



Fetch magazine

September 2007 | Volume 4 Issue 9

Canine Name Calling
Going Green for Your Pooch
Inside Assistance Dog Institute
Caring for our Elder Companions
German Shorthaired & Wirehaired Pointers





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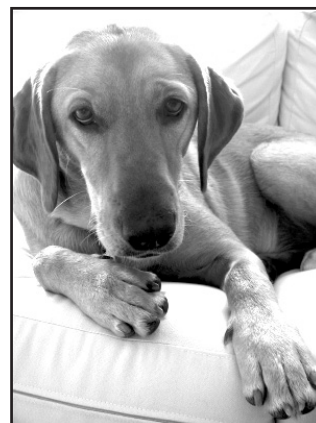
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Publisher's Letter

In the past four years, we've featured dozens of purebred breeds, mixed breeds, and just recently, rare breeds. But what if someone told you they share their home with a Poinsetter, a Collapso, or even a Cumberland Mountain Squirrel Hound. Would you give them a puzzled look or nod in amazement and continue on your way? Join Deb Voss Quail as she examines the origin of these breed names and others on page 11. We guarantee you'll end up spending the rest of your day looking at your pooch and wondering how you'll respond next time someone asks, "What kind of dog is that?"

It may be impossible to find anyone who doesn't smile or laugh at the sight of a puppy. But sometimes, we see a puppy in the arms of a pet store customer or see eight young pups sharing the same small crate and sadness quickly replaces joy. Why? We know that puppies in these situations typically enter this world as a number, well, more as a dollar sign to a breeder who cares more about producing large quantities of a 'product' rather than a pet that brings happiness to a family. Since the inception of this publication, we have never endorsed the purchase of a puppy from a pet store or from a breeder who irresponsibly breeds for no other reason than money. A puppy is a wonderful addition to any family and there are good, reputable breeders available for any breed, but if you're looking for a great companion that is already house-broken, evaluated for demeanor, and backed with the best warranty in the business; the dedication of volunteers and animal welfare individuals, Breed Rescue Groups and Humane Societies are your best choices. Join your fellow dog lovers on Monday September 10th for a Public Forum on Puppy Mill Legislation. For more information, flip over to page 12.

Joseph & Jennifer Kojis

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Best Friends Veterinary Rehab
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Dog Camp

Dog Days of Wisconsin
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Dunkin Dawgs
608-741-9420

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September 15th
Washington County Pet Expo **New**
October 21st

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262-446-2273
Silver Spring Animal Wellness Center
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Cover photo of Addie, a four-month-old German Shorthaired Pointer, courtesy of Cassandra Rubin.

Ad Correction

In the August issue of Fetch Magazine, the following statement was omitted from Washington County Pet Expo's ad:

"Please leave pets at home. Many vendors will have pets available for interaction."

For more information, visit <http://wcpetexpo.com>.

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* Due to limited availability within the September issue, **Breed Rescue Groups** will not be featured this month. If you need information on a rescue group, feel free to email info@fetchmag.com.

Ask the VET

Water - It's Essential

Many loving, good-hearted pet owners spend a lot of time and energy making sure their pet has a healthy diet, considering brands, comparing labels, debating moist-versus-dry, and consulting their veterinarian. In all the hubbub, they sometimes forget that an ever-present bowl of clean water may be the most important part of their pet's diet.

Why is it important?

In pets, as in people, water makes up the majority of the body about 80 percent. By allowing substances to dissolve and be carried through the body, it provides a basis for nearly all of the processes and chemical reactions that keep the body running, including digestion and circulation. It helps the body to filter out waste, and it regulates body temperature through evaporation. Dehydration, a lack of water in the body, can cause serious problems, including kidney and heart damage.

What should I do?

As vital as water is, it's relatively easy to provide. Just make sure your pet has a clean bowl of fresh water at all times. A general rule of thumb is that most animals should have about 28 milliliters (or one fortieth of a liter) of water per pound of body weight per day. A forty-pound dog needs about a liter of water every day. You don't really need to spend time

crunching the numbers, though. Most healthy animals that have access to clean water will drink enough to keep them hydrated.

If you're worried that your pet isn't drinking enough, or you see signs of dehydration like depression, sunken eyes or dry gums, take your little furry guy to the veterinarian. If your pet's dehydrated, your veterinarian can give him intravenous fluids and find out what caused the problem.

Common pitfalls

Though water seems like a simple enough subject, a few common problems can leave pets high and dry:

- The water bowl or water bottle needs cleaning every day. Bacteria that you can't see can grow in a bottle or bowl, giving the water a funny taste and discouraging your pet from drinking. Even worse, some kinds of bacteria can make animals sick. Develop the habit of giving the bowl a quick scrub with dish soap before you fill it in the morning. Pocket pets' hanging water bottles can be particularly hard to get clean; you may want to buy a long, narrow scrub brush that can fit through the bottle's neck and clean the inside.

- Dogs that are left alone for long periods can easily knock over their water bowls. Try buying a bowl with a wide, weighted bottom. You may also want to leave more than one bowl around the house: one in the bathroom, for example, and another in the kitchen.

- Water evaporates faster than you may realize, particularly on warm days. Check water bowls a few times a day, especially in the summer. If your pet's

outside on a very hot day, check the water every hour.

- You may think you're helping your pet out by setting out a big bucket filled with water, but once the bucket's half empty, he may not be able to get to the water anymore. Small dogs could even fall in while drinking. Before you use a water bucket, make sure your pet's neck is long enough to allow him to drink from the bottom of it.

- Dogs that are chained up can easily wind the chain around a tree, a post, or even their own legs. With a tangled chain, they can't get to their water bowl. If you have to leave your pet chained outdoors, check him often.

- Lots of dogs see the toilet as a big water fountain. Keep the toilet lid closed, because the bacteria in toilet water can make your pet sick. Even the best of us can forget to close the lid every once in a while, though, so don't use drop-in cleaners that release chemicals into the toilet bowl. These chemicals may be toxic.

- Just like you, pets need more water when they're exercising. If you take your dog out for a long walk or run, bring along some water for him. Most pet stores sell light, collapsible travel water bowls that are easy to carry.

As long as you keep an eye on your pet and make sure his water is fresh and plentiful, you shouldn't have a problem. If you have any concerns about providing water for your pet, consult your veterinarian.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is an international association of more than 32,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals.

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Training Bits

In this installment of Training Bits, Jean Scherwenka digs deeper into the world of training dogs for assistance. Although you may not have a need in your family for a service dog, you'll find out that we can train our companions not only to turn on lights or to open doors, but to also read posted signs and to comfort individuals in crisis situations.

A Dog's Brain is a Terrible Thing to Waste

If you're someone who believes that dogs have a limited ability to learn, read on and get ready to blow your mind. Bonnie Bergin, Ed.D trains dogs to do things we wouldn't dream possible, and get this-she isn't a dog trainer. "I came to the dog world not with a background in animal behavior, but as an experienced elementary, secondary, and college-level teacher," says

Bergin. Which no doubt really helps her teach dogs to read. Yes, read! But first, some background.

