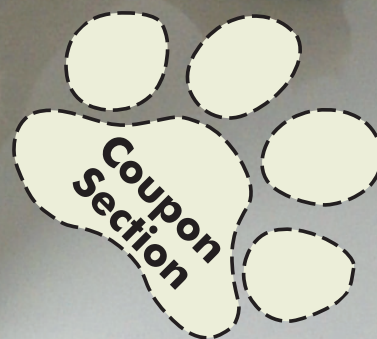




Fetch magazine

October 2006 | Volume 3 | Issue 10



Mixed Breeds
Training Older Dogs
Link Between Animal Abuse & Adult Violence
Adopting Through Rescue Groups
Oral Diseases



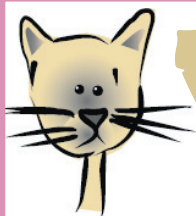
We have a name for people who treat their dogs like children. (customer.)

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



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Publisher's Letter

For close to three years, we've featured over twenty different purebred canine breeds to the joy of their owners. Yet, thousands of you hounded me with the question, "When are you going to feature mixed breeds?" Answer. This issue.

Whether you refer to your four-legged friend as a mixed breed, blended, hybrid or simply mutt, there is no mistaking the unique personalities and traits each of these special dogs display. Maybe that was one of the leading reasons for choosing a mixed breed. There is a sense of surprise and anticipation with a mixed breed that is sometimes lost with purebreds. Not to say that many purebreds don't show personalities outside the norm for their breed, but when you live with a mixed breed, you're constantly wondering what two, maybe three, breeds got together to produce this mutt.

In this issue, we celebrate mixed breeds and all of us who fail to resist their heartrending expression peering through the fence at the shelter.

As we take time to focus on these special friends in the canine world, please remember that no dog, whether purebred or mixed, can be placed on a pedestal higher than the other. Every dog deserves the very best treatment possible and a family to grow old with.

Joseph + Jennifer Kojis

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Ask the VET

Question: Are there veterinarians who focus on dentistry? Besides the usual stinky dog breath, what other concerns should I have for what lurks in my dog's mouth?

Answer: A lot more is involved in veterinary dentistry than just bad breath. Our canine companions are affected by a number of oral diseases and injuries. In fact, the most commonly diagnosed disease in dogs according to a study by the American Animal Hospital Association is periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is due to inflammation of the structures that support the teeth. This inflammation is caused by bacteria found in dental plaque and can result in loss of gum tissue and bone. The consequences of periodontal disease are tooth loss, halitosis (bad breath), bleeding of the gums and worse. The bacteria associated with periodontal disease can enter the bloodstream and in some cases harm the heart, kidneys and liver.

The key to preventing periodontal disease is controlling plaque. As with humans, plaque is a whitish film covering the teeth that is mainly made of bacteria. The best way to reduce plaque accumulation on the teeth is daily tooth brushing. Seems funny at first but there are many products available to assist in reaching those canines. Pets should have their teeth brushed with pet formulated toothpaste, as toothpaste for people contains fluoride, which can be harmful to pets if too much is ingested. Please ask your veterinarian for more specific recommendations.

Most pet owners do not or cannot brush their pet's teeth properly. Special diets are formulated to decrease plaque accumulation. These diets include Hill's t/d, Royal Canin and the Eukanuba diets. Please consult with your veterinarian before changing your pet's diet if your pet has other health concerns as well. In addition to special diets, a plaque prevention gel has recently become available for use in dogs. This gel, called Oravet, reduces plaque accumulation by creating a barrier between the tooth and plaque. It is first

applied after professional dental cleaning, then weekly at home. Many other products are available that may or may not help prevent periodontal disease. Some of these products may even be dangerous to your pet's health. Hard objects such as cow hooves, plastic bones and animal bones can break the teeth and may become lodged in the gastrointestinal tract if swallowed. Your veterinarian will be able to help you decide on the best method to reduce plaque in your dog.

Even with good dental care at home, your pet will still need routine professional dental care. Dogs should have professional dental cleanings every 4 to 12 months, depending on their oral health and breed (smaller dogs need more frequent dental cleanings due to crowding of the teeth). Professional cleanings include scaling of the teeth above and below the gum line, polishing and full oral examination by your veterinarian. These procedures are performed with general anesthesia under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Although general anesthesia is a concern for many pet owners, the risk can be kept low with proper pre-anesthetic evaluation and anesthetic monitoring. Honestly, general anesthesia should be safer than the car ride to the veterinarian. Dental cleanings without general anesthesia are ineffective and may even be dangerous. If periodontal disease is found to be extensive, treatment may be required to augment tissue loss, or teeth may need to be extracted.

Periodontal disease is not the only common oral disease of dogs. Fractured or broken teeth are a common occurrence, especially with active chewers. The outer layer of the tooth is enamel, which is a very hard and durable, but thin protective covering of the tooth. If the enamel is injured, the dentin may be exposed, which is also very hard, but has microscopic channels that communicate with the third layer, the sensitive dental pulp. Although dogs often hide pain very well, if the dental pulp is injured either by direct exposure, or through the dentin, the tooth is very painful. Exposure of the pulp leads to

infection that cannot be eliminated without treatment. This infection may cause open sores on the face. If teeth are fractured, immediate treatment should be sought. Treatment may either be surgical extraction by your veterinarian, or advanced treatment by a veterinarian with advanced veterinary dental training.

Another concern inside our dog's mouths is dental malocclusion. Malocclusion may result in pain, or infection. The most commonly recognized malocclusion is retention of the baby or deciduous teeth after the permanent teeth have erupted. If this occurs, the deciduous tooth should be carefully extracted. If not, the permanent teeth may be tipped into poor occlusion, and there is an increased risk of periodontal disease. Other malocclusions may cause pain because the teeth may puncture the hard palate. It should also be noted that malocclusions may be hereditary and future breeding of these pets should be of great concern.

Oral disease is not limited to dogs. Cats frequently develop painful resorption of their teeth. Currently no method to prevent this has been discovered and the only treatment is removal of the teeth.

