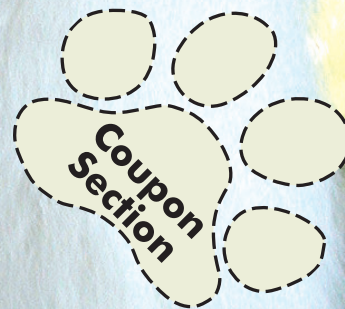




Fetch magazine

July 2006 | Volume 3 Issue 7



The Standard Poodle
Starting an Off-Leash Dog Park
Therapy Dog Training
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Choosing a Dog Groomer



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Publisher's Letter

It's July, sunny, warm... basically a great time to be outdoors. And as dog-lovers, we naturally want our four-legged friends by our side. In your neighborhood, do you have a dog park? Not a park with a "No Dogs Allowed" sign that you ignore or a park allowing only leashed pets. We're talking about a park set aside solely for use by barking, running, romping canines. If not, make sure you take a look at "Starting an Off-Leash Dog Park" on page 14. Whether you join an established club, begin your own neighborhood club, or support local groups with financial contributions, together we can make a difference and bring more accessible dog parks to this area.

Unfortunately, these warm summer days bring more than just our craving to get outdoors, they bring out the criminal activities in some people, as evident in the unthinkable upswing in crime over the Memorial Day Weekend. Canines play a huge role in curbing crime. On page 10, you'll find an article on K9 Kodee, the partner to Sergeant Slamann of the Glendale Police Department. Learn more about these courageous canines and how their presence on the streets puts fear into criminals at large.

Because of the warmer weather, I'll bet you're going out more... parties, social events, barbecues, etc. And did you take time to get your hair done, maybe even purchased a new outfit or two? What about Fido?! Your four-legged family member deserves to be pampered as well. On pages 18 - 19 is a special section entitled, "Choosing a Dog Groomer." After reading this article, you'll have a better understanding of the need to have your dog groomed regularly. And if you already have a groomer in your rolodex, you'll learn more about the different services offered so maybe next time Fido will receive a soothing bath or ear cleaning with his hair cut.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 10 K-9 Kodee Police Dog
- 12 Getting Sprayed by a Skunk
- 14 Starting an Off-Leash Dog Park
- 18 Choosing a Dog Groomer
- 20 The Standard Poodle
- 22 Hot Car Warning
- 24 Calming a Fear of Loud Noises
- 27 Trimming Your Pet's Toenails

COLUMNS / DEPARTMENTS

- 7 Ask the Vet
- 8 Training Bits
- 16-17 Coupon Section
- 25 Event Calendar
- 26 Breed Rescue Groups
- 28 Dogs Around Town
- 29 K9 Kid Zone
- 30 Canine Marketplace



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Ask the VET

Question: Is my dog more at risk for getting bloat simply because he is deep chested? What exactly is bloat and is there any way to prevent it?

Answer: Unfortunately, every piece of evidence suggests that the answer to your first question is YES. Compared to other dogs of non-deep-chested conformation, your dog is at greater risk of "getting bloat."

But don't give up just yet. If you are considering adopting a deep-chested dog (such as a Doberman, Great Dane or Basset Hound), bloat is just one factor for consideration. It should not spoil your chance to experience life with these adorable breeds. To be deep-chested is not a sentence to bloat! In fact, the majority of dogs with deep-chested conformation go about their normal lives without ever getting bloat. But if you don't want to take the chance of being caught off guard, let's start by learning a few facts about "Bloat."

Bloat is the popular term for a condition called Gastric Dilation Volvulus (GDV) or Gastric Torsion. GDV, as the name suggests, is believed to be initiated by gassy dilation of the stomach, followed by dislocation of the pylorus (the narrow passage from the stomach into the upper intestine), from the right side of the abdomen (where it is normally located) to the left.

The result of this dislocation is that both openings of the stomach (the entrance from the esophagus and the exit into the intestine), twist around their axis, becoming shut to the passage of solid, fluid and even gas. With fermentation of gastric contents, there will be increased gas formation and further dilation. Further dilation stretches the stomach, increasing the tension on the twisted ends, which results in even tighter sealing, preventing the escape of fluids and gas. The vicious cycle has now been established.

From this point on, the stomach balloons up to a point where it pushes against the nearby vessels, obstructing blood flow

(especially the caudal vena cava, which is supposed to bring back to the heart the blood that has circulated bellow the diaphragm). The heart receives less blood than required to properly pump forward, and the arterial blood pressure drops.

The organs of the abdominal cavity (including kidneys, liver and pancreas) become "mal-nourished" and poorly oxygenated, and will start dying soon. Meanwhile, the ballooned stomach pushes against the diaphragm, limiting the ability of the lungs to expand. Now, respiration is also compromised and oxygenation is further impaired. The dog is breathing fast and shallow, his belly is distended, his heart is racing, his eyes are spooked and often congested or pale, and he is collapsing. If emergency treatment is not provided VERY soon, he is a dead dog.

