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November 2007 | Volume 4 Issue 11

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Publisher's Letter

As we draw closer to the holiday season and turn our attention to searching out the perfect gifts for our friends and family, there's a very good chance some of us are contemplating a new four-legged family member. Good idea? In many cases, yes. Unfortunately, in many more cases, not the best choice. Why? Puppies bring immediate joy, wide smiles to kids' faces, and warmth on your lap during cold winter nights. But puppies also grow up, eat a lot of food, leave parts of the lawn brown, and make you double-think if a vacation or even a weekend away is feasible. If you're considering the purchase/adoption of a new puppy or even an adult dog, flip over to page 13 for a list of questions that need to be answered before bringing that new pooch home.

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courtesy of Julie.

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Ask the VET

Question: How do I know when my pet is in pain?

Answer: Decades ago in veterinary medicine, pain was thought to be good for an injured or sick animal. This wasn't because veterinarians were cruel or wanted pets to suffer; they believed that pain helped keep animals sufficiently quiet in order to heal. Plus, it was thought that there really wasn't any way to know whether a pet was feeling pain or needed some relief. Today it's just the opposite: some veterinarians now believe they should treat for pain until there is proof that an animal isn't hurting.

Importance of managing pain

Pain management has become an important issue in veterinary medicine, with organizations such as the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine Center for the Management of Animal Pain, the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Companion Animal Pain Management Consortium studying pain and pain management in animals. Studies like these have shown that by helping your pet avoid pain you may be able to speed the recovery process, whether from surgery or injury. Best of all, because it reduces stress and increases a sense of well being, pain management may even help your furry friend live longer.

Different kinds of pain

Acute pain comes on suddenly as a result of an injury, surgery, or an infection. It can be extremely uncomfortable for your pet and it may limit her mobility. The good news is that it's usually temporary. It generally goes away when the condition that causes it is treated.

Chronic pain is long lasting and usually slow to develop. Some of the more common sources of chronic pain are age-related disorders such as arthritis, but it can also result from illnesses such as cancer or bone disease. This pain may be the hardest to deal with, because it can go on for years, or for an animal's entire lifetime. Also, because it develops slowly, some animals may gradually learn to tolerate the pain and live with it. This can make chronic pain difficult to detect.

How to know when your pet is hurting

When we have pain, we complain. However, we generally don't hear a peep out of our pets. So how do you know when your pet's in pain?

Because our furry friends aren't able to tell us when something is wrong, it's important for you, the owner, to take note of any change in their behavior. Look for any of the following signs they may be your pet's way of saying "I hurt."

- Being unusually quiet, listless, restless, or unresponsive
- Whining, whimpering, or howling
- Biting
- Constantly licking a particular part of the body
- Acting funny and out of character, either aggressively or submissively
- Flattening ears against the head
- Having trouble sleeping or eating
- Seeking a lot more affection than usual

If you suspect your pet might be hurting, ask your veterinarian to help you figure out the problem and to talk about what options are available. Be prepared to answer questions about your pet's behavior, activity level, and tolerance for being handled. Your critter's

mobility is also crucial. Does Rover have a hard time getting up off his haunches or negotiating stairs (which was never a problem before)? Does Fluffy no longer jump up on to the furniture or have a hard time hopping back down?

Some critters never show signs of pain, but that doesn't mean they aren't feeling it. In these cases, if the injury, illness, or experience is one that sounds painful to you, go with the assumption that it may also hurt your pet and get to your veterinarian.

What you can do to help

First and foremost, a complete physical exam by your veterinarian is needed, possibly including lab and blood tests or X-rays. Veterinarians will usually recommend physical therapy, drug treatment, or in more serious cases, surgery. There also are some simple things you can do at home to help keep your pet comfortable and to monitor whether her pain level is changing. (Check with your veterinarian first to make sure these won't harm your pet.)

-Massaging your pet from head to toe will help relax and soothe him. This organized form of petting is a great way to bond with your buddy as well as to notice any unusual bumps, scrapes, or bruises on the body.

-Watch for changes in how your pet responds to exercise. If he's acting sluggish, you may need to reduce his activity, or it may mean that chronic pain is developing. His ability to exercise will depend on his health, however, so make sure he has a thorough veterinary physical before he starts a new exercise program.

-Watch his diet. What you feed your little friend will help maintain his weight, regularity, and physical health, all of which can affect how well he feels. Don't let your pet overeat and don't let yourself over-treat him. Also, with certain conditions, your pet may need a special diet. Consult your veterinarian before you make any dietary changes.

Treatment choices and considerations

The standard form of treatment for pain is with medication. There are new and varied forms of prescriptions currently available. Aside from pill form, many drugs come in easily administered forms such as liquids, skin patches or gels.

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There are also new analgesic (pain-reducing) products to help treat your pet after an injurious trauma or to help treat chronic pain. Traditionally, steroids have been used for anti-inflammatory purposes and to decrease pain, but they can have adverse side effects. Although effective, steroids generally aren't used for prolonged periods, and it is crucial that you dispense them following your veterinarian's instructions. Additionally, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are often used to treat orthopedic-related pain with fewer side effects.

It is very important that you not try to medicate your pet yourself. Certain painkillers, including acetaminophen (found in Tylenol), or combinations of medications can be toxic to pets in very small doses. Do not give your pet any medication without consulting your veterinarian.

In addition to pharmaceutical treatment, complementary (or alternative) options are becoming more available. Acupuncture, homeopathy, holistic medicine, and even aromatherapy are being practiced on animals. Your veterinarian can help you decide whether complementary medicine would be helpful to your pet.

Whether your choice is complementary or traditional medical practices, your treatment decision should take into account the side effects and the amount of time necessary for each treatment option. Your veterinarian will be able to tell you about the costs, benefits, and risks of the various treatment options. The best treatment you'll find is the one that's personalized to the needs of you and your pet.

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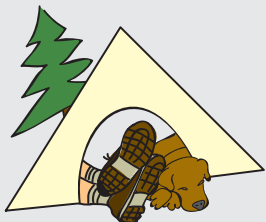


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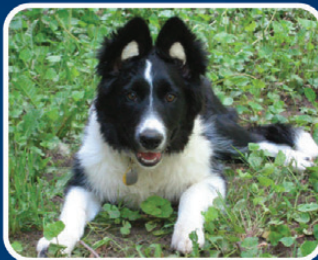
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Arthroscopy in Veterinary Medicine

Think arthroscopy is just for high paid athletes? Whether your companion injured himself on the course or is feeling the effects of joint disease, arthroscopy may be the answer.

