



American Pet Magazine™

Volume 4
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**ONE PET AT A TIME..
ONE DAY AT A TIME..
ONE LIFE AT A TIME..
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

www.AmericanPetMagazine.com

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The Publisher's Note

From The Desk of the Editor

♥Dedicated to *our Kittens*♥

We are living proof that one feral cat leads to an incredible amount of unconditional love. It started with one great kitty whom we named Charlie. One day he showed up with a young kitten and a few days later we never saw him again. The kitten continued to return as the neighbor left food out for her. She was able to have two litters before we could catch her to be fixed and return her to 'home' ground. Her babies became our babies and we will be forever grateful for being blessed by their precious souls.

The cover photo is of the first litter. They were found very healthy at two months old in AmericanPet's backyard back in May 2014. I am amazed at how she hid them very well and kept them safe for so long. Wishing all four extraordinarily marvelous lives!!

♥♥ FOREVER in our HEARTS ♥♥

As [National Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day](#) is February 23rd, we have various articles regarding your pups love for treats and healthy eating habits. Gibbie Snacks support Gibson and other Epi-Dogs. Christina Bournias creates biscuits for her fur-clan and book signings. While Titus and his fur-family maintain a well-balanced raw diet and tell you how you can too. When purchasing treats they emphasize the importance of natural treats made in the USA. TITUS says, "Lots safer den dat stuff imported fwm China or udder countwys".

Our Ferret friends have evolved as pets in the United States and are being honored on April 2nd for [National Ferret Day](#). Their popularity continues to grow but they are still illegal in some places. The American Ferret Association's goals are to promote, protect and provide for ferrets. See page 22 for information.

AmericanPet Magazine™ enjoys bringing you great reading. This publication is to entertain and educate you about pets and celebrations. Our contributors are committed to their missions and love sharing with you, our readers.

Please, take the time to visit our 2015 Best in Print section. Our contributors are awe-inspiring authors who support their missions by telling their stories. Read about Dobie Houson, our author, activist and animal communicator on page 31. Charlie Bear tells his story in print of finding his forever home after roaming the streets. Dorothy Wills-Raftery and the FiveSibes™ - Harley, Gibson, Wolfie, Chole and Bandit - also have a radio show (www.DogWorksRadio.com). We thank you for your support.

One Pet at a Time..One Day at a Time..One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

Have an AmericanPet Day!!

SUZIN KARP

Thank you again and HAPPY READING! #Meow #Woof
#Rescue #Adopt #Foster #NoKill

We encourage you to support our Sponsors and Contributors (page 4) by passing along this copy of AmericanPet Magazine™. A percentage from every paid advertiser will be donated to no-kill shelters, rescues and events.



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(Newbie, Tiger, Blackie & Tuffy)
 Photographer: Suzik®



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We Love "GIBBIE SNACKS" by House Woof

Wholesome treats formulated with the Epi-Dog in mind!

Gibbie Snacks
 Epi Awareness

Ingredients: oatmeal, cooked green beans, carrots, sweet potato, zucchini, fresh parsley & beef puree. No salt or preservatives ever!

Gibson Namesake of the "Gibbie Snacks"

House Woof will donate \$1 from every bag purchased to The Wally (Canine Epilepsy) Foundation!

*** Help Support ***
 Gibson of the Five Sibes™
 & other Epi-Dogs
 Pages 8 & 22

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AmericanPet's Foster Kittens

(Newbie, Tiger, Blackie & Tuffy)

Photographer: SuziK[©]

We found forever homes for all 4 furbabies and they are very happy with thier new family and fur siblings.



To Be Continued in next issue ...

PET CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY



	Adopt-a-Rescued-Bird Month
6	National Bird Day
14	National Dress Up Your Pet Day
21	Squirrel Appreciation Day
29	Seeing Eye Guide Dog Birthday 1929
22	National Answer Your Cat's Question Day

FEBRUARY

	National Wild Bird Feeding Month
	National Prevent a Litter Month
	Responsible Pet Owners Month
	National Cat Health Month
	Pet Dental Health Month
	Adopt-a-Rescued Rabbit Month
	Homes for Birds Month
1	Groundhog Day
2	Hedgehog Day
7-14	Have a Heart for Chained Dogs Week
14	Pet Theft Awareness Day
18-24	National Wildlife Week
20	Love your pet day (like Valentine's Day)
22	Spay Day USA
23	National Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

MARCH

- Adopt-a-Rescued-Guinea Pig Month
- 1 National Pig Day
- 1 National Horse Protection Day
- 3 What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs? Day
- 6-12 National Professional Pet Sitters Week
- 14 Learn about Butterflies Day
- 20-26 National Poison Prevention Week
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 23 National Puppy Day (www.nationalpuppyday.org)

APRIL

- National Heartworm Awareness Month
- Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month (www.aspca.org)
- National Pet Month
- National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- Pets Are Wonderful Month
- Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month
- 1-7 International Pooper Scooper Week
- 2 National Ferret Day (www.Ferret.org)
- 8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
- 11 National Pet Day
- 14-20 National Pet ID Week
- 18 Pet Owners Independence Day (www.Wellcat.com)
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Sylvester the Cat's Birthday
- 25 Veterinary Day
- 26 Hairball Awareness Day (www.ScienceDiet.com)
- 26 National Kids & Pets Day
- 27 Woody Woodpecker Day (*Creator Walter Lant's Birthday*)
- 28 International Guide Dog Day
- 30 National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

April 2nd is National Ferret Day

Wholesome, Healthy Treats for Canines is a House Woof Specialty

Written by
©Dorothy Wills-Raferly

With an emphasis on nutrition, our dogs deserve to eat a healthy diet of foods and treats, too. At Edelweiss Bakery, home of the House Woof Dog Biscuits, located in Johnson, Vermont, USA, partners Ken Schlegel and Ralf La Belle pride themselves on baking a variety of wholesome, nutritious biscuits for canines that they offer in their bakery and via their online website store (www.HouseWoofDogBiscuits.com), where they currently deliver to anywhere in the United States and internationally to APO boxes. Additionally, they share many of their delicious recipes on their House Woof Dog Biscuits Facebook page.

In 1994, Edelweiss Bakery first opened its doors starting out as a small European style bakery and then a café. In 2012, they said good-bye to the café section to embark upon a new passion – creating healthy baked goods for the canine – and the start of House Woof (originally called House Wolf K-9 Dog Biscuits). While still whipping up homemade breads, rolls, cookies, and other human goodies in their bakery, Ken and Ralf were inspired by their own three Siberian Huskies they had at the time – Sasha, Dakota, and Kayak, to research a holistic approach to the canine diet. They modeled their creations after the wolf, a cousin of the Siberian Husky,



and studied what wolves ate in the wild. At House Woof, they knew their three Huskies did not need artificial food colorings, preservatives, starches, sweeteners, salt, or additives, so they worked on a much healthier approach to creating their baked dog treats that contain organic meats, fruits, and vegetables, homemade stock, and never any salt, wheat, or corn. Since they are made fresh in their bakery, there are also never any preservatives, which is all extremely important to dogs with sensitivities, allergies, and health issues. The treats stay fresh for three weeks in airtight containers, and freeze extremely well in freezer bags for a much longer shelf life. Dogs love to eat them direct from the freezer, too! Frozen House Woof treats also make for a nice, cool summer time treat!

