



Fetch magazine

June 2006 | Volume 3 Issue 6



The Cocker Spaniel
Schutzhund Training
Walking Down the Aisle with Fido
Debunking Common Canine Myths
Protecting Family Pets During Domestic Abuse

In-Focus Photography



We have a name for people who treat their dogs like children. Customer.

There are people who give their dogs commands and those who give them back rubs. There are dogs who are told to stay off the couch and those with a chair at the table. And there are some who believe a dog is a companion and others who call him family. If you see yourself at the end of these lists, you're not alone. And neither is your dog. We're Central Bark Doggy Day Care, and we're as crazy about your dog as you are.



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Publisher's Letter



If your dog is 13 years old (in humane years), is he really 91 years old in dog years? Is the grass your dog eating merely for taste or is it his form of Pepto-Bismol®? When Fido cowers behind the couch, does he really know why you're unhappy? There are dozens of myths, or in other words, legends that we as dog lovers either want to believe or simply can't deny. Yet at the end of the day, they are still myths. Flip over to page 18 as we debunk some of the most popular myths found in the canine world.

When planning your wedding, did you ever think of adding Fido to the guest list? If you had, you may have thought how simple of a task it would be to arrange for Fido to walk down the aisle... but you'd be wrong. Keri Weyenberg, a longtime editorial contributor to Fetch Magazine walked down the aisle last year and from day one Fido was part of the planning process. How did it end up? You'll just have to read the story on page 14 to find out.

Finally, by now you've noticed the newest member of our family to the left. Ethan was born on April 20th and is the best little brother to Ella... and the dogs! For those of you who find yourselves in similar situations - adding a family member to a dog's habitat - you'll find upcoming articles with suggestions on making the home welcome to all.

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Cover photo of Mary Ellen's Vallie courtesy of In-Focus Photography.

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"Pawprints Across Your Heart"

Pet Boutique Adds a New Dimension to the Downtown Greendale Shopping Experience

Whoever said money can't buy happiness just didn't know where to shop! There's a new pet boutique in the heart of historic downtown Greendale that's guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Pawprints Across Your Heart welcomes you and your pets to browse and enjoy the widest selection of canine and kitty couture in the metro Milwaukee area.

"I wanted to create a shopping experience that would be fun and would allow me to do what I love: pamper pets!" says Jeannette

Jacobe, proprietor of Pawprints Across Your Heart. "Our pets are like children with fur. They're part of the family and deserve all the love we can give."

Jeannette was born and raised in Milwaukee and worked as a CPA after earning a degree from Marquette University. So why the career change? Jeannette explains, "I realized that people in our area were searching for a variety of pet pampering products and not finding enough selection in the general pet supply stores. The bonus for me is that

when pet parents bring in their "children" I get to be a part of the pampering process. It's a lot more pleasant than crunching numbers all day! Plus, I have years of experience in pampering pooches. My two Miniature schnauzers, Rosie and Farley, were my main inspiration."

Gifts for Pets and the Hearts They Touch

Gift ideas abound for dogs, cats, and their "moms" & "dads." Fox & Hounds Swarovski® crystal collars, Happy Trails pet strollers, and ChromeBones bracelets & pendants are just a few of the treasures to be found. Doggles protective eyewear, Cain & Able bath & spa products, and Merrick dog & cat food will help keep pets healthy and happy. Pet accessories including designer leashes, adorable clothing items, and the one of a kind Puppy Purse bring new zing and bling to the daily task of walking your four-legged family member. And of course, a pet boutique is not complete without mouth-watering varieties of healthy treats, bakery items, and toys for pets and their parents to enjoy together... well, just make sure you grab the human-grade treats for yourself!

Pawprints Across Your Heart is easy to find just south of Milwaukee off the I-894 bypass. Exit at 60th street and continue south about a mile as 60th becomes Northway and curves right into the downtown Greendale area. Located at 5686 Broad Street, the store is near Gazebo Park where pets and their humans can try out that new designer leash or apparel.

The doors open on Saturday, June 17th with a grand opening celebration on Saturday, July 1st. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The grand opening will include free dog washes by Shampooch Mobile Grooming, a free Pet First Aid manual (with a twenty dollar purchase while supplies last), and the opportunity to meet and greet adoptable pets from the Companion Animal & Resource Adoption Center.

In case we failed to mention - all well-socialized dogs are welcome as well! Bring the whole family for a day of fun!

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Ask the VET

Question: Are there certain instances when I should not administer aspirin to my dog?

Answer: Well, this is a very interesting question. Especially because more often than not aspirin should not be administered to dogs. In other words, there are more circumstances when you should not give your dog aspirin, than there are when you should.

But, instead of just saying "ask your veterinarian" let me explain why. Aspirin, like most medications, can cause serious side effects. It is only safe when given in the correct dosage, at the appropriate intervals and when there is a clear a medical indication. To have a clear medical indication means that an educated person (your veterinarian) has established that, given the patient's condition, the benefits of administering aspirin outweigh the risks.

Aspirin can be used in the treatment of thromboembolic diseases (cats with cardiomyopathy, dogs with pulmonary artery disease secondary to heartworm infestation and dogs and cats in Disseminated Intravascular Coagulopathy, or DIC). It can also be used as an anti-inflammatory and mild painkiller in conditions such as arthritis. But aspirin is not an "innocent" supplement.

Also known as acetylsalicylic acid, aspirin inhibits a multifunctional enzyme (cyclooxygenase, or COX for short), which, among other important normal functions, is responsible for the synthesis of potent pro-inflammatory factors (such as prostaglandins). As a result of this anti-inflammatory action, aspirin is often used to control pain and fever.

