



Fetch magazine

January 2006 | Volume 3 Issue 1



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Publisher's Letter

It may be hard to believe, certainly from our vantage point, that this issue begins the third year in print for Fetch Magazine. Why have we beaten the odds of success and continue to provide southeast Wisconsin dog lovers with thought-provoking and entertaining information? The success of this magazine lies with our advertisers and readers such as yourself who subscribe or pick up free issues. We thank you.

We'd like to go just one step further. On page 21 you'll find a description of our new 'customers rewards card.' By simply patronizing the businesses advertised in this magazine, we will send you a free gift - our way of thanking you for supporting this magazine.

Whether you've mistakenly left Fido off the Christmas gift list, have a New Year's resolution to attend training classes, or want to let your best friend mingle with his buddies at local doggy day care, please make every effort to thank the advertisers that continue to support this publication.

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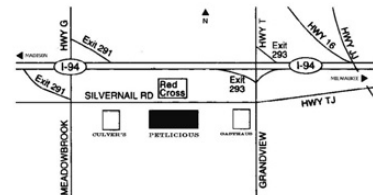
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Ask the VET

Q: Is it true that my dog can actually have acne? If so, what can be done to reduce the appearance?

A: Not exactly! The disease we recognize as "acne" in teenagers and people does not occur in dogs. What does occur in a dog that looks like "teenage acne" is something called bacterial chin pyoderma.

This disease is caused by two major factors: a bacterial infection of the skin caused by *Staphylococcus intermedius* coupled with some type of trauma to the area. The trauma causes damage to the hair follicles and they become infected, swollen, and often they rupture.

Trauma can include things like lying on the floor, friction from chew toys, chronically wet muzzles, rubbing of the chin because of itching, etc. Dogs with chin pyoderma can have red bumps, pimples or pustules, hair loss, thickening and darkening of the skin, ulcers, draining tracts in severe cases, and sometimes nodules around hair follicles called "furuncles."

The diagnosis is made by clinical signs. A veterinarian may do skin scrapings to rule out mites. Fungal cultures may also be helpful, especially in young dogs. In severe cases, skin cultures may be needed.

The key to resolution is to minimize trauma to the chin-why is the area inflamed or why is the dog rubbing its chin?

In mild cases, the chin pyoderma can be treated with topical antibacterial shampoos once daily or with topical antibiotics once daily. If lesions are severe or don't respond to therapy, systemic antibiotic therapy for 21 days or longer may be needed.

Most dogs respond well to treatment, but in some dogs the condition becomes lifelong because the underlying trigger is lifelong or scar tissue has developed.

By board certified veterinarians in the Dermatology Section of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

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


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Training Bits

Fighting in the House.

You may have thought for many reasons bringing home another dog to your household was going to be a wonderful thing. Whatever your reasoning to do so, you now have created a "multiple" dog household. Living with multiple dogs can sometimes be challenging. With any canine pack there is always a clear leader who keeps the peace among lower ranking members. Since dogs have an innate sense to include you into their pack, it is up to you to establish your leadership role if you wish to keep your pack living harmoniously together. If you are having problems amongst your dogs, you may first want to evaluate how you are leading the pack. Everything your dog does and/or reacts to is because of pack mentality. Owners unfortunately sometimes add fuel to the fire when they expect their dogs to respond to them as a child would. Although our dogs can sometimes act like humans; dogs are not people and do not want to live in the world as we do. Equal treatment for all does not apply. Don't get me wrong, we can love them all the same, but how we treat them and live with them should not



be the same. If we expect our dogs to understand us...we owe it to understand them.

Dominance CAN BE THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEM

Dominance happens in dogs when one thinks they are above the other in the pack. Dogs have an incredible drive to lead or be lead. A dog may think it is the

pack leader by how we act and by giving them all the same luxuries that we the pack leader should only be entitled to (i.e. sleeping in our bed, petting them every time they ask us for it, feeding them before we eat or feeding them from the table). Your dog may even think he is the leader if at anytime you gave your dog a command and they decided they did not want to do it and you allowed them to ignore you. A leader never has to do what a subordinate asks it to do. Even if the owner is perceived as the pack leader, we may still add to the dominance pack problem by our own unconscious actions in how we treat each individual member. As a leader, we must nurture and respect pack rank and order.

Why do dogs fight?

For starters there are really only a few possible reasons why your dogs are not getting along.

1) Your dogs do not see you as their pack leader. If your dogs did respect you as their leader and a fight broke out, you would be able to step in, give them a command and they would respond immediately. In a pack, the leader runs the show and decides who fights, when and when to stop. No pack member would ever challenge the leader. He would respect their wishes, immediately.

2) You are the leader, but are treating your pack all equal. This is important to do with our children; however, dogs need to be recognized in rank order. They can never be treated equal with another pack member or you are just setting up for dominant aggression issues. Same sex dogs are more likely to exhibit aggression toward each other because in the wild dogs of the same gender would have to determine who was going to be the leader amongst them. Although, it is seldom, dominance aggression can be prevalent in opposite sex pack members too.

3) You and your dog are speaking TWO different languages. For example, many people try and pet their dogs when their dog shows aggression. Owners often think that this "petting" will either calm the dog, reassure the dog and/or give him confidence. In reality, the dog interprets this as the owner telling him, "Good dog! Yes, that is very good...be more aggressive", thus inadvertently reinforcing the unwanted behavior.



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How can you create a cohesive pack?

First and foremost, obedience training for every dog in your household is a must. Training creates a vocabulary that you can use so when you do ask your dog to do something they will respond instantly. If you have a particularly dominant dog, seek the help of a professional dog trainer before starting any training program.

Second, reinforce your leadership by doing everything first (eat first, go through doorways first, walk your dog on leash not allowing your dog to pull you down the sidewalk). Also, your lounging and sleeping quarters should not be the same as your dogs. No more are they allowed to sleep in the bed or allowed on furniture. Dogs should be provided their own space.