While Ralf is the culinary genius in the kitchen, Ken, who has many years in the medical field as a Registered Nurse, does extensive research on how certain food ingredients can help promote good health in canine treats and recipes, that they in turn whip up in the kitchen of Edelweiss Bakery for their all natural House Woof Dog Biscuits that are healthy for all dogs, as well as the canine epileptic, the diabetic dog, dogs with Lyme, allergies, and other health-related issues. ...Continued on Next Page

Today, Ken and Ralf have two new adopted family members and official House Woof biscuit “taste testers” – Siberian Huskies Keysha and Struga. Struga lives with Lyme disease and is currently asymptomatic, according to Ken. Together, he and Ralf have also created a biscuit specifically for a dog with Lyme. House Woof is also a supporter of Canine Epilepsy, developing a treat specifically with the Epi-dog (epileptic dog) in mind called “Gibbie Snacks,” which were named after Gibson of the FiveSibes™ (the author’s epileptic Husky), and are made with oatmeal, organic cooked green beans, carrots, sweet potatoes, zucchini, fresh parsley, and puréed lean beef. And, of course, no salt, which is extremely important for an Epi-dog who may be on the medication Potassium Bromide, which is a salt. House Woof also supports the FiveSibes #LiveGibStrong K-9 Epilepsy Awareness campaign (www.FiveSibes.blogspot.com and www.ArcticHousePublishing.com), where they donate \$1 per bag of Gibbie Snacks purchased to The Wally Foundation for Canine Epilepsy (on Facebook and also at www.TheWallyFoundation.com), which is a non-profit organization that provides possible financial assistance to the families, fosters, and rescue groups of canine epileptics to obtain medications. In March 2014, House Woof became an official Purple Day® for Epilepsy Ambassador in Vermont, where they promote awareness of Canine Epilepsy in the Edelweiss Bakery.

Ken and Ralf truly believe in “giving back” to the canine community, and in addition to promoting Canine Epilepsy awareness, they are also great supporters of Siberian Husky rescues and donate a portion of proceeds from certain biscuits to specific rescues, as well as donating their biscuits periodically to rescues and shelters to help treat the homeless canines.

So just how healthy are their dog biscuits? Very. In the case of their Gibbie Snacks, Ken says they conducted much of their research for formulating recipes for the epileptic dog from several resources. “We go to Dr. Jean Dodds, and also to Wendy Volhard, author of *The Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog*, from where we use a lot of information. There’s a raw eating forum we belong to that has been in existence for over 15 years...and our own personal research... As far as the ingredients for the Gibbie Snacks, or any type of epileptic biscuit we come up with, we want to be sure there isn’t anything in there that is going to raise or decrease their blood sugar levels, as we know that can be a trigger. We wanted to add a small amount of oats...oat is a cooling agent and you want to keep the body temperature where it should be. We use lean beef that is low in fats and oils because dogs who have liver disease, that can cause seizures as well. And we use zucchini, green beans, and sweet potatoes that are all very high in vitamins. The green bean is also very good for the diabetic dog as the little string on the top of the green bean actually helps absorb the insulin better into the system.”



Rosemary can trigger seizures in some dogs, so along with salt, wheat, corn, and preservatives, rosemary is another ingredient that will never be found in a House Woof biscuit. Plus, notes Ken, a lot of store-bought treats have sugar. “Like humans, canines can get addicted to sugar. We never add sugar. The only sugar we use is natural sugar like clover honey, blackstrap molasses, and organic carrots.”

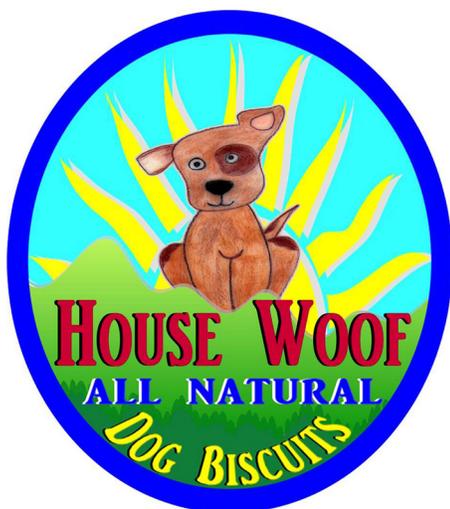
Ken and Ralf also share a lot of healthy food and cooking tips, as well as their own recipes online so that folks can make their own wholesome treats at home for their canine companions. With selling their homemade dog treats, why share their recipes?

“For the love of the canine is why we share the recipes,” explains Ken. “Folks do enjoy baking at home and want to make treats for their canine. We wanted to come up with some easy and simple recipes that are not just for healthy and nutritious biscuits for the canine, but also inexpensive to make. If we cook for ourselves and our children, why not cook for our canine?”

After the Edelweiss Bakery closes for the day, Ken and Ralf spend approximately seven to eight hours a night researching, testing, and baking recipes in the bakery kitchen for the House Woof Dog Biscuits. Says Ken, “Once a concept for a recipe is developed, Ralf the works at formulating it into a recipe. And since Keysha and Struga are the official taste testers, we know it’s a successful recipe when they want to eat the dough first!”

When comparing House Woof treats to commercial treats, the difference goes even beyond the obvious. “What we like to say is when you look at store-bought treats, there are a lot of words you can’t pronounce,” explains Ken. “When you look at our treats, not only can you pronounce the ingredients, but what is listed is exactly what is in it. Dog treats do not need all the preservatives and sweeteners.”

There are a variety of fabulous canine-favorite flavors of House Woof biscuits, including: Gibbie Snacks, Apple Nutters, Paw-Nut Butter Nips, Growlnola Bark Bars, Vermont Apple K-9 Crisp Stix, Patriot Blend, and their special limited-time seasonal biscuits such as Ginger Sniffers, Sweet Potato Pumpkin Pie Biscuit Treats, and Cranberry Mint Jingles. House Woof treats feature such yummy ingredients as wild salmon, oatmeal, peanut butter, fresh sweet potatoes, sugar pumpkins, fresh carrots, zucchini, parsley, apples, ginger, lean beef, and homemade chicken stock.



“With time being an issue for many working families, having fresh baked treats for their dogs delivered right to their front door is a treat indeed!” notes Ken.

These treats are so natural and good, humans can eat them! But be forewarned: you’ll have to not only wait for your dog to eat first, but step aside when the door bell rings because when the postman delivers a box full of House Woof treats, canines can sniff it a mile away and they will howl, bark, and dance in eager anticipation of their very own special delicious delivery!

www.housewoofdogbiscuits.com

...Continued on Next Page

House Woof Banana Buddy Busters Recipe

Preheat oven 350°

Baking time 20-25 minutes

Ingredients:

1 c. finely shredded sweet potato

1 banana, mashed

2 c. oats

2 eggs

¼ c. honey

1 Tbsp. molasses

2 Tbsp. olive oil

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. On a parchment-lined, or (olive) oiled baking sheet, place teaspoon-sized scoops of batter one inch apart, and bake. Cool before serving.

House Woof Tips:

Sweet potatoes are rich in anti-oxidants and anti-inflammatory nutrients.

Honey is beneficial to canines suffering from seasonal allergies.

page 8: FiveSibes Gibson: Gibson of the FiveSibes™ with his namesake House Woof treats, the popular “Gibbie Snacks.” Photo by Dorothy Wills-Raferly.

page 9: FiveSibes Struga Quality Control: Struga, House Woof’s Quality Control Canine Officer, checks on the supply of treats on the Edelweiss Bakery shelves. Photo courtesy of House Woof.

background photo on this page: FiveSibes Struga Keysha: House Woof Huskies Struga and Keysha greet guests at an author book signing reception at Edelweiss Bakery. Photo courtesy of House Woof.

