



Fetch magazine

June 2007 | Volume 4 Issue 6

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Publisher's Letter

Typically this time of year, the nightly news is flooded with stories of tornados, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters brought on by warm summer weather. Luckily in Wisconsin, we don't need to be overly worried about these natural disasters. However, occasionally we do see a tornado rip through the state, or minor flooding overthrow a town. Do you have a plan in place to evacuate your family, both two-legged and four in the event of a catastrophe? Sure, we may never see a wildfire or have the need to board up our houses for an approaching hurricane, but even a house fire, broken water pipe, or gas leak can force us to leave our homes in a hurry. What do you take with you? How fast can you gather up these items? Turn to page 11 to learn how important it is to have a plan of action in place when there's a knock on the door and a decree that you need to leave your home in ten minutes...be prepared.

Another hot topic currently in the media is the massive, on-going pet food recall. We'll not go into detail on the recall itself, but instead we'll focus on the upcoming events made possible by these unfortunate circumstances. If you were asked to place a value on your pet, what would it be? \$100?, \$5,000?, \$100,000?, Priceless? In the coming months, courts throughout the U.S. will need to answer that very question. Flip over to page 24 for more information on the upcoming trials and how difficult this simple question is to answer.

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Ask the VET

This month's Ask the Vet examines treatment options available for canines with Hip Dysplasia.

Canine hip dysplasia (CHD) is a heritable, developmental orthopedic disease which results in an abnormal formation of the hips leading to varying degrees of laxity (i.e. looseness) of the hip joints followed by inflammation, damage to the cartilage and arthritis. The amount of arthritis that develops can range from mild with no clinical signs to severe with crippling effects.

CHD is a difficult disease to prevent because it often goes undiagnosed in an individual used for breeding and this disease is then passed on genetically to the offspring thereby perpetuating the disease in the gene pool. Breeders have used radiographic techniques (i.e. OFA and PennHIP) in order to select individuals for breeding that have no radiographic signs of hip dysplasia. The PennHIP technique can be performed at a much earlier age (i.e. 4 months) and is superior in evaluating for passive hip laxity compared to OFA evaluation (see image 1). This allows the PennHIP technique to be used as an early detection test for hip laxity, which has a strong correlation with the risk of development of hip arthritis later in life.

Image 1 (left image OFA, right image PennHIP)



The early assessment of a dog's risk of developing hip arthritis is ideal not only from the standpoint of removing affected individuals from the gene pool but also providing the opportunity for utilizing preventative treatments in individuals at risk before arthritis has already devel-

oped. Dogs should be screened for hip dysplasia at 12 to 16 weeks of age in order to be a possible candidate for preventative treatments. A veterinarian, in addition to completing a full orthopedic exam, should perform a PennHIP evaluation to determine the passive laxity of the hip joints that are then correlated to the pet's risk of developing hip arthritis later on in life. Dogs that have excess laxity of the hip joints, whether they are currently showing clinical signs or not, are at risk of developing hip arthritis in the future.

Treatment options for hip dysplasia depend on the age of the individual, orthopedic exam findings, and radiographic changes (i.e. degree of laxity and arthritis) at the time of the evaluation. Conservative management is an option for all patients diagnosed with hip dysplasia and consists of dietary recommendations (i.e. slow growth rate and/or achieve lean body weight), moderation in activity, and medications (i.e. cartilage supplements, adequate injections, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Conservative management does not stop the progression of arthritis but rather ameliorate the signs of the disease. Unfortunately, it is not possible to exactly predict which patients will go on to develop severe debilitating arthritis with conservative management. When the conservative management of severe hip dysplasia fails then salvage surgical procedures such as a total hip replacement or femoral head and neck excision can be performed.

It would be preferable to prevent the arthritis from developing in the first place rather than treat the arthritis after it occurs. Two surgical procedures intended to prevent or at least greatly diminish the degenerative process in dogs with hip dysplasia are the triple pelvic osteotomy (TPO) and the juvenile pubic symphysiodesis (JPS).

The TPO procedure is performed in dogs less than a year of age without radiographic evidence of severe hip laxity or arthritis. This surgical procedure is invasive and involves performing three separate osteotomies of the pelvis, lateral rotation of the dorsal acetabular rim over the femoral head and securing the ilial osteotomy with a bone plate (see image 2). The goal of the surgery is to improve the congruency of the hip joint and thereby

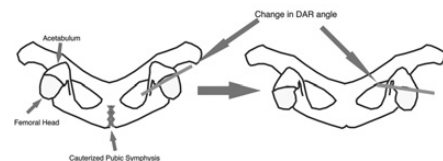
decrease joint laxity, and prevent future osteoarthritis. This procedure is performed on one hip at a time and is not without potential complications including infection, implant failure, sciatic nerve injury, and pelvic canal narrowing.

Image 2 (Post Operative TPO)



The newer JPS procedure involves destroying the pubic symphyseal growth plate using electrocautery and results in an improved coverage of the femoral head by the acetabulum as the rest of the pelvis continues to grow (see image 3). The JPS procedure is performed in dogs between 12-20 weeks of age. The advantages of the JPS over the TPO procedure are a much less invasive surgery, shorter anesthesia time, less costly, both hips treated with one surgery, and the procedure has minimal risk of complications.

Image 3 (Pelvic changes post JPS)



The JPS procedure can be effective in preventing degenerative changes in the hip joints however the difficulty resides in being able to identify patients at an early enough age that would benefit the most from this procedure. At the Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center we recommend having your pet's hips screened at 12-16 weeks of age to determine the risk of developing hip arthritis in the

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Training Bits

Positive Training...Positive Results

There is a major shift in training spreading across the country, and it is good news for dogs, and the people who love them. Instead of making your dog do what you want, you can get him to offer positive behaviors joyfully and willingly. This shift towards positive reinforcement rewards our dogs for doing great things, instead of focusing (through coercion and punishment) on the bad behaviors.

Catch your dog being GOOD, and teach "Yes" instead of "No" - that is the basis of training through positive reinforcement. Dogs may not be able to read the latest journal on operant conditioning, but they certainly understand the principles behind this theory of learning and behavior. "Behaviors that are rewarded and reinforced will increase; behaviors that are not reinforced or rewarded will diminish or disappear." We all know this, yet we usually do just the opposite when training our dogs. We tend to ignore our dogs when they are being "good," and pay attention to them when they are misbehaving.

As a certified trainer with over 25 years of experience, I see guardians do this time and time again.