In 1975 Bergin founded Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), the first non-profit to train and place service dogs. After seventeen successful years, she realized that the ever-growing need for service far outweighed CCI's ability to provide them. So she decided to focus on educating other people to start dog assistance programs in their own locales.

In 1991 Bergin started Assistance Dog Institute (ADI), the world's only academic college awarding both associate and master's degrees in dog studies. The school's mission-"Helping Dogs Help People."

Students attend from around the world to prepare for dog-related careers-training and placement of service dogs; starting a similar school in the country or state where they live; or incorporating dogs into their existing careers, such as therapy or counseling. Some come just to study the fascinating human-canine relationship.

I recently had the distinct privilege and pure pleasure of a private tour through the Assistance Dog Institute. Located in Santa Rosa, CA, the 7500 square foot facility includes a lecture hall, lab, training room, library, fully equipped veterinary clinic, staff offices, whelping rooms, puppy petting lounges, and dormitories. If you visit Northern California, I highly recommend a tour of this campus, especially fans of Golden Retrievers and Labs, ADI's dogs of choice to breed and train for service.

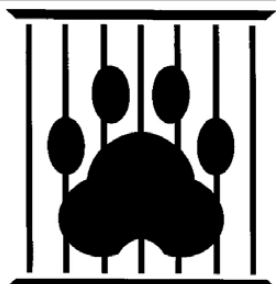
The Institute offers two accredited degrees, Associate of Science (AS) and Master of Science (MS). Each includes two programs-Human-Canine Life Sciences and Assistant Dog Education.

The AS programs focus on careers in dog-related services and products, training assistance dogs, and placing them with people who have disabilities. The MS programs delve more deeply into the dog's ability to serve people in differing capacities incorporating legal, historical, and developmental aspects of human-canine relationships.

As pet owners, we're not usually training our dogs for service, but we can gain worlds of wisdom from ADI's philosophy and methods. "We are just beginning to discover what dogs are capable of!" says Bergin. So, we're back to reading, and you're probably wondering, "Why would you want a dog to read in the first place?"

Bergin explains how a visually impaired person can say "exit," and his literate guide dog will scan the walls for an exit sign and lead him to the door. In airports or shopping malls, the literate dog can lead its owner to the bathroom. Bergin trained her own dogs to read posted signs-water, treat, or pet me-so she'll understand what they're wanting. Mostly she just loves teaching them to read for the thrill of it. "Dogs who can read are dogs of the future," she claims.

Bergin is always looking for ways to maximize canine abilities to help people, and her latest brainstorm involves Napa Valley's wine industry. The Vine Mealybug was slowly destroying Sonoma and Napa County vineyards while grape growers seemed powerless to stop them. Expanding on scent training ADI dogs



Help END Puppy Mill ABUSE

Join us for a

Public Round Table Discussion on Puppy Mills

State Legislators have been invited to hear your comments and answer your questions about Puppy Mills in Wisconsin.

Monday, Sept 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM

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Puppy ABC's Class (under 5 months):
Socializing your puppy and discussing common challenges.
Saturday, September 1st – 12:00 p.m.
Monday, September 10th – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, September 21st – 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.
Wed. Sept. 5th – 6:30 p.m. Sat. Sept. 15th – 1:30 p.m.
Mon. Sept. 10th – 7:45 p.m. Wed. Sept. 26th – 7:45 p.m.

Beyond Manners Class (over 6 months of age):
Build from basics & add distractions to challenge your dog.
Saturday, September 22nd – 9:00 a.m.

Clever Canine Tricks Class (over 6 months of age):
Teach your dog to be creative and learn how to get the behaviors you want from your dog (not just tricks!).
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Dog (per session): \$60 (WHS Adopted) \$70 (non-WHS Adopted)
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Hounds Around Town Announces Grand Opening

Silver Spring Drive will Go to the Dogs on September 14th & 15th

Dogs will have their day on Silver Spring Drive on September 14th and 15th as Hounds Around Town, Whitefish Bay's new pet boutique, celebrates its Grand Opening. Dogs are invited to bring their owners along to the Grand Opening festivities and participate in a variety of dog-gone fun activities. During the Grand Opening, dogs can win door prizes and participate in a variety of contests. Their owners can talk with pet experts and check out a number of Grand Opening specials. Of course, there will be tasty treats for all and dogs will have the chance to meet and greet the other smart canines who will be checking out the Milwaukee-area's most pet-friendly store at 330 East Silver Spring Drive.

Hounds Around Town is a family owned retail pet boutique offering a large selection of supplies and gifts for dogs, cats, and their owners. Included in this selection are designer collars and leashes, harnesses, beds and toys for dogs and cats of all sizes. In addition, unique gifts for people who love their pets are available. Dogs who visit Hounds Around Town never overlook the bakery case, which is filled with a wide assortment of freshly made treats that even the pickiest dogs love.

Hounds Around Town is dedicated to carrying only the most nutritious natural and organic dog and cat foods including many premium brands of dry, canned and raw foods. These brands have been carefully selected based upon the quality and source of their ingredients. Owners who buy pet food at Hounds Around Town can be assured that they are feeding their pets only the best, most nutritious food available.

Hounds Around Town is quickly becoming the pet destination of choice in Whitefish Bay. Please visit www.houndsaroundtown.net for more information regarding the schedule of Grand Opening events on September 14th and 15th and mark your calendar to join the celebration.


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Guide Dogs Day

On September 29th, the Badger Home for
 the Blind and Visual Handicap, along
 with Animal Motel, are hosting a get-
 together for The Guide Dogs and
 Handlers from the Milwaukee area.
 Anyone that is interested or curious
 about Guide Dogs is invited to attend. Dr.
 Dean Beyerinck from Silver Spring
 Animal Wellness Center will be speaking
 on acupuncture treatment for dogs.

Direct any questions to Pat Bowmont at
 Badger Home, 414-258-9200 or Don
 Gutknecht at Animal Motel, 262-781-
 5200. The time of this event is 1:00pm -
 3:30pm and will be held at Animal Motel,
 13175 West Silver Spring Road, Butler.

Who are You Calling a Mutt?

Just for laughs, what do you get when you cross a Pointer and Setter? That would be a Poinsetter, a traditional Christmas pet. How about a Collie and a Lhasa Apso? Obviously, that would be a Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport.

Joking aside, many of us with mixed breed pets don't like to refer to our dogs as "mutts". For Sue Ann McCotter of Central Bark Doggy Day Care, coming up with unique breed names for her dogs started with Greta, the "Montana Flycatcher".

Greta was adopted from the Montana Humane Society in 1991 while Sue Ann was living there. The best guess is that Greta was a German Shepherd and Yellow Lab mix. Sue Ann returned to Wisconsin and attended a Pheasants Forever Festival, including hunting dog games which entailed gun fire. Sue Ann wanted to see what Greta's reaction was to gun fire since there was little history on her - she was about 3 years old at adoption time. Recalls Sue Ann, "Well, these guys with their pure bred labs were walking around and looking down their noses at Greta. One finally asked what kind of dog she was, in a rather condescending tone. Thinking about it, she was from Montana and she liked to catch flies. So, I replied with total seriousness that she was a Montana Flycatcher. This guy said nothing and went on his way. But there were others who asked what she was and would reply that they had heard of that! Heaven forbid that a guy not admit that he didn't know something! After nine years I can count on one hand the number of people who knew from the get-go that I was yanking their chain. The rest apparently think she was a real breed."

