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Magazine

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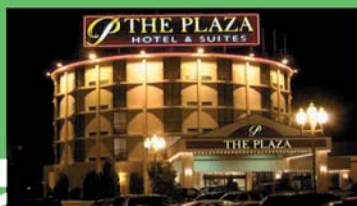


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COVER DOG

When we asked Pamela Stace about her dog, Digby, this issue's Cover Dog, this is what she had to say:

Digby is an eight year old shaded-masked red Afghan Hound. He's a sensitive one! He loves to snuggle, wags his tail in a circle, and enjoys jumping up on trees after squirrels.

He's extremely enthusiastic about his food, and barks incessantly while it's being prepared. He's also a super-sneaky garbage thief. Please see his puppy photo in the Afghan article, which shows him covered in rice gruel!

He is a much-loved, excellent boy!

Pamela should know! She's 'mom' to four Afghan hounds. Catch Pam's article on this fabulous breed on page 12.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz

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Milwaukee ARC 414-421-8881
www.milwaukeearc.org

Ricardo is a character! Lots of personality and very beautiful! He would prefer to be placed in a home with his sister, Celina. They are three years old. Fully vetted. Visit www.milwaukeearc.org or call 414.421.8881 for more info or stop at the Milwaukee Animal Rescue Center located in Southridge Mall during open hours.



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

Clem was transferred over to us from Jefferson County Humane Society and is now available to find his new home. Clem is a 9.5 year old neutered, male Chocolate Lab mix, weighs 73 pounds, you could try with kids age 0-6, he would be best with kids age 7 and up, good with most other dogs and we are not sure how he is with cats. Clem is a busy bee, he is naturally playful and always ready for a big walk. Give him something to do and afterwards he will curl up with you to relax.



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

Boomer is a wonderful dog. He is just waiting for you to consider him for your family. Boomer is a brindle 2 year old neutered Boxer/Pit Bull mix. He is a very loving dog and would do great in obedience. Boomer gets along with cats & loves to play with other dogs. Boomer would do best in a home where there is another dog present. Please consider this fabulous dog...He's one of our very best buddies here.



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

Olive is a 2-year-old Rottweiler...with a long tail! Good thing, since this girl is a tail-waggin' kinda dog. Olive is very friendly, happy, energetic and ready to play. She is smart and has been working on her manners with our volunteers. Olive will do best in a household with teenagers (older kids who can handle her energy), and probably will need to be an only pet.



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

Rex most closely resembles a mix of Basset Hound and terrier. He is young, only 6 months old! Rex is happy and wiggly and playful, with moderate energy and a willingness to please. He likes other dogs but isn't too fond of cats. He's learning good doggie manners - but he still may have to be in a home with older kids.



HAWS Reflects the Animal Shelter's Sensitivity to Pet Needs and Its Unique Environment

"HAWS is the best kept secret in Waukesha," said Lynn Olenik, Executive Director of HAWS, the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County. HAWS is an animal shelter for dogs, cats, and small animals that accepts all pets, regardless of age, health, temperament, or breed. It also offers programs and services that promote responsible pet ownership and prevent animal abuse and neglect.

HAWS has recently finished an expansion and renovation of its facility at 701 Northview Road (also known as Highway FT) in Waukesha. "When the facility was built in 1969," said Olenik, "we had mostly dogs. But our needs have changed from rural to suburban to urban. We now have a large cat population and have added a cat wing." There are separate housing units that limit the interaction between species, like dogs and cats, and predators and prey, like ferrets and rabbits, which reduces animal stress. Improvements in ventilation reduce disease transmission between stray, adoptable, and recovering animals. Many windows were added to allow sunlight and fresh air into the facility.

The expanded facility also changed the traffic flow to allow people more privacy when they bring in and adopt pets. In addition, there are more educational facilities. "Half of our mission statement is to educate humans," said Olenik. "That gives us an opportunity to create a stronger community and teach and practice compassion to animals," she said. "People aren't as into pets as they

used to be. We have classes for people who don't have pets, and we offer children's camps where over 500 children get to interact with pets each summer."

A new behavior department, funded by a grant, has allowed HAWS to offer enrichment activities for animals and programs like dog training classes for interested persons. In addition, the department also offers behavioral modification training to special needs dogs who didn't pass behavior evaluations or passed on a marginal basis. A group of HAWS volunteers, called the "Mod Squad," works with tools and techniques such as EZ Walk harnesses, Tellington Ttouch® (a holistic method of touching based on respect for the animal), clickers, and interactive toys to "modify" dog behavior. "There were 33 dogs in the program in January 2010, and 27 have now been adopted. These dogs might not have made it to the adoption floor without the training," said Olenik. HAWS also offers one-on-one behavior consultations that are free for HAWS alumni.

Waukesha County has unique needs, because the western half of the county is rural. And HAWS understands these needs and seeks to improve the community. "Half of our cats are strays, but they're barn cats," Olenik said. That means the cats don't belong to anyone, but they haven't necessarily gone feral either. As part of a community-wide outdoor-owned pet program, HAWS spays/neuters barn and feral cats, which can then be returned to their environment but don't reproduce. "We have reduced the out-

door cat population by an estimated 700 cats over four years" said Olenik.

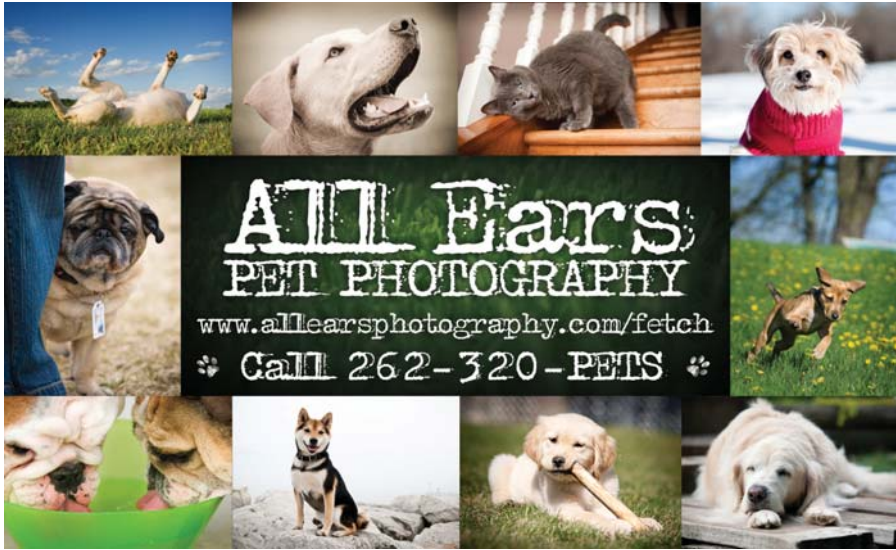
HAWS also brings its adoptable pets out into the community with its Mobile Adoption Center. The van full of pets and volunteers visits businesses, festivals, and events in Waukesha County with regular stops at the Delafield Petco. "It's an opportunity to connect with the public and have a lot of fun at the same time," Olenik said.