Dorothy Wills-Raferly is an award-winning photojournalist and the author of the FiveSibes™ Tales children’s book series, including What’s Wrong With Gibson? Learning About K-9 Epilepsy and Getting Healthy With Harley, as well as the book Buddy, the Christmas Husky~A True Holiday Miracle (all published through ArcticHouse Publishing). Wills-Raferly hosts “The Sibe Vibe” radio show that broadcasts online at Dog Works Radio, and authors the globally top-ranked FiveSibes™ blog (<http://FiveSibes.blogspot.com>). You can follow her and the lives of her five Siberian Huskies on their FiveSibes: Siberian Husky K9 News & Reviews Facebook page and on Twitter and Instagram under @FiveSibesMom.

The Evolution of Ferrets as Pets



Ferrets have become a popular pet in the United States in recent years. Sadly, some people and even political jurisdictions within the United States have misinterpreted ferrets as a wild animal and therefore disallowed them. Ferrets are illegal to own in Hawaii, California and the District of Columbia, as well as some localities like New York City and Allentown, PA. Looking at the history of ferrets as domesticated animals can clear up the basic misunderstandings that have led to the ferrets' illegality.

Although the European polecat (*Mustela putorius*) is thought to be its primary ancestor, other species likely contributed to the lineage of the modern pet ferret, including the Steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmanii*) of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ferret/human interactions are documented throughout world history. Ferrets were mentioned as early as 450 BCE by the Greek playwright, Aristophanes, who drew similarities between the Achaeans (one classical name for the Greeks) to ferrets in their abilities as thieves. Some historians also believe ferrets were being kept by ancient Egyptians as pets before cats became popular. There is also a possible mention of ferrets in an older version of the King James Bible. However, since the word for ferret has historically been difficult to translate, it is not conclusive that this mention is truly a ferret as some have deciphered the reference as weasel or even lizard!

The first universally accepted reference to the ferret was in 63 BCE by a Greek historian named Strabo. Strabo stated that the ferret was bred in captivity in Libya and used for hunting rabbits. "It [Libya] also produces ferrets, equal in size to cats, and like them, except that their noses project further..." (The Geography of Strabo, 17. 3. 4-5)

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By 600 AD, the ferret had made it to Spain where it was used to hunt rabbits. As cultures spread throughout the Mediterranean and into Europe, rabbit was commonly adopted as a protein source, and so the ferrets’ role as hunter expanded. Multiple references to the use of ferrets in hunting and for rodent control are noted after the 13th century throughout Europe. Their arrival in the New World occurred when explorers and colonists brought them along as mousers on their ships.

In recent times, ferrets have become popular pets beginning in the 1980s. While they were still used for hunting rabbits, most states/localities have made this practice illegal. Ferrets are still commonly used for hunting and rodent control in Europe. Many ferrets there are housed outside but it is important to remember that the basic climate differences between many European nations and the United States makes this possible.

The popularity of ferrets as pets has continued to grow. In the 1980s and 1990s, it was difficult to find products such as food, bedding and litter labeled for ferrets. It was even a challenge to locate a veterinarian adept at treating ferrets and vaccines for ferrets were unheard of. Great advances in ferret nutrition and health care have been made, and along with these, the clear recognition that our pet ferrets would have very little chance of surviving in the wild. So, why do some locations still consider them “wild animals” and maintain out-of-date laws and ordinances about ferrets?

The most recent instance of where the legalization of ferrets has been in the news is in New York City (NYC). The current proposal is to amend section 161.01 of the New York City Health Code, to reclassify ferrets as domestic animals, which would end their ban from the five boroughs. A ferret enthusiast from Brooklyn, Ariel Jasper, who petitioned the city to reconsider the ban, prompted the move. So, why did they become illegal to begin with? On June 29 of 1999, the NYC Health Department said: “Ferrets are known for their unpredictable behavior, and they are prone to vicious, unprovoked attacks on humans. Ferret attacks reported nationwide over time have become notorious for their severity and capriciousness, causing serious injuries to some infants and young children in particular... In New York City’s multiple dwelling residences, which are not natural habitats of ferrets, a ferret could crawl through holes in walls or travel along risers or ducts to other apartments, with potentially tragic consequences for the neighbor of a ferret owner.” (New York City Department of Health, Office of External Affairs, Press Release)

As ferret owners know, ferrets may be mischievous but typically they only “attack” our toes in play. While there has been documentation of ferret attacks, it is notable that they typically occur while a ferret was unsupervised with a small child and the wounds were primarily superficial meaning the ferret was not “out for blood.” Dog attacks are much more prevalent than ferret attacks, yet ferrets are blamed and banned. This may be due to the common fear of the unknown. There are currently many petitions underway with signatures needed to show support for the legalization of ferrets in NYC. Many of us in the ferret community hope for a hearing on this issue at the start of 2015. Let’s bring the ferrets back!

To learn more about the effort to legalize ferrets in NYC and or get links to sign petitions, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FerretsNYC>

April 2nd is NATIONAL FERRET DAY

Robin Landes and Sarah Wednesday Fatality, the authors, are members of the American Ferret Association’s Education Committee (AFA). The goals of the AFA are to promote, protect and provide for ferrets. Visit the association’s web site at www.ferret.org.

GypsyPrince's



Playground



The **Road Runner** is the ultimate leash if you are looking for a hands-free dog walking experience. The sliding side-release buckle allows you to alter the length of the leash or unclip to wear it around your waist or shoulder. Perfect for anyone who is active with their dog, the Road Runner uses our proprietary Soft Touch Webbing and Zero Shock Technology to absorb any sudden shocks. Reflective for night time safety and a neoprene lined handle for your comfort when used as a standard leash.

Award-winning 3Sixty Fun Leash Tie-out Makes U.S. Debut in June

Poochie-Pets named U.S. distributor of new, innovative pet leash tie-out. With an easy-glide, no harsh pull mechanism that allows the leash cord to smoothly retract into a 360° swivel case as the pet moves about, 3Sixty Fun securely keeps the animal from pulling and getting tangled. By twisting the handles, a steel spiral stake is secured into the ground, thus eliminating the need for tools. Lightweight and transportable with a 16' leash extension, 3Sixty Fun is designed for small to mid-size pets weighing up to 55 lbs. <http://poochie-pets.net>

For more information, images or product samples contact Dianne Howles at Poochie-Pets, LLC 860-408-9003 or dhowles@poochie-pets.net



Paws for the Cause www.pawstricounty.com Events Benefiting Tri-County Humane Society

SouthEast Counties of Florida
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a 100% NO-Kill! 100% of the proceeds from every monthly social event they host is for the tender loving care of at-risk, unwanted dogs and cats from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties benefiting Tri-County Humane Society.

5th Annual Animal Adoption Fair www.AnimalAdoptionFair.com

TBA August 2015
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
954-971-4432

Our Animal Adoption Fair is the War Memorial Auditorium at 800 N.E. 8th St, Fort Lauderdale All indoors and air conditioned. Animal Friendly. Veterinary Care, Live Music, Raffles. Food. Fun!



*MissKitty
sitting pretty*
Photographer: Suzik[©]

Have an AmericanPet Day!!



*GypsyPrince
soaking up the rays*
Photographer: Suzik[©]

**4 of the 10 KarpKatZ:
Amelia Earhart (Mia),
PrettyBoy,
Tabitha the Witch and
ThrasherMan**

Photographer: Suzik[©]



Hi Everyone! PeanutButter here.