Next came a likely golden retriever and basset-type hound mix named Toby. He was from Pennsylvania, so Sue Ann chose Pennsylvania Dutch Retriever, knowing it sounded legitimate.

Then along comes Abby, a Golden Retriever/Greyhound mix. "Her features are that she has a big deep chest, a very narrow waist, long legs and she's blond," says Sue Ann, "so I settled on Barbie Chien. Chien is French for dog. So instead of a Barbie Doll, she's a Barbie Dog. Chien just makes it sound authentic.

Now for Emma. My guess is that she is a Beagle/English Pointer mix. She came from Tennessee and as time has gone on she has managed to successfully hunt a squirrel, a mouse, a rat, a rabbit and a bird. Not wanting to use a state name again I looked for features in the State of Tennessee. I found the Cumberland Valley. Well, if there's a valley there must be a mountain, so Emma became a Cumberland Mountain Squirrel Hound. To me it's as believable as a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever." The best part of all of this, admits Sue Ann, is that "very few people have questioned me since I say it with total authority."

After all, in legitimate AKC breed names there are such peculiar monikers as Black Russian Terrier, Sussex Spaniel and Otterhound. Then there are the Rare Breed names such as Bluetick Coonhound, Catahoula Leopard Dog, and Karelian Bear Dog.

Mixed breed canines are a wonderful surprise; large and small, every color of the rainbow and sometimes a marvelous mystery of parentage. Mixed breeds also have their own club; find the mixed Breed Dog Clubs of America online at <http://members.tripod.com/mbdca/>.

So who needs fancy pants names anyway? Go ahead, make one up!

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

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Milwaukee Public Forum will Discuss Proposed Puppy Mill Legislation

An upcoming round table discussion will give Milwaukee citizens and state law makers an opportunity to exchange ideas regarding the regulation of Wisconsin's puppy mills.

The Milwaukee Regional Round Table on Puppy Mills will be held on Monday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Nathan Hale High School Auditorium, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave. in West Allis.

Milwaukee area humane organizations will join the non-profit Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc. to host the forum. Eilene Ribbens Rohde, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project will facilitate the evening's discussions.

Similar forums, some drawing more than 300 people, have been held throughout the state this summer.

"We need to license, regulate and inspect people who sell pets to families, to individuals," said Ribbens Rohde. "This is a business and Wisconsin regulates business."

Several state law makers have announced plans to draft legislation regulating puppy mills in Wisconsin. Recent state-wide media coverage, including a multi-part exposé broadcast by Milwaukee's NBC affiliate WTMJ-4 in April, has helped bring the puppy mill cause to the attention of the legislature.

A puppy mill is a sub-standard breeding facility where adult dogs are kept primarily to mass-produce puppies for sale. Puppy mill dogs are often bred despite having health or behavior problems.

Those interested in learning more about puppy mills in Wisconsin and the work of the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project should log onto their web site at www.NoWisconsinPuppyMills.org.

About Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc.

The Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc. exists to educate the public about puppy mills, to prevent cruelty to animals, to foster understanding of responsible pet acquisition and ownership, and to promote adoption of homeless companion animals. The non-profit group was founded in 1999.

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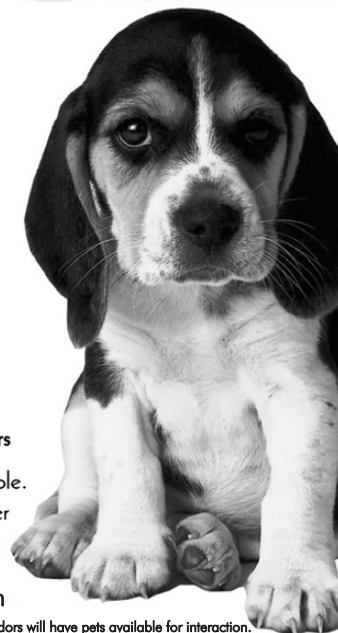
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Freestyle Dance:

The Artful Dog Sport

Have you ever thought about teaching your dog to dance? Though you may laugh at the idea, freestyle dog dance is a serious sport that combines obedience, tricks, music and costumes to produce dance routines. Those who partake in it say not only is it competitive, but it's fun too.

"Freestyle dance combines different variations of tricks from figure eights to heel positions and things of that nature," says Patti Muraczewski, owner of For Pet's Sake in Mukwonago, which has been offering freestyle dance classes for the past 6 years. "Freestyle dance really builds on obedience and creates a responsive foundation between the dog and its handler."

Muraczewski began offering classes after she put a routine together for the State Fair and soon other instructors at For Pet's Sake became interested and involved. "It was just a routine that I loosely put together, but it was fun and then it just kind've blossomed from there."

Freestyle dance began in the late 1980's and is extremely popular on the East and West Coasts, says Jean Jahnke, president of Dancers with Woofs, a non-profit group formed by For Pet's Sake students in August of 2005. The group, which meets monthly, does regular demonstrations at nursing homes, camps and schools and also makes regular public appearances at the State Fair. "Our goal is to promote the artful sport of freestyle dance and we really focus on charity events," explains Jahnke.



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Bartz Photography 2007.

Freestyle dance isn't just all kicks, spins and pretty outfits, it's a good workout for the dog and its handler and an even better bonding experience.

"Just about all dogs can do freestyle dance," says Muraczewski who is certified through the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. "All breeds can participate in this sport. I've seen Saint Bernards do it. I've seen little dogs like corgis do it as well as mixed breeds. Older dogs can do this sport, dogs with issues can really benefit from it. It creates a tremendous bonding experience between the dog and its handler. I've seen extremely shy dogs just have that shyness and the world melt away when they become focused on their handler during a routine. It also enhances their abilities. Moves like bows and figure eights really create good stretching abilities."

As far as music is concerned, just about anything goes, except for maybe rap, laughs Jahnke. "I have used the Black Eyed Peas in my routine, but we really try to be cognizant of lyrics when we're performing," she says. "The dogs respond to different type of music and seem to really enjoy it as much as someone in the audience who starts tapping their toes or clapping along to the music."

Though costumes are used for performing, when competing attire on dogs is limited, says Muraczewski. "Any costumes we use on the dogs during performances is very loose. You really don't want to hinder the dog's movement in anyway or be cruel."

Though freestyle dance has yet to boom into the Milwaukee dog scene, Muraczewski says it's just a matter of getting people to try it. "I don't think enough people really

know about it yet, and it may not be for everybody, but people who do get into it really enjoy it. More people should try it and discover the creativity about it and see how much it sharpens the dog's skills. It's just fun."

"The teamwork you develop with your dog is invaluable," adds Jahnke. "Plus it's just plain entertaining."

