



# Fetch magazine

July 2008 | Volume 5 Issue 7

French Bulldog

Holistic Allergy Treatments

Examining Pet Overpopulation

Journey Inside a WI Dog Auction

Tips for Creating a Dog Record Book

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# Publisher's Letter

Are we getting too accustom to stray dogs running the streets, boxes of puppies at every flea market, and accepting the fact that every six and a half seconds a homeless animal is euthanized somewhere in the U.S.? Is it because we don't know what to do or think that the actions of a few people won't make much of a difference? Overpopulation of homeless animals is a huge problem throughout the country. But the action of even one person can make a difference. Over the course of the past couple of months, Jean Scherwenka took the agonizing task of researching this topic. From a national problem, Jean brought it down to how we're affected in Wisconsin and shares with us a few simple ideas to end overpopulating in our area. This is an article you can't overlook.

This issue also features the second part, in a three part series, of *A Dog Auction... My Own Personal Experience*. If you missed the first part, log on to [www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com) and you'll find a link on the home page. This is a true story based on a dog lover's journey inside a real working dog auction in northern Wisconsin. If you didn't think it was possible for people to gather around a dilapidated dog and wave their hands in the air while shouting out dollar amounts, this story will make you think again. And to make it worse, this all takes place right here in our hometown.

*Joseph & Jennifer Kojis*

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Photo of McGee, owned by Heather, was taken by Cory Albrechtson, photographer.

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# Ask the VET

## Holistic Solutions for your Dog's Allergies

The Alternative to Steroids

For years, Nancy struggled with the health of her beloved rescue dog, Stanley. Stanley, a golden retriever, suffered from a number of severe allergies causing him to scratch the sides of his body until they were raw. Stanley also developed weepy lesions on his skin causing his coat to stink and feel gooey to the touch.

Nancy attempted to treat his allergies with a number of different remedies. She went to a traditional veterinarian and was given prednisone, a corticosteroid, to treat the constant itching. The pharmaceuticals caused Stanley to develop

polyuria/polydipsia (PU/PD), which is characterized by the passage of large volumes of urine and excessive thirst. The PU/PD led to frequent "accidents." Nancy also tried using numerous topical medicines, but found little relief for her suffering dog.

After two frustrating years, a friend of Nancy's suggested that she explore some holistic options to relieve Stanley's allergies. Nancy followed the advice and visited Christine Bessent, D.V.M. Dr. Bessent recommended a formula of Chinese herbs called Herbsmith Clear Allergies and acupuncture. This herbal formula is specifically designed to treat dogs' severe allergies. Nancy found this remedy to be very effective with none of the negative side effects that she encountered with traditional pharmaceutical treatments. Nancy is now happy to report that Stanley's allergies have been under control for over a year. She is approaching the upcoming allergy season without the anxiety that she had in previous years.

### Traditional Chinese Medicine

There are many pharmaceutical options

on the market that promise quick results, but the ensuing side effects can be worse than the allergic condition they are intended to treat. Dr. Bessent, founder of Herbsmith, Inc., says there is an alternative way to address problems like these. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), a more natural, holistic approach to veterinary care, has proven to be successful for thousands of years.

"Traditional Chinese Medicine teaches us that allergies, like all medical conditions, are symptoms of an underlying disharmony within the body," Dr. Bessent says. "To effectively treat the problem, you must first address the underlying disharmony that is causing the allergy to occur."

An allergy is a hypersensitive reaction to an allergen (from a food or an inhalant). These allergens cause the body's defenses to overreact, which leads to the overheating of a dog's body. Some of the associated symptoms include itchy and reddened skin, panting, and restlessness. TCM states that the combination of warm (the heat of allergies) and cool (the dog's body temperature) often creates a condition of "wind" within the body, which is what often causes fiercely itchy skin. Another way that allergies can affect a dog's body is through the accumulation of phlegm. All of these symptoms (heat, phlegm, and wind) stem from an imbalance in the dog's liver, referred to as "Liver Qi stagnation". According to TCM, the liver is the organ responsible for the smooth flow of Qi (pronounced "chee"), which is the body's overall life-force. The liver acts as a "pump" to produce the smooth flow of energy throughout the entire body. When that pump "overheats" as a result of an allergic reaction, the vital fluids within the body evaporate and phlegm starts to accumulate. The accumulation of phlegm causes the dog's coat to give off a foul odor and become greasy or gooey.

Any imbalance within the body can be explained using the model of "yin and yang", which is at the base of all TCM theory. Yin and yang both exist within the body at all times. "Yin" represents the concepts of cooling, fluids, quietness, and passive behavior. "Yang" represents the concepts of heat, inflammation, outward energy, and aggressive behavior. A healthy animal will have a perfect balance between the two forces. According to TCM, any imbalance of the two is regarded

- continued on page 30



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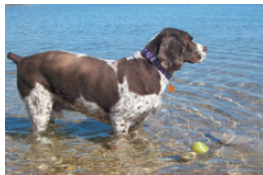


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# Training Bits

*The following article proves a dog's life is not over simple because a ruthless disease robs them of certain mobility. If you find yourself in a similar situation, learn from Deb Jelich, certified pet dog trainer, that all it takes is a little modification and a lot of love to help a pooch once again feel like a pup.*

When my vet announced, "I'm afraid a spinal adjustment won't do much," I was not too surprised. Ranger was 12 years old, and as a pup had been diagnosed with hip dysplasia. We assumed the increasing sound of toenails dragging across the floor to be the arthritis we were told to expect in his later years. The vet's next words, however, were totally unexpected. "Have you ever heard of Degenerative Myelopathy? When you get home, look it up on the Internet." He then proceeded to fill me in, even offering me the loan of a doggie wheelchair. He had, as the saying goes, "been there, done that."

Later that day as I perused the Internet, I learned DM is a progressive disease of the myelin around the nerves in the spine; there is no treatment and no cure. DM is a diagnosis of elimination requiring an MRI or a myelogram to rule out herniated discs or tumors on the spine. Two of the

breeds most commonly associated with DM are German Shepherds and Corgis. Ranger is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

To make a long story short, Ranger received a diagnosis of DM in the end of October 2007. When pressed for a prognosis, the doctor would only say the condition was quite advanced. She strongly urged me to seek out physical therapy for Ranger to retain what muscle remained in his hind legs. This turned out to be excellent advice. Not only did the therapist know her stuff, but she gave me a much needed boost of optimism for the time Ranger had remaining.

After his diagnosis, Ranger's left hind leg totally lost its supportive function and as of this writing the toes on his right foot are beginning to knuckle under. But he manages to get around amazingly well, especially where food is involved. He is a corgi, after all! I had already been using a harness which allowed me to be Ranger's hind legs when navigating the few stairs to the backyard. Being on the tall side I was beginning to feel the effects of bending, lifting, and carrying a 28-lb dog outside several times a day to go potty.

Early on my vet loaned me a cart and advised me to use it. Initially Ranger accepted it like a duck takes to water. Maybe this won't be so bad after all! However, soon Ranger began to turn away at the sight of the cart. Even though originally sized for a corgi, the rear support structure of this cart did not

allow Ranger adequate freedom to move his legs and he was making it increasingly clear he was not comfortable. Once again I turned to the Internet and couldn't believe my luck when I discovered a cart which used a support system similar to the harness I used to potty Ranger. It fit him like a glove!

Ranger has one advantage that many other dogs with DM may not have. He possesses a huge repertoire of behaviors. He was a successful obedience competitor, overcame his fear of noisy teeter totters to do agility, was able to recall long-lost herding instincts, and was a registered therapy dog. In his later years he even became a Reading Education Assistance Dog. At 12-1/2 years of age he does spend a vast majority of his day sleeping, but he still expressed an interest in many of the things he did as a younger dog. These activities just needed "tweaking."

Because it was winter when Ranger received his new cart, activities were restricted to indoors. Find It! is a popular pastime of my dogs during inclement weather and is easy to teach to a dog of any age. So that's what we started with. For this game each one of my dogs has a designated object to find. Ranger has a tennis ball. Living in a ranch-style house allows me to ask each of my dogs to sit and stay in the living room while I hide each of their toys at the opposite end. When I come back, I release them to run down the hallway and find their toy which is hidden in one of three bedrooms. Ranger did need some supervision since his wheels tended to get hung up on doorways and dresser legs.

When the temperatures finally rose a bit, I widened the pathways thru the snow in the backyard to accommodate Ranger's cart so he could build up some steam chasing his beloved tennis ball. The depth of the snow was still over 12" and I imagine from the air our yard must have resembled an ant farm! Besides giving Ranger some much needed exercise it did wonders for my psyche to see that beloved little corgi butt bouncing around once again.

