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Spring 2011 Volume 8 Issue 2

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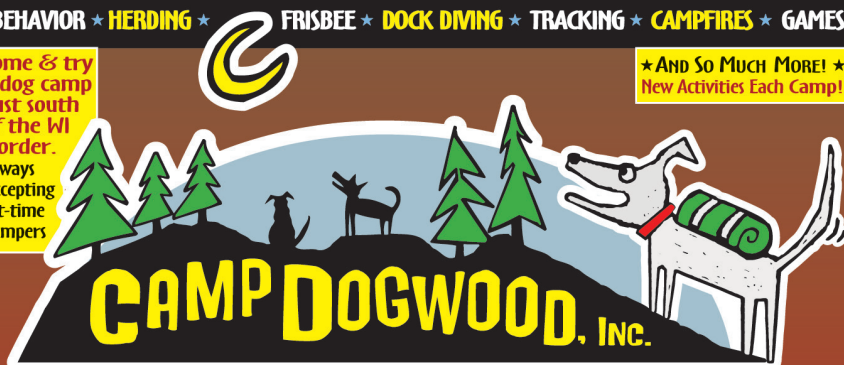
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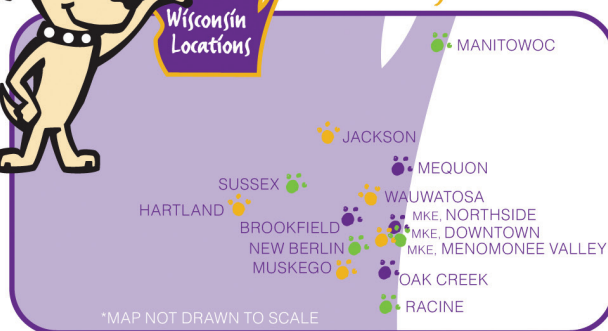
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## COVER DOG

Tyson is the magnificent Akita who graces the Spring cover of Fetch. He is a member of Scott Schuit's family and has a job of chasing geese off golf courses.

Don't miss the article on the fabulous Akita breed in this issue of Fetch to learn more about Tyson!

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz

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Volume 8, Issue 2

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## Editors' Letter

Dear Fetch Readers,

As this newest issue of Fetch readies for the Great Lakes Pet Expo, we are looking towards the warmer days ahead. What better time to plan some new activities to enjoy with your dog(s)?

As the warmer months approach, so do the pet events that we all enjoy so much. In addition to the Great Lakes Pet Expo, the Fetch team is looking forward to Pug Fest on May 15th. Many other events will be popping up on our calendar, too, so be sure to check the Events page in this issue and also our online Events calendar at [fetchmag.com](http://fetchmag.com) to keep in touch with all the fun stuff to come. You won't want to miss any of it!

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of Fetch as much as we had in the creation of it. We thank Joe Kojis for his help in compiling the magazine. Some of you will remember Joe as the former owner of Fetch who steps in from time-to-time to help us out. Our thanks go out to Joe for helping us make Fetch what it is – a truly fun read!

Now, go grab your leash and take your best friend for a walk!

*Marie & Ginny*



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# Humane Society Adoptables



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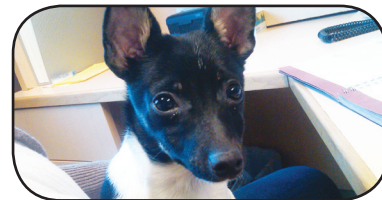
[www.washingtoncountyhumane.org](http://www.washingtoncountyhumane.org)

Looking for a wonderful companion and addition to your family? Then look no further. Lucky is your girl! Lucky is an 8-year-old Lab/Beagle mix who will win your heart with her adorable personality. She is a gentle girl who would enjoy a loving family to take walks with and sit on the couch. Lucky is social, great with other dogs and cats, and also good with children. She is a terrific girl with plenty of love and affection just waiting for you! Any family would be "Lucky" to have this sweet girl!



**Milwaukee ARC** 414-421-8881  
[www.milwaukeearc.org](http://www.milwaukeearc.org)

Gidget is a very friendly, young adult, Chihuahua mix who absolutely loves being around people and other small dogs. Gidget adores snuggling on your lap, taking short walks, and riding in the car with you wherever you go! We just can't say enough good things about this sweet girl. Although she is a joy to have as a foster, she really deserves a forever home and a forever family to love.



**Elmbrook Humane Society**  
262-782-9261 [www.ebhs.org](http://www.ebhs.org)

Schnapps is a three-month-old female rat terrier puppy. Schnapps is an active little girl, who loves to play and already knows how to fetch. She responds to everyone with friendly attention, kisses and lots of tail wags. Schnapps really enjoys playing with other dogs and she has a nice level of play. She has the whole package - brains, good looks and loads of raw talent that she's ready to use with her new family. Schnapps will make you a proud parent at home, on walks and during playtime. Visit this adorable girl today.



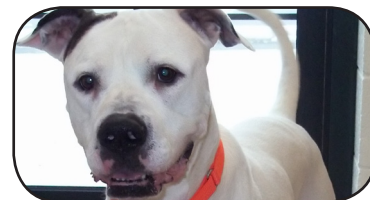
**Safe Harbor Humane Society**  
262-694-4047  
[www.safeharborhumane.com](http://www.safeharborhumane.com)

Jove is a true Husky! He has the typically beautiful coat and he speaks his mind! He came to us as a stray, and so we estimate that he is about 8 years old. He just wants out of here and into a loving family that will give him the care that he needs. Huskies require an extremely dedicated owner. They are incredibly smart and require a lot of mental stimulation. Please give Jove a chance...He really deserves it.



**Ozaukee County Humane Society**  
262-377-7580  
[www.ozaukeehumane.org](http://www.ozaukeehumane.org)

Looking for an ever-cheerful companion to brighten your day? That's me! I'm Mango, a 1-year-old neutered male Pekingese mix. One look at the smile on my cute face, and you're sure to have one, too. I'm a little guy with a big heart and will do anything for a treat. With my sweet, affectionate personality, it won't be long before I make my way into your heart and home!



**Humane Animal Welfare Society**  
262-542-8851 [www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org)

RUKA is an American Bulldog mix - white with a few brindle spots here and there! This 5-year-old spayed female is a happy tailwagger who needs "new digs" after her owner moved. Ruka is strong, and at 80 pounds she'll do better in a family with older kids. She is okay with cats, but likes to have the final say as to who will be one of her doggie friends.



# Have a Nice Trip

## Tips for a Successful Kennel Stay

Whenever I tell anyone I work at a boarding kennel, the response is always the same; “Cool, you get to play with dogs all day!” A former elementary grade school teacher compared it to being on playground duty. I had to agree, although in my opinion, the dogs are probably much better behaved!

As much as dog owners love spending time with their canine companions, there are definitely times when the “no dogs allowed” rule applies. Perhaps it’s a business trip or an annual vacation; maybe even a special getaway weekend. Unplanned family emergencies often leave owners scrambling to make arrangements for the family dog or cat.

A quality boarding kennel provides a home-away-from-home for pets and peace of mind for their owners, allowing them to relax and enjoy a well-earned vacation. For those owners dealing with a family crisis, knowing their pet is in capable hands is one less thing they need to worry about.

A lot of information exists on how to find a reputable boarding facility. Lists of what owners should be on the lookout for when taking that initial tour. However, as the person who feeds and plays with your dog while he is at the kennel, and sits with him and scratches his ears when he feels a bit homesick, I thought it might be helpful to mention a few things as seen from “the other end of the leash”.

### EARLY SOCIALIZATION

Enroll your puppy in puppy kindergarten! A well-run puppy class teaches owners how to successfully introduce their puppy to a variety of new sights and sounds. During class, your puppy should be handled by the owners of all the other puppies. He

will have his collar touched, his feet handled and his ears examined by people he doesn’t know, much like being at a boarding kennel. Your puppy will also get to meet and experience the different play styles of the other puppies, very important, especially if your boarding facility offers group playtime. Socialization is all about getting your puppy out and about to learn that new experiences predict good things (like cookies!).

### EARLY ACCLIMATION

If you have a lifestyle that requires you to travel on a regular basis, find a reputable boarding kennel before you bring your puppy home. With either a puppy or an older dog, try to arrange for a few one-day visits before leaving him or her for an overnight stay. Dogs typically do better each time they visit the kennel. And, dogs with an early exposure to the kennel environment fare the best in the long run. Believe me, there is nothing funny about trying to convince a 120-lb dog who’s never been away from home that he needs to potty outside!

### COLLAR/HEAD SHY

For safety purposes, your dog’s collar will be removed during his stay at the kennel. Unfortunately, many dogs are uncomfortable about hands touching their collar or coming anywhere near their face. Here is a simple way to test your dog’s feelings about hands near his collar: Ask your dog to sit. Touch your dog’s collar and hold onto it. If your dog holds position, cookies for everyone! If

your dog breaks the sit or jerks away as you handle his collar, try offering a yummy treat at the same time you touch the collar. Hold back the cookie gradually until your dog can sit quietly while you remove the collar.

Since the dogs are not wearing collars, “slip leads” are used to move them out to the exercise yards for playtime. A slip lead is both collar and lead in one, “slipping” over the dog’s head and loosening or tightening around the dog’s neck depending on the amount of tension applied. When a dog pulls to get away, the lead will tighten around the dog’s neck. In order to slip the lead back over the dog’s head to free it, the lead will need to be loosened by the handler. A bit tricky with a dog who is showing his teeth as hands come near his neck or face.

### BASIC MANNERS

Jumping up, pulling on leash, biting at hands and clothing, crowding the door, these behaviors are pretty common in young dogs or puppies. But in an adult dog, these same behaviors can be pretty annoying and even dangerous. If you know your dog’s manners could use some help but you don’t know where to turn, ask the kennel staff for a referral.

*Continued on page 10*



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*Continued from page 9*

## BASIC HUSBANDRY SKILLS

If your dog has certain areas of his body he will not tolerate being touched, please tell us! Where I work, the dogs are brushed on a regular basis and if I see eyes or ears that need to be cleaned, I clean them! That is, if the dog allows it. Just because the groomer cuts your dog's nails, it's no excuse to skip the important task of conditioning your dog to accept having his feet handled. Your vet and your groomer will thank you too.

So do I really get to play with dogs all day? The dogs certainly think so since every time anyone simply walks past their "room" they leap to attention, hoping surely it must be playtime! Although behind the scenes a boarding kennel is a beehive of activity, I am never too busy to pop in and whisper a few kind words of comfort to a lonely "newbie." Who knows, that dog could belong to you!

**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-age children; Adam, a retired greyhound; and a Swedish Vallhund puppy named Clark. You can reach Debbie through her website at [www.comprehensivecanine.com](http://www.comprehensivecanine.com).

