in mind. Cats often like to play with ribbons and strings, and these items can cause an intestinal obstruction if ingested.

Many people choose fall as a time to perform auto repairs and maintenance as they prepare for winter.

Remember that ethylene glycol (antifreeze) is highly toxic. Spills should be cleaned up immediately and pets should be kept away from areas where repairs are performed.

So even though we are going to have the leaves fall and feel a chill in the air, we want everyone – furry or otherwise – to have a safe and enjoyable autumn.

Katie Williams, DVM

Katie Williams, DVM; emergency veterinarian at the Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals, Greenfield, WI



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A Dog with Enough Love to go Around

I recently sat in on one of the more difficult meetings I've been to in awhile. My siblings and I gathered at Krause Funeral Home in Milwaukee to piece together the final details of my father's upcoming funeral. We picked out the flowers, the memorial cards, gave our final nod of approval to the obituary and discussed all the necessary elements that would give our father a final farewell that was befitting of such a profoundly wonderful man. I can't speak for all involved, but all this "table-talk" made me long to be in another time, another space, in another season of our lives. As I listened to the carefully-chosen words of the funeral director, I allowed my eyes to drift around the room. What caught my attention were all the interesting signature services that were available to families as a way to enhance and honor the life of the recently passed loved one. A farewell balloon release, special music, video, poster board arrangements, etc. And then I took a double take. There on the wall was a gold ornately-framed photograph of a Portuguese Water Dog, with cascading chocolate-colored curls and soulful eyes, appearing more like a member of royalty than a simple dog on the wall of the Krause Funeral Home. But rest assured this dog is truly worth his weight in gold.

I had to ask. I urgently interrupted the conversation between the funeral director and my sister by asking "Is that dog AVAILABLE????!!!" As my (a tad embarrassed) sister tried to collect her thoughts, the director smiled gently and said "Yes, of course. That's Oliver, our wonderful therapy dog here at Krause. Would you be interested in having Oliver a part of your father's special day of remembrance?" I glanced around the room at the disapproving faces of my siblings; I responded with a half-hearted "no-thank you". Indeed, my father was not exactly a dog-lover,

and my other family members would seek comfort in a more traditional way. But my husband and I couldn't help but wonder to ourselves, who WOULDN'T want a sweet dog like that at a funeral?!

After the sad day was over, I had a chance to speak with a spokesperson for Krause Funeral Home. He gave me the full scoop on Oliver. I was intrigued by the thought of having a mid-sized canine (other than for service reasons) at an event as somber as a funeral. What does that look like? I started conjuring up cartoonish images of catastrophes like the dog romping over ladies dressed in frilly hats, jumping over church pews and even - heaven forbid - tumbling into an occasional casket.

I was assured that nothing could be further from the truth. As mentioned, Oliver being a Portuguese Water Dog, and with his temperament being quite docile, would be anything but a rowdy guest. He is hypoallergenic, so no worries about shedding. This breed is actually quite appropriate for the setting, I was advised. Oliver primarily arrives on leash with Joan Krause, who trained Oliver to be the perfect therapy dog for this very serious setting. Oliver is on-leash at all times, and Joan has a remarkable way of discovering which guests appear to most engaged by this loveable dog. Joan will casually go through the rooms with Oliver and give adults and small children ample opportunity to seek comfort in this serene member of the Krause family. "Oliver even signs the register with a paw print. Memorial cards with Oliver's picture are also available, in addition to the personal memorial of the deceased individual.

Oliver is eight years old, and Krause is the only funeral home in the Milwaukee area that offers this type of service. Our spokesperson men-

tioned that roughly 20% of families avail themselves of Oliver's "services", and to date, there has been nothing but positive feedback from Krause customers. "Many adults and small children simply gravitate to him, and for those unsure or unfamiliar with dogs, permission is always asked by Joan. Oliver is simply here to bring comfort to those most in need. While permission must be granted for the use of Oliver in areas other than a Krause Funeral Home, such as a church building, arrangements can be easily made. No additional costs are involved if you chose to invite him to a loved one's funeral. For more information about Oliver, contact Krause Funeral Home at (414) 464-4640 or visit their website at www.krausefuneralhome.com.