I witnessed a perfect example of this when called out to help Gordon with Lily, his 11 month old Visla. Gordon worked at home as a writer, and Lily could not understand why Gordy did not want her in his lap while he was typing at the computer. She loves her dad, and could not

resist the urge to climb in his lap whenever he sat down to work. I told Gordy to carry on as usual, while I observed Lily's behavior. As I watched, Gordy began typing, and Lily lay in her bed across the room. After about two minutes, Lily crept up and attempted to crawl in Gordy's lap - not an easy feat for a large, 60 lb puppy! What did I see? Gordy pushed her away with a firm, "Go away Lily, not now." After a few minutes of this, Lily slunk away to her bed to lie down. Gordon continued to type, without a word to his dog, who was now behaving perfectly, following through on his cues, and being a very good girl! For this, she was ignored. It seemed the only time Lily got any attention was when she was crawling in dad's lap. Well! No wonder she was so persistent! She was rewarded for exactly the wrong thing! Even with his negative tone, Gordy was talking to Lily, touching her, and giving her the attention she so badly craved all while she was misbehaving, and ignoring her when she was doing exactly what he wanted from her.

With an established training routine that involved rewarding Lily for following through on her "go to bed" cue, and ignoring her when she approached the desk, Gordy got Lily back on the right track, and was amazed to see the results of positively rewarding good behaviors and ignoring, thus eliminating, inappropriate behaviors.

Training by reinforcing and rewarding good behaviors, instead of harsh corrections and painful consequences for the "wrong" ones, makes your dog excited about learning, and joyfully anticipating what you will ask her to do next. Learning should be fun, it should be an adventure (I tell that to my eighth graders all the time!) and it is SO much easier to tell your dog what he should do, then scream at him for what he should not do.

Positive reinforcement in training revolves around teaching your dog alternative behaviors - things they should do instead of things they shouldn't do. We work toward the goal of having a dog who thinks and works as a team with their human companion, not one who simply obeys a command out of fear of consequences. Dogs who are trained through positive methods are eager, happy, and look forward to figuring out the new "trick" or behavior. They are quick to offer appropriate behaviors, and love new challenges. Positive training helps you develop a strong relationship with your dog, based on mutual respect and trust. It is much more effective than having a dog who does nothing, out of fear of doing the wrong thing, or only listens to you out of fear of what will happen if she doesn't!

There are still many trainers out there who firmly believe in shaping behaviors through the use of force and compulsion. Choke collars, prong collars, jerks to the neck, knees in the chest, and other ways are unfortunately used to punish dogs for choosing the wrong behavior. These methods are still popular because, well, they work with some dogs. Dogs will submit and follow through on commands out of fear of what may happen if they don't. But is that the kind of relationship you want with your dog? One based on aggression and mistrust and fear?

Punishment can also lead to more serious problems. Physical corrections can cause pain and harm to your dog. They can also damage the dog's spirit, his confidence, and trust in his trainer. It will truly damage any meaningful relationship you hope to build with your dog. The negative behavior may return when the punishment stops, or often, the dog will stop offering desired behaviors because she feels it is better to play it safe and do nothing.



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Also, while the punishment may stop the behavior, it doesn't offer the dog an alternative behavior to use in its place. Another common problem with punishing your dog is that, for some dogs, violence leads to more violence. It is difficult to control the exact amount of force in the punishment you are dealing out, and dogs will become aggressive in self-defense against your anger. This can become a dangerous scenario, and often ends up with the dog surrendered to the pound for biting, and put to death because of it.

If you have been training your dog through coercion and punishment, it is not too late to try a different approach - positive training with positive results. Seek out a trainer whose program focuses on positively rewarding appropriate behaviors. There are many excellent trainers out there who realize the immense benefits of this type of program. Check to see if they are certified by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, an accredited organization with strict guidelines and a certification exam focusing on the theories of operant conditioning, and positive reinforcement. Your dog will thank you for it and you will have taken a giant step towards developing a loving partnership with your four-legged best friend.

Jodi Lynn Goocher is the owner and trainer for Sirius Companion Dog Training. Sirius's mission is to guide you in developing a positive relationship with your dog based on mutual respect, trust and love. They offer classes in Puppy Kindergarten and Basic Manners, through novice and Rally'O. Jodi is certified through the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and the AKC. 414-698-3223

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Emergency Preparedness:

Your Pet's First Line of Defense

In Fetch Magazine's March '07 The Legal Beagle column, we saw what happened during Katrina when there was no plan to care for pets during a large scale disaster. Prior to the PETS Act, including pets in emergency planning was up to the individual states. Each state would mandate what was to be included in emergency response plans, and it was up to each county to figure out how they were going to implement the plan. Louisiana did not have a mandate to include planning for pets, but after seeing the havoc caused by that omission, by the following June they had amended their emergency plan. Wisconsin has included provisions for pets since 1996. Our wake up call was not a hurricane, but a freight train derailment in the town of Weyauwega.

What generally gets changes made is not so much concern for the well-being of the animals, but the realization that if you don't solve problems with pets, you will have problems with people. We don't know how many in New Orleans defied a mandatory evacuation to stay with their pets because they had no place to take them. In Wisconsin, residents of Weyauwega had assumed that the burning tank cars of propane would be extinguished in a few hours or a day, so when they were told to leave immediately, many left their pets behind. When evacuation stretched to two and three days with no end in sight while the tank cars burned themselves out, they became concerned about pets left behind without food or water in freezing houses. The fire chief would not send rescue personnel in to get their animals, citing the danger of the propane tankers exploding, so people started sneaking in to get their pets. This caused security problems as well as risking lives. The governor finally sent in the National Guard to escort pet owners in

small groups in armored personnel carriers to bring their pets out, but this was still quite dangerous. So provisions for pets were added to emergency planning in Wisconsin, to prevent things like this from happening again. The federal PETS Act later superseded the state mandates, ruling that any municipality or state wishing to receive federal disaster assistance must have provisions to evacuate and care for animals.

But is this the solution? Not entirely.

Having a place to take pets only helps if people take their animals with them in the first place when they evacuate. And even then, emergency sheltering for animals is intended only for those who have absolutely no where else to go. When it comes right down to it, the pet's owner is their best line of defense in an emergency. That person has to be prepared to evacuate that pet, and to care for it until they can return home. And when someone's pounding on your door saying you've got ten minutes to evacuate the neighborhood, you don't have time to stop and think of where you're going and what you need to take. So you need to plan ahead.

This is not difficult to do, but it does require some pre-planning. I've outlined the steps you need to take, and grouped them under Planning, Equipment, and Preparation. The first section will be covered here, with the other two sections in the July issue of Fetch Magazine.

