



Fetch magazine

January 2007 | Volume 4 Issue 1

The Chihuahua
Teaching Recall
Treating Ear Infections
Preventing and Treating Fleas
Preparing Fido for Baby's Arrival





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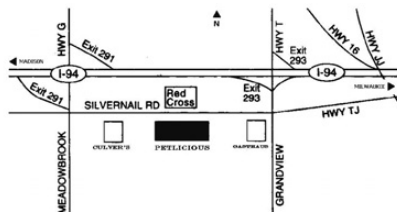
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Publisher's Letter

The New Year is upon us. If Christmas brought a new four-legged family member into your home, are you ready? The commitment to raising a new family pet is tremendous. We hope the information provided within this magazine helps answer many of your questions or guides you in the right direction. There are many businesses scattered throughout these pages that are eager to offer assistance - trainers, groomers, and veterinarians will teach you the basics of understanding the canine world. Pet boutique and supply stores will share their knowledge of proper food and treats, plus show you the many ways to pamper your new pooch.

If this New Year will bring a new baby into the home, don't miss Jamie Klinger-Krebs' personal life experience with introducing a new baby into a canine's world on page 11. There are numerous tips and suggestions to make the arrival smooth and stress free.

We wish you a Happy New Year and encourage you to make a resolution to spend more time with your canine companions. We also hope you'll choose at least one local breed rescue group or Humane Society to support with your time or financial contributions in 2007.

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Publisher
Joseph Kojis

Design and Production
Jennifer Kojis

Contributing Writers
Jaime Klinger-Krebs
Emily Refermat
Jean Scherwenka
Anne Skaradzinski
Keri Weyenberg

Training Bits
Johanna Ammentorp
K9 Obedience Training Club of Menomonee Falls

Ask the Vet
The American Animal Hospital Association

The Legal Beagle
Megan Senatori
DeWitt, Ross & Stevens, S.C.

Hair of the Dog
Helena Buettner
Madra Pet Styling

Contributing Photographer
Stephanie Bartz
stephaniebartz photography

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Ask the VET

Question: My dog recently started shaking his head and scratching at his ears. Could this signal an ear infection, and if so, what are my treatment options?

Answer: Ear infections are very common in dogs. Two types are most often seen: otitis externa, infection of the external ear canal, and otitis media, infection of the middle ear. Although any dog can get an ear infection, some breeds appear to be more prone than others. Dogs with pendulous ears, like Cocker Spaniels and Basset Hounds, or dogs with hairy inner ear flaps, like Miniature Poodles and Schnauzers, tend to have a higher occurrence of ear infections.

Most ear infections are easily and successfully treated. But if left untreated, they could result in serious damage.

Causes

Bacteria or yeast are most often the culprits of otitis externa. Other causes include an accumulation of wax, thick or matted hair in the ear canal, debris, a foreign body, a tumor or impaired drainage of the ear. Sometimes, infections of the external ear canal are a secondary result of some other bodily infection or ear mite infestation.

Otitis media usually results from the spread of infection from the external ear canal to the middle ear. Also, foreign bodies, debris, ulceration or improper ear cleaning can rupture the eardrum and allow infection to reach the middle ear.

Symptoms

Ear infections are very uncomfortable for your pet. Your dog will show his discomfort by shaking his head or scratching at his ears. Often, the ears will become red and inflamed with an offensive odor and perhaps a black or yellowish discharge. If your pet tilts his head constantly, it could be a sign of a middle ear infection.



Diagnosis and Treatment

Because many different culprits can be the cause of your pet's ear infection, it is important to have your dog examined by a veterinarian, who can then determine the proper medication or treatment. Your veterinarian will also make sure the eardrum is intact, as some medications can result in hearing loss if administered to a pet with a ruptured eardrum.

What is involved in an ear exam? Your veterinarian will use an otoscope - an instrument that provides light and magnification - to view the ear canal. He or she will determine whether or not the eardrum is intact and if any foreign material is present. If this is very painful to the pet, sedation or anesthesia may be necessary to complete the exam.

Next, your veterinarian will take a sample of the material in the canal and examine it under a microscope. This is called cytology, and allows the doctor to determine the organism causing the infection. If more than one organism are culprits, multiple medications or a broad-spectrum medication is necessary.

If your veterinarian finds a foreign body, a tick or a very heavy buildup of debris, sedation will likely be required to remove the irritant or to allow a thorough cleansing.

A middle ear infection can be more difficult to clear up. Diagnosis and treatment

may include lab tests, X-rays and even surgery. Four to six weeks may pass before the infection disappears, and often during this time you will be told to restrict the activity of your pet.

For both types of infection, you should keep water from entering your pet's ears. Follow-up visits to your veterinarian are very important to make sure treatment is working and the infection has disappeared.

Remember, the longer infection is present, the harder it is to get rid of it. If an ear infection goes untreated, your pet will continue to be in pain. Your pet's head shaking and scratching can cause further problems, such as broken blood vessels that require surgery to correct. Chronic infections can harm the eardrum and close the ear canal. Surgical reconstruction of the ear canal may then become necessary.

Medicating

Treatment prescribed by the doctor usually includes administering medication to and cleaning the ears daily for one to two weeks. Remember, your pet's ears are painful, and Fluffy or Fido might not appreciate what you are about to do, so use caution. Ask your veterinarian for a demonstration on how to treat the ears properly.

Prognosis

Most often, with proper diagnosis and treatment, your pet's ear infection will be cured. However, if ear infections are chronic or recurrent, an underlying problem, such as allergies or thyroid disease, may be the cause.

Prevention

Pet owners can help their pets avoid ear infections by practicing preventative care at home. This is especially important for those animals that have pendulous ears, have lots of hair in their ears, or have allergies or other medical problems that make them prone to ear infections. A weekly ear cleaning with a veterinarian-recommended ear cleansing solution can minimize or prevent infections. Such a cleaning provides other benefits, as well.

"Weekly ear cleanings get the pet owner to really see the ear on a routine basis, allowing him or her to notice any early

- continued on page 20

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When I talk to my 2nd month beginners' class about what their goals are for their canine companion, almost everybody says, (sometimes in desperation), 'I just want him to come when I call him.' What many people don't realize is that they have programmed their dog for a slow and lazy response, or to not respond at all. Before retraining, assess what level you are at with the recall. Do you want a dog that will stop whatever he is doing and run to you immediately? Have you had a plan for what to do if he doesn't come? Do you call him five or six times before he even glances in your direction? Have you consistently used one command such as 'Buddy come!' or have you been exasperated and resorted to screaming 'Get over here right now!' before the dog comes back ten minutes later (after chasing him). Most of all have you put him in situations, such as a Dog Park, where he has been given more freedom than he has earned and the skills are just not there to be successful. More over do you believe it is possible to train your dog to come when called the first time, no matter what is distracting him? Unless you believe in training for a reliable recall in the face of any distraction, you are not going to get one. You will continue to make excuses like 'Buddy's recalls are pretty good, but no one can expect a dog to come when he's chasing a rabbit!' This mindset prohibits effective training and does not correct your dog in these situations.