With the snow finally gone I was able to get out the agility equipment. I normally set weave poles at a distance of 22". Since my weave poles are simply 36" lengths of decorated PVC supported by



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garden stakes, it was easy to remove every other pole/stake to accommodate Ranger's cart. To guide Ranger through the poles, I used a small Styrofoam ball glued onto a wooden dowel as a target stick.

My tunnel is homemade to accommodate my greyhound and consists of a three-sided PVC frame with no floor. This works perfectly for Ranger! A target placed beyond the exit keeps him on a straight path thru the tunnel and also prevents him from turning before his cart clears the exit. Plastic lids containing treats make great targets.

Sending Ranger "over" jump standards without any bars is something I began doing a few years ago when it became obvious jumping was uncomfortable for him. To prevent Ranger from getting hung up on the standards, I guide him over the jumps using a target stick or I place targets on the ground the necessary distance after each jump. Small Styrofoam balls on dowels pushed in the ground or plastic lids containing treats work well for this.

Set your A-frame at a very low apex (mine is home-made from two discarded closet doors covered in non-skid rug backing). This posed no problem to Ranger going up, but I "spot" him in case he gets too near the edge and also to control his speed on the way down. Placing colored plastic lids at the top and at each base provides targets to help the dog maintain a centralized path.

I don't think the teeter is going to be a possibility, but I do have a piece of plywood on a length of 4" diameter PVC I use to teach balance. Hmm... You know, there is Teacup Agility for dogs 16" and under, why not Agility on Wheels!

**Debbie Jelich** is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and the owner of Comprehensive Canine, LLC. She lives in Oconomowoc with her husband, two children, corgis Ranger and Rosie, Adam, a 10-year-old greyhound, and a tank of prolific goldfish. Contact her at [www.comprehensive-canine.com](http://www.comprehensive-canine.com).

*If you're interested in learning more about dogs who participate in agility while using wheelchair carts, a newly formed Yahoo! Group has started a discussion. You can find the group here: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/cleanroll/>*

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# For the Record

## Vital Info for the Dog Sitter & You!

When I was a new dog mom and had to leave my one year old pup for the first time with a professional dog sitter, I left 10 single-spaced, typed pages of notes, hints and instructions. Bless her heart, the sitter barely blinked and even thanked me for the detailed information. Thanks to good friends and wonderful, professional dog sitters, I have never had to board my now 6 year old Plott Hound, Louie.

A dog record book containing information that your dog sitters might want or need is an excellent idea to help the dog sitting experience be a good one for you, your dog and the sitter. Gather the information and put it in a three ring binder with section dividers and a bright colored sheet for the cover. The contents of a dog record book will vary based upon your needs but here are suggestions for overall topics:

- Emergency information
- Dog's daily routine and quirks
- Fun scrapbook type information

Medical emergency information is helpful to have ready not only for your sitter but also for you. Include a map and directions to your veterinarian and the nearest emergency clinic with addresses, phone numbers and your vet's name. Because Louie is susceptible to bloat with his deep barrel chest, I include an article on bloat. Kristy Heinz, a canine massage practitioner, includes a list of common household items that are poisonous to dogs like chocolate, onions and the ingredient Xylitol (found

in such things as gum or toothpaste). Laura McClure's dog, Trooper, is susceptible to seizures, so she has information on what to do if he seizes and under what conditions he needs to go to the vet or emergency room.

Other items for the emergency information section include:

- Your contact information
- Nearby friends and/or relatives' contact information
- Medication information including how much and how often
- The numbers of the local shelters in case of a lost dog
- The microchip number and the company name and phone number
- Medical records including proof of rabies as most shelters will not release a lost dog without proof of rabies
- Online and hard copy photos of your dog in case they become lost

One way the sitter can help make things less stressful for your dog is to maintain the daily routine which can be the focus of the next section of your dog record book along with information on quirks. One of the quirky things that can surprise a sitter is that Louie likes to lick the back of your knee when you are walking down the hallway. Items for this section can include:

- How much to feed, how often and when
- Treats – which ones and how often
- Walking routine – when, where and how far
- Bathroom routine
- Bedtime routine
- Quirks – Example: Louie won't exit the

- car if we park right next to another car.
- Does the dog have to sit/stay whenever entering or exiting doors?
- Naughty habits – Louie likes to eat the fringes on pillows and blankets.
- Scary things – Louie use to be afraid of ceiling fans.
- Commands your dog knows

I have found that by including a third section with fun scrapbook type information that I am more likely to pick up the record book and keep the first two sections updated. Birthday pictures from doggy day care and ribbons awarded for being well-behaved adorn Louie's scrapbook section along with other fun information.

Topics can include:

- Favorite toys, blankets, games
- Notes on the day your dog came home and where he came from
- Favorite places to go
- Tricks he knows
- Favorite spot to get scratched
- Paw prints
- Pictures of fun times and doggy friends

Dog sitters have been an integral part of my life with Louie. He gets to stay at home and sleep in his own bed. I have a better vacation because I worry less about him. Having a dog record book helps the sitter and makes the time apart a bit more comforting for all.

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



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## Best Paw Forward Opens Second Location

Ensuring your dog, and you, attend training classes is vital to keeping your dog safe and you sane. After all, none of us like to be greeted by an overly enthusiastic pooch or watch him walk away when we say, "sit." Training is the most important thing you will ever do for your dog. How you approach training will forever affect the relationship between you and your companion. To help make training classes more convenient, Best Paw Forward will be opening the doors of a new and second location this month in Pewaukee.

Best Paw Forward believes in positive, motivational training methods which have been tested to show great results. The method used is a reward-based training approach which makes a positive learning experience for the dog and will ensure that he will put his "best paw forward;" listening and obeying your commands.

Best Paw Forward is run by Linda Fodor who brings her life-long love of dogs together with proven training techniques that both you and your dog will enjoy. In addition to Linda's many years of dog training experience, she has more than 20 years of experience in adult education. Her love for animals is obvious in everything she does. She is committed to positive

training techniques and to helping every dog owner enjoy a well mannered dog. Linda also believes that dogs have a wonderful and powerful effect on people. Linda's Golden Retriever, Bella, is a Certified Therapy Dog. BJ, her Yorkie puppy, is also a Therapy Dog. Plus, the new addition, a nine month old Yorkie named Emmy Lou, is a Therapy Dog in training. Linda, Bella and BJ visit area nursing homes and hospitals on a regular basis, so she knows first hand the wonderful effect that therapy dogs have on people. Linda is a Certified Evaluator for the American Kennel Club (AKC) and for Delta Society. She is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

Classes will be held at the new Pewaukee location and run by many of Best Paw Forward's highly experienced trainers. The facility is located off of I94 and Hwy 164. For a schedule of classes starting this month, call 262-369-3935. If you're in the lake country area, Best Paw Forward's main training facility is located off of I94 and Hwy 83 in Hartland. You'll find training classes available in obedience, canine good citizen, rally, agility, and therapy dog at this location.



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# A Lesson in Love and Loyalty

## A Reader's Personal Experience

Let's see, where do I start? Wilson's story is long... for the short time he's been with us. I'll start with introductions. Joey, my 15 year old son, is the most incredible person I know. When Joey turned 10, we welcomed Chance, an Australian shepherd, into the family. He's a five year old red merle and Joey's best buddy. He is my cautious one. I fell in love with the breed so much I had to get another one. To me there is no other breed like an Aussie. I looked online and found Aussie Rescue & Placement Helpline (ARPH). I had been visiting their website for sometime when I found a dog that caught my eye. It was a referral so I had to contact the owner. After a few attempts and no response I contacted the Indiana rep who was also listed as a contact. Still no reply from the owner. The rep sent us a link to a black-tri named Bandit that was in a shelter in Bristol, Indiana and was waiting for a foster home. I contacted the shelter and talked to Pat. Bandit sounded just wonderful so Joey, Chance, and I took a road trip to Indiana. When Pat brought Bandit down the hall to meet us I knew he would be coming home. He was probably around six and at the bottom of the pack in rank, which didn't seem to bother him at all. Always playing the role of a clown, he'd wait to hear our boisterous laugh. We call him our social butterfly.

I had loved what the rescue was doing and just how dedicated the volunteers were so I decided to volunteer myself. It began with reference checking then fostering. This is how we met Wilson, our blue merle who is now 7ish years old. Wilson's story begins in July 2004.

**July 2004** Wilson was in a shelter in Illinois when I got the call to foster him. When the pick-up date came near, I was given word that he was recently adopted. Six to eight weeks later, the lady who adopted him contacted ARPH and said she could not keep him any more. He was out of control and barking all the time (not unusual for a herding breed). He was knocking her plants off the window and destroying the home when left alone. Thinking the backyard was a good release of his energy, Wilson quickly found ways to get on the other side of the fence... but refused to come back in. Wilson was now going to be our foster dog.

road trip again, this time to meet Wilson. It seems like yesterday. I can see him in the front seat of the car, with a sad 'I'm not wanted anymore' look on his face. Leash in hand, Wilson was going to now enter another chapter of his life. He quickly jumped into the back seat as if this was not his first time.