Another New Year and another issue of AmericanPet Magazine™ released!

We have had a very busy 2014 with caring for 2 litters from one feral mommy cat. Mommy and I stepped up to the plate and took in the first litter when they were first found in our backyard at two months old. With careful considerations, we were able to find them all great forever homes. Of course we let them know that we are always here for the babies if ever needed. There are pictures of these precious babies on page 5.

There was a second litter of 3. Only one of them survived past one month old and had real bad medical problems. Once again, Mommy stepped up and did everything she could for the kitten.

I am realizing that we have had a lot of curve balls while fostering but are very determined to continue creating AmericanPet Magazine™ with much thanks for the help from our awesome contributors.

Also, Check out our 2015 Best in Print section (pg 22) of many incredible books for your reading pleasure and to help support our contributors and their missions.

Looking forward to what this year has to bring us.

Have a Blessed 2015!

One Pet at a Time..One Day at a Time..One Life at a Time..Your Voice Matters!

Thank you again and HAPPY READING!

#Meow #Woof #Rescue #Adopt #Foster #NoKill

PURRS & MEOWS, PeanutButter



NZ Frenzy: No Eggs. Add Apples.



Written by Christina Bournias

The sound of paws on the hard wood floor are in harmony with the music streaming through the speakers and our house is happy. I don't know what's more entertaining, Azella (stubborn Husky) grappling with Devlin (gullible Border Collie) for front row seating, or watching Enzo (non-stop Border Collie/Aussie mix) scurrying from room to room.

I'd like to think it's my homemade biscuits that create such a stir.

By default, Enzo is excitable. The delectable aroma that fills the kitchen only amplifies his exhilaration. Devlin pants, but goes with the flow. But, Azella—bossy in her later years—yields only to our previous dog (Nicodemus) when it comes to cookie stakeout.

Noses lifted, each dog sneaks a whiff of the mixing bowl, now dripping over with dough. As two dogs wait for something to drop, Enzo's tail slaps back and forth, making his whole body wag. Now first in line, Azella watches with intent, then barks for attention.

I looked up from my rolling pin. I'm greeted with fixated, determined eyes.

When barking for biscuits doesn't work, the canine crew become quiet. After all, this is serious stuff. They sit still. Like statues. They nod to each other as if in agreement; first to move, loses game. Their eyes narrow then glaze over. Mouths water, and all dogs grow impatient. The "crazy" one wiggles his butt an inch closer to the action, then smiles.

I'm tempted to stop everything and play with these adorable, yet pushy pups. However, I'm on a mission: 1. Bake pie for family dinner and 2. Bake dog biscuits for book signing.

I chop apples into squares, combine them with gooey filling, and set the bowl aside. It's perched on a bench beside the counter. Enzo thumps his tail against the bench leg, making both bowls clink together. He looks at the countertop, then at me. He doesn't dare jump. Instead, he pounds his tail until the bowls spin and tremble. I grope to save ingredients and settle the madness. Phew...a close call.

I laugh and continue preparation.

Enzo hears this laughter. Like a light switch, he turns on his charm. Filled with glee, his tail thumps feverishly. Before I catch what's about to happen, Enzo manages to knock the apple bowl over—right into the dog biscuit ingredients.

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So much for apple pie. I dump the remaining toppings into the biscuit dough and combine the two mixtures into one bowl. Next, I smother the apple delight over the biscuits, and dust them with cinnamon. They bake in the oven, and I wink at my little family. After what seems like forever in dog years, according to my pack, the treats are finished. Azella pushes her way to the front of the line for first dibs. The other dogs follow her lead, and scamper in. The treats are a hit! The dogs can't get enough of them, even with the mishap.

ORIGINAL RECIPE:

Makes 25 treats

- 🐾 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 🐾 2 eggs
- 🐾 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 🐾 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 🐾 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 🐾 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

🐾 ENZO ADDITION 🐾

Wag tail. Knock 1 cup of apple filling into original biscuit mix. Forget eggs. Good. Do it again.



PREPARATION:
15 minutes

BAKE:
40 minutes

READY IN:
1 hour 40 minutes

DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Whisk together flour, *eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, *apples, and cinnamon in a bowl. The dough should be dry and stiff. Add water (as needed) to help make dough workable. Roll dough 1/2-inch-thick. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Bake 40 minutes in preheated oven until hard. Allow 10 minutes to cool. (Eat!)

* Surprise your dog(s) with a biscuit: **International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day** is Monday, February 23, 2015. This spectacular day is considered an “unofficial” holiday for all dogs around the world. Your favorite friend deserves a delicious treat, whether it’s an award for good behavior, or simply a token of affection.

Christina Bournias resides in Michigan with her 3-pack; three new beautiful adopted miracles. As her “Angelwriter”, Nicodemus (1997-2010) is the wisdom behind the stories Christina shares. (#nica_knows) As an Accredited Pet Trainer, Christina champions the magnitude of building the bond between a dog and their person(s) by means of respectful communication and enduring admiration.

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Paws for the Cause is the official group of volunteers dedicated exclusively to raising funds for the Tri County Humane Society (100% no kill) animal shelter of Boca Raton, Florida. 100% of the proceeds from every monthly social event we host is for the tender loving care of at-risk, unwanted dogs and cats from Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties.

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
3 WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE:

🐾 Paws and Pals Cookbook - Submit your favorite recipes for pets and people! 100% of the proceeds from the sale of every book will be donated to the shelter. Send your submissions to *Regina@aol.com*

🐾 Your time is the most valuable thing you can share - Volunteer!
 Ask us how at *info@pawstricounty.com*

🐾 Join Generous Sponsors from around the Tri-County Community

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<http://www.pawstricounty.com>

I was found roaming the streets in Los Angeles, fending for myself with no one to care for me. If I'd been taken to a shelter, I would have never made it out because I had a bunch of issues: I threw temper tantrums, guarded my food and toys, and was sensitive to touch. So my rescuer took me to a foster home and from there I was adopted and found my forever home.

Meet Charlie Bear *the Rescue Dog*

Written by B.J. Taylor



Charlie Bear is a 3-year-old muttiegree who believes he won the lottery. No way could life have been predicted to turn out this good. In fact, his Mom Peep, B.J. Taylor, wrote the story of Charlie Bear's first year in their lives. It's an emotional, heart-tugging story that includes the big dog, Rex (Mom Peep's forever love): *Charlie Bear: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances* www.bjtayloronline.com

Guess what the last weekend in April is? It's VETERINARY DAY. Shhhh...don't mention the word "vet" in front of your pet, it freaks them out.

APRIL 25TH IS
VETERINARY DAY

It's the place where we get our temperature taken, someone looks in our ears, in our mouth, in our eyes, they fuss with our paws and they stick a cold round thing on our chest. You've probably had all this done by a regular physician in your world, but us dogs...we don't like all that poking and prodding, especially the dreaded shots part.

Now we know it's all in the name of staying healthy and we know a check-up can save our lives, right? That's all good reasons to get our shots and to clip any issues in the nub. Oh, and the vet can also implant a microchip in you (the size of a grain of rice) so if you get lost you can be reunited with your loved ones faster.

But did you know there's another reason to get to know your vet, and not just on VETERINARY DAY? It's for when we get older and we need medicine, or x-rays, or lab tests. And it's especially important for when the end is near. My Mom Peep found out so often in her life (maybe you have too?) that a vet can be the most compassionate, understanding, and caring person, like when she fell apart from emotion because her fur babies were sick.