Plus, he is learning the command 'come' is not always relevant. No trainer is perfect, but my number one rule is that I never call 'Come' to a novice dog when I can't, or don't feel like, enforcing it.

So how do you begin teaching a recall? Just as with most obedience exercises I start in small steps. I wouldn't throw a dumbbell 50 feet and demand a perfect retrieve from a novice dog, just as I would not let him loose in a park and expect him to come back when I call. He must be taught skills so he can make the right decisions in challenging circumstances.

Part one

1. Put your dog on a six-foot leather leash. Have a family member or friend distract your dog. If this second person is using a prop have it be something of lesser value than what you will have as a reward. (For example, if your dog loves balls you have the tennis ball, your friend will distract with a cookie, or perhaps they will have a Charlie Bear, you will have roast beef.)

2. Let the leash out and let him be interested in the other person. When he is distracted call him. One time only. Sound happy!

3. If he should turn his head around to come, immediately praise and turn away encouraging him to come with you. When he gets to you (which will happen quickly on a six-foot leash) reward him with your treat or toy. If he does not respond get right in front of his nose and lure him. When he turns his head to you praise him enthusiastically and present the reward when he gets to you. Remember, don't wait to verbally praise him until he gets to you. This will be an important bridging technique when the distance between you and your dog increases.

4. Repeat this several times and soon you will see that when you call he will spin around to run back to you. Stop using the reward as a lure at this point and present it when he reaches you. You are beginning to condition a response.

5. Eventually change so that you have the low value reward and your helper has the high value. Insist that he respond quickly to your command. When he gives you a fast and enthusiastic response you can even send him back over to get the other reward as well, telling him 'OK, get it!'

Part Two

When you have your dog responding easily on a six foot leash it's time to extend the distance and move outside. I attach a 15 or 20 foot thin nylon cord with a small

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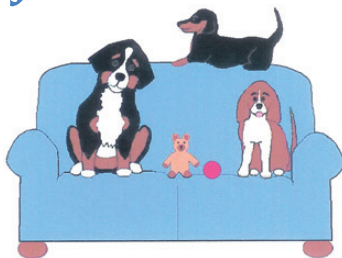
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Bringing Home the *Baby*



Photo of Addy & Dale courtesy of Jaime Klinger-Krebs.

Preparing your dog for a new arrival is almost as important as preparing yourself.

For most new parents with dogs, the dog was "the baby" long before the human version came along. For many dogs it can be a difficult or even traumatic to roll over and play dog when the new arrival comes home. But, the adjustment doesn't always have to be a difficult one. Preparing your dog for the new addition to the family can be just as important as preparing yourself and your home.

Seven years after adopting our Border collie, Dale, my husband and I decided it was time to expand our family to a human child. I knew this would be an adjustment for not only us, but for our two very spoiled cats and Dale. But, I also knew that if we made right preparations we'd all come through this just fine.

All veteran parents know that once a new baby comes into your house, even the most prepared individuals can get thrown off by a chaotic new routine. That's why for those of us "first-timers," making the right preparations for your pet before the baby comes home can help save you a few headaches later when your time (and your sleep) are limited.

To get Dale ready for his new, human sibling I made sure to do lots of reading on what to do to prepare him. As my pregnancy progressed I made sure to involve Dale in such things such as preparing the baby's bedroom. I allowed him to sniff the baby's bedding, toys and clothes. In addition, since Dale is used to daily

walks I also made sure to practice walking with him and a stroller. I admit, this was awkward, especially when your neighbor sees you at eight months pregnant walking an empty stroller with your dog. But trust me, if you can bear the awkwardness, this is an important lesson for you and your dog. Not only are you preparing him, but you're also preparing yourself in how to control him and stroller at the same time.

When our daughter was born, at the recommendation of our doctor and other friends with dogs and babies, my husband brought home some of the receiving blankets our daughter was wrapped in for Dale to sniff before we came home from the hospital. This gave him an idea of what his new sibling would smell like. Then, when we came home we made sure to introduce Dale and the baby cautiously. First, I gave Dale lots of attention before we introduced him to his new sister. Then we held him back gently and allowed him to sniff her while she slept. From that moment on we allowed him to get close to her under our supervision and he quickly learned when he could and couldn't get close to her. Though I have a well-behaved dog, some dogs don't always adjust easily to a new baby in the house. Investing in obedience training for your dog before your baby comes home may

help him learn proper commands and understand when he can or cannot jump on your lap or get close to your child.

Soon-to-be new parents may find the book "What to Expect the First Year," by Heidi Murkoff, Arlene Eisenberg and Sandee Hathaway extremely informative in many ways, but there's also a helpful section on preparing your pets for the new arrival before and after the baby comes home. Here are a few tips from the book (beyond those I've already mentioned) that I found especially helpful:

- Get your dog used to babies right away. Invite friends with babies over to the house, or let the dog (under careful supervision and if the parent is willing) sniff near a baby in the park or be petted by a toddler, so that he can become familiar with the smell of a baby.

- Get your dog used to life with a baby in the house. Use a baby-sized doll as a prop in his training or play a tape of a baby crying.

- Be attentive to your new baby, but don't act overprotective around your dog, this will only make him jealous and insecure. Instead, try to get your dog involved with the new addition and let him know he's still a loved member of the family.

- If your dog shows even the slightest aggressiveness toward the baby, reprimand him immediately. Look for ways to positively reinforce good behavior.

One of the most important things I've taken away from my experience in becoming a parent is to not forget my first baby. I make time to take Dale for a walk each day. This is our time together and it allows Dale to stay in his normal routine and it gives me a chance to relax.

If you're attentive to your dog's needs as well as your baby's needs the two will grow to be fast-friends in no-time, at least mine have. Consulting your veterinarian or your own doctor can also be a great place to start in getting helpful tips in keeping a peaceful home once your baby arrives.

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

When Your Pet has **PETS**



I have a dirty little secret I've haven't told anyone. My husband and I swore we'd never speak of it. I haven't even told my own mother. A couple of years ago, my dogs had fleas.

Hoping for something a little more Desperate Housewives? Scoff if you will, but to know those blood sucking vermin have infested your friend and your home, ugh it still sends shivers down my spine. Not only are they annoying, they can carry disease, tapeworms, cause anemia in young animals and some pets can have an allergic reaction to the bites.

So what's an owner to do? As the saying goes an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Milder weather, dogs parks, visiting pets, all leave your dog open to fleas. Even in the dead of winter Dr Judy Gilbertson from East Towne

Veterinary Clinic recommends year round preventative for her clients.