## 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

**[www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com)**



# DOGS IN THE HOOD



The large, trotting dog caught my eye. The tall, blond girl attached to the end of his leash--her feet not even touching the ground--got my full attention.

My daughter, Katy Lane, insisted that her feet were on the ground at all times. Harley, the 10-year-old, 90-pound Golden Doodle she walks for the Zechmans twice a week, likes to run now and then, and Katy was just letting him run as they passed our house.

Two years ago, Katy and I met Harley and Sue Zechman on a walk in our Glendale neighborhood. Harley is an intelligent-eyed, curious but calm dog, who loves to play. After throwing and catching a ball a few times, Katy and Harley were friends. Harley had as much energy as Katy did—maybe more. Sue was interested to learn that Katy wanted to walk dogs.

The first time Katy walked Harley, Katy's dad, Rob Lane, went along. I was worried about Katy being able to control Harley, especially because, at that time, he weighed more than she did. Harley turned out to be a very well-behaved dog with perfect manners, however, who didn't run after every squirrel he saw.

Katy, now 13, has learned that Harley has many friends all over our neighborhood—both human and canine. Katy is proud to call herself one of them.

**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.

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**11** Spring '11

# THE AMERICAN AKITA

## HUNTER, GUARD, FRIEND

Akitas have a long history, beautiful coat and a need for a take-charge owner. Does that make them the breed for you? Read on!

Akitas have been owned by the aristocracy and have been used to hunt bear. They have been prized dog fighters. The breed was a “national monument” in Japan. A breed with a background of history combined with lore, the Akita is considered an ancient dog breed. Today, there are two Akita dog breeds: American and Japanese, as requested by the Japanese Kennel Club.

Like Niko in Alan’s story on the next page, Akitas are not only bred to perform a task, but they have the intelligence and ability to perform the task well. Akitas are excellent guard dogs, and although they are known as the “Silent Hunters” in Japan where they originated, they sound a vocal alarm if there are intruders.



### HISTORY

Akitas originated in the most northerly region of Japan. The ancestors of the Akita were hunting dogs of large game, like bears, and guard dogs, bred for size. The ancestor dogs were eventually used for the then-popular sport of dog fighting. To increase the effectiveness of the fighting dogs, Akitas were bred with other large dogs, like German Shepherds. As dog fighting lost popularity, there was a concern about preserving the dog breed. The Akita name was officially given to the breed in 1927.

The Akita Hachi-Ko established the reputation of Akitas throughout Japan in the 1930s with his faithfulness to his owner. After his owner failed to return on the train one evening, having died of a stroke, Hachi-

Ko waited for his master to return to the same train station for ten years. The dog became a national hero.

*(The above history was summarized from the Japanese Akita Inu Club web site [www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk/index.htm).)*

The Akita breed wasn’t known in America until Helen Keller brought the first dog here in 1937. World War II servicemen brought more Akitas home after the war.

### AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB STANDARD

For this Working Group dog, the AKC breed standard describes the Akita as “large, powerful, alert, with much substance and

heavy bone.” Males weigh between 75 and 119 pounds, and females weigh between 75 and 110 pounds. Characteristic of the breed are a “broad head, forming a blunt triangle, with deep muzzle, small eyes, and erect ears

carried forward in line with back of neck” and the “large, curled tail.” The Akita temperament is described as “alert and responsive, dignified and courageous.”

Also note

that Akitas may not get along with other dogs, particularly if they are the same sex.

In color, the American Akita is red fawn, sesame, brindle, pure white, or black. Black masks are permitted on the American Akita but not the Japanese. Akitas have a double coat of fur, which makes their fur waterproof and suited to fierce winters. The dog sheds very heavily, especially in warm weather. While an Akita will groom itself like a cat, the owner needs to provide regular grooming as well.

### TRAINING BY THE OWNER IS IMPERATIVE

Akitas are beautiful and smart animals. While Akitas can be trained to obey their masters and to tolerate children, as well as other pets in the





home, it is important that potential owners understand and know the dog's instinctive behavior.

For example, as explained by the Akita Rescue Society of America, Akitas may hunt small animals like cats, birds, and small dogs as prey. Akitas are also naturally dominant. An owner must show that he/she is in charge and should provide the obedience training for the dog. Akitas can respond with aggression if treated harshly or if teased by children in the household. Akitas may tolerate the children in their own household but may not tolerate neighborhood children.

An Akita is best raised in the home with the family. It develops "bizarre behavior patterns when raised as an outside 'yard dog,'" according to the Akita Rescue Society of America web site. They should not be allowed out without a leash.

With its ancient Japanese heritage and its instinctive hunting and guarding skills, the Akita is a formidable animal. With proper training and an in-depth understanding of its nature, however, Akitas can be loyal and well-loved pets.

## WEB SITE LIST

### Japanese Akita Inu Club

[www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk/index.htm)

### American Kennel Club-Akita

[www.akc.org/breeds/akita/](http://www.akc.org/breeds/akita/)

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[www.akitarescue.com/](http://www.akitarescue.com/)

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### Akita Club of America

[www.akitaclub.org/](http://www.akitaclub.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.

# The Akita That Patrols and Talks!



I've never met an Akita I didn't like. In recent years, the breed has become very prominent. They are very beautiful, smart, loyal, trainable, and useful. They are used by police, FBI, and many other agencies. They can be gentle, loving pets, great with kids, and around other animals. They can be used for security purposes and are known for their powerful jaws. No one abuses an Akita. A few years ago I discovered one of the most unique, smartest Akitas in the world: Niko, the Akita. Former Mayor Jim Smith of Racine told me about the Johnson Golf Course, and it's amazing Akita. The manager of the Johnson Golf Course in Racine, Wisconsin, discovered that his property was in the flight path all summer long of huge flocks of bombardier geese that pelted the primo areas of the course with goose feces. Golfers complained bitterly, and threatened not to come back.

This goose problem and solutions became known around the country, too. Scott, the course manager who is also a dog trainer and handler, by coincidence, acquired Niko for the purpose of training him to patrol the course and woof at inbound flocks. He also acquired DNR approval for the project. (They govern the treatment of the flocks.) Niko merely patrolled 12 hours a day in season and stayed away from humans. He was on autopilot. He never bit a goose or a human. He went home every night with Scott and lived with him. He worked

for room and board! He was sort of a goose super pooper trooper! The flocks immediately diverted and left without making deposits.

After a few years, the flocks seldom came back. After many years, Niko passed as a result of old age, and Scott acquired Tyson, who became the new kid on the block and our Cover Boy in this edition. Why the name "Tyson"? It's a tough-guy name for a very mild mannered, easy-going Akita. Please note his well-groomed, fluffy exterior. He also talks: ask him "how's it going?" and he says "Ruff". Ask him about the top of his house and he says, "Roof!". Because of his ability to speak, Tyson will soon be interviewed on WRJN 1400 AM (with Scott). He'll discuss his patrolling and appearance on the cover of Fetch Magazine because he is very proud to be honored. Two and a half years ago, Tyson was acquired from an Akita rescue organization. Niko was also a radio guest years ago. Niko's radio appearance was covered by a nationally distributed magazine. Tyson's radio appearance will also be covered by other media.

## Alan Eisenberg

Alan Eisenberg is a widely known humane animal welfare activist, and he has advocated for dogs, cats, horses, a long list of feathered friends, and others. He has been on many Humane Society boards, and founded some humane societies. He was granted a National Guardian award by the group "In Defense of Animals" at Paramount Studios in Hollywood in recent years. Pierce Brosnan and Ellen Degeneres were also honorees. Alan is a full time real estate professional for 53 years and does volunteer work around southeastern Wisconsin. He can be reached at 414-344-3333 or [alan@alaneisenberg.com](mailto:alan@alaneisenberg.com).

# Around the *Water Bowl*

## BREW CITY BULLIES PAL (PREVENT A LITTER) PROGRAM

The Brew City Bully Club is dedicated to protecting the public of South-eastern Wisconsin from unvaccinated Pit Bulls as well as decreasing the INTENSE overpopulation problem. If we want Pit Bulls to be around forever we MUST reduce the population drastically! One female dog and her offspring can produce 55,000 dogs in just FIVE years. It is said only 1 in 600 pit bulls will find a permanent loving home.

Brew City Bullies thanks Pit Bull Rescue Central and Petco Foundation for funding 100 spays and neuters! The Prevent a Litter (PAL) program offers Pit Bull spaying and neutering for \$30. There are no red tape or long forms. This program is for pit bulls only. Contact Brew City Bullies ([www.brewcitybullies.org/pal\\_program](http://www.brewcitybullies.org/pal_program)) and they'll promptly get you scheduled!

## BARK N SCRATCH OUTPOST - ALL BECAUSE OF SNOWBELLE

Thinking outside the bag may be the unofficial motto for Bark N Scratch Outpost. For over four years, the store has been serving up an exten-

sive selection of natural pet foods, supplements and accessories, with an emphasis on continuing education and in-store events.

This commitment to animal wellness began when Carrie and Mike Marble's one-year-old Bichon, Snowbelle, could find no relief from chronic physical problems. Carrie decided to start Snowbelle on a raw food diet, and it worked.

Wanting to shop closer to home, and already owning a partially empty commercial building at Hawley and Bluemound Roads, the Marbles began thinking about a pet food business of their own. Carrie and Mike learned their business from the ground up. Along with a staff of six, they are extremely knowledgeable about their products. They closely follow recommendations from The Whole Foods Journal; participate in seminars, and welcome customer questions, concerns and insights.

And BNS just keeps getting bigger. Where there was once a single freezer for raw foods, there are now ten. Although Diamondz Pet Spa will remain in the back, the rest of the warehouse will soon be open to the public. More extensive changes are planned for 2012. Thanks Snowbelle!

## AKC WELCOMES THREE NEW BREEDS

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce that three new breeds became eligible for AKC registration on January 1, 2011, bringing the totally number of registered breeds to 170.

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog was bred to move cows from pasture to pasture in the Swiss Alps. Medium-sized and strongly muscled, the Entle is a hard worker and can excel at canine sports.

The Norwegian Lundehund is the only AKC-registered breed whose original purpose was puffin hunting. Today the breed makes a loyal and playful family companion.

One of the world's oldest and rarest breeds, the Xoloitzcuintli are still considered "healers" in remote Mexican and Central American villages today. The breed's name is pronounced show-low-etz-queent-lee.

The AKC also welcomes the following breeds into the Miscellaneous Class: Bergamasco, Boerboel, Dogo Argentino, Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, Peruvian Inca Orchid, Pumi, Sloughi and Wirehaired Vizsla.



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# Finding the Best Vet for Your Pet

Are you searching for the perfect veterinarian for your canine companion, but are unsure where to begin? Perhaps you are looking for a clinic that offers both traditional and holistic modalities, or maybe you are new to the area and are looking for a veterinary office close to your home or work? You may even be searching for a new veterinary clinic because of an unsatisfying experience that you have endured at a different veterinary hospital. Whatever your reason, finding the perfect veterinary clinic can be fairly simple if you know what details to look for.