PLANNING

Take a good look at your situation and resources. Do you have access to a car? Great. How many people have to fit in it? You obviously bought a car big enough for the whole family, but is there any

extended family expecting you to get them out? Also, is there room for all your pets in their carriers? Is there room for your dog's crate? How fast can you get it folded and loaded? Practice loading your car and time yourself. What if not everyone's home at the time of the evacuation? Work out who will get the kids from school. Decide on a meeting place away from home to assemble at if some of the family are at school or work. What if no one is at home? You won't be allowed into the area to get pets, so set up a buddy system. Trade keys and pet info with a nearby relative or neighbor so that they can evacuate your pets, and or you can evacuate their's. Work out where you can go. Grandma's? Your cousin's? Your brother's? Will her dog chase your cat? Does his condo allow pets? Board the dog at that kennel you used last vacation? What if they're full? Are there any pet-friendly motels in the area? What sort of pets do they allow, and how many? Have several back-ups for any plan you make, and make sure the whole family knows what the plan is.

Knowing what you're doing, and where you're going is half the battle, and it doesn't take a big disaster to make this information useful. A house fire, roof damage, a late night or out of town trip to the veterinarian; any of these can make you glad you planned ahead.

Join us next month when we discuss what you'll need to implement your plan.

Karen Pauli lives in Milwaukee. After Katrina, she made two trips down south to do animal rescue, and came home wanting to do more. She is now a volunteer on call with UAN's Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) and with American Humane Association's Animal Emergency Services. Between emergencies she does public education with EARS at pet events to show pet owners how to be ready for emergencies.



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Hip Ideas for Hyper Dogs

If you have a hyper dog, you're probably exasperated or embarrassed or maybe even driven slightly crazy by all that hyperactivity. You've got plenty of excuses, of course: It's his breed, or her personality, or your busy schedule. Whatever. The bottom line is that a walk in the park is anything but, and you've developed a litany of reasons for meeting friends and family anywhere but your own little nest.

But here's good news: There's no longer any need to hide your head or your hound! The reason? *Hip Ideas for Hyper Dogs* - a book designed specifically to change your dog's world from hyper to happy.

Written by trainer extraordinaire, and Wisconsin native, Amy Ammen, this comprehensive guide doesn't promise overnight results. But it does provide solutions that promise to turn your hyper dog around in relatively short order - and ensures you of a good time, to boot.

Chatty and anecdote-filled, *Hip Ideas for Hyper Dogs* whisks the reader through a short course in obedience training basics before getting to the heart of transformation.

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High-octane energy burners, especially useful when time is tight

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Hyperactive dogs tend to be hyper-intelligent, too; it's a shame to waste all that potential. If you've been guilty of doing so, don't delay: Pick up, read and apply this book - and watch your pooch become the companion you've always dreamed of!

Meet the authors on June 16th at Barnes & Noble. See the Event Calendar for more details

Great Gatsby Fundraiser

Spend a night sipping champagne, rolling the dice at a casino, and maybe even leaving with a pair of diamond earrings at the Great Gatsby Fundraiser in Elm Grove. On Saturday June 23rd, join fellow animal lovers at a fundraiser for the Elm Brook Humane Society. As you stroll the sculpture gardens, dance under the stars, and tour a 24,000 square foot home, you'll help EBHS provide future care to hundreds of local animals in need. This is a worthwhile cause - bring your friends.

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"Saying Good-Bye to Jasper"

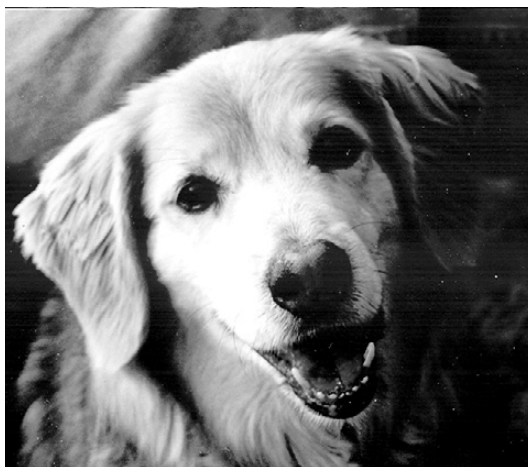
He didn't do super fancy tricks. But he could entertain family and friends un-wrapping presents with his teeth or play with a paper grocery bag like it was the hottest toy on the market. He wasn't a trained agility dog either, but his agile tongue could lick a plastic peanut butter jar spotless right down to the very bottom, then strut through the house with it in his mouth like he won a blue ribbon in a Skippy® eating contest.

Jasper was our dog. Everybody in our life knew him and 99% of them were smitten with him. He was the dog next door that greeted you at the fence with a furiously happy tail. The dog that could play tug-of-war for hours with his red rubber bone and our niece Samantha gleefully holding onto the other end. "Come on buddy!" she'd always tell him. Jasper was one fine dog; he was family.

I heard Jasper before I saw him. It was the littlest of puppy barks. Barely an audible sound but I begged my husband to go downstairs in the duplex where we then lived to investigate.

He was a 7-week old mixed breed puppy that our landlords agreed to take care of temporarily for a friend until a permanent home was found for him. The first time I laid eyes on his absolutely adorable face I knew he was home. He would be ours. We could have never imagined the impact that he would have on our lives. He gave us pure joy.

As far as puppies go he was not one to be held or picked up a lot. He was an independent spirit with a whole lot of spunk. It seemed he could play, run, walk, swim and romp for hours on end. We had illusions of putting him in an empty backpack to give him a rest during a long hike or cradle him until he fell asleep, but he would have none of that. He'd rather be getting belly rubs, or be where the action was. We'd laugh when he fought off sleep. He'd be lying down with his head up but his eyes closed. Then his head would slowly droop, then pop back up. When the fight was over he'd exhale a big dramatic sigh and down went his head.



Thunderstorms frightened him and little kids thrilled him. Give him a photo op at a weekend camping trip or a family picnic and he sprouted the cheesiest of grins with a relaxed pink tongue, bright eyes and perfectly perked ears. Never moving or squirming as nieces and nephews tugged on his collar or pushed into his personal space to get as close as possible, 'Paparazzi Pup' should have been his middle name.

He was a lover of people and lover of food. "Where there was food there was Jasper," was what we always said. His nose would be on the edge of cocktail tables, next to the Weber grill, at the pantry door, or resting on your lap during dinner. Most family and friends in the presence of food with him declared these two words to Jasper at least a dozen times each, "No begging!"