Despite the plethora of products available, she strongly recommends the monthly topical products, such as Frontline, "It never goes into the animals blood system, making it a safer option." What about those cheaper topicals available at some discount stores? What you save in money you could lose in safety and effectiveness, also some of those could have detrimental effects if they come into contact with other pets, such as the family cat. Most products are species specific, so kitty will probably require her own medication. If your furry friends include anything more exotic, check with your vet for recommendations before using anything.

Check for fleas regularly. "Just because your pet is not scratching doesn't mean he doesn't have fleas," warned Dr. Gilbertson. By the time you actually see a flea, your pet is pretty well infested. Flea combs are available at most pet stores and vet offices and they are the best detection device available - you're literally going over your dog with a fine-toothcomb. While you might catch a flea or two, it's more likely that you'll snag flea feces. It might look like dirt, but run it over a damp white cloth or paper towel and you'll see a red streak. It's the end result of a flea meal, digested blood.

OK, so now we all know prevention is key, but what if you haven't been using anything, or as in my case you've had a lapse, and now you're cursed with fleas?

Don't expect any easy solutions. The first step is to treat your pet with a topical treatment. While there will be an immediate reduction, you'll need to do this for at least three months to catch any future flea generations.

Next, it's time to treat your home. While fleas spend most of their lives on your pet, their eggs fall off and onto the couch, the bed and anywhere else your pet happens to go. Think major spring-cleaning. "Carpeting, the cracks in hardwood floors, under the couch- anywhere that's cool and shady is the preferred place for flea eggs," said Dr. Gilbertson. Vacuum all carpeted surfaces and make sure to dispose of the bag outside immediately. The tricky little devils can wind their way right out of the vacuum. Dr. Gilbertson also recommends paying extra attention to anywhere that your dog frequents, such as his bed, and using a household flea spray.

It may take a few through cleanings and sprayings to get the job done but have faith; you can beat this micro menace. Oh and don't forget in the future to check your pet regularly and maintain a monthly prevention treatment, that way you're pet will be less inclined to bring home any more pets of his own.

Keri Weyenberg 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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When Is It an Emergency?

Most pet "parents" have been in a situation like this: Buster slipped on the way down the stairs and now he's walking with a limp. It's 11:00 at night. Should you call your veterinarian, or are you just being a worrywart?

You're never wrong to call

If you're concerned about your pet, you should never feel embarrassed about calling a veterinarian. Veterinarians are used to emergencies and they prepare for them. Most veterinary hospitals have doctors on-call or provide referrals to emergency pet hospitals, so don't worry about waking your veterinarian out of a sound sleep.

Remember, you know your pet better than anyone else. If you notice your pet behaving in a way that's unusual for her, or if something just doesn't seem right, you may have picked up on a subtle sign

of a real problem. To find out, you can call your veterinary hospital, or an emergency animal hospital near you. By asking a few questions over the phone, an emergency veterinarian should be able to tell you whether you should bring your pet in right away, or whether she can wait for an examination during your hospital's normal office hours. Even if you find out nothing's wrong, you'll be glad to have your mind at ease.

Definite emergencies

There are some times, however, when you won't need to call first. If you notice any of the following problems, bring your pet in immediately for emergency care.

Your pet has been experienced some kind of trauma, such as being hit by a car or a blunt object or falling more than a few feet.

- Your pet isn't breathing or you can't feel a heartbeat.
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up.
- Your pet has been vomiting or has had diarrhea for more than 24 hours, or is vomiting blood.

- You suspect any broken bones.
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or has something stuck in her throat.
- Your pet has had or is having a seizure.
- Your pet is bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth, or there is blood in her urine or feces.
- You think your pet might have ingested something toxic, such as antifreeze, rat poison, any kind of medication that wasn't prescribed to her, or household cleansers.
- Your pet is straining to urinate, or is unable to.
- Your pet shows signs of extreme pain, such as whining, shaking, and refusing to socialize.
- Your pet collapses or suddenly can't stand up.
- Your pet begins bumping into things or suddenly becomes disoriented.
- You can see irritation or injury to your pet's eyes, or she suddenly seems to become blind.
- Your pet's abdomen is swollen and hard to the touch, and/or she's gagging and trying to vomit.
- You see symptoms of heatstroke.
- Your pregnant dog or cat has gone more than three to four hours between delivering puppies or kittens.

What to do if it's an emergency

If you notice any of the symptoms above or you suspect a serious problem, try to get directly in touch with a veterinary professional. Don't leave a voicemail or use the Internet or email.

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My Foster **Experience**

Ours was a two dog house. We half jokingly talked about adopting a third dog as a playmate for our one-year old Aussie mix, but it was only talk. No plans. Not on the agenda.

Fostering on the other hand, would allow me to coddle multiple number threes until a new home was found for my temporary house guests with their leathery soft bellies and pads. I'd foster a puppy or two to get my feet wet with the whole fostering experience. It was the perfect solution I thought to myself.

I love dogs. Dogs that need foster homes need lots of love. I have lots of dog love to give. And truthfully, emotional ties to dogs aside, fostering would help fill a mile-wide void left open from years of infertility treatments. Yes indeed, fostering was what I would do.

I researched, applied and was approved to foster for three shelters. One shelter needed volunteers quickly and I was on it. So fast that the shelter director called me on Thursday and I was scheduled to pick up my foster puppy that weekend. This was my chance! I broke the news to my husband at dinner and swore up and down that this was and would be a foster puppy. I know myself all too well and Daryl does too. For some it's a chunk of dark chocolate or a slice of warm bread with butter. For me, dogs are my weakness.



But no, I promised Daryl it would be a short-term living situation only and I was sticking with it.

Arriving at the shelter that sunny Saturday morning, Daryl was promptly greeted by a regal and gregarious German Shephard who dropped a mud-caked tennis ball at his feet. Daryl tossed the slobbered toy back and forth off the deck while I walked around the yard looking at my foster puppy candidates. Daryl wasn't paying any attention to me or to the puppies. His only involvement in my foster plan, all be it a huge one, was to come home at lunch and let the puppy out to do her potty and play thing. What a guy!

Based in Madison, WI, Shelter Support Services (www.sheltersupportservice.org) is a dedicated and compassionate group of people working to find new homes for animals in Wisconsin and surrounding communities. Not only do they give foster homes the opportunity to select their own puppy or dog, but they give full responsibility and authority to foster families to decide which home the animal will be placed in after meeting and interviewing pre-approved applicants.

The demure female puppy I selected, later to be called Bella, had been removed with her siblings and mother by animal control from a bad situation. The mother was chained outside without food or shelter. The defenseless puppies were found sleeping under the owner's house. Without question they needed to be rescued and deserved a better life. I would be that better life for Bella until I found her a permanent home that would provide her love, protection, security and more love.