Take Big Dog Rex for instance. He never did like the vet's office. Oh, he put up with it, standing stoically at alert, letting the vet do whatever he had to do, but he'd never lie down on any exam table or even on the floor. He was on his feet, ready to bolt as soon as Mom opened the door to go.



So when Mom had to relinquish Rex to the lovely, shady, welcoming place over The Rainbow Bridge, she just knew it would be hard for both her and Rex to visit the vet to get the peace-filling shot that would help Rex out of his pain. But that day Rex did something he'd never done before. Mom laid out his favorite blanket and Rex walked onto it and laid down. Peaceful, ready for the vet to administer the shot. Mom was incredulous. Rex was quiet and at peace.

So what does this have to do with VETERINARY DAY? It's all about trust. Tell your Mom and Dad Peep to find a vet they trust so they can take care of you throughout your entire LONG life. That's what vets want most, and what your Peeps want too: a long, healthy, fun life with you. Buck up and visit the vet to stay healthy.

Woofs and Wiggles!

Note: For the full story about me and my issues, and about big dog Rex and how much Mom Peep loved us both, read our book called CHARLIE BEAR: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love and Second Chances. <http://amzn.to/1vinAKT>



Love Your Pet Day

February 20th

Written by Dolores Paddock

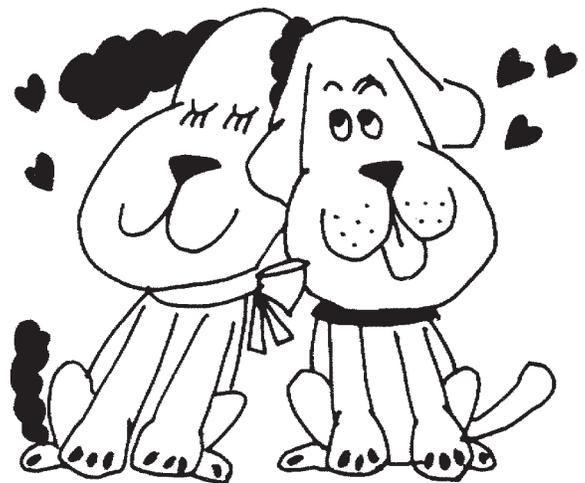
I take issue with this day; it is similar in concept to Valentine's Day. Let me tell you why I take issue with both days and I promise this will be brief.

Anyone that is reading AmericanPet Magazine™ has pets that are considered family members or loves animals or can't have one for whatever reason. To specify a day each year to love your pet to me is ridiculous. If you own a pet, they own you. You love that pet as a family member, most of us do not even call them pets but family members. To have to signify a date each year to express to your pet (Feb 20th) or to your loved ones (Feb. 14th) is craziness.

So I proclaim that every day is love your pet day and every day is Valentine's Day. We should love everyone we hold near and dear to us and not have to express it just one day a year. My two cats Cassie and Maurice and Beau my dog would be going through major withdrawal if I only expressed my undying love for them on Feb 20th. So this Feb 20th love a shelter pet, bring them a warm blanket or food or tell your relatives and friends to adopt never shop.

Okay, you can give your pets an extra hug on February 20th, but my furbabies will not even notice the difference because I hug and love them every day as I am sure you all do.

**Stay safe, be the voice of the voiceless
and if you see abuse, report it
and if possible stop it!**



I have recently become more involved with animal rights and fighting BSL across the United States and the world. Hand4paws has had a large impact on my desire to help fight for all animals. I have a passion for all animals and feel that we must be the voice of the voiceless. I have two cats Maurice and Cassie and one dog Beauregard, they all have rescued me!

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email contact: animalaidinc@aol.com
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2015 *in print*

Buddy, the Christmas Husky

Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty
Illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum

Buddy, the Christmas Husky—Based on a True Holiday Miracle, is a book for all seasons bringing awareness to abused and abandoned dogs. This story is about an injured, starving, and homeless Siberian Husky who is rescued by a Good Samaritan one snowy Christmas Day.



Through a network of caring people across thousands of miles, the Husky, who becomes known as “Buddy, the Christmas Husky,” discovers that not all humans are mean and uncaring. His long journey brings him to find compassion, friendship, and a loving mom to call his own. A percent of the book’s proceeds will benefit Buddy and “Buddy’s Buddies” through the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. ArcticHouse Publishing, 2013

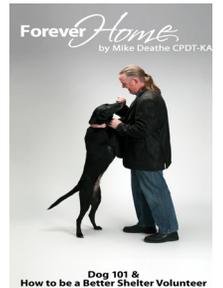
Forever Home

Written by Mike Deathe

Writing this book has been a challenge and a pleasure all at the same time. As I read and edit it (for what seems the 150th time), I realize it is way more than a book on how to be a great shelter volunteer. It is really a book about dogs, dog training and the ability to relate to your dog without malice, over the top control or even dominance. I am very proud of the ideas here, and really hope that all the people that read this book rush out to their local shelter, sign up as a volunteer and make a difference. I also realize this book has the potential to help people inside their own home with their own dogs, leading to a happier home for everyone involved. Even at the time of writing this last chapter, I have no idea what the title of the book will be. It was originally to be titled “So You Want to Be a Shelter Volunteer”, but in looking at the final product I think it covers way more than that. I can only

hope that you, the reader, agree. I ask you to take this information, share it, find someone to help or maybe even decide to go out and join the group of us that are lucky enough to work with dogs and their owners for a living. (Dog Trainer is really not accurate, since we are first and foremost people trainers!) Every author thinks, or at least hopes, that everything they write will be thought of as a “masterpiece”! I hold no such hopes. I know there are as many different ways to train a dog as there are types of dogs in the world. Rather, I hope you found a nugget or two in this book that you cannot wait to try. Thank you for supporting Keep it Simple Stupid (KISS) Dog Training and go out and make a difference with your own dog or others’ dogs. In the end, it is all about saving more dogs and finding them their forever homes. I hope you find few ideas to try along the way.

Mike Deathe CPDT-KA www.KeepItSimpleStupid.com



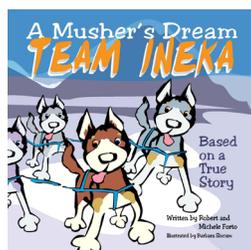
Teacup Turbulence

Written by Linda O. Johnston

Los Angeles animal shelter manager Lauren Vancouver has a soft spot for animals in need—and a keen eye for crime. . . Thanks to a savvy ad campaign featuring teacup pups sporting HotPets Bling—a new line of faux jewelry dog collars—small dog adoptions have skyrocketed across the city. So when Lauren discovers a shelter in the Midwest with more toy dogs than it can handle, she arranges a private plane to swoop in and fly the pups back to LA.



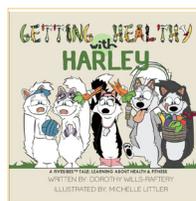
But Lauren didn’t count on rescue worker Teresa Kantrim coming along for the ride. Teresa has cared for the dogs since they were found and doesn’t trust anyone from LaLa Land to take over the job. Her biting comments clearly haven’t earned Teresa any new friends, but when she turns up murdered, it’s time for Lauren to dig into Teresa’s past and find out who wanted her put down.



A Musher’s Dream: Team Ineka

Written by Robert & Michelle Forto
Illustrated by Barbara K. Slocum

Team Ineka: A Musher’s Dream is based on a the true story of how the Iditarod-bound racing Husky dogs of Team Ineka came to be. ArcticHouse Publishing, 2013.