Third, you must create and adhere to a ranking system. Observe and decide who the more dominant dog is (usually it is the dog that was there first). Dominant dogs should eat before the other dogs, go for a walks before the others, get a treat before the others, and go through doorways and outside before the others. This will help the pack understand where the leader sees them according to rank and simultaneously reassures the dominant dog that yes you see him higher up on the pack and will protect him and his rank. This in turn, signals to the less dominate dog that the pack leader also sees him below the other dog and not to challenge. If a scuffle should arise you must correct BOTH dogs and let them know this will not be tolerated from the leader. A leader always protects its pack. The worst thing to do after a scuffle is to coddle and give affection to the subordinate dog. This will only confuse your dominant dog and cause him to challenge the lesser dog more to keep re-establishing his rank within the pack.

If you are having consistent scuffles, both dogs should have a collar and leash on at all times when there are together. This will prevent the owner from getting bit should they have to step in. If toys seem to be the trigger there should be none available when the dogs are together. If food is the trigger they should be fed and given treats separately (crates if need be).

In the end, by using the power of the pack, giving strong leadership, being consistent on what behavior is expected from all, and establishing clear boundaries can make living with your multiple dogs easier and less stressful.

Tiffany Gutman is the owner of Paws-itively Behaved K9s. She is the head of training at Paws-itively Behaved K9s, a member of the Association for Pet Dog Trainers and an AKC registered CGC evaluator. She is an active member of Pets Helping People with her

Rottweiler, Bodey, who are currently participating in the Reading to Rover program at the Brookfield Public Library. When she's not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 year old son, along with her other furry family member, Mason, an American Pit Bull Terrier whom she adopted from the Wisconsin Humane Society.

Paws-itively Behaved K9s is located at 9823 S. 13th Street (one block south of Colder's), in Oak Creek. For more details and class information, call 262-488-1982.

Article Feedback

I've always favored instant feedback and, boy, did I get it from Fetch Magazine readers regarding my "Aggression in Dogs" article in the Nov/Dec issue.

In reference to a "whiplash" correction, which is intended to impress the importance of a speedy and sharp delivery, I inadvertently evoked an image of inflicting pain and injury. My apology for the sloppy terminology.

I continue to advocate that owners of aggressive dogs take the situation seriously and not make excuses, become hyper aware of potential triggers and learn how to give prompt, instructive feedback. Corrections have a place in dealing with aggression and, when used properly, the result is a confident, safe, happy dog who is able to enjoy social settings.

As I mentioned, I believe in instructive input, and I am grateful to you for swiftly bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely, Amy Ammen



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People and Paws Search and Rescue assists those in need.

After moving from Toronto to Milwaukee seven years ago, former law enforcement officer Geoff Gardiner and his partner, Bally, quickly found themselves a little restless and bored with retirement. Accustomed to working everyday, Bally, a Rottweiler, wasn't used to quiet life at home and seemed to prefer the much more gratifying job of conducting building searches like he had done back in Toronto. In conjunction with Bally's restlessness, Gardiner also began to see a need for a unique K9 search and rescue team in the Milwaukee area that was able to assist local law enforcement in missing person searches. After realizing this need and recognizing total retirement wasn't quite for them, Gardiner, his wife Lynn and Bally founded People and Paws Search and Rescue, a non-profit organization providing assistance in locating missing persons throughout the Midwest.

"When we started People and Paws it was definitely because we have a love of dogs, but part of it was also Geoff being able to use his expertise and being able to utilize that in the public," Lynn explains. "Being able to help out in the community is also very enjoyable and rewarding."

Though Bally has since passed away, the Gardiner's now utilize five more search and rescue dogs, as well as a handful of other specially trained volunteers and dogs. Each of the Gardiner's dogs is trained in specific disciplines of search

and rescue. Tasha, the only bloodhound on the team, is a specialized trailing dog most often used by Lynn in missing person searches. Gretzky, a Belgian malinois, specializes in air scent and disaster assistance with Geoff, while Samo, also a Rottweiler, specializes in tracking and cadaver searches. Doolin, another Belgian Malinois, and Skye, a Border collie, are currently puppies in training.

Members of People and Paws train for a wide variety of search and rescue situations including missing children searches, missing hunter searches, Alzheimer's patients that have wandered off, structural collapses and natural disasters. In most cases, Lynn explains, the team works within a two-hour radius of Milwaukee, but there are some exceptions. Recently, for instance, the team was deployed on a missing person case in LaCrosse, as well as to the disaster zone in Louisiana immediately following Hurricane Katrina.

All human and canine members of People and Paws are trained to National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) standards. Even before they begin training with the dogs, the human members of the team are trained to NASAR standards, Geoff explains. This allows handlers to gain knowledge in specific disciplines and learn how to better handle and assist the dogs in searches. Currently People and Paws is certified in such disciplines as air scent, disaster assistance, trailing and tracking and human remains search and recovery. All members of the team generously donate their time while working full-time jobs outside of search and rescue, adds Lynn. Lynn herself is a full-time dental hygienist, while Geoff works as a full-time technical



consultant. Other members of the team include those who work in law enforcement, veterinary medicine, mechanics, general medicine, emergency services and more.

Though much of their work revolves around the "paws" side of the business, when the team was deployed to Louisiana by the Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Association after Hurricane Katrina, it was only the human members of the team that went. "It just wasn't a situation where we needed to take the dogs and was more of a water rescue effort," says Geoff.

A few days after the hurricane struck, six members of the team headed to the disaster zone with two boats donated by Bombardier Recreational Products of Racine with the help of Rick Malle, whom the team "adopted" for the mission.

"When we left, we were self-sufficient for one week with enough food, water and supplies, but we really had no idea what we were in for," Geoff explains. Once arriving down South, the team set up camp at a Baton Rouge church and spent much of their time working to rescue stranded individuals near the Superdome, Tulane Hospital, subdivisions in Metairie and St. Bernard's Parish. Though he admits he has seen many difficult situations in his experience working in law enforcement, Geoff says he wasn't prepared for the devastation brought on by the hurricane.

"The scope of the disaster was unbelievable and hard to comprehend, there was water everywhere. 9-11 was a huge tragedy in terms of the amount of lives lost, but this was a tragedy on a different scale, the size was just unbelievable."