If you have any questions regarding veterinary dentistry, please contact your veterinarian or a veterinarian with advanced dental training.

Matt Lemmons has recently completed a residency in dentistry and oral surgery at the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Teaching Hospital. He is currently still associated with the University and also practices at the East Towne Veterinary Clinic in Mequon (262.241.4884).

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Training Bits

Training Older Pets

Whether you have recently adopted an older pet, or have given up trying to correct your pet's bad habits, it is not too late to teach him good manners. From housebreaking to digging and chewing, the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) offers tips on how to train your problem pooch or contrary kitty.

"Consistency and positive reinforcement are the key to training a pet of any age," says Link Welborn, DVM. "In fact, older pets may be easier to train than puppies and kittens because they have a longer attention span."

Housebreaking should be a breeze for older pets who have less urgency problems and better control. Keep a close eye on

your dog or confine him to a specific area while indoors, then take him out to the same place every time to do his business. Use consistent encouragement and give him plenty of praise afterward.

Food treats and positive reinforcement will help your pet learn basic commands such as "sit," "stay" and "come." Plan your commands ahead of time and make sure that everyone in your household uses the same commands so your pet doesn't get confused. Say the command once and then physically put your pet in the position you want him in if he doesn't obey.

Toys aren't just for puppies. Older pets also need stimulating toys and plenty of exercise to prevent them from digging and chewing out of boredom. Keeping a close watch over your pet so he doesn't have an opportunity to misbehave and using consistent praise to reinforce good behavior should eliminate most behavior problems.

The key to any training regimen is consistent, positive reinforcement of the desired behavior rather than punishment. Never

physically punish a pet; this may lead to biting out of fear, or other aggressive behavior. Instead, use praise and attention as a reward when the desired behavior is exhibited and ignore inappropriate behavior.

If your pet continues to display unwanted behaviors despite your best efforts, visit your veterinarian to discuss the problem. The veterinarian will examine your pet to rule out anything medical that could be causing or contributing to the behavior, as well as provide advice and additional resources to help solve the problem. Your veterinarian can also refer you to a behavior specialist.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is an international association of more than 32,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. Established in 1933, AAHA is well known among veterinarians and pet owners for its standards for hospitals and pet health care.



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Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
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Bringing Siena Home

| part one



My husband and I had been married for about a year when we adopted our very first dog Jasper. Jasper was a mix of Cocker spaniel and German shepherd. He was a tiny bundle of spunk, with down soft fur and irresistible charm. He was in our life for 16 of our 18 years together. Last June we said goodbye to him with very heavy hearts.

For eight years it was just us and Jasper until we brought Jale (pronounced 'Holly') into our family. She is predominately

Siberian husky with some Cocker spaniel. Jasper welcomed Jale with one big deep sniff on the top of her head. There was no canine drama when they first met and after the initial introduction, Jasper went about his dog day like it was any other in the yard, only now he had a new friend following close behind. Even though we talked about adopting a second dog at some length, we weren't exactly sure what to expect when the two were introduced and how they'd get along. We were very happy with how smooth it all went.

The four of us adjusted to a two dog house routine pretty fast. Jasper and Jale bonded quickly. They enjoyed each other's company on walks, sleeping under picnic tables, camping and taking car rides to the vet. They each respected each others space and co-existed very happily without a lot of raucous play or break 'em up altercations.

Jale is a sensitive, demure, follow the rules kind of dog. It's rare that she barks at anything or anyone inside or outside of the house, but when she does want to say something, the happiness in her husky howl can't be denied. "Welcome home!" "I'm happy you came to visit!" "Come on, hurry up, I see you putting on

your walking shoes and know I'm going with." We never trained her to stay in the yard without the gate closed, she just does. As for food, very unlike Jasper who inhaled it, she can take it or leave it and will eat whenever she gets hungry enough. Jale will do anything to get you to rub her belly, she is my writing companion and she melts my heart.

Daryl and I mourned the loss of Jasper and Jale did too, but we knew that someday after a sufficient amount of time we would be welcoming another puppy into our home, only this time it would be a canine pal for Jale.

Time passed and the search for a new dog started. I researched dog rescue Web sites for weeks. One day I clicked and saw 12 pudgy puppy faces in a variety of colors, sizes and personality staring back at me. They had just been put up for adoption. I grabbed the phone immediately to call the owner of the rescue. No time for an email. I needed to go see these puppies and go see them fast!

I made an appointment at the rescue and Daryl came along somewhat begrudgingly in tow. He wasn't convinced we were ready for another dog so soon. When we arrived, we were led outside to puppy heaven where the fenced yard was covered with big and small puffs of cotton stuffing that looked like snow in July, from a bed or two the puppies gleefully tore to shreds. The instant we were at the gate the puppies were there too, all of them looking for attention. We walked around picking up or squatting down to touch or hold each one. After the novelty of visitors wore off, we sat on the edge of a garden wall watching and observing the puppies play, wrestle, doze off under a bush, or stumble clumsily over our outstretched legs.

Daryl bent down and scooped up a brown and white marbled colored female and cradled her in his arms. She wasn't the one that originally caught my attention on the Web site, but she was pretty cute and petite with very interesting coloring. We played with her, put her back down on the ground, picked her up again, let her go meander around again - all the time watching her with other puppies to get a hint into her demeanor, whether she was aggressive, submissive, an instigator, laid back or a combination of all.

We had already decided that it would not be fair to bring home a new dog that would

- continued on page 29

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5th Annual Tails on Trails Dog Walk



It is the mission of the Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin (GRRoW) to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Golden Retrievers. Why would any Golden need to be rescued? Sometimes an adolescent Golden was desired as a puppy and now has more energy than the family planned for. Sometimes no one spends time training a new puppy and what was once cute behavior becomes a problem as the dog ages. Or perhaps someone wasn't able to care for a Golden requiring more personal attention due to medical ailments. But Comet was different.

When Comet was rescued by GRRoW in early June, he was severely malnourished, arthritic and underweight. This 9-year-old had infections in his ears and eyes, and severe allergies caused him to rub his face on the ground until it bled.