Arthroscopy is a surgical procedure that veterinary surgeons use to diagnose and treat problems inside a joint. During the procedure the surgeon makes a small incision in the patient's skin and then inserts an arthroscope, which is a pencil-sized instrument that contains a small lens and lighting system to magnify and illuminate the structures inside the joint. By attaching the arthroscope to a miniature television camera, the surgeon is capable of seeing inside of the joint through this very small incision.

Arthroscopy is commonly used in dogs to diagnose and treat joint diseases involving the shoulder, elbow and knee and less commonly for diseases affecting the hip or ankle. Common orthopedic diseases affecting the shoulder joint in dogs include osteochondritis dessicans, biceps tendon injury, and trauma leading to subluxation. OCD is caused by a disturbance in bone development and abnormal cartilage formation resulting in a cartilage flap lifting off the humeral bone and leading to joint inflammation and arthritis. OCD is more commonly seen in large and giant breed dogs with the onset of clinical signs generally appearing between 5-12 months of age. Male dogs are more commonly affected. If a patient has an OCD lesion in one shoulder they are likely (50% chance) to have the same abnormality in the opposite shoulder. In the past, veterinary surgeons would make an open surgical approach to the shoulder joint to gain access to and remove the OCD flap. This created more surgical morbidity, more post operative discomfort and lengthened the recovery time compared to removal of the OCD flap with arthroscopic assistance that is routinely performed these days.

Common orthopedic diseases affecting the elbow joint in dogs include OCD, ununited anconeal process and fragmented coronoid process. FCP is most commonly

seen in large to giant breeds, generally clinical signs noted before 12 months of age, males more commonly affected and typically found in both forelimbs. These fragments of bone are painful, and can lead to arthritis and chronic lameness. Again, in the past, veterinarians created open approaches to the elbow joint. The open approach allows for visualization of the joint as well as removal of the coronoid fragment, but can often cause marked postoperative discomfort. With arthroscopy, this procedure can be performed through two tiny (1/2 cm) incisions. Again trauma is minimized and recoveries are quicker. Knee surgery for diagnosis and treatment of meniscal and cruciate ligament injuries can also be performed with an arthroscope. Again, incisions are smaller to help improve patient comfort with this minimally invasive approach.

In recent years, arthroscopy has become the method of choice for the diagnosis and treatment of many joint diseases in pets. The advantages of arthroscopic surgery are improved visualization of the joint due to the magnification and the minimal invasiveness thereby reducing postoperative pain and accelerating recovery. Orthopedic diseases that once required open joint surgery which caused greater postoperative discomfort now can be treated with arthroscopy resulting in the surgery being quicker, more thorough, and with less postoperative pain. Pets undergoing arthroscopic surgery are usually able to use their legs the day after surgery and therefore require less postoperative care and medications. Due to these benefits, more and more pets are being treated by arthroscopy and this newer modality has helped improve their lives. Given its advantages over open joint surgery, arthroscopy is becoming the new "standard of care" for joint surgery in animals just as in people.

If you notice your pet is lame or stiff, having difficulties rising or laying down, demonstrating decreased exercise tolerance,

reluctant or unable to jump, unwilling or unable to climb stairs or crying out in pain then they may be suffering from an orthopedic condition and you should consult your primary veterinarian. Your veterinarian will be able to advise you as to the type of care best suited to your pet's condition. Should arthroscopic surgery be necessary, your primary veterinarian can refer you to a board certified surgeon trained in this type of procedure.

At the Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center, our board certified surgeons are experienced in utilizing arthroscopy along with other advanced modalities to diagnosis and treat pets with a variety of orthopedic abnormalities. We work with your veterinarian to provide the specialized care your pet may need.

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- Have you done any research? What breed, size, age of dog may be right for you? That tiny pooch in the pet shop window is cute, but what will he grow up to be?

- Have you considered your lifestyle? How many hours will your puppy be home alone? Are you going to be upset when you come home to a mess, chewed woodwork, ruined furniture, or garbage strewn throughout the house?

- Can you afford obedience training? This is mandatory. So is continuous socialization.

- Will you be able to satisfy the puppy's excitement & exercise needs when you get home & are tired from a long day but the puppy wants to play & needs a walk?

- When you go on that week vacation, will the dog travel well? Will he be welcomed? If you can't take him with you, who will honestly not mind taking care of him? Can you afford boarding?

- Will you be able to pay not only yearly vet bills, but also the unexpected ones, when your puppy gets into something he shouldn't, or develops an illness?

- Can you provide or afford grooming & general hygiene needs?

- Do you have or plan to have children? What will happen if the dog doesn't get along well with children?

- Have you considered other family members & friends that visit regularly? Are there allergies or adversities?

- Will your new puppy get along with other pets, even those of your neighbor's?

- Do you live in an apartment? Do you have a fenced in yard? If not, are you willing to go outside with your dog at all times of the day or night, in any kind of weather?

A dog is a lifetime commitment and there is a lot to consider BEFORE you buy. He needs and demands a lot of care, time, patience, love, and financial commitment. **DON'T BE IMPULSIVE. THE CUTE PUPPY IN THE PET SHOP WINDOW IS MOST LIKELY NOT YOUR BEST OPTION.** You may want to consider other options.

RESCUE GROUPS will work with you to find a puppy or dog which is best suited for you and your family. They have YOUR best interests in mind as well as the dog. Plus, they have answers to all of your questions and will be a resource for the entire life of your pet.

HUMANE SOCIETIES have many dogs that need good homes too. Although they may not always have puppies, there are many advantages to adopting an older dog.

PETFINDER.COM will show you dogs of all ages, breeds, & sizes that need homes in your area as well as across country.

PLEASE take the time to consider these options. Think ahead, not just to tomorrow, or next month, but 15 plus years from now. Your new puppy should grow up to become a family member & not a play thing or novelty item. Don't make a decision you may regret, and then add to the growing number of homeless dogs.

Once your canine companion jumps in the car for its first ride home, he immediately becomes a member of the family.

Please take time to ask yourself the questions above to ensure your new family member fits your current lifestyle and will receive proper care and attention throughout its life.

Fetch Magazine would like to thank Kelly in Milwaukee for helping us spread the word regarding impulse puppy buying. Bringing a puppy or an adult dog into any family requires careful consideration of each question asked here. For more information on this topic and ideas for finding your next four-legged family member, head over to www.fetchmag.com.

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Danger in the Dirt

Innocent outings with your dog can turn perilous when near shady waterways or other areas with the fungus *Blastomyces dermatitidis*. This special dimorphic fungus exists as a mold in the environment, which can morph into a yeast form in a living being. Pete MacWilliams, DVM, PhD, recent retiree from the School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Wisconsin-Madison, has researched the subject extensively and presented on the topic at the 2002 Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association convention in Milwaukee. He concluded, based on recorded Wisconsin outbreaks, that moist soil in shaded areas combined with soil excavation (which includes digging holes) and enrichment from animal waste are likely circumstances to find *Blastomyces dermatitidis*.