This is "bloat." And yes, it is not pretty! (I apologize to the more sensitive readers for the graphic nature of the description). Bloat is usually acute, happens more often at night and usually initiates within a couple of hours of a good meal.

The first signs noticed at home include a "whining" dog is "not acting like himself" and who might have had a few (generally unsuccessful) attempts of vomiting and burping. She seems to be restless and paces constantly at first. The next sign she will show is a very telling "bloated" abdomen: the dog looks rounded or squared all the way to the waist line. He may look at his own abdomen anxiously, as if asking "what in heavens is wrong with me?" (At this point you don't want to be more than an hour away from an emergency clinic!)

But can we prevent this catastrophe? Well, we believe we can. A simple surgical procedure called gastropexy, which was once performed only in dogs who already had one episode of GDV, can be offered prophylactically to dogs of predisposed breeds.

The procedure surgically tacks the pylorus to the right side of the abdominal wall, permanently preventing its dislocation to the left. With the pylorus fixed to the right, even if dilation occurs, there will be no torsion of the stomach. And dilation without torsion is not such a serious life-threatening situation.

In addition, dogs of predisposed breeds should be fed smaller and more frequent meals (at least 2-3 times daily, never just once a day). Non-fermentative food is always a better choice (please, keep them away from human food, especially from yesterday's pinto beans!), and do not exercise your dog on full stomach.

Now, go on and enjoy your beautiful deep chested dog!

Maria L.E. Faria, DVM, PhD
Small Animal Surgery Resident

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DOES MY DOG HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A THERAPY DOG?

Q: I am interested in learning more about the Delta Society therapy dog program. How do I know if my dog is ready to be a therapy dog? What all is involved in becoming certified?

A: The Delta Society (www.deltasociety.org) is one of the top two most well-known and respected professional organizations that certify animals to do therapy work. The other top organization is Therapy Dogs International, Inc. - TDI (www.tdi-dog.org).

The Delta Society certifies you as a team - the handler and the animal. Once you are certified, you are referred to as a Pet Partner team. There are two classes of therapy work you can volunteer to do. One is called animal-assisted activity-AAA and the other is called animal-assisted therapy-AAT.

Animal-assisted activity-AAA- involves therapy work in retirement homes, hospitals, schools or libraries and just being there with people. You may sit and visit with someone while they pet your dog or you may be able to show off some of your dog's tricks!

Animal-assisted therapy-AAT- is working with health care professionals during their therapy sessions with patients. For example, you may work with a speech therapist and a child with autism or you may work with a physical therapist and a patient who is recovering from a stroke. AAT-animal-assisted therapy has you and your dog involved in the actual therapy session.

The Delta Society allows you to purchase the team manual directly from their website and do a home-study or you can join a therapy dog class. The test is the same no matter how you prepare. The Delta Society tests and certifies you and your pet as a team. Hence the name Pet Partners.

The Delta Society also certifies other animals. Therapy work is not just for dogs you know! You can also certify cats, birds, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, domestic rats, horses, donkeys, llamas, goats, miniature pigs, potbellied pigs, cows and chickens!

Okay, back to dogs. To prepare for the Delta Society certification test for dogs, basic obedience commands are necessary along with the ability to have calm interactions with other people and dogs. If your dog has been through a basic obedience class and has solid skills such as sit, down, stay and come; you should have the obedience part covered. If your dog is an AKC Canine Good Citizen, you would be ready to test. The AKC and the Delta Society worked together in creating the criteria for the Delta Society test. Much of what is required in the Delta Society



test is based on the Canine Good Citizen test criteria.

The Delta Society test is meant to mimic what typical interactions will be like whether you are out doing animal-assisted activities or animal-assisted therapy. You must know your dog and be able to read when they are becoming stressed or uncomfortable in a situation. YOU are an active member of the team. This is not like being in the obedience ring. Think of being at the Cedarburg Strawberry Festival with your dog and someone comes up and asks if their kids can pet your dog. You would be involved in that interaction with your dog. You would watch to make sure they were petting / handling your dog appropriately. You would watch for signs to tell you that your dog is uncomfortable or they had had enough. This is what makes a great Pet Partner team.

Again, these individual components of the test are meant to mimic what you will typically encounter. The actual test includes the following exercises:

- Meeting and greeting a friendly stranger
- Allowing someone to groom your dog
- Meeting and greeting another Pet Partner team (human & dog)
- Walking casually through a crowd
- Reacting to a distraction - such as crutches being dropped on the floor
- Reacting to a staggering / gesturing individual



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- Reacting to an argument being staged
- Heeling with your dog
- Demonstrating your dog knows the following commands and can perform them: Sit, Down, Stay, Leave It, Come/ recall away from someone petting them

Upon successful completion of your certification test, you submit your completed registration packet along with a photo of you and your dog to the Delta Society. Part of the registration packet is a health screening form which your veterinarian is required to complete and sign. There is a fee for registration and you are required to recertify and re-register every two years.