It was later discovered that his owner had kept him in the yard of an unoccupied house for several months. They stopped by to feed him when they could. Amazingly, with all that he went through, Comet is a gentle, sweet, and lovable boy.

After being surrendered to GRRoW, Comet was placed in a loving foster home. He could not be fed a lot at first - his body was not used to it. However, he could have nourishing food in small amounts, several times a day. Every few days, the amount of food was increased slowly.

He could not go for long walks either - something Golden Retrievers just love to do. His legs did not have the muscle mass to support a long walk. However, with diligent veterinary care and the loving care of his foster mom, Comet began to improve.

Over the course of 2 and 1/2 months, Comet gained 15 pounds, his infections cleared up, and his allergies improved greatly. He was even able to take a vacation with his foster mom in Northern Wisconsin where he got to go swimming.

The best news is that there is a happy ending for Comet. He was adopted by a vet student in the Madison area who not

only has the love for him, but also the knowledge and ability to help Comet through any challenges he may face due to his years of neglect instead of abuse. She will nurture him as he continues on the road to health and spoil him in his senior years.

There are Comets everywhere - purebreds and mixed breeds, puppies to seniors. There are families that may not know how to properly care for or can no longer care for a dog but unfortunately there are also families who just don't care.

GRRoW is a non profit 501 (c) (3) organization that pays for the veterinary needs for all the Golden Retrievers surrendered into their care, so fundraising is critical to their success. Since GRRoW began in 2000, they've rescued and rehomed over 1,300 dogs. You can help them rescue and care for even more!

On October 21, GRRoW will host the 5th annual Tails on Trails Dog Walk at Lapham Peak State Park in Kettle Moraine. It promises to be a fun-filled day which includes a walk, doggie demos, dog related vendors, raffles and food in a beautiful park. Come join us with your K-9 buddies...all breeds are welcome!

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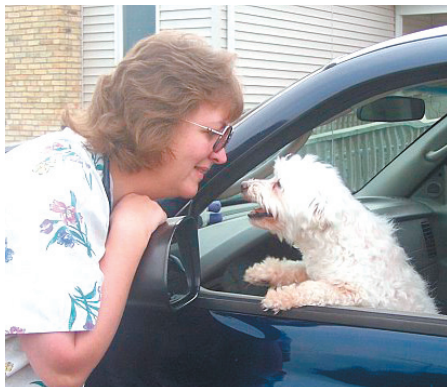
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Local Veterinarian Launches New Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program in Burlington



Creature Comforts House Call Veterinary Service and Dr. Sandra Miller, of Burlington, WI, are pleased to announce a new low-cost spay/neuter program for dogs and cats. The goal of this program is to control the tragedy of pet overpopulation by offering an alternative for people and animals in situations where they may otherwise be unable to afford the procedure.

This program is being endorsed by local shelters and humane societies, rescue organizations, and charitable organizations in the area. "We feel we are providing a much needed option to help control the animal population in surrounding counties, as well as assisting families with limited resources who want to adopt and properly care for a pet," says Dr. Sandra Miller, owner of Creature Comforts. "We hope the community will support us in our efforts to create this program. We really believe it can make a positive difference in the lives of many animals."

Pre-approval and registration is required, and owners must qualify in one of the following situations:

- Owners with limited financial resources
- Multiple 'barn' cats or dogs
- Feral/stray cats
- Entire litters of kittens or puppies along with 'mom'
- Rescue organizations (501C3 required)

The surgeries will be performed every Wednesday at Creature Comforts new location at 6023 S. Pine Street (Hwy 83) in Burlington (less than 45 minutes southwest of downtown Milwaukee) but applicants need not be local residents.

Dr. Miller graduated from UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and since 1999 has operated a small-animal mobile, house call practice based in Burlington. Her territory encompasses Racine, Walworth, and western Kenosha counties. Twice a week, she also performs spays and neuters for Lakeland Animal Shelter in Elkhorn, WI. Additionally, Dr. Miller is certified in Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation and also Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy.

Pet nutrition is a special focus of Dr. Miller's, and the new clinic will offer a retail line of high-quality pet foods, including Nature's Variety, Wellness, Canidae and Felidae, and Merricks.

Details on the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program as well as our full range of services are available on our website: www.creaturecomfortshousecalls.com or can be discussed with our staff by calling our office at 262-767-9392.

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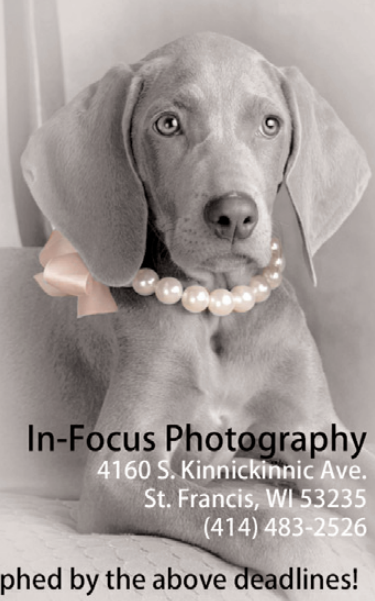
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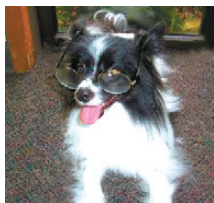
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Veterinary Medicine for the Non - Vet Conference

A panel of Veterinarian Specialists will serve as faculty for the second Veterinary Medicine for the Non Vet conference on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. This conference is designed to teach community pet lovers how to recognize serious health conditions in their companion animals as well as provide information on the best and newest treatment options. Patricia McConnell, co-host of Wisconsin Public Radio's "Calling All Pets" will give the keynote address that will surely entertain and educate registrants on animal behavior and how to deal with even the most feisty felines and canines.

Topics such as how to better manage pain, early detection and treatment of cancer, recognizing and treating orthopedic ailments, and more will be covered by some of the areas finest veterinarians. Additionally, a point-counterpoint discussion on the topic of vaccines will guide registrants in decisions on whether to vaccinate their pets annually or as needed. Registrants will also learn about alternative therapy options from a holistic veterinarian and view a demonstration of canine rehabilitation.