Under the right conditions, the fungus releases spores that can be inhaled by animals and people. According to MacWilliams' presentation, dogs are 10 times more likely to be infected than people. Once the spores are inhaled, they develop into a yeast. As the yeast organism multi-

plies in the lungs, it becomes the fungal infection Blastomycosis. Blastomycosis can cause severe pulmonary disease (pneumonia) as well as spread to other tissue in the body, in particular the skin, eyes, and joints of dogs.

Symptoms are Varied

The signs of Blastomycosis are fever, poor appetite, weight loss, cough, skin lesions, eye problems, lameness, and lymph node enlargement. According to MacWilliams' research, the disease is apparent 2 to 4 weeks after the dog has inhaled the spores. He breaks down the clinical signs of Blastomycosis as follows: in 85 percent of cases, lung lesions were detected. Eye disease, fever and skin were around 40 percent. Bone related signs were 30 percent.

Dogs most commonly at risk are large, young hunting and sporting dogs although any canine can get Blastomycosis. Some dogs contract a sub-clinical, self-limiting infection and recover without treatment, but most require veterinary assistance to recover.

Drugs Used for Treatment

Treatments are complicated and expensive. There are a limited number of antifungal drugs used to treat Blastomycosis, and they all present a certainly amount of problems.

The treatments include Amphotericin B, the drug of choice before the following azole antifungal drugs: Itraconazole, Ketoconazole, Fluconazole.

The treatments are very expensive and most are prolonged with significant toxicity problems. Often a veterinarian has to assess the overall health of the dog and the organs used to process the drugs in order to start treatment. Also how the drugs must be administered, either intravenously or orally makes a difference, as well as how the dog reacts to the treatment. Eyes don't respond well to treatment and the removal is sometimes deemed necessary since they can be a source of infection.

Survival rates largely depend on severity. The mortality rate, according to MacWilliams' research, is highest in the first week of treatment, especially for canines with advanced lung disease. About 20 percent of dogs have a relapse within the first six months.

Not Contagious

Because it is a yeast and too large to be inhaled, Blastomycosis is not contagious to other dogs or humans from an infected canine. In circumstances where a human contracts the disease (and that is possible) it is usually from visiting the same area as the dog and inhaling the *Blastomyces dermatitidis* spores. MacWilliams notes there is a rare possibility of contracting the yeast form through piercing of the skin, such as a dog bite. However, this form shows up as a skin lesion in 1 to 5 weeks after penetration and does not present a common hazard to those with affected dogs.

MacWilliams' research shows the disease peaks in Wisconsin during the summer, fall and early winter. Because there are no reliable soil tests for the mold in the environment, it's hard to suggest ways to protect your pet.

Digging in the wet soil seems to be a contributing factor, so keeping your dog from engaging in this behavior may help. Also, consider the dog's health. A sickly pet or one in a weak state may be more susceptible to the disease and may not react as well to treatment. But the best advice is to be aware of the symptoms and once you've brought your suffering pet to the veterinarian, discuss any vacations, hunting, digging or possible exposure your pet had to waterways, unfamiliar soil, etc. It may help the veterinarian make a diagnosis of Blastomycosis more quickly.

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

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Arthritis: A traditional and holistic approach to healing.

As our dogs grow older or perhaps even after sustaining a leg injury, osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease (DJD) may begin to set in. As in humans, arthritis in dogs is painful and requires treatment to both slow down the debilitating disorder and manage the pain associated with it. In recent years advances in traditional and holistic medicine have opened doors to new and effective forms of treatment.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) defines osteoarthritis as a progressive disorder characterized by the loss of cartilage and the death of cartilage-producing cells. The disorder can occur in any joint, but is most often found in the hip, which can lead to permanent loss of function.

In most cases, according to the ASPCA, arthritis occurs after trauma, nutritional disorders or infections and is common in middle-aged and older dogs. It may also occur in younger dogs suffering from canine hip dysplasia.

Signs of DJD may include:

- Reluctance to walk, climb stairs, jump, or play
- Limping
- Lagging behind on walks
- Difficulty rising from a resting position
- Yelping in pain when touched
- A personality change resisting touch

In most cases once a dog is diagnosed with arthritis by a veterinarian, a traditional course of action is to begin treatment with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug or NSAID, says JoAnn Stancer, a veterinary technician with Harmony Pet Care Inc. in Waukesha.

"With dogs that may have problems getting up, they may have inflammation around the joints which may be painful, so the NSAID reduces that inflammation and helps take some of that pain away," explains Stancer.

Once a dog is diagnosed with arthritis, an NSAID may be required for the duration of the animal's life, but dosage may be increased or decreased depending on how lame the dog may be, she adds. If a dog is overweight a special diet may also be recommended in order to reduce the

dog's weight and the amount of pressure on the affected joints.

Though NSAIDs are the most common way to treat arthritis, they do carry a risk of side effects, according to the ASPCA. These side effects may include vomiting, loss of appetite, depression, lethargy and diarrhea. Serious side effects may include gastrointestinal bleeding, ulcers, kidney or liver damage.

The ASPCA adds that drug therapy is most effective when it is combined with appropriate exercise. Nonstrenuous exercise, such as swimming or walking is therapeutic and may encourage cartilage health. Exercising on a routine schedule

while avoiding strenuous or high-impact activities is also recommended.

Though the use of drugs is an effective course of action in treating arthritis, the holistic approach of using acupuncture is also an option.

Nan Boss, DVM, owner of Best Friends Veterinary Rehab in Grafton, describes acupuncture as the art/medicine of placing very fine needles in specific locations, or acupuncture points on the body. With

- continued on page 31



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Top Tips For Bringing Home a New Dog

Take the advice of Angella Mueller who returned home one day and found her living room looking like it had been in a blizzard. "Make sure EVERYTHING is out of the dog's reach. Even things you would not imagine a dog being interested in. My new boxer decided to take a full bag of flour out of my pantry and spread it all over the living room."

People considering bringing home a new puppy or dog can do many things before and after the dog arrives to make the experience better for both the canine and the humans. Natalie Zielinski, Behavior Program Manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society has several tips to offer. Natalie's first tip is to research the breed to ensure it is compatible with your lifestyle, family, and other pets. For example, it is a bad idea to get a Jack Russell Terrier if you are fond of hamsters or rats.