There are many factors to consider when searching for the ideal clinic. Are you looking for a clinic that is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association? These hospitals are ensured that their facility is instituting the highest standards of cleanliness and safety, while also keeping staff members up to date on the most current practices in veterinary medicine. Accreditation from AAHA is valuable to both the hospital staff as well as the clientele, but not all veterinary hospitals are accredited simply because of the financial strain involved in becoming AAHA accredited. There are many veterinary clinics that may not have the accreditation from AAHA, but still practice the same laws of safety, cleanliness, and education that are enforced by AAHA.

Are you looking for a veterinarian that can offer your pet holistic or traditional veterinary care? Traditional veterinary clinics believe in vaccinating against diseases that could be potentially harmful and life-threatening to your pet. They often utilize antibiotics, pain medication, steroids,

anti-inflammatories, and prescription diets to aid in the treatment of certain health conditions. Holistic veterinary clinics may discourage the over vaccination of pets and often encourage vaccine titers to determine the pet's

natural immunity to certain diseases, such as distemper and rabies. Holistic clinics are typically able to offer unique services like acupuncture, massage, essential oil treatment, herbal therapy, and chiropractic care. Some holistic clinics also believe in feeding a raw meat diet versus conventional pet food diets. There are some clinics that are equipped to provide both traditional and holistic veterinary care. If you happen to locate one that is of interest to you, ask to schedule a consultation to see what options would be the best for your pet.

Are you seeking a veterinarian that can see not only your cuddly canine, but also your felines and exotic pets? Finding a clinic that specializes in multiple species can be extremely helpful if you are undergoing medical issues with more than one pet in your household.

Are you looking for a clinic that is cost effective? What services are included in surgery costs? Finding out what is included in a surgery can help to

prevent sticker shock when you receive your final bill. Some vet clinics offer "all inclusive" surgery packages that include bloodwork, medications, hospital observation, and anesthesia. Others may give you an estimate for a surgery, but the bloodwork and other services may have to be performed at an additional charge. If your pet is in need of a dental cleaning, be aware that dental extractions and x-rays may be a necessary part of the treatment. Knowing the prices of these services can help to put you at ease in case they need to be performed at the time of the surgery.

Other factors that are important to consider when looking for the perfect veterinary clinic are the clinic's hours of operation and location. If your work schedule is unpredictable or if your work hours are later than most, you may need to find a clinic that operates with longer hours during the week. Most clinics are open until 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

But, there are some that are able to take appointments during later evening hours. If your career is keeping you busy during the week, remember that most veterinary offices are able to schedule appointments on Saturday mornings, usually until Noon or 1 p.m. Depending on your location, you may be fortunate enough to find a veterinary clinic close to your home. But, if you live in a less populated area, you may need to prepare yourself for a drive, depending on the kind of care your pet needs.

*Continued on page 38*

# A SALUTE TO WAR DOGS

## CANINE COURAGE

War Dogs' mission is to educate people on the important role these dogs have played in the service of our country during wartime. "That's the sole purpose of our unit, and our main function is to march in parades," says Jerry Witt. Of course, dogs always attract attention, and parade dogs wearing army green shirts imprinted with the "War Dogs" shield grab people's attention, interest, and curiosity.

If you attended this year's Great Lakes Pet Expo on Saturday, February 5th, hopefully you did not miss the War Dogs exhibit. You may have met Vietnam Veteran Jerry Witt, a dog handler who served with the 1st Calvary Division from May 1968 to May of 1969. "Jerry is one of the backbones of our group," says Carol Singer, the woman who started the War Dogs organization in 1998 with two of her friends, Karen Iding and Claudia Engel.

"Throughout the course of the Vietnam War more than 4,000 dog handler teams participated, and estimates credit the dogs with saving over 10,000 lives," says Jerry. According to Dr. John Kubisz, a veterinarian who served in Vietnam with the 764th Veterinary detachment, "There'd be a lot more than 50,000 names on the Vietnam Wall without these dogs. I don't think the average American even knows the role they played."

where he trained with a dog for 12 weeks. "After that, all those dogs have to go through their whole training process again. But I was sent on to Vietnam where I was assigned to Skip, a trained German Shepherd/Collie mix. I worked with Skip for two weeks before we went out on any missions together so that we could get to know each other, and so I could get used to the way he alerted."



Jerry and Skip's job was to lead patrols through the thick, "triple canopy" jungle and pick up any scent from personnel in the area which would alert them to dangers ahead—booby traps, weapon caches, tunnels. "We were basically sitting ducks, out there 20-50 yards ahead of everybody else," Jerry explains. One day his patrol was working down a trail during the monsoon season, and heavy rains had washed away the scent left on a booby trap tripwire.

"Skip was out ahead of me doing his job when suddenly he stopped. He turned around as if to tell me 'don't come any closer, I'm in trouble.'" The dog tried to back away, but the tripwire was caught in his chest hairs, and the grenade pulled out and exploded. "We med-e-vaced him to Saigon where they operated on him to remove the shrapnel. The surgery was successful, but during Skip's recovery he got a staph infection and subsequently died."

Skip died saving his war buddy's life, and to this day, Jerry can't talk about the incident without feeling the pain of his loss.

Jerry was assigned another dog, Satan, a German Shepherd/Lab mix. Satan had already served for three years and hated getting shot at or even the sound of gunfire. "But he was one of the best dogs in the platoon in alerting and letting me know there was trouble ahead," says Jerry.

**A Haunting Memory.** In 1975 when the last helicopter left the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the dogs who had served there were left behind. They euthanized about half of them, the other half they either let go or gave to the South Vietnamese army.

"Boy, I tell you when we left Vietnam without those dogs, it was a sad, sad time for us," says Jerry. "When I heard about that in 1975, it broke my heart. It's always been a very, very sore spot for us handlers. We formed the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, and we've been instrumental in lobbying the government to bring

**Jerry's Dog Skip.** When he was drafted for service in Vietnam, Jerry was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia



these dogs home from any future war efforts." President Clinton signed the bill that ultimately ensured the dogs' discharge after service and safe return to U.S. civilian life. "We can now bring them home, have them tested, and in many cases with some re-training, introduce them back into society," says Jerry. When that's not an option for them because of temperament, there are now places where they can live out their lives in safety and at peace.

**World War II Dogs.** Throughout the history of warfare, dogs have played an important role. Deb Strzelecki, one of the initial members of War Dogs, has a special interest in World War II, and she's read and researched how dogs helped win that war. "After Pearl Harbor, a lot of veteran's associations and American Kennel Club breed clubs started Dogs for Defense where U.S. families could donate their own dogs to serve," says Deb. "All breeds and cross breeds were accepted because they were donated pets. The Marines adopted the Doberman for their official war dog." The Marine "Devil Dogs" were employed in the South Pacific Island campaign. "Not one of the groups with a dog got ambushed by the Japanese," reports Deb.

The Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars recently presented an award to the War Dogs association for providing military history and education. Carol Singer accepted the plaque and medal, and her Doberman, Bella, received a beautiful medal. Dogs in the association didn't actually serve in the military, but most of the members' breeds represent those that did serve.

**Today's War.** Our dogs currently serving in Afghanistan need supplies. They need cooling vests for under their stomachs and chests, goggles for keeping sand out of their eyes, and boots to protect their feet from getting ripped up. You and I can't buy these things directly for them. However, call or email Carol Singer to contribute our money through the War Dogs organization:



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**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.



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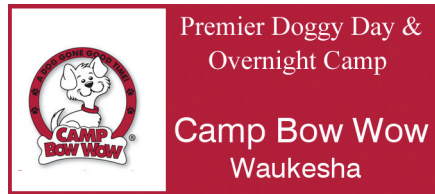
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# 10 WAYS TO SAVE MONEY AT THE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE

Most of us are looking for ways to make our money stretch as far as it will go. Trying to cut corners on veterinary care, however, can backfire. I offer a few suggestions to take the sting out of veterinary expenses:

1. Do your research before you get your dog. All breeds have their medical problems, but some are worse than others. If finances are a concern, you probably should not be getting a Bull-dog, which may need surgery to open up its airways so that it can breathe, or the Shar-Pei, which is likely to need lifelong professional skin care. Remember that the larger the dog, the more medication you'll need to treat any given illness. If you are buying a puppy, interview a couple of breeders first to find the ones that are conscientiously breeding for good health.

2. Keep up with preventive care like vaccinations and heartworm preventative. Parvovirus is a serious illness, and it is everywhere. Most puppies that get it can be treated but it can be quite costly. Since we have a pretty good supply of mosquitoes in Wisconsin to transmit heartworm, even dogs that spend most of the day indoors are at risk when they step outside to go potty. Treating heartworm disease after the fact is dangerous and expensive.

3. Neuter your male dog. It reduces his drive to escape from the yard and go meet girls... and cars...and other dogs that he might not get along with. Spay your female dog when she's young and healthy. No matter what your veterinarian charges for the surgery, it'll be less than the cost of an emergency C-section or hysterectomy at the emergency clinic (fees can start at \$2000 and go up from there, depending on the circumstances).

4. If your dog is large, giant or deep-chested, ask your veterinarian if your dog should have a procedure called a gastropexy which may prevent a catastrophic gastric dilatation and volvulus (also known as "bloat") later in a dog's life. Treatment for this can run anywhere from \$2000-\$6000. Gastropexy can be done very inexpensively along with a spay or neuter.

5. Get problems checked out by your veterinarian when they first come up, rather than waiting for them to turn into a crisis on the weekend. Your regular veterinarian is likely to be less expensive than the emergency clinic, and problems are much easier to manage if caught early.

6. Watch what your dogs eat. Some dogs may have cast-iron stomachs that can handle stale leftovers and rabbit droppings, but many indiscriminate eaters will eventually take on something they can't digest. And while many dogs have eaten chicken bones and lived to tell the tale, many others have suffered painful or even fatal stomach and intestinal perforations. When in doubt about what is safe to feed your dog, ask your veterinarian.

7. Never give your pet any medication or supplement unless your vet says it's okay. Many medications that are safe and effective for people, such as Tylenol and Advil, are harmful to pets. Some remedies and supplements that are sold for pets are useless or even dangerous. If you have concerns about the costs of medication for your pet, ask your veterinarian before trying alternatives like online pharmacies: some are unscrupulous and you will not get what you pay for, while others are more trustworthy.

8. Brush your dog's teeth. Yes, it will take some work to get your dog used to it. Keep working on it little by little; making it a positive experience for your dog, and you will eventually be able to brush them. Your dog will still need professional dental care but will need it less frequently, and will suffer far less from rotting teeth and gums. Her breath will smell better, too.