Though his experience helping Katrina victims was challenging and grueling, Geoff says it was also something he'll never forget. "It was very rewarding to go down there and be able to utilize our skills and help people in the process."

While in Louisiana, members of People and Paws Search and Rescue assisted in saving the lives of 202 people, 7 dogs and two cats.

For more information on People and Paws Search and Rescue go to www.peopleandpaws.org.

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



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Amy Ammen is director of Amiable Dog Training and is the author of five books. Amy has been helping dogs and owners overcome special concerns since 1975. In the 80s and 90s Amy, along with her American Staffordshire Terrier CH and OTCH Shaker, successfully lobbied local municipalities NOT to adopt breed specific laws.

Join us on Sunday, January 22nd as Petlicious and Amiable Dog Training sponsor a seminar on Aggression in Dogs. Amy Ammen, owner of Amiable Dog Training, will continue the topics discussed in her article in the Nov/Dec issue and offer insights and suggestions that you can use immediately.

Date: January 22, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Location: Petlicious Dog Bakery, 2217 Silvernail Road, Pewaukee

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Quick riddle.....What can go 0-45 mph within seconds, yet lay on the couch for hours and hours without moving a muscle? If you're thinking your teenage son, close, but we're talking about Greyhounds -- and plenty of them.

Two months ago, Geneva Lakes Race Track in Wisconsin ran its final race. Close to 1,000 greyhounds called this track home but are now in need of a new home, one with soft couches, warm beds, and the occasional stuffed bear. Look around your home. Can you picture a greyhound sprawled across the living room floor? If not, read on to learn more about these gentle, sometimes goofy canines.

When you see a greyhound on a walk in your neighborhood, do you sometimes wonder how the owner can manage to keep up with such a high-performance dog? Or where they find room in their home for such a large animal...in many cases, more than one? These are very valid questions, but easily answered by greyhound owners. As a greyhound owner myself, I can provide a personal account of living with these gentle giants. First of all, a retired greyhound is just that, retired. Except for the occasional lure coursing race or sporting event, these guys don't require daily runs. A nice fenced-in back yard or a walk around the block a few times a week is sufficient. And if it's been a while in-between walks, don't worry, they'll let you know.

Second, they can make their presence known in a small house, but unlike other dogs that can make the kitchen floor their bed, greyhounds will most likely seek out softer bedding, such as your couch, bed, or their crate. And yes, if you'd like to keep the greyhound off your furniture or bed, they can be trained to do just that.....but their soulful eyes may make you break your rules every once and a while.

If your ideal family pet wears a short coat, sheds minimally, smells unlike that



of a dog, and barks infrequently, the greyhound may be your ideal match. With hundreds of retired greyhounds still available through organizations listed below, please seriously consider how you can open up your heart, home, and wallet to make sure every dog has a soft bed to sleep in at night.

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Mounds Pet Food in Madison
PetCo in Kenosha (9:00a.m. - 11:00p.m.)

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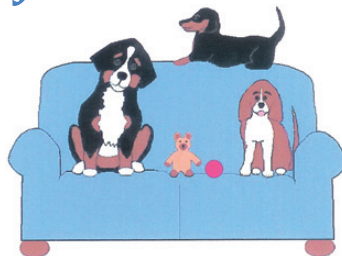
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BARKING

Book Review

Stinky warms the heart

You might have seen the author of this first book to be reviewed in Fetch Magazine in a local bookstore or even a school classroom. Do you remember a woman with red hair walking a white and brown bulldog? Was his name Stinky? I have to admit, when I first picked up Stinky the Bulldog I wondered about his name and what adventures he was going to get himself into.

In her self-published book, Wauwatosa resident Jackie Valent has Stinky trying to make some friends with kids in a new neighborhood. As you can imagine, he runs into some problems due to his name and returns home to discover why he is named Stinky. Back on the street with renewed confidence from "mom" he goes in search of a true friend.

While reading this book, you might also notice how "human-like" Stinky is: he sleeps in a bed, walks down the street without his owner (or leash) and even talks to children in the neighborhood.

"It's because the real Stinky has many human qualities," replies Valent. "I wanted him to be part of the book since it was born out of my experiences when I first got him."



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Bartz Photography, Copyright 2006.

The book appeals to children from 2 to 10 years old, but is written at such a level that an adult needs to read it to them or at least give assistance. "That was very deliberate," says Valent. She wanted adults to be reminded of the age-old lesson that their children are learning: you can't judge someone by a name, physical appearance, etc. Other positive lessons hidden in the story are: always look for the good in a situation and true friends don't judge people.

Before Stinky Was a Book

"When I first got Stinky, named for my father who died four days before Stinky

was born," says Valent, "people would say, 'oh you got a dog. What's his name?' I'd say 'Stinky' and they'd say, 'oh, what a horrible name.'

This experience reminded Valent, an HR professional who is active in young professionals of Milwaukee and does a lot with diversity, how judgmental people can be based on external factors. That coupled with the fact that the real-life Stinky is just the opposite, very unconditional in his love of people, made her decide to write about her experience. And she's received some very wagging reviews.

"After a reading at a classroom in Brown Deer, the teacher handed me a big envelope full of letters and pictures from the kids for Stinky," says Valent.

She often visits classrooms with Stinky for a reading of the book, questions and answers and then a visit with the dog star. At Shorewood, Valent was told Stinky was the subject of one student's book report.

"All those experiences have been the best," adds Valent. "Going to schools, seeing the reaction - it's been amazing."

What's next for Stinky and Valent, well, a website is in the works at www.stinkythebulldog.com with merchandise, countries where the book has been distributed and much more. Valent also has two other books in mind to continue the series, but until she finds a publisher, she is more than happy to continue working full-time in HR, which she loves and of course spending time with Stinky, helping him make lots of new friends at schools and book signings.

Other Barking Book Reviews to follow in the coming months. Thanks for reading.

Emily Reformat has written about and loved dogs all her life. As a child, she read her stories to Aurora, a protective standard Schnauzer. Now, Reformat writes for a living, reading her articles to her husband, two cats, and Siberian Husky/Collie mix named Maya.