If purchasing a dog from a breeder, Natalie suggests researching breeders to see if they are breeding show animals, companion animals or field bred animals. The breeder should have one, if not both, parents onsite to meet. Ask for references. Also note that breeders that are doing well generally do not have animals available all the time.

If opening your home to a dog from a shelter, listen to what shelter personnel have to say. They are familiar with the dog's personality and want to know about your lifestyle to ensure a good match.

Another good tip is to get supplies before the dog comes home. Kristy Heinz, an enthusiastic animal lover, suggests to

"Prepare for your new puppy/pet as you would for the arrival of a new baby. Purchase all necessary items first." Some supplies include crates, bedding, food, dishes, toys, collars, and leashes. Natalie suggests an enzymatic cleaner for the inevitable messes that will occur even with adult dogs.

According to Natalie, the family needs to decide together on rules and a schedule before the new dog arrives. Decide if the dog will be allowed on the furniture. A written schedule should list who will let the puppy out of the crate in the morning, feed it, walk it and all the other responsibilities associated with a new pet. This family gathering would also be the time to pick and agree on a name.

Once the new dog arrives home, there are classes to take, toys to be chewed on and crates to be slept in. The Wisconsin Humane Society offers an extensive class list. Monthly dog behavior seminars focus on prevention and management of common dog behavior like chewing and barking. Classes focus on understanding dog body language, crate training, setting up the dog for success and positive reinforcement. Natalie says this class can even be done prior to the dog's arrival.

Dogs and owners should attend puppy classes for socialization, group manners classes to learn the basics, and for fun, a tricks class. Natalie says puppy classes are "really important. Dogs learn bite inhibition from socializing with other puppies. They learn how to use their mouth without causing pain or damage. Besides that, there is nothing more fun

than watching a puppy class!" According to Natalie, socializing puppies means ensuring "that the first time with a novel experience or new person is a pleasant one." For example, the first time they interact with a noisy garbage truck, they are rewarded with high value treats.

There are a variety of things to do before a new dog arrives in your home and an unending list once the newcomer has arrived. Remember Angella's dog that coated the living room in flour? As Angella laughs that at least her white boxer was smart enough to get into something white so she would not see the evidence on him, her other recommendation to people getting a dog is "make sure you have a good sense of humor." This sense of humor, along with a dash of patience and a helping of good classes is the recipe to make the new dog experience a pleasure for the humans and the lucky canine.

Wisconsin Humane Society classes - <http://www.wihumane.org/education>

Recommended Books by Patricia McConnell:
- Puppy Primer (Patricia McConnell with Brenda Scidmore)
- Family Friendly Dog Training - A Six Week Program for You and Your Dog
- Feeling Outnumbered? How to Manage and Enjoy a Multi-Dog Home

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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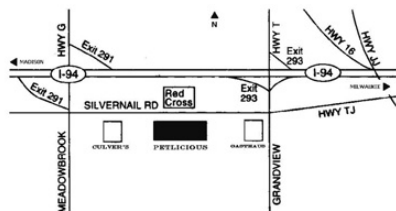
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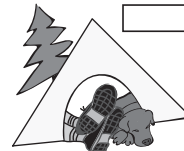


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A Local Rescue with a National Reach

Lori Marchek loves fluffy dogs. She loves Aussies and Airedales, Pyrennes and Poodles. It was her love of fluffy dogs that led her to establish Fluffy Dog Rescue in Hartland, Wisconsin.

"My family wanted to adopt a dog and decided on a poodle mix. At that time there were no available poodle mix rescue dogs in Wisconsin. Finally on Petfinder.com, I found a dog listed as 'urgent', a female poodle mix that had two days before she was to be euthanized. I knew this was our dog. The challenge was that she was in Alabama!"

Lori connected with a group of transporters, and after a 16-leg journey up the I-65 corridor, a tired but excited new family member jumped out of the car wagging her tail.

"Bailey was such a wonderful dog; I couldn't believe anyone would give her up, particularly to a kill shelter. Then I discovered that over 100 dogs were being put down at this shelter every week. I had this overwhelming feeling that 'someone' should do something to help. I decided that the 'someone' had to be me."

After several weeks of networking with shelters, foster families, transporters and veterinarians, Lori founded Fluffy Dog Rescue. Her first foster dog was Baxter, a wheaten terrier/bearded collie mix.

"The plan was to save him from a kill shelter, give him medical attention and find a loving family for him. When he arrived we knew that it wouldn't be that



simple. He was matted, had pneumonia and worse, was heartworm positive. But once I met him I knew I needed to help. There was just no turning back."

After extensive medical treatments and a good grooming, Baxter was a healthy, happy dog. And not surprisingly, is now living with the Marchek family! "He was our first foster, we couldn't give him up after all we had been through together!"

Marchek founded Fluffy Dog in September of 2006. Her mission was to focus on "fluffy" dogs such as terriers and poodle mixes. The goal was saving twenty dogs a year. How is she doing? "We just placed our 144th dog. It takes a village! We have a network of amazing people all over the country who make this possible. Shelters make me aware of available "fluffy" dogs. Rescuers pick up the dogs and bring them to the transporters. Transporters bring them to the foster families who provide loving care, socialization and take the dogs for medical treatment. Silver Spring Animal Wellness Center in Glendale has generously reduced their fees for our dogs. Prior to

adoption, we have people who conduct home visits and reference checks. And we have a wonderful photographer who has also designed our new website. Amazingly these people are all volunteers who do this because they love dogs and want to help. Without them these dogs wouldn't be on the earth today."

It hasn't all been rosy. Marchek has been criticized for bringing in dogs from other states when there are Wisconsin dogs needing help. "What would have happened if Wisconsin had turned their backs on the Katrina animals? A life is worth saving regardless of geography. We rescue "fluffy" dogs wherever they are, including Wisconsin."

So what can you do if you can't start your own rescue, but want to help? "If you have a pet, have it spayed or neutered. The number of unwanted or homeless animals is staggering. I heard a statistic that there are 9 million animals euthanized a year. This has got to change. The day we rescued Miranda and Rocky (on our site) there were 65 dogs euthanized in that shelter in one day!"

"There are 223 animal welfare organizations listed in Wisconsin on Petfinder.com. Volunteer for one of them, they all need help. If you are thinking about adopting a cat or dog, look at rescues first. There are thousands of loving, worthy animals waiting for homes. If you are unable to do any of this, look at the rescue's wishlist and send them something from the list. And of course monetary donations are always needed and appreciated." Why donations when fees are charged?