9. Keep your dog slim. Obesity is associated with a myriad of medical problems ranging from arthritis to diabetes. Your veterinarian can tell you whether your dog needs to lose a couple of pounds, and she can show you ways to keep the extra pounds off.

10. Leashes and fences save lives and money. There are some dogs that can be trusted to stay out of the road, but this is rarely the case for dogs under 2 years' old, intact males, or wandering types like Beagles and Huskies. It only takes a momentary lapse in canine judgment for a car accident to occur, and it can cost thousands to treat.

Can veterinary care ever be dirt cheap? Probably not, unless you're willing to risk your dog's health by avoiding the necessary care. However, some forethought will help you to get the most out of every dollar you do spend. Your veterinarian can help you prioritize to keep your best friend as healthy as possible.

**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.



# DOGS AROUND TOWN



Bea - Milwaukee



Emmit - Colgate



Kelly - Milwaukee



Indy - Johnson Creek



Trapper - Milwaukee



Blue - Shorewood



# Sporting Dogs

## Recovering Deer With Dogs

"The number one conservation tool on earth is a well trained dog." This saying dates back hundreds of years but is still as true today as it was back then.

Everyone knows about the dog's great ability to smell. Dogs communicate, track game, find food (and lots of other things), and even announce their desire to procreate all by the sense of smell. Dogs are used worldwide in various "smell-related" activities. Finding lost and hurt people, finding bombs and drugs, and finding hunted game are all popular uses for a dog's keen sense of smell.

One of the earliest uses for that great sense of smell was to find food for humans. Many dog breeds were developed for this trait and many breeds still excel at doing that. For the hunter, having a dog not only helps ensure recovery of the hunted species, but simply makes hunting more enjoyable.

Many people have seen dogs finding and retrieving common feathered game species like pheasants, ducks,

geese, and quail. But, you may not know that there are numerous dog breeds that excel at finding other hunted game. Bear, deer, turkeys, raccoons, rabbits, wild boar, coyotes, wolves, and even many African game species are hunted and recovered with the use of dogs. Several dog breeds were even bred and developed for one specific game animal. Wolfhound, foxhound and coonhounds are all examples of this. Today, many breeds are used to recover various game species; some that you wouldn't even imagine. Jack Russell Terriers are often used in Africa to recover game! That's a small dog with a "big dog" job!

Many hunting dog breeds are versatile enough to recover game. Small, medium, and large breeds can all do this work. For example, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, such as my dog True, were bred primarily as a waterfowl (ducks and geese) hunting dog. Just don't tell True that. She is also a fine pheasant hunter and she loves hunting rabbits. But, she has also helped me recover deer that I shot with my

bow and arrow. In Wisconsin, using a dog to recover a deer is legal if the dog is on leash and the hunter does not have a weapon (i.e. gun or bow). In my case, True simply made my tracking job easier. I had made lethal shots and probably would have found the deer by following the blood trail. Using True saved me time, thus helping ensure the quality and freshness of the meat from these deer.

The recovery of deer with a dog is gaining in acceptance and use throughout Wisconsin and the United States. Over 30 states allow some use of dogs for recovering deer. Wisconsin even has several dog handlers that specialize in using their dogs for recovering deer. And, these handlers offer this service for free! Every deer hunter wants to find the deer they shot. A trained dog can greatly help with this. Use of dogs to recover deer is most often associated with archery deer hunting. Most often a deer shot with an arrow will run some distance after being shot, even if the shot was perfect. Using dogs to recover deer is especially valuable when:

- There is no visible blood trail.
- The hunter doesn't know where the deer was hit.
- The hunter knows they didn't make a quick kill shot.
- The deer was shot in thick cover, flooded timber, or swamp land.
- The deer has entered and/or exited rivers, streams, and other waterways.
- The wounded deer runs through a group of non-wounded deer.
- Rain or snow has washed or covered the visible blood trail.
- The blood trail is too old (usually 24+ hours) to be followed.
- A quick recovery is needed due to high temperatures (meat spoils faster then).
- Predators (wolves, coyotes, bear) are prevalent and they may find the deer before you.

*Continued on page 28*

## Animal Motel



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# CALM CANINES | THE ART OF DOGGIE YOGA

Yoga for dogs is more than just an ancient exercise used to bring your canine to a supposed state of nirvana. It is what some consider the best thing to happen to their less-than-relaxed dog since chamomile-scented shampoo or a soon-to-be-tortured Kong™. Renee Brantner Shanesy, of Ruffin' It Resort in Madison, Wisconsin, remembers a time not so long ago when doga (or doggie yoga, for the unhip among us) was the hot trend at this doggie day care and spa. Ruffin' It Resort was host to doga classes for those pet owners who felt they needed a bit more serenity now. While the classes are not currently in session, you can still take advantage of some of the tips of the trade that Renee and instructor, Courtney Weis, shared. Chuckle now, but just wait and see how mellow your dog is after trying out a few of these moves.

The first thing you should know about doga is that there are no rules. There's no right or wrong way to position yourself or your dog, because we all move so differently. Renee advises that "dogies" (participants in doga) listen and respond to the feedback your dog is giving you. If your dog does not want to move his or her body a certain way, don't force the issue. Finding a local class in Southeastern Wisconsin may be a bit of a challenge, but you can practice the following techniques today in your own living room:

**STRETCH.** Start out by rubbing your dog's head, counter-clockwise. This is particularly relaxing for older or bigger dogs. Then slowly work your way to the nape of the neck. Down the entire spine, then to the pads of the paws. You can do this while stretching yourself, too. Remember, doga is intended to be fun and healthy for both canine and their humans.

**CHAIR POSE.** Are you sitting down? In this pose, your dog is seated, and you, coming from behind, lift

their front legs and stretch them forward. Courtney explains that this is a nice chest opener and stretch, but warns that this is not recommended for dogs with long middles, like dachshunds or any dog with low back or hip problems.

**HAND - TO - TOE POSE.** Touch your dog's front and back paws together, from the same side. Then stretch legs apart.

**BRIDGE POSE.** After you and your dog have loosened up a bit, you and your pooch are both ready to move on to bigger and better things. Lie on your back with your feet stacked underneath your knees and your toes pointing away from your knees. Lift your hips off the floor; keeping your shoulders and head on the floor. If you have a small dog, have them sit on your belly as you lift and lower your hips off the floor, opening/stretching the chest and strengthening your core (tummy) muscle. Larger dogs may lie between your feet and hips as you move through the pose.

**PARTNER POSE.** A typical example of a partner pose would be Warrior III. In this popular human yoga

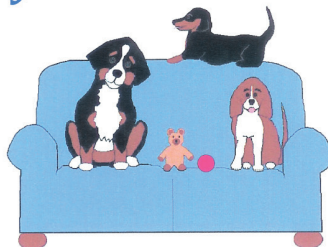
stance, you hold a balance posture standing on one leg. Your other leg is behind you; working to make it parallel to the floor with your hips square to the ground. A small dog may be held underneath to increase your strength. With a large breed, you may place your hands on the dog's back for extra balance. See? We need our dogs just as much as they need us.

"Doga is very much like a traditional yoga. Only, it can be quite hilarious at times, especially in a classroom setting. Hyper dogs especially benefit from doga.", Renee claims. "One thing is for sure: dogs love being included. I couldn't even get out my mat without my dog Simba wanting to jump in and partake."

Renee's love of doga has not subsided, even though the classes are officially closed for now. But if you've still got the yen for some Zen, contact her by email at [ccw\\_1@charter.net](mailto:ccw_1@charter.net), as she is still accepting clients on an individual basis.

*Continued on page 28*

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One important thing with using a trained dog for recovering deer (and other game recovery) is to trust the dog. The dog is following the scent that the deer left by following that scent the dog knows which direction the deer went. Trust the dog, even if you think the deer went in a different direction.

There is no dog breed that has been bred specifically for recovering deer. As I mentioned, many dog breeds are used to recover deer including numerous mixed breeds. Labs are a popular choice since they are fairly easy to train and readily available, but many other breeds can be used. Dachshunds and drahthaars have a strong following as do several hound species, including beagles. Any intelligent dog with hunting instinct can be trained to recover deer. You can even find finished dogs that have been trained for deer recovery. You can also find dog handlers that offer this service

for hunters. One such organization is United Blood Trackers ([www.united-bloodtrackers.org](http://www.united-bloodtrackers.org)). This group of dog trainers and handlers is probably the leading group that offers this service. Check out their website to locate a tracker and find out more information about this growing dog activity.

It is a hunter's obligation to make every effort to recover the game they shot. Nothing can assist with this more than a well trained dog. Give it a try and you will find it rewarding and satisfying.

John Theisen is an avid hunter that shares his West Bend home with Ginny, his wife, and their Chesapeake Bay Retriever named True. You can often find them out hiking, hunting, or just playing in the woods and waters throughout Wisconsin.

Pittsburgh doga instructor, Leta Koontz, admits that while there is no scientific evidence for the health benefits on yoga for dogs, she cites several studies that indicate that humans gain benefit from spending time with their pets. Lower blood pressure, lower heart rate, lower stress hormone levels – just to name a few. “At the beginning of the class, dogs are usually excited and wound-up, but by the end of the class, they’re almost half-asleep!”

Count on a yoga instructor to poetically summarize the best dog practice for you and your canine. Leta suggests “sitting quietly, putting one hand on your heart and the other hand on your dog’s heart. And with each exhale, send your dog all the love you have in your heart and thank them for sharing their lives with you.”

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz.....

For more info:  
Check out poses online at <http://dsc.discovery.com/beyond/?playerId>  
(Click Video Search tab, and type  
'yoga with dog', courtesy of instructor  
Leta Koontz.

## Colleen Terry

In addition to working for the team of Fetch, Colleen writes "the story of people and their pets" for her business, Douglass Avenue Dog Tales. She lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin with her husband Paul and their precocious Cocker Spaniels, Oliver J. and Carmen Rose.

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# PETS FROM PARADISE



"It's crazy town." That's how Brian Hein describes the homecoming from his annual vacation to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Whereas most people might come back with a T-shirt or a tan, Brian and his wife Emily return every year with up to a dozen dogs; all part of the Pets-From-Paradise program. From there, the dogs go to the Wisconsin Humane Society for an evaluation to identify the breed, assess their behavior and provide a health screen including micro-chip. Then, these lucky Caribbean canines are made available for adoption.

For years Emily's family has vacationed in St. Croix. While there six years ago, Brian and Emily found a flyer advertising the Pets-From-Paradise program run through the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center (AWC). As Brian noted, "It's part of the culture not to spay or neuter dogs there. People think it is going to change the dog's personality." That belief ties into the unfortunate reality of dog fighting in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Although illegal, it is commonplace in a territory with an ongoing problem of unwanted dogs. Brian cautioned, "People have shown up at the shelter with five gallon pails of puppies poured into them and then the puppies at the

bottom suffocate. And humane society workers retrieve plastic bags out of dumpsters filled with dogs." In addition to the reality of dogfighting, there is also the challenge of paying for neutering or spaying pets. Another challenge is the limited island population available to adopt those dogs that do find their way into a shelter.