While I was unable to soak up some comfort from "Oliver" Krause at my father's recent funeral, I relied on the tried and true blessing that comes from family and friends who tenderly shared in my grief. And for that extra dose of unconditional love that I needed when the long day was done, my own Oliver was there to greet me at the door, his velvety soft kisses ready to gently caress my tired and weary eyes.

Colleen Terry

Colleen Terry is the owner and writer of Douglass Avenue dog Tales, a service that provides customers with "The Framed Fairy Tale of You and Your Pet". Visit her at www.yourdogtale.com. She lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin with her husband Paul, and she is proud "mama" to Cocker Spaniels, Oliver J. and Carmen Rose.

THE MAGIC TOUCH

Does the following scenario sound familiar? One minute you and your dog are strolling along, and the next minute your dog freezes in his tracks and dives for cover; he's heard "the noise." You beg and plead, promising Fido the moon if he takes just one step forward. But alas, Fido's mind is made up: he wants to go home—NOW.

Jack, a five-year-old border collie and his owner Bill had been enjoying a daily walk for several years. Lately, however, Jack has begun behaving a bit oddly, spooking at noises and more than once insisting Bill turn back for home.

At my first appointment with Bill, I asked if Jack had recently seen his veterinarian for a thorough check-up. With any type of behavior modification program, it's important to rule out any underlying medical conditions. I then asked Bill if he had ever heard of targeting. "I think we learned that in puppy class," he said. "Is that where the dog touches his nose to your hand? Jack caught on real quick."

"Great," I said, "let's see if Jack remembers how to do it!" In no time at all Jack was racing across the room, bumping his nose into Bill's fist. This was looking very promising. Bill's homework assignment for the week included games to strengthen Jack's response to the target cue.

The next week, when Bill reported Jack had turned into a targeting machine, I decided it was time the boys and I went for a walk. "Bill," I said, "whenever Jack looks like he's about to launch into 'I want to go home' mode, I want you to quickly hold out your fist in front of him and say 'target!'"

After a rocky start and some coaching from me, Bill and Jack completed a short walk without turning around. Whenever Jack would waiver, Bill held out his fist and sang, "Jack, target." After each successful touch, Jack received a click and a tasty treat and off they went. All that practice time Bill had logged associating Jack's target response with food and other fun things had really paid off.

Targeting is really just a way to move your dog around without using a food lure. Everyone from agility trainers teaching contact obstacles to zookeepers working on routine husbandry procedures use targeting. For dogs with problem behaviors such as reactivity or shyness, targeting can be a useful tool to help change an association from "yucky" to "yippee." Targeting is also a great way to introduce the clicker to new dog owners. Since the clicker is meant to "mark" movement, owners easily learn to "click" as their dog's nose touches their hand.

You've probably already guessed that targeting isn't limited to noses. There are paw touches (front and rear), chin, shoulder, and hip touches. The "target" can be a simple colored plastic lid, a taped "X" on the wall, or a fancy noise-emitting pad or button.

If you've never done targeting, what are you waiting for? Get your dog and some treats and try it right now! Show a closed fist to your dog. Most dogs can't resist a closed fist—there might be a cookie in there! As soon as your dog bumps the fist with his nose, click or say "Yes!" and pay him with a yummy treat from your opposite hand. With each repetition hold your fist a bit farther away, until he will physically follow your moving fist. You can now label this behavior with a verbal signal of your choice ("touch" or "target") as your dog's nose moves toward your fist.

The next time it's "raining cats and dogs," try playing one of my dogs' favorite indoor games. It is also one of mine since I can sneak in some basic training skills at the same time. Ask your dog to sit or down, then release him to "target" to an object you've previously located at the end of a long hallway. As he hits the target, give him a big "Yes!" which will bring him racing back to collect his cookie.