Please understand that training your dog to be a therapy dog does NOT make them a service dog. Therapy dogs have no more rights out in public than companion animals do. Service/assistance dogs have rights under the ADA-Americans with disabilities act - therapy dogs do not.

Therapy work is a great way to get out with your dog and volunteer in your community! If you are interested or would like more information - please visit the websites listed above.

Michelle Richards is the owner as well as one of five trainers and twelve Playologists at Happy Hounds, LLC a doggie daycare and dog training facility in Germantown. She is a member of the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers), a certified evaluator for the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program and is American Red Cross Pet First Aid and CPR certified. Michelle has certified her two Labrador Retrievers and Rottweiler as Delta Society Pet Partners as well as AKC Canine Good Citizens.

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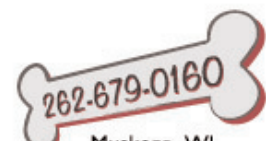





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A Police Sergeant and His Dog



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Bartz Photography, Copyright 2006.

Sergeant Larry Slamann has worked with the Glendale Police Department for 18 years, and seven of those years K-9 Kodee has worked alongside him. Police dogs had always intrigued him, and after one of his fellow officers was ambushed and killed in a 1994 bank robbery, Slamann convinced the Department that a dog could help prevent this from happening again.

After research, they chose a Belgian Malinois, a part French, part Dutch dog imported from Holland through the Southern Police Canine training facility in North Carolina. "The breed shows

hardly any hip dysplasia, and they make very sound police dogs," says Slamann. Kodee weighs 60 pounds, average for the breed, supporting a longer life expectancy and longer career in law enforcement.

Kodee received obedience training in Holland. At 18 months he arrived at the North Carolina facility for 22 weeks of police work training. His master trainer taught Kodee to track missing people, find

suspects, locate evidence, search out illegal drugs, and apprehend criminals.

Sgt. Slamann then traveled to North Carolina to meet and train with Kodee for six more weeks. The ten hours a day, six days a week training included switching Kodee's masters. During this process the dog bit Slamann, not unusual behavior considering the fierce loyalty Kodee felt for his first master. After their successful training, Slamann and Kodee traveled home together in Slamann's car.

Their tight bond that developed seems to naturally call up the question of emotional involvement-how does Slamann handle his

feelings when sending Kodee into a dangerous situation?

"Many people think a police dog is a pet," Slamann explains. "He is not. These dogs are considered tools, just like they were in the war. No different than my gun or my pepper spray. Do I ever fear his getting in a situation where he could be killed? I always think of that. But I have to realize, what is his main job? He's a tool. His job is to make sure I go home at the end of the night. Now my job is to make sure that I use Kodee so my other officers go home at the end of the night."

The dog's safety, as well as the officers,' depends in part on the psychological advantage Kodee's presence provides. "Not too many people want to fight or hit a police officer if they have a dog," says Slamann. "When they hear the dog bark, they tend to cooperate more." For example, when Slamann searches out robberies, he's faced situations where the suspect has threatened to kill him if he entered the premises. When Kodee barks, the suspect voluntarily comes out, and one actually said he'd rather get shot with a gun than bit by a dog.

A police dog's presence and bark represent two important functions of the "tool," but Kodee's greatest asset is his nose. "I send Kodee out in the field, and he finds the evidence. In the dark. He doesn't need his eyes, he does it all with his nose. He's a very powerful locating tool. He can smell things a football field away." With Kodee's nose on the job, the Department has made some very successful drug seizures.

Another important function of a police dog tool is its bite. Once Kodee tracks down a criminal or suspect, he uses reasonable force to restrain the person. He does this with a bite and hold tactic, enough force with his teeth to hold but not to injure. Kodee will not let go until Slamann gives the command.

At the Police Station, Kodee waits in the car while Slamann works in his office. Their squad car is set up with a kennel in place of a back seat, screens on the back side windows, and a gate between Kodee and the front seats. When Slamann makes a traffic stop, he leaves the gate and the front side window open. Kodee waits in the car, watching his partner's

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every move. If Slamann needs help, Kodee comes right through the gate and out the window to protect his partner with his presence, bark, or bite.

Kodee goes home with Slamann every night, but they're on call 24 hours a day. "Calls come in from surrounding counties or anywhere in the state where a dog is needed," says Slamann.

When Kodee starts to slow down to the point where Slamann feels he's no longer useful as a police tool, he will retire him. "Then he lives with me as my pet," says Slamann. "He's done his work. He's retired, and this is where we transition him from tool to pet."

In the meantime, Kodee loves his work, and Slamann loves working with him. He and Kodee give presentations on law enforcement dogs to police academies, schools, nursing homes, and Scout troops. Anyone interested in scheduling a talk, can contact Sgt. Larry Slamann at (414) 228-1756. "I can talk for hours about Kodee," he says.

Jean Scherwenka loves dogs, writing, and the opportunity to combine the two in her articles for Fetch Magazine.