Enter the Pets-From-Paradise program; a creative solution on the part of the St. Croix AWC to transfer pets from the U.S. Virgin Islands to sister shelters stateside where those dogs and cats can be put up for adoption. When volunteers like Brian and Emily depart the island, they are met at the airport by the St. Croix AWC. The Center makes all the arrangements and supplies all the essentials, including crates, food, special identifying collars, and paperwork. FAA regulations allow for only two dogs in the passenger area, so most adult dogs are crated below in the heated cargo hold area while puppies ride along as carry-ons.

Traveling on a plane with a pet can be nerve-racking. Traveling with two nervous puppies leaves you with a story to tell. Brian described his transport from two years ago. "On our Midwest Express flight, the flight attendant heard the puppies. The crew always knows about the dogs ahead of time because they are on the manifest. She asked me to bring the dogs back to the galley area to see them. The flight attendants took the puppies out of the crates to pet them. When one of the puppies had an 'accident' on a flight attendant, I apologized to her. She told me it was okay. 'I have a baby at home,' she said. The crews have always been very compassionate."

From the start, the Heins have worked very closely with the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) to make the transports possible. Pets-From-Paradise originally had sister shel-

ters only on the East Coast. Seeing a solution at home, this Menomonee Falls couple worked with WHS to identify what the type of Pets-From-Paradise dog would be acceptable. This included the criteria for health screening and social behavior. The typical dog that makes the trip is a small to medium sized pet. This is the best size for apartment dwelling. The breeds range from Chihuahuas to the native mixed breed of dog referred to on the island as a 'Coconut Retriever.' For its part, the St. Croix AWC only relinquishes dogs to no-kill shelters. With that verification in place and conference calls between the two organizations finalizing the details, Emily and Brian brought back their first group of adoptees in 2005.

Now an annual March trip for the Heins, the two frequently spend part of their vacation volunteering at the St. Croix AWC. This allows them to select specific animals for the trip back to Wisconsin. And for this couple, there really is a vested interest. The return back usually falls on a day when the WHS is closed. This means that anywhere from six to a dozen dogs spend their first night in the states with Brian, Emily and their four-year old son, Jonas. "My son loves it," Brian said. "But there are dogs in the kitchen, the living room, the bathroom...everywhere. It's crazy town."

If all goes as planned, this year's group of Pets-From-Paradise graduates should be available for adoption through the Wisconsin Humane Society starting March 25. If you would like to participate in the Pets-From-Paradise program, or get your own shelter involved, you can find more information on the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center website ([stcroixawc.org](http://stcroixawc.org)), or contact the organization via Facebook.

**Lisa Terry**

Lisa Terry lives in Milwaukee and works in human resources. When not at work, Lisa is typically shadowed by Kailey Raye, a Yorkshire Terrier, and Manford T Mannington III., a Norfolk Terrier.

# Should Your Dog Have Health Insurance?

Vicki doesn't have pet insurance for her dog, Noah. Peggy, Susie, Marty, Jenny, Denis and Bill don't insure their dogs either. The young couple with the 8-week old Cockapoo at the emergency vet clinic the day after Christmas? No insurance. Even Peg - who has dogs of the caliber to compete in herding trials in London this autumn - doesn't insure any of her seven.

The fact is most pets in America don't have health insurance. Current estimates put the number of pets with coverage at 2-3% of the total population, with higher percentages of insured pets in bigger cities. Wendy Wiesner, DVM, an itinerant veterinarian, estimates less than 1% of the patients she sees in clinics across Wisconsin have health insurance.

Are all of these pet parents making a big mistake? Are you?

SmartMoney magazine reports that Americans spent \$20 billion on veterinary bills in 2010. It's easy to see how this amount could be reached. An emergency exam at Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals is \$89. A single view x-ray is \$130. Multiple views will be \$220. In Hudson, an emergency laparotomy (abdominal surgery) for a 3-year old English Bulldog who swallowed a needle was \$953.

Despite emergency procedures and ongoing medical therapies that could save a life but leave a pet owner broke, many people are quick to give reasons why they don't insure their dogs.

## **I don't know how much it costs.**

Loran Hickton, Executive Director of North American Pet Health Insurance Association (NAPHIA) says monthly premiums for basic emergency coverage of injury or illness average \$50 - \$60, but range from \$20 to a few hundred dollars. Pet parents can make a plan more comprehensive by adding such



things as a cancer rider or nutritional and pharmaceutical coverage, thereby increasing the monthly premium. "You need to shop," Loran advises "because different conditions affect premiums in every state."

Fortunately, an online search for pet insurance will yield nearly a dozen companies offering plans in the U.S. Some insurance companies, like Trupanion by Petco, offer estimates on their websites. Others, like

24PetWatch, show cost-comparison tables. A dog's age, breed, and where it lives will affect premiums. (Moving to Georgia or New Jersey? Expect to pay more due to state insurance regulations.) Insuring more than one pet can reduce premiums via a multi-pet discount, and one company, VPI, extends this discount to non-dog/non-cat pets. If you are adopting a dog, inquire about a month of free insurance or a discounted plan. PetFirst Healthcare, the fastest growing pet insurance company, has an exclusive partnership with PetFinder and over 13,000 rescue organizations and shelters.

Tail wag: Information is quite easy to find. Growl: Research is time-consuming.

## **It doesn't cover much, and doesn't cover what you need...**

...or as Denis puts it, "Our friend's pet insurance covered her dog for everything except what it died from."

Legal definitions make pets "property" and not family members, so pet insurance falls under the category of property and casualty insurance, not typical health insurance. Because of this, an animal cannot be insured post-injury or post-diagnosis. In the case with Denis' friend, the dog was of a breed susceptible to cardiomyopathy and therefore had an exemption that excluded coverage for it.

Pay close attention to plan exemptions, both breed-specific and general. Dr. Wiesner says, "There are many regulations - like with all types of insurance - but most pet insurance policies don't cover day-to-



day expenses like vaccinations and heartworm pills, or expensive surgeries like hip and knee replacements for older dogs.” Plans also vary in coverage for spays and neuters, so check details carefully.

**Tail wag:** Understanding your plan will allow you to optimize its value. **Growl:** If routine care is what you are seeking, insurance probably won’t help.

### **With all the premiums and deductibles, it’s not clear that I’d come out ahead.**

“It’s like buying an extended warranty on a car,” Peg explains, “1 in 100 people have their transmission fail.” There’s just no way to know what might happen. In retrospect, Peg thinks she probably would have come out ahead if she’d had insurance rather than paying the full costs of her herding dog’s \$3,000 shoulder surgery and physical therapy.

Loran believes a different definition of “coming out ahead” is necessary when considering the purchase of insurance. He says, “For my two sons, at the end of the year I don’t say, ‘Why did I insure them? They didn’t get sick.’ For the appropriate consumers, they won’t ask, ‘Was it worth it to insure my pet?’ but they’ll be happy they didn’t need to use it.”

Kathy, mom to three Saint Bernards and a volunteer with Saints Among Us in Illinois, made the decision to insure her whole pack after her late dog, Moses, was diagnosed with epilepsy and a thyroid condition and the expenses of his treatment piled up. “The medications alone convinced me to have insurance,” she says of the \$130 per month she was paying at the time. Since then, her youngest dog, Duncan, underwent an amputation and chemotherapy totaling \$8,000. For Kathy, there’s no doubt having insurance was worth it. Her plan with VPI reimbursed \$6,000.

**Tail wag:** Reimbursement for a major procedure or chronic condition will make you glad your pet has coverage. **Growl:** At the same time, you need to be comfortable with the possibility of never using something you’ve already paid for.

### **If we have an emergency, we can just use a credit card or savings.**

“Many pet owners make use of CareCredit,” says Dr. Wiesner, “it’s a type of payment plan so they can pay their veterinary medical bills over months.” CareCredit offers a 6-month no-interest plan when minimum monthly payments are made, as well as 24- to 60-month plans that do accrue interest and have minimum purchase amounts.

Others “self-insure” by saving the amount of a monthly pet insurance premium in an account specifically

held for the purpose of emergency veterinary needs. Says Kathy of this strategy, “Get insurance for peace of mind, but if you can self-insure, that’s fine.”

**Tail wag:** If you don’t have pet insurance, you’ll have a plan to pay for your dog’s medical needs. **Growl:** Using a credit card or savings, you’ll be paying the entire vet bill from your own pocket.

### **Amy A. Free**

Amy A. Free is a licensed sign language interpreter and a reader and writer of all things animal-related. She has a degree in zoology and enjoys learning about animal communication and behavior. Amy lives in Madison and is Editor for the Wisconsin House Rabbit Society.



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# Calendar of EVENTS

## Camps/Classes/Seminars

Dog Behavior Seminar  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
February 1st  
Wisconsin Humane Society, Milwaukee  
414-264-6257 [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

Free Legislative Seminar  
5:30 - 7:00 pm  
February 3rd  
Wisconsin Humane Society, Milwaukee  
414-264-6257 [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

Coffee Hound Hour  
February 5th 9:30 – 10:30 am  
March 5th 1:00-3:00 pm  
April 2nd 9:30 - 10:30 am  
Bad Dog Frida, 2094 Atwood Ave, Madison  
[www.baddogfrida.com](http://www.baddogfrida.com) 608-442-6868

Patricia McConnell at Bad Dog Frida  
"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"  
7:00 pm  
February 8th  
2094 Atwood Ave, Madison  
608-442-6868 [www.baddogfrida.com](http://www.baddogfrida.com)

Energy Healing for Animals  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
February 8th  
Laughing Frog Farm in Kansasville  
[www.tresalaferty.com](http://www.tresalaferty.com)

Cesar Millan @ Riverside Theater  
8:00 p.m  
February 11th  
Riverside Theater 116 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Canine Massage by Doug Arthur  
12:00 - 4:00 pm  
February 12  
March 12  
April 16  
May 14  
Petlicious Dog Bakery  
2217 Silvernail Road, Pewaukee, WI  
262 548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

Solving Common Canine Behavior Problems  
6:30 pm  
February 14th  
March 14th  
April 4th  
Humane Animal Welfare Society, Waukesha  
[www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org) 262-879-0165

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](http://www.psnmore.com)

Camp Dogwood  
May 27-30  
Camp Henry Homer in Ingleside, Illinois  
312-458-9549 [www.campdogwood.com](http://www.campdogwood.com)

Intro to Animal Communication  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
February 15  
Rolling Spirit in Greendale, WI  
[www.tresalaferty.com](http://www.tresalaferty.com)