However, like a coin with two sides, COX function is not always detrimental or associated with excessive inflammation. This enzyme is also a "house keeper," involved in normal kidney and gastrointestinal function, as well as in blood clotting. In the kidneys, COX is required for normal function. Drugs that interfere with its activity may damage the kidneys,

leading to kidney failure. If your dog has had kidney problems, aspirin may not be a good idea.

In the gastro-intestinal tract, COX helps protect the inner layer of the stomach against the acidity of the gastric juices. Continued use of aspirin can predispose to gastric ulcerations. (And remember that heartburn is not easy to recognize in dogs -- often ulcerative gastritis will be severe before you notice that something is "just not right with Buddy"). In addition, the "blood thinning" effect will increase bleeding from any potential ulcer, adding blood loss to the gastric problem. This brings up an interesting difference between dogs and humans that's worth mentioning.

We know many adults who take their daily dose of aspirin as a "blood thinner" to help prevent coronary disease and heart attacks. Well, while aspirin is also a "blood thinner" in dogs (it impairs the appropriate function of platelets which are primarily responsible for sealing small blood vessel defects), dogs do not have coronary disease. More often than dying of myocardial infarction (the common coronary-related "heart attack" in humans), we will see dogs dying of bleeding disorders. And aspirin can certainly aggravate some bleeding conditions.

Therefore, if you were thinking of giving aspirin to your dog as a blood thinner, think again! You may be doing much more harm than good.

Dogs are not four-legged people. They are different from us (that's their beauty)! Our food is not the best way to feed them, our supplements are not necessarily good for them, and our medicines can be very dangerous.

Now, go on, take your aspirin... and give your dog a nice milk bone! And in case you are still thinking you might want to give him/her some of your own meds, please call your vet. Those aspirins, for the wrong reason, on the wrong day and especially at the wrong dose, may seriously jeopardize your dog's health ...and cost you a lot in veterinary medical bills.

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

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine is one of only 28 veterinary medical schools in the nation. It is a

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

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Training Bits

Bite Prevention and Your Dog

During the summer months dog bites usually increase. For that reason the U.S. Postal Service sponsors a bite prevention week during the month of May every year. Too often dog owners feel if their dog has never bitten that this isn't a concern for them. But actually it is a concern for all dog owners. As the saying goes, it is better to be safe than sorry especially when a bite could mean the end of a dog's life.

So what as a dog owner can you do?

Statistically dogs that are spayed or neutered are three times less likely to bite. Altered pets are often calmer and healthier. Female dogs in season can be "moody" in their behavior and can go into false pregnancies, which can lead to resource guarding.



Teaching a dog to do a sit stay or a mannerly wait can be a lifesaver.

Door dashing can lead to dogs getting out of the house and running loose. More common is the dog that bolts out of the door when a delivery person or visitor

arrives at the door. At this point the dog is out of control and the person on the other side of the door may be seen as an intruder. If the dog is territorial, a bite could follow. To prevent this scenario, teaching the dog a wait command at the door is very important. This should be taught with a leash or long line on the dog. As the owner starts to open the door, the command "Wait" is given to the dog. If the dog tries to go through the door, the owner can block the dog with the door. When the dog stops trying to go through the door the owner should give praise or a reward. Sometimes I even have the person on the other side of the door throw a few treats in toward the dog. This can reduce the dog's level of protectiveness.

Along with the "wait," a good "off" command should be taught so the dog doesn't jump on the door or the people who come through the door. This is often accomplished by keeping a leash on the dog when people arrive. Once a dog knows what the command means it can be used as a reminder command. This means that I remind the dog to stay off by giving the command as the people approach even before the dog jumps. Another way to handle this is to teach the dog a sit command when people come through the door.

A well-socialized dog is also less likely to react negatively to new situations. Socializing is ideally done when the dog is young but should be continued throughout the duration of the dog's life. When exposing a dog to new experiences it is important to make them non-threatening and positive. Events like parades and fireworks certainly do not fall into this category. Good trainers use the motto "Have treats will travel." However the dog's reward shouldn't be limited to treats. Anything the dog perceives as a good thing can be used. This means that you have treats or toys or some type of reward handy when you take your dog on an adventure so relaxed responses can be rewarded with food, play and/or praise.

Supervise your dog especially when children are around. Unfortunately half of all children will be bitten by a dog by the



Supervising dogs with children is a must.

time they turn twelve. Sometimes this means putting the dog in another room or a cage when people first arrive if you are unable to supervise the situation. A good resource for dog owners and parents is www.doggonesafe.com where you can receive more tips.

If you have a dog that is tied out, check to make sure the line is dependable and not in the path of visitors coming to your door. If you have a fenced yard, attach a lock to the gate so non-family members can't wander in and the dog won't be able to flip the latch open. Also replace faulty screens on doors or windows so the dog can not slip through them.

All dogs can benefit from a good training program. So enroll your dog in classes to learn basic commands and if your dog has those mastered move on to some other fun courses like trick training or agility.

The summer months can be more enjoyable and safer for all by following these tips.

Patti Muraczewski is a certified pet dog trainer who has been instructing dog owners for over 25 years. She teaches the course "Man's Best Friend Made Better" at WCTC. Her school "For Pet's Sake" features training for practical obedience, show obedience and canine sports.

 **Fetch**
magazine



Sometimes number two can sneak up on you.

MilwaukeePugFest.com

It's time for the 2nd Annual Milwaukee PugFest. June 11th, 2006 11am - 4pm
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The Legal Beagle

The Missing Link:

Maine Becomes First State to Include Pets in Domestic Abuse Protection Orders

A 1995 survey of 72 women seeking refuge in domestic abuse shelters in Wisconsin found that 86% had pets and in 80% of the cases the batterer had abused the pets. See P. Arkow, *The Relationship Between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence*, 12 *Family Violence and Sexual Assault Bulletin* 29 (1996). Although research confirms the risk that a batterer poses to the safety and well-being of family pets, until recently, no state included pets within domestic abuse protection orders. Maine changed all that.