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- Will he be OK?
- Will he be too nervous to eat?
- Did I bring the right toys?
- Will his blanket get ruined?
- How will he react when he doesn't get his walk around the block?
- Will he ever forgive me?

As dog enthusiasts make more and more of an investment (emotionally and financially) in their pets, professional pet sitters have become a bigger option for many who want to give their canines more personal attention - and give themselves more peace of mind - when leaving their animal behind.

There are great advantages for both you and Fido when you hire a professional dog sitter for that three-day weekend or trip to Aruba.

For instance:

- Your dog will stay in a familiar setting with the sights, sounds, and smells it has grown accustomed to.
- Your dog won't be traumatized by the travel to the kennel or the stay at the kennel.
- Your dog will receive an abundance of personal attention and love.
- Your dog's diet and exercise routines will stay intact.
- Your dog won't be exposed to other dogs - perhaps carrying illness or aggressions.
- You won't be imposing on a neighbor or friend to provide dog-care.
- Your home has another layer of security against possible intruders looking for opportunity.

When you're choosing a babysitter for your own child or a caregiver for a dear relative, there are important questions to ask and factors to consider. The same approach holds true for your four-legged family member.

For instance:

- Can the professional sitter provide references?
- Does the sitter have experience with your breed?
- What, if any, training or breeding experience does the sitter bring?
- Does the sitter belong to any associations? Have they been certified by the association?
- What specific services does the sitter offer?
- What expectations does the sitter have in your household?
- Is the sitter bonded and insured for liability?
- How is the service structured?
- What services are "basic" and which are "extra"?
- How much time and attention will be paid to your pet?
- What emergency medical/first aid experience does the sitter have?

Once these questions are answered, hopefully you will be able to gauge the sitter's competency and reliability. Naturally, it won't be an easy decision. Like many other decisions in life - choosing the right school, the right daycare center, the right doctor - word of mouth and personal referrals can become the decision maker - or breaker. Be discerning and don't hesitate to ask follow-up questions. Treat this as an interview for an employee you are hiring.

After the selection is made and an agreement has been finalized, there are other considerations to handle before you take off on that cruise or head to the airport for your flight to Europe.

You may need to prepare your house somewhat to make it a bit easier for the professional sitter to find the food, medications, and other items essential to care for your pet. Make sure the supply of food is plentiful to make it through the duration of the trip away. Prepare any notes describing Fido's personality or behavioral tendencies. For instance, he's used to taking a walk after dinner. Make sure he's fed no later than 5:30 p.m. If there's medication in play, clearly write out instructions and details about Fido's medical condition. Any specific instructions to be followed - in terms of dog care or just household maintenance and usage - should be spelled out. Names and phone numbers of your pet's veterinarian, as well as your own personal information, should be readily accessible for the sitter.

There are a few web sites that can assist in finding local professional sitters in your area. www.petsit.com is the home of Pet Sitters International, the world's largest organization for professional pet sitters. The Professional Pet Sitters Association of Wisconsin (www.petwi.com) also has a search directory to help you find someone close. The National Association of Pet Sitters (www.petsitters.org), is another lead to locate a sitter near you.

- continued on page 28



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BREED PROFILE:

The Bulldog

A Tail of Two Bulldogs

We are all familiar with the image of a bulldog, the stocky jowled beast with his menacing snarl and spiked collar driving fear into the neighborhood cartoon cats. Remember Spike from "Tom and Jerry"? How about Marc Anthony from the "Merry Melodies"?

How about if I told you that everything cartoons had to teach you was wrong? Shocking, I know. Did you also know that the classic symbol of British might have an American relative? As is usually the case, to understand both the British and American Bulldog of today, we need to look at the breeds of yesteryear.

Both dogs come from the same ancestor, the Old English Bulldog. He was truly a formidable beast. His first use was as a working dog, designed to catch and restrain escaped livestock. It was also believed that sending the dog after a bull would tenderize the meat before it went to the butcher.

While that's a gruesome thought, that led to the even more abhorred practice of bull baiting. A bull would be tied to a post and the dog would latch on the snout until the animal suffocated, which of course it didn't do willingly. It was a popular attraction in the rural and poor areas as both a blood sport and as a means of gambling.

For both of its original duties, the Old English Bulldog's somewhat unusual build was perfectly suited. His nose, which is set back closer to his eyes, allowed him to breathe while latched on to his opponent, his muscular front end that tapers down to a lighter rear prevented injury if a bull lashed about, and his wrinkly face allowed blood to flow away from the eyes and nose. All around, this popular dog was well suited for his duties.

As the British colonized other areas of the world, they took their great working dog with them. In the Americas, it was particularly popular in the south. The



new world settlers used their courageous canines to forge in the new world as hunters, farm help and of course, gaming.

In 1835 England banned bull-baiting, leading to a new life for bulldogs. For the English, they became family companions and were redesigned as the more compact version we know today. In the Americas they were still needed as working dogs and the progression to the modern American Bulldog was underway.

As previously mentioned, the American Bulldog retained its use as a working dog. It started to experience a decline in popularity and by World War II it was almost extinct. Then two men, John Johnson and Allen Scott, traveled the South in an effort to revive the breed.



Each man developed the breed slightly differently. A classic American Bulldog, also known as a Johnson is the heavier and larger of the two with a shorter muzzle. A Standard, the type of Allen Scott, is leaner, lighter and more athletic. Today, most American Bulldogs are a crossover of both and are still used as working dogs, rounding loose cattle and hogs.

The American Bulldogs' features are commonly mistaken for Pit Bulls and Boxers, and like these breeds; their solid build and determined features can mask the family pet that lies within. Over the summer I had the benefit of watching Todd Thurber, a trainer with Amiable Dog Training and owner of Come-Sit, Stay and Play Doggie Daycare in Greenfield, train some Wisconsin kids at the State Fair on how to approach a dog. At his side was his faithful companion, Stanley, his eighteen-month-old classic American Bulldog. Stanley sat patiently as child after child approached him, held out their hand for him to sniff, and then petted him appropriately.