Immediately, Joey said we should keep him. The drive home went well. The first night was wonderful. It seemed Wilson was just a misunderstood dog. Saturday morning came and I noticed a little something in his stool, tapeworms. Off to the vet for a stool check and dewormer. Again, Wilson did wonderfully. We could tell the dogs were getting along just fine so we decided to take all three of them to the dog park. The park we visit has a river, a big chunk of woods, and a prairie with lots and lots of smells and neat things to investigate. I was told Wilson had "NO RECALL" so I put him on a 15 foot leash. Once we entered the park, I decided to let him off leash. I figured he

was so out of shape and overweight that he would not get too far. Then, out of nowhere, a little girl appeared. Wilson sat down and accepted the praise and hugs from this girl. I could swear he was smiling. As we hit the trail again, Wilson started to take the lead, head held high. I felt like his spirit was coming back. I was enjoying the happiness so much but soon realized he was up ahead too far. Fear set in as I remembered the warning of 'no recall.' I let out a "Wilson come" and just like that he stopped, turned around, and ran straight back to me, even sitting down at full attention. Joey and I looked at each other and said, "No recall??" I knew then Wilson was a great dog and just not happy where he had been. Two weeks of fostering and watching his playful personality, we decided he had to stay. As the months went by, Wilson became a very, very loyal companion. His weight dropped to normal levels, his coat became shinny, and he LOVED Frisbee! He would jump so high and do crazy flips and turns. People would stop to watch him. Our three Aussies were becoming a very bonded pack with Wilson as the leader... and a good one at that.

- continued on page 17

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Dawgs in Motion, or DIM, offers an extensive list of dog training classes, a dog day camp, dog grooming, pet massage, self-service dog wash tubs, pet pick-up and drop off services, a retail store and of course the hydrotherapy pool that doubles as a site for pet parties.

DIM's pool is heated and measures 8'x 20'. When its in-wall jets are turned on, it creates a "current" for resistance training, and with a water depth of 4'-6" it can accommodate large dogs. The area is also equipped with a shower and dryer for dogs to use before leaving the facility.

"Since 70% of the dog's weight is removed while exercising in the water, there's less impact on the dog's limbs," said Sue Richison, who with business partner and head trainer Joan Simon together operate Dawgs in Motion. "Hydrotherapy is helpful especially if your dog is recovering from a surgery or has arthritis."

"Some inactive dogs seem to be so rejuvenated after their activity in the pool," Richison added. "The warm water increases the blood flow to all body parts and the non-impact swimming exercises muscles that are not normally used in regular walking."

"We also wanted the full spa affect, so we invited Debbie Denhardt to come aboard



with her business Unleashed Energy small animal massage," Richison said. Including massage therapy after hydrotherapy relaxes muscles, helps to remove toxins from the muscle tissue that tend to settle in with inactivity "and spoils the dog a little as well," she said.

"We as humans know how wonderful hot tubs and massages feel," Richison noted. "Dogs get the same benefit and good feelings from the hydrotherapy and massage. Sometimes they even seem to enjoy it more."

"Massage can aid with issues that develop with age, injury recovery, surgery, emotional calming and it helps to gain trust and bonding with people," added Denhardt, who graduated from Blue Sky School of Professional Massage and Bodywork in 2004. Massages also relieve muscle tension, improves blood and lymph circulation, speeds recovery from injured muscles, decreases pain, increases range of motion, reduces stress and promotes relaxation, she said.

In charge of DIM's training classes and all trainers, Simon has been training dogs for 35 years. She has been both a competitor and judge in obedience tournaments throughout the country, and she and her border collie Java recently competed in the AKC National Agility Championship where they placed sixth out of 300 top dogs.

"Training dogs is my passion," said Simon. "I love to teach owners how to break through any language barriers they may have with their dogs. I really feel that our dogs have as much to teach us as we have to teach them, and a happy, healthy dog makes for a happy owner."

Fifteen different classes are offered, including various levels of obedience and agility training,

along with classes for children with dogs, puppy/potty training, dancing with your dog, dog tricks, and even a handicap owner with dog class. In-home behavior classes, private lessons and individualized training classes are also available.

Also on site is Pretty Paws Pet Grooming, operated by Amanda Wampner, Richison's daughter and a graduate of the Academy of Dog Grooming, Arlington Heights, IL. "The new location provides a beautiful, expanded space for Pretty Paws grooming services and I'm very excited to share the DIM facility with existing and new clients," said Wampner.

DIM also offers a Day Camp, open Monday through Friday 6am-6pm, and attendees receive 1/2 off pool and massage services. A camp activity director sets up programs for good socialization, teaching dogs to play well together, providing exercise indoors and outdoors (weather permitting) and includes a snack time and quiet time.

Another service under DIM's roof is a self-wash dog facility featuring two dog-wash tubs. The specially designed tubs can handle all size dogs and feature an easy in and out swing door that's perfect for older dogs or ones with trouble climbing steps. If needed, DIM supplies the shampoo and towels, and blowers are available to dry dogs before taking them home. Appointments are suggested for the tubs, and for an additional fee DIM has its "Baths By Us" service where they do the bathing.

"We are not a 'big box' store and we specialize in each of our services," Richison said proudly. "We get to know each of our customers and their dogs. Our staff is experienced and used to being around dogs and truly enjoy working with our dog customers and their owners."

"The owners and dogs become almost family," she added. "We love talking and working with them very much."

Visit DIM at [www.dawgsinmotion.com](http://www.dawgsinmotion.com), or contact Dawgs in Motion at 262-268-8000.

**Daryl L. Skaradzinski** and his wife Anne share their home with three dogs. He's General Manager of the Milwaukee Post newspaper, enjoys traveling, camping with their pets, hot, spicy foods and cold beers and is an avid Packers fan.

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# Tips for a Fun and Safe Summer

*We've run similar tips for summer safety every year, yet without fail we still find dogs panting in a hot car, leaning halfway out the window on the freeway, and unable to seek shade or water while chained outside. Please share these tips with anyone not following them.*

Summer is a great time for people and their pets. But summer also means that people need to take some extra precautions with their companions. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, has some tips for ensuring that summer is fun and safe for your dog or cat.

Nancy Peterson, companion animal issues specialist, notes, "Protection from the heat, parasites, car safety, and sterilizing your pet are some of the issues that, while important year-round, need extra attention during the summer months."

## Safe Fun in the Sun

- It is important to make sure that your pet has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh water. Heat stroke can be fatal for pets as well as people.

- Leaving your pet outside unattended even for a few minutes places your animal companion at risk of theft or harm.

- Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On hot days, save longer walks and games of catch for the cooler mornings and evenings. Be especially careful with short-nosed dogs like pugs and bulldogs. Their facial conformation makes it difficult for them to cool their bodies by panting.

- Don't chain or tether your dog. It allows no opportunity for exercise and socialization, and when done for long periods of time can lead to behavior problems. Instead, set aside time every day to walk or play ball with your dog.

- continued on page 16



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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.

Sat., July 12th, 9:00 a.m. Tues., July 22nd, 6:30 p.m.  
Thur., July 17th, 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.

Sat., July 12th, 10:30 a.m. Tues., July 22nd, 7:45 p.m.  
Thur., July 17th, 6:30 p.m.

## Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):

Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.  
Fri., July 11th, 7:45 p.m.

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

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*continued from page 15*

**Parasite Patrol**

- Take care in choosing flea and tick control products, as some can be harmful to pets and children.

- Dogs are at an increased risk of contracting heartworm during the summer. Transmitted by a bite from an infected mosquito, heartworm disease can be fatal if not treated. Check with your veterinarian for the best schedule for heartworm testing and preventive medication for your pet.

**Companion Animals and Cars**

- Though numerous car commercials depict it as the ultimate joy in a dog's life, allowing your canine companion to stick his head out the window is asking for trouble. Doing so can subject your pet to injury by flying debris.

- Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car. On warm days, the temperature in your car can rise to 120 degrees in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. Also, an animal left alone in a car is an open invitation to pet thieves.

- Dogs should never ride in the back of pick-up trucks, and some states have laws that restrict such transport. If you are forced to make a sudden or evasive driving maneuver, your dog could be thrown from the truck and seriously, or even fatally, injured.

**Spaying and Neutering**

- Important all year-round, the need for spaying and neutering is brought home during the spring and summer months when animal shelters are filled to capacity with litters of unwanted puppies.