This month's Legal Beagle discusses the role of pets in family violence and what one state recently did to protect pets from domestic abuse. Hopefully Maine's actions will set an example for more states to follow.

Pets as Members of the Family

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, approximately 60% of Americans share their household with at least one pet. In many homes, pets are viewed as full-fledged members of the family. A study conducted by the American Animal Hospital Association

found that 70% of pet owners taking the survey considered their pets as their children. Another poll revealed that more than half of pet owners would prefer a dog or cat to a human if stranded on a deserted island!

How Do Pets Become Victims of Domestic Abuse?

A recent case in Oregon, Wisconsin, provides troubling insight into the way that pets become victims of domestic abuse. Rickey C. Hynes admits that on March 11, 2006, he took his family's two dogs to a friend's farm and shot them after they had defended his wife by coming after him during a domestic dispute in their home. Both dogs, pit bull mixes, were killed. Hynes now faces criminal charges for felony animal mistreatment, intimidating a victim, and disorderly conduct in Dane County Circuit Court.

Why Do Pets Become Victims of Domestic Abuse?

It is precisely because of the cherished role that many pets have in their human family that batterers target the pet in a domestically abusive household. Abuse of the family pet serves as an important and unforgettable lesson to the victim and children of their vulnerability at the hands of the batterer. Studies show that batterers routinely abuse pets to teach submission, to keep secrets, to punish the victim, and to coerce the victim to stay.

Unfortunately, the batterer's cruelty works. Three separate studies have documented that from 18% to 40% of women seeking shelter at a crisis center report that concern for the well-being of a pet prevented them from seeking shelter sooner, in some cases for more than two months.

Although pets are considered members of the family, and research documents the role of pets in domestic abuse, until March 31, 2006, no state recognized pets as victims of domestic abuse by including them in protection orders.

Maine's First-in-the-Nation Approach to Protecting Pets from Domestic Abuse

On March 31, 2006, Maine's governor, John Baldacci, signed a bill into law that allows animals to be included in protection

orders in domestic abuse cases. The law is the first of its kind in the country because it includes both human and animal victims of domestic abuse in protection orders. A batterer who violates a protection order by harming either the victim or the victim's pet is exposed to penalties, including not only fines, but also jail time.

Advocates say that the most important component of the new law is that it enables domestic abuse victims the opportunity to leave their abuser by providing for the safety of the victim's pets. At the hearings regarding the legislation, numerous victims recounted stories of the years of abuse they endured because they did not have the heart to leave their beloved pets behind. Governor Baldacci says that it was these stories that garnered his support for the legislation to "remove another tool for emotional and physical violence used by the abuser to exert power and control over their victims."

The legislation has earned national attention because although the link between family violence and pet abuse is well-documented, as a society, we are generally unaware of it.

Conclusion

Wisconsin is one of the remaining 49 states that do not specifically recognize the role of pets in domestic abuse by including pets within protection orders. Perhaps following Maine's footsteps, and with the support of informed citizens who understand the role of pets in domestic abuse, Wisconsin will be the next state to lead the nation by passing this important legislation. Our pets, and the families that love them, deserve it.

Megan A. Senatori practices civil litigation at DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C. in Madison. She teaches courses in animal law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School. Megan is also Co-Founder and President of Wisconsin United for Furry Friends, Inc. ("WUFF"), a non-profit animal welfare organization dedicated to recognizing the link between family violence and animal abuse. www.wuffinfo.org.



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Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):

Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.
Thursday June 1 - 6:30 pm Wednesday June 21 - 7:45 pm
Friday June 9 - 7:45 pm
Saturday June 17 - 1:30 pm

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.
Friday June 2 - 6:30 pm Monday June 26 - 6:30 pm
Thursday June 8 - 7:45 pm
Saturday June 10 - 9:00 am

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):

Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
Wednesday June 14 - 5:00 pm
Monday July 3 - 7:45 pm

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

Teach your dog to be creative and learn how to get the behaviors you want from your dog (not just tricks!).
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5th Annual K9 Carnival for Charity!

It's another dog-gone event for a great cause! Amiable Dog Training is once again hosting the annual K9 Carnival for Charity on Sunday, June 11! This year's event will honor WUFF: Wisconsin United for Furry Friends.

WUFF, a non-profit organization located in Wisconsin, addresses the link between family violence and pet abuse and is responsible for providing temporary care and housing for pets of abuse victims. All proceeds from the Carnival will benefit this organization. Please check out the Web site- <http://www.wuffinfo.org/>-for further information.

Each year, Amiable Dog Training chooses a new charity as the recipient of donations raised by pet-friendly vendors and a small per-dog fee. This year, event organizers are requesting a \$3 per-dog fee. Rain or shine, attendees will be able to participate in fun dog-related games and try out the agility equipment. Able the Dancing Dog, music and raffle prizes from vendors, including a chance to win a day of cruising on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, will round out this day of fundraising!

K9 Carnival is celebrating its 5th year thanks to Amiable Dog Training Director, Amy Ammen. "We've always had fantastic community support for the Carnival, and I'm happy to be hosting it this year for WUFF!" Ammen said.

Join us Sunday, June 11th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Amiable Dog Training's Brookfield location at 3445 N. 124th Street to raise money for a good cause and enjoy a day of fun!

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Sheboygan Dog Training Club hosts an AKC Rally Seminar

The Sheboygan Dog Training Club is hosting a Rally Seminar with AKC Judge Anna Lorenz.