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SAVE THE DATE!

If Your Pet Is Sprayed by a **Skunk**

To your dog or cat, the outside world is a playground, and coming head to head--or head to tail--with a skunk is just one more adventure. For you, the smell of adventure may be a little hard to take inside the house. You can take heart, however--there are ways to banish that skunky smell and welcome your pet back into the living room.

The most important thing to do if your pet has been sprayed is check his eyes, nose, and mouth. If he was sprayed in the face--which is exactly where skunks tend to aim--the chemicals in the spray could cause irritation and inflammation. They could even inflame the lining of your pet's throat and lungs, if inhaled. If your pet was sprayed in the face, rinse his eyes, nose, and mouth with water. If, after rinsing, his eyes look red or he rubs at his face, he should be seen by a veterinarian. The veterinarian can make sure his eyes aren't damaged and prescribe an ointment to soothe the irritation.

If your pet's eyes, nose, and mouth check out okay, the next step is getting rid of the smell. The traditional remedy of soaking in tomato juice can reduce the odor somewhat. It will be more effective if you give him a bath with dog or cat shampoo first. Another home remedy that can cut down on odor is a mixture

made of one teaspoon of dish washing liquid and one cup of baking soda dissolved in one quart of hydrogen peroxide (three percent strength). After thoroughly soaking your pet in the mixture, rinse him with clean tap water.

Commercial products made to remove skunk odor will most likely work better than either of these options, however. Shampoos and sprays that are formulated to neutralize the foul-smelling chemicals in skunk spray are available from your veterinarian and at most pet stores. If you use them according to their labels, you should have a nice-smelling dog or cat again. You may have to cut some of the hair off of a long-haired dog or cat to remove the lingering odor, though, particularly if his fur is tangled or matted.

Once you've cleared the air, you can think about how to prevent this smelly situation from happening again. Skunks

can be more than a nuisance; they have sharp claws and teeth that could injure your pet in a fight. Some may even carry diseases that could infect your pet. So, instead of letting your kitty or pooch run loose, you may want to consider fencing in your yard, which will both keep your pet in and unfriendly wildlife out. When your pet gets the urge to roam, you can take him on long walks on a leash (yes, cats too! See Walking a cat on a leash). Not only will this cut down on skunky-smelling incidents, it will also keep your pet safely away from traffic, hazardous chemicals, construction sites, and all the other dangers he could find outside.

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. Trained consultants regularly visit these hospitals to ensure compliance with AAHA's standards for services and facilities. Individual veterinarians can also be members of AAHA.



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Neighborhoods United for Washington Park (NUWP) announces the 2nd Annual Washington BARK Dog Day

Mark your calendars and don't miss the 2nd Annual Washington Bark Dog Day on Sunday, August 6th, from noon to 4 p.m. at the historic Emil Blatz Temple of Music Bandshell in Washington Park at 1859 N. 40th Street, Milwaukee. Admission price is only \$5 per dog and people are FREE! This event showcases man's best friend with related exhibits, retail and service vendors and demonstrations that support and pay homage to our pets. The event kicks off with a dog parade (costumes optional but encouraged!), followed by the traditional "Blessing of the Dogs" by Pastor Sue Gaeta from Divine Word Lutheran Church. Then the games begin with Mistress of Ceremonies, Marilyn Mee from local radio station WKLH, and a panel of judges (including Sue Black, County Parks Director) that will oversee the on-stage competition for best costume, best trick and the always-entertaining "musical squares" contest. Check out the corrals for training tips, doggie dancing, Frisbee workouts, Fly ball and agility demonstrations. Participate in the ever popular bobbing for hot dogs and duckies and win great prizes. For lunch try a 3 Dachshunds Root Beer along with a couple of hot dogs and take in the sights. And this year for the very first time, a Lure Course will be set up to provide an opportunity for your dog to have the thrill of a chase without the worry of their safety.

Don't have a dog? Not to worry! Last year the event drew not only over 120 canines to the park but more than 500 visitors that brought both kids and grandkids to watch all the fun. This is a great community event and a wonderful way to celebrate the Chinese "YEAR OF THE DOG" as well as continue to support the restoration efforts of our historic neighborhood park, Washington Park.

UWP looks forward to seeing you there and wishes to thank and acknowledge both the Rainbow Heights Association and the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association for their support and help with this event. Woof....!



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HOW TO START A DOG PARK

"There are people who go to the corner bar to socialize. Well, a lot of us dog owners, we go to the dog park to watch our dogs play, to watch them interact with other dogs. And, we get to know and meet new people." said Steve Bukosky of the Waukesha Dog Parks organization, illustrating that dog parks are as much about people as dogs.

With 62 million dogs living in 36% of all households in the United States, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association's U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, 2002, the need for places where dogs can be exercised and socialized is apparent. Additionally, with urban growth, Bukosky explains "This is where dog parks really are needed. New housing development; apartments, condominiums, places where you don't have a backyard, or if you have a backyard, you would like some place for your dog to run around. With this trend of larger apartments and condominium developments, some sort of municipal backyard is needed."

