



Fetch magazine

October 2008 | Volume 5 Issue 10

Do Dogs Really Laugh?
Profiling the Rottweiler Breed
Therapeutic Touch of Canine Paws
Tips to Prepare for Winter Grooming
Sharing an Office with Canine Co-workers
Resource for Wisconsin Dogs & Their Owners



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Publisher's Letter

Last month we shared the news that Fetch Magazine is approaching its 50th issue and 5 year anniversary. In celebration, we're completing an EXTREME MAKEOVER beginning with the Winter 2008/09 issue. That issue will also be the first in our transition to a quarterly publication. The Winter 2008/09 issue will cover the months of December, January, and February, have eight additional pages and 5,000 more copies distributed. The move to a larger issue on a quarterly basis will help us become a more environmentally-friendly publisher. Over the course of the next year, we will use 2.5 million less pages, hopefully saving a small forest of trees in the process.

We're also celebrating our 50th issue by featuring your stories of rescue and adoption. So far response has been overwhelming. We've already surpassed the number of entries from last time and we still have one month to go. This is your opportunity to tell us about your canine companion. When did you bring him home? How has he changed your life? Any unique personality quirks? Where did you get him from? Best feature? Why rescue/adoption is the only way. Turn to page 31 for details on submitting your stories. Deadline is October 31st!

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Holistic Treatment for Canine Anxiety Attacks

The Alternative to Tranquilizers

"We've got to get help for this dog or she's going to kill herself," said Michelle Given's husband when the couple returned home one evening to find Denbigh, their 7-1/2 year old English Springer Spaniel barking, banged up, covered with slobber, and peering wild-eyed through the bent wires of her crate. Denbigh's first anxiety attack occurred when she turned 7, and the attacks had escalated ever since. After trying what seemed like everything Western medicine had to offer, Michelle called Dr. Christine Bessent, a holistic vet in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Her protocol included Chinese herbs, which for Denbigh became the miracle that saved her life.

For thousands of years an entire region of the world has thrived on Chinese herbs and documented their results. Few of us here in the United States are familiar with the herbs' healing potential, especially in the animal world. Dr. Bessent started using Chinese herbs three years into her twenty-year vet practice. "I wanted to give the best care to every patient that came my way," she says. "In order to do that I needed a lot of tools in my box." That desire led her to chiropractic, acupuncture, and Chinese herbology. "For myself, I've always gravitated toward natural health care with less

toxic effects, and that of course directed me with animals as well." As more of us turn to alternative or complementary methods to create and maintain good health for our dogs, we should take a look at Chinese herbs and how they work.

First of all, using the Chinese perspective let's examine what was causing poor Denbigh's anxiety attacks. Anxiety in dogs can manifest in different ways—thunder phobia or fear of loud noises, fear aggression, and in Denbigh's case, separation anxiety.

A dog with thunder phobia can sense changes in barometric pressure and usually knows when a storm is coming. He starts getting anxious, clingy, and a little agitated. Once the storm hits, he paces the house, may bark at cracks of thunder, hide under things, or cower in a corner and shake. After the storm he might have trouble settling down, and some dogs may be restless for hours, even days afterward.

Dogs with fear aggression experience anxiety when meeting other dogs or people, and they respond to their anxiety with aggressive behavior or biting.

We've all heard versions of the separation anxiety story, when a family leaves the dog home alone and returns to find their couch shredded, the carpet chewed up, or the dog's nails or teeth bloody from clawing and chewing at the door. Whatever the mess, it reflects the dog's panic and overwhelming anxiety relating to his owner's absence.

In Western medicine, we think of anxiety as a neurosis or a mental behavior issue, when in reality, anxiety is a physical issue. From the Chinese perspective, all three of the above examples reflect a disturbance in the dog's heart shen. Heart shen is the ability to feel relaxed in a new environment, the ability to settle in, and animals with a poor heart shen have difficulty doing that. If left unchecked, a poor heart shen could eventually develop into other conditions. Here's what happens:

Chinese medicine distills the entire world into five elements: fire, earth, metal, water, and wood. An animal's body is viewed the same way. Certain elements control others, and all are affected by each other in a cyclical way. For example, the heart is the fire element, and the kidney is the water element; so it makes sense that the kidney (water) controls the heart (fire). When there is a disturbance or imbalance or disharmony in the heart fire, the kidney, being the water element, should be able to control it. Tonifying the kidney increases its ability to control the heart, which then allows the animal's body to keep anxiety in check.

This is when Chinese herbs do their best work. Where Western medicine's anti-anxiety medications or tranquilizers work fast to relieve a dog's anxiety symptoms, a proper Chinese herbal formula goes straight to the dog's heart shen disturbance and resolves it by tonifying the kidney. Maybe a tranquilizer would enable the family to live with the anxiety and do effective behavior management to control the behavior, but Chinese Medicine has proven that a disharmony, sickness, or disease deep within the body left untreated will eventually lead to more serious problems.

"That's what I really love about the Chinese herbs," says Dr. Bessent. "By taking care of the root problem within the dog, you're heading off more problems and building health for the animal's future. It's not an overnight fix, but in the end that dog's overall life is vastly improved."

Most people would prefer to have a pill that would do the same thing an herb will do—resolve the root of the problem, but do it quickly. Because most of us are hooked on that quick fix, the average person frequently reports, "I gave the

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herb, and he wasn't different the next morning." But according to Chinese Medicine, he would be different. The herbs begin working from the inside out, and though gradually, there is always improvement. The dog's progress can usually be noticed in two weeks, and two weeks after that he's "much better than a month ago." And after six months, Dr. Bessent often hears, "Wow, I can't believe I lived with that other dog!"

Furthermore, dogs actually experience additional benefits from the slower process of herbal healing. Because most herbs have a combination of active ingredients that work synergistically, where one ingredient will help buffer the strong effect of another, the herbs cause little or no negative side effects. Also, if you miss a feeding of herbs, the dog does not experience a sudden setback like he would if you missed a pharmaceutical dosage. Moreover, if after a year the dog is doing so well you decide he doesn't need the herbs any longer and you stop, he would not experience a dramatic and sudden relapse; it would be a slow, gradual progression backwards.

It might be two or three months before you recognize some subtle signs that the anxiety is returning. At that time you can easily put him back on the herbal formula and again begin his gradual progression in the right direction.

When Dr. Bessent discovered how Chinese herbs helped heal the animals she treated, she developed the Herbsmith line of formulas specifically for dogs. Her eleven classic blends treat specific problems such as allergies, trauma, and arthritis. (See Melissa Kerwin's

- continued on page 26

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Training Bits

Food use in training: *a great tool if used wisely*

The use of food in dog training has been the subject of much controversy ever since formal dog training has begun. Depending on whose research you read, ten thousand or more years ago dogs began hanging with us because of the availability of a food source. As dog training developed a 'quid pro quo' relationship began to form. You, the dog, do something for me, the human, and you will get something for it. Dinner. Dogs from day one were not viewed as pets, but as animals that could help make our lives easier. And we paid them for it.