Because HAWS is a non-profit organization, volunteers play a crucial role, especially with pet socialization. There is also a Friends group that raises funds for the shelter. The recently completed expansion was made possible in part by estates and bequests left to HAWS. "People shouldn't overlook the opportunity to leave a legacy in their wills to help any non-profit organization," Olenik said.

See the HAWS web site at www.hawspets.org for animals currently available for adoption, adoption policies, special events, and classes.

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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DOGS IN THE WOOD

Waukesha

For Taylor, being a 13 year old, long-haired German Shepherd with a beautiful multi-colored coat means leaving lots of hair around the house. Being a big sister, too, means reminding her 9 year old German Shepherd little sister, Rumor (who can be a bit of a brat), who is boss. And, for Taylor, being a dog with a cart (dog wheelchair) means that she still gets to play fetch and go on hikes with Mom, Lori Schubert.

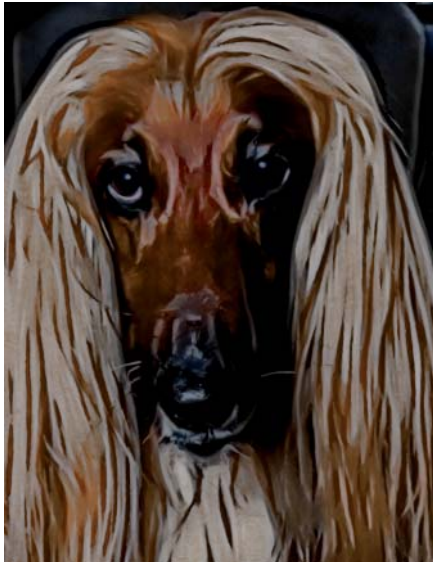
On a couple sunny days this past week, we found Lori and Taylor walking in Fetch's Waukesha neighborhood and at the HAWS Walkathon. Lori spoke to the HAWS crowd during a presentation about senior dogs. Taylor was diagnosed four years ago with degenerative myelopathy (neuropathy), a disease that attacks the spinal cord. Taylor was given six months to live. Did we mention that was four years ago? Lori says, "Taylor has beaten all the odds." Then, two years ago, Taylor headed out to the backyard, gave a yelp, and couldn't walk. Unrelated to the myelopathy, she had ruptured two discs which resulted in spinal surgery.

Taylor got her wheels just within the past year. Lori and her friends with multiple big dogs amongst them were heading out for an annual trip. This year they were heading to a cabin in the Ozarks

with hiking trails and a lake. Taylor's cart arrived shortly before departure which let her be an active participant in not only the swimming but hiking, too.

Time spent together for Lori and Taylor may mean therapy at the chiropractor, acupuncturist, or swimming pool. Then, they may go shopping or sit in the park watching birds. Lori says, life with Taylor "just takes more time now".





Afghan Hounds

Whenever we walk our dogs, they turn heads. People in cars crane their necks and look backwards as they drive out of sight, trying to get one last look at our breathtaking beauties. When people meet them on the street, they wonder “Are they Airedales, Irish Wolfhounds, Irish Setters, Standard poodles, or (this happened twice) Lhasa Apsos?” Clearly, there are quite a few people out there who aren’t familiar with the Afghan Hound.

Afghans are sweet, loyal, friendly, athletic, playful, intelligent, and of course, gorgeous. But those who don’t know an Afghan might believe the old stereotype about them to be true. That is, that they are skittish, aloof, and incredibly stupid. That negative stereotype came about in part because of the Afghan’s enormous popularity in the 1970s.

According to Norma Rosado-Blake, an archivist at The American Kennel Club, Afghans ranked 28th out of 121 breeds in 1974, with an AKC registration of 10,918 dogs. In 2009 by contrast, Afghans were 91st out of 164 breeds. In the 70’s it seems, Afghans were admired and sought after for their great, exotic beauty, but perhaps not fully under-

stood as a breed. In the 70s, quite a few Afghans met their ends under the wheels of cars, as they dove into traffic in pursuit of a bunny or squirrel on the other side of the street. I know ours would not hesitate to do this if they were off-leash!

But of course, today we know that Afghans are not dumb at all. As with all breeds, the Afghan’s behavior is reflective of its origins, and what it was bred to do. As sighthounds, like Greyhounds, Borzois, Whippets and Salukis, Afghans use their keen eyesight to locate and pursue their prey. Afghans are creatures of speed that will chase after anything that seems interesting to them.

For thousands of years in their native land (Afghanistan and environs), these dogs were prized guardians, companions and hunters, working singly or in pairs, independent of their human keepers. Over mountainous terrain, they coursed hare, fox, gazelle, and even snow leopard. Their unique wide-set hips enabled them to make abrupt turns at high speeds, and their extremely powerful jaws made for a quick kill. Like other sighthounds, Afghans have what is known as a “hare paw”. This is a long, narrow paw where all four toe pads are in front of the large paw pad. This configuration contributes to balance and dexterity over rough ground. Their long, fine hair was appropriate for a great range of temperatures.

The Afghan Hound’s origins are somewhat mysterious, but it is

thought to be one of our most ancient breeds. Cave paintings in Northern Afghanistan, dating back 4,000 years, show what appears to be Afghans hunting. The Western world’s introduction to the Afghan Hound was around 1907, when British troops returning from duty in the Eastern Empire, brought some of these dogs back home with them. Unfortunately, during WWI, the emigre canines virtually disappeared from England. In the early 1920s, a concerted breeding effort in Britain brought together two Afghan Hound strains: hounds from Southern and Western Afghanistan, which were lighter in color and less heavily-coated (desert strain or steppe type), and dogs from the North- darker, and with thicker coats (mountain type). The AKC standard that exists today, was established in 1948, and combined the two types. This is the foundation for the modern Afghan Hound.



Afghans are about the size of Greyhounds. Males are about 27 inches (60-65 pounds), while bitches are about 25 inches (50-55 pounds). The Afghan should be “square” meaning as long as he is tall. In addition to their long, silky hair, with no undercoat, they have a “clean” face, and a short, smooth swath from shoulders to tail. This is their “sad-

dle". Their prominent hipbones are a trademark, as is their long, curled, ringed tail, which should be held proudly erect. They have dark, almond-shaped eyes, long, drop ears and silky topknots. Some Afghans have little beards called "mandarins". Afghans can be any color: black, black and tan, black and silver, cream, red or blue brindle, sable, red or white. They can be "masked" with black, shaded, or domino facial markings. Spots anywhere are totally unacceptable.

In addition to being famously independent, and sometimes selectively deaf, Afghans are loving and loyal. Once bonded to you, they will protect you with their lives. They maintain their legendary athleticism in modern times, and can run up to 40 mph. They can jump seven feet straight up from a stand. (I've seen my Jasper do this in the snow.) And, can scale any fence up to six feet tall. They use their front paws a LOT! They love to dig, and can break windows if they feel like it! They are huge couch potatoes. They love to snuggle, but also enjoy time spent stretched out full-length or on their backs with all four legs up in the air.