Bella was an absolute champ in the dog carrier on the way home. We stopped to give her a potty break and she and I sat in an open field together, me cooing and she sunk deep into the grass, four paws up in the air, blissfully getting a belly rub in the warm sunshine. She was a little thing with a big heart - I knew that from the start.

Once home, the introductions to dog one and dog two were as I had expected. Siena was pumped! Jale looked the other way. The foster experience had begun.

Everyone who met baby Bella her first weekend raved at how beautiful and calm she was. But it wasn't long before she began to react fearfully and cautiously to certain situations and stimuli. I did not want her to go through life afraid and unconfident, especially knowing her rough start in life, and it was stressful for me to see her like this. Does Bella get past her fears? How will we cope fostering a puppy that needs more attention than we had anticipated? Will Bella go to a good home? Stay tuned for the continuation of this story in the next issue of Fetch Magazine.

When not at her job as a Project Manager, Anne Skaradzinski makes time to be with her dogs or with other dogs at training classes, volunteering with dogs or writing about dogs. She co-authored a self-published book with her husband, loves writing, photography and the outdoors.

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continued from page 13

Once you decide to bring your pet in for emergency treatment, make sure you know where you're going and how to get your pet there safely. If you have any questions about directions or how to move your ill or injured pet, call the hospital and ask.

Be prepared

The best way to deal with pet emergencies is to prepare for them, just in case. The next time you bring your pet in for a check-up, ask your veterinarian what you should do in case of emergency. Find out whether your animal hospital is open 24 hours, or

whether they refer emergency cases on evenings and weekends. If they refer, get the name, address, and phone number of the emergency facility they refer to.

Keep your veterinarian's name and number on an emergency sheet near the phone, right next to the numbers for your doctor, fire department, and poison-control hotline. If your veterinarian refers evening and weekend emergencies to another hospital, write down that hospital's name and number too, as well as what hours your doctor refers cases there. This way, if an emergency catches you off guard, you won't have to file through drawers or folders looking for business cards.

Most important, remember to trust your instincts. You know and love your pet, and you have the right to be worried if something seems wrong. Emergency veterinary professionals are there for you. Never be afraid to call



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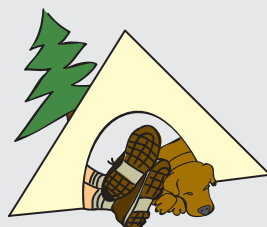
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clasp. Do not go to a new exciting location the first time. Remember you are still conditioning fast responses and you don't yet want too much stimulation in your learning environment.

1. Attach the line and walk with your dog. Let him get used to the line and relax with it. Let him sniff and notice his surroundings. Let him know it's OK to look around, he just needs to remember you're there.

2. When he's distracted call him and give praise when he turns his head to you, just like when he was on the six-foot leash. If he ignores you, begin walking away and give praise when he responds. In either case reward him when he catches up with you.

3. Repeat this many times in all sorts of situations. Repeat this several times, two sessions per day, three, if you have time.

Start in your backyard, eventually moving to the park, a sidewalk, or a friend's house.

4. Begin with small distractions and when your dog is becoming reliable and you are having lots of successes, increase the intensity. Think about what your dog reacts to. Some dogs are more distracted by bicycles than other dogs. Some dogs want to chase joggers. Set up situations and go places where you encounter different sounds and sights.

5. Begin rewarding randomly, but always use the verbal bridge as soon as he turns away from the distraction. This means he gets rewarded, but not the same reward every time. Use toys, food

and most of all yourself to keep your dog coming to you. Let him chase you and really rev him up when he gives you a lightening fast recall off of an intense distraction. Keep him guessing as to what may be waiting for him when he gets to you. Remember random means unpredictable. If food is his greatest reward that's OK, but make it every 2nd, then 4th, then perhaps two consecutive times, then not again for three.

6. Eventually go to a longer light line. I start using a 30-foot cord when my dogs are responding easily and quickly at least 80% of the time, and I also begin letting the line drag. What you want to create is a sense of the dog feeling he is free from restraint. I believe this is when all of your training kicks in. It will take skill to make the right decision when you call him and he feels free. The line will be there as a back up. Don't let him get farther away than what you can enforce.

How long will it take to get to this point? Susan Garrett, a leading dog trainer, has a similar program for a recall outlined in her book *Ruff Love*. She states that if you practice three sessions per day, 15 to 20 recalls per session you will have at least 3,000 recalls under your belt in two months and your dog will have generalized to most locations. I have not been that methodical. I live on a 45-acre farm with many challenging situations for my dogs and me. All my dogs, (eight different breeds) have been allowed to run free with supervision. I kept a line on them whenever we went out the door for about a year, and if we had a breakdown in training the line went back on.

How do you know when to take the line off? How do you correct a dog that has

chosen not to come when you feel he has been taught the skills and you know you have been consistent? Is it possible to train all breeds with this method, or are there some breeds, such as Sight Hounds, that can never safely be let off leash? Answers to those questions and more will be covered in upcoming issues of *Fetch Magazine*.

Johanna Ammentorp has thirty years experience owning and training 10 different breeds of dogs, including a Bichon with a UD, a Flat Coat with a CD, and a Pembroke Corgi with a CDX. Most importantly, she resides on a 45-acre farm in Menomonee Falls, in which her dogs must be fully trained to enjoy that freedom. She currently instructs beginning obedience at K9 Obedience Training Club in Menomonee Falls.

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continued from page 6

warning signs of infection," says AAHA veterinarian Dr. LeeAnn Dumars. "And they get the pet used to having its ears handled, making exams and medication administration easier when necessary."

In addition to ear cleanings, pets with lots of hair on the inside ear flap should have those hairs plucked periodically by their groomer or veterinarian.

"Pet owners with animals that have chronic ear problems must realize that life-long preventative care and maintenance will be necessary to ensure their pet's good health," says Dr. Dumars.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is an international association of more than 32,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. Established in 1933, AAHA is well known among veterinarians and pet owners for its standards for hospitals and pet health care. Over 3,000 veterinary hospitals voluntarily participate in the AAHA hospital evaluation program.