After learning of a client's upcoming surgery, I made sure his family's new puppy knew targeting. With the aid of a target stick and remote controlled treat dispenser, my client was able to interact with the puppy after his surgery. Not only did this help to pass the time during recovery, but my client felt he was contributing to the puppy's training. And contribute he did; the targeting lessons were easily transferred to leash walking and recall training. A win-win for the entire family!

For more targeting ideas, check out *Right on Target!* by Mandy Book and Cheryl Smith. ©2010Debbie Jelich, CPDT-KA

Debbie Jelich

Debbie Jelich is a certified professional pet dog trainer (CPDT-KA) and has been teaching pet dog classes for over 10 years. She lives in Oconomowoc with her husband, their two college-aged children; Adam, a retired greyhound; and a Swedish Vallhund puppy named Clark. You can reach Debbie through her website at www.comprehensivecanine.com.

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No Pet Left Behind

Before heading out with animal control officer (ACO) Donn Jacobson from Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), I thought I had a pretty good idea what the job would be like. After all we're inundated with images of "dog catchers" and "pounds" from a very early age. Who hasn't cheered as the wily cartoon dog narrowly escapes the giant net or cried as the out of time mutt is dragged to his final fate?

Let's face it, Disney hasn't done animal control workers any favors, nor have they portrayed them very accurately. Donn was hardly the snarling brute of my childhood. A friendly, 23-year veteran, he was eager to share stories of the animals and people he has helped. After a quick tour of his well-equipped van, we hit the road looking for a loose Lab in a labyrinth of backyards and alleyways. But being an ACO for 23 years does give a person a few tricks. By watching how dogs in other yards were behaving, Donn was able to pinpoint the location of our free-range friend, which turned out to be a shy Golden. There was no exciting chase scene, no big nets, just treats, a few 'good boys' and a lot of patience.

When asked what was the most common misperception the public has about his job, he was quick to answer "That we kill everything. People think that we're more out to punish than to help". His frustration of being seen as the enemy is evident.

The same frustration echoes throughout MADACC employees. "I hate when people say they could never work here because they love animals too much," sighs Executive Director Melanie Sobel, "Like we do this because we hate pets?" In fact, it's the willingness to face the prob-

Would you like to help Milwaukee's neediest animals?

- Walk a dog, play with a cat, organize an event or greet the community as a volunteer.
- Attend a MADACC benefit event.
- Donate toys, money, treats, and toilet paper/paper towel rolls-used to make toys.

Check the website, MADACC.com or call 414-649-8640 for more information.

lems of pet abuse and overpopulation head on that shows their dedication. Ask a roomful of people if they've heard of a no-kill shelter, most will raise their hands. Ask if they've heard of full-service open admission and you're lucky to see one hand in the air. It means that MADACC will never turn away an animal; no matter how old, sickly or bad-tempered. But as all shelters know, the number of unwanted animals greatly outnumbered available homes. For some of the 12,000 animals MADACC helps annually, this is the last stop. "We provide food, shelter, medical care and compassion to everyone," explains Melanie "and, if needed, the most humane end possible."

Working with a number of rescues, shelters and transport groups, they try to get as many animals to these groups as possible. For the adoptable pets that other shelters haven't taken, MADACC tries to place independently. Active educators, the ACOs participate in community nights out to speak to community groups, classrooms and law enforcement officers about dog fighting, animal law, and the role of MADACC. MADACC also hosts a number of programs that support its mission, including a low cost spay and neuter program to reduce overpopulation, rabies vaccines for public health and microchipping to help lost pets get home.