Generally, Afghans are a healthy breed. In the past, anesthetic use was dangerous, but today, it is safe for Afghans to experience this. They live on average 14 years, and have large litters (about eight to ten). As puppies, Afghans look a lot more like baby labs than tiny mature Afghans. They have short, smooth hair, and relatively short noses, and ears. In time, they become exquisitely gorgeous adults, but along the way they look pretty funny. As youths, they go through their "monkey-face" phase, when their little faces are covered with Affenpinscher-like hair. Within a year and a half to two years, they have grown their long, flowing

coats, and their aristocratic long noses are apparent.

Obviously, Afghans love to run, so a fenced-in yard is recommended, but not absolutely necessary. Being rather cat-like, and not a "hyper" breed, they can live quite well as city dogs, with nice long walks morning and night, and regular runs in a safe, enclosed area. I cannot stress this enough: **AFGHANS CAN NEVER BE OFF LEASH.** The pursuit of prey is absolutely hard-wired into them!



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz

Although Afghans are standouts in the show ring, they can also participate in obedience, agility, rally, and lure coursing events. AKC sanctioned lure coursing for sighthounds is regularly held on the Racine Kennel Club grounds. Another lure coursing option is available for all breeds at Lure Coursing Fanatics (lurecoursingfanatics.com) in Somers, Wisconsin. There are no points or championships here, but Mike and Lauri Stromberg offer roughly two acres of fenced-in countryside, where they have set up lure coursing apparatus. Dogs can run at their own paces, either alone or with other dogs. The first time I saw my dogs at top speed, all four legs off the ground, I must say I was moved to tears! Also, Mike often photographs the dogs in action, and these pictures are available for sale.

Then there is the grooming! There isn't any way around it if you want your hound in full coat, and there is nothing like burying your nose in soft, clean Afghan hair. Until they get too old to stand for it, an Afghan will require a bath every two weeks. You can go longer between baths, but it just makes for more work later. There are many capable groomers who are familiar with Afghan care, but it also isn't a bad idea to invest in your own equipment and do it yourself.

Finally, they can be work, but Afghan Hounds are fabulous; devoted, entertaining, and willing to give back to you all the love you give to them...and, you'll be sure to get lots of attention wherever you go!

Afghan Hound Facts

Afghans have Dalicocephalic heads (three times longer than they are wide). They have a 270 degree field of vision.

Afghans can grip your fingers with their front paws. They can wrap their toes around your hand like a cat paw.

Afghans may have been the inspiration for Picasso's sculpture in Chicago's Daley Plaza. Picasso had pet Afghans.

Afghans wear "snoods" to protect their long ears when eating.

The term "flautengangwerk" (floating movement) has been used to describe Afghans in the show ring.

Pamela Stace

Pamela Stace is mom to four Afghan Hounds, one cat and an Arabian horse. She is a Milwaukee-based actor and voice talent. Also, she and her husband Bill run The Miramar Theatre on Milwaukee's East Side.

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My geo-dog, Louie, and I approached GZ with our GPS. We watched out for muggles who wouldn't understand our quest. We had hiked through one of our favorite parks to arrive within 15 feet of our goal. Searching through piles of large, fallen trees, we finally found the cache, a metal, green box filled with treasures. We signed the log "TFTC, The Tubbin's & geo-dog, Louie," and were on our way.

Are you scratching your head and wondering what exactly I am talking about? What is GZ? What is TFTC? Don't muggles have something to do with Harry Potter? And, if you have never heard of the geo-dog breed, read on to learn about the world of geocaching.

Geocaching is a hunt using GPS (Global Positioning System) to find items that were previously hidden by other cachers. The process works this way. Anyone, including you and me, can register at the official geocaching website, www.geocaching.com. Once registered, you log the coordinates of a cache you have hidden. Once approved, your cache description and coordinates are available to anyone else who has access to the geocaching website.

Other cachers then use GPS (such as with a GPS unit or even a phone) to locate your cache. Using a description, any hints you provided, and their intuition, they seek and potentially locate your hidden cache. The location of the cache is ground zero or GZ. They find the log you have left in the cache for them to sign. They may write a note or simply TFTC (thanks for the cache) in addition to their geocaching name. They then return to the Geocaching website to register their find and log comments on your cache. The glory is in being able to log another find and potentially swap swag they found in your cache for swag they carried in with them.

Geocaches are everywhere, from busy city streets to remote wildernesses. If you are already out and about with your dog, you will be amazed to find caches

at places you already visit. Louie and I had been walking through the small park on our block for years prior to discovering geocaching. Little did I know that the first cache we would ever find was hidden in a tree we had walked by almost daily.

Do you go to the local dog parks? Then you have been where caches can be found. Some dog parks with caches include Muttland Meadows in Grafton which currently has one cache. Runway Dog Park near Mitchell International Airport has one cache. Granville Dog Park in Milwaukee leads the pack with five. Minooka Park in Waukesha doesn't have a cache within the confines of the dog park but the second part of a two-part cache is within yards of the small dog park entrance.

And, what about geo-dogs? It is not exactly a new breed of dogs. Any dog that has gone geocaching is considered a geo-dog. Louie has gone on many caching hunts with me. Because he is a Plott hound who needs to always be on leash, at times he may hinder the hunt for the cache more than help. Because of that, it is typical for us to get near ground zero and then I will tie him to a nearby tree while I search. One time a friend and I were searching and searching in the woods for a cache. When I looked up, Louie was gone! A panicked hollering of his name promptly returned Louie to me with a "What's the matter? I was just sniffing stuff right around the corner" look on his face. Trust me, the knot is now tied tighter to the tree.

Louie has actually found a cache on his own. It was a variation of geocaching called a letterbox. Letterboxes are not found using coordinates but rather descriptions of how to get to the location. For example, "take the trail 100 yards and then look for a large pile of rocks." One day, Louie and I were hiking through one of our favorite parks, Minooka. On his long leash, he wandered over to the huge pile of rocks that were left by earlier owners of the land. He followed his little nose to behind a rock and just stood there looking at me. I

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went to see what he wanted and, lo and behold, there was a plastic container for a letterbox. Good dog!

Now that you know about geocaching, get out there with your dog and leave the world of muggles (non-geocachers) behind! Geocaching brings another dimension to the hikes that Louie and I already take. It is a relatively cheap hobby once you have a phone with GPS or a GPS unit, and while geocaching on a hot summer day is a great way to enjoy the sunshine, it also helps cure cabin fever during the winter when you get out and find winter-friendly caches.

Geocaching causes you to look at the world in a different way. You see potential hiding spots everywhere and the world becomes one big playground for you and your dog.

Marie Tubbin

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

Wisconsin's New Pet Facilities Law

After a battle that lasted almost a decade, Wisconsin has passed a state law that regulates certain dog breeders, animal shelters and animal control facilities. This month's Legal Beagle provides an overview of Wisconsin Act 90, which takes effect on June 1, 2011. The law is commonly known as the "Pet Facilities Law".