This is a working seminar that will focus on the general description and explanation of the basic principles and requirements of the sport of Rally. There will be an explanation of the signs and symbols with training and execution of the stations. All three levels of competition will be discussed explaining the differences, requirements and procedures. Participants will be running actual courses at all three levels. Everyone will get the AKC Regulations pertaining to Rally Competition.

Seminar will also focus on:

- Training and execution of stations in Rally
- Rally Ring Procedure and the handling allowed in each level
- Running courses at all 3 levels and course map reading
- AKC Regulations pertaining to Rally Competition
- Addressing which classes to enter and the requirements to earn AKC Rally titles
- Equipment required and Stewarding
- Having Fun with your dog!

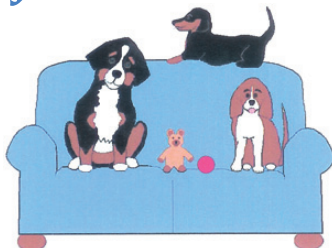
Anna has judged over 2000 Rally entries and has earned titles in Rally at all three levels and continues to actively compete in Rally, Obedience and Conformation.

This seminar will be held at the Sheboygan Dog Training grounds (4802 Najacht Road, Sheboygan, WI) on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The cost for this extremely comprehensive and essential seminar is only \$50.00 and includes your lunch.

All well-behaved and healthy dogs are welcome. Dogs should be at the beginner obedience level. Only one dog per handler.

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Something new, something old, something borrowed and something with four legs.



My husband to be and I knew exactly what we wanted for our pending nuptials. We saw ourselves exchanging vows under a beautiful October sky, surrounded by our family, our friends and our dogs. Yes, I said our dogs. Hey, it's not like we planned on dressing them up in a tux and gown or anything. On one of the most important days of our lives, and one so linked with love and family, why wouldn't we want our furry family members there?

I'd also like to point out, that while this may sound crazy to some, we were actually part of a growing trend. As couples look to personalize their ceremony, they're including their companion animals. In addition to being an ever increasingly important member of the family, pets often are an emotional statement. Perhaps he was the groom's best friend growing up, a first pet for the new couple, or as in our case, symbolized a significant milestone in a relationship. On our first date when my future husband walked in the door my Golden Retriever all but mauled him and his nice black sweater. When he crawled on the floor to give her a proper tummy rub, I knew he was the man for me.

We did our research right from the start. We knew our dogs would love the crowd and the excitement. We want them to be as joyous as we were, so if they would in any way be unhappy, it just wasn't worth it. Our dogs are also fairly well behaved, jumping on the guests or knocking over children wasn't going to be an issue. Since we were having a small affair, we knew our guests shouldn't be bothered by the canine presence. Guests we thought could have an issue, such as my best friend's allergic boyfriend, we notified in advance.

While most people were supportive, some were not. We just learned to accept it, some will get it others won't. Usually it because they have a preplanned idea of what a wedding should be and it definitely didn't include anyone with that much hair.

Once that was done we were on to the next step, where to have our blessed union. I would highly recommend doing this well in advance, as these places are not easy to come by. Most churches or other religious sites were a no go. We finally found a converted farm that could host the ceremony and reception and they didn't blink an eye when I mentioned our dogs. Since the wedding was out of town by my future in-laws, we were also lucky enough to find a hotel that would suit all our guests and welcome our dogs. Double score.

Now the tough part was to find someone to be responsible for the dogs that day. They would need to be walked down the aisle, sat with, and later fed and cleaned up after. The farm had a separate building that the dogs could be kenneled in while everyone enjoyed their meal sans relentless begging; I never said the pups were perfect. We were obviously going to be occupied and needed someone who wouldn't mind being pulled away from the festivities. My groom's family has several older children that were delighted being dog wranglers for the day.

So we thought we had it all. We even worked a little extra on obedience to make sure things would be perfect. We had carefully chosen their costumes;

they had to be non-toxic, non-choking and able to with standing a little doggy abuse. We settled on matching ribbons to be removed after the ceremony.

We even did the recommended pre-day run with the dogs, just to make sure they were familiar with the surroundings before the big day. We sat under the giant pine trees where in less than twenty-four hours we would pledge our love forever. As we cuddled with our pooches we couldn't help but notice how our usually snuggly pups were turning into squiggly nightmares. Then we saw the culprits. Squirrels, everywhere. We planned on everything but overlooked the obvious. Our dream was shattered. Oh sure, the dogs could still be contained during the services and a couple of barks could be expected when one considers the company. But while I previously mentioned the Golden Retriever, we had also acquired a beagle and to anyone whoever has heard a hound on the hunt, you understand the decibel level I'm speaking of. We wouldn't have been able to perform the services with a megaphone.

So, we bailed. While we weren't able to actually have our pets in attendance, it was wonderful returning to them at our hotel at the end of the day. Would I recommend any other engaged couples to attempt such a feat? Absolutely! Dogs are a living example of wedding vows; they love us completely, for richer or poorer in sickness and in health. Just be prepared for the unexpected antics a canine companion can bring and to case your nuptial site for any bushy-tailed rodents ahead of time.

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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Who knew?

Many things you thought you knew about your dog really aren't true.

Have you ever been told that one dog year is equal to seven human years? Or how about dogs are color blind? Or better yet, a dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's mouth? As it turns out many of these so-called-facts are more like urban legend than actual truths. Following are a handful of common misconceptions according to Dr. Marty Becker, a popular veterinary contributor for ABC's "Good Morning America" and host of "Top Vets Talk Pets" on www.healthradionetwork.com, as well as some additional experts.