"When you adopt from Fluffy Dog, you pay an adoption fee. It is expensive to

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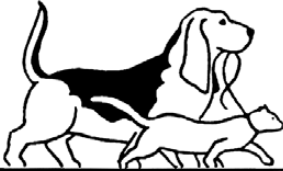
pull the dog from the shelter, transport it here, spay/neuter, vaccinate, deworm, test for heartworm and fix whatever medical condition the dog inevitably has. Then there's food, supplies, gas and everything it takes to rehabilitate the dog. Sometimes the fees cover it, sometimes they don't. Not to mention the occasional dog who has huge medical problems that nobody knew about! But seeing these dogs who were once so helpless become loved and valued family members gives me the energy to keep moving forward."

How do these dogs find great homes? Shorewood residents Carol Stabile and her family recently adopted Wilma, a

Fluffy Dog who ironically is a short haired blue heeler mix, not the "fluffy" type of dog Marchek usually rescues. "We are so happy to have Wilma as a part of our family. We wanted to adopt a rescue dog because we know there is such a need. It was a quick, simple process of filling out an application, reference checking, having a home visit and then bringing Wilma to us to make sure she was a good fit with our family. The fee was a bargain. You are getting a spayed or neutered dog with all the shots, microchipped and who lived in someone's home so they know the dog and can tell you about their personality. We will be back when it's time for another dog!"

Yes, Lori Marchek loves fluffy dogs. But she would really like to be out of the rescue business. "I hope some day that this pcues are not needed. We need to fix this and focus on keeping our animals well." Not surprisingly, Marchek will be opening an animal wellness practice soon! www.fluffydogwellness.com.

When **Lisa Harper** isn't taking care of her two children, husband, dogs, cats, parakeets and whatever foster animals she has, she is an Executive Coach with Milwaukee based TalentGenesis, Inc. In addition she is a staff writer for CitiGal Magazine in Milwaukee and also does public speaking on animal related issues. She can be reached at www.talentgenesis.com.



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BREED PROFILE:

The Maltese

"Trouble" is spoiled, notorious, and very, very wealthy. Trouble is the beloved pooch of the late Queen of Mean - Leona Helmsley -- and Maltese du jour.

How fitting it is that this breed, considered to be the oldest of the European Toy breeds, is media darling as the newest millionaire canine. Real estate mogul Helmsley bequeathed twelve million of her estimated eight billion dollar estate for the upkeep of her eight-year-old Maltese companion.

This toy breed is recognized by the elegant mantle of long, silky hair. The coat is straight, lacks an undercoat, and is pure bright white in color. Fans of the Maltese claim this breed as non-shedding and non-allergenic.

The Queen of Mean had good taste, as the Maltese was historically also favored by nobles, royals, and aristocracy. Said to be very well mannered and affectionate, the Maltese displays a graceful and regal demeanor. We would suppose that Trouble, with diamond-studded collars and cashmere canine sweaters from Saks Fifth Avenue, would agree.

Breeders say that the Maltese is smart, animated, playful, and very social. Joanne Hitchins, AKC breeder from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, says, "They are intelligent, gentle, and affectionate dogs. They sleep about 85% of the time, but with their watchdog instinct, they will awaken to alert owner of any unusual noise. They just love to be with people. The Maltese breed is generally very healthy, with a life span of approximately thirteen to seventeen years."

So, then, what in the world would cause the Queen of Mean to decide that twelve million was necessary for "upkeep" of Trouble? Let's start with Trouble's probable grooming requirements. The extremely soft and silky Maltese coat requires daily brushing and combing to prevent matting, also needing to be bathed or dry shampooed on a regular basis.

According to rescue advocate Mary Palmer of Racine, "If you choose to keep



Photo courtesy of In-Focus Photography.

a Maltese in a long coat, it requires daily grooming. If this is not done the dog can become painfully matted. Most owners prefer to keep them in a puppy cut. This requires four to six week visits to the groomer. The cost is anywhere from thirty to sixty dollars depending on where you live." No doubt, Trouble likely has a staff groomer on hand daily.

Ms. Palmer reports that the eyes need daily cleaning to prevent staining, which is common. Maltese may be prone to eye problems, skin disorders, and respiratory problems. "Maltese, like many toy breeds, have a notorious problem with their teeth. Periodontal disease is the number one killer of toy breeds. Infection sets into the gums, travels to the blood stream, and then to vital organs. To avoid this, regular teeth cleaning (usually between twelve to eighteen months) by a veterinarian is required to keep a Maltese healthy. Costs range from \$175 to \$350 depending on your location and what your vet charges."

Dr. Hartay from Harmony Pet Care Clinic in Waukesha agrees that teeth and periodontal disease

are a big problem. She further explains that Maltese are also prone to liver problems in the form of portosystemic shunts; problematic circulation of blood through the liver, resulting in symptoms of liver disease as well as leading to liver damage and eventual cirrhosis. And to complicate things, some Maltese can have an abnormal bile acids test (one measure of liver function), but still have no significant liver disease! Alas, the Maltese do not do well in very hot climates or damp conditions. They may be finicky eaters and suffer indigestion. Trouble certainly has an expensive palate and is said to eat only gourmet food, and only if fed by hand!

Only Trouble ahead? According to Maltese aficionados, the temperament of the breed is more than enough pay-back. The Maltese is said to be typically good-natured and amiable, love to be held and cuddled, and are generally adept at learning tricks. They will tolerate other pets, but everyone agrees are not suitable for inconsiderate or ill-behaved children.

How does such an adorable and lovable breed end up in a rescue situation? Mary Palmer explains that they end up there for several reasons, most notoriously related to problems with small children. "This is the number one reason we get them into rescue," states Mary. "Secondly, costs associated with toy breed ownership as Maltese are high maintenance dogs and most people are not aware until they own one." Additionally, the typical life style





changes including divorce, new jobs, moving, and owner health problems add to the list.

Trouble probably has a round-the-clock human companion. The Maltese do not do well when left alone for extended periods of time. "We love empty nesters," says Mary, "they have the time and usually the money to lavish on our precious Maltese." Joanne Hitchins clarifies that "The ideal family for the Maltese is a middle-age or elderly couple who have no children living in the household. Such couples are often home more often and able to give full devotion to these little dogs. In return, these dogs provide great comfort, particularly for those who are childless, or now have empty nests. The Maltese aren't fond of children due to the fact they are often too rough."

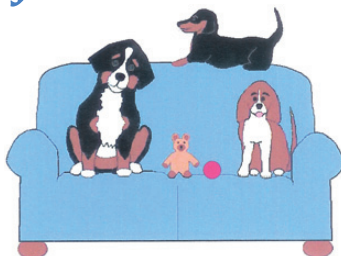
The Maltese does not require a high level of exercise, making it ideal for apartment or condominium living. Although the Maltese enjoys a daily walk or indoor play session, it is generally social and gets enough exercise following the family and heeding the human pack. "If treated properly, they will cherish everything about you," explains Joanne.