A Brief History

Since the first legislative proposal was made in 2001, the Wisconsin Legislature has considered various pieces of legislation aimed at regulating certain dog breeders and other persons who sell or transfer dogs. Over the years, various proposals were considered, and rejected, and considered, and rejected by the Wisconsin Legislature. These proposals had the underlying goal of creating a state regulatory process that would establish minimum standards of care for dogs sold or transferred in larger scale operations. The wheels of justice, however, moved slowly due to heated debates between the various interest groups regarding the content of the legislation.

Why Was the Law Necessary and What Was The Source of Disagreement?

Despite many responsible breeders and shelters which care for their dogs, there are, unfortunately, as with any group, some bad apples who view their dogs purely as commodities. These bad apples are commonly referred to by the pejorative term "puppy mills." That term, however, has no uniform or defined legal meaning. There are breeders with large scale operations who take scrupulous care of their dogs, while there are breeders with operations that are not as large, who do a horrible job of caring for animals. Accordingly, the fundamental disagreement between interest groups involving in the legislation over the years was this: Who should be regulated?

Deciding who should be regulated may have been a difficult and thorny task, but, it was undeniable that something needed to be done to protect Wisconsin dogs.

During the almost decade long debate over the law, Amelia lived every moment of her life in a small cage with wire flooring, where she produced litters of puppies so frequently that the flesh on her belly finally totally distended from her body. When she was rescued by a local animal shelter after a government seizure of the hundreds of dogs living in the same facility, Amelia was malnourished, dehydrated, suffered from kennel cough, her eyes and throat were infected, and her nails were so overgrown that they literally grew into a large circle where they began to grow into her paws. She also had a common trauma symptom: a high startle response rate. Amelia was terrified of human beings. When Amelia's adoptive father first met her, he knelt before her and extended his hand toward her in kindness. Amelia was so scared by the gesture that she backed into the corner of her kennel and began shaking violently. Her adoptive father, who is a nurse, described Amelia's psychological condition in human terms: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Countless dogs like Amelia were suffering in filthy living conditions, but the State was without any authority to regulate the persons responsible for this reprehensible conduct, other than through criminal charges. The problem was, without regulatory oversight, authorities lacked necessary tools to prevent problems in the first instance, and, further, often did not become aware of problems until it was too late. By the time Amelia's situation was discovered a year ago, she had lived a pitiful existence for eight years.

Who Is Affected By The New Law?

The new Pet Facilities Law applies to the following:

Dog breeders that sell to other distributors or to consumers at least 25 dogs per year from at least three litters

Pet stores and other retailers that sell at least 25 dogs per year

Dog auctions that offer at least 50 dogs for sale a year

Non-profit animal shelters that shelter at least 25 dogs a year

Animal control facilities that contract with a city, village, town or county

Flea markets and other temporary markets where dogs are sold

These are the only categories to which the Pet Facilities Law applies – persons who do not fall into one of the above categories will not be regulated under the law.

How Does The Law Work?

The law sets a licensing and inspection scheme that requires anyone operating a facility in one of the categories above to be licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("DATCP"). Prior to being issued a license, the facility must pass an initial DATCP inspection and, thereafter, must be inspected at least once every two years thereafter. The cost of the license ranges from \$250 per year, to \$1,000 a year, with the specific cost depending upon the number of dogs sold annually.

The law also sets forth standards of care for facilities covered by the law. These standards require adequate food, water, veterinary care, shelter

and exercise for dogs. Moreover, pens and kennels for dogs must be large enough for the particular dog, structurally sound, clean, and meet restrictions on the use of wire flooring. Finally, dogs must be checked every day and care must be provided as needed.

Finally, the law sets forth standards for the sale or transfer of dogs. For example, puppies must be at least 7 weeks old prior to transfer. Additionally, dogs must be examined by a veterinarian, and they must receive a vaccination record and veterinarian statement that the dog does not have any infectious and contagious disease.

The specific set of regulatory standards will be created by a 12 person advisory committee made up of people covered by the law and appointed after an application process to DATCP. That rule will then have to be approved by the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the citizen board that oversees the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, following a public hearing.

Is the Law All Bark and No Bite?

The law provides for significant penalties for a failure to comply. A failure to obtain a license can result in a penalty of \$10,000, and/or nine months in jail. Violations of other provisions of the law can result in penalties of \$1,000 for the first offense, and penalties of \$200 - \$2,000 for other offenses within five years.

Conclusion

It has been a year since Amelia was adopted. Unfortunately, 365 days of consistent human kindness has not yet erased the scars of the preceding eight years of her life. It took six full months before Amelia was comfortable sitting in her adoptive father's lap. She is still, however, scared of strangers. But, Amelia is slowly learning that human kindness exists beyond the bounds of her new home. She especially loves the dog park, where, for the first time in her life, she feels the earth, rather than wire mesh, under her paws, and she plays with other dogs and lives the carefree life of, well, a dog!



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Given the length and the ferocity of the fight that was waged over passage of a law to address the problem, it would have been easier to turn a blind eye to the problem, to forget (or ignore) that dogs like Amelia exist – or to disregard as unimportant or even trivial the life of a little chocolate dachshund living in a cage.

To those who never gave up on the fight to improve the lives of these dogs – especially to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – the Legal Beagle commends you (and Amelia thanks you).

For more information about the Pet Facilities Law, visit www.datcp.state.wi.us/ah/breeders/index.jsp

Megan A. Senatori is an attorney at DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C. where she practices civil litigation. She is an adjunct professor of animal law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School. Ms. Senatori is also the Co-Founder and President of the SAAV ("Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims") Program, an all-volunteer charitable organization that provides temporary shelter for the pets of domestic abuse victims fleeing abuse and raises community awareness regarding the link between family violence and animal abuse (www.saaavprogram.org).

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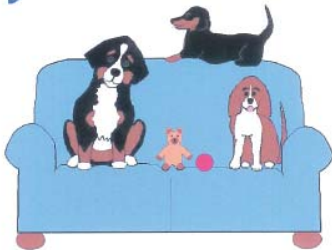
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Poet's Corner

Cupcake

a young old dog

A small red terrier
 hopped out of her crate
 and ran in small circles,
 right out of the gate.

She jumped and she skipped
 then she woofed at a bee
 and a counterfeit squirrel
 In a make-believe tree.

Next she barked at the bird
 bath, shot under the grill,
 spun a tight circle
 then flew down the hill.

She dug in the flower bed,
 bounced quickly away.
 She's a gray-muzzled dog,
 but a puppy, today.

James F. Borusky

James F. Borusky is a West Bend poet who has also had careers as a lumberjack, railroad hand, conservation warden, Marine and guidance counselor. "Cupcake" is from his book of poetry, "Poems of Terriers and Other Perfect Dogs".

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Fetch is looking for a few cute mugs!