However, as training evolved, and dogs became domesticated, people began viewing the use of food in training as unnecessary. Sometimes training became harsh. Dogs learned, through negative techniques, that to 'take the pressure off' it was best to comply with what was being asked.

Then, about ten to twenty years ago positive training techniques began to creep into dog training. The pendulum began to swing the other way, and some prominent

trainers believed that dogs could be taught with **ONLY** positive methods. This is actually a quite popular theory today, and many trainers bill themselves as 'purely positive' trainers. The method of choice, for this training, is food based. It's easy to see why. Food is a powerful tool. And herein lies the problem. It's easy to get in trouble if it's used the wrong way.

So, what is the right way and wrong way to use food? There are three ways in which people use food in training. Many people do not recognize the difference and this is how the trouble begins.

Food as a lure. This is perfectly acceptable in the early stages of training. Let's say that a dog is afraid of going into a crate. Luring a dog into a crate is a great way for a dog to see that going into a space, in which he may not want to go has positive results.

Food as a reinforcer. Always remember that behaviors, which are positively rewarded, will be repeated. So, food used as a reinforcer is a way to communicate with the dog that the behavior, which just occurred, is a behavior you will want to see again. Food used in this way is not present. It may be in your pocket, on a shelf, perhaps even in another room. It may also be given randomly. So, using the example of the dog going into his crate, the dog now understands that going into the crate is not frightening. You will no longer need to lure him into

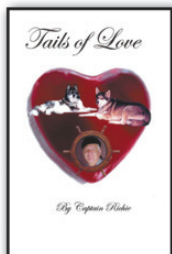
it. But, you could practice sending him to his crate and reinforce that behavior when he willingly goes in.

Food as a bribe. This is the one that gets people in trouble and it's the way that dogs begin training us. Again, using the example of the crate, the dog now understands that 'go to your crate' means stop what you are doing and go to your crate! However, one day he does not go to his crate. So, the trainer rattles a treat bag or throws a treat in the crate and the dog goes in. The next time the dog is told to 'go to his crate' he waits to see the treat. This is when people begin thinking that training with food has yielded negative results. They begin to think, 'my dog only works for me when I have a treat in my hand'. Therefore **FOOD SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS A BRIBE!**

So, how can we tell the difference? It's easy. Food as a lure is **ALWAYS** used as a way to introduce a **NEW** behavior. Or a learned behavior, but in a **NEW** environment. Again, take the example of the crate. The dog may have learned to accept **HIS** crate, which let's say is a wire crate, but not a hard plastic crate at your friends house who is boarding him for the weekend. In this situation, it would be acceptable to lure him into the crate.

Food as a positive reinforcer is used to communicate to the dog that what he just did you really loved and will want to see that behavior again. It can be used for any behavior. Coming when called,

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calm behavior in the presence of other dogs, learning to heel, sit, the possibilities are endless. You can shape behavior with food. For example you could teach a down at first by using food as a lure, then using it as a reinforcer, then by only reinforcing fast downs. Also, as the dog becomes trained you can reward intermittently.

How can you be sure you are never using food as a bribe? If you are certain that your dog knows a command, and has preformed that command in a variety of places and with different distractions, then NEVER get out food to get him to comply. This is where the discrepancy comes in between 'purely positive' trainers, and trainers that simply use food as a tool. If I have assessed that my dog knows a command thoroughly, in many different environments, and under distractions, and he is not complying, I will most definitely go and correct my dog. If I feel that my dog is stressed or confused, but still may understand what I want, I go and show my dog and help him perform the command. I may at that point still use food as the reinforcer.

So, as an example, if I am working eye contact with my obedience-titled Corgi, she would get a small pop on the leash for looking away, no matter what environment. However, a newly trained dog, obviously struggling to keep eye contact in the face of tremendous distraction would certainly need to be reinforced with food. In the case of my puppy Toy Fox terrier puppy in a busy environment, I may use food as a lure and hold the treat up to my face.

The ONLY event that I would ever condone using food as a bribe is if your dog is loose and running away. Obviously, you would need to do whatever it takes to get your dog back. After you get your dog back, you will need to go in the house, roll up some newspaper and begin hitting yourself over the head for letting your dog off his line before he was trained to be off-leash!

Johanna Ammentorp, owner and instructor of Hi5 Dog Training, has been training and showing dogs in obedience, herding and agility for 40 years. She has owned 11 different breeds of all shapes and sizes. She is currently instructing classes, puppy through adult, at the Doggy Office Day Care facility. Call 262-783-PAWS for a schedule of classes.

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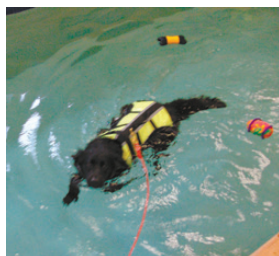
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Dog Park Etiquette

A Reader's Comments

A few years ago when the Runway Dog Park opened, our family became one of the first families to take advantage of the four and a half acre fenced-in dog park. Soon many of the regular families began to see some unpleasant behaviors from visiting dogs and humans. Some of these behaviors discouraged first time families from returning to the dog park. By using the etiquettes below, I'm hoping we can all have fun while visiting our local dog parks and make the park a welcoming place for all new users.

When Arriving

Most, if not all, dog parks have a double gate entry. The double gates work by walking through one gate into a small opening and closing the first gate behind you. After, and only after, closing the first gate do you open the second gate that leads into the dog park. The double gates are employed so that any dogs near the gates cannot escape the park as you enter. Not properly using the double gates can lead to tragedy. On one of our regular visits we witnessed a young woman arrive with her German shepherd in tow. While chatting on her cell phone she brazenly opened the first gate and plowed right on through the second gate not closing either gate behind her. Unfortunately, a medium sized dog was near the gate and ran out before anyone could get over to close the gate. The escaping dog ran right in front of an arriving car narrowly missing injury.

Use the Trash

Just because you are at a dog park does not mean you don't have to pick up after yourself and your dog. Whether your dog park provides doggie pickup bags or you have to bring them, you must pick up your dog's feces. Thousands of dogs and people may come in contact with your dog's feces which can spread bacteria onto another dog's toys and then onto the hands of a child or adult owner. The trash cans at dog parks are not just for bags of feces. Many humans bring food and drinks into the dog park but forget, or refuse, to throw away the containers from their food and drinks. Please feel free to place all trash into the provided trash cans at your local dog park.

Do Dogs Really Laugh?

Does your dog make a happy panting sound when he's playing with his toys? Have you ever wondered if he might be laughing? Some researchers believe he just might be.

Patricia Simonet, a cognitive ethologist and applied animal behaviorist in Spokane, Washington believes that dogs can and do laugh. While studying how dogs communicate, Simonet found that playing dogs vocalize in several ways, and one prolific vocalization seems to stand out.

"As a cognitive ethologist I am always observing animals," says Simonet. "I was watching my adolescent puppy lying on his side interacting with a chair in my living room. This chair was capable of rocking and spinning. As he lie on his side, he would with his front and back paws in synchrony, spin the chair round and round. As he did this, he would toss his head back and let out a forced breathy exhalation through his mouth. I thought to myself that he could not be panting from exhaustion so I decided the sound merited further investigation."