For more information about freestyle classes offered at For Pet's Sake and for a schedule of upcoming performances and a Freestyle Dance Camp offered by Dancers with Woofs, visit www.forpetsake.cc.

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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When our English Springer Spaniel, Brandy, was a senior citizen, she was mostly deaf and the only noise she reacted to was Fourth of July parade drums. Daily, when we came home, she would remain sound asleep on the bed. We would jokingly tell her sleeping repose that we were burglars come to ransack the house. However, she would only roust herself about a half hour later when some scent awakened her still fine-tuned nose.

At what age is a dog considered a senior citizen? The general consensus is that the smaller the dog the later they are considered seniors. A general rule of thumb is small dogs could be considered senior at 9 years old, medium sized dogs at 8 years and larger dogs at 7 years.

Britt Bosworth, a Certified Vet Technician at Hartland Animal Hospital, offers suggestions on some things owners can watch for as their dogs reach the golden years. These include limping, trouble getting up or stiffness after exercise. Weight should also be monitored for obesity, a concern at any age. Coughing and exercise intolerance are other items on the watch-list. Hair loss or increases or decreases in appetite are additional things to be on the lookout for in senior dogs.

Trouble getting up or stiffness after exercise can be a sign of arthritis. Some arthritis treatments are antioxidant oil supplements, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or even the gentler exercise provided by aqua-treadmills.

Obesity can occur if your dog is slowing down and you are giving them the same amount of food that you always gave them. Bosworth says, "Their need for certain proteins and minerals is changing. You may need to decrease the protein, decrease sodium, and alter calcium intake. Your dog may be less active so they'll need less caloric intake." Consult your vet for the diet that is best for your dog.

"Coughing, difficulty breathing or exercise intolerance (not wanting to run and play as much as they use to) can be signs of heart disease," according to Bosworth. "A lot of times the coughing comes when the dog first gets up in the morning or after lying down for a while but you can notice it at any point during the day. There are certain drugs that we put them on such as diuretics that control the fluid accu-

mulation. Changing diet, including changing sodium intake, also helps the heart contract a little better."

An increase or decrease in your dog's usual appetite, lethargy or vomiting can be an indication of liver or kidney disease. As part of the treatment, Bosworth states, "We would definitely change their diet. There are a lot of diets that are specified to treating liver and kidney problems that decrease the workload on those organs."

What can people do now when their dog is younger to help the geriatric years be better? Bosworth suggests "Avoid table scraps - no people food. Diet is really important. Use a good quality food that is well-balanced. Provide routine vet care. Clean teeth. Catch things early. Lots of exercise is good for a dog's mental and physical well-being."

As for our Springer, Brandy, in the last three or so years of her life, she also was mostly blind except for minimal detection of some movement. However, it never gave



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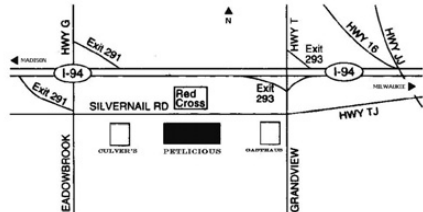
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her any pause or concern. She knew her way around our house and our neighborhood so well that even when I removed a loveseat, she continued to walk around its spot as if it was still there. And, she always kept to her routine of being the number one dog in our hearts.

Additional Reading:

- "Caring for Your Aging Dog"
by Janice Borzendowski
- "The Seven Ages of Man's Best Friend"
by Jan Fennell
- "Young at Heart. 120 Things You Can Do Right Now to Give your Older Dog a Longer, Healthier Life"
by David Alderton

Marie Tubbin loves spending time with her two best buddies, her husband, Mike and her dog, Louie. She met Mike at Burger King and Louie at HAWS and considers those two of the luckiest days of her life.



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The Incredible Mr. Puppy

I have a one year old pure-bred Labrador retriever that isn't happy unless he's covered in muck. So, Labrador + muck = a kitchen floor that looks like a Jackson Pollack, but not worth as much.

This dog was supposed to be my husband's dog. "I will take care of him! I will train him! I will spend countless hours with him!" he said.

Yeah. Sure. Right.

We already had a dog. One that I didn't have to do anything with, just feed and let out and not step on. He's like an 80 pound cat, which is perfect for me because I'm a writer and spend most of my day tap-tapping away on my keyboard. I only get up for the occasional potty break and kibble. I was not quite ready for a back-up dog. My husband was and stuck to his mantra, "I will feed him. I will take care of him. I will let him out."

Our old golden was our first "back-up" dog to our then, 12 year old lab mixed breed that we procured from the Humane Society back in the day when we just wandered into the room full of cages with cowering puppies in the back corner and waited for that one that came bounding up to the front and licked our fingers, the one with one ear that stood up and one ear that flopped over and we said to the volunteer, "We'll take that one!"

And, now, the golden is pushing 12, and it's getting to be that time again for another back up but, I did not want to have to get up in the middle of the night with a puppy in the rain and feel night crawlers ooze underneath my bare feet and then have to feign enthusiasm over a stream of pee-pee or a tiny turd.

One weekend, we took a drive, "Just to look," at an available litter of black labs that my father (the co-conspirator) had mentioned to my husband. They were from a top-notch breeder. One that has dogs who are Master Hunters. Dogs that have pedigrees that rival the Queen.



Who among you can resist a litter of black labs? Hmm? I thought so. I couldn't just go and not pick one up and not take one home. So, we did.

At 10:30pm my husband came to bed. At 10:32 the puppy started to wail. At 10:35 my husband bliss-fully snored. At 10:36 I was outside with Mr. Puppy. And at 11:02. Midnight. 12:34. 1:02, 2:08 and again at 3:24 when it started to rain. At least Mr. Puppy thought it was fun!

Since my husband works 14 hours a day, six (seven?) days a week, all the training and the walking and the puppy-proofing was all up to me which, I have to tell you, is not what I wanted to be doing with my empty nest aka "me time."

Anyway, back to my messy, muddy kitchen floor.

It was a rainy, rainy day. And, Mr. Puppy* had to go out. And in. And out. And in. The old golden had enough sense to do his business on the patio and head back inside before his back was damp. The other dog? Let me just say that dryness is not a state he likes to be in.

I used my reasonably good dish towel to mop up the lab's muddy footprints. (I should have used a rag, but, who am I kidding? The rags are stashed away in a bin underneath the basement steps and I won't go there because it's all spider-webby.)

To get down on my hands and knees in the yoga pose ironically called Cat and Dog, and wipe the floor one time is a

minor inconvenience. The second time, it's a pain. The third time? It's starting to get old. The fifth time? That's when I threatened to put out the "Free to a Good Home" sign.

I threw the muddy, wet and now ruined towel on the dryer in the laundry room - I know I did - be-cause, it stuck to the side, like a good piece of spaghetti cooked al dente, but, when I came back to wash it, it wasn't there.

I looked under the clothes hamper. Between the washer and dryer. Maybe Mr. Puppy dragged it into his crate like some kind of kill? No.