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

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DOGS AROUND TOWN



Mona - Muskego



Fuji - Brookfield



Lucky - Milwaukee



Debo - Milwaukee



Beans - Greenfield



Sadie - Wayne



Marley - Menomonee Falls



Lucky - Menomonee Falls

Sporting Dogs

Choosing the Best Breed for Hunting and for your Family

Ever read the book *Big Red* by Jim Kjelgaard? This classic tale about a boy and his Irish Setter was one of my favorite books as a kid. Disney even made a movie based upon it! It sure made me want an Irish Setter to hunt with. Then my older brother got a Black Lab and she was a great hunter. But his friend had a Golden Retriever and she was an even better hunter. I was confused - what breed is best for hunting? There are more answers to this question than you may think. This article will help you narrow down your choice for the best hunting dog for you and your family and will be limited to breeds that primarily hunt feathered game such as pheasants, grouse, ducks, and geese.

The Sporting Group (bird hunting) breeds are very diverse. They perform well in not only Field and Hunting Tests, but also in Agility and Obedience Tests. Sporting dogs make excellent family pets, although they require more exercise than some of the other dog groups. Some sporting breeds are also very popular as guide and service dogs. With all these abilities and such diversity, it's no wonder the Sporting Group dogs are so popular.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) classifies bird-hunting dogs within the Sporting Dog Group. The group consists of 28 individual breeds and includes retrievers, pointers, spaniels, and setters. Based on 2009 registrations, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular breed in America. The Golden Retriever is very popular and is ranked fourth. Of the pointers, the German Shorthair is the most popular at #16. The spaniels are led by the Cocker Spaniel at #23 while the setters are led by the Irish Setter at #73.

From a hunting perspective the Sporting Dog Group can be broken into two categories of hunting types: pointers and flushers. There are at least a dozen breeds within each hunting type. Generally, the retriever and spaniel breeds are flushers, while the pointers and setters are pointers.

What's the best breed for you? It depends on your answers to these (and other) questions:

What do you hunt most – ducks and geese or pheasants and grouse?

Do you prefer a “flusher” or a pointer?

Do you like to hunt fast or slow?

Do you hunt mostly in thick brush and marshes or in open fields and prairies?

Do you hunt in extreme warm or cold temperatures?

Do you have any experience training hunting dogs?

How much time and exercise can you give the dog?

Will the dog be kept inside or outside?

Do you have a spouse and children?

What size dog do you want?

How much “coat maintenance” do you want to do?

Do you want the dog for protection or other uses too?

Does cost matter to you?

Are there any recurring health concerns for your preferred breed?

Does availability – especially of champion bloodlines – matter to you?

WOW – that's a lot to think about! But, it's really not that much different from selecting any dog. These questions just have a more hunt-focused perspective. Answer them and you will be well on your way to finding a breed of sporting dog that will be a great hunting companion and friend!

The chart that follows is a reference to help you narrow down your breed selec-

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tion. The three most popular breeds within the four types of sporting dogs (retrievers, pointers, spaniels, and setters) are listed along with several key hunting attributes and some general attributes of the breed. Note that these are generalities about the breed and that individual dogs within the breed can have different attributes.

As you can see, there really isn't that much of a difference within each type of sporting dog. For example, notice that all three setters are similar – at least on a "breed" level. Although owners of Irish, English, and Gordon Setters will tell you that there are numerous differences in the breeds. The same can be said of the other three types within the Sporting Dog group. Remember, only the three most popular breeds within each group based on AKC registrations are listed. So, there are 16 breeds not even listed here! One of them may be just the dog that is best for you!

Once you've answered the above questions and used the chart to find a cou-

ple possible breeds you should do your final research. Remember, the chart is just a starting point. Check the AKC website and the individual breed's websites. Go to the library. Talk to people that own the breed – they may be your best source of information - and verify what you have found. After this you should know what breed will hunt, and live, best with you and your family!

Following are my personal favorites.

Best flushing hunting breed:
Labrador Retriever
Best pointing hunting breed:
German Shorthair Pointer
Best "family-friendly" sporting breed:
Golden Retriever
Best waterfowl hunting breed:
Chesapeake Bay Retriever
Best "city-friendly" hunting breed:
Cocker Spaniel
Prettiest sporting breed:
Gordon Setter
Best 'all-around" sporting breed:
Labrador Retriever

Again, these are my favorites based on a lifetime of hunting and living with numerous different sporting breeds. In the next issue of Fetch I'll continue this series of Sporting Dog articles. The next article will focus on selecting your sporting dog puppy and getting your home, family, and yourself ready for your new hunting and family friend!

John Theisen

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

Breed	Game Preference	Hunting Method	Hunting Speed	Terrain Preference	Water Tolerance	Watchdog	Male Size (lbs)	Coat Maint.
Labrador Retriever	All	Flush	Average	All	Love	Yes	65-80	Easy
Golden Retriever	Upland	Flush	Average	Open	Like	No	65-75	Hard
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Waterfowl	Flush	Slow	All	Love	Yes	65-80	Easy
German Shorthair	All	Point	Average	All	Love	Yes	55-70	Easy
Weimaraner	All	Point	Average	All	Love	Yes	55-70	Easy
Vizslas	Upland	Point	Fast	Open	Like	No	40-55	Easy
Cocker Spaniel	Upland	Flush	Slow	Open	Like	No	25-30	Hard
English Springer Spaniel	Upland	Flush	Average	All	Like	No	40-50	Hard
Brittany	Upland	Point	Average	Open	Like	No	30-40	Hard
Irish Setter	Upland	Point	Fast	Open	Like	No	60-70	Hard
English Setter	Upland	Point	Fast	Open	Like	No	65-80	Hard
Gordon Setter	Upland	Point	Average	Open	Like	Yes	55-80	Hard

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Traveling With Your Dog

Many owners consider their dog to be part of the family. But more owners are bringing those loved ones along on their family vacation.

As the weather warms up and people start making plans for various adventures, several businesses across the country have been making it easier for owners to bring their precious pooches (and other furry, feathered or scaly pets) on those adventures.

Just as one would look into travel destinations and accommodations, if you plan on bringing your pet, using the internet and making calls in advance will help you avoid many problems. In recent years, some web sites have already done some of the research for you and include tips and reviews from other owners.

For owners considering taking their pet on their next vacation – here's a small example of what is available:

Lap of luxury

The Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group is one of the pioneers in pet-friendly boutique hotels. If you're looking for a quick get-away, their Hotel Monaco Chicago will welcome you, and your pet, with open arms.

"We allow any domestic animal – dog, cat, bird, lizard," said Jennifer Navarro, public

relations manager at the hotel. "But we mostly cater to dogs and cats."

Hotel Monaco Chicago, as well as all the hotel chain's nation-wide locations, has a non-restrictive pet policy. There are no weight limitations or fees, but owners will be responsible for any damage the pet causes. If you can't take your beloved best friend on your trip, Kimpton hotels will provide you with a complimentary goldfish to keep you company during your stay.