As a result of her find, Simonet began making recordings of dogs panting and dogs at play making forced breathy exhalations through the mouth. "It sounds very much like the punctuated sound of a human laugh without the activation of the vocal chords. For example, Hah Hah Hah without the "a"

Simonet then examined the panting and "dog-laugh" visually using spectrograph

analysis and compared the two. "The two sounds were quite distinct and the laughs spiked up into higher frequencies," she explains. "Now, I had a sound that I knew was distinct, but did it have meaning?"

When she first investigated and tested the discrete meaning of the sound, Simonet played back various recorded vocalizations dogs produce during play, including growls, barks, and whines to other dogs. Only the laugh elicited play behavior when without a secondary play signal, she says. "Interestingly, the recorded growl, which had been captured during a play session, always garnered the same result from the subjects, alert, and avoidance. Thus, it appears other vocalizations used during play need a secondary signal to be accepted as playful."

Simonet presented the findings of her studies at the Animal Behavior Society Conference in 2001. "The most pointed question was posed by a veterinarian who suggested I apply my research to sheltered animals to see if the sound would improve their lives."

As a result, in 2005 Simonet tested her "dog-laugh" theory by playing recordings for dogs at the Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service (SCRAPS) in Spokane, Washington. Here the dogs not only became quieter, but lunging, biting and tail-chasing behaviors decreased when the recordings were played, she says. If other recordings were played, such as those of dogs panting, the recordings had no effect.

"The results suggest that broadcasting the dog laugh to sheltered (stressed) dogs calmed them as was demonstrated by reduced aberrant behaviors and increased pro-social behaviors," she says.

Though some scientists aren't quite sure what to make of Simonet's findings, those at SCRAPS remain convinced. So, the next time you hear your dog making that breathy exhalation during play, you may want to stop and ask yourself if he's laughing because he's happy or is he laughing at you?

A sample of Simonet's recorded "dog-laugh" can be heard by visiting www.petalk.org/LaughingDog.html.

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



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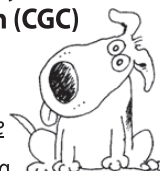
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At an age when many individuals are looking forward to retirement, Linda Gurath is going against the grain: Gurath, 55, elected to leave her job and realize her lifelong goal of heading her own company. Her business – Central Bark Doggy Day Care – will open for business in early September at 3513 S. 32nd St. in Sheboygan.

Though the bulk of her professional career had been spent working as an accountant and controller, Gurath wanted her new venture to blend her business expertise and her love for animals. Gurath began searching for opportunities in the pet industry and, within a short amount of time, two friends suggested she look into Central Bark. When the business broker she was working with mentioned he represented Central Bark as well, Gurath knew it was fate and after learning more about the company and the synergy it had with local rescue groups – Gurath is a volunteer with the Sheboygan County Humane Society – she was positive Central Bark was the concept she'd been looking for.

"I could have coasted to retirement but I wanted to challenge myself by starting a new business," said Gurath. "Pet owners can't be with their animal every hour of

every day but Central Bark allows them to drop their pet off with the assurance it will be well taken care of."

Central Bark is a franchised provider of personalized doggy day care in a clean, healthy, fun and nurturing environment for dog parents whose busy lifestyles often make it difficult to give their dogs the attention, structure, exercise and mental stimulation they need. Every day at Central Bark is filled with stimulation, interaction and play as well as nap and quiet time that result in a happier, well-rounded and better-behaved dog. Central Bark also provides a variety of other services to keep dogs happy and healthy including sleepovers, grooming and training services, a specialty retail boutique and party hosting, as well as canine cab and veterinary services at select locations. Staff members are trained in canine first aid, CPR and animal behavior and continually work with dogs on common behavioral problems such as door dashing, jumping, excessive barking and chewing using "pawsitive" behavior modification by rewarding actions they want to see and ignoring or redirecting actions they want to discourage.

Gurath's Central Bark will service pet owners throughout Sheboygan, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Howards Grove; she may open additional locations in the future but, for the time being, plans to focus on making her first location the best that it can be. For more information about Gurath's Central Bark Doggy Day Care, call 920-457-9663 or email Sheboygan@centralbarkusa.com.

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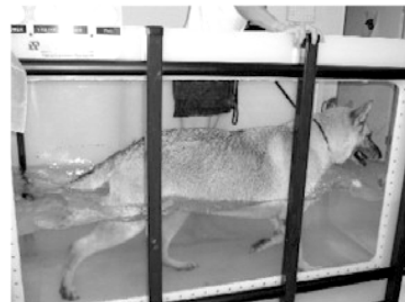
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Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic Now Open in Madison



Megan Caldwell, DVM and Lisa Olson, DVM, have partnered together to open a brand new small animal clinic located at 529 S. Park Street in Madison. Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic is a full-service facility dedicated to offering options in both conventional and complementary veterinary medicine. Specialty services include acupuncture, spinal manipulative therapy, natural supplement recommendations, as well as behavioral and nutritional consultation.

To celebrate the opening of this new clinic, an Open House has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25th from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Tour the new facility, talk to the veterinarians and their staff, and learn about available services such as nutrition consultation, acupuncture, spinal manipulation, wellness visits, and behavior consultation.

Visit Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic online at www.wholepetclinic.com, or 608-270-1070.

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Dealing with a Finicky Fido

Every family has one, the kid that just won't eat. There's a nightly ritual of the worried parents pleading for just one more bite while Junior pushes his food around the plate like the Indy 500. But what do you do when Junior is actually Fido and it's kibble instead of peas he's avoiding?

Figuring out the cause and the cure will take a little detective work on your end. First, make sure it's not a medical condition. If your normally voracious eater is turning his nose up at his bowl and experiencing other symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy, contact your veterinarian right away.

Next check the expiration date on Fido's food supply; while the warehouse-sized bag may cost less per ounce, he may not make it through it in time. Double check the food itself and make sure it looks and smells fresh, sometimes things go rancid before the due date.

If he's healthy and the food looks good, it's time to take a step back and look at your own routines to see if they're contributing to the problem. The most common bad human habit is feeding table scraps. Giving nibbles before dinnertime can cause a loss of appetite. If you're dolling out the goodies after he's rejected his



meal, then he has you pretty well trained. Who wouldn't turn down kibble if they knew hot dogs, burgers and other yummy treats would be hand delivered soon after? The same goes for doggy treats, so restrict their consumption, especially before meals, and don't use them as encouragement when he doesn't eat.

If you don't do the food handouts, are you offering up any other rewards for a neglected meal? Do you snuggle, beg and pled to get your dog to finish up? Stop, he may be enjoying the show. Are you feeding your dog at odd times in different rooms?

As with all things dog-related, consistency matters. Try feeding him at the same time in the same place. Dogs are also social eaters, so eating during the family mealtime where he can see the rest of his pack can also help.

Although dogs usually enjoy a social dining experience, he may not always like his dinner companions. Another dog or noisy kids might be killing his ambience. Take a good look at his dining space and see if there's room for improvement.