- Spaying and neutering helps to reduce the pet overpopulation problem.

- There are also numerous benefits to spaying and neutering, including greatly reducing the risk of cancer and reducing the potential for aggressive behavior in your pet.

**United States Humane Society**  
[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)



continued from page 13

Never too hard on the other two boys, but always there to protect. He and I bonded very strongly; Joey sometimes calling him a 'Mommy's Boy.' And to be honest, he is.

**July 2006** This is where Wilson's story truly starts. During one of our trips to the woods, Wilson became side-tracked and was off hunting down a chipmunk. During the chase he received a puncture wound to his inner right thigh. Because of the degree and location of the wound, he had developed subcutaneous emphysema. (air under the skin) We took Wilson to the vet where he received two staples. Soon everything healed up nicely... so we thought. The staples were removed and we were told he could resume normal activity. We headed back to the woods to play Frisbee. Off and on Wilson would favor that leg. I just figured the leg must still have some soreness to it. During the last week in November, he stopped using the leg altogether. I gave him a few days of R&R but no improvement.

**December 6, 2006** Off to the vet. He was put on Previcox which seemed to help. However, when it wore off, Wilson was back to a three-legged dog.

**December 14, 2006** Back to the vet, again. Wilson's leg now showed lumps that were hard to the touch. The veterinarian took x-rays and diagnosed Wilson with Osteomyelitis and put him on Ciprofloxacin.

**December 17, 2006** Wilson had steadily become worse. He now had a high fever of 104 degrees and continued to not put weight on his back right leg. As his condition worsened, he began to feel pain in his front left elbow. He became lethargic, coughing intermittently with odd lesions

and showing dehydration. The severity of all these conditions appeared so rapidly, prompting us to head to the animal emergency center. He spent the night hooked up to an IV to rehydrate and decrease the high fever.

As I walked towards the door to head home, Wilson gave me a look of sadness and fear. I hugged him and said, "I love you." I promised I would be back. He barked and tried so hard to act like he was fine. Remember, the only times Wilson watched his owner leave was when they would leave for good. I didn't want him to feel like I was abandoning him.

Wilson always slept by my legs with his head resting on them. Tonight was different. After a very long night he was stabilized and sent home. The first indications of Wilson's affliction pointed to Lyme's disease. The tests came back negative but I was told that's not uncommon. He was sent home with yet another pain pill and

meds to treat Lyme's. Wilson's daily routine now included two pain pills plus another two meds. I waited, as instructed by our veterinarian, to see if the new meds were helping. They weren't, and on December 30th we were back at the vet... and again on January 2nd.

**January 8, 2007** Wilson was tested again and the results came back as...

**Kristin Meiller** – Cudahy, Wisconsin

**The new diagnosis was heart-breaking. But there was hope. Wilson was a fighter. Continue reading about Wilson's battle in the August issue of Fetch Magazine where we'll feature part two of this story. Or, log on to [www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com) now and find the complete story available through a link on our home page.**

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# Tragic Canine Overpopulation

## Homeless Dogs Need Our Help

Overpopulation is never a pleasant subject because it always means not enough of something for somebody. What follows is a sad story. I understand if you're unable to read it all; my research was challenging. You can skip to the list of things we can do, there is something there for all of us, and every little bit of it will help. Then please share this information with other dog lovers wherever you know them, and together we will eventually solve this disturbing problem.

### The Numbers

Sources vary on their statistics, but five million is the current estimated number of homeless cats and dogs killed in U.S. animal shelters every year. That's one animal every six and a half seconds. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) estimates there are 6 to 8 million dogs and cats in shelters, and they claim, "at this point in time, it would be impossible to humanely house every unwanted animal in the United States." Tragically, some shelters have turned into warehouses, and shelter workers suffer immeasurable stress "when they are forced to euthanize one animal after another."

The numbers are HSUS estimates, and they vary from state to state. There is no central data-reporting agency for animal shelters. But common to all states are

the two major causes of homeless dogs—pets that haven't been spayed or neutered and puppy mills and other irresponsible breeding.

As stated on their website, the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) "currently rescues and assures safe, temporary shelter, veterinary and humane care for nearly 13,000 stray, unwanted, abandoned, mistreated and injured animals each year." Executive Director Melanie Sobel came to MADACC in August 2007, having previously served six years as director of program services for the Chicago Commission on Animal Care and Control. During that time, she implemented several progressive programs for Chicago including their first free, targeted spay/neuter program and the city's only mobile spay/neuter unit.

Sobel brings her expertise, ideas, and humane vision for animals to the lost and homeless pets in Milwaukee County. She describes her staff of 35 full and part-time employees as the people "really on the front line of animal welfare in the county. They work very hard and are very dedicated. It's not an easy job considering what we have to deal with every day. We're an open door facility, and we don't refuse any animals that come to our door. We take in sick, old, aggressive, all kinds of animals."

Strays picked up by animal control officers, citizens, or police in Milwaukee County are brought to MADACC. Upon arrival

each animal is weighed, photographed, and scanned for a microchip or other I.D. Their picture is immediately placed on the website for public viewing. All dogs and cats are examined by staff veterinary technicians and de-wormed and vaccinated. They are then placed in clean cages in their respective areas where they wait for a minimum of seven days for their owners to call or come in. After their waiting period, the animals are offered to shelters, breed placement groups or, as a last resort only, euthanized. MADACC's brochure, "Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership," explains that euthanasia can be a blessing for many of these animals for whom life on the street has become "worse than death." However, MADACC's "continuing objective is to reduce and ultimately eliminate euthanasia for domestic animals."

The facility does not have an adoption service at this time; it is one of Sobel's goals. In the meantime, they work with 150 shelters, rescue groups, and adoption agencies and have a special relationship with Companion Animal Resource and Adoption Center, Inc. (CARAC). Located within the Southridge mall in Greendale, CARAC specializes in finding homes for MADACC's unclaimed strays.

Sobel gave me an hour-long tour of MADACC. I met some staff, some animals, and I saw all areas of operation. Great care is taken to control disease, often a challenge for animals coming in from alley and street life. Five separate dog kennels provide adequate space for separation based on health and comfort needs, e.g. older dogs grouped quietly away from excitable, barksy dogs. Those of us who love pets can rest assured that people at MADACC have animals' best interests at heart.

### The Puppy Mills

This term refers to large-scale puppy farms where dogs are bred solely for money with little or no concern for the comfort, health, or welfare of the breeders or their puppy litters. HSUS "estimates that at least 10,000 U.S. puppy mills, most of them unlicensed and unmonitored, are producing up to 4 million puppies a year." American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) activist Bob Baker says that since the mid-90's that number has doubled. "Often, they're keeping breeding stock in squalid, horrible

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conditions for their entire short lives and producing unhealthy, substandard puppies with genetic, behavior and psychological issues," Baker says. He adds that this then becomes not only an issue of inhumane care but also consumer fraud.

Gerald Schulz's Pretty Penny Kennels in Plymouth, Wisconsin is a prime example. Schulz has been in the business for thirty years and according to Elmbrook Humane Society's (EBHS) community outreach director Karen Sparapani, "He's quite smug about it. He says he will shoot people who come on his property." Animal activist Elizabeth Meadows visited Pretty Penny Kennels to investigate, take pictures, and buy dogs to rescue. She saw overcrowded cages puddled with urine and feces, spoiled dog food, sick dogs, and more. See her photos and read her article at Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project (WPMP). [www.nowisconsinpuppymills.com](http://www.nowisconsinpuppymills.com)

Compared to neighboring states, Wisconsin has lax breeding regulations, creating a haven for irresponsible breeders. Making matters worse, the Pet Facilities Bill failed to pass last year. Legislators need to hear our concerns so that they can reintroduce the bill this year and see that it becomes law.

### Spay/Neuter Issue

There are many health benefits of spaying or neutering your dog. "We have found that sterilization increases life span, improves the health of animals, and lowers the rates of cancer," says WHS Public Relations Specialist Angela Speed. Spay/Neuter (S/N) can also reduce problem behaviors. "Dogs that are not altered spend so much time thinking about finding their mates that they're much more likely to bolt out of their yard or have the urge to roam," says Speed. "Eighty-five percent of dogs hit by cars are unaltered."

One of the roadblocks to sterilizing dogs is the range of opinions on the subject. Some believe all dog breeding should cease until the problem of overpopulation is resolved. Others fight hard for mandatory spay/neuter (MSN). Chicago is considering MSN legislation with criminal background checks for dog breeders, while Los Angeles is a step closer to actually having it. The American Kennel Club objects to MSN and has mounted a strong nationwide campaign to stop efforts wherever they

start. AKC believes MSN is a violation of the privacy and rights of responsible breeders.