Navarro said the hotel sees more pets in the summer months, but estimates about 20% of the guests bring their pets, and the number is rising.

Whether you plan to stay at a luxury or moderately priced hotel, many chains now have various pet-friendly policies. It is best to contact the individual hotel when making reservations to ask about any additional fees or restrictions (weight limits, number of pets, where pets are allowed and whether pets can be left in the room unattended).

Creature comforts

Planning a trip that includes a day or more at an amusement park? Several parks around the country offer kennel services.

Six Flags Over Texas, in Arlington, charge guests \$10 a day to keep their pet in an air-conditioned kennel while their owners enjoy the park. Food and water are provided, but owners are responsible for exercising their pet throughout the day.

Julio Chavez, guest services managerial supervisor, said the park has space for about 12-15 pets, but he has seen only five or six pets at the most in one day. He said the kennel's busiest times are summer and spring break with pet owners coming from all over the country.

"Mostly it's your long-haul travelers like your RVers," he said. "And they're pretty thankful (for the kennels)."

Many Six Flags parks offer kennels, but it's best to check with the specific park you plan to attend to make sure if they are available or if reservations are needed.

Both Disney World and Disneyland locations and all three SeaWorld parks (Orlando, Florida; San Diego and San Antonio, Texas) have kennels. Prices range from free (for unattended kennels with guests responsible for feeding, watering and walking their pet throughout the day) to \$20 for the day (for attended kennels with guests responsible for walking their pet). Check with each individual park for fees, restrictions and what will be needed at check-in, such as shot records and a current rabies tag. No park offers overnight boarding.

Road warriors

If you want to take the family on a longer trip, consider renting an RV from Cruise America, which also has a pet-friendly policy.

"There's a lot more people that would like to travel with their pets than you think," said Mike Prosser, owner of the Cruise America location in Milwaukee.

Prosser said about a third of those renting from his location take their pets along for the ride. Owners are not charged an additional fee for pets – unless additional cleaning is needed when the vehicle is returned. But Prosser said he has had very few problems with pet owners.

"I find people with pets can be more conscientious than those without pets," he said.

If you plan to park your RV at a campground, check to make sure pets are allowed or if there are any restrictions.

Traveling with your pet may take some extra phone calls, research and will add items to your packing list, but if you want to bring every member of your family along on your next vacation – it can be easier than you'd expect.

Ana M. Menendez

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


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Hot Dogs in the Summer Sun

Creative Ways to Cool off your Pooch this Summer

My mother used to say, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!" Good advice for kids – just as wise when it comes to our pets. With the hottest part of the summer just around the corner, it's a great time to start thinking about how your dog feels when the heat hits.

WTMJ Weather Analyst Michael Fish reminds us that, while the beginning of June is usually a comfortable 72 degrees, by mid July your thermometer will soar up to the mid-80s. "The hotter it is, the more likely your dog will have his tongue hanging out because that's the way they perspire in summer." He adds, "Imagine wearing a winter coat all year long. That's what it's like for your dog". Michael also cautions us to be mindful of how the sun beaming on the pavement all day will affect your puppy's paw.

So it goes without saying that the #1 way to keep your pet refreshed is with water. But let's not forget that dogs just want to have fun, right? Here are some unique ways to chill out with your pooch when the sun comes out to play:

Head back to the kitchen. At least long enough to whip together some yummy doggie popsicles. Mix pureed fruit and yogurt, pour into paper cups or ice cube trays, pop them out and voila! You have a fun treat that leaves your dog hydrated and nourished. Check with your veterinarian first if you have any doggie dietary concerns.

Not just for cowboys anymore. Premier Pet Products offers a "Cooling Bandana" that is said to be a hit with the dogs. This chilly wrap is made of non-toxic polymer crystals,

absorbs heat and keeps your dog cool for several hours. The collars come in 3 sizes and range from \$8.99-12.99. Smaller dogs can also take a seat in a cushy "Ice Pod". These saucer-shaped beds are re-freezable, reusable and they just might do the trick on a hot summer night.

No kidding. Try a kiddies' pool. Depending on the size of your dog, a plastic play pool might just be the thing for you and your pet this season. For fewer than twenty dollars, you can purchase a round play pool at your local retailer and you'll never want to leave your backyard. The down side? Count on emptying the water each night and having your neighbors look at you in a whole new way.

Head to the big pool. If your dog is way too cool (or rather way too hot) to be hanging around the kiddie pool, she may be ready to take a dip in a full size pool that caters to dogs. There are also opportunities for your pup to enjoy a swim at several public pools in Milwaukee County. Cool Waters, located in West Allis will open up its doors to dogs on Labor Day evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. For a small fee your dog can take a break from the heat like the rest of us. Jackson, Sheridan and Washington Pools may also invite dogs to swim when the pools close for the season, but you'll need to visit the Milwaukee County website (countyparks.com) for dates and times, as they will be based on budget and weather.

Back to nature. Some dogs prefer the more authentic version of a summer swim. And nothing makes sporting dogs feel more close to their reason for being than splashing in a muddy lake. Look to places like Harrington

Beach State Park in Belgium, Wisconsin, where your pooch can refresh herself at the south end of the beach. The park is open 6:00 am-11:00 pm year round. Or unwind at Granville Dog Park at 11718 W. Good Hope Place in Milwaukee, where you and your dog can hang out with the best of them in the Menomonee River. An annual permit costs \$25 for all Milwaukee residents and \$30 for non-residents. A daily pass is \$5.00 at the gate for both residents and non-residents. Dog owners can also purchase a permit online at Countyparks.com.

Cool paws for a cool cause. Summertime is a great way to "kick it" with Fido while contributing to lots of worthy fundraisers in the area. The Village of Menomonee Falls will host its 3rd Annual Pet Fair on Saturday, August 21, at the Rotary Park on Fond du Lac Avenue. Proceeds will benefit HAWS. Your dog can mingle with the rest of the pack while you bid on your favorite raffle prize.

If all else fails, head back home, crank up the air conditioning, and you and your pal can dream of the chilly winter of Wisconsin, just a few short months away.

Colleen Terry

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

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Smile Pretty!

Pet Photography

Studio Portraits

I admit it. I fell in love with a photograph...a photo of a pug curled within his human's law enforcement uniform. It was more than just a picture. It was an entire story. I couldn't help but wonder just what goes into the production of this sort of enchantment. I went straight to the source, IN-FOCUS Photography, to find out.



Photo Courtesy of IN-FOCUS Photography

Jerry and Mary Braunsdorf, owners of IN-FOCUS, invited me to their South Kinnickinnic Avenue studio to witness a studio pet portrait session. The subjects were two 10-month-old Chihuahua sisters who reside with different branches of a human family. Cinnebon, the smaller of the two, aimed her three-pound existence towards the investigation of the studio while Hazel Nut, a bruiser at seven pounds, was more intent on protecting Fred, her human. "Oh, this is going to be good", I thought and secretly placed my wager on the dogs.