Have you changed his food recently? Some dogs are fine with different flavors and brands on a near nightly basis, while other pups crave culinary consistency. If you need to switch do so slowly, mixing the new food with the old. If your canine still cringes at his bowl you may need to fully switch back to the original or find something else.

To encourage eating you can also try to make his food more appealing. Dogs' sense of smell is much more powerful than taste; they have about a sixth of the number of taste buds we have but their sense of smell is 100 times better. Dry kibble, unfortunately, has very little in the way of appealing aroma. Adding canned food, warm water or 'dog gravy' sold in pet food stores can help increase the interest. Just remember that it might be hard to remove these incentives at a later date and account for any extra calories you might be adding. If you're switching to a prescription diet, check with



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Start with a quality diet as well. No matter how appealing you make crude oil and old tires smell he'll figure it out when he starts munching.

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



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Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):

Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.
Saturday, Oct. 4th, 9:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 24th, 7:45 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Dog Manners Class (over 5 months of age):

Basics like down, stay, drop it, come and much more. Learn all the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test.
Saturday, Oct. 4th, 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 24th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 16th, 7:45 p.m.

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):

Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
Call for upcoming dates and times

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The Corporate Canine:

Sharing an Office with Fido

Is the American workplace going to the dogs? According to a recently published survey by The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, almost one in five companies in the U.S. allow pets on site.

According to this national poll, not only are pets appearing in the workplace, a majority of those polled believe there are benefits to having pets at work such as relieving stress, improving relationships with coworkers, and creating a happier work environment.

So what is the benefit to the boss in having Fido at the office? Some companies have reported that animal-friendly policies actually benefit the corporate bottom line. "Our customers love to come in and see the dogs," says Ellen Paulus of Paulus Printing in Port Washington. "It's been a wonderful addition to our business and we have some customers who stop in just to see the dogs. We've even had a couple of customers that came to us because they heard we had dogs (wanting to support a fellow dog-lover)." Ellen and her husband Bob have been bringing their Greyhounds to the office with them for over ten years.

Can just anyone successfully integrate Fido into the workspace? Chat rooms and interactive boards specific to "pets in the workplace" are prevalent on the Internet,



Jack at M&M Motors
Photos courtesy of Stef Bartz Photography, Copyright 2008.

revealing both the pros and the cons.

For those whose share an office, for example, a dog creates instant issues when that co-worker may have allergies, find dog hair annoying (especially on dark colored clothing), or get migraines at the first hint of barking.

Then there are the folks who sniffle and fret over the "indignity" of having to work in a professional environment with four-legged creatures.

Dog-lovers, however, imagine a completely different office scenario. They see lunch breaks spent throwing a Frisbee for Fido.



Frannie & Sid at Magnolia

(Bathroom-breaks might take twice as long but would be twice as productive!)

Arriving early and staying late doesn't create a problem when Fido is right there with you, i.e., no at-home-and-couldn't-wait-for-you accidents.

"We often work long hours (8 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m.) so we often had to run home during lunch to let our dog, Dewey, out," explains Ellen, "that quickly became a drain on time and expenses, so we decided to start bringing him to work. Though my father-in-law was skeptical about having a dog at our place of business, it worked out extremely well. Though some may have thought it would be a detriment to the business to have our dog(s) present, I think it has not only helped us by being more convenient for their care, it has also helped in regard to public relations."

In order to make the arrangement work, experienced dog trainer Jim Perry of

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Waukesha recommends that basic obedience is a must. The two-legged office counterpart must be in command, especially for the more active, high-strung breeds. "When you take your dog to work you have control to set the rules. The stay command of course is the most important for most office workers," says Jim.

As well, consider only socialized, quiet, friendly and well house-trained dogs appropriate for the office. Use a leash or baby gates to keep Fido inside your workplace. Prepare the office for a mischievous or bored chewer by eliminating wires, poisonous plants, pens, rubber bands, and other hazards.

Finally, consider whether Fido might actually favor lounging on the couch, watching the scenery from the sliding glass door, and not being commanded to "lay" and "stay" on command. Depending on Fido's breed, he may prefer to chew rawhides and snooze all day, waiting for a glorious after-work homecoming, than to be confined to a dog bed under a desk in the workplace environment.

- continued on page 19

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Pets Helping People: Animal-Assisted Therapy

I did not think we had made a connection. The young man sat bent over in his wheelchair without moving or saying a word while the rest of the audience was hollering their appreciation or clapping. However, when my dog, Louie, sat next to the young man, he slowly reached out his pale, blue-veined hand and gently stroked Louie's furry back. Connecting with others through a shared love of dogs is the reward of animal-assisted therapy.

Louie and I were visiting this facility with a group of handler/pet teams from Pet's Helping People (PHP). Over 200 of PHP's handler/pet teams serve in more than 125 facilities throughout the greater Milwaukee area and interact monthly with over 400 people of all ages, many with special needs. Schools, hospitals, senior living sites and women's shelters are only a sampling of the places where PHP makes a difference in people's lives.

The dogs that participate in Pets Helping People range in size from 7 pound Lula, a Pomeranian mix, to the gentle giant, Frankie, a Newfoundland. The handler/pet

teams have graduated through PHP's training and accreditation program. This program consists of an initial assessment, training, testing and then placement.

The initial assessment evaluates both the owner's handling of the dog and the dog's basic temperament or demeanor. According to David Tucker, PHP's president, "some dogs are better at flyball or agility or just being lumps." The half hour assessment involves two to four dogs. Each dog is observed as it interacts with various stressors. Testing includes walking around the dog with a cane or walker. Balls are bounced and pie plates are dropped noisily to the floor to identify the dog's fight or flight reaction. Basic obedience is tested with walking on a loose lead, sit/stay, down/stay and come when called. A very big part of the obedience test is "leave it" where dogs are told to ignore something enticing on the floor. Next, an 8 year old child and a senior resident of the Congregational Home where the classes are held meet the dog. All testing occurs in the presence of the other dogs so dog-to-dog interaction can be observed.

Those that do not pass the assessment are given homework so that the owner and dog can practice and return in the future. The top things that owners are asked to practice are walking on a loose lead, staying and "leave it." Approximately 80% of the dogs pass and subsequently are enrolled in PHP classes, according to David.

There are four classes held monthly on Tuesdays at the Congregational Home. The first class is attended only by the handlers not the dogs. Information on animal-assisted therapy, facilities served by PHP and the upcoming classes are discussed. The second and third class includes the dogs and focus on reinforcing basic training. This includes visiting residents of the Congregational Home and approaching clients in bed.

On the final Tuesday, PHP administers their accreditation test which can include the Canine Good Citizen test if not already possessed by the dog. Not all dogs pass but for those that do, David says "the handler is required to submit a current vet certificate and a certificate of insurance indicating liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1 million that

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does not exclude the owner or dog from doing volunteer work.” The total fee for assessment and classes is only \$50.