Joanne initially sought out the Maltese "... as a replacement for my only daughter who went off to college. I am now breeding Maltese out of the love for the breed and to help others find the joy that I have found." Like Trouble, a quality AKC pup doesn't come cheap. "I do breed for the Maltese standard," says Joanne, "All my dogs are registered through the American Kennel Club." (Contact Joanne at hitchins@charter.net or 608-769-9430) Depending on where you live and how you acquire your Maltese pup, expect to pay

between five hundred and a thousand dollars. Or, find your own Trouble through a Maltese Rescue Group (first contact Mary Palmer at malteserescue@hotmail.com) where desirable and deserving companions are awaiting a good home. No Trouble whatsoever!

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.
 Fri. Nov 9th 6:30pm Sat. Nov 17th 10:30am
 Wed. Nov 14th 6:15pm Sat. Nov 24th 9:00am

Dog Manners Class (over 5 months of age):
 Basics like down, stay, drop it, come and much more. Learn all the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test.
 Sat. Nov. 3rd Noon Thurs. Nov 29th 6:30pm
 Wed. Nov 14th 7:30pm

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):
 Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog. Check www.wihumane.org for the latest dates.

Clever Canine Tricks Class (over 6 months of age):
 Teach your dog to be creative and learn how to get the behaviors you want from your dog (not just tricks!). Length: 4 weeks. All dogs \$60.00
 Thurs. Nov 29th 7:45pm

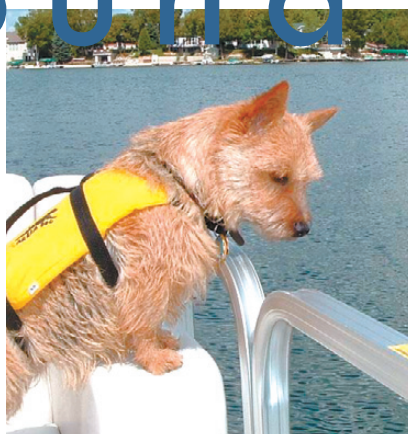
Behavioral Consultations: One-on-one assistance & training to solve behavioral issues. (414) 431-6173
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S Around Town



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Canine Marketplace

Find a local Pet Sitter, Groomer, Dog Day Care, or anything else canine related in over 25 categories. New listings added daily. Check back often.

Articles & Columns

Not only will new articles be posted throughout the month, you can search for past articles going back four years on any topic.

Event Calendar

Plan your weekend outings or attend local canine seminars and fundraisers by reviewing our Event Calendar, updated daily.

Breed Rescue Groups

Along with Humane Societies, you'll find no other place better than a Rescue Group to find your next four-legged member of the family. Find breed-specific listings for local Groups here.

Training Calendar

Does the command "sit" result in the canine cocked head? Access the training schedules of local Dog Trainers all in one convenient calendar. Schedules to be posted soon.

Dog Park Guide

Where's the closest Dog Park? How do I get involved with groups trying to get more parks in my area? Find all of those answers and more here.

Dogs Around Town

Whether you're submitting a photo or want to see other wacky canine personalities caught on film, you'll find it hard to stop looking once you're in.



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Operation Bring Animals Home S&R Team
262-224-1964, www.obahrescue.com

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414-840-7411, rescueaws@yahoo.com
www.americanwaterspanielclub.org

Basset Hound

Basset Buddies Rescue, Inc., 262-347-8823
info@bbrescue.org, www.bbrescue.org

Beagle

BrewBeagle Rescue
midwest@brewbeagles.org, brewbeagles.org

Bichon Frise

Little Buddies Rescue, 1-888-581-9070

BPB Rescue

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

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www.midamericabrcrescue.com
MidAmericaBCRescue@yahoo.com

Boston Terrier

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www.wisconsinbostonterrierrescue.com

Boxer

Green Acres Boxer Rescue of WI
info@greenacresboxerrescue.com
www.greenacresboxerrescue.com

Brew City Small Dog Rescue

414-313-2040, www.brewcityrescue.org
Heather@brewcityrescue.org

Brittany

American Brittany Rescue, 1-866-brit911
www.americanbrittanyrescue.org
info@americanbrittanyrescue.org

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Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue, Inc.
608-219-4044
www.wischiorecue.org, chigirl@wischiorecue.org

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Wisconsin Cocker Rescue
262-255-0246, WiCockerRescue@Juno.com
www.geocities.com/WiCockerRescue

Shorewood Cocker Rescue
262-877-3294
www.cockerrescue.net, elaine@cockerrescue

Collie

Minnesota-Wisconsin Collie Rescue
612-869-0480,
collietalk@aol.com, www.mwcr.org

Dachshund

Badger Dachshund Club, 414-299-9609

MidWest Dachshund Rescue, Inc.
608-833-2992 evenings
rescue@mwdr.org, www.mwdr.org

Dalmatian

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loveadal@yahoo.com, www.dalrescue.net

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sosdalrescue@earthlink.net, sosdalrescue.com

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Wisconsin Doberman Rescue, Inc.
414-536-4477, www.wi-doberescue.org
widoberescue@aol.com

Shadow's Doberman Rescue
262-662-4838
draffhorseinn@aol.com, www.draffhorseinn.com

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English Springer Rescue America, Inc.
715-845-8716, www.springerrescue.org
kcmcheinking@verizon.net

German Shepherd

German Shepherd Rescue Alliance of WI
414-461-9720, www.gsraw.com
yur_rtr@execpc.com or gsdrsq@hotmail.com

Good Shepherd K-9 Rescue
608-868-2050, ccow@ticon.net
gshpherd@gsk9r.org, www.gsk9r.org

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gsd4me@bgsr.org, www.bgsr.org

ARF's German Shepherd Rescue Inc.
www.arfrescue.com, gsd@arfrescue.com

German Shorthaired Pointer

Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, Inc.
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lisa_gsprescuewi@yahoo.com
www.wgspr.com, www.wgspr.petfinder.com/

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lakerun@execpc.com

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(888)655-4753
president@grrrow.org, www.GRRoW.org

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262-554-2048, www.wiherdingrescue.com
rescue@wiherdingrescue.com

Irish Setter

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920-734-6734, muttsgo@aol.com

Irish Wolfhound

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Italian Greyhounds

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learn dogs@labadoption.org

Penny Romasko
www.labradorconnection.org

Maltese

Northcentral Maltese Rescue Inc.
262-633-9371, malteserescue@hotmail.com
www.malteserescue.homestead.com

Mixed Breed

Happy Tails Dog Rescue
414-321-4929, www.happytailsdogrescue.com

Neapolitan Mastiff

www.neorescue.net, mhweglarz@msn.com

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poodclubofamerica.org, mj.doege@yahoo.com

Pug

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Great Lakes Pug Club
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608-697-7274, wrtr@bigfoot.com

Rottweiler

True Hearts of Rottweiler Rescue (THORR)
www.thorr.org, trueheartsofrottrescue@yahoo.com

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

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allsaintsrescue@earthlink.net

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wtresq@jmuch.com, www.wstresq.com

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

New Beginnings Shih Tzu Rescue
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www.nbstr.org

Standard Schnauzer

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

Vizsla

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Grusnick@wi.rr.com, 414-759-4161
www.cwvc.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, shyyorkiemom@yahoo.com
414-383-2779, judii2000@yahoo.com

Event Calendar

November 2007

1 Thursday

What: Chiropractic Appts w/ Dr. Susan Fife
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070 (call for appt.)