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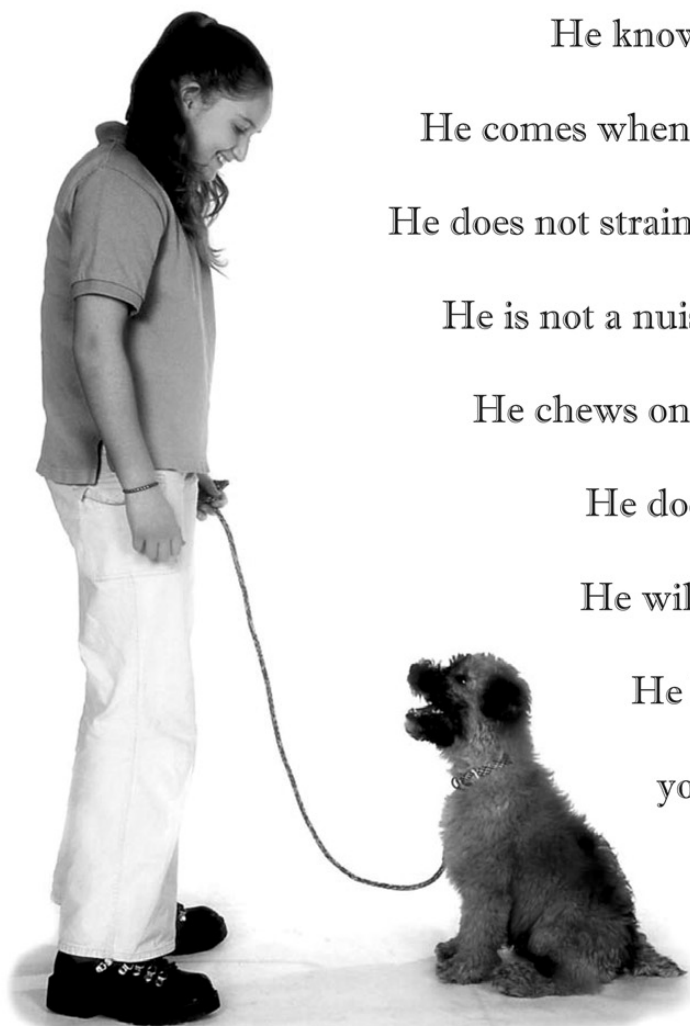
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BARKING Book Review: Winn-Dixie stirs up Dixie Land

He smiles, gets mistaken for a bear and loves peanut butter, that's Winn-Dixie, the main canine character in Kate DiCamillo's novel, *Because of Winn-Dixie*. A chapter book for young readers, this fun and heartwarming story mixes tasteful humor and vivid characters.

Opal and Winn-Dixie

DiCamillo gives 10-year-old Indian Opal Bouli (yes, pronounced like the famous Oscar Mayer meat) the sort of problems kids can relate to, moving, living with a single parent and growing up. The author's clear writing helps to simplify the tough emotions and personal interactions Opal has throughout Naomi, a small southern town in Florida. And she writes Winn-Dixie, named for the famous supermarket chain, as a model pet, who although large and without a defined breed, embodies the best qualities of a dog. He's well behaved (most of the time) and good at making friends, even with dog-hating parrots.

Winn-Dixie also has an intuitive personality, written in such a clever way that the reader isn't sure whether he's giving people the nudge they need to make changes or if he's just acting like any other dog and it's really Opal who attributing her own thoughts to him and making things happen. Indeed, as time passes, Opal and the others take center stage in the tale, leaving Winn-Dixie to

recede just a bit into the background. He becomes the furry lump on the floor blocking the library air conditioner or the silent but third guest at the peanut butter sandwich luncheon with an old woman Opal meets named Gloria Dump, my favorite character.

Authors Specialty

The unusual names of the characters are something of a specialty with DiCamillo, who says that's the part about writing she finds the easiest. She wrote *Because of Winn-Dixie* one winter in Minnesota while she was dogless and missing her southern roots (she grew up in Florida). You can tell DiCamillo loves this story and this dog, because at the end when it appears the story may turn sad like Old Yeller or melancholy like Mary Poppins, DiCamillo presents instead a happy ending that brings everyone together.

Barking Movies Too

This book, so full of charm and great characters, has unsurprisingly been made into a movie. On the big screen, Winn-Dixie is all mutt. He's as ugly a dog as you've ever seen, but has something so endearing that you can't help but fall in love with him. A big plus for the movie is the addition of physical comedy. In one section, Opal is washing Winn-Dixie to music, a montage that's too funny to

describe well here. However some of the humorous interactions make the realist in me cringe, because they are so obviously untrue, such as a scene where a police officer who didn't appear in the book is chased away by loose animals without any repercussions.

There are also a few differences between the people in the book and those in the movie. Most notable is Opal's father, who in the movie fights much harder against allowing Winn-Dixie into their home and gets extremely angry about questions Opal asks about her mother. He isn't as likeable.

The Hollywood story of Winn-Dixie comes to an end differently than the novel, but still brings home that feel-good sentiment family movies are known for. I would recommend the book, which won a Newbury Honor award, for even the non-reader who loves happy movies about dogs. Following Winn-Dixie and Opal on their adventures will undoubtedly bring a dog-gish smile to your face.

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

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Gayle and Stan Kay are the proud new owners of the Central Bark Doggy Day Care - Franklin, which celebrated its opening this past November in the Franklin Industrial/Business Park. After purchasing the building this past July, the Kay's have devoted the last four months to remodeling and updating the 1970's building into a fun and adorable play ground for four-legged family members.

Our dogs are no longer just pets...they are family members who meet us at the door happily every time we return home. They sleep in bed with us (even under the covers) with some eating healthier than we do!! Most of all they love us unconditionally with such pure souls and forgiving hearts. Shouldn't we really be called their companion?!

Central Bark Doggy Day Care - Franklin is run by the Kay family...Stan, Gayle and Natalie. "We wanted to do something together as a family that we were all passionate about...it was really quite an easy decision." Our hope is to be known as the doggy care place that builds relationships and loves your dog just like you. While safety and cleanliness are our primary focus, we also pride ourselves in providing a healthy and fun environment that will improve the quality of your dog's life and enhance the parent/dog relationship.

In addition to day care, other services offered are sleepovers, pet supplies, birthday parties, puppy showers, training and grooming.

Mark your calendar for January 13th for the Grand Opening celebration. Enroll today!!!! Central Bark Doggy Day Care - Franklin is located at 9550 South 60th Street (just one block south of Ryan). For more information, call Gayle Kay at 414-421-9003 or email her at franklin@centralbarkusa.com. See our website at www.centralbarkusa.com.