While Todd calls the American Bulldog happy and family friendly, he is quick to comment that they're a headstrong breed that requires a firm hand and someone committed to training. They can be a bit standoffish to strangers as well, he said, so they need good socialization when they're young."

The English Bulldog also has a bit of a deceptive reputation. Their tenacity has made them a symbol of strength. Their

image is the mascot for Georgetown University, Mack Trucks and the United States Marine Corp. But breeder Clarice Mish sees her two dogs, Freedom and Liberty, a bit differently. "They're such people dogs, they just want to be with you."

Due to their body type English Bulldogs are more prone to health problems than their American cousins. Respiratory problems headline the concerns and Clarice warns potential owners the risks stressful activities and hot weather can have to their snubby-nosed companions. The unusual body type also requires that puppies be created by artificial insemination and born by cesarean section. Other common problems can include cherry eye, hip problems, interdigital cysts, cataracts and if care is not taken to keep their hind end clean, they can wind up with sores around their screw-like tails.

Both Clarice and Todd stress the need for responsible breeding, to prevent the onset of medical conditions and maintain temperament. Although it wasn't recognized as a breed until 1999, The American Bulldog has seen a rise in popularity. While he was the face of some of the Little Rascal's "Petey's" and most recently Chance from Disney's Homeward Bound, the fear isn't just the over breeding that befalls a popular breed after a hit movie, but with the banning of pit bulls in some areas, the stocky and similar build of the American Bulldog might make him a good substitute for some less than well intentioned dog owners.

Whether your preference is English or American, a bulldog owner is a committed owner. They are determined to show the world the true nature of their canine companions and be ambassadors for the breed they love. To learn more about the breeds online visit bulldogsworld.com, Americanbulldogrescue.com or contact a local breed club in your area.

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

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HERDING



You decided on a breed, picked out your puppy, and brought him home. Now he is older and all he wants to do is herd the kids, other dogs, and everything in sight. No doubt the herding instinct of his ancestors is stirring. Many breeds in the past were used for herding sheep or driving cattle to market. In some breeds, this instinct is still very strong and in others not as much. Herding interest can vary also within individuals.

The American Kennel Club divided breeds of dogs into seven groups according to their "jobs." The Herding Group consists of 18 breeds: Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Shepherd, Bearded Collie, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdog, Belgian Tervuren, Border Collie, Bouvier des Flandres, Briard, Cannan Dog, Collie (Rough/Smooth), German Shepherd, Old English Sheepdog,

Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Puli, Shetland Sheepdog, Welsh Corgi (Cardigan), and Welsh Corgi (Pembroke).

At first the only performance events AKC sponsored were obedience and tracking. When herding events were developed, interest from owners to participate in these events with their dogs grew. Today, herding trials are held all over the country by a number of organizations: AKC,

AHBA (American Herding Breed Assoc.), ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America), and USBCHA (United States Border Collie Handlers Assoc.). AKC allows dogs from the Herding Group to participate, plus Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Standard & Giant schnauzers, Pyrenean shepherds, Swedish vallhunds, Norwegian bahunds, and the Greater Swiss mountain dogs. AHBA accepts more breeds and mixes. ASCA, though mainly for Australian shepherds and USBCHA, though mainly for Border collies, will also accept other breeds and mixes.

What is Herding

As stated in the AKC Herding Regulations, "the purpose of noncompet-

itive herding tests is to offer herding breed owners a standardized gauge by which a dog's basic instinct and trainability are measured. The purpose of the competitive herding trial program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred. Although herding trials are artificial simulations of pastoral or farm situations, they are standardized tests to ensure and develop the characteristics of the herding breeds." A good handler and dog will be able to move sheep or other livestock calmly and without undue stress from one area to another or through a competition course. There are smaller arena trials and large, open field trials plus different classes beginning with basic test levels to the advanced trial levels.



How to Get Started in Herding

Some really interested people will find an instructor and get sheep of their own, but others just want to see if their dog has instinct and will attend a Herding Instinct Clinic. At a Clinic, a Tester will give a demonstration with their own dog and explain about herding and what she would like to see your dog do. The Tester will take each dog on leash in a small arena with three, dog-broke sheep. She will help introduce the dog to the sheep, while letting the dog see that the sheep will move away from him. Once the dog shows confidence and interest, the line is dropped so the dog can start working on his own. The Tester knows how to help the dog make the right moves in a very basic way so he is successful. Some dogs want their owner in with them and the owner then has a "sheep party", staying

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with the sheep making happy noises to interest the dog. A lot of the time that is all it takes, but sometimes a dog is just not interested or confident enough.

Twice a year (June and November) there is instinct testing in Genoa City, WI (9 miles south of Lake Geneva). If the dog shows enough instinct, the owner will receive an unofficial Herding Instinct Certificate (HIC). Dogs can also be videotaped so owners can watch their dog over and over again. It is a fun-filled and enjoyable day. This past June, 74 dogs representing 12 breeds were tested. For more information you can email dotjuschmidt@aol.com with your name and address to receive a premium list with all the information and directions. As they say in herding language... "That'll do".

Dorothy Schmidt lives with her husband in Menomonee Falls, belongs to Milwaukee Dog Training Club, and participates in herding and tracking with her Border collie and Rough collie.

Shannon Wolfe has Border collies and gives herding lessons plus sponsors Herding Instinct Clinics and AKC and AHBA herding events in Genoa City.



Based on Sandie's upbeat and sweet personality, one could never tell this 10-week-old Siamese kitten is missing her left front leg. This calm and affectionate kitty is seeking a guardian who understands her special health care needs. Come and visit this gem at the Wisconsin Humane Society!

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Red is a 1½ year old male tri-color Beagle. He loves tennis balls and is very playful. Like most Beagles, he'd make a great family dog with a little basic obedience training. He is already neutered and micro-chipped making him ready for a new home.