The last image I had before leaving that day was perhaps the best representation of our local "pound". While doing the paperwork for the Golden Retriever, another ACO brought in a small black Pit Bull mix, torn and bloodied from a fight, but amazingly in good spirits. The technician held the dog's swollen head gently as she stared into his mangled face. There were no restraints, no sense of apprehension, just a soft touch and some kind words. As both dogs sat in the treatment room I thought about how different their lives were. The Golden's owner would most likely arrive soon, grumbling about the fees from having an unlicensed dog, but by tonight he'll be back on his couch. It seemed unlikely that anyone is out looking for the Pitty and unfortunately his chances of being adopted aren't great. Despite his wagging tail and the smiles behind his swollen eyes, a lot of people in the world don't want him. But if MADACC is his final home at least there will be no more fights, no more hunger or abuse. For the first time he will receive the same dignity and compassion that every dog deserves.

Kris Majdacic

Kris Majdacic is a writer and an online writing instructor at Axia College of the University of Phoenix. She lives in Glendale, Wisconsin.

Native American Dog Stories

For centuries, dogs have played a prominent role in the stories and legends of cultures worldwide. American literary genius Mark Twain is the author of *A Dog's Tale*, a heartbreaking and heroic story of a dog who goes through great lengths to save a child belonging to her human master. *The Three Dogs* is a German tale about a young man who embarks on a daring endeavor with his three faithful companions. In Ireland, people believe in a legend which states that if you hear the sound of a howling dog, the spirit of death is approaching, especially if the sound is heard near the home of someone who is ill. While dogs act as key characters in many stories and myths, one culture appears to repeatedly emphasize the bond between man and man's best friend- the Native American culture. Native American tribes across the country have passed along numerous tales featuring our four-legged friends; tales of courage, loyalty, creation, and lifelong friendships.

A Native American legend of creation

The Dog Who Walked with God, written by Michael J. Rosen, is a retelling of a Kato Indian legend of The Great Traveler and his canine companion. Together, The Great Traveler and his dog create the sun and the moon, oceans and lakes, mountains and plants, and all life that occupies it.

Native American legends of how dogs came to know the people

A Chippewa Indian legend titled *How Dogs came to the Indians* is a story about two Indians who accidentally find a lodge belonging to a giant and his dog. While in the lodge, the Indians cross paths with a Windigo, a man eating spirit. The giant orders his dog to kill the spirit

and the dog obeys the command. The giant noticed that this act pleased the two Indians, so the giant ordered his dog to go home with the Indians to be their pet. The Chippewa Indians believe that this tale is the story of how the first dog came to know the Indians.

How the Dogs Became Companions to the People is an Abenaki Indian

tale of Gluskabe, also known as "The One Who Helps the Creator". In this story, Gluskabe announces the arrival of the humans to the forest. He asks each animal of the forest to come forward and asks what each one will do when the humans appear. While many of the animals say that they will hurt the humans, the dog

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Original art by Native American artist Marie Elioff.

Calendar of EVENTS

Camps/Classes/Seminars

Dog Behavior Seminar
6:30 – 8:30 pm
September 9
October 12
Wisconsin Humane Society, Milwaukee
414-264-6257 www.wihumane.org

Coffee Hound Hour
9:30 – 10:30 am
September 4
October 2
November 6
Bad Dog Frida, Madison
Coffee & treats (for humans & canines)
www.baddogfrida.com

Brew City Bullies Owner Support Groups
September 11
Doggy Office, Brookfield
www.brewcitybullies.org

Solving Common Canine Behavior Problems
September 13
November 1
Humane Animal Welfare Society, Waukesha
www.hawspets.org

Training Help
Every Thursday evening 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Every Sunday 11:00 am – 12 noon
Frank Allison III, APDT
Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
262-679-6776 www.psnmore.com

Camp Dogwood
October 8- 11
Camp Henry Homer in Ingleside, IL
312-458-9549 www.campdogwood.com

Pet First Aid Class
1:00 – 4:00 pm
September 25
October 23
November 6
HAWS, Waukesha 262-879-0165

Dog Day Bash
September 9
5 – 7 pm
Wisconsin Athletic Club
5020 South 110th Street, Greenfield