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The Chihuahua

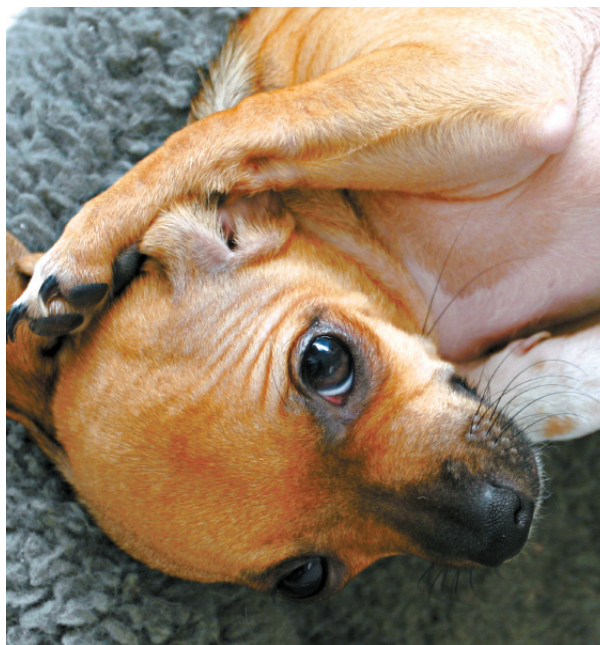
Little Giant: The Charming Chihuahua

**Everybody recognizes
these itty bitty dogs.**

Taco Bell's Chihuahua, "Gidget", started the popularity trend. "Yo quiero Taco Bell" was an advertising catch phrase the dog spoke through special effects, becoming a national phenomenon in 1998. Then along came pop-culture icon Paris Hilton and her dog, Tinkerbell, making the Chihuahua something of a fashion accessory. Tinkerbell even "authored" a 2004 memoir, titled *The Tinkerbell Hilton Diaries*. In recent years, Chihuahuas have consistently ranked at or near the top ten in breed popularity, according to the American Kennel Club (AKC).

The AKC's standard description of a toy-sized, apple-headed dog weighing less than six pounds -- one of the smallest breeds in the world -- is what most people probably recall when it comes to Chihuahuas. Although the extremely small size is generally most desirable, in truth the Chihuahua sometimes weighs more than six pounds. With a reported "fast" metabolism, many Chihuahuas also hate cold temperatures and shiver quite easily in cooler weather (and shake under stressful conditions). Most Chihuahuas are also known to have a complete wardrobe of sweaters.

The Chihuahua coat comes in both long and short-haired variations, and may be any color, but the short-haired coat is probably seen more often. No matter their appearance, Chihuahuas are a very big dog in a little package, according to Kim Rauen Eichorst, of Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue, Inc. The biggest misconception about the breed, claims Eichorst, "is that they are little, yappy, mean dogs that bite. First and foremost, Chi's are loyal to their families. I think they get the bad rap because people tend not to train or socialize toy breeds like they would a larger breed that might be considered



In general, however, the consensus seems to be that Chihuahuas and children probably don't mix. "Medically speaking, they are more delicate and if handled roughly, can easily break legs and injure joints," advises Dr. Mary Corak of Harmony Pet Care Clinic in Waukesha. "Personally, I don't feel they are a good dog for kids (especially young kids) because they are easily hurt and can have attitude issues. There are, of course, exceptions, but it is not one breed that I usually recommend as a good family dog."

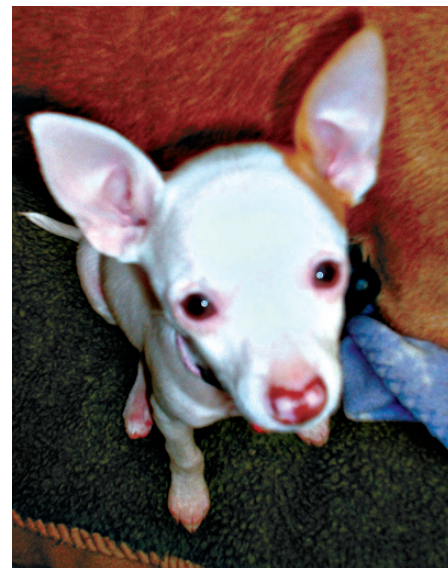
Ah, but that "little giant" stance, (thanks Geno!) makes the Chihuahua irre-

rougher because of its size. If a Chi is trained and socialized it is no more yappy or bite-y than a Labrador. Paris Hilton hasn't helped any because now all the young girls want a toy dog to haul around in a pink pet carrier and they don't realize the full potential of the breed."

Nicole Cybela, of Central Bark Doggy Day Care Mequon, has a Chihuahua named "Chica Bonita," a sibling to two Boxers. According to Cybela, Chica -- completely unaware of her diminutive size -- fits right in with the bigger dogs, even running around the yard chasing after them and playing tug with the biggest toy she can find.

Geno Smith, owner of Central Bark Doggy Day Care Lake Country, agrees that the Chihuahua is a large personality in a small package. He shares his home with B.G. (stands for Big Guy), who is a rescue from HAWS. "He is about sixteen months old and we love him," shares Geno, "B.G. is a much bigger dog on the inside than his six pounds would indicate. He loves Buddy, our Schipperke, and Murphy, our Saint Bernard. Murphy and B.G. play for about an hour per day. What a pair." This beloved Chihuahua is also "extremely social," according to Geno, and not only loves people, is especially fond of little kids.

sistible to some folks. Kim Rauen Eichorst also clarified that "the thing I love and adore most about our breed is their big huge hearts! Chi's are faithful, loyal, loving, protective, smart, funny and have the biggest attitude a tiny dog can have. I've worked with lots of small breeds over the years but Chi's have it over all the other toy breeds in spades when it comes to their capacity to win over people with their loving souls."





Perhaps more than any other breed, early socialization is extremely important, due to size and the ensuing situations that can bring. Dr. Corak warns that many people neglect to take their little dog to training class. Especially with small breeds, fearful dogs tend to bite to protect themselves if they feel threatened. "Being little is tough because everyone wants to pick them up and put them right in their face which is totally inappropriate in the doggy world. I think the most important thing to know about owning a Chihuahua is to socialize them and be sure it is always a positive experience," says Cybela.

Although it's tempting to carry these little lap dogs, it's best to let them get the exercise they need and to burn off their nervous energy. If kept fit, this spunky breed often lives twelve to fifteen years. For some, this breed may be difficult to train, but the Chihuahua is intelligent, learns quickly, and responds well to proper training.

Hilary Duff has "Chiquita," and Britney Spears lives with "BitBit;" ah yes, the popular Chihuahua shows up frequently in celebrity culture. Cute, economical, and fiercely loyal, the Chihuahua makes an ideal companion in many homes. New Chihuahua enthusiasts will want to seek the advice of their veterinarian on the wisdom of adding their own "little giant" to their family. As well, check out Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue (www.wis-chirescue.org; Kim Eichorst, President) for additional information on lovable adoptees waiting for a good home.

Deb Voss Quail enjoys her assignments for Fetch. Duke, a fearless terrier, lives with Deb and loves to meet the many breeds Deb writes about and visits while on assignment.