Back then I took him to an old school dog obedience trainer. The trainer's name was simply Frank. He trained hundreds, if not thousands of dogs in his career. Jasper was frequently the dog in class not doing what the rest of the dogs were instructed to do and my frustration started to show. A man of few words, Frank simply told me not to worry. "You have a very smart dog, just give him time," he said.

And give him time we did. We watched him grow from his fuzzy soft, stick-chewing self to a young lanky dog into a handsome blend of charm, loyalty and charisma.

At the age of 14 his pace actually started to slow. So did his need to chase tennis balls or rabbits out of the yard. His deep

brown eyes began to fail him and the nose that faithfully guided him for so many years lost its sense of direction. The sound of our voices calling his name mostly went unheard unless he was right in front of us. At times, he didn't seem to recognize us.

It was painful to watch his pride be chipped away when he looked to us for help in holding up his back legs to get up the stairs, or on occasion, to carry him down them.

His tail slowed as well. It pretty much stopped. It appeared only to wag involuntarily, not from his soul like it used to. It seemed broken and it was breaking my heart.

His usual confident and happy self moments were being outnumbered by fearful and uncertain ones. Despite our vigilant care and respect for his dignity, the quality of his life declined.

It was an agonizing decision for us to pick a date on the calendar for the "time" to say good-bye to him. What gives us the right to choose when? I prayed and cried that Jasper would forgive us and then somewhere amidst all of the tormented thoughts and sadness we gained the courage we needed...

I held him in my arms and methodically stroked his still pillow-soft head as we drove to his last vet appointment. We believe he knew. We talked to him between sobs and when we arrived at the clinic we were silently and respectfully led into a quiet room.

Before his final breath I cradled Jasper's face in both my hands as I had done every night for 16 years. I bravely told him I loved him and to go to sleep sweetie. "It's OK Jasper" we both whispered. "We love you so much and we will miss you." My heart was pounding. And then his stopped. He very calmly and very peacefully went still. We laid over him and cried.

Good-bye sweet Jasper, good-bye.

When not playing or training with her three dogs, **Anne Skaradzinski** likes to write, photography and be outdoors when not at her full time job as a Project Manager at a web site development company.

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BREED PROFILE:

The Chinese Crested

Forget what you saw regarding the annual World's Ugliest Dog contest. Yes, it's true; a purebred Chinese Crested has won the title for the past four years. But it might be true that any hairless canine breed could have won this contest, especially if overweight, geriatric, and allowed to be exploited and ridiculed.

So let's dispel the notion right away. According to registered breeder Bette Mentz-Powell of Barneveld, WI, this graceful toy breed is actually gorgeous. A properly bred Chinese Crested dog is athletic-looking, well-muscled, and agile. Measuring from nine to thirteen inches, Chinese Cresteds come in two variations; the Hairless and Powderpuff. Both varieties can be born in the same litter. Hairless Chinese Crested dogs have a profuse crest of hair that grows from the top of the head, neck, tail and feet, giving the appearance of a miniature Clydesdale pony. On occasion the handsome tufts are nonexistent and the Crested appears totally bald. The Powderpuff has a flowing double coat of silky hair covering its entire body, sometimes being mistaken for a terrier. Average life expectancy for the charming Crested is twelve to sixteen years.

The popularity of this uniquely stunning breed is growing. Mentz-Powell has noticed that with televised dogs shows and elegant Cresteds showing up in movies and commercials, "people are taking longer looks at them and becoming more curious about the breed." AKC statistics show that for all of 2006, 196 Crested dogs and 115 litters were registered. In the first quarter of 2007, 147 Cresteds and 100 litters were registered.

According to the American Kennel Club, the exact origin of the Chinese Crested is unclear, but is believed to have evolved from African hairless dogs which were reduced in size by the Chinese. The Crested probably accompanied Chinese sailors on the high seas, hunting vermin during and in between times of plague.

For the novice, Mentz-Powell encourages



learning as much as possible about the breed prior to considering ownership. Attending dog shows and in particular talking to breeders is necessary. "I don't think anyone should breed that doesn't show because how else will a breeder know if they are breeding to the standard?"

Breeding to improve the lineage is particularly important where health problems are otherwise categorical. Dr. Mary Corak of Harmony Pet Care Clinic in Waukesha cautions that the Hairless Crested is prone to skin problems such as infections, comedones and blackheads. With so much exposed skin, the dogs also need protection from sunburn and the colder elements here in Wisconsin. The same gene that results in less hair also causes dental defects. Dr. Corak supports seeking ethical breeders because the hairless variety carries a semi lethal gene -- when two Hairless dogs are mated, it is typical to have multiple birth defects or even death of the entire litter. The Powderpuff variety doesn't carry the lethal gene, so Powderpuffs are usually bred to the Hairless in order to have puppies survive.

The great news about being a delightful hairless dog, however, is that the very lack of fur makes it a possible match for an allergy sufferer. "I had a woman contact me recently who has been wanting a dog for years but due to terrible allergies and asthma, was unable to tolerate any

breed," enthuses Mentz-Powell. "She met a Hairless Crested and discovered that she had no problems."

As well, the showy Crested makes a fabulously entertaining companion and happy, playful family pet. Devoted to his owner, this dog will reward you with affection and constant attention, but is not suitable to kennel life and cannot be left alone all day while you go to work. "Puffin Fredrick T. The Great" (his AKC registered name) is one such adored family pet. "Fred" started out life as an aspiring Powderpuff show dog, but due to ears that would not stand up according to breed standards,

became a companion member of the Stoffer family in Delafield, instead.

Jim Stoffer says that Fred is docile and always friendly to humans. "When we encounter other dogs on our walks, Fred loves to nuzzle up to them in a friendly salutation," adds Stoffer. Fred also exhibits traits known in Crested circles as "houndy" in character and conformation. (Hutchinson's Dog Encyclopedia describes hairless dogs as belonging to the group of greyhounds.) "Fred is a singer," explains Stoffer, "I first noticed him sing to imitate sirens on passing emergency vehicles.

He'll sing when we first come home, or if visitors drop by. If a human makes a long drawn out howling noise, Fred will imitate it. If the human warbles the howl, Fred will warble his howl."





A Chinese Crested is sure to be noticed wherever it goes. Potential new Crested owners will find a wealth of information, including registered breeders, at the official web sites located at <http://accc.chinesecrestedclub.info/> and well as at <http://www.crest-care.com>, which is an official breed rescue site. "I cannot emphasize enough the importance of buying from an ethical hobby breeder or adopting a rescue from a Crested rescue organization," advises Mentz-Powell. "Stay away from the backyard breeders or pet stores, and be sure that the breeders do appropriate health testing and sell on a contractual basis only."