Pet First Aid Class  
1:00 – 4:00 pm  
February 19th  
March 19th  
April 16th  
May 21st  
HAWS, Waukesha 262-879-0165  
[www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org)

Secrets to Being a Great Trainer! by Ken Ramirez  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
March 5  
Radisson Hotel 2303 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee  
[www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

## Fundraisers/Gatherings

3rd Annual Winter Bully Bash  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
February 4th  
Buckhead Saloon, 1044 North Old World  
3rd Street, Milwaukee  
[www.brewcitybullies.org](http://www.brewcitybullies.org)

Great Lakes Pet Expo  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
February 5th  
Wisconsin Expo Center at State Fair Park  
414-840-7411 [www.petexpomilwaukee.com](http://www.petexpomilwaukee.com)

WinterFest Parade  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
February 5th  
The Flying Fur  
W66 W6364 Cleveland Street, Cedarburg  
Tailwaggers 911 Dog Rescue  
[www.tailwaggers911.com](http://www.tailwaggers911.com)

World's Largest Office Party  
5:00 - 9:00 pm  
February 11th  
2248 Deming Way, Middleton  
Fundraiser to benefit Occupaws  
[www.occupaws.org](http://www.occupaws.org)

Tailwaggers 911 Dog Rescue @ Petco  
11:00am - 4:00 pm  
February 19  
4950 S. 76th St. Greenfield, WI  
[www.tailwaggers911.com](http://www.tailwaggers911.com)

Mardi Paws  
Elmbrook Humane Society's 5th Annual  
Wine Tasting & Silent Auction  
6:30 - 10:00 pm  
February 26  
Westmoor Country Club  
400 South Moorland Road., Brookfield  
262-782-9261 [www.ebhs.org](http://www.ebhs.org)

ProjectStella 2011  
6:00 - 9:00 pm  
March 12  
Villa Filomena 1119 N. Marshall St., Milwaukee  
[www.glossphotographystudios.com](http://www.glossphotographystudios.com)

Spagghetti & No Balls Bash  
6:00 - 11:00 pm  
April 8  
Italian Community Center  
631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee  
[www.milwaukeearc.org](http://www.milwaukeearc.org)

Pugfest  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
May 15  
Milwaukee County Indoor Sports Complex  
6000 West Ryan Road Franklin  
[www.milwaukeepugfest.com](http://www.milwaukeepugfest.com)

Puppies on Parmenter-Jog/Walk For Guide Dogs  
11:00 am -3:00 pm  
May 21  
Parmenter Street Corridor, Middleton  
[www.occupaws.org](http://www.occupaws.org)

## Pet Parties/Play Groups

Playtime at the Playground  
Saturdays, 9:00 am – Noon  
Puppy Playground, Oak Creek  
414-764-PUPS [www.puppyplaygroundwi.com](http://www.puppyplaygroundwi.com)

Playgroups  
Saturday mornings  
Ruffin' It Resort, Madison  
608-310-4299 [www.ruffinitresort.com](http://www.ruffinitresort.com)

*Continued on page 39*



# Doggie Breath & Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease is the most common disease in pets.

In the 1970's studies from the University Of Minnesota College Of Veterinary Medicine demonstrated periodontal disease as the most common of all problems in companion animals. So if it is so common, we should be addressing it rigorously! Have veterinarians and pet owners made a significant difference in reducing periodontal disease in companion animals? Not really. So, if you want to make a difference, read this: doggie breath may be due to periodontal disease! By three years of age, 70% of cats and 80% of dogs have some form of this disease. Periodontal disease can cause severe pain and swelling, but it also may not even be noticed at all.

## Why should you care about periodontal disease?

If you smell doggie breath, it is time to get help now! Periodontal disease is an infection caused by plaque bacteria. If unrecognized and untreated, it can be devastating for companion animals as it typically progresses to severe gum disease resulting in bad mouth odor or tooth loss. The development of this local infection and the spread through the blood stream are preventable. Pain, inflammation, chronic sneezing, jaw fractures, eye problems, and oral cancer can all be recognized early and effectively treated. Do you see or smell something? If you do, please get help!

Heart, kidney, liver and lung diseases have been associated with periodontal disease. It causes serious problems with insulin control in diabetic animals and humans. Furthermore the severity of periodontal disease in humans has been shown to be a potential "predictor" of death. The evidence is compelling

that we must care about this in our companion animals.

## How do plaque bacteria cause severe destruction and "doggie breath"?

Plaque bacteria are the sticky substances on the tooth surface. It is particularly interesting that these bacteria are unusually resistant to antibiotic medications or the pet's natural ability to fight off disease (immune defense). Another problem with the pet's immune defense is that self destruction can occur. The result is pain, swelling and "doggie breath".

Periodontal disease is described in two stages, gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is the initial, reversible stage in which the inflammation is confined to the gingiva ("gums"). Gum inflammation is created by plaque bacteria as well as the immune defense mechanisms. This inflammation may be reversed with a thorough teeth cleaning and daily teeth brushing.

Periodontitis is a more severe stage in the progression of periodontal disease. Periodontitis can be thought of as a severe infection of the bone and other tissues that support the teeth. The more severe periodontitis gets, the more likely the teeth will smell bad and eventually fall out. Periodontal bone loss is irreversible (without special regenerative surgery). Although bone loss is irreversible, it is possible to stop the progression of the disease.

## What can be done to prevent and control periodontal disease?

Calculus (or tartar) is basically plaque which has become calcified by the minerals (calcium and magne-

sium) in saliva. Teeth cleaning will effectively remove the calculus and plaque bacteria that cause periodontal disease. A routine tooth brushing is an extremely important habit. Daily teeth brushing helps keep the teeth free of plaque and prevents periodontal disease. Three days after a professional teeth cleaning, plaque turns into calculus. Brushing teeth only removes plaque but not calculus and some of the bacteria under the calculus cause further damage (periodontitis). Now, this could result in doggie breath.

## What can pet owners do?

If you see tartar, it's time to have the teeth cleaned. If you smell "doggie breath", you can be reasonably certain your companion has periodontal disease. Cleaning teeth is not enough to treat gum disease. Dental X-rays and periodontal probing is needed to diagnose and to treat this disease. After the teeth are cleaned and the problems are appropriately treated, you must brush all of the teeth at least every other day and preferably every day.

## How can you brush your companion's teeth?

A video explains how to select a tooth brush and how to be effective at brushing teeth daily (at [www.mypetsdentist.com](http://www.mypetsdentist.com)). For pet's sake, check out this site. Doggie breath may be due to periodontal disease. Our pets count on us to care!

## Dale Kressin DVM

Diplomate, American Veterinary Dental College, Fellow, Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, Animal Dentistry and Oral Surgery Specialists, LLC, [www.mypetsdentist.com](http://www.mypetsdentist.com)

# Dogfighting is Everyone's Business

The national focus on dogfighting has quieted somewhat since Michael Vick's return to the National Football League. But, the scandal that surrounded Vick's departure from the NFL shed light on something that many dog lovers already knew: Dogfighting is real and, regrettably, it happens in communities all across the country. This article provides an overview of Wisconsin laws on dogfighting, and provides critical information that all of us can use to do our part in the difficult battle to end this brutal practice.

## What Is the Big Deal About Dogfighting?

First and foremost, dog lovers should know that just because they cannot "see" dogfighting in their community does not mean it is not happening. Dogfighting typically occurs behind closed doors over drugs and money, making it exceedingly difficult for authorities to prosecute and easy for the public to ignore. But, those who work in law enforcement know it exists, and they see the victims of this "sport" all the time.

Jill Brown, Program Director for the Battle Against Dogfighting (BAD) reports that the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) sees more than 2,000 pit bulls per year. Fifty percent or more show signs of clear neglect or abuse. While pit bulls are not the only dogs used in fighting, pit bulls comprise the vast majority of dogs forced to fight.

For a fighting dog, the horror of the ring is rivaled by the horrors that wait outside it. Unlike a typical companion dog, a fighting dog is unlikely to receive pats on the head, kind words, or a warm bed at night. Instead, fighting dogs are systematically and cruelly treated throughout

their lives to attack, maim, and kill their opponents. The stakes are high. A dogfight can last as long as two hours, ending only when one of the dogs is unable to fight due to injury or death. If the dog survives the fight, but did not perform well, the dog is often sentenced to a cruel death as the Michael Vick case also demonstrated. Dogs that did not fight well were drowned, electrocuted, or beaten.

## Wisc. Laws on Dogfighting

Fortunately, Wisconsin law severely punishes dog fighters and those who support the dog fighting industry. Chapter 951, Crimes Against Animals, makes it a crime to intentionally instigate, promote, aid or abet, participate in the earnings from, or maintain or allow any place to be used for dogfighting. It is also a crime to own, possess, keep or train a dog for dogfighting or to intentionally attend a dogfight as a spectator. Wisconsin's laws against fighting actually apply to the fighting of any animal, not simply dogs. Accordingly, it is also a crime in Wisconsin to fight other animals.

Despite strong laws against dogfighting in Wisconsin (and strong federal laws against dogfighting that are beyond the scope of this article), it is incredibly difficult to prosecute. Because of the link between drugs and gambling, dogfighting is an underground activity. Therefore, community involvement and intervention is critical to stopping it. Signs of dogfighting are easily recognizable when the community is paying attention. Such signs include scarring, bites, torn or missing ears and multiple pit bulls in one household. However, the most obvious sign of dogfighting, a fight in progress, is rarely seen. This is why it is

even more important for the community to pay attention and to make an immediate report if dogfighting is suspected.

## What You Can Do To Help

Dog owners, veterinarians, law enforcement, humane officers, educators, and community members all have an important role in stopping dogfighting. Some tips:

- Fighting dogs are entitled to protection from abuse and authorities are legally empowered to seize any dog suspected of being used in fighting. Therefore, if you suspect dogfighting, contact the authorities immediately. Great laws against dogfighting are useless if suspected fights are not reported to authorities.
- If you are a veterinarian who suspects dogfighting, you have a legal duty under Wisconsin law to report it to authorities. (This duty applies to all animal fighting, not simply dogfighting).
- If you are an educator, teach your students about humane education. Many dog fighters report they grew up in a culture in which it was socially acceptable to fight dogs for sport and, as a result, they simply did not know any better. Let children of all ages know that it is simply wrong to force animals to fight – in addition to it being unlawful, it is inhumane and barbaric.
- Support local efforts to stop dogfighting. A wonderful example is the work that Ms. Brown and others have done through BAD.