The program begins at 8:30 am and will conclude at 3:30 pm. The registration fee for the conference is \$95 which includes a sit down luncheon and handouts from each speaker.

**Mention Fetch Magazine
and receive \$20 off the
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For more information including topics, speaker bios, and a registration form visit www.aware-wi.com/events or e-mail expomanager@msn.com. This conference is sponsored by the Alliance of Wisconsin Animal Rehoming Efforts, the Country Springs Hotel, Fetch Magazine, and Showcase Events.

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Get your ticket to one of the best seats in town - the Paws and Claws Gala using this year's theme Come. Sit. Stay. Party. Benefiting the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies the Paws & Claws Gala will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2006. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the gala will include a delectable dinner catered by Bartolotta Restaurants, a live band as well as a silent and live auction with numerous high-dollar prizes. Admission tickets are \$250/person and \$500/couple; all proceeds will help the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies' in their efforts to save animals' lives.

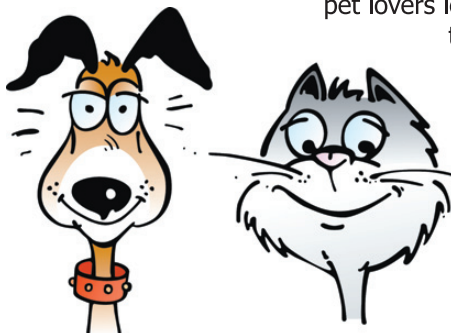
Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase - \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20. The grand prize is a brand new 2007 Chevrolet Trail Blazer, presented by Bergstrom Automotive; the first place prize is a 42" Plasma TV; and the second place prize is \$500 in cash.

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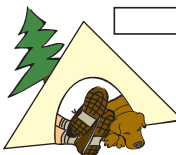
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Dog NIGHTMARES

Animal abuse can be the first warning sign to worse criminal behavior

Although it's a topic most people would rather ignore, animal abuse is very real. Kids and adults intentionally harming an animal for power or kicks is terrible in itself, but it also harms the community because these individuals are only steps away from committing violence against each other.

Jill DeGrave of the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS), works with the Milwaukee Police Department Training Academy to give officers the information they need to identify and investigate cases of animal abuse and neglect. Why is fighting animal cruelty so important? "There is compelling evidence to link animal cruelty to human violence," DeGrave says. This disregard for animals is linked to both family violence and murder.

By definition this violence is not neglect, says DeGrave. Owners guilty of neglect don't realize they are hurting the animal(s) with substandard conditions or little to no medical care. The WHS has a hotline to report neglect.

Owners who lack the knowledge to train their pet fall in a gray area. These people may kick or slap a dog for "misbehaving" in order to "teach" it a lesson. Although

certainly not the best reinforcement, this punishment does not give the owner the "pleasure" or a sense of power associated with cruelty.

The people DeGrave talks about are much darker. "We had a group of kids that put a Pit Bull puppy in a garbage can and doused it with lighter fluid," says DeGrave. They lit the fire.

DeGrave explains these children are at risk of becoming criminal adults, which threaten the community. Law enforcement officials include questions about animal cruelty when assessing criminal profiles. According to DeGrave, Jeffrey Dahmer was reported to hurt animals as a child. The students who committed the school shootings were as well. Any person cruel to animals as a child is five times more likely to commit violent crimes, says DeGrave.

Hurting an animal gives these people a high. The cruelty makes them feel domi-

nant and powerful, says DeGrave. Some adults will even use the abuse of an animal to frighten or threaten family members. DeGraves says the perpetrators of domestic/family violence will often attack the companion animal - threatening the victim: "this will happen to you if you leave."

The perpetrator will use a pet for manipulation, keeping a battered spouse from leaving because he or she fears what the perpetrator will do to the dog. In these cases, DeGrave says WHS offers a temporary Safe Haven for the animal so he or she can leave safely without abandoning a precious companion.

Other forms of cruelty include the killing of a pet in front of the spouse or child to instill fear and keeping the victim from telling anyone about the abuse. These acts, says DeGrave, are used to demonstrate power, keep a victimized family isolated and/or to eliminate competition for attention. "Animals are usually the first visible victim," says DeGrave, "violence doesn't happen in a vacuum." If a man is zealously beating his dog in the yard, it may be a sign another type of violence is taking

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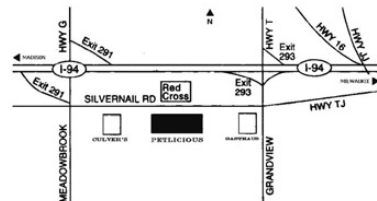
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place inside the house. DeGrave shares stories about Police who have stopped Pit Bull fighting and found other illegal things: drugs, weapons, gambling equipment, etc.

Of course a violent outburst or cruel act doesn't mean a child will grow up to be a killer or that an angry adult is guilty of abuse, but the links are there. As part of the Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) First Strike campaign, which raises awareness of the connection between animal cruelty and human violence, a 2003 survey reported 15 percent of the intentional cruelty cases also involved family violence, including child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. Although low, the HSUS warns that family violence is often hidden, as batterers isolate their victims. Animal cruelty is considered a warning sign of other potential violence in the family. In a sample of the domestic violence shelters nationwide, 91 percent of adult victims and 73 percent of children mentioned incidents of pet abuse in the same 2003 study.

Cruelty to animals is one of the MacDonald triad, the three personality traits in children indicative of a serial killer.

DeGrave says an abusive nature often derives from personality traits, such as a lack of caring about others, low self-esteem or dealing with turbulent living conditions. WHS has a program for at risk kids who live in dangerous areas, places where violence is so common the children may not realize it's inappropriate. These kids, who haven't necessarily abused an animal, learn to obedience train shelter dogs, socialize the adoptable cats and watch over wildlife that's healing or young. "It's empathy building," explains DeGrave, "which combats these negative behaviors."