2 Friday

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

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

3 Saturday

What: Holiday/Family Portraits w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Elm Brook Humane Society, Brookfield
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: www.sliderphoto.com, (262)782-9261

5 Monday

What: Adult Beginners Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30pm (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

6 Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class Begins
Where: Central Bark DDC, Franklin
When: 8:00pm (7 week course)
Info: www.centralbarkusa.com

9 Friday

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

What: Rally Drop in Classes

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

10 Saturday

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

What: Indoor Puppy & Dog Play (Only \$5)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: Noon (Puppies), 1:00pm (Adults)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

What: Holiday/Family Portraits w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Friends of Nature, Oconomowoc
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: www.sliderphoto.com, (262)567-2699

What: Holiday Open House
Where: Puppy Playground, Oak Creek
When: 10:00am - 3:00pm
Info: 414-764-PUPS, <http://puppyplaygroundwi.com/>

What: Let's Talk About Boarding Your Pet
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 1:00pm
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

11 Sunday

What: Golden Retrieve Rescue (GRROW)
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

12 Monday

What: Freestyle Dance Class Begins
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:30pm (8 week course)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

16 Friday

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

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

17 Saturday

What: Pet Photo Sessions w/ In-Focus Photography
Where: Pawprints Across Your Heart, Greendale
When: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Info: www.giftsforpaws.com, 414-423-5800

18 Sunday

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

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Indoor Puppy & Dog Play (Only \$5)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 1:00pm (Puppies), 2:00pm (Adults)
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

23 Friday

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

24 Saturday

What: Holiday/Family Portraits w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Gander Mountain, Waukesha
When: 11:00am - 3:00pm
Info: www.sliderphoto.com, (262)857-3757

25 Sunday

What: Photos with Santa by SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am - 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

28 Wednesday

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Central Bark DDC, North
When: 7:00pm (8 week course)
Info: www.centralbarkusa.com

Every Sunday

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

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

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: Happy Hounds Hour (playtime)
Where: Release the Hounds DDC, Muskego
When: Morning
Info: 414-412-8264

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.

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

The Legal Beagle

Animal Hoarding

What Dog Owners Should Know About This Distinct Form of Animal Cruelty/Neglect

Authorities found 115 guinea pigs in the house along with 50 dogs, 21 cats, 29 goats, 35 rabbits, 92 hamsters and 86 chickens. The owners of the animals said that all of the animals were well-cared for and in good health. The hazardous materials team disagreed. They said that they needed to wear masks to go into the home because of all the ammonia, feces, and parasites they found in the home.

This house of horrors was not located in some distant city or remote community. Rather, it was located in a small community right here in Wisconsin. This month's Legal Beagle tackles a form of animal cruelty/neglect known simply as "hoarding."

What is Hoarding?

The term "hoarding" does little to capture the magnitude of the suffering caused by a person identified as a "hoarder." The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium ("Consortium") describes a "hoarder" as someone who:

- Accumulates a large number of animals, overwhelming that person's ability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care;
- Fails to acknowledge the deteriorating condition of the animals (including disease, starvation, and even death) and household environment (severe overcrowding, very unsanitary conditions); and
- Fails to recognize the negative effect of the collection on his or her own health and well-being, and on that of other household members.

Also sometimes referred to as a "collector," animal hoarders commit crimes of animal cruelty/neglect at a staggering level because of the volume of animals and the duration of the suffering of the animals in the "hoarder's" collection.

Are Profiles Common to a Hoarder?

Although the reasons why some people become "hoarders" is complex, and many experts agree that "hoarding" is a psychological condition, research from the Consortium shows that hoarders typically share certain characteristics:

- 76% of hoarders are women
- 46% of hoarders are age 60 or older
- Animals most frequently involved in hoarding are dogs, cats, farm animals and birds
- The median number of animals hoarded is 39
- 80% of hoarding cases involve dead animals

The Consortium estimates that there are between 700 to 2,000 hoarding cases annually in the United States. Experts agree that, unfortunately, hoarding is a difficult problem to solve because recidivism rates are typically 100 percent.

Why Is Hoarding a Problem?

When many people think of a "hoarder" they conjure images of a friendly elderly "cat lady" with lots of healthy cats in livable conditions. However, hoarding has nothing to do with the pleasant, although eccentric, images of the neighborhood cat lady.

Rather, the animals in a hoarder's collection are typically sick, starving, unhealthy, and suffering from a variety of ailments. The living conditions of these animals are dismal, overcrowded, stressful and inhumane. Inexplicably, the hoarder often does not recognize the horrible conditions in which the animals are living. Even faced with dying and decayed animals in the hoarder's home, the hoarder is likely to insist that the animals are well-cared for, happy, and that the hoarder is actually saving the animals from the certain death of a humane society, weather, or simply the perils of life in the wild.

When animals from the hoarder's collection are confiscated by local authorities, the burden on local humane societies and rescue groups can be overwhelming. In one case in Oregon in 2003, law enforcement confiscated 562 malnourished and neglected dogs from a hoarder. The time, energy, and financial resources of nursing hoarded animals back to health often falls upon rescue groups and animal shelters because the animals typically need extensive medical care in addition to food, water and shelter.

Although the conditions in which the hoarder's animals live typically violate local animal cruelty/neglect laws, very few states have laws that specifically address hoarding as a distinct form of animal cruelty/neglect. However, that is changing.