Getting Healthy With Harley

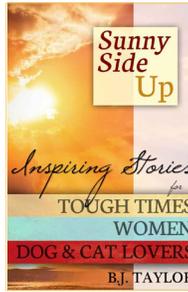
Written by Dorothy Wills-Rafferty
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

Welcome back to the world of the FiveSibes; five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading. The second book in the FiveSibes™ Tales series, Getting Healthy With Harley is based on one of the author’s Huskies, the pack’s alpha queen, Harley, as she has her annual vet visit and afterwards decides to help all of the FiveSibes adopt a healthier lifestyle through nutrition and exercise. The story unfolds through easy-to-read rhyming text and adorable colorful illustrations. A portion of proceeds from the book will be donated to the Save Our Siberians Siberspace Rescue Fund. Available online through ArcticHouse Publishing at: www.ArcticHousePublishing.com

Sunny Side Up

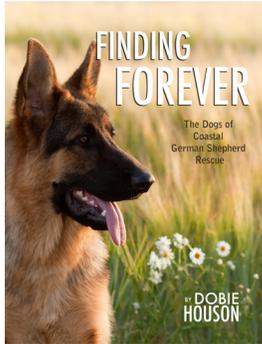
Written by B.J. Taylor

"Behind the clouds there is always the sun." SUNNY SIDE UP is filled with inspiring real life true stories. In the DOG & CAT LOVERS section you'll recognize the abundance of love we all have for our furry friends and the love they give us in return. A BONUS SECTION is devoted to short vignettes from CHARLIE BEAR himself, the headstrong, scrappy little rescue dog featured in the pages of this magazine (he writes a column called *Charlie Bear Woofs*).



In TOUGH TIMES, discover how people face real challenges and conquer their fears with courage, strength, and faith. In WOMEN, you'll see that B.J. also struggles with ups and downs and in an entertaining and motivating style, she shares her personal stories of empowerment and healing.

Purchase SUNNY SIDE UP on Amazon or Barnes and Noble, or through B.J.'s website at www.bjtayloronline.com.



Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd

Written by Dobie Houson

Finding Forever:

The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue, is a heartwarming, profound, and joyful book about 26 amazing dogs and their search for a forever home. Anyone who has ever gazed

into the soulful eyes of their animal companion and wondered what they were thinking will fall in love with these German Shepherds and their beautiful stories.

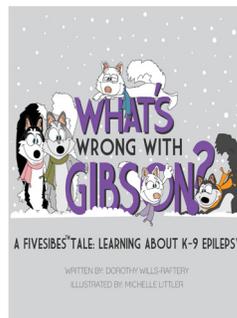
Find it on Amazon.com at <http://ow.ly/cHA5B>

What's Wrong with Gibson?

Written by Dorothy Wills-Raftery
Illustrated by Michelle Littler

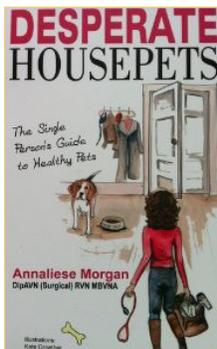
Welcome to the world of the FiveSibes™! They are five energetic Siberian Huskies who spend all of their days playing and learning together. Their stories are ones that children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading. The first book of the series, What's Wrong With Gibson?

Learning About K-9 Epilepsy, is based on one of the author's Huskies, Gibson, having a seizure, which is



translated into a short tale that makes it easy for children (who may have Epilepsy themselves, know someone who does, or have a pet that has it) to understand. As the short story unfolds in easy-to-understand rhymes accompanied by colorfully adorable illustrations, the three young pups discover that their big brother has Canine Epilepsy and they get a hands-on lesson about care and first aid from the pack's alpha leader, Harley. A percentage of proceeds from the book will be donated to the non-profit Canine Epilepsy Resources center.

Available online from ArcticHouse Publishing



Desperate Housepets

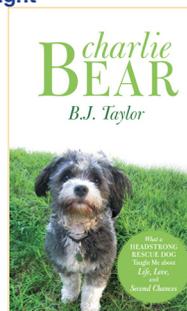
Written by Annaliese Morgan

Desperate Housepets is a reflection and extension of Annaliese. It's the professional information and 'how to' you need and wonder about it, but offered with a dose of her humour, sense of fun and also reality. A practical guide to keeping a healthy pet, with advice on subjects ranging from health, nutrition, exercise, grooming, illness and first aid. She too is one of these dog owners with not enough time so she knows first hand that the bog-standard advice and general rules don't always work or resonate...It's the book your pet wants you to buy!

CHARLIE BEAR: What a Headstrong Rescue Dog Taught Me about Life, Love, and Second Chances

Written by B.J. Taylor

Everyone deserves a second chance and someone to love them, right? Even a stubborn little dog with behavior problems. The story of CHARLIE BEAR is an intimate look at the first year in the life of a dog nearly labeled "unadoptable" by his foster mother. As he begins his new life, Charlie Bear ferociously guards his food and toys, throws temper tantrums, and is sensitive to touch.



Although B.J. doubts their sanity in adopting Charlie Bear after he repeatedly attacks their other dog, Rex, she is determined to make it work for the sake of her husband, who has fallen in love. But when B.J.'s world begins to fall apart, she shares how time, patience, and faith helped her realize that Charlie Bear was not the only one who needed a second chance—she did, too.

OMD... #TitusBARKS

SO EXCITABULLS!

SO MANY PEEPLES HAVE BEEN INTEWESTIED IN OUR RAW DIET N WAS WONDERIN HOW TO START DARE DOGGIE ON ONE. I WILL TWY TO ESPLAIN ALL DAT I NOS ABOUT IT N HOPEFUWWY IT HELPS YOUS ALL.

About 4 years ago, wen lots of pet foods was bein recalled, Mommy startied lookien into a helfier way to feed us. One of her fwiends had been feedin his dog raw for some time so Mommy found out lots fwom him n she also did lots of reserch online n desided dat she was gonna twy its. She started outs mixien our kibble wif da raw but wealized dat we was just inhalin it n not even chewin da kibble so afta 2 days she just switched us over totawy to raw. We do eat weally fast n dat was one weason Mommy was wowwied. She kept finkien abouts Mercedes, my older sister, lab x, getting bloat wif how fast she ate da kibble n never chewed its. Kibble takies forever to digest n wif da way she ate, it put her at gwate risk for bloat. Raw food digests so fastly dat dare is much less of a risk. Now, Mercedes takies da longest to eat her food, n now dat she can inhale its, she do not. BOL

Da benefits of feedin raw gwately outway da potenshal risks. In our case, ewewyfin about switchien was benefishal to us. My elder sister Mercedes, must have had allergies to somefin in da kibble, even afta Mommy switched to kibble wif no wheat. She used to get cwonic ear infecshons n had to see da vet ewewy monf for an ear flush. She also used to rip da fur fwom da bottom of her feets to ware she cood not even walkie. Ever since we switched, she onwy has to see da vet for her yearly shots. Our food bill may gave gone up a lil bit but we have saved way more in vet bills.

****Benefits: Shinier coats, healthier skin, cleaner teeth, higher energy levels, smaller stools.***

We is always asked how offen we get baffs n honestwy, we is lucky to onwy get maybees 2 baffs a year. Our fur n skin is so helfy lookien n we do not get dat dog smell anymore. I nos lots of peeples say dare pitties have bewwy sensitive skin but since switchien we have had no issues. Hailey always used to bwake out wif bumps on her hed in da summer time but has not since we have been on a raw diet.