Walk for the Animals
September 11
Jackson Park on Jackson Drive
Jackson, WI
www.washingtoncountyhumane.org

Elmbrook Humane Society Wagfest
September 11
Mitchell Park, Brookfield
11 am – 6 pm

9th Annual Fall Aire Frolic
September 11
Western Waukesha Dog Training Facility
ATRA – Airedale Terrier Rescue & Adoption
www.aire-rescue.com

French Bulldog National Specialty Show
September 12 – 18
Olympia Resort & Conference
Center, Oconomowoc
www.frenchbulldogclub.org

Dog Day Afternoon
September 12
Waukesha County Expo/Fairgrounds
www.wklh.com

Washington Bark Dog Day
September 12
45th & Washington Blvd, Milwaukee
ROMP: www.MilwaukeeDogParks.org

Rummage for Rescue
Demos, Raffles, Auction
September 12, Noon to 4
Belle City Veterinary Hospital
4701 Spring Street, Racine
Benefits Northcentral Maltese Rescue

50th Anniversary Open House
September 18
Animal Motel
13175 W. Silver Spring, Butler, WI

10th Annual Boxer Bash
September 18
Fireman's Park, Columbus, WI
Green Acres Boxer Rescue of WI
www.greenacresboxerrescue.com

Viszla National Specialty Dog Show
September 27 – October 1
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
vcaweb.org/events.htm

Ozaukee Shelter Sneak Peek
October 2
630 West Dekora Blvd., Saukville
www.ozaukeehumane.org

Basset Hound National Specialty Show
October 2 – 8
Olympia Resort & Conference
Center, Oconomowoc
www.bhcanationals2010.com

Harvest Fest Pet Parade
October 3
Brady Street, Milwaukee
www.bradystreet.org

Oconomowoc Public Library Pet Expo
October 9, 9 am - 4 pm
W1314 Cedar Drive, Ixonia, WI
Western Waukesha Dog Training Club
www.seespotsit.com

Octoberfest/Beer Tasting
October 9
Washington County Humane Society
www.washingtoncountyhumane.org

HAWS Homecoming
October 16
Humane Animal Welfare Society
www.hawspets.org

Pitty Palooza
October 23
Frontier Airlines Center, Milwaukee
www.brewcitybullies.org
www.pittypalooza.com

GRRoW Tails on Trails Dog Walk
October 23
Lapham Peak, Delafield, WI
Golden Retriever Rescue of WI
www.grrow.org

Holiday Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale
November 6
Humane Animal Welfare Society
www.hawspets.org

Wisconsin Dog Fair
November 7
Alliant Center, Madison, WI
Badger Kennel Club
www.badgerkennelclub.com

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Fundraisers/Gatherings

Doggy Dip
Cool Waters in Greenfield Park
Labor Day 6:30 – 8 pm
www.milwaukeeDogParks.org

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states that he wishes to live with the humans and be their greatest friend. Gluskabe grants the dog's request, stating that he will be forever loyal to the humans. That is how dogs came to be so faithful and loyal to man.

Legends of dogs as protectors

The Dogs Who Saved Their Master is a Seneca Indian legend about a hunter and his three dogs who encounter a monster in the woods. One by one, the dogs risk their lives to save the life of their master. When two of the dogs fall victim to the monster's grasp, the third dog tells the hunter to save himself and to also save the dog's girlfriend, who belongs to a cruel master. The hunter escapes the woods, finds the female dog, and rescues her. Shortly after bringing the female dog home, she gave birth to four puppies that looked like the dogs the hunter once knew and loved.

Dog People is an Abenaki Indian tale of a man and his dog that get lost in the woods on a cold and snowy night. The man and his dog build a cave in the snow and fall asleep. When the man awakens, he finds himself in the land of the Dog People, a place where his dog and other dogs are able to show their human form. The man's dog ultimately saves the man's life by providing him with food, protection, and shelter from the bitter cold.