False: One dog year is equal to seven human years

How many times have you been told that one dog year is equal to seven human years? As it turns out, there is no exact formula for canine aging; it all depends on the breed and size of a dog. Though it is true that dogs age much faster than people, seven human years to one dog's year isn't entirely accurate. On average the first year of a dog's life equals about 16 human years. At two years of age, dogs are more like a 24-year-old human and at age three they're about the equivalent of a 30-year-old human. Large breed dogs also age much faster than small dogs, but the average life span for most dogs is about thirteen years.

False: Dogs are color blind

Whoever came up with the idea that dogs are colorblind? Dogs do in fact see color, just not in the same spectrum as humans do. The idea of dogs being colorblind became a myth in the late 1980's after a definitive set of experiments was conducted at the University of California, Santa Barbara. These studies showed that dogs do see color, but in a much more limited range than humans. As humans, we see a rainbow of colors such as violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. For dogs the colors green, yellow and orange

all look alike, but they do look different from red and different from shades of blues and purples. The simple explanation of why a dog sees these colors differently is because the retinas in human eyes have three types of color receptors called cones. Each cone type is sensitive to light of a narrow limit. Humans have three "cone lines" of communication which run to the visual part of the brain. In dogs there are only two types of cones, so there are fewer bases for comparison by the brain. In short, dog color vision is more accurately described as "color-limited" rather than "color-blind."

False: A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's

Though we've been told a dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's for as long as many of us can remember, it turns out this too is more of an urban legend. Though a dog's mouth is somewhat sterile and does kill some bacteria and was once believed to have healing properties, it also contains its own exotic cornucopia of

bacteria that can cause serious infections. But, according to the experts, don't let this stop you from letting your dog give you a kiss. As long as vaccines are current and owners practice good internal and external parasite control, you should have no fear in contracting an infection from a dog's kiss.

False: Dogs eat grass when their stomachs are upset

Dogs do not eat grass as a natural laxative or to make themselves sick as many of us have always believed. Since we humans always feel a need to understand canine behavior, this misconception has often been attached with dogs eating grass since dogs are more likely to vomit after consuming grass. Many experts believe that dogs simply eat grass for one reason, because it tastes good to them. Vomiting is just a reaction that may follow eating too much grass or grass becoming stuck in the throat causing a gag reflex.



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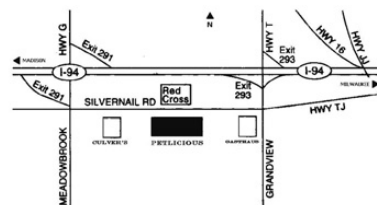
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False: Dogs feel guilty when they did something wrong

Though we all want to believe that our dogs know when they've done something wrong and feel bad about it, the truth is they're more likely reacting to our human emotions. When we show a dog our displeasure over bad behavior he may drop his ears and stop wagging his tail, but scientists say these actions are more attributed to fear and submission rather than actually knowing he did something wrong. In short, if your dog senses you are displeased with something, he is most likely reacting to your actions and doesn't really understand he did something wrong.

Not-so-false: Dogs understand what we are saying

Though many people believe that dogs really don't understand human speech, this has been proven false in recent years. According to a Journal of Science study, dogs can comprehend human speech. The test subject for this study was Rico, a border collie, who knows the names of more than 200 toys and fetches them on command. Veterinary Economics magazine points out that Rico demonstrates the verbal understanding that's about the level of a 3-year-old toddler.

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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BREED PROFILE:

The Cocker Spaniel

A compact, sweet natured wagger

For those lucky enough to have seen Disney's "Lady and the Tramp," it's easy to see why the beautiful and good-natured Lady would inspire a story. A pedigreed Cocker Spaniel, she shows many qualities in the film the breed is known for such as an affectionate personality, intelligence and even a little of that hunting spirit from her canine ancestry.

History of a hunter

Labeled the smallest of the sporting dogs, the Cocker Spaniel (officially called the American Cocker Spaniel) is originally believed to be from Spain, according to a book by Evelyn Miller titled *How to Raise and Train Your Cocker Spaniel*. Used by hunters, the cocker spaniel would sneak up on wild game, especially the woodcock bird, while the hunter came from the other side. The canine would assume a "pointing" stance; nose out stretched, back straight and tail horizontal, wagging wildly. This signaled the hunter, who threw his net (before guns) while the cocker flushed out the animal. The smaller the dog, the closer she could sneak up on her prey. Today of course, the breed is suited for sport and family life.

Small and silky

The cocker spaniel measures 14 to 15 inches tall and weighs 15 to 30 pounds. "They are small enough that they can fit in almost anywhere but big enough that you know you have a dog," says Elaine Baumann head of the Shorewood Cocker Rescue. "I always say that they are big dogs in little bodies."

This makes them a nice size for apartments or modest back yards, as long as they are well exercised.

With long ears hanging from a rounded skull, the spaniel has a distinct look. The coat is silky, flat and slightly wavy with medium length hair. Shedding is described as average. Frequent combing is strongly recommended along with professional



grooming every 6 to 8 weeks, even for a family pet. "Cockers are a high maintenance breed," says Heidi Braun-Volkman of Wisconsin Cocker Rescue.

Also many cocker spaniels still have their tails docked (a portion of the tail removed) at a very early age. This was done early on because it was thought to assist the dogs while hunting, although today the practice is hotly debated.

A family orientated canine

Known for being devoted, the cocker spaniel craves companionship. "Cockers are happy dogs who love to be with their humans," says Baumann. "They can be so underfoot sometimes, they can drive you crazy," she adds fondly.

They fit well into a family, especially when raised with children and participating in dog behavior classes. "No one likes an unruly animal around," adds Braun-Volkman.