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**New drawings for fun prizes to be held each month. All current subscribers are
automatically entered for each drawing.*

Event Calendar

January 2006

2 Monday

What: Freestyle Dance Class
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:30 p.m. (Eight week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

5 Thursday

What: New Carting Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:30 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

6 Friday

What: RallyO Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

7 Saturday

What: AKC Licensed Rally & Obedience Trials
Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club, Ixonia
When: Saturday & Sunday
Info: Tracey Johnston, crzy1ess@execpc.com

What: New Flyball Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 1:00 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

8 Sunday

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

9 Monday

What: Start of Puppy Class
Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club, Ixonia
When: 7:00 p.m.
Info: 920-206-9334, 877-706-9334, www.seespotsit.com

12 Thursday

What: Beginning of Life Skills for Puppies (Basic Manners, Temperament & Socialization)
When: Thursdays @ 6:15 p.m. for 8 weekly sessions
Where: Kindness Canine Behavior Consultants
105 W Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc WI
Info: 262-569-1050, info@kindnessk9.com

13 Friday

What: Obedience Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m. (Utility & Novice), 7:30 p.m. (Open)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

14 Saturday

What: Pamper your Pooch with a Canine Massage
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Canine Physical Fitness & Rehabilitation
Chiropractic care by Dr. Fife available after seminar.
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

15 Sunday

What: UKC Agility Run Thru Fun Day
Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club, Ixonia
Info: 920-206-9334, 877-706-9334, www.seespotsit.com

18 Wednesday

What: Small Dogs, Big Potential!
Class for toy/small dogs.
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 6:00 p.m. (fee only \$50 for 4 lessons)
Info: Register at 414-294-2716

What: Dog Behavior Seminar
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society, Brookfield
When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Info: 262-782-9261, www.ebhs.org

20 Friday

What: AKC Agility Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

21 Saturday

What: Adult Volunteer Open House
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society, Brookfield
When: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-782-9261, www.ebhs.org

22 Sunday

What: Dog Aggression Seminar
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
Cost: only \$25.00 (reservations required)
When: 10:00 a.m. - noon
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Basset Buddies Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: noon - 2:00 p.m.
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Golden Retriever Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: noon - 2:00 p.m.
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Bark River Dog Club UKC Agility Trial
Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club, Ixonia
Info: 920-206-9334, 877-706-9334, www.seespotsit.com

26 Thursday

What: "Take A Talk on the Wild Side" w/
Carol Schultz, Animal Communicator
When: 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Where: Kindness Canine Behavior Consultants

105 W Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc WI
Info: 262-569-1050, info@kindnessk9.com

27 Friday

What: Animal Communication w/ Carol Schultz
When: 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Yappy Hour

Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (FREE)
Info: 414-289-7785

What: Obedience Run Thrus

Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club, Ixonia
When: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Info: 920-206-9334, 877-706-9334, www.seespotsit.com

What: Fun & Games Night

Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:00 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

29 Sunday

What: Dog Wash Fundraiser for Elmbrook H.S.
Where: Petlicious Pet Spa, Pewaukee
Cost: only \$8 to \$17.00 (depending on size of dog)
When: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

Every Thursday

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

Every Saturday

What: Puppy Parties
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Downtown
When: Noon (Starting Oct. 1st)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

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

Every Sunday

What: Puppy Social
Where: Best Paw Forward Dog Training
When: 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.
Info: 262-369-3935

What: Puppy Parties

Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 12:45 p.m. (except holiday weekends)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

Who: "Your Family Pet" with Amy Ammen

Where: WRRD 540AM The Word
What: Radio Show 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Info: Hear expert interviews and pet-related news.

The information for the Event Calendar is provided to Fetch Magazine by many sources and is accurate at the time of printing. We encourage you to call ahead to confirm event details.

Do you have a dog-friendly event that needs to be listed? We'll be happy to add it to our Event Calendar. Send us an email at info@fetchmag.com with the following details: What, When, Where, and Contact Info.

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airedale@frontiernet.net
www.aire-rescue.com

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 262-363-0557
heavenlyrescue@lycros.com
www.hhr.petfinder.com

American Water Spaniel

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

Basset Hound

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

Beagle

BrewBeagle Rescue
midwest@brewbeagles.org
www.brewbeagles.org

Boston Terrier

Boston Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin
 Jodi LeMoine
jlemoire@new.rr.com

Boxer

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

Cocker Spaniel

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

Elaine Baumann
 Shorewood Cocker Rescue
 262-877-3294
www.cockerrescue.net
elaine@cockerrescue

Collie

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

Dachshund

Badger Dachshund Club
 414-299-9609

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

Dalmatian

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

Save Our Spots Dalmatian Rescue, Inc
 Lori Holz
 414-365-2679
sosdalrescue@core.com
www.sosdalrescue.com

Doberman Pinscher

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

German Shepherd

Jo Aschauer
 German Shepherd Rescue Alliance of WI
 414-461-9720
yur_rltr@execpc.com or gsdrsq@hotmail.com
www.gsraw.com

Karen Frank
 Good Shepherd K-9 Rescue
 608-868-2050
gshepherd@gsk9r.org
www.gsk9r.org
ccow@ticon.net

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

German Shorthaired Pointer

Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, Inc.
 414-327-5102 or 414-614-5102
lisa_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com
<http://www.wgspr.com>
<http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/WI214.html>

Glen of Imaal Terrier

Milwaukee, WI
lakerun@execpc.com

Golden Retriever

Michelle Demarest
 GRRoW (Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin)
 (888)655-4753
president@grrow.org
www.GRRoW.org

WAAGR (WI Adopt a Golden Retriever)
 414-517-7725
www.waagr.org
president@waagr.org

Greyhound

Greyhounds Only Inc., Adoption & Rescue
 262-542-0331 or 773-297-GREY (4739)
goinc@aol.com
www.greyhoundsonly.com

Greyhound Pets of America - WI
 414-299-9473
www.gpawisconsin.org

Herding

Southeastern Wisconsin Herding Dog Rescue
 Chris Tresch 262-554-2048
rescue@wiherdingrescue.com
www.wiherdingrescue.com

Irish Setter

Irish Setter Club of Milwaukee
 Margie Hohman
 920-734-6734
muttsgo@aol.com

Italian Greyhounds

Carol Sumbry
 star279@juno.com
www.midwestigrescue.com

Labrador

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

Maltese

Northcentral Maltese Rescue Inc.
 Mary Palmer
 262-633-9371
malteserescue@hotmail.com
www.malteserescuehomestead.com