### The Sterilization Myths:

- My dog will get fat and lazy—not unless he gets too much food and too little exercise.
- It's healthier to have one litter first—medical study shows that females spayed before their first heat are healthier dogs.
- My pet is purebred—one out of every four pets brought to shelters is purebred.
- I want my dog to be protective—a dog's personality is formed by nature and nurture, not sex hormones, and it's her natural instinct to protect what she loves.
- My male dog will feel less of a male—an example of anthropomorphism, attributing the characteristics of some humans to nonhumans.
- It's too expensive—this one has some merit.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), only 10 percent of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered. Cost is part of the problem, at least in this area. Veterinary sterilization charges can range from \$95-\$800. Every animal adopted from Wisconsin or Ozaukee Humane Societies is spayed or neutered before release, and the charge is included in the \$125-\$450 adoption fees. Elmbrook Humane Society's \$75-\$150 adoption fee also includes spay/neuter, and Companion Animal Resource and Adoption Center charges \$100 for any pet including sterilization.

WHS offers a low-income clinic. Based on income, the scale slides from free to small fee, and the service applies to pets not purchased at WHS. MADACC offers low-cost S/N once a week, which they plan to increase as soon as possible. See their websites listed below for application processes.

### What We Can Do

- Adopt a pet. There is a huge list of dogs available for adoption on [www.widogs.com](http://www.widogs.com).
- Spay/neuter pets and help out at Spay Day USA events in February 2009.
- Boycott pet stores that sell animals and support those that don't.
- Contact lawmakers and encourage friends to do the same.

- Do not purchase or list animals as "free to a good home" in ads or on Craigslist—irresponsible breeders look for these opportunities.
- Visit and support shelters and rescues with our time and/or money.
- Stay current with the websites below.
- Be the models of responsible pet owners.
- Keep in mind what Dean Koontz says in his book, *The Darkest Evening of the Year*: "Dogs love us more than they love themselves; among human beings, that would be considered a sign of sainthood."

Humane Society of the United States  
[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

MADACC [madacc.com](http://madacc.com)

Companion Animal Resource & Adoption  
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WHS [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

EBHS [www.ebhs.org](http://www.ebhs.org)

Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc.  
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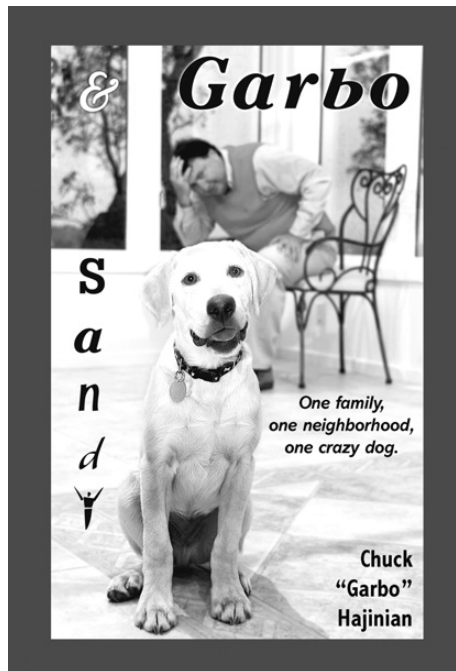
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# BARKING Book Review: Wisconsin Lab on the Lake



Wisconsin doesn't often get to set the stage for comedies or dramas, not unless one of our own brings it into the lime light. In this case it was a Delafield dentist who put his talent for story telling to work, bringing us a canine treat, the book *Sandy & Garbo, One family, one neighborhood, one crazy dog*. Dr. Chuck "Garbo" Hajinian, shares his family's longing, love and loss of a Labrador retriever named Sandy (a nod to the famous mutt of a red-headed orphan).

Labs are one of the most common breeds in the United States, so plenty of families will be able to relate to Garbo's experiences.

He also writes like an everyday dog owner, giving the book a home-grown feeling.

An interesting facet of Sandy & Garbo, is the unique background of Garbo himself. He is Armenian and his ethnic roots cling to certain aspects of his modern life, one of which is that cleanliness is godliness. For Garbo, this is reason not to bring a one-dog-dirtying machine into his clean Nagawicka Lake home. Tugging Garbo in the opposite direction is his memory of his childhood dog, Patches, who represents the mischief and joy of being a kid.

Garbo struggles at first, feeling the same guilt and anxiety many parents feel watching their children plead for a dog. He introduced substitutes and tried to sway his children with talk of chores. However, Garbo knew he would lose. The one thing that can make any man melt are his daughters, says Garbo, their "I'll never love another man as much as you-Daddy. If-you-give-me-what-I-want" looks and their cunning power of persuasion. One particularly delightful scheme was hatched by Garbo's second youngest daughter, the tenacious one, who laid the problem of convincing her father to get a dog before a higher power. Stacy came home with a note from her Sunday school teacher saying, "Dear Dr. and Mrs. Hajinian, I want you to know that our class is praying that Stacy will be able to get a dog," explained Garbo in his book.

He recounts many Sandy stories, from being picked from the bottom of a puppy pile to how she couldn't help but wander


her surroundings. Here is one point of difference between the Hajinians and most other families. Sandy's yard became the neighborhood. Not all dogs or dog owners are lucky enough to live with such understanding neighbors. Sandy was no angel. She ran at people, winding them with her 70-pound body, so she could get a good lick in their mouth. She went into their houses (sometimes with an assist from one of the children) to devour socks or tomato sandwiches.

The books is filled with tales of Sandy's antics, the stories dog owners tell each other, usually to the horror of the only non-pet owner in the room who exclaims, "how can you let him do that?" An example being when at a family gathering to celebrate Garbo's aunt turning 80, Sandy licked the frosting off of two birthday cakes.

Some of this mischief is just part of having a four-legged child, which Garbo reminds us our companion dogs become. He tells other people's dog stories too, people he's met through Sandy's infamous wanderings. There are stories about the strangest things dogs eat, from a panty-hose ingesting Doberman to Bruiser, the St Bernard who dug up and ate a small boulder. And the thousands of dollars in veterinary bills these pica-affected canines incurred.

Then there are sentimental stories, like the one about the young bachelor, Pete, who kept a yellow Lab named Leiney, (yes, short for Leinenkugel). The dog was an escape artist who often caught rides home from the Delafield police (good

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thing the boys in blue are dog lovers too). When Leiney didn't come home one night, Pete knew the worst had happened. When he visited the human society to see if the yellow lab they had just gotten was Leiney, he knew in one instant it wasn't. His girlfriend, however, didn't know and was overcome with tears of joy that Leiney was safe. Pete didn't have the heart to correct her and gave the stray a home.

Sandy & Garbo would make a good book to read aloud as a family. The chapters average 10 pages, just right for the pre-bed story time. And the book isn't really in chronological order, instead centering around certain events in Sandy and the Hajinian's life. Best of all, Sandy & Garbo is based in Wisconsin, with recognizable places and cultural nods that only the true Wisconsinite will appreciate. Interspersed with the story, Garbo describes the Wisconsin seasons in such a way that the reader is proud to call this state home.

One word of warning however, the tale of Sandy's life ends the way all dog's go eventually. Garbo does, however, include a letter "written" by Sandy from Dog heaven, which tempers the sadness somewhat. It's a fun memoir of life with family, including the four-legged members.

**Emily Refermat** is a dog lover and long-time writer who just isn't content without a pen in hand and the prod of a cold nose.

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# BREED PROFILE:

## *The French Bulldog*

To those unfamiliar with the French bulldog, to see one walking down the street it might look like a pug crossed with a large eared bat is headed your way, but to the owners and enthusiasts of this big dog in a little body, those smushy faces couldn't get any cuter.

As with most breeds, to understand the personality of a dog, it helps to know where they came from. Despite being called French bulldogs, their origins can be traced back a couple hundred years to Merry Ole England. The strong, tall, Old English bulldog was popular then for bull baiting, and while some breeders continued to create bigger fighting dogs, others took a more diminutive approach, breeding their dogs with terriers to decrease their size.

These smaller Bull Dogs became popular with the working class and when the Industrial Revolution caused many of the small shop owners to close, they took their trades and their dogs and headed to France. The French became taken with the breed and began to create a breed standard for their newly dubbed Bouledouguies Francais, that included dogs with bat ears and those with smaller' more popular rose ears.

It wasn't long before the Americans fell for those adorable faces, but preferred the bat-eared variety. International conflict occurred when the rose-eared dogs were given preferential treatment at the 1896 Westminster causing the Americans to create the French Bulldog Club of America and create a breed standard that did not include the rose-eared variety. The Europeans resisted and the American fanciers held their own bat-eared only show. Today bat-eared dogs are the standard.