Once accredited, PHP works with the handler/pet team to place them in a facility that best matches their desire to serve. Pets Helping People also provides a therapy and performance troupe called Waggin’ Tails which in 2008 alone will conduct a total of 26 hour long informational, entertaining and therapeutic presentations. This is the group that Louie and I were involved in on the day we met the young man. Of the group’s 11 Handler/Pet Teams, five to eight teams typically visit a facility at one time. The first half hour includes a discussion on animal-assisted therapy and displays of obedience and tricks. The second half hour involves mingling with the audience and answering questions.

PHP does not charge facilities for visitation by the handler/pet teams. David states “PHP is grateful to those who have provided charitable and philanthropic support which ensures the ability to continue its mission of service.” Additionally, PHP’s success can be attributed to a variety of people including but not limited to: Cyndy and Len Scherrer who started the volunteer program 10 years ago which was PHP’s genesis; two part-time paid employees; 200 plus volunteer teams; trainers Ginny Marchel (the first 7 years) and Heidi La Cosse (the last 3 years); a Board of Directors; an advisory group and the residents of the Congregational Home.

The connection my dog, Louie, and I made with that young man remains with me. David enthuses, “PHP’s programs work, as do all animal-assisted therapy programs, because of the dedication and commitment of the volunteer owners and the strong relationships they have developed with their animals. We call it the human/animal bond. And, it is very, very powerful.”

Pets Helping People
www.petshelpingpeople.org
 (Note: make sure you’re using “.org” to get to the correct Web site.)
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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.

continued from page 17

Asked about the drawbacks of sharing the workday with not just Dewey but now several Greyhounds, Ellen said, “I think there are more pros to having your dog at work than cons, especially for us. The dogs love it here. The customers love seeing the dogs. The dogs get to socialize with other people and dogs (several of our customers bring their dogs along with to place their orders since they know we are dog-friendly). I think that may be one of the downfalls of having the dogs at work – they can be a distraction. But the joy they bring far outweighs the burden. On a bad day, nothing brings my spirits up more than to go outside and

watch them run around and play. After about fifteen minutes spending time with them, I’m ready to go back and in and tackle more work.”

To pounce on this growing trend of dogs in the workplace, take Jim Perry’s advice and start with Take Your Dog To Work Day, next scheduled for June 26, 2009. First celebrated in 1999, Take Your Dog To Work Day celebrates canine companionship and encourages rescue adoption. More info is available at www.takeyourdog.com.

Deb Neulreich has successfully shared her office space with various canine buddies for nearly twenty years.



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To mark its three-year anniversary, and recognize the number of animals it has placed in permanent, loving homes, Companion Animal Resource and Adoption Center (CARAC), located in the upper level at Southridge Mall, 5300 S 76th St., Greendale is holding a "Barkfest" and Virtual Dog Walk 7 a.m.-noon, Sunday, October 12.

Held at the mall's Center Court, the "Barkfest" features pancakes, sausage links, orange juice and coffee. Cost is \$5 a person in advance, \$6 the day of the event and seniors pay only \$5. The "Barkfest" will also include a raffle and auction to benefit CARAC.

"The Virtual Dog Walk portion of the event is a fun, creative spin on the traditional dog walk," said Amy Rowell, executive director of CARAC. "Because our event is indoors, there would have been many more restrictions on allowing dogs at the event."

"Since dogs aren't allowed in the mall, we decided going 'virtual' made the most sense," explained Robin Barry, a CARAC volunteer and "Barkfest" event chairwoman. "So all walkers will receive an 'invisible dog' leash, like the ones you're used to seeing at local fairs, to walk around the mall."

"This way, people can socialize with each other, participate in all aspects of the



event, and still get home with plenty of time to walk their live dog," said Rowell. "And clean up will be much easier! The only 'oops stations' will be for the humans who drizzle too much syrup on their pancakes," she joked.

"Since this is the first year of the event, we really want to raise awareness of CARAC's mission and raise some money to help us continue our work serving Milwaukee's stray animal population," said Barry. Raising funds, the never-ending need to find permanent, caring homes for stray companion animals and educating the community about CARAC are its biggest challenges, she said.

CARAC's mission is to place homeless animals from the greater Milwaukee area into loving, permanent homes as well as to provide community outreach programs in order to secure a better future for all companion animals.

"Basically, we are committed to saving and serving unclaimed strays from animal control agencies as well as coordinating programs that will assist in raising the standard of care and consideration for companion animals throughout the greater Milwaukee area through humane education and spay/neuter initiatives," explained Rowell.

"It is important to help people understand the importance of spay/neutering their companion animals, the positive impact of exercise, play and training on the health and behavior of their companion animals, and the value of having a companion animal as part of your family," added Barry. "We hope, through the visibility of this and other events, to raise awareness of the number of stray animals in Milwaukee that need new homes and the benefits of adopting a companion animal through a rescue organization like CARAC."

The Virtual Dog Walk will take place in the mall – a popular gathering place for walkers – with one lap around the upper or lower

level equal to a half-mile. Walkers can choose their distance to walk and are asked to raise money for CARAC through pledges and sponsors. Prizes will be awarded to walkers who raise the most pledges.

Registration for the Virtual Dog Walk starts at 7 a.m. at CARAC and can also be done online at www.companionanimal.org/barkfest08.htm. Walkers can also set up an online site to collect pledges electronically. The walk itself is from 8 - 10:30 a.m. Registration is \$25/person or \$40/family. Individual registration includes one "Barkfest" ticket and a virtual dog. Family registration includes two "Barkfest" tickets and a virtual dog.

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Bigotry and Racism

The misconceptions that people have regarding dogs and people never cease to amaze me. Yes there are breeds that are more dominant and yes there are people that are not like you. That does not automatically make the dog or the person trouble. We all bring our personal baggage and misconceptions with us to the dog park. However, we need to remember that just like people, not all dogs are created equal. Not every Pit bull that walks through the gate will be aggressive and not every Jack russell that walks through the gate will be a hyper, jumping, ball-obsessed, bundle of energy. On the same line, not all tattooed bald guys are skin heads. Please use common courtesy and etiquette and give each dog and person that walks through the gates of the dog park a fair chance. Do not assume that the particular breed will be trouble and do not assume that the person will act the way they look.

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BREED PROFILE:

To really know a Rott is to love a Rott

If we're looking for the dog of our dreams based solely on appearance, we could visit Schwartz Bookshops and buy a life-size, stuffed version of our favorite breed. If we want to invite a real live dog into our life, family, and circle of friends, we need to understand the breed's history, temperament, exercise needs, training requirements, personality, and behavior traits. Failure to thoroughly research our chosen breed can result in serious consequences for our dog and us. The strong and handsome, charismatic Rottweiler stands as a true example of this failure.

It's important to know a breed's history, intriguing or not, because it explains the purpose for which the dog was bred. This knowledge provides valuable insight into the animal's personality and behavior traits. For example, the Rottweiler dates back to ancient times when the Romans used them as war dogs to drive herds of cattle and food for the troops. Controlling animals much larger than himself required the Rott to show extreme intelligence, courage, confidence, and self-assurance — all key characteristics of the breed today.