It wasn't in the dining room. The living room. Behind the sofa. Under the sofa. Not under the dog bed. Not behind the treadmill. Not under the coffee table. Not behind the toilet. Or in the closets.

It had simply vanished! Disappeared. Vaporized.

Amazing.

Well, not quite. It turned out, that it was part of Mr. Puppy's little magic act! Two days later, I noticed something . . . a small piece of . . . no! the towel? sticking out of his furry rear end! And, he couldn't quite . . . well . . . he was having difficulty, um, voiding it. so, like any volunteer chosen from the audience, I took one end and pulled.

And pulled. And pulled it some more.

And, out it came! - like those colorful scarves that never seem to stop coming out of any magician's sleeve.

It's been a couple of days and he's done nothing. Well, not amazing. Just the usual. But in his de-fense, I mean, how could he top this? Doves?

*I'm not using his real name, to save him the embarrassment.

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

The Raw Facts from Companion Natural Pet Food

Stacy LaPoint, founder and co-owner of Companion Natural Pet Food, grew up with both dogs and cats, and today enjoys them equally. She likes having them around. Always wanting the best for her companions, LaPoint pays close attention to their diet and how it affects their overall health. Early on she learned the difference between a grocery store brand and a premium pet food.

In March of 2000, LaPoint's beloved German Shepherd Jade was diagnosed with Addison's Disease (adrenal gland failure). To learn how to cope with Jade's disease and help her live the best possible life, LaPoint delved more deeply into the subject of animal nutrition. Research led her on a journey that dramatically changed her way of thinking about pet nutrition, food, health, and longevity. The journey also changed her life's direction and gave her and Jade seven more years of quality time together.

LaPoint's research convinced her that "the very best" pet food means raw. "It just makes sense that if you feed yourself raw fresh whole foods, and you stay healthy, why would you want to feed your pet anything less than raw, whole, fresh foods, minimally processed?" she asks. "We should give them a species appropriate diet. It's not new, it's their diet, and we have thrown their diet by the wayside for convenience and price." She claims we've been brainwashed by the corporate conglomerates into thinking that dry kibble is the best we can do.

When LaPoint switched her pets from kibble to raw food, she was amazed at the results. Conditions she had considered "normal,"-periodic skin and ear infections, regular vomiting of food or bile, and stinky coats-come to find out were not normal, but were indications of an improper diet.

The raw food concept is spreading among pet owners, and although conventional vets generally are not on board yet, most holistic vets now recommend raw. "I have vets contacting me a lot lately," says LaPoint. "The already holistic vets interested in alternative and complementary modalities, not just the conventional, but those looking into chiropractic, acupuncture, herbs, etc." Some of those vets sell her products. "They're starting to do their research. The pet food recall has amplified that."

The recall has also prompted pet owners to check out ingredient lists in the foods on store shelves and in vets' offices. According to LaPoint, ingredients to watch out for are wheat gluten, rice protein concentrate, hydrolyzed soy protein, and fillers like corn and wheat. Also brewers' rice and beetroot powder, things that are meant to bulk the stool. "Nutrition training is an elective in most vet schools," says LaPoint, and "unless they do the research on their own time, vets pretty much go with what the pet food companies market to them." She also believes that prescription diets in many cases facilitate other problems.

To give customers confidence in Companion's recipes, LaPoint hired a PhD. Animal Nutritionist from Auburn University to "help me crunch the numbers, to make sure everything was there, and

to make sure that the calculations were appropriate for the labeling-Complete and Balanced for all life stages."

Companion offers four recipes specifically for dogs-chicken, beef, turkey, and duck-each mixed with a different combination of vegetables, fruits, apple cider vinegar, garlic, kelp, and premixed vitamins and minerals. The cat "entrees" include chicken, turkey, and beef with their cat-specific additions. Dogs and cats have different dietary requirements, and Companion's choices reflect those specific needs. However, their fish version is designed for dogs and cats alike. "Our ingredients are all human grade, made in a human grade food processing plant that makes sausage for grocery stores around the region," says LaPoint.

All products are frozen and packaged in plastic tubs. For prices and a list of retailers, visit www.companionnaturalpetfood.com. "If you're out of state with no foods around, or out in the woods of Northern Wisconsin, we'll ship on dry ice," says LaPoint. Her dog lovin' business partner, Co-Owner Bill Conroy handles all distribution through Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Michigan. He also does the accounting, purchasing, inventory management and physical labor. LaPoint handles all product development, sourcing of ingredients and equipment, marketing, customer service, public education, and some production.

A few pet owners have told LaPoint and Conroy, "We'd feed your food, if you had patties or nuggets." Since moving to a larger facility, Companion can now produce those convenience items and single servings. They can also freeze-dry their own treats.



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Jade enjoyed a full life from 1994 until February of this year. "She was my truest, most loyal and loving friend," says LaPoint on her website memorial. "Her amazing legacy is all the wonderful benefits our pet food brings to dogs and cats everywhere."

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LaPoint's favorite book: "Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats: The Ultimate Diet," by Kymthy R. Schultze, CCN, AHI

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

 **Fetch**
magazine

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His work here is done... much too early.

There are some dogs in life that touch your soul and grab your heart. I have been lucky enough to have such a dog wiggle and wag his way into my heart...and even though it ended way too suddenly, I wouldn't have changed a minute of the time we shared together.

In August of 2005, I got a call from Michelle at the Elmbrook Humane Society asking me to foster a five week old "boxer mix." He was too young to be in the shelter and he needed some "growing up" to do.

When I got to the shelter to meet him, I found a stunning tiny brindle boy with a giant personality. I brought him home to meet my boyfriend, Jamie. Jamie took one look at him and said "That's a pit bull." I smiled and said "No, it's a "boxer mix", the 'air quotes' were included. Ollie was actually a boxer/American bulldog/pit bull mix...a Heinz 57 of sorts. We thought he would be small as an adult, because he was such a tiny puppy. Boy, were we wrong. Full grown Ollie was 28" tall and 68 lbs, a moose or small pony as Jamie would say.

Ollie settled into our home like that was where he was meant to be all along. He loved our cat and played with her tirelessly,



but never got too rough. He crate trained in one night and housebroke in 2 weeks. I couldn't believe that I was blessed with such a fabulous little foster boy. Ollie was neutered at seven weeks, which is an important detail, because that gave him his signature bark, which was high pitched and squeaky. Whenever he would bark, it would always incite laughter, but you could pick him out of a crowd by his bark alone.

I failed as a foster mom and officially adopted him in October of 2005. We never looked back; he was my partner in crime. Ollie and I moved 6 times in one year, but he never stressed or batted an eye. He would just "pack" his little bags and trust me. He would settle in where ever I asked him to.

Ollie and I started as a dog training team in July of 2006 at Petco. The staff loved him and he proved to be an amazing demo dog. He seemed to hang on my every word, hardly ever taking his eyes off of me. Even when he would get bored and lie down stretched out on his side, one eye would be trained on me. Sometimes the little smarty pants would perform maneuvers as I was talking about them, he was wickedly smart.