How do you start a dog park in your neighborhood? The initial step is to gather a group of interested people. Both Steve Bukosky and Kevin Frank of Residents for Off-Leash Milwaukee Parks found

the Internet integral to forming their groups. Both started Yahoo e-mail lists. This connected Frank to east side Milwaukee residents who also desired a dog park. Additionally, Frank suggests visiting other dog park websites to see how they got started.

Making a dog park dream become a reality requires some private funding. Towards that end, Residents for Off-Leash Milwaukee Parks incorporated as a non-profit organization. Bukosky is currently working towards making Waukesha Dog Parks a non-profit organization in order to raise the approximately \$16,000 in private money needed to start a dog park in Minooka Park in 2007. Being a non-profit organization allows people to make tax-deductible donations. Additionally, according to Frank, forming an official organization "let's people (government officials) know you are serious about it and that they will have volunteers to assist with the park."

Dog owners should contact the appropriate government officials to express their interest in a dog park. Bukosky states "Dog park developments and improvements are not going to happen unless they let their elected officials know they want them."

Towards that end, Bukosky includes links to Waukesha County officials and to the Waukesha Park System key contacts on his website, www.waukeshadogparks.org.

Groups hoping to create a dog park must enlist the aid of those responsible for the park system. The park system budget will typically be a mixture of government and private funds. The park system will also assist with determining feasible dog park sites. In the next few weeks, Bukosky and another citizen representative, Bill Graham of the Waukesha Kennel Club, will accompany Waukesha's Dogs in the Parks Subcommittee on a tour of potential dog park areas. This subcommittee of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department was formed to determine if Waukesha should construct a dog park.

"Location, location, location" chants Frank is as important for dog parks as it is for real estate sales. Dog parks are more successful in areas where there is not housing as there is less public resistance. The Runway Dog Park opened by Residents for Off-Leash Milwaukee Parks is located 1/2 mile east of Howell Avenue on Rawson Avenue and is bordered by the airport, open fields and some businesses.

Dog park groups also need to act as educators. Bukosky is currently placing information at local dog-oriented businesses. Frank stated that sponsoring events to get pet-related businesses involved really helped his group get the word out to dog owners.



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Education can also come in the form of letting government officials understand some of the benefits to the community of a dog park. Having a dog park is a good way to ensure that dogs are licensed and immunized because dogs need both in order to enter most dog parks. Another

benefit is that more people will purchase yearly park entrance licenses if the park is located within a public park requiring an entrance permit. That results in more taxpayers enjoying the parks. Bukosky states "It really is the only way that my wife and I go and enjoy the public park system."

The most important tactic of all according to Bukosky is to "Be persistent. Persistence pays. Officials may not be all that good at returning phone calls, e-mails and letters. But if you are persistent and represent a significant amount of taxpayers, you are more likely to get your mission done."

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Choosing a **DOG GROOMER**

Where do you turn when your four-legged friend is in need of a good bath and a new haircut? In a city like Milwaukee there's scores of groomers just waiting for your business, but how do you know which one is best for you and your beloved canine? Though there's no simple answer to this question, your best option is to ask around and get a referral from a trusted friend or co-worker. Your second best option is to review the many groomers surrounding this article. They are eager to answer any of your questions.

When beginning your search for a groomer, make sure you know the type of service you're looking for since grooming goes well beyond your pet receiving just a hair cut alone. Services can also include bathing, combing, brushing, clipping nails, cutting or shaving mats, cleaning ears and controlling external parasites. Though you may think you're capable of doing many of these things on your own, professional groomers can safely and humanely handle tricky procedures that your pet may not allow you to accomplish. Keeping a clean coat can not only keep you happy, but it's also a good way to keep your pet healthy and happy as well.

When searching for a groomer it's important to note that not all groomers and salons are alike, so knowing what type of service you'll require will help narrow your search to the salon you may select. Every pet salon can be uniquely different - some may want to keep your pet all day, while others may finish your pet within an hour, and some groomers may be mobile and come to your door. Price can also be a determining factor in choosing a groomer, so be sure to ask questions when you call.

Along with asking what types of services a groomer may provide and for what cost, also be sure to ask what training and certifications the stylist has, as well as what types of products may be used on the pet. It's also perfectly reasonable to ask for a tour of the facilities. While you're there, observe how groomers interact with pets, do they appear knowledgeable and caring? Do they handle pets gently? Is the facility well lit? Does it look and smell clean? Are pets monitored regularly to keep from overheating during blow-drying? Does the groomer keep complete records of each visit?