Around 74 A.D. the Romans moved through an area in southern Germany, leaving some of their dogs behind. These dogs settled in the town of Rottweil and were bred for the cattle trade, to guard the herds, protect their owners, and drive the cattle to market. After selling the cattle, herdsmen tied their money in bags around their dogs' necks, a guaranteed safe deposit of their proceeds while they celebrated in the local taverns. Today's Rottweiler remains a loyal and protective companion.

The breed came to America in 1929, and was registered in the American Kennel Club in 1931. Rottweilers grew in popularity over the years, and in 1994 the AKC registered over 100,000 of them. That's the year Madison-based Joan Sweeney got involved in Rottweiler rescue. "Rotts will take a long time to recover from that popularity," she says. "In the late 90's when Rotts became the No. 1 most popular breed in the country, every freak of nature thought it was their right to breed this



dog. They were the most popular breed with the AKC for two years."

Any breed that experiences this kind of wild popularity surge suffers to some extent. The Rottweiler is a classic example. Irresponsible breeders saw them as quick moneymakers. They indiscriminately bred mother/son, father/daughter, brother/sister, and treated their breeders like puppy machines. Sweeney believes temperament is inherent. "It's a 50/50 nature vs. nurture for dogs in general, and when you start breeding mother/son, brother/sister in this type of dog, you're just headed for disaster."

An inbred dog with a bad temperament can be impossible to train, especially when it's as big and powerful as the Rott. Folks who blindly followed the Rottweiler trend and brought puppies into the family without bothering to find reputable breeders soon discovered they had a disaster on their hands. Furthermore, these damaged dogs were mistakenly thought to exhibit standard Rottweiler behavior, and the breed's unwarranted reputation began to grow. At the height of this problem, the Wisconsin Human Society was bringing in an average 2500 Rotts a year, and only about 250 were salvageable.

According to Sweeney, fearfulness, extreme shyness, or wired, super hyper behaviors

The Rottweiler

are "qualities you should never see in a Rott," and they stand as examples of improper breeding. She will not "re-home" a rescue that shows any of these qualities. "When you get a Rott, you first make sure you're getting a dog bred for temperament. Then you socialize that dog very young and with every aspect of your community—other dogs, cats, children, mail carrier, UPS people. If the dog can't be a part of your life and your family, it's actually not going to work."

In addition to human interaction, the Rott needs daily exercise. They are extremely athletic, and living at the end of a chain cannot be their lifestyle. The Rott or any dog initially bred to guard, herd, or protect will need exercise outside their yard, or they will become obsessed with their property. If a walk isn't possible, then take the dog for a ride in the car. Sweeney tells of a 70-year-old woman who loves Rotts but no longer feels strong enough to walk her dog, even though he is beautifully trained. Every day she takes him for a morning drive in her car "to check out the rest of the world, to know that his world is just fine, and he doesn't have to worry about it." This works.

The many endearing traits of a true Rottweiler represent what most of us want in a canine companion—intelligent, gentle, loving, loyal, protective, fun-loving, strong, good looking. Proper breeding is essential, but to complete the picture, the Rott deserves a proper owner. When considering one of these proud dogs, we need to ask ourselves some questions. Do we have the space in our yard, home, and





car for a dog of this size? Can we afford the higher food costs and vet bills? Are we able to provide the daily exercise a large dog needs? Do we have the time and dedication to train and socialize the dog? Can we commit approximately 14 years to the life of this dog? Do we have the balanced personality traits to gain the dog's respect—consistent, gentle but firm, confident, yet open to professional training classes?

Lynn Gheller understands Rottweilers and has enjoyed their company for over twenty years. Her first two were females from the same line, and she called them her "dream girls." Eight years ago, she adopted Griffin, an 18-month-old male from the Waukesha Humane Society. Soon after bringing him home, he started showing aggressive behaviors. She immediately took him to her vet who recommended Amy Ammen's Amiable Dog Training.

"The trainer had three Rottweilers herself, and she really knew her breed," recalls Gheller. "Griffin was dog aggressive, and he just wanted his own way. I worked with him every single day." At six months she saw little progress, and then he bit her. She told her trainer, "I'm not doing this any more." The trainer suggested one more thing—have Amy Ammen personally look at the dog.

Ammen came to the next class and introduced one of her techniques for extreme cases. "Dogs can be trained any number of ways. There are dogs we have to manage a lot more carefully than others, but I've never seen one that can't be improved vastly from where he is when the owner has a concern."



Photo courtesy of In-Focus Photography, Copyright 2008.

"I walked out of class that night with a different dog," says Gheller. That was eight years ago, and Griffin is now approaching his tenth birthday. "He turned out to be a really, really great dog," she says, and when he passes, she plans to get another Rott. Gheller knows Rottweilers very well, and yes, she loves them.

Wisconsin Rottweiler Rescue

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Living With A Rottweiler edited by Kate Pinches

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



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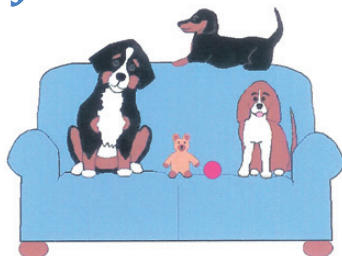
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Jean Scherwenka loves dogs, writing, and the opportunity to combine the two in her articles for Fetch Magazine.

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414-801-3763, living_floor_mops@yahoo.com
www.nbstr.org

Standard Schnauzer

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

Vizsla

Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club (CWVC)
Grusnick@wi.rr.com, 414-759-4161, www.cwvc.org

Westie

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.
920-882-0382, westies@new.rr.com
www.wisconsinwestierescue.com

Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier Rescue of Wisconsin
414-747-0879, shyyorkiemom@yahoo.com

Event Calendar

October 2008

4 Saturday

What: 15th Annual Doc Stanley Memorial Dog Walk
Where: Rice Lake, WI at the Cedar Side Trail
When: 9:00am – Noon
Info: www.hsbcshelter.com/walk.html

What: Reiki II w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am – 4:00pm (reservations required)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Truth & Fiction in Today's Pet Nutrition
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 10:00am – Noon (\$30)
Info: 262-767-9392 (reservations required)

What: Blessing of the Animals
Where: St Theresa's Parish, Eagle
When: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Info: Photos with St. Francis, from 12:30-1:00.