But it's not enough to have programs to help people understand animals or empathize with them. DeGrave encourages the community, each of us to step up and say animal violence is wrong and will not be tolerated, both for animals' sake and - with it's connection to more violent crimes - our own.

Don't accept "It's only a dog" or "boys will be boys," DeGrave urges. Take the incidents seriously and report them. "If a life threatening condition exists," says DeGrave, "someone can call 911 [for an animal]."

However, if it's a report of non-life threatening abuse, the non-emergency number is better. The police have seen enough that they know there is a link, says DeGrave.

Mistreating an animal is also illegal. There are state laws against animal cruelty as well as local ordinances. The WHS sponsors a Guardian Animal Network program: a group of concerned community members who help strengthen these laws as well as encourage kindness to animals and responsible ownership.

Animal abuse can't be ignored. It's something that affects the whole community, says DeGrave, whether you are a dog lover or not.

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



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BREED PROFILE:

Mixed Breeds

The lovable mutt

Mixed breed dogs make great companions with a few added surprises

He's the most popular dog in American households. He comes in all shapes and sizes, colors, temperaments and overall demeanor - he's a mixed breed dog, more commonly known as the "mutt."

According to Margaret H. Bonham, author of "The Complete Guide to Mutts," the number of mixed breed dogs far outweighs any single American Kennel Club (AKC) purebred dog breed and outnumbers or comes close to the numbers of all AKC purebred dogs combined. Fifty-one percent of all dog-owning households in the United States have at least one mixed breed dog, which leaves roughly 20.4 million households with a mixed breed dog, says Bonham.

Unlike purebred dogs where most characteristics are easily predicted, when adopting a mixed breed puppy there are no guarantees how the dog will look or act as it matures. The reason for this, author and dog trainer Michele Welton says, is because mixed breeds are not necessarily a mix of purebreds. Pure crosses of breeds are not that common, she explains, so it is just as likely that a mixed breed dog is the offspring of two other mixed breed dogs. The closest purebred in a dog's heritage may be a single grandparent or great-grandparent, or he may be the product of many generations of mixed breeding.

Mixed breed dogs, Welton continues, have actually been in existence longer than purebred dogs which didn't begin appearing until the 1800s. The first domesticated dogs were what might be called "village dogs" that roamed the edges of early villages and reproduced randomly. Unless a puppy has purebred parents, trying to guess what breeds are "in him" may be a waste of time, because the truth may be that a mixed breed dog contains no breeds at all, she says.



Even if you think some recognizable breed traits exist in your dog, you could be mistaken. Welton adds that if you're looking at a dog with black and tan markings and believe he could have rottweiler, Doberman or German shepherd in his heritage, he may not. A dog doesn't have to "get" his black and tan markings, or prick ears, or curled tail from a purebred. A non-purebred is entitled to the same basic canine genes and canine characteristics as a purebred is, she says.

There are also some common misconceptions when comparing mixed breed dogs to purebreds. First, some people believe purchasing an AKC registered purebred dog ensures that you're purchasing a guarantee of health and temperament. According to the Humane Society of the United States, the only thing an AKC registration can certify is that the recording registry maintains information regarding



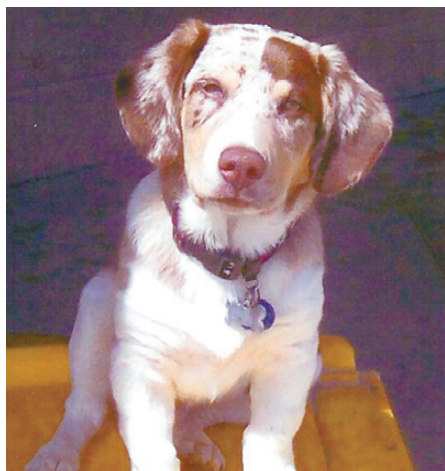
the reported lineage and identity of the dog. Mixed breeds, on the other hand, can offer several advantages that some prospective pet owners may not consider. For example, when adopting a mixed breed you get the benefit of seeing more characteristics in one animal than what may be evident in a purebred. In addition, you also get a pet that may be less prone to genetic defects common in certain purebred dogs.

"One thing to keep in mind with purebreds is that they're usually bred with specific jobs in mind such as herding or guardian breeds," says Natalie Zielinski, behavior program manager with the Wisconsin Humane Society. "With mixed breed dogs, depending on what sort of breeds they may have been crossed with, they may or may not have the characteristics of the purebred dogs. In a way, you're never quite sure what you're going to end up with, but that's not always a bad thing."



In general, Zielinski says she doesn't see much of a difference between training and caring for a mixed breed dog when compared to a purebred dog. Though she says in the case of the Wisconsin Humane Society, potential adopters are usually drawn to adopting purebred dogs first, mixed breed dogs are also regularly adopted. "I think the public is more aware of puppy mills and poor conditions in pet stores and they want to provide good homes for dogs, especially mixed breed dogs that are in the shelter," she says.

Another trend making strides in the world of mixed breed dogs is the so-called "designer breeds." The Labradoodle (Labrador mixed with a poodle), Yorkipoo



(Yorkshire terrier mixed with a poodle) and Cockapoo (Cocker Spaniel mixed with a poodle) are just a handful of examples of these new breeds. The most popular of the designer breeds is the Labradoodle, which combines the intelligence, aloof nature, delicate frame and the low-allergy and non-shedding traits of the poodle with the boisterous exuberance, lovability and loyalty of a Labrador.

"When it comes to designer breeds, I think in today's society we're prone to follow the lead of celebrities which has made some of the designer breeds more popular," says Zielinski. "But, on the other hand, I can see why people would be drawn to some of these breeds, like the Labradoodle, because if you have allergies, but want a dog like a lab with less shedding and other characteristics, then a Labradoodle might be a good choice for you."

The problem with designer breeds is they can often come with a hefty price tag. Even though they aren't considered purebreds or recognized by the AKC, Labradoodles can cost up to \$2,500 according to Dog Fancy magazine.