When you decide on a groomer, share information about your pet with the stylists such as age, veterinarian, health history and any special needs. Also talk to the stylist about what you have in mind for your pet's grooming. A "trim" to you may mean something different to the stylist. Specific instructions and even a photo can be helpful in determining the specifics of a first grooming. When taking your pet to a groomer for the first time, try to be present during the entire session. It's also important to be honest with your groomer if your pet has special needs and may



require frequent potty breaks, has trouble standing for long periods of time or may have behavioral issues such as anxiety or biting. Most groomers are willing to work with special needs pets and knowing ahead of time can help them schedule accordingly. If you have an older pet or a pet with medical issues, you may wish to use a groomer located within a veterinary clinic.

Cost of grooming can also be a determining factor when choosing where to take your pet. Costs can vary depending on the size of your pet and the services you require, but average fees can run between \$35-to-\$40 for a brushing, shampoo and cut. For the convenience of at-home grooming, the fee may be higher for mobile grooming services who come directly to your home.

Once you've made some calls, toured a facility or two and asked all the questions you feel comfortable asking, relying on your intuition is the best way to choose the groomer that's right for your pet. Also take note of how your pet interacts with the groomer; chances are if he or she feels comfortable and sees that you also feel comfortable, then your choice was most likely the correct one.

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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So what's this, an ad for a new specialty breed? No, this dog had been around for hundreds of years. Then it must be a rare breed? Wrong again, it's probably one of the most recognizable on the planet. Still scratching your head? O.K., I'll give you a hint. In America their best known for their funny puffy haircuts and perceived frou-frou lifestyle.

Betcha guessed Standard Poodle now, right? For all of you that just cringed at the name, shame on you. Poodles have been the butt of many a joke and received an unjust reputation. Even my own husband rolled his eyes when I told him this article's subject, and had the nerve to comment "why would you write about those?"

It's that response that requires dog lovers everyone to get the word out about these severely underrated pets. Founding member and current secretary for the Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club, Jean Lazarus, has been breeding and showing Poodles since 1957. She grew up with different dogs, but was drawn to Poodles for their multitude of terrific qualities. "They're wonderful family pets," she said, "they're very intelligent, non-shedding, they have it all."

Why is it that America had chosen to ostracize such a great family companion? Is it their curly coat? When you look at all the products used to turn stick straight hair into curly Q's for people, curling irons and hot rollers, well that just doesn't make any sense. Perhaps it's their haircuts, the partially shaved, fluffy 'do they sport at all the dog shows? The Chinese Crested, for instance, with his naked body and flowing mane has received no ill will, besides the poodle cut has a very long history that we'll get into later.



Let's not forget that a Poodle's not considered a "manly" enough dog. Many a male has uttered the words "I'm Okay with any kind of dog, except a Poodle." Well I got news for ya boys, Poodles started out as a man's dog, as masculine as they come.

No one knows exactly where Poodles started, but they've been around Western Europe for over 400 years. We associate them with the French, with whom he has enjoyed great popularity, but the name Poodle is thought to be from the German word "pudel" translating into "one who plays in water." In both countries Poodles were hunting dogs, used to retrieve waterfowl much like golden retrievers are today.

The haircut that receives so much ridicule today was essential. The thick coat was shaved to allow the dog to move swiftly in the water but sections were left



long to keep organs and joints warm in the chilly lakes and rivers. So not only is the poodle a man's dog, men picked out the haircut as well.

Not that a Poodle has to have that style, which is also known as an English Saddle, Continental, or Sporting cut. There is a range of styles, including a puppy cut where the hair is kept longer. While Poodle owners must budget for regular grooming, they rarely shed, making them a great choice for any allergic potential owners. Like most water dogs, their heavy earflaps make them prone to infections; regular inspections and cleaning should keep any potential problems at bay.



Poodles make excellent family dogs. They're extremely friendly and while active they can be city or apartment dogs with regular exercise and a safe place to run off-lead like a dog park. Jean remarked on how sensitive Poodles are. "They're very tolerant and very in tune with the needs of people."

Their high intelligence makes them easily trainable, and they love to show off what they know. The French marketed these qualities to make poodles popular as circus or performing dogs, a trend that can still be seen today.

Despite its hunting history the Poodle is classified as a non-working dog, an

image many poodle owners are starting to defy. These extremely agile animals excel at doggy athletic events, from Agility to Obedience trials, and some are even hunting again.

Medium to large size, standard poodles range from 45-60 pounds. The miniature and toy variety all came from their larger cousin, and despite the range in sizes, the AKC judges them all by the same standards. They can live up to 15 years, but just like any other purebred there are some genetic diseases like allergies, skin and eye conditions, hip dysplasia, and a bleeding disorder known as von Willebrand's disease, auto immune disease and bloat or the twisting of the stomach.

The best way to get a healthy poodle is from a reputable breeder. They'll have documentation on the health of the parents, like certification for their eyes and hips, and won't breed animals that have a history of genetic disorders. Of course there is no guarantee, but you'll definitely minimize your risks. "If you get your Poodle from a reliable source," instructed Jean, "conscientious breeders turn out good personalities, they'll be pretty and pleasant -easy to live with."