While the IN-FOCUS team prepared their strategy, I noticed that the photo area was already completely arranged. Lights, backdrop and props were all at the ready. Jerry indicated that this is

an important step in pet photography, allowing for a calmer start to the session. Equally important was giving the animals time to get used to the surroundings. No problem there. Cinnebon had scoped out the entire studio in a matter of seconds.

The plan was to photograph each dog alone and then put them together for some final shots. Hazel was first up. The studio was equipped with various small-sized furnishings and out came a wicker settee, perfect for her size. Mary and Jerry worked in concert, with Mary operating the camera and Jerry offering a series of distractions designed to get the perfect look of alert interest. Hazel was gracious about all the attention as long as Fred, her human, was close by.

'Cinnie' was next to face the camera and it was immediately apparent that she was not inclined to cooperate. The IN-FOCUS team remained unruffled and calmly offered a series of props and toys, aiming for that perfect combination. "Let's try this", Jerry said, bringing out a pint-sized upholstered chaise. The humans throughout the room offered cheers of encouragement as Mary moved around the studio snapping the camera. "I only need a split second to get a good shot", she said. Even frequent applications of Mary's super-duper-probably-should-be-patented cat noise earned her only a hair's breadth of attention from Cinnie. But in the end, it was enough. Perked ears....an engaging expression...SNAP!

The final series of portraits was to be of the sisters, together. Although I knew enough about the tenacity of the IN-FOCUS team by now, I was still smug in my secret bet in favor of the dogs. After all, we were facing not one, but two high-motion creatures with

differing ambitions. The human contingent held their breaths and willed the sisters a moment of calm attention. The room was filled with the satisfying tension of a good sporting match. With patient encouragement and repeated tries, the shutter went down for the final time. Success!

Throughout the session, I noticed that the dogs were not posed. They were offered props but their positioning and expressions were 100% their own. That's all you really need with a dog. There was also a level of respect for the animals and a dose of good humor towards the eventual canine misdeemeanors.

Jerry offered some advice for getting the most from a studio portrait session. Dogs' needs should be taken care of before the session begins. This includes feeding, water, maybe a walk and you-know-what. They should also be accompanied by a human they are familiar with and who can give them the necessary commands.

The IN-FOCUS team's range of photographic talent was apparent as I looked at their waiting room gallery after the dogs had departed. Dogs and humans in all manner of compositions were represented. I couldn't help but think that I hadn't figured it all out yet. The talent was there. The creativity, certainly. However, what was it that made the portraits before me fairly leap off the wall with life?

"We love what we do", said Mary. "I can't imagine doing anything else", Jerry agreed. "We wake up every morning and are excited to go to work." Ah, there was the missing ingredient. Talent, creativity, experience and a love of what you do....magic!

On Location!

For the experience of a completely different type of photo shoot, I contacted Stephanie Bartz, who conducts all her photo sessions on location. Wherever the action is, she will be there.

Stephanie has no shortage of imagination and when we first discussed the idea, I could see she was going in directions that wouldn't have occurred to me. I left the planning to the expert.

So I found myself at the home of Lisa and Pete on a sunny Saturday morning. The blooming trees were throwing carpets of petals to the ground and the residents of Wauwatosa were out in full force. Ah yes...a perfect day for a rickshaw ride. Rickshaw!? Why, yes. You read me correctly.

Stephanie's plan for the day was no less than to photograph Lisa on a bike with two of the family dogs in the bike basket. The two met this very way when Stephanie spied Lisa taking her dogs for a cruise. Most of us would stop right there, thinking the photo idea was very cool, indeed. But Stef took it one step further and engaged Cream City Rickshaw to drive her alongside, allowing her to photograph Lisa in motion.

The thought of a rickshaw ignited visions of rickety contraptions hefted by barefoot bearers. I didn't know if my conscience would allow me to witness such a thing. So I was relieved when Andrew, owner of Cream City Rickshaw, arrived with a sleek, bright green, bicycle-driven rickshaw, complete with choice of awnings. Andrew explained that Cream City is a new business in the area and is ready with a fleet of rickshaws to cater to almost any event a human could imagine. Hmmm...I was getting some ideas now.

Our attention turned to the dogs. Lisa and Pete share their home with five small dogs. As I surveyed the faces I couldn't imagine picking the two that would be part of the photo shoot and was glad the choice wasn't

mine to make. Lisa selected Alfie, a snaggle-toothed, three-legged Affenpinscher who registered on the scale just above Completely Adorable. Willy, an equally winsome Chihuahua was to be the other passenger. Lisa put them in harnesses and buckled them into the padded bike basket. By the calm exhibited by the dogs, I could tell that this was a common family activity. "They love their bike rides", explained Pete.

As our merry band proceeded down Honey Creek Parkway, the world was suddenly full of people and dogs. There were vehicles, bikers, runners and dog walkers. Each one looked and then looked again at the unexpected sight of a lime green rickshaw and a bike basket containing the adorable Alfie and Willy.



Lisa held a steady course down the parkway with Andrew keeping pace. Stephanie was obviously getting some terrific shots. I had all I could do to photograph Stef, as she was photographing Lisa, as she was pedaling the bike. You can imagine the fun of it all! In fact, the group was having such a good time that they made several more circuits of the parkway before calling it a wrap.

I took my leave of the camaraderie that was still taking place. It occurred to me as I drove off that the photo shoot had taken less than two hours. Those short hours had been infused with good cheer and I felt as if I'd attended carnival, of sorts. The obvious aim of an on-location photo shoot is certainly to obtain a great photo.



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However, in this case, the shoot, itself, was at least 90% of the fun.

....and that's as it should be. Stephanie had taken on the work of making the arrangements and insuring a good time for her clients. Behind the scenes, the processing of the photos and application of professional artistry was yet to come.

At Lisa and Pete's place, I had been introduced to the three toy poodles that made up the remainder of the miniature canine family. As Pete joked, "All our dogs together come to about 23 pounds." Although all of the family dogs were healthy and well-cared for, Pete explained that several had come to them with serious medical conditions. Even so, Pete and Lisa made the decision to take the animals into the family and use their finances and time to give the small dogs a chance.

For me the entire day was a renewal of faith in the world and in the inherent good of humans who love dogs.

Ginny Theisen

Ginny Theisen lives in West Bend and is co-owner of Fetch. She juggles way too many hobbies, a day-job...oh and loves spending time with dear hubby and True, the beloved family dog. Life is full of wonders!