And one last time, what do we retort to those unknowing cads who say the delightful Crested is unattractive? Mentz-Powell says: "I don't know what people are talking about. Ugly? I think they are beautiful! What I don't understand is that Ugly Dog Contest on Animal Planet. Those people are insane. The contestants are crazy and they insult their dogs by entering and hauling those poor dogs all over the place and making fun of them."

Psychology tests have shown that what we humans consider beautiful has to do with what we've been exposed to and what is therefore easy on our minds. In that case, the Chinese Crested, growing in pop culture exposure as well as overall popularity, may become a new standard for canine beauty. In any case, the breed continues to draw attention from those familiar and unfamiliar with the unique physical characteristics of the Crested. Chin up, Cresteds, you're gorgeous!

Deb Voss Quail (now also known as Mrs. Neulreich) lives in Ozaukee County with Jim, the love of her life, and Duke, the terrier with personality plus. Duke's favorite new activity is going to soccer games where he does NOT watch the field but socializes with and distracts the spectators.



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Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):

Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.

Sat. June 2 – 10:30 a.m. Mon. June 11 – 7:45 p.m.
Tues. June 5 – 6:30 p.m. Wed. June 20 – 6:30 p.m.

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1 + 1 = Pack

If one dog is good, two must be better. Many people think so, since now poochie has someone else to play with - sort of like giving an only child a sibling. But unlike humans there is a tricky, instinctual behavior dogs engage in - the hierarchy.

Anyone with two or more dogs of the same gender has undoubtedly seen or experienced the squabbling and possibly fighting dogs do when organizing themselves into alpha, beta, etc. down the pecking order. And what's worse, this order can change as one dog ages or becomes ill. Younger/healthier dogs move up the order, which can take place as a peaceful coup or a hair-raising rebellion. Humans can make it worse when they give special attention, privileges or treats to the submissive canine because they "feel bad" for the beta dog. Every behaviorist, trainer, veterinarian and educated dog owner agrees - do not try to alter the established pecking order. (It might be the only thing all these people agree on - except obedience training, but that's a different topic.) If you have a pack of dogs (more than one) you have to accept how they manage the canine portion of their pack.

Now for the good news, most amiable dogs establish an order early on, and baring a life-changing event, the hierarchy is serene. There will be an occasional snap or growl, but hey, did you get along with that brother or sister every minute you

were together? The plus side to canine rivalry is its quick; no grudges, and they will never borrow something without giving it back.

According to information from author and trainer Kathy Diamond Davis, the most amiable pair of dogs is one male and one female since each can be the alpha in their own gender. A behaviorist helping out some close friends of mine (a German Shephard male and chocolate Labrador female) said a pair like that becomes a couple, its like they're married. Same gender dogs can co-exist happily too, but as an owner you should expect some additional challenges along the way.

It's also recommended to spay or neuter all canines in the household since the hormones from reproductive systems can affect aggression and other behavioral traits (where have I heard that before?).

Here are a number of other tips for a smooth transition from dog to dogs:

Choose the same size or similar size dog. They will both need roughly the same amount of exercise and can play easily with each other. The owner won't have to worry that the larger dog is playing to rough with the toy-sized variety. Also, if there's a disagreement about who is dominant, the owner can have more confidence the two will settle the matter without serious injury. Unmatched in size, the owner will want to watch the argument more closely and step in. Advice on stepping into a dogfight: keep hands out. Try

thrusting a large piece of furniture between them says one rescue organization site. I've also heard hosing them down sometimes works, if you're outside of course.

Introduce any new dog to the resident dog outside, on neutral ground. Parks are great for this, but if you're at home, have the new dog on a leash outside and bring the resident dog out to meet him (also on a leash). Calm, carefree body language from you will help facilitate a happy meeting between the canines too.

Because some dog lovers open their hearts to cats as well (madness, I tell you) here's a tip from Pooch Problems about cat-dog introductions. Cats will only get to know a dog on their own

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terms; so no matter who was there first, designate a room for the cat. Put in toys, commode, food and water, as well as a bed. Barricade the room with a safety gate. This will allow the cat to come and go (over the gate) but also give the cat a dog-free zone. A couple times a day attach a leash to the dog and other end to a chair, so the cat can roam freely. Introductions are complete when the cat will sniff the dog and the dog no longer lunges for the cat.

Other things to consider with multiples:

Have separate feeding stations. Food is a big issue in dominance problems. Bones, by extension should be handled with care. Quick edible treats are fine, but the really tasty chew toys can be trouble. The owner should always be there to supervise with gnawing type bones or toys, or just avoid them all together so there will be no fights over them when the dominant dog tries to steal the one that's not his.

Sometimes a loud, stern "Knock it off" from the owner will stop an early and

weak challenge. But if the dogs just can't get along or an owner is unsure of how to proceed, there are canine behavior professionals that can help.

Another idea for the multiple dog owner is to take each canine on its own short 15-minute walk. This allows some individual obedience training (a much easier task than trying to get a drooling duo of fur to obey sit-stay). The walks also give even the most submissive dog some special one-on-one attention, without disrupting the pecking order.

And finally don't forget to check the local ordinances of where you live. Most towns only allow two dogs in the city limits.

Between the benefits of socialization, companionship and the increase in dog-to-dog exercise, adding to the canine side of the family is beneficial. It may be double the cost, clean up and vet bills (all important things to consider), but doggie duets mean twice the love and laughs of having that first canine companion.

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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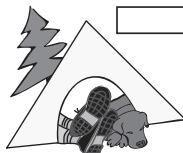
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LEPTOSPIROSIS:

The Disease in Your Backyard

"We hadn't realized Sammy had been bitten by a wild animal at the time. We heard the animal scream. He had caught something. It was dark and we couldn't see. It was just scary. A couple of weeks went by and I am watching my bright eyed, happy, tail-up dog turn into (a dog that) doesn't want to get off the bed, doesn't want to eat. He doesn't want to do anything. That's just not Sam." This is how Jayne Scotney describes her dog Sammy's initial exposure to leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is an infectious disease that can affect dogs, horses, swine, wildlife, and other mammals including humans. While it is not common in cats, cases have been reported.

Dogs most commonly get leptospirosis indirectly from wildlife. A common transmittal method is contact with urine that contains the leptospirosis bacteria. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Fact Sheet on leptospirosis, "Wild animals like rats or raccoons have the bacteria in their urine, and the bacteria get in puddles, ponds or other water. (Dogs) may come into contact with it by drinking contaminated water, swimming in it, or walking through it." Bite wounds and ingesting infected tissue are some of the other ways that also transmit infection.