Another Abenaki legend titled The Dangerous Stranger is a story about

a girl who is kidnapped by a stranger while she is in the woods with her dog. The stranger carries the girl far from her village with a sack covering her head. When the stranger reaches his destination with the girl, he uncovers her face and gestures for her to hold her wrists forward so he can tie them together. As the girl is about to surrender, her dog comes to her rescue, jumping down from a tree above and crashing into the stranger's chest. This blow left the stranger unconscious, giving the girl and her dog the chance to escape.

Stories of dogs as loyal companions

The Winnebago Indian story A Man and His Three Dogs tells the story of a man who receives a warning from his three dogs of an impending attack on his village. The oldest and youngest of the three dogs help the man prepare for battle by obtaining information from the enemy, while the middle aged dog joins the man in combat.

The Tracks of the Giant Bear is an Abenaki tale of a young man and his dog that are in search of a giant bear, and one day end up finding what they were searching for. A second Abenaki tale titled Lost in the Snow follows the journey of a young man, a young girl, and their dogs on a search to locate the girl's lost parents. With the help of the dogs, the young man and girl are led to the girl's parents, who are trapped in a deep hole in the ground, but are still alive. The young man, girl, and the dogs work together

and are able to save the lives of the girl's parents.

A legend of dogs as guardians

A Cherokee Indian legend states that two dogs act as gatekeepers of the Land of Souls. In order to pass through to the land, one must bring food to give to the dogs. If the first dog is given food, he will let you pass, but if you do not have food to give to the second dog, your immortal soul will be trapped between the dogs for all of eternity.

These stories, as well as others, continue to be passed down from generation to generation. These tales will live forever in the hearts of those who hear them. As long as these stories continue to be told, they will never diminish.

Brenda Rynders

Brenda Rynders has worked in the veterinary field since Spring 2008. She loves animals of all shapes and sizes. Brenda lives in Milwaukee with her husband, her 12 year old cat Merlyn, and her 3 year old cat Odin. She currently does not own any dogs, but plans on changing that as soon as she can!

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Spay Me! Clinic

Helping to Control Wisconsin's Pet Population

In 2005, Wisconsin native and animal lover, Allison Davies, founded the Shelter from the Storm (SFTS) in the Madison area to protect healthy shelter animals from extermination by euthanasia. In correspondence to the animal rescue efforts occurring with Hurricane Katrina, Davies and SFTS helped to transport over 100 animals from that tragic situation in the Gulf area to safety in Wisconsin.

Davies then created the Spay Me! Clinic in 2008 to service the SFTS animals, humane societies, rescue groups and shelters throughout Wisconsin and beyond. However, the clinic is also open to the public, and critics of low-cost spay/neuter clinics may question the motives and quality of such a high-volume operation. According to Davies, Spay Me is not out to compete with local veterinary clinics, but instead is in place to help those who are in dire financial situations. "Our goal is to work within people's financial means to provide the best care possible for their animals," says Davies. "We want to encourage these owners to forge a relationship with a full-service veterinary clinic."

Why spay/neuter?

According to the Humane Society of Wisconsin, there are many benefits to spaying or neutering (a.k.a. altering) your pet. Altering is an important first step in the reduction of cat and dog overpopulation. Local shelters are acutely aware of the need to reduce the number of pets surrendered due to unwanted litters. But beyond the population problem, there are numerous health benefits to an altering procedure including prevention of mammary tumors, uterine and ovarian cancer in females. And neutering a male dog can prevent testicular tumors and may lessen aggressive behaviors.

Veterinary stats

In 2009, Spay Me altered 8,000 animals and they estimate 15,000 animals will come through the clinic in 2010. In order to accommodate the increasing need, the Clinic recently moved from the SFTS Madison location to a much larger facility at 3120 Edmonton Drive in Sun Prairie.