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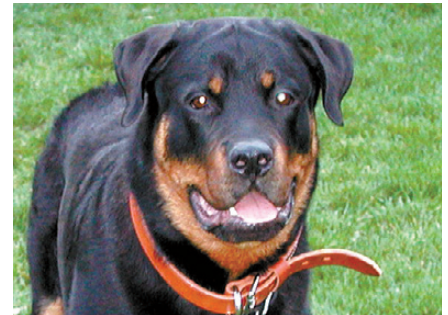


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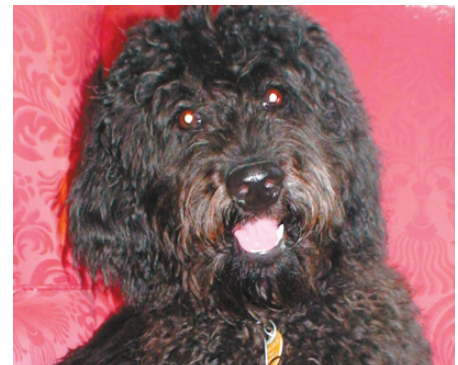
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Event Calendar

January 2007

2 Tuesday

What: Beginners Agility Class Begins (8 weeks)
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 8:15 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

3 Wednesday

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

4 Thursday

What: Beginners Rally Obedience Class Begins (6 wks)
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Advanced Rally Obedience Class Begins (6 wks)
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 8:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

5 Friday

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

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

6 Saturday

What: Basset Buddies Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Beginners Flyball Class Begins (8 weeks)
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 1:00 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 9:00am - 10:45am
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

7 Sunday

What: Specialty Breed Manners Class
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: Noon
Info: 414-289-7785 (call to register)

9 Tuesday

What: Adult Beginners Obedience Class Begins (8 wks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, Franklin
When: 6:45 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins (7 wks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, Franklin
When: 8:00 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

10 Wednesday

What: Puppy Foundation for Agility Class Begins (8 wks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, Wauwatosa
When: 8:00 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Chemicals & Our Pets Seminar (FREE)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 7:00 pm
Info: 414-444-4110 (Seats Fill Up Fast)

12 Friday

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

What: Obedience & Rally Correction Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Entries 6:30 p.m., Start 7:00 p.m.
(only \$5 per dog)
Info: 414-769-0758, www.cudahykennelclub.org

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

13 Saturday

What: Pet Massage with Geri
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$15/session)

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

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

14 Sunday

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

What: Specialty Breed Manners Class
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: Noon
Info: 414-289-7785 (call to register)

What: Beginners Agility Class Begins (8 weeks)
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 2:00 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

15 Monday

What: TDI & CGC Tests
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: Noon
Info: 1-888-581-9070

19 Friday

What: Agility Run Thrus
Where: Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis
When: Entries 6 p.m., Start 7 p.m. (only \$5 per dog)
Info: 414-769-0758, www.cudahykennelclub.org

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

23 Tuesday

What: Obedience Training w/ Linda Bobot
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: 6:00 pm - 7:30pm
(\$25 includes session, clicker, treats)
Info: 414-482-7387 (Space Limited. Sign up Early)

What: Adult Beginners Obedience Class Begins (8 wks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, North Lake/Hartland
When: 6:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins (7 wks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, North Lake/Hartland
When: 7:45 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

26 Friday

What: Yappy Hour (FREE)
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Info: 414-289-7785 (call to register)

What: Yappy Hour
Where: Petlicious Dog Biscuit Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

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

What: Fun & Games Night
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:00 pm (only \$10)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

28 Sunday

What: Dog Wash Fundraiser for Elmbrook Humane Society
Where: Petlicious Pet Spa, Pewaukee
Cost: \$8 to \$17.00 (depending on size of dog)
When: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

29 Monday

What: Beginners Agility Class Begins (8 weeks)
Where: Central Bark DDC, Wauwatosa
When: 7:00 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

Every Sunday

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

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

Who: "Your Family Pet" with Amy Ammen
Where: WRRD 540AM The Word
What: Radio Show 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Info: Hear expert interviews and pet-related news.

Every Monday

What: Conformation Walk-in Classes
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:40 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

Every Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (7 week course)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

Every Wednesday

What: Conformation Drop-In Training
Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 7:30 p.m.
Info: www.grkc.org

Every Thursday

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

Every Saturday

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

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

New Year's Resolution: Keep Your Pet Healthy And Happy

As a responsible pet owner, you can take a few simple steps that will go a long way toward keeping your pet healthy and happy.

Make your home a safe environment

Unfortunately, making your home pet safe often is a job that is overlooked. Pet proofing your home can lower the risk of a serious pet accident occurring. Poisons in the home that can kill or seriously injure your pet include some kinds of house plants (dieffenbachia, philodendron, hyacinth, and mistletoe), pesticides, and medications. Low electrical cords are extremely hazardous when chewed. Keep harmful objects out of your pet's reach. A little prevention may be just enough to avoid a pet tragedy from happening in your home.

Make sure your pet receives a complete check-up

A regular physical is the most overlooked pet health need today. Most people only take their pet to a veterinarian when a health problem already exists or for routine vaccinations. Preventive vaccinations and early detection of diseases are the keys to successfully treating your pet. Your veterinarian can conduct a comprehensive exam that includes a lab analysis, heart check, and dental exam.

Design a diet and exercise plan to meet your pet's specific needs

Obesity leads to serious canine health problems such as heart disease. Exercise is important, but a pet will only exercise if there is an incentive to do so. Your veterinarian will consider what stage of life your pet is in, the amount of activity your pet enjoys, and the time of year before outlining a specific plan. The right kind of food and physical activity can add to the quality of your pet's life.

Following are general pet care tips:

1. Mmm... all that chocolate! None for your pets, please! Chocolate contains a toxic substance, theobromine, which is harmful to pets. So, just say NO!

2. Is it an emergency? A pet exposed to bitter cold that becomes lethargic, depressed, and weak, could be hypothermic. Call your veterinarian immediately.

3. Did you know that by shivering, a pet that is cold or recovering from anesthesia is trying to warm its body back to normal temperature?

4. The sweet, lovely green pool of antifreeze on the driveway is an often deadly drink for dogs. Even a small lick by a small pet is enough to poison it. Clean up those spills fast!

5. Before traveling with your pets, make sure they have all required vaccinations and health papers. If they are on medications, have enough to last through the trip.

6. When traveling by air, be aware of airline restrictions regarding outside temperature and number of animals allowed per flight. Someone may have already booked a pet and there are no more allowed. Check with the airline or travel agent.

7. Remember that even the most gentle and trusting pet may bite when in pain. If you must muzzle, use a soft towel or cloth strips and remove it as soon as possible so the pet can breathe more easily.

8. If you must transport an injured or ill animal, a blanket, vinyl mat, and even a door make excellent stretchers. The trick is to immobilize the animal to avoid further stress.

9. Moving from a cold climate to a warmer one? Don't forget to have your dog tested for heartworm disease BEFORE beginning preventive medicine. Ask your veterinarian for more information about heartworm disease.