Whether you're thinking of adopting a designer breed, mixed breed or purebred dog, it's important to consider your options carefully and be sure any dog you decide to adopt will fit your lifestyle. Though you may not always be able to determine the characteristics of a mixed breed dog just by looking at him, his many other unique qualities may offer more priceless surprises than you ever imagined.

Jamie Klinger-Krebs is a freelance writer who lives in Jefferson County and writes the monthly column "Pet Talk" on www.gmtoday.com.

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The Natural Pet

Grows Out of Its Space and Into a New One

Who knew that in three short years, Murphy's legacy would grow from the little country store in Bay View carrying natural, healthy pet products into a center for pet services, information, referrals, and more pet products just two doors down on the corner of Oklahoma and Texas? If he were still here, you'd see Murphy strutting around that new store and welcoming customers with justified dog pride. Here's how it all happened.

In June of 2003, Kim Hecker, inspired by her love for a rescued Golden she called Murphy, opened The Natural Pet store on Delaware and Oklahoma. The dog was 7 years old when Hecker adopted him, and soon she discovered that he had multiple health problems including cancer and hip dysplasia. Through trial and error and extensive research, Hecker found alternative, holistic methods to treat Murphy's problems. It took three years to stabilize his health, and he lived to be 14-1/2, an impressive age for Golden Retrievers.

Before Murphy died, Hecker decided that she wanted to gather her three years of research and product knowledge into one "safe place" where other pet owners could one-stop shop trusting that all purchases would only enhance their

pets' health. The Natural Pet provided that and more. It became a social center for dogs and their owners.

Dogs loved meeting each other there, sniffing the store smells, and sampling the latest treats. Dog people, who seem to share connections surpassing any imaginable differences, enjoyed a meeting place where they'd typically stay longer than planned-meeting neighbors, new friends (human and canine), and learning new ways to care for their pets.

The past three years have been "another learning experience for me," Hecker says. And as she learned, she taught her customers. "When people came in and said, 'It works! My dog is happy!' I just wanted to cry with happiness. To make such a big difference in the life of an animal!"

Hecker worked the store part-time while holding down a full-time job "to pay the bills." As her business grew, she hired employees and was able to expand the hours. Shoppers kept aware of their limited shopping "windows," and as word passed from friend to friend, co-worker to co-worker, the little store overflowed with customers and products. When the bigger retail space two doors east of The Natural Pet opened up this spring, Hecker knew it was time to move—she needed more room.

"Pet ownership is going this way," she explains. "It's how people are starting to take care of themselves, and they're wanting to do the same for their animals." She's excited about all the new holistic products coming out.

Hecker still believes that food provides the basis for good pet health, and she offers only the healthiest foods on the market. She relies on the Whole Dog Journal's research and annual rating of brands. The monthly publication, available at her store, contains no advertising, "so they write the truth," she says. "They tell you how to find the good foods, what to look for and what you don't want." She also carries a variety of raw food and raw food treats, along with books and other resource material on the benefits of the Bones And Raw Food diet (BARF).

More space means a wider variety of the healthy foods. At her old store, certain brands had to be special ordered for customers; now Hecker has room to keep them in stock. Her freezer of raw foods has come out of the basement and into the store proper for easy customer access.

A dedicated room in the back of the store provides privacy for dog massage, nail clipping, private consultations, and animal communication. "There's so much to learn and so much to offer. I want this to be a learning/resource center," says Hecker. Having no end of ideas for that vision, she considers acupuncture and chiropractic services, holistic vet consultations, dog training sessions, classes on how to feed raw, how to use herbs, "and whatever else I come across," she says.

Hecker's ideas, knowledge, and passion seem to fuel an inevitable extension of store hours in the near future. "I love helping people, educating people, being available to people and their animals," she says.

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The unique partnership between Hecker and Murphy to restore the Golden's health through alternative, holistic methods gave them 7-1/2 more years together and the vision to launch a unique store back in 2003. In July of this year The Natural Pet grew out of its space and into its new location on the corner of Oklahoma and Texas; 2532 E. Oklahoma Avenue; 414-482-PETS (7387). Open Tuesday through Friday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm; Sat. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sun. noon - 5:00 pm.

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

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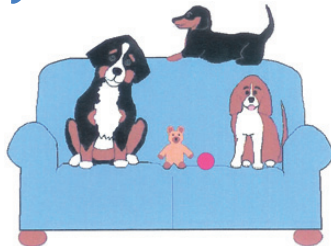
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Event Calendar

October 2006

3 Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Classes w/ For Pet's Sake
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

4 Wednesday

What: Small Dog Training Class (4 weeks)
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 6:00 pm (only \$50)
Info: 414-289-7785 or 414-475-8881

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins

Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

5 Thursday

What: Learn Canine Massage
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society, Brookfield
When: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Info: Carol carol@ebhs.org or 782-9271

6 Friday

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

What: RallyO Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: 1-888-581-9070

7 Saturday

What: Basic Obedience Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 9:00 am - 10:45 am
Info: 262-781-5200, www.animalmotel.net

8 Sunday

What: Animal Communication w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: 12:00 - 5:00 pm (by appt only)
Info: 414-482-7387 (20 min/\$40 or 30 min/\$60)

9 Monday

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

13 Friday

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

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: Obedience Run Thrus

Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 p.m. (Utility & Novice), 7:30 p.m. (Open)
Info: 1-888-581-9070

14 Saturday

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

What: Pet Massage with Geri

Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$15/session)

What: Bark River Dog Club UKC Obedience Trials

Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club
When: 6:30 p.m. (Oct 14 & 15)
Info: 920-206-9334, www.seespotsit.com

What: Nail Trimming (Dogs not People)

Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Info: 262-679-6776 (only \$10/trim)

15 Sunday

What: Fall/Packer Photo's w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (Reservations Suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

20 Friday

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

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

21 Saturday

What: Basset Buddies Rescue
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Golden Retriever Rescue of WI Dog Walk

Where: Lapham Peak State Park, Delafield, WI
When: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Info: www.grow.org, k9house1@juno.com

What: Animal Doctor Costume Party

Where: S73 W16790 Janesville Rd. Muskego
When: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, 414-422-1300