Someone asked Mommy, at my Kissy Booth, how she keeps our teefs n gums so cwean. Da onwy answer she good give was our diet. Mercs is 12 years old, still has all her teefs n dey cood not lookie better. Da bones we gets help lots too, pwus we do not have da kibble stuffs rottin away our teefs. Mommy sais most kibble is likie candy to us.

Wen we used to gets kibble for dinner we used to have to lay on da couch for a wile to lets da food digest n sometimes later in da evenin, one of us wood frow it all up n da kibble was still hole. Dats how long it aktuawy takies to digest. Weally kinda kills lots of pway time if yous askie mees. Since we have switched, we have never frown up our food n we go rite outside n start pwayin n workien it off. Mommy cood not beweevie da diffewence in our activity level. My two senior sisters are like puppies agan.

A close-up photograph of a light-colored dog, possibly a pit bull mix, resting its head on its paws. The dog is wearing black-rimmed glasses and has a blue collar. The dog's eyes are closed, and it appears to be sleeping or resting. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a chair or a piece of furniture.

TITUS

hard-at-work

...Continued from Page 24

Da best part abouts da raw diet, speshawy wif 5 dogs is da smaller stool part, at leest for Mommy it is. Insted of havin to cwean up big piles, we keepie dems small for her but dey just become a lil harder to findie. Mommy also foundied dat we do not gain wate as fastly as we used to. Afta a winter of not much activity, we wood all bees a lil overwate n lazy. Since bein on raw, our wate never chancies n is always purfect for our bodies.

****Risks: Threats to human & dog health from bacterial in raw meat***

*****An unbalanced diet that may damage the health of dogs if given for an extended period***

Potential for whole bones to choke an animal, break teeth or cause internal puncture. Da risks is not weally risks at all if you feed cowwectwy. Twuth is, dogs salive has “lysozyme” an enzyme dat destwoys any harmful bactewia darefor makin it safe for a dog to eat somefin dat may makie us sick if eaten. It has aktuawy been found dat kibble contains way more bactewia den raw food n cood potneshally makie yous dog bewwy sick once bwoken down cus it sits in da stomach for so long afore digestin. If da human washies dare hands afta feedin, dare is no risk to dems.

It is bewwy important to makie sure wen feedin raw, dat yous dog is gettin all da nutwients n supliments needied to makie it a balanced diet. Dare is many websites online dat can show yous how to makie sure yous dog is gettin all da nutwients needied wen feedin raw. We resentwy noticed dat Mercs was eatin lots of dirt n sand. Mommy looked up da possibull causes n found dat she may not bees gettin enuff calcium in her diet so she now gives her a calcium vitamin in her food ewevy day n she has not eatin dirt since.

Da onwy type of bonies we gets is uncooked mawwow bonies. Dey is bewwy hard to bwake n do not splinter likie many types of bones do. It is also important to amemba dat cooked bonies is no good for yous dog as dey will splinter easiwy n cood potneshally weally hurt yous dog. Da food we purchase fwom da raw dog diet butcher, contains cwushed, gwound bonies. Bones is a bewwy important part of a raw diet.

...Continued on Page 27

ANESTHESIA-FREE TEETH CLEANING FOR DOGS AND CATS

IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN YOUR DOG AND CAT. IT IS ALSO JUST AS IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY EXISTING PERIODONTAL DISEASE TO STOP IT FROM PROGRESSING. WHEN PERIODONTAL DISEASE IS FOUND THESE MOUTHS NEED AN X-RAY TO CHECK UNDER THE GUM LINE. THEY ALSO NEED FREQUENT CLEANINGS AND HOME CARE.

WELL ANIMAL INSTITUTE PROVIDES THOROUGH CLEANING OF THE TEETH AND UNDER THE GUM LINE. WE PROBE GUM POCKETS AND MEASURE GUM RECESSION. WE CHART THE MOUTH AND OUR VETERINARIANS SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU AND DISCUSS AN INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT PLAN FOR YOUR PET. WE DO ALL THIS WITHOUT ANESTHESIA!

OUR VETS AND TECHNICIANS HAVE HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF TRAINING IN GENTLY HOLDING, SCALING, POLISHING AND CHARTING YOUR ANIMAL'S MOUTH. ALL X-RAYS AND EXTRACTIONS ARE REFERRED BACK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN. IF YOUR PET NEEDS ANTIBIOTICS THE VET CAN DISPENSE THEM AT THAT TIME.

YOUR PET WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU AFTER 30-50 MINUTES. HE OR SHE WILL GIVE A SHAKE AND WALK OUT THE DOOR SMILING.

**TO FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU GO TO
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AT (303)654-0560.**



Our diet consists of (daily);

- * 1 lb of meat per 50 lb of dog
(wif cwushed bonies)
Chicken, beef, turkey or duck
- * an ice cweam size scoop of yogurt
(non fat, probiotic)
- * abouts a 1/4 cup of veggies
(peas, bwoccowi, stwing beans,
spinach, kale, celewiy)
- * 1/4 cup of fwuit
(stwawbewwies, bwubewwies, apple, banana)
- * tablespoon of apple cider vinegar
- * Fish oil pill

Once a week we gets;

- Fish as da main meat (no fish oil pill dat nite)
- Oatmeal
- chicken livers
- garlic in small amounts
- pumpkin
- eggs (we do not get da shell but it is good for us)

We gets pawsome tweets toos: Apples, fwozen bananas, watermelon, Carrots, mawwow bonies, peanut butter (in mawwow bonies) all natuwal tweets (made in da USA) n da occasshonal junk food, good boy fwies, burgers, hot dogs, red velvet stuffs n Mommy n Daddys leftieovers. Mommy just startied makien home made chicken jerky for us toos. Lots safer den dat stuff imported fwom China or udder countwys.

Da meat dat we get comes in 5lb rolls n is likie chop meat dat yous wood findie in yous supermarket. Some raw feeders let dare doggies eat a hole chicken, bones n all. Dat kinda scares Mommy n we have a raw butcher dat gwinds da bones (bewwy important part of a raw diet) into da food so dare is no chance dat we will hurt ourselfs wif a splintered bonie. Mommy sed if we did not eat likie such animals dat she wood have considered doin it dat way toos.

Wif all da fings dat Mommy dos for us, da best desishon she ever maded was switchien us to raw. We is so much helfier becus of its n may just live years longer den we wood have bein fed kibble. Mommy honestwy bewveevies dat da weason so many doggies end up wif cancer n many udder diseases has somefin to do wif doggie kibble. Dare have been studies done dat pprove dis may bees da casie. I will attach da linkie to dis article. For any of yous dat have been finkien abouts switchien yous doggie over to raw, pwease consult wif yous vet as sertan diseases wood pwevent a raw diet fwom bein benefishal n cood aktuawy harm yous pet more. I hovie we was able to helpie yous wif anyfin yous mite have wondered abouts. If yous wood likie any more informashon, yous can contact us on our pagie or checkie outs da web sites dat I have postied at da end of da article. I can pwomise yous dat if yous doggie is helfy enuff, a raw diet will changie dare life for da better.



- <http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/kibble-never-a-good-option/>
- <http://www.barfworld.com/>
- <http://www.armellinosk9.com/> Dis is da butcher we gets our food fwom.
- <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/raw-dog-food-dietary-concerns-benefits-and-risks>



Written by: Ofc. Jared K Daeffler

Safe Harbor Animal Rescue of the Keys has been contracted by Monroe County Public Works to provide animal control from mile marker 16.7 to 72. We operate the largest animal control jurisdiction in the Florida Keys. As an animal control entity we provide full adoption services, have an open admission policy to residents within our jurisdiction, and do not euthanize healthy dogs.