Having experienced this disease with Sammy, Scotney offers the following advice to owners who suspect something is amiss, "At the first sign that your dog is not your dog and they are not eating or drinking, that is a sign it is time to go to the vet."

Leptospirosis affects the liver and kidneys. Symptoms vary and can include fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain, lethargy, and depression. According to Dr. Judy Gilbertson at East Towne Veterinary Clinic in Mequon, "It is not just one symptom that we look for. Diagnosis is based upon history, physical exam, blood work and urinalysis findings and results of specific diagnostic tests that can be done to look for the bacteria. (We) cannot simply run a blood test in the office and say definitely that this is it. Since definitive test results don't come back overnight, if we suspect it (leptospirosis), we start treatment right away." This supportive treatment can include hospitalization with intravenous fluids and antibiotics.

Dr. Gilbertson states "Usually within 48 hours of starting dogs on appropriate antibiotics, a lot of them start to improve. Response depends upon how long their bodies have been experiencing either kidney failure or liver failure. If identified early enough and treatment started early

enough, it can be turned around. But like anything else, the longer you wait, the poorer the prognosis becomes. The longer you wait the more likely you are to have permanent damage to the affected organs."

Once dogs have responded to the initial treatment, follow-up includes medication and frequent monitoring of blood work. According to Dr. Gilbertson, "Dogs may no longer act sick after treatment has begun, but it is important that you continue the medication as directed which is a pretty long period of time."

Even after they feel better, dogs can be carriers and their urine can be infectious to people and animals. Dr. Gilbertson emphasizes that there is "no definite information as to how long an animal can be a carrier but some estimates are for 3 to 6 months. People can get this. If the dog has been definitively diagnosed, it is important to contact your human doctor and to take precautions to protect yourself from exposure to your pet's urine. For more information about leptospirosis in humans, search on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov."

Prevent leptospirosis by avoiding potentially contaminated water, keeping dogs away from standing water such as ponds or puddles, and covering garbage to keep wild animals away from your house and pets. Vaccines are available for protection against disease (not infection). Leptospirosis is the "L" in the DHLPP combination vaccine. Vaccination for leptospirosis is not required, and is not recommended by all veterinarians for all dogs. Various explanations for this exist: 1) no vaccine provides protection against all strains of leptospirosis 2) protection typically lasts for less than a year, and 3) reactions to the vaccine can occur.

Dr. Gilbertson suggests "discussing with your veterinarian whether your dog is at risk of exposure to those bacteria. Most vaccines protect against four of the different strains. But again, it doesn't protect against all the strains. When we say it protects, we don't mean the vaccine prevents the infection; it just helps prevent the disease. The purpose of the vaccine is to help the immune system have the appropriate response to fight off the infection."

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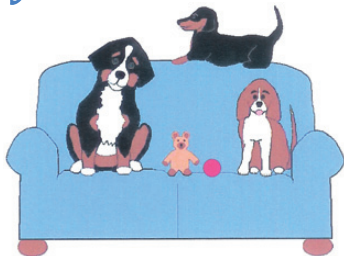
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The Legal Beagle

The Pet Food Recall: What is the Value of a Dog?

By now, the story is well known. The words "pet food recall" require no explanation. As of April 27, 2007, pet owners who suffered the loss or injury of their pets due to contaminated pet food have brought 50 cases seeking class-action status. Due to these lawsuits, courts across the country will struggle to answer one difficult question: What is the value of a dog?

I often ask myself the above question. What dollar value would compensate me if someone killed one of my beloved dogs? How would I place a monetary value on the boundless joy in my dogs' eyes every time they see me (even when only seconds have passed since they last saw me)? Or, their unwavering devotion to me (sheer idol-worship may be a more apt description)? How would I place a monetary value on the lessons my dogs teach me on a daily basis - not to judge others, to see the good in all things, to be happy with what you're given (even when it's not what you want)?

The legal system has traditionally engaged in an entirely different analysis, one that does not value any of the qualities that I most value about my dogs. To the legal system, my dogs are property, no different in value than my living room couch or dining room table. In fact, dollar for dollar, the legal system would likely value the furniture in my living room much higher than the value of my dogs. Although my dogs enjoy the protections of animal cruelty statutes, while my living

room couch or dining room table does not, my dogs are otherwise legally valued the same as the inanimate property in my home. This has traditionally been the value of a dog in the American legal system, a manner of valuing dogs that developed at a time when pets were not members of our family as they are in so many households today.

In recent years, courts around the country have struggled with the law's historical treatment of pets the same as other forms of property. In 2001, the Wisconsin Supreme Court considered whether a dog owner could bring a claim for the shooting death of her dog, Dakota. Many viewed the case brought to remedy the death of Dakota as a waste of time, including the trial court which held that the case was frivolous, undeserving of the time or attention of the legal system. The Wisconsin Supreme Court disagreed, and struggled with the property characterization of pets at the outset of its decision:

At the outset, we note that we are uncomfortable with the law's cold characterization of a dog, such as Dakota, as mere "property." Labeling a dog "property" fails to describe the value human beings place upon the companionship that they enjoy with a dog. A companion dog is not a fungible item, equivalent to other items of personal property. A companion dog is not a living room sofa or dining room furniture. This term inadequately and inaccurately describes the relationship between a human and a dog.

Rabideau v. City of Racine, 2001 WI App. 2, 243 Wis. 2d 486, 627 N.W.2d 795.

The Court in Rabideau was not asked and did not decide the value of a dog. However, one wonders how it might rule if called upon to consider the issue, particularly in light of its uneasiness with valuing Dakota's life the same as an item of furniture.

The pet food recall is a monumental legal event because, due to simultaneously filed lawsuits by grieving pet owners, courts

across the country will consider whether the historical valuation of pets as property within the legal system should stand in light of our common day valuation of pets as family. These courts will face a mountain of legal jurisprudence that values pets the same as other property, and a molehill of cases that have departed from the traditional view in recent years.

For instance, in *Womac v. Von Rardon*, 135 P.3d 542 (Wash. Ct. App. 2006), the Washington Court of Appeals created a new cause of action called "Malicious Injury or Death to a Pet" that allows a pet owner to recover for emotional distress damages due to the death or injury to a pet. The Court created this unprecedented cause of action after it was presented with a case in which a companion cat was burned alive, and it faced a rule of law that provided the cat owner virtually no compensation for the wrong. Other decisions have been in accord. In Oregon, a jury recently awarded \$56,400 in damages where a neighbor repeatedly and viciously ran over his neighbor's dog with his car. *Greenup v. Waver, Clackamas Co. Cir. No. CV 04-12-0778*, May 31, 2006.