5 Sunday

What: 7th Annual Brady Street Pet Parade
Where: Brady Street, Milwaukee
When: 11:00am – 3:00pm
Info: www.BradySt.com

What: Agility Demonstration
Where: Rock County Humane Society
When: 10:00am – 1:00pm

8 Wednesday

What: Free Pet First Aid Class
Where: Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center, Grafton
When: 6:30 – 8:00pm
Info: www.wivrc.com

What: Intro to Essential Oils for Pets and their People
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 7:00 – 8:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, \$10

10 Friday

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

What: Movie Night with your Dog
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Oak Creek
When: 7:00 - 10:00pm
Info: 414-571-1500, oakcreek@centralbarkusa.com

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

What: Agility Run Thrus
Where: Best Paw Forward Dog Training
When: 6:30pm
Info: info@bestpawforward.net, 262-369-3935

11 Saturday

What: Boarding Seminar
Where: Animal Motel in Butler
When: 1:00 – 2:00pm
Info: www.animalmotel.net, 262-781-5200

What: Pet First Aid Class
Where: Humane Animal Welfare Society, Waukesha
When: 1:00 – 4:00pm
Info: 262-879-0165

What: Truth & Fiction in Today's Pet Nutrition
Where: Creature Comforts Veterinary, Burlington
When: 9:30 – 11:30am (\$30)
Info: 262-767-9392 (reservations required)

What: Massage
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: 2:00 – 4:00pm
Info: 262-679-6776, www.petsupplies-n-more.com

What: Milwaukee Pet Store Protest
Where: Puppy World in Greenfield
When: 10:00am – 2:00pm

What: Oktoberfest/Beertasting
Where: Washington County Humane Society
When: 6:00 – 9:00pm
Info: www.washingtoncountyhumane.org

12 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: Pancake Barkfest & Virtual Dog Walk
Where: Southridge Mall in Greendale
When: 7:00am – Noon
Info: www.companionanimal.org/barkfest08.htm

What: Chip or Treat
Where: Snipz n Tailz Pet Grooming, Milwaukee
When: 11:00am – 2:00pm
Info: info@brewcityrescue.org

What: 15 year Reunion for Heavenly Hearts Rescue For: Adopters, Volunteers, and Supporters
Where: Minooka Park, Waukesha. Picnic Area 3
When: Open House 1:00 – 4:00pm
Info: www.heavenlyheartsrescue.org

15 Wednesday

What: Animal Communication with Rebecca
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 2:00 – 6:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

17 Friday

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

What: UKC Agility Run Thrus
Where: For Pet's Sake, Mukwonago
When: 6:30 pm
Info: 1-888-581-9070 (\$6/5 min)

What: 1/2 Pint Socials (under 25lbs)
Where: Best Paw Forward Dog Training, Hartland
When: 6:30 - 7:30pm (\$8)
Info: info@bestpawforward.net, 262-369-3935

18 Saturday

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

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

What: Tails On Trails Dog Walk
Where: Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield
When: 10:00am – 3:00pm
Info: www.grrrow.org

What: Thru a Dog's Eyes...Featuring Cesar Millan
Where: Coronado Performing Arts Center, Rockford, IL
When: 3:00 – 5:00pm
Info: www.discoverycentermuseum.org, 815.963.6769

19 Sunday

What: Basic Animal Communication Class w/ Rebecca Moravec
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am – 4:00pm (reservations req. \$125)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Halloween Costume Contest
Where: Pawprints Across Your Heart, Greendale
When: 1:30 – 3:00pm
Info: 414-423-5800, www.GiftsForPaws.com

24 Friday

What: 10 Year Birthday Bash
Where: Pet Supplies 'N' More, Muskego
When: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
Info: www.petsupplies-n-more.com, 262-679-6776

25 Saturday

What: Open House – Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic
Where: 529 South Park Street, Madison
When: 11:00am – 3:00pm
Info: 608-270-1070, www.wholepetclinic.com

What: Halloween Party Gone to the Dogs
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Oak Creek
When: Noon - 2:00pm
Info: 414-571-1500, oakcreek@centralbarkusa.com

What: 2nd Annual Pit Bull Awareness Day
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society, Brookfield
When: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Info: www.ebhs.org

What: Gardening for Your Pets
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 1:00 – 2:00pm
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

26 Sunday

What: Halloween Costume Contest for HAWS
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: Noon – 2:00pm
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Fall/Packer Photos w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Petlicious Dog Bakery, Pewaukee
When: 10:00am – 4:00pm (reservations suggested)
Info: 262-548-0923, www.petlicious.com

What: Basic Animal Massage
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 2:30 – 3:30pm (\$40)
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

29 Wednesday

What: Safe Cleaning for Pets & Removing Black Toxic Mold with Essential Oils
Where: Animal Doctor, Muskego
When: 7:00 – 8:00pm (\$10)
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

31 Friday

What: HAWS Halloween Howl II
Where: Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
When: 6:30 – 11:00pm
Info: www.hawspets.org www.hawspets.org

Every Sunday

What: Journey through Companion Loss
Where: Elmbrook Humane Society
When: 1:00 – 3:00pm
Info: www.ebhs.org, 262-782-9261

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

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

Every Monday

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

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

We're Doing It Again

Deadline: Oct. 31st

We had such a great response to our request for rescue stories a couple years ago so we thought we'd do it again. Here's what we need from you for our upcoming rescue issue:

Stories about your rescued/adopted pooch – Tell us about your canine companion. When did you bring him home? How has he changed your life? Any unique personality quirks? Where did you get him from? Best feature? Why rescue/adoption is the only way.

Did you submit a story last time? Feel free to send in an update or a new story if you've added to your family.

Word Count: approx. 100-125 words

Photo: Absolutely Yes!

How to Submit Story

Visit www.fetchmag.com or mail to:

Fetch Magazine
1215 Tomahawk Court
Waukesha WI 53186

Submit your stories today!



Every Saturday

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

What: Reiki Sessions w/ Jeanette
Where: Animal Doctor Annex, Muskego
When: 8:00am – 11:30am
Info: 414-422-1300, www.animaldoctormuskego.com

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.

Cash in for Critters Raffle

Humane Society of Jefferson County

Drawing October 25th

Tickets: \$1 each or six for \$5.

Grand prize: \$1,000

First prize: \$500

10 winners will receive \$100

To purchase tickets, call 920-674-2048.

You do not need to be present to win.

VISIT www.fetchmag.com TODAY!!

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Winter Grooming Starts with a Groomer

As the days cool, you may notice a difference in your dog's coat. It's not unusual for the loose under coat to shed a bit as the warm winter coat arrives, but before you rush out to buy a FURminator® deshedding tool consider if you will be doing more damage than good.

All dog coats are different, both in looks and requirements for grooming. Some pups need hair cuts, like their owners, while most just need regular brushing to keep their fur glossy, clean and unsnarled. Making sure the hair is loose and free of debris also keeps the skin underneath clean. Minor daily or weekly grooming can mean less hassle as the seasons change.

"It's much easier to manage a clean (maintained) coat, not just one bathed and groomed twice a year," said Kathy Marsala, manager at Pampered Paws, Wauwatosa. While brushing at home is important, Marsala warns potential home-groomers that there's more equipment and knowledge that goes into grooming than they might expect.

There are all sorts of grooming tools on the market. Many are available to anyone, from undercoat rakes (like the FURminator), which pull out the loose hair, to de-matting rakes that break up the tangles and knots, not to mention the high speed blowers that can blow the loose undercoat out. But the true advantage groomers have is knowing the different coats and skin types and which tools to use on them. "The FURminator is excellent for a loose under coat, but you can easily overbrush with it. A professional knows when to stop," explained Marsala.

She tells the story of a Huskie owner who brought her dog in. The dog's fur was badly damaged. According to Marsala, a healthy coat is supposed to lay flat, appearing even all over the body. There should be no shiny versus dull areas. Additionally, the undercoat should not be visible. If the outer coat is broken away with damage, the undercoat (not just the hairs falling off during shedding) will be visible.