Calendar of **EVENTS**

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July 24

August 21

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June 5

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www.hawspets.org

Ride to End Dogfighting

June 12

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June 12

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Menomonee Falls Pet Fair
HAWs benefit
August 21
www.hawspets.org

11th Annual Beach Party
August 22
Petlicious Dog Biscuit Bakery & Spa
262-548- 0923 www.petlicious.com

Pet Parties/Play Groups

Yappy Hour
June 17
Caesar's Pet, Greendale
414-423-5800 www.caesarspet.com

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

Playgroups
Saturday mornings
Ruffin' It Resort, Madison
608-310-4299 www.ruffinitresort.com

Sporting Activities

Obedience & Rally Run Thrus
2nd Friday of the Month 6:30 pm
Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
www.cudahykennelclub.org

Agility Run Thrus
3rd Friday of the Month 6:30 pm
Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
www.cudahykennelclub.org

Lure Course Running
2nd & 4th Saturdays (weather permitting)
Rock's Positive K-9 Training, Big Bend
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RACING WIENERS

(...and I am not talking baseball)



The planes from the nearby air show weren't the only things going faster than the speed of sound at German Fest last summer. While the jets zipped overhead, the dachshunds flew across the race course. Hundreds upon hundreds of racing fans packed every available spot in and around the bleachers. Young kids and adults alike climbed the back of the bleachers to the top level; hanging precariously to get a view of the racing doxies.

Many dogs had their own fan clubs, as evidenced by the bleacher sitters with matching T-shirts (Go, Klaus, Go!). Other fans held signs cheering on their special racer. On the field, the judges did their best to harness the energy of the people and the dogs into organized chaos while the racers at the start line wiggled and tried to pull away from their owners.

For Sandi Dhein of Midwest Dachshund Rescue (MWDR), going to the dachshund races at German Fest is like a reunion, "You meet so many wonderful people and meet so many wonderful dogs." Sandi first met Stella, her eight-year-old dachshund/jack russell terrier mix at the races. A week later, while working on Stella's adoption, she met Benny, her three-year-old dachshund, who stole her heart with his snuggles. Other MWDR adoption alumni come back to the races, too. Sandi

says, "A lot of these dogs come from a variety of situations. It is nice to see how well they adapted to their new surroundings and to see how much care people put towards their animals. It is heartwarming."

German Fest's dachshund races are limited to about 100 entrants. Last year, there were 18 heats divided into age groups with such names as Little Smokies, Frankfurters, Bratwursts, Schnitzels, all the way to Knockwursts. The first place winner in each heat advanced to the final races. Because of the number of the dogs in the finals, there was a raceoff to name the subsequent winner.

At the beginning of each heat, the entrants are called to the field and given colored bandanas to help judges identify racers. Working with the racers requires a two-person team, one to release and one to receive. The wiener dog and the person releasing begin at the start line. The receiver backs up to the finish line, calling the dog's name, waving a motivator such as a stuffed toy or ball, or hollering "Treats, I have treats!"

At the sound of "Ready, set, go!" the releasers let go of their dachshunds and the racing field breaks out into a free-for-all. Some doxies never leave the start line but look quizzically at their owners who holler, "Run, run!" Others wander aimlessly to the side to meet some adoring fans. Then there are the athletic types who make a mad dash across the field to their receiver at the finish line (or anyone, really, in the general area). A happy, excited dog may cross the finish line only to do a victory lap or two around the field. The race typically ends with some doxies scooped up in their happy owners' arms getting words of congratulation while other dogs run around playing with each other as the rest of the owners run around trying to catch up with their dogs.

It is very apparent that these dogs love racing. Sandi says "The dogs like to run. It is natural with their hunting instinct. The dogs like it because it gives them focus and attention. We like it because it gives

them exercise and is fun for them." In fact, Sandi enjoyed it so much that she joined the committee at German Fest that runs the races. And in 2009, she started dachshund races held at the Germantown Historical Society Oktoberfest with 42 entrants.

For both races, there is an entry fee. A portion of the German Fest proceeds go to Midwest Dachshund Rescue, while for the Germantown event, all proceeds go to the rescue. Along with the pride of being a winner, top placing racers get a variety of dog-related prizes donated by businesses. Last year a semi-finalist in the Germantown races actually had back surgery two years earlier. But despite that, came in second. Sandi says it was inspiring because you hear so much about doxies being prone to back problems that it is good to see them come back happy and healthy.

Be sure to add dachshund racing to your list of things to do. There is a reason for everyone to attend: the prizes, the dog-exercising opportunity, the camaraderie, inspiration, for the rescue's benefit, or even just the pure enjoyment of seeing happy dachshunds running across green fields.

More information:
Midwest Dachshund Rescue www.mwdr.org

German Fest
www.germanfest.com/festinfo/dachshund.html

Germantown Event:
www.dheinsvilledachshunddash.com

Marie Tubbin

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

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Pet Safety



Tips

for Summer

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. The Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals offers these tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this summer.

Watch Out For Fertilizers and Deadly Plants

Summer is often a time when people fertilize their lawns and work in their gardens. But beware: plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In addition, many plants can produce physiologically active or toxic substances in sufficient amounts to cause harmful effects in animals. Keep your pet off of a newly fertilized lawn for at least 24 hours. Always save the original packaging from any lawn chemicals for reference in case of later ingestion.

Don't Put Your Pet In the Back of a Truck

It is very dangerous to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury,

but a dog may be unintentionally thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.

Water Warnings

Children are not the only ones who can drown when left unattended in pools or lakes. Never leave your pet unattended when they are swimming and always make sure they have an easy way out or the pool is enclosed and inaccessible.

Go Fish

Colorful, stinky fishing lures are very tempting to cats, dogs, and birds and can prove to be very dangerous. Hooks are usually barbed and cannot be backed out until the barb is removed. Never try to remove these hooks on your own. Seek veterinary help and sedation to prevent additional tissue trauma.

Stay Safe From Bite Wounds

Spring and summer are the times when dog parks are full of dogs. Many of these dogs are harmless but when faced with certain conditions a dog can turn suddenly and bite. Stay close to your pet. Introduce your dog to other dogs and watch their responses. If all are friendly, then it is safe to let them play. If any type of aggression is shown, take your dog to another part of the park and find a new playmate. Do not try to break up a fight by getting in the middle. Use leashes or water to separate the dogs. If you or your pet receives a bite wound, seek medical help to prevent infection.

Watch Out For Heat Stroke

Elderly, very young, and ill animals have a hard time regulating their body temperature, so make sure they stay cool and out of the sun on steamy summer days. Dogs with short noses, such as Pekingese, pugs, and bulldogs, have a hard time staying cool because they can't pant efficiently, so they especially need to stay out of the heat. Overweight dogs are prone to overheating because their extra layers of fat act as insulation which traps heat in their bodies and restricts their breathing.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency. If you suspect your pet has heatstroke, you must act quickly and calmly. Lower the animal's body temperature by applying towels soaked in cool water to the hairless areas of the body. Often the pet will respond after only a few minutes of cooling, only to falter again with his temperature soaring back up or falling to well below what is normal. With this in mind, remember that it is imperative to get the animal to a veterinarian immediately. Once your pet is in the veterinarian's care, treatment may include further cooling techniques, intravenous fluid therapy to counter shock, or medication to prevent or reverse brain damage.

Summer does not have to be filled with danger – by following our pet safety tips, both you and your pet can enjoy those long, hot dog days of summer.

Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC
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