In 2001, Illinois became the first state to pass a law that specifically addresses animal hoarding and provides law enforcement with the tools necessary to address this unique form of animal cruelty. The Illinois law is unique and recognized by many as a model because it recognizes hoarding as a distinct form of animal cruelty/neglect, recognizes that hoarding may be a mental-health problem, and recommends psychiatric treatment for offenders. Following Illinois' lead, other states are considering similar legislation.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin does not have a law that specifically addresses hoarding. While a hoarder's actions are likely to violate Chapter 951, Wisconsin's animal cruelty and neglect law, a specific law is necessary to address the unique problems created by hoarding, due to: the large numbers of animals involved; the staggering rate of neglect/disease and death of the hoarded animals; the extremely high recidivism rate of the offender when mental health issues are not addressed; and, a poor understanding of the real problem by law enforcement, district attorneys, and judges.

Conclusion

Although hoarding causes animal suffering at unprecedented levels due to the volume of animals involved and the sheer magnitude of suffering, hoarding has not gained significant attention as a distinct crime of animal abuse/neglect until recently. As pet owners, it is our responsibility to learn more about the roots of the problem, and to encourage our public policy makers to do the same.

To learn more about hoarding, please visit the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium at Tufts University at <http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/>.

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.

The Miracle near 34th Street

I think that I've just experienced an-hon-est-to-God-call-the-Vatican miracle.

About a year ago we bought this adorable, cute-as-a-button black Labrador puppy. All seemed well. Until he started to itch. And scratch. And scratch. I took him to the vet for his Well Puppy check up and mentioned his incessant scratching accompanied by annoying leg thumping, and asked, "Do you think that he may have allergies?" The vet recoiled, "Please! Don't mention the A word! It could be stress, and besides . . he's too young."

Stress? I must have been pushing the puppy too hard with tennis ball and rope tossing.

After a week, there was no improvement. In fact, his fur was falling out! In two weeks he went from looking like a Hallmark Card Labrador puppy to a poster puppy for animal welfare.

Back to the vet. Hmmm. No sign of fleas. Could be mange mites. Scrape. Scrape. Scrape. Or could be an intestinal parasite. Stool sample, anyone?

I asked again. Could it be allergies? No. Couldn't be. Too young, remember?

So, there were pills and salves and shampoos and balms and ointments. There was prescription -only puppy food that cost more than dinner for two at a nice restaurant. By this time, I had spent more on vet bills and stuff than I did on the dog.

I called the breeder. I asked if any other pups in that litter had any skin problems. No, not a one. I explained the situation. They offered to take him back.

Take . . . him . . . back?

Hmmm. I thought about it. I didn't *want to get rid of him*, we had developed quite a bond what with all the baths and treatments, the family loved him, but I had to think what was good for the dog, you know?

Second, third, fourth opinions all said versions of the same thing. There would be extensive - make that *expensive* - tests. I would have to take him to see specialists at the University's Veterinary School. The dog would stay for two, three days. Cha-ching! Oh, and the bottom line? NO GUARANTEES.

I didn't know what to do or where to turn.

I'm not what you would call a church-y person. I go to church, every Sunday, to sit and meditate - over story lines and plot ideas. I was raised Catholic. And, you know what that means? Patron Saints!

I did a quick search on the internet - patron...saints...dogs - while the puppy sat on the floor next to me, thumpathumpathumpa.

A whole page of Saint Rocco - Patron Saint of dogs. Saint Rocco? Where was he born? Jersey?

Saint Rocco went into the forest to die, but was instead cared for by a dog who licked his wounds and brought him food. Saint Rocco recovered. Upon returning home, Saint Rocco was charged with spying and died in prison in 1327. Saint Rocco's Feast Day is August 16.

Bingo!

I went to the Catholic store. Found a Holy Card of Saint Rocco (yes, they had one!) my prayer went something like this: First, I introduced myself, "Um . . . Saint Rocco? You don't know me, but . . .," and then I apologized for never having heard of him before. I figured it was the polite thing to do. I didn't want to come off as an opportunist.

I went on to tell him about my dog and all the problems he's had and how the vets are baffled and they don't know what to do with him or to him anymore and how I don't want to send him back because I really, really like him despite his flaws (aren't we all flawed?). And then I got down to it, "The reason I'm

call-I mean, praying to you is that I need a miracle here. If you could just do something to stop whatever it is that is causing this problem. He's so uncomfortable. I know there are drugs that I can give him, but the side effects aren't good. Can you help him? Please?"

We survived the summer. And then fall came and frost and cold and subsequently no more itching, which meant that the problem was seasonal. Good! The real test would come in the Spring.

So, what happened with this Lab come Spring? Did the allergies return? Were allergies the real cause of the itching? And how, if at all, did a prayer to Saint Rocco return in a miracle? Visit www.fetchmag.com to find out the answer. You'll find a link to this article on our home page under the heading of *Current Issue*.

Mel Miskimen is an author, playwright, podcaster, comedian and the alpha female to Harvey, a 12 year old Golden and Seamus, a 1 year old Lab. Her book, *Cop's Kid: A Milwaukee Memoir*, is available online and at Barnes & Noble. Visit the website, www.singlemarriedwidoweddivorced.com to hear the podcast. You can email her at: mmiskimen@wi.rr.com.



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over 360 point locations on the body, there are also 14 meridians, which Boss says are the channels which energy and information is thought to flow.

How the information is passed through acupuncture points is not clearly understood, adds Boss. Scientists have studied the points extensively and found that points are different from surrounding tissue in several ways. The electrical activity is different; there is lower resistance and high conductivity, allowing energy to flow more easily. A difference in the cells and make up of the skin and tissues underneath are also prevalent. There are more cells that stimulate local inflammation and send out chemical signals and more small blood vessels which pick up and spread the chemical signals.

Acupuncture, Boss continues, is very effective for pain and nausea, but it is also a helpful tool in treating immune related problems and heart, kidney and skin diseases. It is frequently used in dogs that have suffered nerve damage by bringing the energy flow back to the area that has been damaged and increases the dog's overall strength and stimulates healing.

"We often find that it (acupuncture) helps increase the comfort and energy level of elderly pets that are experiencing difficulty due to arthritis pain," Boss adds.

In a disease like arthritis, Boss recommends that acupuncture be preformed at least three times. Early treatments are done two weeks apart and once a positive result is seen the treatment intervals can be stretched out. After the initial consultation and exam, which can take up to one hour, the acupuncture treatment itself usually lasts about 30 minutes or less.

As far as side effects from acupuncture, Boss says due to the intense energy flow caused by the treatment, pets are often tired for a day afterwards. Usually by the second day they are feeling back to normal and their symptoms may also begin to improve.

Both traditional and holistic approaches have shown positive results for treating arthritis in dogs. If your dog begins to show signs of this degenerative disease, the best course of action is to discuss all available options with your veterinarian.

Jamie Klinger-Krebs is a freelance writer who writes a regular monthly column "Pet Talk" on www.gmtoday.com.

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