*Continued on page 37*



# RESCUES

## Airedale Terrier

ATRA-Airedale Terrier Rescue & Adoption  
715-526-5961, [www.aire-rescue.com](http://www.aire-rescue.com)  
[airedale@frontiernet.net](mailto:airedale@frontiernet.net)

## All Breed

HeavenlyHearts@wi.rr.com  
[www.heavenlyheartsrescue.org](http://www.heavenlyheartsrescue.org)

Operation Bring Animals Home S&R Team  
262-224-1964, [www.obahrescue.com](http://www.obahrescue.com)

Brew City Small Dog Rescue  
414-313-2040, [www.brewcityrescue.org](http://www.brewcityrescue.org)  
[Heather@brewcityrescue.org](mailto:Heather@brewcityrescue.org)

One Life @ A Time Small Breed Rescue  
414-517-7469, [www.onelifeatatime.petfinder.com](http://www.onelifeatatime.petfinder.com)

JR's Pups-N-Stuff, 414-640-8473  
[jrspupsnstuff.org](http://jrspupsnstuff.org), [jrspupsnstuff@yahoo.com](mailto:jrspupsnstuff@yahoo.com)

## American Water Spaniel

414-840-7411, [info@awsrescue.com](mailto:info@awsrescue.com)  
[www.awsrescue.org](http://www.awsrescue.org)

## Basset Hound

Basset Buddies Rescue, Inc., 262-347-8823  
[info@bbrescue.org](mailto:info@bbrescue.org), [www.bbrescue.org](http://www.bbrescue.org)

## Beagle

BrewBeagle Rescue  
[midwest@brewbeagles.org](mailto:midwest@brewbeagles.org), [brewbeagles.org](http://brewbeagles.org)

## Bichon Frise

Little Buddies Rescue, 1-888-581-9070

## BPB Rescue

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

## Border Collie

MidAmerica Border Collie Rescue  
414-449-0888, [www.midamericabcrrescue.com](http://www.midamericabcrrescue.com)  
[MidAmericaBCRescue@yahoo.com](mailto:MidAmericaBCRescue@yahoo.com)

Steppingstone  
262-424-2820, [www.steppinstonerehabcenter.com](http://www.steppinstonerehabcenter.com)

## Boston Terrier

WI Boston Terrier Rescue  
414-534-2996, [Ollie1022@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ollie1022@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.wisconsinbostonterrierrescue.com](http://www.wisconsinbostonterrierrescue.com)

## Boxer

Green Acres Boxer Rescue of WI  
[info@greenacresboxerrescue.com](mailto:info@greenacresboxerrescue.com)  
[www.greenacresboxerrescue.com](http://www.greenacresboxerrescue.com)

## Brittany

American Brittany Rescue, 1-866-brit911  
[www.americanbrittanyrescue.org](http://www.americanbrittanyrescue.org)  
[info@americanbrittanyrescue.org](mailto:info@americanbrittanyrescue.org)

## Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Rescue Trust  
262-253-4829, [rguarascio@wi.rr.com](mailto:rguarascio@wi.rr.com)

## Chesapeake Bay Retriever

[www.crrw.org](http://www.crrw.org), 920-954-0796

## Chihuahua

Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue, Inc.  
608-219-4044  
[www.wischirescue.org](http://www.wischirescue.org), [chigirl@wischirescue.org](mailto:chigirl@wischirescue.org)

Chihuahua Rescue U.S.A.  
[www.chihuahuarescueusa.com](http://www.chihuahuarescueusa.com)  
[info@chihuahuarescueusa.org](mailto:info@chihuahuarescueusa.org)

## Cocker Spaniel

Wisconsin Cocker Rescue  
262-255-0246, [WiCockerRescue@Juno.com](mailto:WiCockerRescue@Juno.com)  
[www.geocities.com/WiCockerRescue](http://www.geocities.com/WiCockerRescue)

Shorewood Cocker Rescue 262-877-3294  
[www.cockerrescue.net](http://www.cockerrescue.net), [elaine@cockerrescue](mailto:elaine@cockerrescue)

## Collie

Minnesota-Wisconsin Collie Rescue  
612-869-0480, [collietalk@aol.com](mailto:collietalk@aol.com), [www.mwcr.org](http://www.mwcr.org)

## Coonhound

American Black and Tan Coonhound  
920-779-6307, [www.coonhoundrescue.com](http://www.coonhoundrescue.com)  
[sjoch@yahoo.com](mailto:sjoch@yahoo.com), [jayne23@neo.rr.com](mailto:jayne23@neo.rr.com)

## Dachshund

Badger Dachshund Club, 847-546-7186

Oolong Dachshund Rescue  
[sarahdermody@oolongdachshundrescue.org](mailto:sarahdermody@oolongdachshundrescue.org)  
[www.oolongdachshundrescue.org](http://www.oolongdachshundrescue.org)

MidWest Dachshund Rescue, Inc.  
[rescue@mwdrr.org](mailto:rescue@mwdrr.org), [www.mwdrr.org](http://www.mwdrr.org)

## Dalmatian

Dal-Savers Dalmatian Rescue Inc.  
414-297-9210  
[loveadal@yahoo.com](mailto:loveadal@yahoo.com), [www.dalrescue.net](http://www.dalrescue.net)

## Doberman Pinscher

Wisconsin Doberman Rescue, Inc.  
414-536-4477, [www.wi-doberesecue.org](http://www.wi-doberesecue.org)  
[widoberesecue@aol.com](mailto:widoberesecue@aol.com)

Shadow's Doberman Rescue  
262-662-4838, [www.drafthorseinn.com](http://www.drafthorseinn.com)

## English Springer

English Springer Rescue America, Inc.  
415-845-8716, [www.springerrescue.org](http://www.springerrescue.org)  
[kcmcheinking@verizon.net](mailto:kcmcheinking@verizon.net)

## French Bulldog

French Bulldog Beemeli Network  
414-744-5717, [beemeli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beemeli@sbcglobal.net)

## German Shepherd

German Shepherd Rescue Alliance of WI  
414-461-9720, [www.gsrw.com](http://www.gsrw.com)  
[yur\\_rlr@execpc.com](mailto:yur_rlr@execpc.com) or [gsdrsq@hotmail.com](mailto:gsdrsq@hotmail.com)

Good Shepherd K-9 Rescue  
608-868-2050, [www.gsk9r.org](http://www.gsk9r.org)  
[pawmeadows@hughes.net](mailto:pawmeadows@hughes.net)

Badgerland German Shepherd Rescue  
24hr. Message service 414-921-0310  
[gsd4me@bgsr.org](mailto:gsd4me@bgsr.org), [www.bgsr.org](http://www.bgsr.org)

ARF's German Shepherd Rescue Inc.  
[www.arfrescue.com](http://www.arfrescue.com), [gsd@arfrescue.com](mailto:gsd@arfrescue.com)

WhitePaws German Shepherd Rescue  
[www.whitepawsgsr.com](http://www.whitepawsgsr.com), 920-606-2597  
[calspence@aol.com](mailto:calspence@aol.com)

Wisconsin German Shepherd Rescue  
920-731-1690, [CFilz@aol.com](mailto:CFilz@aol.com)

## German Shorthaired Pointer

Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, Inc.  
414-614-5102  
[lisa\\_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com)  
[www.wgspr.com](http://www.wgspr.com), [www.wgspr.petfinder.com](http://www.wgspr.petfinder.com)

## Glen of Imaal Terrier

[lakerun@execpc.com](mailto:lakerun@execpc.com)

## Golden Retriever

GRRoW 888-655-4753  
[president@grrw.org](mailto:president@grrw.org), [www.GRRoW.org](http://www.GRRoW.org)

WAAGR 414-517-7725  
[www.waagr.org](http://www.waagr.org), [president@waagr.org](mailto:president@waagr.org)

## Greyhound

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

Greyhound Pets of America - WI  
414-299-9473, [www.gpawisconsin.org](http://www.gpawisconsin.org)

## Herding

Southeastern Wisconsin Herding Dog Rescue  
262-554-2048, [www.wiherdingrescue.com](http://www.wiherdingrescue.com)

## Irish Setter

Irish Setter Club of Milwaukee  
920-734-6734, [muttsgo@aol.com](mailto:muttsgo@aol.com)

## Irish Wolfhound

262-968-3421, 262-547-3705  
[jbanaszok@yahoo.com](mailto:jbanaszok@yahoo.com), [marussell01@centurytel.net](mailto:marussell01@centurytel.net)

## Italian Greyhounds

[star279@juno.com](mailto:star279@juno.com), 414-559-0445  
[www.midwestigrescue.com](http://www.midwestigrescue.com)

## Japanese Chin

Luv-A-Chin Rescue, 605-940-7811  
[luvachinrescue.org](mailto:luvachinrescue.org), [info@luvachinrescue.org](mailto:info@luvachinrescue.org)

## Labrador

Labrador Education and Rescue Network  
847-289-PETS (7387), [www.labadoption.org](http://www.labadoption.org)  
[learnedogs@labadoption.org](http://learnedogs@labadoption.org)

The Labrador Connection  
414-299-9038, [www.labradorconnection.org](http://www.labradorconnection.org)

Labs N More 414-571-0777  
[LabsNMoreRescue@yahoo.com](mailto:LabsNMoreRescue@yahoo.com)  
[www.LabsNMoreRescue.petfinder.com](http://www.LabsNMoreRescue.petfinder.com)

## Maltese

Northcentral Maltese Rescue Inc.  
262-633-9371, [malteserescue@hotmail.com](mailto:malteserescue@hotmail.com)  
[www.malteserescue.homestead.com](http://www.malteserescue.homestead.com)

## Mixed Breed

Fluffy Dog Rescue, [www.fluffydog.net](http://www.fluffydog.net)

## Neapolitan Mastiff

[www.neorescue.net](http://www.neorescue.net), [mhweglarz@msn.com](mailto:mhweglarz@msn.com)

## Poodle

920-625-3709  
[poodclubofamerica.org](http://poodclubofamerica.org), [mj.doege@yahoo.com](mailto:mj.doege@yahoo.com)

## Pug

NIPRA (Northern IL Pug Rescue & Adopt.)  
[www.northernillinoisugrescue.org](http://www.northernillinoisugrescue.org)  
[nipra@northernillinoisugrescue.org](mailto:nipra@northernillinoisugrescue.org)

Pug Hugs, Inc.  
608-883-6991 (Madison area), 414-764-0795

## Rat Terrier

Wisconsin Rat Terrier Rescue INC.  
608-697-7274, [wrtr@bigfoot.com](mailto:wrtr@bigfoot.com)

## Rottweiler

True Hearts of Rottweiler Rescue (THORR)  
[www.thorr.org](http://www.thorr.org), [trueheartsofrotrescue@yahoo.com](mailto:trueheartsofrotrescue@yahoo.com)

Wisconsin Rottweiler Rescue  
608-224-0272, [www.wirotrescue.org](http://www.wirotrescue.org)

MidAmerica Rottweiler Rescue  
[www.adoptarott.org](http://www.adoptarott.org)