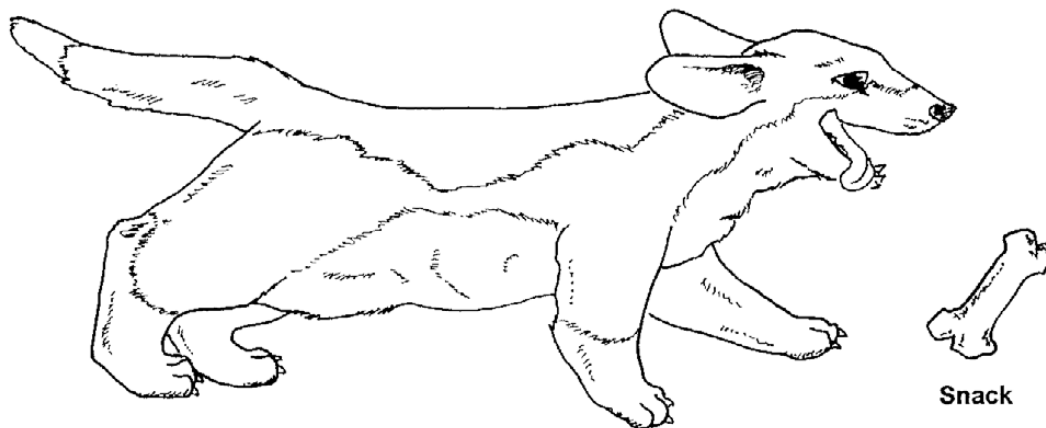
Consult your veterinarian if you have any questions regarding your pet's health care.



K9 Kid Zone - Have Fun with this Activity Sheet.

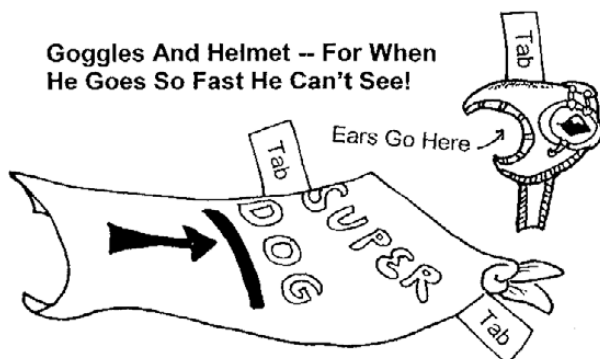
CHESTER HANGS TEN

Have Fun Coloring In Chester And His Things, Then Cut Out And Make Him Zoom Around!

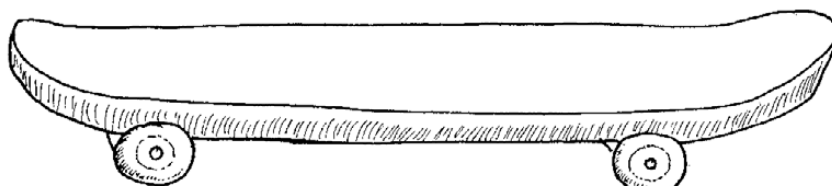


CHESTER -- A Dog On The Go And A Hound Having Fun!

Goggles And Helmet -- For When He Goes So Fast He Can't See!

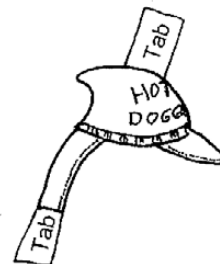
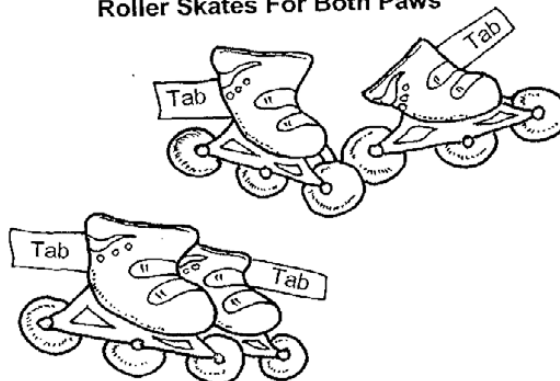


His Cape -- It Flutters In The Wind Just Like Superman's



Chester's Skate Board

Roller Skates For Both Paws



Chester's "Hot Dogger" Cap --
It Keeps The Sun Off So He
Can Play Longer

Elaine Moertl © 2006

Best Friends Veterinary Rehab

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- ❖ Comprehensive, Personalized Treatment Plans
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- ❖ Electrical Stimulation Therapy
- ❖ Acupuncture
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- ❖ Tendon and Ligament Injuries
- ❖ Spinal Cord Injuries
- ❖ Post-fractures
- ❖ Herniated Discs
- ❖ Degenerative Neurological Problems
- ❖ Paralysis
- ❖ Arthritis
- ❖ Obesity and Poor Conditioning
- ❖ Muscular Degeneration
- ❖ Inflammation and Swelling



Benefits of Canine Rehab:

- ❖ Regain or Retain Function
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- ❖ Reduced Pain
- ❖ Increased Muscle Strength, Flexibility and Range of Motion
- ❖ Weight Loss

For more information, call **262-375-0130**

2082 Cheyenne Court
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www.bestfriendsvet.com



In partnership with



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DOG Training Classes



4500 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208



To Register, go online at
www.wihumane.org
or call (414) 431-6107

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

Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):

Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.

Wednesday Jan. 3 - 6:30 p.m. Friday Jan. 12 - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 6 - 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Jan. 23 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday Jan. 8 - 7:45 p.m. Thursday Jan. 25 - 7:45 p.m.

Dog Manners Class (over 5 months of age):

Basics like down, stay, drop it, come and much more. Learn all the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test.

Saturday Jan. 6 - 10:30 a.m. Thursday Jan. 18 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday Jan. 8 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday Jan. 20 - 12:00 p.m.
Friday Jan. 12 - 7:45 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 23 - 7:45 p.m.

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):

Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
Saturday Jan. 20 - 1:30 p.m.

Clever Canine Tricks Class (over 6 months of age):

Teach your dog to be creative and learn how to get the behaviors you want from your dog (not just tricks!).

Length: 4 weeks. All dogs \$60.00

Call for dates.

Behavioral Consultations: One-on-one assistance & training to solve behavioral issues. (414) 431-6173

Dog (per session): \$60 (WHS Adopted) \$70 (non-WHS Adopted)

Cat (per session): \$30 (WHS Adopted) \$35 (non-WHS Adopted)

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Classes held at:

HUMANE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (HAWS)
701 Northview Road, Waukesha, WI
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

January 6th • January 20th • February 10th • February 24th • March 10th • March 31st

**Classes fill up fast.
REGISTER TODAY
Call 262-879-0165**

Unable to attend? Purchase the complete program on CD or a 103-page course manual.