22 Sunday

What: Ask the Trainer w/ Linda Bobot
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: 1:00 pm -
Info: 414-482-7387 (Free training advice)

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

24 Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Classes w/ For Pet's Sake
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 7:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070

26 Thursday

What: Chemicals & Pets
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Info: 414-482-7387 (Bring coupon from page 16)

What: Rally Obedience Beginners Class Begins

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

27 Friday

What: Fun & Games Night
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 7:00 p.m.
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: Obedience/Rally Run Thrus

Where: Western Waukesha Co. Dog Training Club
When: 6:30 p.m.
Info: 920-206-9334, www.seespotsit.com

28 Saturday

What: Fall Harvest Dog Walk & Yappy Hour to Benefit CARAC & ROMP
Where: Central Bark DDC, Menomonee Valley
When: 4:00 - 6:00 pm (walk),
 7:00 - 10:00 pm (yappy hour)
Info: 414-933-4787 (\$20 donation per adult)

What: Halloween/Fall Photos w/ SliderPhoto

Where: Pawprints Across Your Heart, Greendale
When: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (make appt)
Info: 414-423-5800, www.sliderphoto.com

29 Sunday

What: Canine & Human Massage w/ Doug Arthur
Where: The Natural Pet, Bay View
When: Noon - 5:00 pm (make appt.)
Info: 414-482-7387 (20 min/\$20)

What: Halloween Costume Contest to Benefit HAWS

Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon - 2:00 pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

Every Tuesday

What: Puppy Kindergarten Class
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (7 week course)
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- continued on page 28

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"HOW DO YOU GET ONE OF THOSE DOGS?"

A guide to adopting through a rescue group.

Sometimes we're walking our Italian Greyhounds and a foster down a quiet street in Waukesha. Sometimes we're approached at a local Pet Fair. Sometimes, people who know I foster Italian Greyhounds just ask me. "How do you adopt through a breed rescue?" seems a mystery to so many. I don't blame people for being unfamiliar with the process. When my family first set out to adopt a dog, we had no idea how to go about finding a rescue group. It does take some time, effort and patience but it can also be fun, exciting and rewarding when you finally meet your new best friend.

The first thing to do is **RESEARCH** the breeds you might be interested in. Visit a library or bookstore for a book on Dog Breeds. My daughter loved the big picture books, reading about and checking out all the different types of dogs. They will separate them by class of dogs (such as: Toy, Herding, Sporting breeds, etc) or alphabetical. That will give you some basic information. Then go to the Internet and type in the dog breed or "Dog Rescue." Virtually every common, and some not so common breeds have a rescue group associated with it. Rescue groups should be quite honest about the positives and negatives of the breed. If they say there are no drawbacks, don't believe them. Every type of dog has its trade offs. In our case, Italian Greyhounds are extremely affectionate but difficult to housebreak. It's not fair to hide that and our websites state it upfront. Read all the information carefully, **CHECK OUT THE DOGS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION** and ask questions, then even if you didn't see a dog available you wanted...

FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, You can mail it or submit it online to the rescue group of choice. Be as honest and thorough as you can. The application will ask for lots of basic information about you, your family and home plus your history of pet ownership, name of your Vet, and personal references. Yes, these will be checked. But there is more than one type of perfect home so don't think one wrong

answer will eliminate you. After you've submitted the application, remember to **FOLLOW UP!** The early bird catches the dog. A committee housed within the rescue group will then review your application and notify you if you are approved.

The next step will be to schedule a **HOME VISIT**. No, it's not to see how clean your house is. You are adopting a dog remember, not Paris Hilton. A home visit allows you to meet the breed in person if you haven't already and also allows a representative to assist in preparing you and your home for "the new addition." Italian Greyhounds enjoy having a fenced in yard but they can be quite sneaky if the fence is not secure all the way around the yard. We also ask or answer questions regarding housetraining issues and safety at the home visit.

The rescue coordinator will then try to **MATCH** your interest and needs with a waiting dog. The great thing about rescue is each dog will have lived in a foster home and been evaluated by someone with experience on the breed. The less selective you are about sex, color, and age the easier it will be to find a match. We believe a dog's temperament and personality is the most important thing to match with an adopting family. Once a potential foster is found, you can ask more questions, see pictures and meet the dog if you are interested. In Italian Greyhound Rescue, the foster parent is usually involved since they know the dogs the best.

ADOPTIONS can take place at various places. I always enjoy having the adopters come to my home to meet or adopt the foster because it is where the dog is most comfortable. I can then explain what I have learned about the dog and offer any advice or demonstrations which might be helpful. Each rescue group will ask for an adoption fee and a signed consent form at the time of adoption. **NO ADOPTION IS FINAL** until we hear that all is going well at home and those 3 little words "We love him!"

There, I just answered that burning question regarding how you get one of those dogs? Many people respond to this elaborate process with astonishment. I agree, it does take some work to adopt through a rescue group. Depending on the breed or location of rescue group, it can take weeks to months to go through

it all but the benefit is we have very few dogs returned because of this detailed process and the reassurance the right dog is in the right home. I think it's the least we can do for them and each one deserves it.

Karyn Sehmer lives in Waukesha with her husband, 2 teenage daughters and her "boys" Joe and Eddie, both adopted through Italian Greyhound Rescue. For 5 years she has fostered Italian Greyhounds and helps teach puppy classes at For Pets Sake. She jokingly regrets the day she ever met her mentor, Carol Sumbry head of IG Rescue for getting her started into this whole dog thing.

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S Around Town



Courtney New Berlin



Maxie Susan, Sussex



Rugar Jennifer, Mukwonago



Dahlia Leeann, Waukesha



Jale Anne



Broc Jerry, Milwaukee

continued from page 25

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

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

Every Sunday

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

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

Who: "Your Family Pet" with Amy Ammen
Where: WRRD 540AM The Word
What: Radio Show 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Info: Hear expert interviews and pet-related news.