Their genial disposition extends to all animals in a family, causing them to even befriend other pets not of the canine persuasion.

Older dogs need less exercise

One caution Baumann makes is to realistically evaluate how energetic you are. "Anyone interested in adopting a dog needs to realize that young dogs can be very active," she says. If they do not have a fenced yard and [aren't] willing to go out and play with the dog everyday or walk a couple of miles the younger dogs are not for them. They should consider a dog that is at least 5-6 years old."



Choosing to adopt an older dog comes with added benefits. Adults are usually less destructive (no puppy stages) and often housebroken. When meeting older dogs you can learn their personalities, which is more difficult with puppies.

"Our main goal is to find the dogs a home for the remainder of their lives," says Braun-Volkman about the rescue, "and to educate the public that an adult dog is at times better than a puppy." Very few puppies come into the rescue; it's mostly mature canines who need the homes.

Unsurprisingly Baumann is also a rescue dog advocate, insisting that not all cockers at a rescue have 'problems.' "This is the most frustrating fallacy that we have to overcome," she says. "The majority of dogs that come into rescue come through

no fault of their own. Many are strays whose irresponsible owners did not keep contained. We get a number of dogs each year because of the death of their owner or because the owner could not afford their care."

Braun-Volkmann agrees saying, "sometimes things happen in life that no one knows is going to happen - divorce, death, life changes, loss of their job, etc., and the family has to give up their pet."

And this is why Cocker Spaniels are lucky to have Baumann and Braun-Volkmann and many others at Shorewood Cocker Rescue and Wisconsin Cocker Rescue working together. "Egos are set aside," says Braun-Volkmann, "the bottom line is the dog - trying to get the right home for them."

"We will refer adopters," agrees Baumann, "and in addition, and most importantly, we are able to share information we have gained through our individual experiences."

The organizations are even co-locating an event on September 9, which will benefit an Illinois Cocker rescue as well. It's known as the third annual Wigglebutt Walk (can you guess why?). The walk will take place in Kansasville, WI, to earn money for veterinary services and other expenses for the adoption services of cocker spaniels in need of forever homes. Information is available on their websites, www.cockerrescue.net/ and www.geocities.com/WiCockerRescue/ respectively. Adoption applications, testimonials and cocker orphans are also online.

Winning hearts

Raised with cockers and an active member of various dog organizations, Braun-Volkmann knows the breed and encourages people to talk to breeders about their dogs. "See what they look like as adults," she says, before buying. Why are cockers her choice? "I like their willingness to please, sweet personalities, and gorgeous eye expressions," she admits. "I love the breed."

Baumann began her journey with Cocker Spaniels while volunteering at the Humane Society. She felt many of the dogs would have had a better opportunity for adoption if handled by someone who knew specifically about the breed. She became President of the rescue shortly

after she retired from her job at a Fortune 500 company.

For her it's not just about saving lives, which is the main concern of any rescue, but about the wonderful people that adopt a rescued dog, especially those Baumann refers to as "hardship" dogs. "These are people who have taken in and loved those dogs who were quite elderly or blind or deaf, even three legged. These are the dogs who will always have a special place in my heart and these are the people who truly rescued a dog."

With soulful eyes and a mid-sized, cuddly body, the cocker spaniel exemplifies a caring companion. Whether she's with you in the woods hunting wild game, with you parading around the show ring or curled in a bundle next to you on the couch, there's a little pedigreed "Lady" in all cockers.

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

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SCHUTZHUND: THE DOG TRIATHLON

"It is very addictive and there is no 12 step program. It takes a lot of effort and a lot of time. The people that you train with tend to become your family because you spend so much time together. It is not a sport for dabblers." This is the warning Donna Gauvin gives to anyone new to the dog sport of Schutzhund, which she has participated in since 1980.

Schutzhund is a sport for dogs and their handlers that involves three phases covering tracking, obedience and protection which are tested together at the same trial. If one phase is not passed, the team will participate in the remainder of the trial out of good sportsmanship but will not be eligible for a title.

Schutzhund originated in Germany as a breed suitability test for German Shepherds to ensure only dogs with desirable qualities were bred. Even today in Germany, it is

desirable for any German Shepherd to have what are called "pink papers" which are only given to dogs with a Schutzhund or herding title.

Schutzhund is open to all breeds, including mixes, but some, such as German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Giant Schnauzers, and Dobermans are seen more often in competition. While Donna currently competes with her German Shepherd, she started with a Standard Poodle which she calls a "very unlikely dog for the sport."

Before dogs can compete in Schutzhund, they must achieve the companion dog title BH (Begleithund). During BH testing, several steps occur where the dog must not act aggressively. The dog and handler perform a heeling routine and move through a group of people. A street traffic test is also performed. This could involve a bike that rings its bell as it goes by, a car that honks and stops to ask directions, or a dog and handler walking by while the dog being tested is tied to a fence. The dog must not react negatively towards pedestrians, traffic or other dogs.

During the tracking phase of Schutzhund, the dog must follow a footstep track strewn with multiple articles as the handler follows behind holding a long tracking leash. The dog should indicate the location of each article in some manner such as sitting or standing. The age of the trail will vary from at least 20 minutes to at least 3 hours old based on the title being sought, Schutzhund I, Schutzhund II or Schutzhund III. In Schutzhund I, the dog's handler lays the trail and in Schutzhund II and III, a stranger creates it. Additionally, the higher the title, the more articles to find and the longer the track.