Mixed Breed

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

Neapolitan Mastiff

Heather Weglarz - WI Volunteer
www.neo rescue.net
mhweglarz@msn.com

Poodle

Maris J. Doege
 920-625-3709
poodleclubofamerica.org
mj.doege@verizon.net

Pug

NIPRA (Northern IL Pug Rescue & Adopt.)
tmymers@pugrescue.org
www.pugrescue.org

Rat Terrier

Wisconsin Rat Terrier Rescue INC.
 Betsy & George Gorham
 608-697-7274
wrtr@bigfoot.com

Rottweiler

Wisconsin Rottweiler Rescue
 Joan Sweeney
 608-224-0272
www.wirottrescue.org

Saint Bernard

Tamara Janowski
 AllSaints rescue
 414-761-6305
allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net
www.allsaintsrescue.com

Scottish Terrier

Melanie Battson
 Door County Scottie Rally Inc.
 920-969-9497
dcsr-rescue@new.rr.com

Shih Tzu

Fuzzy Pawz Shih Tzu Rescue of WI Inc.
shihtzuwi@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/shihtzuwi/ or
www.geocities.com/slhokp/
 501c3 non-profit

Westie

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.
 920-882-0382
westies@edsboats.com
www.petfinder.com/wiwestierescue

Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin
 Patricia A. Moon
 414-747-0879
shyorkiemom@yahoo.com
 Judi Iding
 414-383-2779
judi2000@yahoo.com

Reputable Rescues Rally 'Round Rover

Imagine this if you will: a purebred Poodle named Cajun spending his days amongst the Dobermans of the Illinois Doberman Rescue. Animal Control had contacted the group when the shelters in the area had become full. Cajun spent his days with the Dobermans and his nights at a volunteer's home. The rescue took great effort to care for Cajun until he was connected with his eventual adopter, J.C. Heinz. This is an example of an experienced, gracious rescue group.

Jennifer Chamblee had a mixed experience with a rescue when adopting her beagle/hound mix. The day that her family signed the papers to adopt Chloe, the dog "had lots of energy, was very affectionate and looked healthy." A few days later when Chamblee picked her up, Chloe was "extremely lethargic, much thinner, and looked sick." The signed contract bound the Chamblee's to the adoption. They immediately took Chloe to the vet where she was diagnosed with Parvovirus. (Today, after aggressive treatment and a "few scary days," Chloe is a loved, healthy 40-pound six month old.) This is an example of a poorly run rescue group focusing solely on profit.

A dog rescue can be loosely defined as a group of volunteers that focus on temporarily caring for dogs until a good permanent home can be found. Rescue groups may focus on specific breeds or mixes. The group typically operates as a 501c3 public charity or as a not-for-profit group. Volunteers usually foster dogs in their own homes. Potential adopters go through an application process and are screened to ensure a good match between dog and family.

Some of the things a reputable rescue organization should do include:

- Providing veterinary care prior to adoption.
- Spending adequate time with the animal, resulting in the ability to provide a history on the dog's behavior and temperament.
- Spaying/neutering the animal prior to adoption or requiring proof of spaying/neutering shortly after adoption.
- Performing a home visit and checking the adopting family's references.
- Considering the dog's best interests when making a placement.

Members of the Wisconsin Dog and Pet Rescue list created an outline of what makes a reputable rescue because Wisconsin and

neighboring states had "been plagued recently with a lot of people passing themselves off as 'rescues' when they do little more than search for 'free to a good home' ads, and then sell those dogs as rescued." according to Angela Iannone of Badgerland German Shepherd Rescue and ARF German Shepherd Rescue. The comprehensive outline, found at www.widogrescue.com, lists many guidelines for potential adopters and rescuers.

The rescue organizations and adoptive families that contributed to this article echoed many of the items on the list. Mary Beck and Diane Streck, volunteers for the Labrador Education and Rescue Network (L.E.A.R.N.) said rescues should conduct temperament assessments and foster homes should "observe and note any strengths and weaknesses of the dog while in their care." Additionally, Beck and Streck state that if a rescue is a 501c3 non-profit organization, it has legal responsibilities such as having a Board of Directors and keeping detailed financial records.

According to Dave Effinger, a practice that works for Wisconsin Adopt a Golden Retriever (WAAGR) is that the foster home and the rescue members who visit the potential adopter's home are the decision-makers on the dog's "forever home." Additionally, within WAAGR, there are six Rotating Foster Coordinators. This person acts as a sounding board, advisor and sometimes a mentor to the foster home.

Good rescues should match dogs to a home that best meets the dog's needs. After adopting now-seven-year-old Trixie from the Shorewood Cocker Rescue, Darlene Harbick said, "Shorewood takes great care to adopt out their dogs only to families that are a good fit for the dog." Trixie was a breeder at a puppy mill who had not received any socialization prior to rescue. Harbick said, "Trixie was right for us because we are quiet and don't have any children. She could get to know us without the extra stress of a too-loud or too-active household."

Some of the things that potential adopters can do include asking rescues about their not-for-profit status, any temperament assessment conducted, and veterinary care and experiences at the foster home. After adoption, the families should definitely provide the rescue with updates. J.C. Heinz updates the Doberman rescue on how Cajun is doing by sending letters and pictures. "That means a lot to them and inspires them to keep doing what they are doing."

A good rescue organization benefits both dogs and humans. Karole Dachelet has used rescue groups to adopt pets her whole life. Dachelet said, "There is no better feeling in the world than when your dog can sleep comfortably on the foot of the bed and know that this is their home for the rest of their days. When you have gained their trust and unconditional love, it is a very special feeling that just makes you feel good."

When you feel the time is right to welcome a new four-legged member into your family, please place rescue groups high on your list of possible sources. Not only will you receive a canine companion that has been nurtured in a loving foster home, but you'll also be provided with a wealth of knowledge and support from an organized group of volunteers that are experts on their chosen breeds.

Sadly, among the hundreds of reputable, dog-loving rescue groups, a few profit-hungry individuals can take the joy out of bringing home a new pet. Please use the resources provided within this article to properly screen your rescue group. Remember, reputable groups painstakingly make sure the dogs they place are with the best-matched families. They are eager and willing to answer any questions you may have.