Marsala could tell her Huskie client did not have a healthy coat. She soon found out that the owner was using an undercoat rake daily and it was breaking the pup's

fur. "It took quite a while for the coat to recover," Marsala acknowledged.

Ask a Groomer

This doesn't mean that no grooming should be done at home, but Marsala encourages owners to talk to a groomer about what kinds and how much they should do. "If you want to buy some home grooming tools, groomers can answer how often to do it at home, how often to get it professionally done, the type of equipment to use (on their dog's coat specifically) and show you the proper techniques," said Marsala. Overusing a matting rake in a certain area or over brushing in one spot are examples of how easy it is to cause damage, she warns. And not combing out the coat before a bath can pack mats tighter, making them harder to get out and possibly trapping dirt next to the dog's sensitive skin.

Most dogs would benefit from being professionally groomed every three months, said Marsala, with at-home brushing and cleaning in-between appointments. Groomers see lots of dogs sporadically before the holidays and in the Spring, but regular grooming can help avoid the intense shedding owners dislike at these times. "With regular maintenance for double coated breeds, you're not going to see big times of blowing (the coat)," said Marsala.

Grooming in the Spring

And in the Spring, when the weather warms and you're thinking about what to do with your dog's very hot looking fur coat, Marsala says don't cut it. "This tricks the undercoat to grow more," she said. And because dogs don't sweat through their skin (just their pads and tongue) it doesn't help them. In actuality, says Marsala, it ruins the coat and keeps them from being the beautiful dog you had before. The only shaving Marsala does sometimes on large breeds is the belly, groin and around the legs. "It's so when they lay on cold surfaces, it cools the blood in those areas faster," said Marsala.

There are a lot of things to consider as you run your hand through your dog's hair and scratch behind his ears. But right now, with the holidays soon approaching doesn't your canine pal deserve to look his very best? Give that coat a good shine with professional advice and some at home know how.

Emily Reformat 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.

Area Family Giving Pit Bulls a Voice

Six years ago, the Serocki family grew by one furry member – a red, red nose American pit bull terrier. Since then 'Capone' has captured their hearts and souls. He also made the family much more aware when Pit bull stories would make the headlines. It was quick and easy to notice that these headlines were usually negative.

In recent years, the American pit bull terrier and other bully breeds have been making headlines more often and are rarely positioned in a positive light. Communities are banning the breeds, professional football players are fighting the breeds, and countless people are abandoning these loyal, kind creatures.

Jeremy and Michelle Serocki, along with their daughters Alexis and Isabella, had heard and seen enough. They began searching for a group to help support Pit bull owners and to advocate for all bully breeds. What they found was a lack of organized groups – no advocating, and no voice for the Pit Bulls.

Brew City Bully Club, or BC², is the result of the search for a group. The non-profit organization's mission is to rehabilitate the reputation of bully breeds and ensure their happy future. The club's plan is to accomplish this by advocating for the breeds and providing community awareness and education. Brew City Bully Club is also a safe place for Pit bull owners to seek support, training, and education without judgment. Eventually we hope to have a rescue for abused or abandoned bullies.

BC² will be having their first meeting on October 1st and their Kick Off Event on October 25th.

Learn more about Brew City Bully Club at www.brewcitybullies.org or call Michelle Serocki at 414-614-5531 or Jeremy Serocki at 414-614-2009.



"Spook"tacular Costume Contest

to Benefit H.A.W.S.

Sunday October 26th

Noon - 2:00pm

Noon Registration - \$5.00 donation

Prizes will be awarded for:
Best Owner/Pet Theme &
Best Pet Costume

Donate an item to HAWS and receive a free
Biscuit from the Petlicious Barker's Dozen Tray.



Petlicious Dog Biscuit Bakery
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262-548-0923 or www.petlicious.com





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HAWS, Waukesha
October 11, November 15

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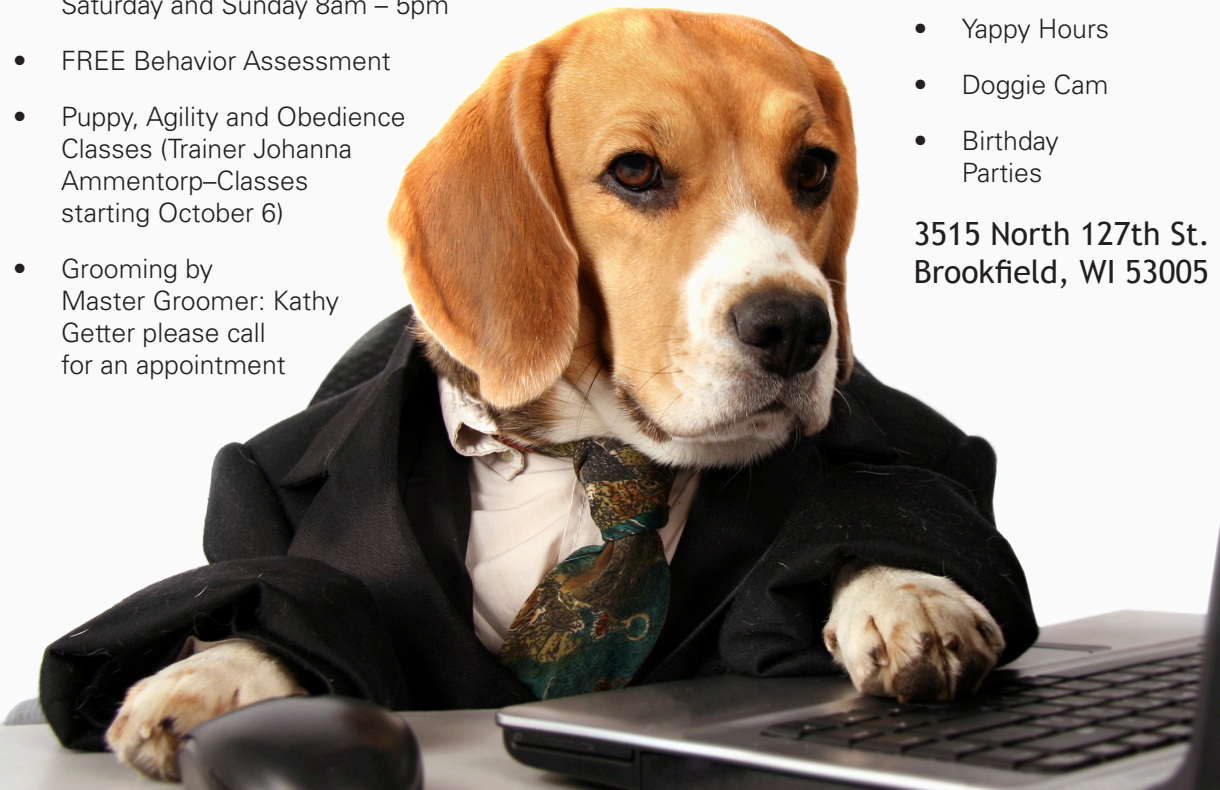
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