Currently, Spay Me has three veterinarians, three certified veterinary

technicians and several trained veterinary assistants and volunteers. The veterinarians are experienced with high volume spay/neuter procedures, have worked in other veterinary venues prior to Spay Me and believe in the work they are doing. "I have a wonderful staff that is very trained and qualified," says Davies. "They work so hard and are hardly paid what they are worth. No one ever has to worry about how their animals are going to be cared for because my staff will take care of them as if they are their own," she says. Volunteer Lou Lenz, who assists with surgery aftercare, says she has worked for several animal welfare organizations in the past 10 years and feels that the Spay Me staff members are among the best and most caring she has worked with. "The staff is there for the animals, not for dollars and not recognition," she says.

Services

Janine Rubeck of the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter (GLAAS) says, "You are not sacrificing anything with the procedure or credentials of the doctors at Spay Me. They provide the same procedure and service that you would get at a regular clinic; they just haven't spent a lot of money on frills." One of the Spay Me services that GLAAS participates in is the group transport service. Rubeck explains that initially GLAAS just made an occasional trip in to Madison with the shelter's animals. "It has just exploded, now we are up to two trips a month with 40-80 private animals," she says. "Of course, we are willing to do anything we can to affect the animal numbers created in the seven counties around us. Unfortunately, there are a lot of responsible private

-- continued on page 37



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Kids, Dogs And The Age-Old Power Struggle Over Food

Kids and dogs really aren't so different. My dog, Dale, is a 12 year-old-border collie mix and when you pair him with my four-year-old daughter who is the very definition of perpetual motion, you have quite the dynamic duo. In most respects, my dog and my daughter get along great ... except for when there's food involved.

As most people who have a small child and a dog know, height is usually the disadvantage for a child who's holding let's say an ice cream cone, a popsicle, cookie or just about any other edible object when there's a dog around. I've had to dry many a tear from that snatch-and-grab tactic the dog uses, especially when the targeted treat is a 49-cent ice cream cone from McDonald's. Let's face it,

there are some things you can pry from a dog's mouth, but I'm not going in after the ice cream cone. He usually has it devoured, little paper wrapper and all in about 2.2 seconds.

Now, for most dogs a sweet treat now and then is no big issue, but Dale is a diabetic. This means he gets insulin shots twice a day and must stay on a fairly strict bland-food only diet. So for him, the constant temptation of stealing any type of food other than his own is high on his to-do list. He's pretty good at it, too. He's learned that if I don't shut the closet door just right he can sneak his nose in the crease and dig-out whatever leftovers I just threw away in the garbage. And there's definitely no leaving the popcorn bowl unattended when my daughter needs to take a

bathroom break while watching TV. There's usually nothing left upon return but a licked out bowl, which is quickly followed by instant tears and another bag of popcorn popping in the microwave.

When he's not trying to steal food from her, Dale has my daughter wrapped around his paw. If she decides she only wants to eat half of her peanut butter sandwich for lunch, she'll wait until I run outside to retrieve the mail before she conveniently moves her plate close to the edge of the table where the dog just happens to stretch-up his snout and snatch the remaining sandwich. And she wonders why her ice cream cone looks inviting when she's walking around?

So, the moral of my story is this, where dogs and kids are involved, there will always be some sort of power struggle over food. What a child wants so does the dog. And what the child doesn't want, well, the dog wants that, too. As parents of kids and dogs the best we can do in matters of food is try to play referee. Curing a dog of begging can be done with lots of practice and hard work, but it only takes one four-year-old to completely reverse the process, so stay vigilant and keep eyes in the back of your head. I'll admit, this doesn't usually work for me, but I keep trying.

Jamie Klinger-Krebs

Jamie Klinger-Krebs is a free-lance writer living in Jefferson County. She shares her home with a husband, daughter, two cats and one crazy border collie. Jamie can be reached at jklingerkrebs@yahoo.com.

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-- continued from page 34

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For more info visit www.spayme.com

Sara Forster

Sara Forster is a freelance writer in the Madison area. She lives with her two best friends: husband Adam and Olde English Bulldogge, Rinkie.

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