The French bulldog, also called Frenchies or Frog Dogs (due to they way the like to lay with their back legs extended and not because of any lingering animosity towards the French), have seen their popularity rise and fall over the past hundred or so years. Currently their popularity has skyrocketed. In 1990, there



were 632 dogs registered with the AKC. In 2006, it was over 5,500.

As with any breed that's experiencing a wave in popularity, there are concerns about the breed's welfare with bad breeders and puppy mills out to make a profit. With this dog's background and body type, a lot can go wrong unless the breeder is truly concerned about the health and well-being of the pups.

Their scrunched faces can lead to breathing difficulties and issues like elongated soft palates and crowded nasal passages. Frenchies can also be prone to allergies from both their food and the environment that can be exacerbated by the respiratory structures.

The compactness of their bodies can lead to spinal issues and there is growing concern about degenerative myelopathy, an autoimmune disease similar to multiple sclerosis. A good breeder cares more about the health and her animals than the profit and won't breed dogs that have health or behavior issues.

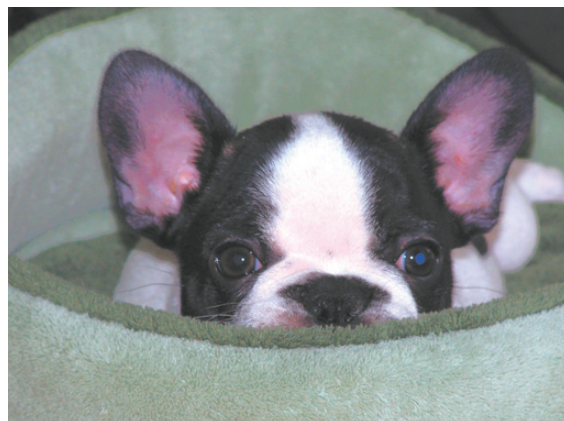
Speaking of behavior, you're probably wondering what kind of personality a dog that looks like it belongs on a lap but is descended from bull-baiters has. As Kathi Luljak, volunteer coordinator for the French Bulldog Rescue Network and

owner of three Frenchies says, "they're big dogs in little bodies." They're outgoing, love new people and usually very affectionate. "They are the consummate human companion," but she warns, "Like any Bulldog, they can be a bit stubborn and require some persuasion to have them agree to go along with what you'd like them to do." Meli Bowersock, a volunteer for the FBRN agrees about the Frenchies personable nature "they're great dogs with a clownish nature, really a people dog."

While some Frenchies like having dog friends, others not so much. They also can have a strong prey drive, so small animal and cat owners need to be cautious. What about the kids? Again it depends on the dog, some love 'em, some don't. Owners also need to be cautious, as Frenchies aren't quite as sturdy as they look and could be injured by a child's rough play.

As far as lifestyle, Frenchies are pretty low key. They make excellent apartment dogs (how often do we get to say that) and don't require a ton of exercise to keep them happy. In fact strenuous activity is not recommended for these little guys because their respiratory design doesn't let them cool off as well as other breeds.

Owners have to be especially cautious about protecting their pooches on hot days, as they can easily over heat. No







long walks in the hot midday and NO leaving him in the car... although that's true for any dog.

Don't think a quick dip in the lake will help cool them off either. It's highly recommended that French bulldogs wear life vests whenever they are around water as their body design makes for better sinkers than swimmers.

While they might not need a long jog or a big yard, they do need plenty of attention. "They are a highly sociable dog so leaving one alone for hours is not an ideal situation for them," advises Luljak. For her, Frenchie were love at first sight. "I mean those faces – how can you not love them? And then you get to know their earnest ways and desire to please and there's just no reason to consider any other breed." Enduring looks are also what lured in Meli. "I've always had English bulldogs, but was looking for something smaller, and when I saw those bat ears..." She was hooked.




If Frenchies are for you, it can't be emphasized enough to do your research and find a good breeder. Then be prepared to wait, a good breeder could very well have a waiting list for her pups. Breeding Frenchies is no easy process, often requiring veterinary assistance and those bully heads mean that they often require birth by cesarean sections.

As it says on the Rescue's website: purchase in haste, repent in leisure. Check out the French Bulldog Club of America website, [www.frenchbulldogclub.org](http://www.frenchbulldogclub.org), for a list of breeders.

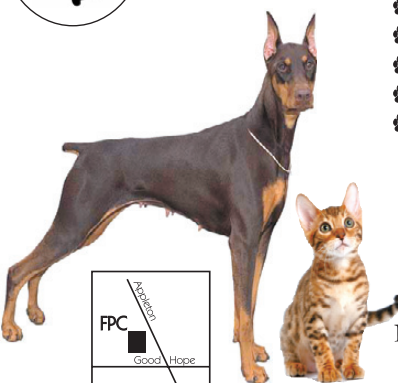
There's always the option to rescue as well. The French bulldog Rescue Network's website, [www.frenchbulldogrescue.org](http://www.frenchbulldogrescue.org), has all the information and applications and pictures of adorable pups needing homes. Look local though as they will not ship dogs. If you are not sure if the Frog Dog is for you, there is plenty of breed information on the site, links for even more info and as Luljak, the volunteer coordinator stated, volunteer applications! What better way to get to know a breed then to work around the dogs and the people who love them?

**Keri Weyenberg** has had the good fortune to have spent the majority of her life in the company of canines. She currently shares her home with Sophie, a Golden Retriever, and Rufus the rebel beagle.



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## 2008 FALL AIRE FROLIC



art by Sue Quale

**WHEN:**  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th  
OPENS at 11:00am

**WHERE:**  
WESTERN WAUKESHA DOG  
TRAINING CLUB in IXONIA, WI

For more information:  
Kathy at 920-662-0737 Paula at 715-526-5961  
website: [www.aire-rescue.com](http://www.aire-rescue.com)

### SUPPORT LOCAL DOG PARKS

**Celebrate the Runway Dog  
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Join us for "barkfest"  
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meeting.

**Sunday, July 13th**  
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♦ Annual meeting  
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♦ Learn about plans for  
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**Take Your Dog for a Swim  
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**Sunday, August 17th**  
Doggy Dips | 5-8 pm | \$5/dog  
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Doggy Dip  
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# Rescues

## Airedale Terrier

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

## All Breed

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

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

## American Water Spaniel

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

## Australian Shepherd

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

## Basset Hound

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

## Beagle

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

## Bichon Frise

Little Buddies Rescue, 1-888-581-9070

## BPB Rescue

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

## Border Collie

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

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

## Boston Terrier

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

## Boxer

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

## Brew City Small Dog Rescue

414-313-2040, [www.brewcityrescue.org](http://www.brewcityrescue.org)  
[Heather@brewcityrescue.org](mailto:Heather@brewcityrescue.org)

## Brittany

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

## Chesapeake Retriever

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

## Chihuahua

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

## Cocker Spaniel

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

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

## Collie

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

## Dachshund

Badger Dachshund Club, 847-546-7186

MidWest Dachshund Rescue, Inc.  
608-833-2992 evenings  
[rescue@mwdr.org](mailto:rescue@mwdr.org), [www.mwdr.org](http://www.mwdr.org)

## Dalmatian

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

Save Our Spots Dalmatian Rescue, Inc.  
414-365-2679  
[sosdalrescue@earthlink.net](mailto:sosdalrescue@earthlink.net), [sosdalrescue.com](http://sosdalrescue.com)

## Doberman Pinscher

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

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

## English Springer

English Springer Rescue America, Inc.  
715-845-8716, [www.springerrescue.org](http://www.springerrescue.org)  
[kcmcheinking@verizon.net](mailto:kcmcheinking@verizon.net)

## German Shepherd

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

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

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

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

## German Shorthaired Pointer

Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, Inc.  
414-327-5102 or 414-614-5102  
[lisa\\_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com)  
[www.wgspr.com](http://www.wgspr.com), [www.wgspr.petfinder.com](http://www.wgspr.petfinder.com)

## Glen of Imaal Terrier

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

## Golden Retriever

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

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

## Greyhound

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

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

## Herding

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

## Irish Setter

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

## Irish Wolfhound

262-968-3421, 262-547-3705  
[jbanaszak@yahoo.com](mailto:jbanaszak@yahoo.com)

## Italian Greyhounds

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

## Jack Russell Terrier/All Dog Rescue

414-747-8726, 414-297-5104  
[pensjackpack1@att.net](mailto:pensjackpack1@att.net), [www.ffari.org](http://www.ffari.org)

## Labrador

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

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

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

## Maltese

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

## Mixed Breed

Happy Tails Dog Rescue  
[www.happytailsdogrescue.net](http://www.happytailsdogrescue.net), [pups2save@yahoo.com](mailto:pups2save@yahoo.com)