In August of 2006, Michelle called again with a special needs girl named Lavender that needed some TLC and special care. I agreed to take her, as long as Ollie was ok with it. The introduction at the shelter went fine, so home she came with us. Three days later, Ollie tried to drown her in Lake Michigan, typical move for a big brother I would say. Ollie and Lavender quickly became two-peas-in-a-pod and it became obvious that we couldn't separate them...so, I failed again as a foster mom.

The three of us settled in as a family, both of them went everywhere with me. Demo's, training classes, parades, walks in the park...but my "go to" dog was always Ollie. He could go anywhere and do anything; he was a confident dog that enjoyed killing tennis balls now and then. Plus his stunning brindle coat attracted tons of attention, especially from little kids, which was his true weakness. He was a true ambassador to the breed, changing minds everywhere he went.

When I would take the dogs to Lake Michigan to swim, Ollie didn't care so much about the water. He would just stand on shore and chew a tennis ball, but if he lost the ball and it rolled into the water, he would yell in that squeaky high pitched bark until you went and got it for him. Occasionally he would swim, but he mainly preferred to stay on the beach.

In May of 2007, Ollie, Lavender and I moved back in with Jamie. Again, Ollie moved easily and settled right back in. I could tell that he was glad to be back where he started with "Dad."

June rolled around and we plunged into summer with trips to the beach and the park. We had no idea that half way into June our lives would change forever. On June 11th Ollie had a bad piece of food and developed a bit of food poisoning. The vets and I figured with some fluids, ant-nausea meds and rest he would turn right around. Unfortunately, it quickly snowballed into Pancreatitis and he spent 3 days at the emergency vet. We finally got discharged on a Friday evening, which I didn't have a good feeling about it. On Saturday morning, we were back on the downhill slide and a decision had to be made. With a tears streaming down our faces, Jamie and I drove Ollie to our vet, Silver Spring Animal Wellness Center, for one last visit.

It was the longest 15 minute drive of my life and the entire morning seemed to last forever. A week prior, I had a lively playful young dog and now he was gone. Making the decision to let him go did not come easily, but as soon as it was made, I knew it was right. I knew that with Jamie, we could endure the pain his loss would cause because neither of us could watch him suffer and deteriorate before our eyes.

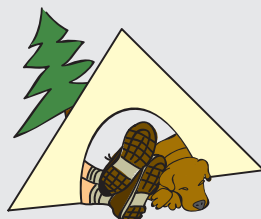


My two year old boy was gone much too soon, but the lessons he taught me are invaluable and are imprinted on my heart. He changed many minds about the "bad pit bulls" reputation and that alone is enough to have made his short life extremely meaningful. His work here was done.

Chew those tennis balls and run with the wind, my long-legged Olliepants. I will see you in my dreams.

Beth Madunic has had a love of dogs and horses since a young child. She has been a horse trainer for 15 years and a dog trainer for over 10 years. Beth is the owner and trainer of All Paws Dog Training, LLC which offers private consultations and group classes at Bark N Scratch Outpost. Beth can be reached at 414-881-3208 or eamadunic@yahoo.com

Jamie and I would like to give a special thank you to Michelle (formerly of EBHS) for allowing this fine young man to grace our lives and to all of the staff at Silver Spring Animal Wellness for their outstanding care and handling of Ollie in his last moments.



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BREED PROFILE:

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Sound like an ad you'd reply to? Well then, do I have a couple of dogs for you. Both the German Shorthaired and Wirehaired Pointers fit the bill. And no they are NOT a short and longhaired version of the same dog. That would be like saying a Golden Retriever is just a longhaired Labrador. Like most dogs of similar heritage both the German Shorthaired, or GSP, and the German Wirehaired, GWP, have many similar traits.

To understand a dog, it helps to understand his history. Both the GSP and GWP have their origins, not surprisingly, in Germany, with the GSP preceding the GWP. In fact it's believed that the Wirehaired was created from a combination of dogs including the Shorthaired, so while not the same dog it's safe to say they're barking up the same family tree. Both were bred for versatile hunting, from bird dogging to scent hounds and rabbit hunting to larger game these dogs can do it all, making them still incredibly popular with hunters today.

Hunter husbands is what lead both Lisa Rossman of the WI German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue and the cover pup's mom Casandra Ruben to the breed. Lisa's involvement with the rescue began while searching for a second GSP. "I went to the rescue and she had all these crates lined up in the mudroom, and I said it looks like you need help," Lisa said of her first rescue encounter. The rescue has placed over thirty dogs already this year and Lisa had even picked up another dog a couple hours before we spoke.

While Casandra can't think of anything but pointers now, it wasn't always that way. "The arrangement was we were going to get two dogs, a pointer for my husband to go bird hunting and then



Photo courtesy of Heaven's Touch Photography.

later a small dog for me." After her first GSP, Casandra was hooked, and recently added 4-month-old Addie to join their 6-year-old Hailey. "I will never own a different breed."

One of the qualities that Casandra loves most about them that other families may find hard to deal with is their energy level. What makes them such good hunters, their enthusiasm, endurance and intelligence, means that they will not be happy languishing around on the couch. Without a proper outlet, they'll look for their own means of entertainment, which translates from the doggy world into barking, digging, destroying, and sometimes escaping. They have been known to escape from four foot fences.

But for the active owner these dogs know how to have a good time. "They're always game" said Casandra "They love running, fetching, and swimming." While known for their excellent hunting abilities, Lisa points out that they also excel in many other areas for us non-hunting types. "They are excellent at agility, search and rescue, ski-

joring, and dog sledding. We've also adopted dogs to a couple of marathon runners. They just need to be kept busy."

Don't think all the exercise prevents snuggle time as both breeds are great family pets. They enjoy children; although young pups should be watched with tiny tots as sometimes they can be a little overly rambunctious. Got another dog? The more the merrier for most GSPs and GSPs. Although, as with any breed, some are more dog-friendly than others. Got a cat or other small pet? OK, that could be a problem. Did I mention they are both really good hunters? Often pups that are raised with cats and other small animals will recognize them as part of the pack, although realize that the wild rabbit or neighbor's cat might not get such specialized status. Also, rescues look for the cat friendliness of their adoptable and provide potential owners with more information.

Those same excellent hunting traits can also make them a bit of a challenge to train, especially to the novice dog owner. It's not that they're unwilling to please, they just can have a bit of a focus problem, as in focusing on what you want them to do, not with how interesting the rest of the world is. Also, as a hunting dog, they





often need to do their job out of their owner's sight, making them independent thinkers. Without proper training, independent, intelligent and active are qualities that can get a dog in trouble. In fact, 'hit by car' is the most common cause of death for the GSP. When asked what was the most common cause of pointers ending up at a rescue, Lisa replied, "We don't know. The majority are strays. We get a lot during hunting season; hunters lose their dogs in the woods and then don't look for them."

Both dogs do shed, as the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America website puts it, they have "dark hair to get on the light stuff and white hair to get on the dark stuff." Both are generally healthy breeds, but as with all floppy ear dogs, especially those prone to water encounters, regular cleanings and monitoring to prevent infections are necessary. Anywhere from 21-26" and 40-77 pounds with the Wirehaired being slightly larger than their cousins, these highly active guys can require a bit more food than their canine counterparts of a similar size.