Labrador Education & Rescue Network (L.E.A.R.N.) www.labadoption.org

WI Adopt a Golden Retriever (WAAGR) www.waagr.org

Wisconsin Dog Rescue www.widogrescue.com

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.

S A r o u n d T o w n



Hooligan

Ingrid, Milwaukee



Darby

Patrick, Milwaukee



Morgan

Jennifer, Greenfield



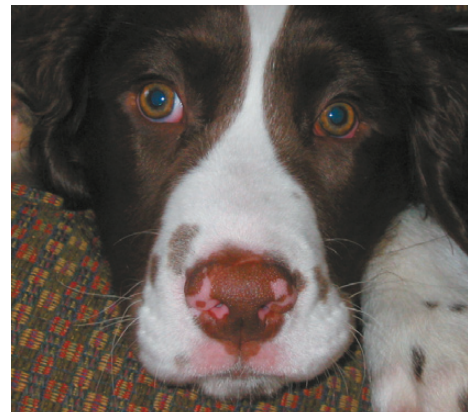
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Chris, Milwaukee



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continued from page 19

Surrounding this article are Pet Sitters that cover various cities throughout southeast Wisconsin. Each of them is available to discuss your specific pet sitting needs and to be a resource for when your long, overdue trip draws near. Feel free to give them a call today.

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

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Skijor!

When I say skijoring what do you think of? Do you imagine fluffy white trails of snow on a crisp winter day? How about a skier dashing through the snow pulled by his harnessed dogs through the Wisconsin tundra? Probably not. If you're like most people, you think "ski-what?"

Skijoring is sort of a hybrid between cross country skiing and dog sledding. It originated in Scandinavia and has been rising in popularity here in the states. One or more dogs are attached to a skier with a harness and line; the dogs then pull the skier, and away they go.

Starting skijoring only requires a few basic investments. A harness that fits your dog comfortably, a tugline to attach to the harness, and a specially designed belt to connect to the line. Online sites and some local sport stores will offer packages that include all three of these items. For those without your own set of skis, you'll need to get those too, but avoid any with metal edging to prevent possible injuries. As you progress, a set of ski poles can come in handy too.

Obviously the most important aspect to this, which absolutely can't be overlooked, is your dog. Yes, your dog that's curled on the couch right now, can skijor. That's the beauty of the sport. Tracking has its scent hounds and racing has its sight hounds, but skijoring is open to all hounds, or any other breed. The only requirement is that he should be over 35 pounds, as it's hard to imagine being pulled gracefully through the snow by a herd of Yorkshire Terriers.

Of course, just buying the equipment and dragging your pooch out of your spot on the couch will not make a sled dog. There is some training required for both canine and human alike. Knowing how to ski is a requirement. But don't think you need to venture off the bunny hills; just not falling frequently helps prevent injury and frustration for both dog and owner. Both you and your dog should be ready to start an athletic activity. Pulling, running, and skiing can all be pretty intense; injury, exhaustion, overheating, and numerous other medical maladies can befall anyone who launches

in without properly getting in the right physical condition.

Teaching your dog to pull might seem like an easy task, especially for any dog owners that have been walked by their dog on a jaunt through the park, particularly if there are rabbits about. Using that natural instinct, have someone or something, like a toy, that your dog can chase while pulling. If possible, try find someone who currently skijors and ask if you can hook your dog up with theirs. Being pack animals, dogs receive strength, stamina, and education from others.

You don't have to wait for winter to start practicing with your pup. Hook up the belt and harness and go for a jog. Start using the correct commands. Say "gee" when you want him to turn right or "haw" when it's time to go left. "Whoa" lets him know when it's time to stop and "hike" will get him moving again. If you're working a specific command, try to find a route that encourages the right behavior. For instance, if you're teaching the "gee" command, try a trail that has a lot of right turns. Whenever he gets it correct, praise him immediately. As you both progress you could learn more complicated lingo, such as "line out" to tighten the tugline, or "on by" to pass without slowing, but remember he didn't learn to sit up before he could sit.

While most opt to remain a recreational skijorer, there is more diversity. Some prefer to race for speed. With up to three dogs and special light skis, sprint racers can average 20 miles an hour during a race. For those with stamina, distance racing is appealing as they head out facing at least a twenty-mile race. Backwoods skijorers retreat to nature and enjoy the wild trails of the great outdoors, some opting for overnight camping excursions.

Whatever your pleasure, always keep in mind that that's the main goal, pleasure. This is about bonding with your dog, human and dog working together. Keep it relaxed and fun for both of you. Praise often and use common sense to prevent injury. If your dog is overworked or run into with skis, not only can it hurt him physically, but also his enjoyment and trust in the sport could be forever marred.

To learn more about how you and your dog can start to skijor, check Internet sites and libraries for more information. If there's not a local group or club in your area, contact one in a different state, or try a different type of sledding or mushing group. They might know someone in your area that participates in their events. We have a long winter ahead in Wisconsin, instead of hiding in the house, go out and enjoy, just make sure it's with your favorite furry friend.

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



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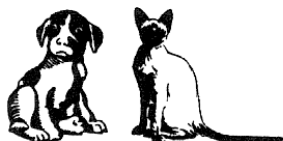
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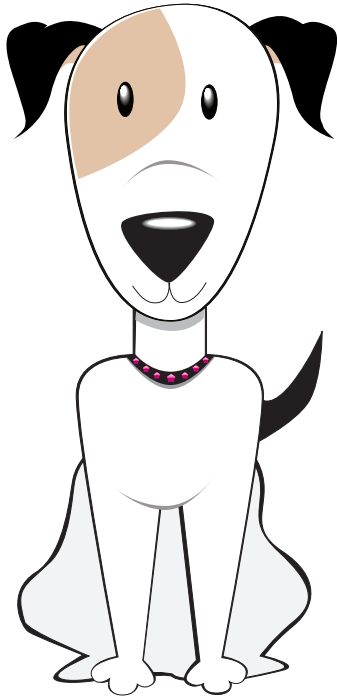
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