The easy answer for courts in the pet food recall cases is to follow the mountain, not the molehill. Pets have been valued as property in our legal system since time immemorial (in fact, they had less value many times). Some argue that if there is to be a change in the value of pets in our legal system, it should come from the legislature, not the courts. Of course, if our legal system never departed from its previously rendered precedent, we would still have a separate but unequal system of education in America. Others fear that placing more value of the lives of pets would place pets on par with people. Others say that placing pets on par with inanimate objects is an equally problematic result, one that inherently conflicts with the moral and ethical duties to animals that all fifty states have recognized with animal cruelty statutes.

What is the value of a dog? I still haven't come up with an answer. But, I've asked others. I recently asked this question of students at a lecture at the University of Wisconsin. The students similarly had difficulty placing a value on the joy their pets bring them. Many students told me

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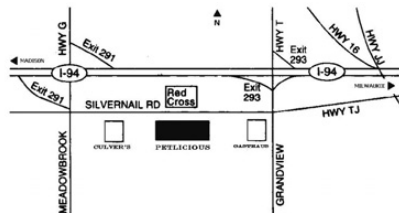
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UNCHAIN THE 50!

Nonprofit seeks one person per state to live chained to doghouse for 8-24 hours over the Independence Day Holiday

Dogs Deserve Better, a nonprofit organization working to bring dogs into the home and family, has finalized plans for its Chain Off 2007: Unchain the 50! event, which will take place between June 30th and July 7th, 2007. During this Event the group seeks Freedom for Chained Dogs in every state in the nation. They need at least one volunteer per state to live chained to a doghouse for 8-24 hours in order to raise awareness for the state's less-fortunate dogs. **In the state of Wisconsin, that person is Penny Wagner. Penny will be chained to a doghouse at her home in Bay View for 24 hours during the period of June 30th through July 1st.**

Tammy S. Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, states, "We chose July 4th for this event because it symbolizes the Freedom of America. Yet we call attention to those who are still not free-dogs who live their entire lives on the end of a chain, enclosed 24/7 in a small, lonely pen."

The nature of a dog is such that living away from its family, its pack, is detrimental to its very existence. A dog wants nothing more in life than to be with you."

Laws against chaining dogs for life are a growing trend in America, with over 100 cities and counties nationwide winning laws limiting or banning tethering in the past five years.

If you'd like to support Penny in her efforts to bring awareness to animals unfairly chained up, please send your donation to Fetch Magazine, 1215 Tomahawk Court, Waukesha, WI 53186. Checks can be made out to Dogs Deserve Better. Find additional information at www.dogsdeservebetter.org/chain-off2007.html.



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Great Lakes Pug Club
www.Greatlakespugclub.com
414-531-9301

Rat Terrier

Wisconsin Rat Terrier Rescue INC.
608-697-7274, wrtr@bigfoot.com

Rottweiler

Wisconsin Rottweiler Rescue
608-224-0272, www.wirottrescue.org

Saint Bernard

AllSaints Rescue
414-761-6305, www.allsaintsrescue.com
allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net

WI St Bernard Rescue
414-764-0262
wstresq@jmuch.com, www.wstresq.com

Scottish Terrier

Door County Scottie Rally Inc.
608-745-4031, napcap@charter.net

Shih Tzu

Fuzzy Pawz Shih Tzu Rescue of WI Inc.
fuzzypawz@gmail.com
www.fuzzypawz.org, 414-731-1682

New Beginnings Shih Tzu Rescue
920-722-3070, AWood52140@aol.com
414-801-3763, living_floor_mops@yahoo.com
<http://www.nbstr.org>

Standard Schnauzer

Standard Schnauzer Club of America Rescue
schnauzer@gmail.com
www.standardschnauzer.org

Westie

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

Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin
414-747-0879, shyorkiemom@yahoo.com
414-383-2779, judii2000@yahoo.com

Event Calendar

June 2007

1 Friday

What: Agility Fun & Games Night
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

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

5 Tuesday

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

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

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Central Bark DDC, Downtown
When: 8:10pm (7 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

6 Wednesday

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

What: Canine Good Citizen Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:45pm (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

7 Thursday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Central Bark DDC, Wauwatosa
When: 8:10pm (7 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

8 Friday

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

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

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

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

9 Saturday

What: Embark Pet Spa Grand Opening
Where: Bay View
Info: 414-747-8830

What: Pet Massage with Geri
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$15/session)

What: Dog Tired Day Care Grand Opening
Where: Glendale
When: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: 414-967-5857, www.dogtired dogs.com

What: Lure Coursing
Where: Salvation Army Camp, East Troy
When: 10:00am
Info: 1-888-581-9070

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

10 Sunday

What: Basic Animal Communication Workshop
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (Reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

12 Tuesday

What: Puppy Agility Foundation Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 9:30am (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

13 Wednesday

What: The Big Bang by Claudeen E. Mc Auliffe
Calming your canine's fear of loud noises.
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30pm - 8:30pm (Reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

14 Thursday

What: Lure Coursing
Where: Salvation Army Camp, East Troy
When: 6:30pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

15 Friday

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

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

16 Saturday

What: Pet Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 9:00am - Noon
Info: 414-422-1300

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

What: Pet Nutrition Seminar: Truth vs. Hype
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 9:00am (free)
Info: 262-679-6776 (Registration Required)

What: Author Appearance by Amy Ammen & Kitty Foth-Regner for *Hip Ideas for Hyper Dogs*
Where: Barnes & Noble
When: 1:00pm
Info: 414-289-7785

What: Training Field Trip w/ Your Dog
Where: Brookfield
When: 1:15pm
Info: 414-289-7785, www.dogclass.com

17 Sunday

What: The Big Bang! by Claudeen McAuliffe
Where: HAWS, Waukesha
When: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Info: 262-542-8851 x118, khris@hawspets.org

19 Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30pm (7 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

20 Wednesday

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 3:00pm - 7:00pm (Reservations Required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

21 Thursday

What: Adult Beginner Obedience Class Begins
Where: Central Bark DDC, Wauwatosa
When: 7:00pm (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

22 Friday

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

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

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

23 Saturday

What: Great Gatsby Fundraiser for EBHS
Where: Elm Grove
When: 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Info: 262-782-9261, elmbrookhs@ebhs.org

What: Coffee and Biscuit Saturday - NEW
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 11:00am
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