## Saint Bernard

AllSaints Rescue  
414-761-6305, [www.allsaintsrescue.com](http://www.allsaintsrescue.com)  
[allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net](mailto:allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net)

WI St Bernard Rescue  
414-764-0262  
[wsresq@jmuch.com](mailto:wsresq@jmuch.com), [www.wstresq.com](http://www.wstresq.com)

## Shar Pei

Shar Pei Savers  
[www.sharpeisavers.com](http://www.sharpeisavers.com), [info@sharpeisavers.com](mailto:info@sharpeisavers.com)

## Shih Tzu

New Beginnings Shih Tzu Rescue  
414-801-3763, [nbstr.board@yahoo.com](mailto:nbstr.board@yahoo.com)  
[www.nbstr.org](http://www.nbstr.org)

## Standard Schnauzer

Standard Schnauzer Club of America Rescue  
[schnauzr@gmail.com](mailto:schnauzr@gmail.com), [www.standardschnauzer.org](http://www.standardschnauzer.org)

## Vizsla

Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club (CWWC)  
[Grusnick@wi.rr.com](mailto:Grusnick@wi.rr.com), 414-759-4161, [www.cwwc.org](http://www.cwwc.org)

## Westie

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.  
920-882-0382, [westies@new.rr.com](mailto:westies@new.rr.com)  
[www.wisconsinwestierescue.com](http://www.wisconsinwestierescue.com)

## Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin  
414-747-0879, [shyyorkiemom@yahoo.com](mailto:shyyorkiemom@yahoo.com)

# TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOUR PHOBIA

Man's best friend - furry, cute and cuddly, right? For some people, this description isn't so accurate. Even the word "dog" might elicit a reaction that can make even the most macho of a man's heart skip a beat. Fearing dogs, also known as cynophobia, may be caused by a personal experience or perhaps a horror film gone wrong. (Yes, I mean "Cujo".) Do you find yourself nodding your head in agreement, thinking that, you or someone close to you has had a similar experience? Yes, it is true that while not all people are open to overcoming their fears, you might find yourself in a situation where interacting with a dog (or perhaps more than one) is inevitable. Therefore, you may have no choice, other than to face your fear. Here's my own account of what I have learned to help me deal with even the "scariest" of dogs.

According to Psychology Today, fear is an emotion or state of anxiety that is caused by a reaction to a potential threat or danger. The response of fear is unconscious and can be traced to the amygdala, a portion of the brain that controls the processing of memory and emotional reactions. The amygdala also helps a person to determine whether or not a particular situation is dangerous. A person experiencing fear may have a combination of physical responses, such as increased heart rate and breathing, sweating, trembling, elevated blood pressure and the tensing of muscles. All of these reactions assist a person in preparing their body to either escape or remain to deal with the situation; known as the classic fight or flight response.

What is it for you? Is it the thought of receiving a slobbery kiss, the jumping or clawing or potential scratch or bite that makes you halt in your tracks? I honestly do not know why dogs have scared me since I was

a little girl. But I do know that my fear was heightened even further after receiving a bite from my next door neighbor's dog, Dusty, a chocolate lab. For me, a chain reaction occurred after this experience. I found myself anxious and nervous at even the mention of the word "dog". In addition, I was constantly on alert, worrying that I might unexpectedly meet a dog. I had come to realize that this fear was starting to interfere and disrupt my daily activities. Even babysitting became a challenge. I found my stomach upset and palms sweaty knowing that I would need to be near the family's Great Dane, Zen. (Yes, Zen, how could I be afraid of that?) I knew I was in way over my head when my first boyfriend had three dogs! It was clear to me that my phobia was knocking at my door and it I needed to prepare myself for what I thought was the worst to come.

While I am no expert, I certainly have learned many ways in which I was able to calmly and rationally deal with my phobia. In each scenario in which I encountered a new or even familiar dog, I had to teach myself to change my way of thinking. I had to learn to evaluate each situation and embrace the realization that not all dogs were out to hurt me. Small steps were key for me. I learned to slowly expose myself to new situations in which I knew a dog would be present. Raven, a black lab friend, saw me through it all; as if she could sense that I needed her help. I started out by allowing myself to be greeted by her and two other dogs. I worked on allowing them to sit close to me in the same room and play fetch with one of their favorite toys. Lo and behold, I got to the point in which I was comfortable allowing Raven to be cuddling with me on my lap; all 90 pounds of dog. Sure enough, I was soon the family favorite with Raven. I was the first one she would greet and

the one she sat next to. It took a long time for me to get up to this point and it wasn't easy. But, I had the strong desire to face my fear.

The following are a few steps that may help you, or a love one conquer their fears:

1. Learn about your fear and understand the "why".
2. Make a checklist of what scares you, so you can work in steps and build familiarity to the fear.
3. Have confidence.
4. Turn the "threat" into a "challenge".
5. Find a confidant who is not afraid and can help you through this process.
6. Talk about your fears; do not hold them in!
7. Stop looking at the grand scheme of things, but rather think about the success of each small step.
8. Seek help. Find an organization in your area that you can attain positive interactions with well-trained dogs.

Over the past several years, I have slowly, but surely learned to overcome my own phobia. Am I still apprehensive? Yes! Every now and then, the sight of a dog makes me freeze in my tracks. However, I have come to realize that dogs can bring out the best in people, so I will continue to work through my fear. I recognized that it would certainly be a shame to let my phobia stand in the way of my potential, positive experiences with a new, cuddly friend or like those with my beloved pal, Raven.

**Ashley Carus**

A resident of Muskego, WI.—Ashley loves to spend time with family and friends. She enjoys reading, writing and oil painting in her spare time.



Continued from page 34

This is a comprehensive, city-wide program in Milwaukee that is run through MADACC to educate the community and protect all animals from the horrors of dogfighting. Through education, early intervention, and community involvement, BAD promotes programs that stop the violence associated with dogfighting and animal abuse. They also educate the public about humane treatment of animals and responsible pet ownership and train youth and community leaders who can take the message of compassion throughout their own communities. Additionally, they connect pet owners to low-cost and free resources. Support efforts such as BAD, or start similar efforts in your community. To learn more about BAD, visit [madacc.com/bad](http://madacc.com/bad).

There is so much that we, as a community, can do to stop dogfighting. But, the first step is to acknowledge that even though we cannot see it, regrettably, dogfighting is happening every day. Get involved, and do what you can to stop the cycle of abuse.

### Megan Senatori

Megan A. Senatori is a Partner at Capitol Square Office of Dewitt Ross & Stevens S.C. in Madison, where she practices civil litigation and appeals. Megan is the President and Co-founder of the Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims ("SAAV") Program, a nonprofit organization providing temporary confidential shelter for the animals of domestic abuse victims in Dane County, and providing nationwide education regarding the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. To learn more, visit [www.saaavprogram.org](http://www.saaavprogram.org).

Sign up for email  
newsletter at  
[www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com)

## Dog Grooming *Hair Today! Gone Tomorrow!*

When Sarah Jahnke and her husband, Brett, opened EmBARK! Pet Spa in the Bay View neighborhood in April of 2007, they had no idea how well their small business would be doing just four years later. "I thought it would be me, by myself, grooming, with maybe just a helper," she said with a laugh while she worked on a small poodle during a recent morning at EmBARK! But what started out as a lady with a passion for pets grooming 10-12 dogs at her home has grown into a thriving business with three full-time groomers, two part-time groomers, a bather and receptionist.

Jahnke started working with animals when she was 15 years old. While studying photography at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Jahnke started grooming and realized how much she enjoyed it. She then became an apprentice to learn the needed skills and has been grooming for about 10 years. "I always knew it would be (grooming) or something like this," she said. "Ever since I was really young, my parents will tell you I've been crazy for animals."

As she has added to her staff, she makes sure they also meet certain criteria. "It's really important that everyone has a real passion for animals here," she said of her staff. Margarita Velazquez, a pet-stylist who has worked at EmBARK! since December of 2009, said she likes the atmosphere the salon provides for both the clients and their pets. Some grooming salons have clients bring in their pets, who then wait in kennels for their turn and may be at the salon most of the day. EmBARK! clients are treated to a more "spa-like" environment. Clients have a number of special "spa" services to choose from when it comes to pampering their pets like facials and polished nails. On a typical day, only a few clients are scheduled to be at the salon at any given time. Groomers work on one pet at a time and most dogs (and the occasional cat) are ready within 45-90 minutes. Pets are allowed to wander

freely around the grooming area as they wait their turn for a bath or after they are finished and waiting for their owners. Jahnke said this allows for more personal attention.

Velazquez said the experience is better for both the pets and the groomers. Before coming to EmBARK!, Velazquez was at a salon where pets were scheduled into one-hour slots. It wouldn't account for pets that needed more time because they were nervous or had longer coats that needed to be worked on. If she got behind, she would spend the rest of the day trying to catch up, which wasn't the ideal situation. "It was more of an assembly line," she said. "Here, it's just as fast and a lot less stressful for me and the dog."

While some clients are able to pamper their pets, both Jahnke and Velazquez said the hardest pets to work on are those who haven't been as lucky. The toughest are clients who have a pet with matted fur and they don't want to have the pet shaved – which would be the best option. Velazquez explained that the process to remove those mats can be very painful for the animal and is difficult for the groomer as well. "[The clients] want to have a long, full-coated dog," she said. "But I don't want to torture their dog."

Although those kinds of situations can be difficult, there are happier moments for groomers. "My favorite part is the reaction from customers when they see their dog. I love to satisfy them," Velazquez said. "The customers are excited to see their dog, and the dog gets the attention and [the dogs] seem to strut when they're done."

More Info: [www.embarkpetspa.com](http://www.embarkpetspa.com).

### Ana M. Menendez **37**

Ana M. Menendez is a freelance writer from Milwaukee who loves hanging out with her dog, Wrigley.

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Continued from page 15

Think you have found a veterinary clinic that meets all of your needs? Take the next step by giving them a phone call or paying them a visit in person. This will give you the first impression of the clinic and their staff. This impression can be a negative one if you receive poor customer service. You may even decide to go one step further and visit the veterinary clinic with your pet. While there, evaluate your surroundings. How does the staff react to you and your animal? Are they friendly and knowledgeable? Do the veterinarians have a professional demeanor? Is the clinic organized and clean? If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be one step closer to finding your ideal veterinary clinic.

If you are unsure of where to begin your search, try using the Internet. This will allow you to search for local veterinarians in your neighborhood,

long with testimonials about experiences that were had by others. If you do not have access to the internet, talk to friends and family for their recommendations. If you are new to your neighborhood, try asking local pet stores and pet groomers for their recommendations. You can even obtain recommendations from others in your community while visiting the dog park.

When you locate the veterinary clinic that is right for you, share your experiences with others by word of mouth or by writing an Internet review. Your opinion can be crucial in helping someone else to find the veterinarian of their dreams!

### 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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