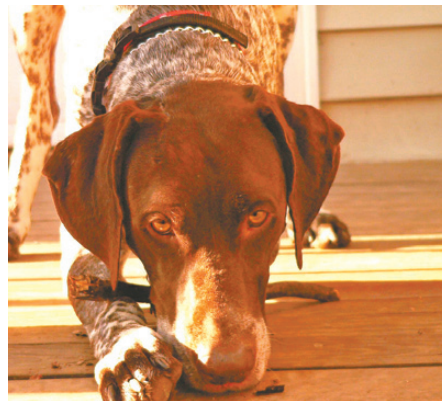
When asked what one thing they wanted people to know about the breed they love so much, both Lisa and Casandra had the same sentiment, "They make excellent family pets." Think a pointer is perfect for your pack? You can check out the German Shorthaired Pointer of America Club for more information and breeder listings, www.gspca.org, or the Wirehaired Club at www.gwpca.com. Or you can check with the many rescues that desperately need to place pups. At the end of our conversation, Lisa lamented about

how many dogs there were that needed homes and she eagerly asked, "Would you like to take a Pointer?"

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.



Photo courtesy of In-Focus Photography.





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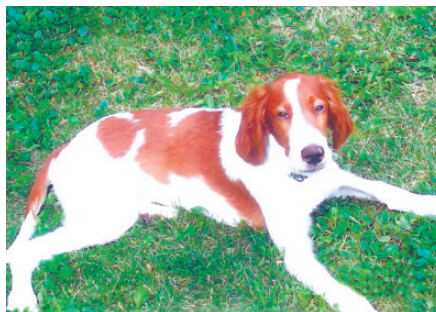


Michelle Maggie

D



Toby Toy Fox Terrier
Karen, Big Bend



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Jean, Mequon



Blade & Storm Beaucerons
Norah



Dan Transylvanian Hound
Rae



Sissy La Catahoula Leopard Dog
Brenda



Riley American Bulldog
Sonja, Milwaukee

Event Calendar

September 2007

Entire Month

What: Pet Artwork Display by Unique Perspectives
Where: Muskego Public Library
When: During normal working hours.
Info: 262-971-2100

3 Monday

What: 3rd Annual Doggy Dip for Milwaukee Dog Parks
Where: Cool Waters at Greenfield Park, West Allis
When: 5:00pm - 8:00pm (\$5 fee)
Info: www.milwaukeekeepdogparks.org

5 Wednesday

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 6:30 p.m. (12 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200

7 Friday

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

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

8 Saturday

What: Hunting Dog/Family Portraits w/ SliderPhoto
Where: Gander Mountain, Waukesha
When: 11:00am - 3:00pm
Info: 262-785-4500, www.sliderphoto.com

What: First Anniversary Open House
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Oak Creek
When: Noon - 4:00pm
Info: 414-571-1500, www.centralbarkusa.com

What: "Let's Talk About Boarding Your Pet"
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 1:00pm (Informational Seminar)
Info: 262-781-5200

What: Adult Beginner Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 9:00 a.m. (12 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200

9 Sunday

What: Manners Class
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 11:00am - 12:30pm
Info: 414-289-7785, www.dogclass.com

What: Nail Clipping (\$8/animal)
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 2:00 - 3:00pm
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

10 Monday

What: Public Forum to discuss Puppy Mills
Where: Nathan Hale High School, West Allis
When: 7:00pm
Info: www.NoWisconsinPuppyMills.org

What: Puppy Class Begins
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 5:00 p.m. (6 week course)
Info: 262-781-5200

14 Friday

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

What: Hounds Around Town Grand Opening
Where: Hounds Around Town, Whitefish Bay
When: All Day Friday and Saturday, 15th
Info: www.houndsaroundtown.net

15 Saturday

What: 2007 Fall Aire Frolic
Where: Western Waukesha Dog Training Club, Ixonia
When: Opens at 11:00am
Info: www.aire-rescue.com

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

What: Grand Opening Celebration
Where: Central Bark Doggy Day Care, New Berlin
When: Noon - 4:00pm
Info: 262-785-0444, www.centralbarkusa.com

16 Sunday

What: Celebration of Pets Day
Where: Arlington Park Cemetery, Greenfield
When: 1:00 - 4:00pm
Info: 414-282-6600

19 Wednesday

What: Canine Cancer Support Group
Where: Bark N' Scratch Outpost, Milwaukee
When: 6:00 - 7:00pm
Info: 414-444-4110, www.milwaukeekeepetfood.com

21 Friday

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

What: K9 Freestyle Dance Camp
Where: Salvation Army Camp, East Troy
When: Friday through Sunday, 23rd
Info: 262-363-5139, www.forpetsake.cc

22 Saturday

What: Elmbrook Humane Society WAGFEST
Where: Fox Brook Park, Brookfield
When: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Info: 262-754-6597, www.ebhs.org

23 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

25 Tuesday

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

28 Friday

What: Yappy Hour (+ \$5 Nail Trims)
Where: Amiable Dog Training, Greenfield
When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm (FREE)
Info: 414-289-7785, www.dogclass.com

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

29 Saturday

What: Microchip Your Pet (only \$25)
Where: CAMP Y-KODA, Sheboygan Falls
When: 8:00am - 1:00pm
Info: Sheboygan Co. H.S. 920-458-2012

5 Wednesday

What: Guide Dog Informational Get-together
Where: Animal Motel, Butler
When: 1:00 - 3:30pm
Info: 262-781-5200

Every Sunday

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

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

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

What: Agility/Confidence Drop-in Classes
Where: Teaching Dogs, Oak Creek
When: 7:45pm
Info: 414-416-1406

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

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

Every Saturday

What: Happy Hounds Hour (playtime)
Where: Release the Hounds DDC, Muskego

When: Morning
Info: 414-412-8264

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

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

CENTRAL BARK DOGGY DAY CARE

Opens in New Berlin

The newest Central Bark Doggy Day Care is now open in New Berlin. It's the purrrfect place to drop your dog for a day of fun and exercise. And the friendly, action-packed alternative to leaving your dog home alone all day.

"When you leave your dog with us, we know it's like leaving your child. We give personalized care for your baby," explained Katie Raschka, owner of the New Berlin Central Bark Doggy Day Care. "We're committed to your dog's happiness and well being. Your dog's stay with us will be rich with activities and attention."

New Berlin Central Bark Doggy Day Care offers a clean and safe indoor and outdoor play environment. Every day is filled with stimulation, interaction and quiet time.

Our staff is dedicated to ensuring that your dog is well cared for at all times. They conduct interactive play time, snack time and nap time. Owner Katie Raschka has many years experience with dogs and animals. She has a BS from UW-Madison in Zoology and Psychology and has worked at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Manager Erika Thomas worked as an Intensive Care Unit Nurse at the Animal Emergency Center.