Fluffy Dog Rescue  
[www.fluffydog.net](http://www.fluffydog.net), 262-538-2535

## Neapolitan Mastiff

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

## Poodle

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

## Pug

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

Great Lakes Pug Club  
[www.GreatLakespugclub.com](http://www.GreatLakespugclub.com), 414-531-9301

## Rat Terrier

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

## Rottweiler

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

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

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

## Saint Bernard

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

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

## Shar Pei

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

## Shih Tzu

Fuzzy Pawz Shih Tzu Rescue of WI Inc.  
[fuzzypawz@gmail.com](mailto:fuzzypawz@gmail.com)  
[www.fuzzypawz.org](http://www.fuzzypawz.org), 414-731-1682

New Beginnings Shih Tzu Rescue  
920-722-3070, [AWood52140@aol.com](mailto:AWood52140@aol.com)  
414-801-3763, [living\\_floor\\_mops@yahoo.com](mailto:living_floor_mops@yahoo.com)  
[www.nbstr.org](http://www.nbstr.org)

## Standard Schnauzer

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

## Vizsla

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

## Westie

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.  
920-882-0382, [westies@edsboats.com](mailto:westies@edsboats.com)  
[www.petfinder.com/wiwestierescue](http://www.petfinder.com/wiwestierescue)

## Yorkshire Terrier

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

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# Event Calendar

## July 2008

### 10 Thursday

**What:** "Come Fido" Training Class  
**Where:** Wisconsin Humane Society  
**When:** 6:30 – 7:30pm  
**Info:** 414-431-6156, [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

**What:** Dog Behavior Seminary  
**Where:** Wisconsin Humane Society  
**When:** 6:30 – 8:30pm (\$10)  
**Info:** 414-431-6156, [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

**What:** Pet Loss Support  
**Where:** Wisconsin Humane Society  
**When:** 7:00 – 8:00pm (\$10)  
**Info:** 414-431-6156, [www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org)

### 11 Friday

**What:** Obedience & Rally Run Thrus  
**Where:** Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis  
**When:** Gate entries (6:30-7pm), Run thrus 7pm  
**Info:** [www.cudahykennelclub.org](http://www.cudahykennelclub.org)

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

### 12 Saturday

**What:** Pet First Aid Class  
**Where:** HAWS in Waukesha  
**When:** 1:00 -4:00pm  
**Info:** 262-879-0165, [www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org)

**What:** Let's Talk About Boarding Your Pet  
**Where:** Animal Motel in Butler  
**When:** 1:00 – 2:00pm  
**Info:** [www.animalmotel.net](http://www.animalmotel.net)

**What:** Canine Massage  
**Where:** Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee  
**When:** Noon – 4:00pm  
**Info:** 262-548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

**What:** Essential Oils Class III w/ Cindy  
**Where:** Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego  
**When:** 1:00 – 2:00pm (\$15)  
**Info:** 414-422-1300, [www.animaldoctormuskego.com](http://www.animaldoctormuskego.com)

**What:** HAWS Mobile Adoption Center  
**Where:** Petco in Germantown  
**When:** 10:00am – 3:00pm  
**Info:** [www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org), 262-542-8851 x200

**What:** Animal Comm, Massage, Reiki  
**Where:** Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee  
**When:** 11:00am – 2:00pm  
**Info:** 414-332-8836

**What:** Canine Massage  
**Where:** Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego  
**When:** 2:00 – 4:00pm  
**Info:** [www.petsupplies-n-more.com](http://www.petsupplies-n-more.com)

### 13 Sunday

**What:** Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec  
**Where:** Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee

**When:** Noon – 5:00pm (reservations required)  
**Info:** 262-548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

**What:** Barkfest at Runway Dog Exercise Area  
**Where:** Runway Dog Exercise Area  
**When:** 10:00am - Noon  
**Info:** [www.milwaukeekeepdogparks.org](http://www.milwaukeekeepdogparks.org)

### 15 Tuesday

**What:** Animal Communication w/ Rebecca  
**Where:** Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego  
**When:** 2:00 – 6:00pm (20min/\$40)  
**Info:** 414-422-1300, [www.animaldoctormuskego.com](http://www.animaldoctormuskego.com)

**What:** Seminar on Animal Nutrition  
**Where:** Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee  
**When:** 7:00 – 8:00pm (\$15/person)  
**Info:** 414-444-4110, [www.milwaukeekeeppetfood.com](http://www.milwaukeekeeppetfood.com)

**What:** Ask the Trainer/Open House  
**Where:** Puppy Playground in Oak Creek  
**When:** 7:30 – 8:30pm  
**Info:** 414-698-3223

### 18 Friday

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

**What:** Agility Run Thrus  
**Where:** Cudahy Kennel Club, St. Francis  
**When:** Gate entries (6:30-7pm), Run thrus 7pm  
**Info:** [www.cudahykennelclub.org](http://www.cudahykennelclub.org)

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

### 19 Saturday

**What:** First Annual Doggie Fest  
**Where:** Proper Paws Univ., Racine  
**When:** 8:00am - Noon  
**Info:** [www.properpawsuniversity.com](http://www.properpawsuniversity.com)

**What:** Pet First Aid Class  
**Where:** Emergency Clinic for Animals in Madison  
**When:** 1:00 -4:00pm  
**Info:** 262-879-0165

**What:** Border Collie Rescue /Brat Cook Out Fundraiser  
**Where:** Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee  
**When:** 11:00am  
**Info:** 262-548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

**What:** Reiki I or II Class w/ Jeanette  
**Where:** Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego  
**When:** Noon – 4:00pm  
**Info:** 414-422-1300, [www.animaldoctormuskego.com](http://www.animaldoctormuskego.com)

**What:** HAWS Mobile Adoption Center  
**Where:** Educator's Credit Union, Waukesha  
**Info:** [www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org), 262-542-8851 x200

### 25 Friday

**What:** All Airedale Dog Show  
**Where:** Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc  
**Info:** [www.freeewebs.com/watc1](http://www.freeewebs.com/watc1)

**What:** Pet First Aid Class  
**Where:** HAWS in Waukesha  
**When:** 1:00 -4:00pm  
**Info:** 262-879-0165, [www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org)

**What:** Adult Dog Play  
**Where:** For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago  
**When:** 7:00 pm (\$10)  
**Info:** 1-888-581-9070

### 26 Saturday

**What:** GRROW  
**Where:** Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee  
**When:** 11:00am – 1:00pm  
**Info:** 262-548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

### 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

### Every Monday

**What:** Conformation Run Thrus  
**Where:** For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago  
**When:** 7:40 pm  
**Info:** 1-888-581-9070

**What:** Get Your Dog's Nails Trimmed  
**Where:** Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego  
**When:** 5:00 – 7:00pm (only \$10)  
**Info:** 262-679-6776 (no appt necessary)

### Every Tuesday

**What:** Puppy Kindergarten Class w/ For Pet's Sake  
**Where:** Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee  
**When:** 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (7 week course)  
**Info:** 262-548-0923, [www.petlicious.com](http://www.petlicious.com)

**What:** Agility/Confidence Drop-in Classes  
**Where:** Teaching Dogs, Oak Creek  
**When:** 7:45pm  
**Info:** 414-416-1406

### Every Wednesday

**What:** Conformation Drop-In Training  
**Where:** Greater Racine Kennel Club, Racine  
**When:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Info:** [www.grkc.org](http://www.grkc.org)

**What:** Get Your Dog's Nails Trimmed  
**Where:** Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego  
**When:** 5:00 – 7:00pm (only \$10)  
**Info:** 262-679-6776 or 262-662-0104

### Every Saturday

**What:** Playtime at the Playground  
**Where:** Puppy Playground, Oak Creek  
**When:** 9:00am – Noon  
**Info:** 414-764-PUPS

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.



# A Dog Auction...

## My Own Personal Experience - Part two

This story is a continuation from last month. To read this story from the beginning, log on to [www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com) and you'll find a link to the complete article on the home page.

The auction started with products – bowls, blankets, beds, microchip scanners. All things I had a hard time believing anyone used, when considering the conditions these dogs were in. None of them had water. None of them had cages with smooth bottoms. They were all walking on chicken wire.

Margie and I sat numb and sick in the bleachers. We were trying to figure everyone out. Were there rescues here? Who were they? The Amish and the Mennonites' dress made it easy to identify them, but the others, in regular street clothes, left us wondering: who was here to save and who was here to continue to the cycle of cruelty?

There were children and families and people eating concessions. It was actually an event for many in the audience. I just couldn't fathom enjoying one moment of it.

The dog bidding was about to start. Margie showed me on the back of the bidding card the numbers of the Doxies she wanted to save. There were 6 of them all together. The bidding on them was one of the first. The auctioneer shouts, "Number five, male dachshund, checks good. Start at one hundred dollars."