So there, I've said my peace. While I'm sure my article hasn't rocked the dog owning world into enlightenment, perhaps I've at least been able to dispel some misconceptions, and maybe, just maybe planted the seed in a few potential owners to reconsider what might be their perfect family pet. All I can ask is that before someone utters a negative remark, to think about this information and perhaps meet a poodle before making a judgment on him. After all, isn't that what we would all want for ourselves? Viva La Poodle and may he see a time when he is no longer snubbed for a vanity that is clearly not his.

For more information on Poodles check out poodle club of america.com or contact the Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club Referral Contact: Roberta Gilson at 1-920-893-0399 or at mgilson@excel.net.

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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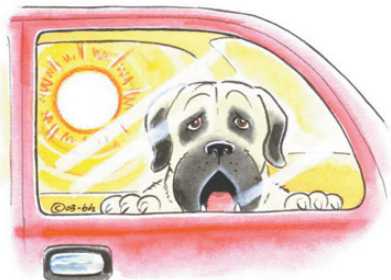
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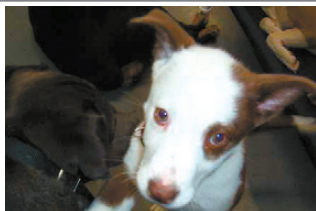
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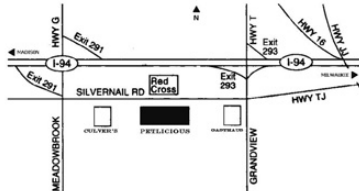
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DOGS AND LOUD NOISES

If your dog is afraid of loud noises, such as thunderstorms or firecrackers, you may need some advanced training to help him overcome his fears. This training can also be used for dogs who are afraid of doorbells, sirens, motorcycles, etc.

If your dog is afraid of more than one noise, start by determining which scares him the most, and work on this first.

Record the sound that scares your dog. Then expose him to the sound gradually by playing the recording at a volume low enough so as not to frighten him. While he hears the unpleasant sound, create a pleasant environment by using food, a toy, a gentle touch or lavish praise. Each time your dog calms down and stops paying attention to the sound, praise him and increase the volume slightly.

If your dog does not relax and you have waited a few minutes, turn the volume down. When he is relaxed, praise him, give him a treat and keep the recording at that volume for at least five minutes before increasing the volume again.

Begin with short sessions, but increase the volume of the recording at each new session. Over a period of time, lengthen the sessions until your dog is capable of facing the recorded noise at a level similar to the real thing.

If possible, expose your dog to the real stimulus gradually. For example, if your dog is afraid of firecrackers or lawn mowers, create that sound 100 yards away. Calm him and get him accustomed to the sound. Gradually decrease the distance of the sounds until he doesn't respond to the sound occurring in front of his home.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash while doing these practice sessions. If you do not have control of your dog and he is scared, he could run off.

Your dog can overcome his fears if you gradually expose him to the stimulus that scares him. If you need further help, contact a local AKC dog training club. With time and patience, these fears are treatable.



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Event Calendar

July 2006

6 Thursday

What: Beginner Rally Obedience Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 11:00 a.m. (6 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Advanced Rally Obedience Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 12:15 p.m. (6 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Advanced Rally Obedience Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 5:15 p.m. (6 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

7 Friday

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

What: Rally O Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m. (only \$6/2 runs)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

8 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: Basset Buddies Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon - 2:00 p.m.
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)

9 Sunday

What: Beginner Agility Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 2:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

13 Thursday

What: Shy & Reactive Dog Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 1:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

14 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 (only \$6)

What: Yappy Hour (Reservations Required)
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Rally O Drop-In Classes

Where: Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine
When: 6:30 p.m. (adv), 7:30 p.m. (novice)
Info: www.grkc.org

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

17 Monday

What: Beginner Agility Class Begins
Where: Central Bark 6442 River Parkway, Tosa
When: 7:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Friends of Nature, Genesee Depot
When: 6:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Friends of Nature, Genesee Depot
When: 7:00 p.m. (7 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

18 Tuesday

What: Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Class Begins
Where: Central Bark 6442 River Parkway, Tosa
When: 8:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

20 Thursday

What: Lure Coursing Run Thrus
Where: Lake Salvation Army Camp, East Troy
When: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070 (only \$10 for 2 runs)

21 Friday

What: Agility 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: AKC Agility Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m. (only \$6/5 minutes)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

22 Saturday

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

23 Sunday

What: Canine Scavenger Hunt
Where: Oconomowoc Dog Park
When: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Info: 262-560-1717

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

What: Shy & Reactive Dog Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:00 p.m. (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

26 Wednesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Central Bark 5780 West Hemlock St.
When: 8:00 p.m. (7 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

28 Friday

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

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

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

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.