Breeds to be Featured in 2007

Based on your votes (submitted photos), we'll be featuring the following breeds during 2007:

Chihuahua
 American Pit Bull
 Bichon Frise
 Newfoundland
 Chinese Crested
 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
 German Shorthaired Pointer
 German Wirehaired Pointer
 English Springer Spaniel
 Maltese
 Yorkshire Terrier

We'll also devote special issues to Rescues and Rare Breeds.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for our 2007 breed contest.
 We received over 175 photos representing 20 different breeds.



continued from page 10

tower over Jale in size or temperament. And to be quite honest, we weren't quite sure how Jale would take to a new dog in the family. Unlike Jasper, she was shy with other dogs, little or large, and could be a bit standoffish, but always knew her limits and was well behaved. She wasn't overly enthusiastic about other canines and gives the impression that she could take them or leave them.

It was apparent that after an hour had gone by the only dog we were paying serious

attention to was the little brown, black, white and rust colored mix pup. Unlike a lot of the other puppies, she didn't have siblings and her features were by far and away unique from all the rest. She had two black circles around her eyes and a white strip down the center of her nose. All her colors blended and swirled when you got past her ears.

Daryl and I shared smiles as we passed her back and forth between us and talking quietly, "What are you thinking?" "Do you like her?" "Do you think Jale girl will like her?" "She is a cutie isn't she?"

It was a decision we did not take lightly and one we needed to be sure of. Would this little bundle of cuteness be the one we bring home for sure? And if she was, would Jale be as excited as we were?

Stay tuned for part two, Siena is in the House! in the November issue of Fetch Magazine.

When not at her job as a Project Manager, **Anne Skaradzinski** makes time to be with her dogs or with other dogs at training classes, volunteering with dogs or writing about dogs. She co-authored a self-published book with her husband, loves writing, photography and the outdoors.

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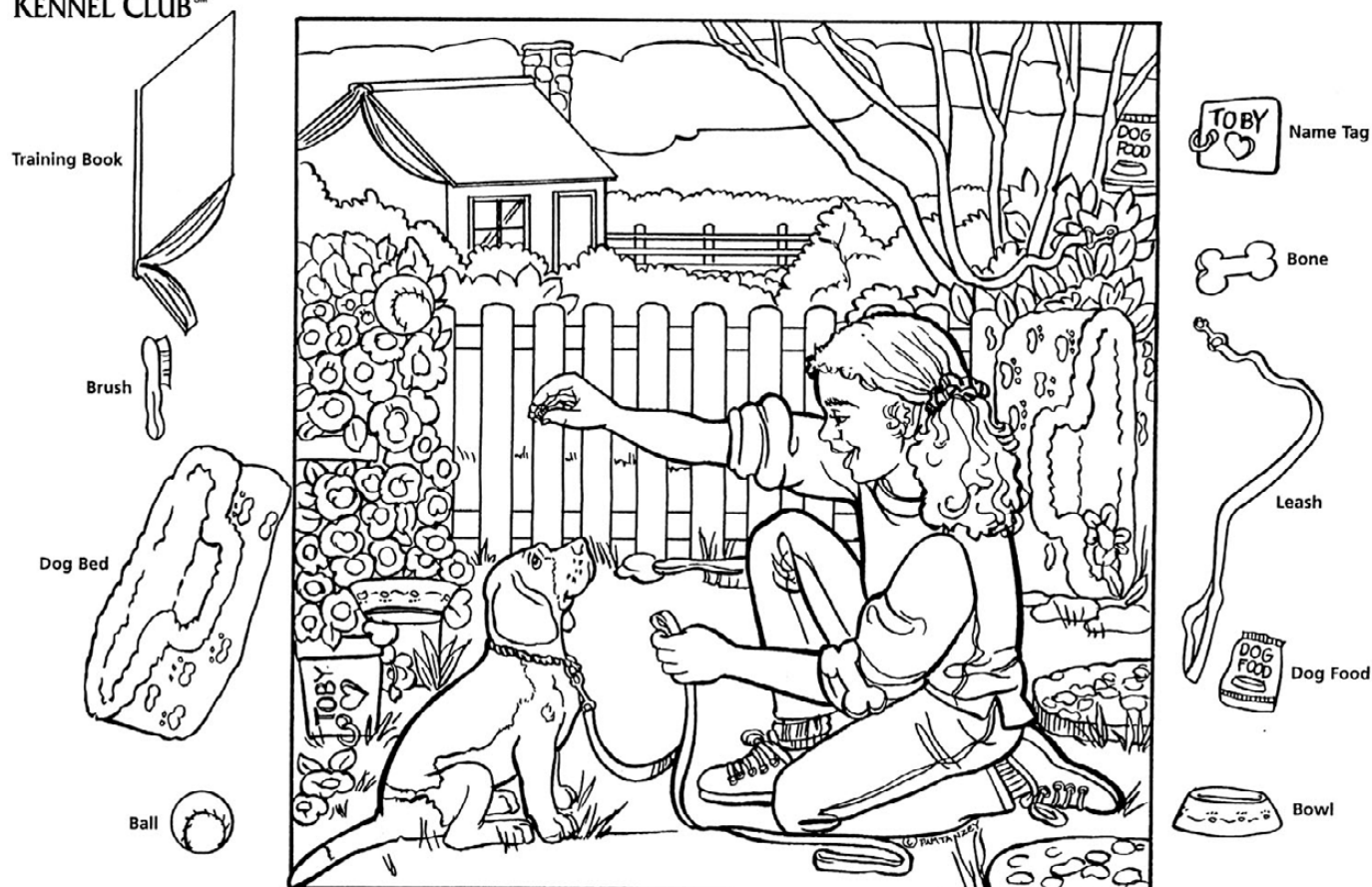
K9 Kid Zone - Have Fun with this Hidden Picture Game.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Hidden Picture

Elizabeth has a new puppy named Toby. She wants her puppy to grow up to be a well-behaved dog, so she is already teaching Toby to "sit," "stay," and "come." Elizabeth and her parents knew that taking care of Toby would be a big responsibility. Before they brought the puppy home, they brought some of the things he would need. Can you find the hidden pictures of items Elizabeth and her parents bought for Toby?



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