"Checks good." What is that? Such a sterile and inhumane phrase. These are animals not cars.

I believe my soul checked out for a while. I felt like a body sitting there. No life in me. I was in complete shock at what I was witnessing. This could not really be happening.

All the Doxies went above Margie's invisible price limit. We had no idea what we were doing. And yet, we were trying to learn the game and figure out all the players.

One breed at a time the dogs were auctioned. They would go from \$20.00 to over \$1000.00. The French Bulldogs taking in the most money.

Some of the females were even pregnant. Most of the dogs were a year or younger. Not #171. He was the oldest dog at the auction – and it showed. He was the one I was waiting for.

When I had opened his cage to pet him, he actually came to the front and ever so gently licked my fingers. When I slowly went to pet him, I felt nothing but mats. His fur was 100% matted. He had to be miserable. I worked in the county shelter for a year and a half and never did I see anything like him.

Margie and I had discussed on the long ride there if we would take any home. We also wondered how would you pick just one? It is hard to decide which one will you save. But #171 stuck out like no other. In my mind and heart, he needed to get out of here. And so I waited....

For the most part, they go in number order, and obviously #171 was going to be near the end. Maybe it was a good thing. I was focused on him, so I wasn't as tempted to randomly bid on others. And, I think my desire to save him is what got me through the 3 hours of torture.

Each dog put on the table for auction was more frightened than the one before. The auction assistants have to hold the dogs up or they coward. They could place a dog on the table and it wouldn't go anywhere.

Some were visibly shaking – others didn't even seem alive.

There were families there looking to get a new house pet – much cheaper than they would at the store. Little kids cheering when they got their puppy. I even felt relief that at least the dog wasn't going back to a life sentence of breeding.

When the breeders would win the bid and more than one dog was on the table, instead of saying which one they wanted, they would say, "Just give me the best one."

A gut wrenching response to anyone who has had a dear pet. "the best one?" Don't you mean the one you want – the one you made a connection with?

To this I would wipe away the tears and continue to feel sick and numb. There was no compassion, no care, no love. These animals were things – not living creatures. What a statement that makes about the world we live in.

Margie and I never moved from our seats. Frozen in fear and horror, it was all we could do not to throw-up or scream or cry in outrage. After three hours, I could see them take #171 out of his cage.

In 2004, **Becky Monroe** resigned as Human Resources Manager from Corporate America with the intent to give back and follow her passions. That goal led her to working in a wildlife sanctuary, animal control, and to become a News Writer for Best Friends Society in Kanab, UT. Most recently, she co-founded a charity for her county animal shelter. In just four years, she has already experienced so many wonderful and sad things concerning animals. However, her soul strongly seeks to end the cruel life dogs endure in puppy mills. Becky lives with her husband and daughter in Woodstock, IL.

**Pick up next month's issue of Fetch Magazine for part three of this story. Or, if you'd like to read it now, visit [www.fetchmag.com](http://www.fetchmag.com) and you'll find a link to the rest of the story on our home page.**

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*continued from page 6*

as a disease. From this perspective, allergies are commonly seen as an excess of yang (heat) in the body causing the allergic hypersensitivity. Dr. Bessent compares the body of an allergic dog to a boiling pot of water. "In order to stop the boiling of the water, you can either turn down the heat or add more water to the pot." Herbsmith Clear Allergies contains cooling herbs that bring down the yang (or heat) within the body and yin tonifying herbs that increase the fluids of the body overall, bringing the dog's body back to a balanced state.

Herbs used in TCM focus on a holistic way of treating diseases. In the case of canine allergies, they work to bring down the heat within the body, thus reducing inflammation of the skin and accumulation of phlegm. Unlike traditional pharmaceuticals, the herbs address the root cause of the allergy while still relieving the associated symptoms.

#### **Types of Allergies**

The two most common allergies found

among dogs are to foods and inhalants. Each of these allergy types affects a dog differently, but they can be addressed using the same theories. There are some very simple steps that can be taken to decrease the severity of your dog's reaction.

When someone suspects that his or her dog has food allergies, the most important step is identifying the food or foods that are causing the reaction. In order to do so, the allergic dog should be reverted to a very bland diet such as rice and boiled hamburger or chicken. After all signs of past reactions have ceased, foods that the dog had eaten previously should be slowly reincorporated into the dog's diet, one by one. Allergic reactions can take anywhere from a few hours to several days to appear, so if the dog is showing no signs of an allergic reaction after one week of eating a particular food, an additional food should be reintroduced. During this process, if the dog starts to show signs of a reaction (such as diarrhea, vomiting, gurgly stomach, or skin irritations), the most recently incorporated

food is revealed as the allergen (or one of the allergens). That food should be permanently eliminated from the dog's diet. If someone is seeking an easier way to diagnose your dog's allergies, allergens can be detected through specific allergy blood testing.

Another type of allergy common among dogs occurs as a result of environmental or inhaled allergens. These allergies occur when dogs breathe in particles such as mold, dust mites, dander, and pollens of grasses and trees which can result in painful, itchy skin irritations. "We could inhale the same pollens and not have any reaction, but allergic dogs have a propensity to develop hypersensitivity causing their whole bodies to become inflamed," Dr. Bessent says. "This disharmony is a result of too much heat and inflammation."

Western medicine looks solely at physical allergy symptoms such as itching, scratching and lesions, whereas TCM also recognizes the less obvious symptoms such as restlessness, irritability and panting. All of these signs indicate an allergic reaction, which reveals the underlying issue of Liver Qi stagnation. In addition to using herbs, Liver Qi stagnation can be treated using traditional Chinese approaches like acupuncture and food therapy.

Food therapy, when combined with other approaches, can be a very effective way to treat allergies in dogs. Chinese medical theory states that food is like a medicine. The old adage that "you are what you eat" applies here. Food is classified as having various properties such as cooling, warming, etc. Allergic dogs should eat cooling foods such as fish, duck and rabbit. The cooling foods help to bring down the inflammation throughout the body. Foods like venison and lamb are considered the warmest of proteins and, to an allergic dog, would greatly increase the heat in the body and the allergic reaction. The following are examples of cooling foods:

Duck, Celery, Fish, String beans, Rabbit, Apple, Whitefish, Banana, Cod, Pear, Barley, Flax seed oil, Brown rice, Yogurt, Broccoli

Incorporating cooling foods into an allergic dog's diet will help to resolve the underlying disharmony that is causing the reaction.

## **Dog Portraits on Location**



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**www.sbartzphotography.com**

## A Holistic Approach

Generally, when people see their dogs begin to itch, their response has been to visit a veterinarian who would typically advise the owner to put the dog on antihistamines and corticosteroids. However, this approach may not be the best for the animal in the long run. "Corticosteroids work great the first year by bringing down the itching," Dr. Bessent says. "The dog feels great and only has to take a small amount. However, steroids damage the liver over time."

The consequences of using corticosteroids can accumulate relatively quickly. During the next allergy season the dog often has more extensive allergies and the symptoms are more extreme. Instead of allergies starting in August and September when ragweed is at its height, the allergies start in July and extend into late October. The itching increases and the dog develops more lesions. To quell the symptoms, the dog is given more steroids and antihistamines, and the cycle of symptom suppression continues. In addition, the long-term use of traditional pharmaceuticals causes damage to the liver, creating an even greater imbalance within the body. After years of treatment, the dog is typically allergic to just about everything. Allergies often continue into the dead of winter and can extend through the entire year.

Chinese herbs address the problem from a holistic point of view. In the early stages, the dog will respond quickly to the herbs. However, when the liver is damaged over the course of several years with steroids, it becomes more difficult to resolve the underlying disharmony. At that point, herbs can certainly be used to resolve the issue, but the treatment typically takes more time.

Dr. Bessent started Herbsmith as a way to bring her years of experience formulating veterinary herbal blends to a larger group of pet owners. Her product line includes remedies for various different ailments in canines and equines. Herbsmith Clear Allergies offers a combination of herbs with cooling and yin-tonifying properties to decrease inflammation and restore balance in the dog's Qi without damaging the liver.

The most important idea to remember about Chinese herbal blends is that they do not just treat the symptoms of allergies.

They address the root imbalance, making for a happier, healthier dog.

"It's really about the underlying disharmony," Bessent says, "And when you resolve that, the symptoms of the allergies go away."

**Melissa Kerwin** lives in Ixonia, Wis., where she is a freelance writer and marketing professional. She loves animals and enjoys spreading the benefits of holistic veterinary care through her writing.

**Dr. Bessent** currently practices holistic and

traditional veterinary medicine at her clinic in Southeastern Wisconsin where she treats horses and dogs. She can be reached at [mail@herbsmithinc.com](mailto:mail@herbsmithinc.com) or 800.624.6429.

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