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Trimming Pet Toenails

Depending on your pet's attitude, you may not want to say N-A-I-L T-R-I-M too loud. While some dogs barely notice when you're trimming their nails, others just plain don't like it and will let you know by squirming, whining, or worse-growling or biting. By knowing beforehand the proper way to do a nail trim on your pet, you may be able to save Rover (and yourself!) some distress. But if your pet simply refuses to cooperate, becomes aggressive, or if you just don't feel comfortable doing it yourself, it may be better to let a professional groomer or veterinarian conduct the dreaded deed. Check our Event Calendar and ads within this publication for monthly nail trimming sessions.

First, you should know why trimming your pet's nails is important. While long nails may be fashionable for supermodels, your dog's overgrown nails will drag on the ground and make walking or running uncomfortable for your pet. This, in turn, could result in soreness or other problems further up the leg. Dewclaws (the sixth toenail that's found higher up on the paw near a pet's "ankle") that are not trimmed regularly can curve back into the skin, which is very painful, and cause infection. Although it's common for many dogs to have their rear dewclaws removed when they're young pups, dewclaws on their front legs often remain.

In addition to trimming nails for health reasons, a pet's blunt nail tips are less likely to hurt you or your furniture by scratching.

So how often should nail trims be done? Generally, dogs will need their nails clipped once every one or two weeks. If you hear a scratching noise as your pet walks across the linoleum or on concrete, his nails are too long!

For Rover's manicure, be sure to use only nail trimmers that are designed for dogs. Never use scissors!

If your pet is not used to or is nervous about having his nails trimmed, be sure to start slowly. In fact, don't even bring out the trimmers the first few days. Instead, gently lift each paw and just pet it or massage it to get your dog used to having his feet handled. Reward him afterward with praise or a yummy treat. When you're ready to actually clip a nail, do so in a relaxed, quiet area of the house where you won't be disturbed. You may want to begin by clipping the nails on only one paw, or even just one or two nails on a paw, if Rover becomes restless or fearful. Above all else, you want to make this as pleasant an experience for him as you can. So don't rush it!

And trim only small amounts at a time, so that you're less likely to cut the "quick" of the nail. The quick contains the nerves and blood supply, so if you cut it, you'll know it and so will your pet! Cutting the quick is painful and will make Rover bleed. If bleeding occurs, sprinkle a clotting powder such as cornstarch or press a styptic pencil (a stick of a medicated clotting substance) on the nail tip. If necessary, hold a gauze pad firmly to the nail until the bleeding stops.

The quick is easy to see and avoid in white nails-it's the pink part. Always cut below the pink line. Dark nails are trick-

ier, though. It's hard to tell where the quick is until you've cut it. So when trimming dark nails, be conservative. Go slowly and only trim the curved part of the nail.

If you're new at trimming your pet's nails, watch your veterinarian or groomer do it first, and then let him or her talk you through it as you try it. With practice, both you and your four-legged friend will learn that nail trims really aren't that bad. But if you still feel uncomfortable, there's certainly no shame in letting a professional perform the manicure.

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. Trained consultants regularly visit these hospitals to ensure compliance with AAHA's standards for services and facilities. Individual veterinarians can also be members of AAHA.

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Dogs Around Town



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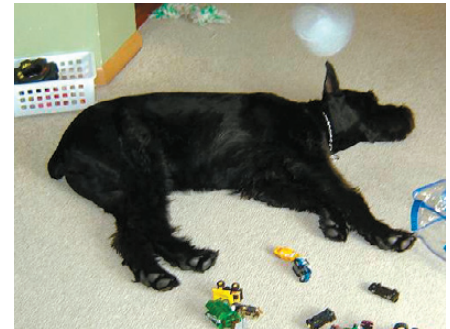
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Jenna Jason & Jodi, Oak Creek



The breeds we'll feature in 2007 are... well, it's up to you.

Westie
Greyhound
Giant Schnauzer
Whipper
Jack Russell Terrier
Golden Retriever
Australian Shepherd
Boxer
Dalmatian
Dachshund
Bulldog
Cocker Spaniel
Border Collies
Great Dane
Beagles
German Shepherd
Airedale
Basset Hound
Shih Tzu
Pug
Standard Poodle (July)
Weimaraner (August)
Boston Terrier (Sept)
PBGV (November)
Siberian Husky (Dec)

We need you to tell us which breeds to feature in our 2007 issues. So far, we've featured these breeds to the left, so they're out of the running: (but send us your photos anyway and we'll publish them in our Dogs Around Town section.)

If you share your home with a breed that is not listed, send in your photos. The breeds chosen to be featured in our 2007 issues will be based on the number of photos we receive. For instance, if you want us to feature Labrador Retrievers, get all your friends together and send in as many photos as you can. All photos we receive will be published with the breed article...and some will even grace the cover!!

Send us your photos by email at info@fetchmag.com or mail at Fetch Magazine, P.O. Box 070489, Milwaukee, WI 53207. (Included a SASE if you'd like your photos returned.)

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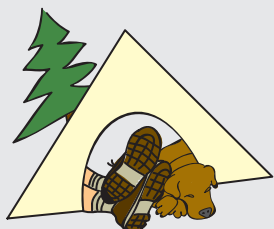
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