24 Sunday

What: Airedale Grooming Workshop

Where: W.A.T.C Brookfield

When: Starts at 11:00am (reservations required)

Info: www.freewebs.com/watc1/, 262-783-4588

26 Tuesday

What: Adult Beginner Obedience Class Begins

Where: Central Bark DDC, Franklin

When: 6:45pm (8 week course)

Info: 1-888-581-9070

27 Wednesday

What: Intro to Essential Oils Class

Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego

When: 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Info: 414-422-1300

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)

Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego

When: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

What: Adult Beginner Obedience Class Begins

Where: Harmony Pet Care, Waukesha

When: 6:30pm (8 week course)

Info: 1-888-581-9070

29 Friday

What: Yappy Hour (+ \$5 Nail Trims)

Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm (FREE)

Info: 414-289-7785, www.dogclass.com

30 Saturday

What: Reiki I Class

Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego

When: 11:00am - 1:30pm

Info: 414-422-1300

What: Reiki II Class

Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego

When: 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Info: 414-422-1300

Every Sunday

What: Puppy Social

Where: Best Paw Forward Dog Training

When: 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Info: 262-369-3935

What: Puppy Parties

Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago

When: 12:45 p.m. (except holiday weekends)

Info: 1-888-581-9070

Who: "Your Family Pet" with Amy Ammen

Where: WRRD 540AM The Word

What: Radio Show 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Info: Hear expert interviews and pet-related news.

Every Monday

What: Conformation Walk-in Classes

Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago

When: 7:40 pm

Info: 1-888-581-9070

Every Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class

Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee

When: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (7 week course)

Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

Is Rover just getting old?

The idea of dogs and Alzheimer's conjures up the same image for most people, a kindly Golden Retriever wandering the halls of a care facility, sweetly greeting the lost, ambling patients. But the image in this article is a bit reversed; here we are going to talk about the Golden Retriever being the lost soul wandering in the hallway.

While dogs don't exactly get Alzheimer's, they can get cognitive dysfunction, or CD, as they age. The cause is similar to how the human brain develops Alzheimer's, with both physical and chemical changes.

In a study at the university of California's school of veterinary medicine, 32% of the 69 dogs over age 11 were found to have some cognitive dysfunction. The number jumped significantly to 100% when the dogs hit 16 years of age. In a sharp contrast only 7% of owners discuss symptoms with their veterinarian without being prompted first.

Is it that the owners don't care? Hardly, in fact the reason it's become an issue is that owners are taking such good care of their dogs, with better medical care and nutrition, that dogs are living long enough to experience such advanced age conditions.

While owners are the first to notice the symptoms, they often dismiss it as signs of old age, that 'Max must just be getting old.' Just like with humans, they are not always just part of old age. Not chasing a tennis ball like a two year old is a sign of slowing down and aging. Staring off into space or elimination on the floor from a housetrained dog might be a sign of something more.

While there are several indicators, the most common signs can easily be remembered with a simple acronym, DISH. D is for disorientation; dogs with CD might wander aimlessly or seem lost in familiar surroundings like their own house or yard. They might stare off into space or at a wall, or they may go to the wrong door or the wrong side of the door to ask for out.

The 'I' is for interaction and changes in their social behavior. They can have problems recognizing people or not respond to normal commands or even their own name. They might withdraw from family activities, seek less affection, and show an overall lack of enthusiasm for the family.

'S' is for sleep. Dogs with CD often have disturbed sleep patterns. They can sleep much more often than they used to and change when they normally sleep. For instance, instead of sleeping through the night like normal, they may get up and start pacing. Often this is one of the first symptoms that get owners concerned, it's especially obvious since so many people sleep with their pets in the same room, if not on the same bed.

The last sign 'H' is the other one that gets the owners attention - housetraining. When an otherwise potty trained dog starts urinating or defecating in the house, a red flag should go up. Usually this included a dog not asking for out or pottying once let back inside.

For dogs exhibiting the warning signs, all is not lost but a veterinarian should be consulted right away. A history will be taken and then a complete physical will be given to ensure that there is nothing else medical going on. A urinary infection might cause a pup to piddle in the house or hearing issues may be why he's ignoring you. After everything else is ruled out, your veterinarian might recommend a special diet, increased mental stimulation such as romping with other dogs or playing with toys. In some cases, medication may be prescribed. Just like Alzheimer's, there is no cure for cognitive dysfunction in dogs, but there are options to help you and your dog have a better, and longer, quality of life.

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.

 **Fetch**
magazine

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Models Wanted: Clothing Optional!

Does your dog strike a pose when you bring out the camera? Does your cat smile when you say "cheese"? The Wisconsin Humane Society is currently accepting photo entries for the 2008 calendar. One lucky pet will be chosen for the highly coveted cover photo and twelve others will be selected as a "Pet of the Month." The first 500 photographs submitted are guaranteed to be included in the calendar. Thousands of copies of the calendar will be printed.

Contest Entry

There is a \$10 non-refundable entry fee per photo which benefits the animals at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Local celebrity judges will determine the top 13 photos. Be sure to read our contest guidelines and then submit your photo! Don't delay, enter today! If you have questions on our Calendar Contest, please e-mail calendar@wihumane.org.

Calendar Sponsorship

Express your organization's love of animals by becoming a calendar sponsor! Sponsors will have their company's color logo on their choice of month, their logo on the bottom of this web page, complimentary calendars and more. A calendar sponsorship is also a unique gift to honor a loved one. Contact us to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities.

Order Yours Today

Calendars are available in advance! They are quite a catch at only \$11.95 each, or \$9.95 each when purchasing two or more. They will be shipped or available for pick-up in early September. Pre-order yours today!

Cast Your Vote

This year, we're giving YOU the power to choose the front cover! Starting in early July, you can vote for your favorite of the 13 chosen photographs. The photo with the most votes wins the cover spot! Watch www.wihumane.org for more details.



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- Watch demos
- Play games
- Compete in contests
- Learn about responsible pet ownership

Proceeds benefit Milwaukee Dog Parks.

www.milwaukeedogparks.org/pawsinthepark

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Thankfully, Sammy is now recuperated with the one exception that he refuses to eat out of any dish other than the glass bowl that Scotney used when he was in the midst of being treated. On his recovery, Scotney enthuses "Sammy today is a wonderful loving sweet fun dog. He is my pal. He is my heart."

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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their pets' lives were worth thousands, ten thousands, or even millions of dollars. Other students told me that no amount of money could compensate them for the loss of their pet. And, perhaps that is the point. If my dogs were just property, I would be able to come up with a value.

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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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

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

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

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