A full range of services including day care, overnights, parties, grooming, retail store and vet services are offered at the New Berlin location. "Please call or stop in to see our facility," encourages Katie Raschka. "Your dog will love our play areas. Play keeps a dog's mind and body active. This curbs boredom which can lead to destructive behaviors, like chewing, barking, and scratching. Your dog will leave here tired and happy and you'll be happy, too."

For more information, please call Katie or Erika at 262-785-0444. Located in the New Berlin Industrial Park at 170th and Rogers, the doggy day care is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 6:30pm.

Central Bark Doggy Day Care has understood dogs and dog parents' busy schedules since 1997. They are dedicated to personalized pet care in a clean, safe and fun environment. It's the nation's largest day care for dogs with locations in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Florida, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the best alternative to kennel boarding and lonely dog days at home.

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learn for other purposes, Bergin researched and found that a female Mealybug emits a pheromone to attract a mate. Aha! Armed with this knowledge, a grant from the Grape Growers Association, and Bergin's unfailing confidence in dogs' ability to learn, ADI developed their Vine Mealybug Project.

A dog's training for this project begins with an introduction to the Mealybug pheromone scent before the pup's eyes are even open, an imprint that signals "important" to the growing dog. The "sniffer dog" is then matched with a life partner. "Dogs work for people they love," Bergin explains. "An inconsistent partner doesn't develop the commitment a dog needs, and it might start thinking, 'I kinda' like you, and I'll search for awhile, but that rabbit over there looks more exciting.'" An on-task dog sniffs out the affected grapevine for removal. "Our long time goal [with this project] is to reduce the need for pesticide use across the state and around the world," adds Bergin. Hmmm, dogs walking where people fear to tread.

Another dream of Bergin's involved working with at-risk teens. ADI

dogs are transported daily to schools and juvenile centers throughout the state, and at-risk teens learn to train service dogs. According to Cheryl Brighting, ADI's Community and Public Relations Assistant, "They're finding they can learn, that it feels good and gives them a sense of value they can give back. It changes their lives." The teens learn to train without using harsh language or physical methods, "and this translates into other parts of their lives." They also learn job skills such as grooming dogs, how to care for them, and how to effectively relate to people.

Other services ADI dogs provide their community include: Comforting children and adults onsite in crisis situations like shootings or auto accidents, and helping kids learn to read. "When one of our dogs sits and looks at a book with a child who is having reading difficulties, the child is motivated to read to him," says Bergin. Studies show that within a few months "the child's reading jumps one or two grade levels."

What will Bergin think of next to use what she sees as dogs' "almost limitless capacity to learn"? Visit ADI's website to stay current with her leading-edge work, subscribe to their newsletter, and order your copy of Bergin's book, "Teach Your Dog to Read." Your dog will love it.

The Bonnie Bergin Assistance Dog Institute
E-mail: info@assisteddog.org
Website: www.assisteddog.org

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

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"Going Green"

Good for You. Good for your Pet

These days it seems like every one is "going green." With the threat of global warming looming on the horizon, people are working harder to save our planet by changing the way we recycle, use energy and even drive our cars. But did you know that "going green" in your own home can also help improve the quality of life for you and your pets?

Take green cleaning for instance. In short, green cleaning is simply utilizing environmentally friendly products that don't contain toxic chemicals to clean your home. Many of the products you buy in the store can be considered dangerous inhalants, says Katrinka Janasik of Buddies For Life in Milwaukee, who offers educational seminars on "green cleaning." Products such as kitchen and bathroom disinfectants, cleaners that kill bacteria and fungi and cleaning products used to remove mildew are considered pesticides, says Janasik. In addition, she says, store bought cleaners can contain such things as formaldehyde, phosphates, ammonia, chlorine bleach, lye, abrasives such as fiberglass and aerosol propellants - all of which can be harmful to your family and pets.

But, when it comes to natural alternatives, how do you know which products to use and what will be most cost-effective?

Janasik says there are numerous choices for cleaning products beyond those you find on store shelves. Vinegar is a popular non-corrosive alternative to a chemical cleaner. Some say vinegar works just as good as a store bought chemical cleaner, while others say it doesn't. Either way, says Janasik, using an alternative like vinegar is safer than using a chemical.

One product line Janasik does find effective is Melaleuca. Melaleuca products are designed with natural solvents and enzymes without the use of harmful chemicals. The products contain Melaleuca oil (a natural oil), naturally derived enzymes, naturally derived cleaners, baking soda, vinegar, essential oils and citrus solvents. "I always recommend these products and I use them myself and they are extremely effective," says Janasik, who began utilizing and educating herself on "green" products after she learned her cleaning products were causing harm to her own pets.

"I had some birds that kept dying and I couldn't figure out why," she explains. "I was using Clorox Bleach spray to clean their cages because I didn't know any better. As a pet owner you figure if you buy something off the shelf in the store it must be OK, right? Well, that's not always the case."

Following her experience with her birds, Janasik began doing research which eventually led her to form a business to help educate the public on the benefits of "green cleaning." "People just don't know what they're using is harmful. Following the industrial revolution all of these cleaning chemicals we're using now were introduced, but they were never tested. We're the testing ground for these products and we don't always know the damage they can do."

Heather Depies of Environmental Elegance Cleaning Service in Jackson also utilizes environmentally friendly products in her business.

"I use Neu cleaning products and I believe so much in these products that I not only use them on my own home and the

homes that I professionally clean, but distribute them as well," says Depies.

Neu products are produced by ESS Inc. of Mequon and are infused with essential oils to give a vibrant, non-toxic fragrance to your home, she adds. Depies finds the Neu floor cleaner especially effective. "I use this in a bucket of hot water and wash down everything from the ceiling fan to cupboards to the baseboards to all of the hard surfaced floors in the house. When used properly, it is safe on most floor types including laminate, tile, hardwood, granite, stone, cement and linoleum. This floor cleaner is formulated to lift the soil off of the floor."

Depies believes the solutions she uses are definitely better than ordinary store-bought toxic chemicals. "These things have been laboratory tested and when used correctly, have well surpassed the store bought brands," she says.

When it comes to using environmentally safe products, Janasik says the key is simply to read labels and to educate yourself on what's out there. "Know what can and can't harm you and know that there are other alternatives," she explains. "I always tell people when it comes to cleaning products just do your research and you'll learn more about what's harmful and you'll make the appropriate changes. If all of us made small changes in what we do, it sure can't hurt."

Neu products can be purchased through Environmental Elegance at select Outpost Natural Food Stores, Sendik's and Frenz's Garden Center. Melaleuca products can be purchased at select natural food stores or by visiting them online at <http://www.melaleuca.com>. For more information on "green cleaning" contact Katrinka Janasik at info@buddiesforlife.net or visit Heather Depies website <http://www.environmentalelegance.com>.

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



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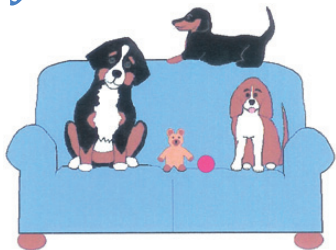
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