For the obedience phase of Schutzhund, two dogs are tested at the same time. One



stays in a 10 to 20 minute long down while the other dog and handler perform a set obedience pattern by memory. Everyone performs the same defined pattern, unlike other types of obedience trials where the judge calls a pattern to the handler. The entire routine is performed off-leash and includes dumbbell retrieval on flat ground, over a climbing wall, and over a jump. Based upon the title being sought, the dumbbell is a progressively higher weight. Testing also includes sending the dog away from the handler and then commanding a "Down," heeling in a group of people and even a gunshot test. The gunshot test is performed during the heeling pattern and the dog may not react strongly to the gunshots.



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The protection phase is the one that Donna says spectators are most excited to watch. Tent-like blinds are set in a field and a helper, also known as the "bad guy," hides in one of them. The dog and handler search the tents to locate the helper. The higher the title being tested the more blinds are searched. When the helper is found, the dog should bark at, but not touch, the "bad guy" as long as he is standing still. The "bad guy" then runs away, simulating an escape. The dog should stop the escape by biting the helper on a heavily padded protective sleeve. The handler tells the dog to stop biting. The dog must release the helper or fail the test. For Schutzhund II and III, the "bad guy" will feign an attack on the handler. The dog must intercept the helper, again biting him on the sleeve and releasing when commanded.

According to Donna, the major organizations for Schutzhund in the United States include DVG America, United Schutzhund Club which focuses on German Shepherds, and Working Dogs of America. The rules for Schutzhund are established in Germany and are exactly the same for all the organizations. Donna states rules may occasionally "vary slightly but only due to translation since the rules come in German."

Schutzhund is a sport that places high demands on the dog handler team as it can take two to three years of training before the team even competes for the first time. Donna's favorite part

is, "the training and problem solving of how to make the dog understand what I want them to do. It is a challenge. Schutzhund is a dog triathlon."

Books:

Schutzhund Theory and Training methods by Susan Barwig and Stewart Hilliard

Schutzhund Obedience Training and Drive by Sheila Booth and Gottfried Dildei

Training the Competitive Working Dog by Tom Rose and Gary Patterson

Websites:

DVG America www.dvgamerica.com
United Schutzhund Clubs of America
www.germanshepherdclub.com/
Working Dogs of America www.working-dogs.com

Videos:

Leerburg Video and Kennel
<http://www.leerburg.com/schusa.htm>

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.

 **Fetch**
magazine





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Event Calendar

June 2006

2 Friday

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

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

What: Dr. Fife Canine Chiropractic Appointments
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

3 Saturday

What: Doggie Day
Where: Bryan Becker Clay Werks, Hartland
When: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-367-7211

7 Wednesday

What: The Big Bang w/ Clauden Mc Auliffe
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Downtown
When: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

9 Friday

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 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)

10 Saturday

What: Meet Your Match Adoption Event
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society
When: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: www.ebhs.org, 262-782-9261

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

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)

11 Sunday

What: Ice Cream Social for Dogs & People
Where: The Doggy Bag, Oconomowoc
When: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Info: www.thedoggybagllc.com

What: 5th Annual K9 Carnival
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Brookfield
When: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 414-289-7785 (\$3/dog to benefit WUFF)

What: 2nd Annual Pugfest
Where: Oelschlaeger - Dallmann Legion Post Hall & Grounds, Oak Creek
When: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: www.milwaukeekeepugfest.com

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

15 Thursday

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

16 Friday

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

17 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

What: Managing Your Dog's Aggression
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Reserve Spot Today
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$20)

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

21 Wednesday

What: Free Dog Behavior Seminar
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society
When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Info: www.ebhs.org (Register in Advance)

23 Friday

What: REALLY BIG Rummage Sale for WAAGR
Where: 128th & Mill Rd., Menomonee Falls
When: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Info: www.waagr.org

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

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

24 Saturday

What: Rally Seminar with Anna Lorenz
Where: Sheboygan Dog Training Club, Sheboygan
When: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: www.sdtclub.com

What: REALLY BIG Rummage Sale for WAAGR
Where: 128th & Mill Rd., Menomonee Falls
When: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Info: www.waagr.org

25 Sunday

What: Lure Coursing Run Thrus
Where: Lake Salvation Army Camp, East Troy
When: 10:00 a.m. - noon
Info: 1-888-581-9070 (only \$10 for 2 runs)

What: Fun Match (Rally & Obedience)
Where: Sheboygan Dog Training Club
4802 Najacht Road, Sheboygan
Info: www.sdtclub.com

30 Friday

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: Yappy Hour (FREE)
Where: Amiable Dog Training
When: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Info: 414-289-7785, www.dogclass.com

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

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

Every Saturday

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.
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Hair of the DOG

Grooming FAQ's

Have you ever had a question for your Groomer but were afraid to ask or remembered the question halfway home? We've compiled nine of the most asked...or unasked, questions.

Does my pet need grooming?

All pets will benefit from grooming, in a salon or the backyard. A good bath and thorough brushing can do wonders for a dull coat, and most dogs love the attention. As far as going to a professional, that is a personal choice. Most people think of poodles and shih tzus as being synonymous with a pet groomer, but there are just as many labs, goldens, and even pugs that go to the salon. Many clients enjoy the convenience of having someone else deal with a wet hairy mess, while getting to enjoy a clean pet that sheds less when it comes home. A grooming for a short haired pet involves a bath, blow-dry, brushing, nail trim, ear cleaning, and perhaps even a tooth brushing. Not all professional pet grooming requires a haircut, but the results are fabulous!

How long will it take?

Most pets can be groomed in roughly 2-4 hours - depending on drying time, coat condition, and behavior of the pet. Some salons may take in pets in the morning, and keep them all day to avoid constant interruption of check ins/outs. Some salons or mobile salons will groom each pet individually, finishing in as little as an hour. Choose the salon that best suits the needs of you and your pet by calling around and asking about individual salon policies.

Why is he shaking like that?

Pets get excited when going to the groomer or vet. Some pets exhibit anxiety because they simply don't care to be groomed. Some pets love it so much they are ready to jump out of their skin with excitement. Whatever the reason, it is very important NOT to add to the excited state of your pet with baby talk and long sad goodbyes. Showing affection to fear creates more fear and stress, and it will

take more time after you leave to calm your pet so he can relax for the grooming process. The best thing you can do for your pet is to ignore any anxious behavior, hand over the leash, and leave. Animals will pick up on human emotion, and if you are stressed, chances are your pet will be too. Most pets will happily trot into a salon as soon as "mom" is out the door. Out of sight, out of mind!

I brush my pet, why is he matted?

Matting is caused by a number of things.

1. Improper brushing: There is a right way and a wrong way to brush certain types of coats, as well as the correct tools to use. Try the internet or a breed specific book for starters, or your stylist will be happy to show you how to brush and the proper tools to use on your pet.

2. Bathing: If you bathe your pet at home, no matter what product you use, if the hair is not COMPLETELY COMBED OUT before and after bathing, any mats or tangles can be worsened by the wet/dry process.

3. Shedding: "Non-shedding" breeds such as poodles and shih tzus really do shed, however, the dead hair gets tangled up with the live coat, and if not brushed out regularly, it will eventually form mats.

I don't want my pet shaved. Can't the mats be brushed out?

Depending on severity of matting, in some cases the only humane thing to do is to clip the coat close. Your groomer will try to leave the coat as long as possible, but if the mats are very tight, shaving may be the only option. Remember, it grows back, and your pet will feel better!

Can I stay?

This will vary from salon to salon, however there are pro's and con's to an owner staying for a groom, and every pet is different. Most pets tend to stay in an excited state when "mom" or "dad" stays. As soon as you walk out the door, your pet will most likely relax and focus on the groomer. This is why it is important to not walk into the salon if you see your pet on the table, as it can become extremely difficult to finish

the grooming on a pet that sees "mom" and gets overly excited. There are situations when an owner may need to stay. In the case of a pet that is prone to seizures or unpredictable aggression, please inform the groomer of any special needs when booking your first appointment, so special arrangements can be made. NOTE: It is very important that you remain quiet and calm while your pet is being groomed.

What if I'm unhappy with the groom?

If you are dissatisfied for any reason, by all means tell your stylist, manager, or owner of the salon. Many people are embarrassed to express concern or complaint, but if you pay for a service, you should be getting 100 percent of the service you expected. There may be a reason your pet's haircut is choppy, or a toenail is bleeding. Perhaps your pet was wiggly, or the groomer was having an "off" day (groomers are human too!). Any professional stylist should be willing to work with you to ensure satisfaction, and they can't fix what they don't know about.

Do cats go to the groomer?

Yes. Grooming can be done on both short and long haired cats. A good comb-out and bath can help with shedding, or a "lion cut" can be done. A lion cut is when the body of the cat is clipped very short, leaving the legs and head long, and sometimes a "mane" around the neck. Some cats need to be shaved down to remove severe matting. Older or obese cats that are unable to groom themselves may benefit from a short trim to reduce matting and hair balls. Cats have different needs for grooming than dogs, and not every salon will groom cats. Be sure your stylist

- continued on page 29

Pet Portraits

Graphite, pastel, watercolor or alkyd.



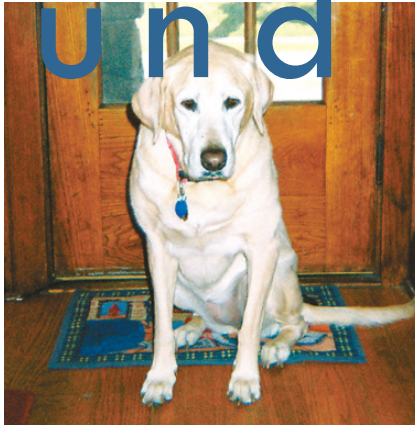
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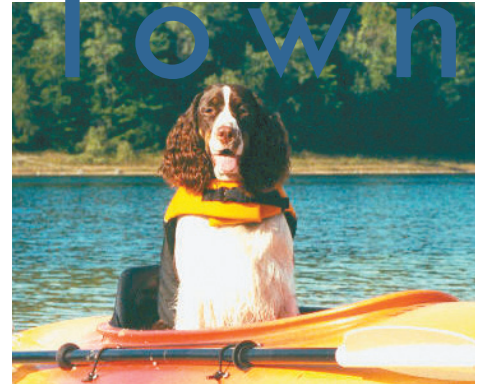
Angie

Sharla & Don



Holly

Christine



Ritz

Joan, Monroe



Riley

Sheri, Waukesha



Marley

Ling, Wauwatosa



Stuart and Stanley

Lisa



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

Westie
Greyhound
Giant Schnauzer
Whippet
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.)

continued from page 27

understands the special needs of cats and has experience handling them.

Should I tip the groomer?

Like any other service profession, tips are always welcome. If you are happy with your groomer, tip him or her like you would your own hair stylist or barber. Of course, tipping is not mandatory or expected, but it is always appreciated!

Pet grooming is not an exact science. All dogs are not created equal, and most pets come with their own quirks and idiosyncrasies. If you have questions about your pet's grooming session, ask, ask, ask.

Helena Buettner has 11 years of professional pet styling experience, has worked with a range of animals for the last 20 years, and has a degree in Animal Science. Helena is a member of the International Society of Canine Cosmetologists and is currently working to achieve Master Stylist Certification. Pets are Pheebee the poodle and Balthazar the cat. Helena Buettner owns and operates Madra Pet Styling. 414-332-2289 www.madrapet-styling.com

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