In June 2013, SHARK was without an executive director. The number of animals was significantly inaccurate, and the few staff members that remained were spread thin and did not have adequate equipment to effectively operate an animal shelter. There were unhealthy cats in general population, there were dogs with multiple bites on humans, and the facilities were barely operational. The shelter completed the fiscal year under budget but at the expense of basic commodities necessary to efficiently operate the program.

Nycole Romeo took the reins in June 2013, as Executive Director. Nycole has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology with a minor in Conservation Biology, is a certified Veterinary Technician, and certified Euthanasia Technician. Nycole had previously worked for the Turtle Hospital, Stand Up For Animals, and most recently was a vet-tech for Michael Dunn, D.V.M. at Keys Animal Hospital in Marathon. She spent the next several months creating an appropriate filing system for records, updating the animal inventory, and creating basic shelter policies to improve bio security.

I was hired by SHARK in September 2013 to provide animal control services in the middle keys. I am a certified animal control officer through the Florida Animal Control Association, a nationally certified professional (level I) cruelty investigator through the University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute. I also have a career certificate from Penn Foster career school in Animal Care for dogs and various FEMA emergency management certificates. I brought with me two years of animal control experience accumulated in Key West where I was able to increase prosecution of animal cruelty offenders. I began constructing an animal control program to combat the specific issues of this jurisdiction.

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We have since begun a capital campaign to improve the functionality of the current facilities, and to construct a modernized building to accommodate the influx of dogs and cats from the community. Keys Construction Design, Inc. has designed a 664 sq. ft.; hurricane-proof building that will contain a new quarantine area and stray holding area. The total cost of this project will be \$175,000.

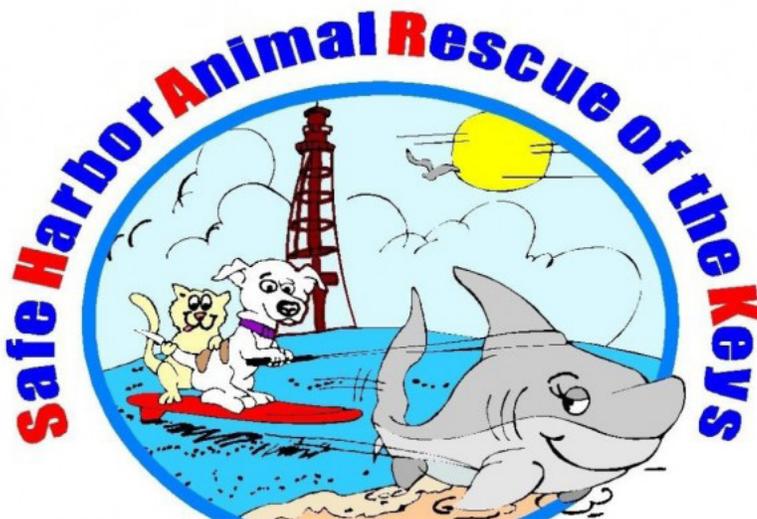
In the past year we have had the privilege of working with the members of this community and have seen their generosity first hand. I have had the opportunity of working in two of the Florida Keys' animal shelters and am no stranger to inadequate facilities. As happy as the animal welfare community is to see the lower Keys begin construction on a new shelter, we feel the same standard of facilities should reign across the Florida Keys.

Our community is blessed with state of the art schools, fire stations, and law enforcement facilities. Our current animal shelter was dedicated by Mayor Purlegton Howanitz and the Board of County Commissioners in 1977. In perspective, this was the year that Star Wars debuted, Elvis Presley passed away, and Jimmy Carter was sworn in as the 39th president of the United States. While we strive to provide the absolute best conditions for the animals in our care, 38 years have left us without the proper resources to combat the ever-evolving challenges of our field.

We are soliciting the help of our generous community for one specific purpose. We need your tax deductible donations to make our new building project possible. Please assist us in bringing the Florida Keys animal care and control services into the 21st century. These animals deserve better and we are more equipped with knowledge and experience than ever before. Though the past 10 months have been excruciating with soaring owner surrenders, diminishing adoptions, and a gravely hot summer, we will not waiver in the standards of care we provide our animals. We are asking our community and supporters to help give us a beacon of hope to work towards.

*The greatness of a nation and it's moral progress
can be measured by the way it treats it's animals*

~ GHANDI



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Before you get a Puppy ...

Written by Mike Deathe

Based on an average life span of 11 years, the cost of owning a dog is \$13,350. So, let's at this point, just agree that owning a dog is quite the financial and time commitment! I really don't want to discourage people from getting a dog but here are just a few things your family unit should consider ...

- 🐾 If it takes 12 years (we hope) to get kids ready for college you should not be thinking a 6-week course at the pet superstore will train your dog
- 🐾 You can not potty train a dog while you are at work, or watching TV. Expect a minimum of 30 days to build rudimentary understanding
- 🐾 You might just have to put your pooch in doggy day care if you can not take time off from work to help with potty training and puppy behaviors
- 🐾 Expecting your kids to train the dog is a pipe dream (you already know this, but sometimes we just need to hear it again
- 🐾 Dogs are social animals, so if you are planning on crating him/her in the basement or leaving the dog outside, think again
- 🐾 Puppy/Juvenile dogs can be destructive, if you do not have time to manage them continually expect bad things to happen

OK, these are only a few of the things that popped in to my head this morning as I wrote this little note ... Dogs are not easy ... Not every child, family or individual needs to own a dog and trust me I see it daily where folks don't think through this decision and well everyone in the family ends up in tears as they drop the dog off at the shelter.

If I could leave you with just one piece of advise ... It would be simple: Think outside the box and be that person that hires a dog trainer before you get a dog. Let a professional talk to your family about this decision from every direction before you just go out and pick the first cute (by the way they are all cute) puppy you see in the window.

Mike Deathe is an avid pet lover who found his passion as a dog trainer. Since 2008 he has trained thousands of pet parents on how to live with their companion animals. He writes the Keep It Simple Stupid (K.I.S.S) dog blog. Deathe has authored several books including; *The Book of Pee and Poop*, *Forever Home — Dog 101* and *How to be a Better Shelter Volunteer* and *The 5 Steps to the Perfect Pet*. Follow Deathe's blog at @<http://muttzmembers.blogspot.com> or the website @ www.kissdogtraining.com.



WHY WE LOVE DOGS

Why is it we, as humans, have decided dog is man's (or woman's) best friend, and just what is it that makes them a great pet? Well for me, the answer is simple, “**Unconditional Love!**” Let's face it ... dogs are the only animal in the world that are honestly always happier to see us than we are to see them. They greet us at the door wanting nothing but our attention and affection.

FINDING FOREVER

Written by Dobie Houson

A Book For A Cause



DOBIE HOUSON – AUTHOR. ACTIVIST. ANIMAL COMMUNICATOR.

Author of Finding Forever, Dobie Houson is an activist for animal rights, an animal communicator, and the award-winning author of Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue (CreateSpace, 2011) and Four-Legged Wisdom: Sacred Stories from an Animal Communicator.

An ardent activist for animal rescue, Houson is founder and executive director of Finding Forever, a foundation dedicated to raising money and awareness for animal rescue causes through the arts.

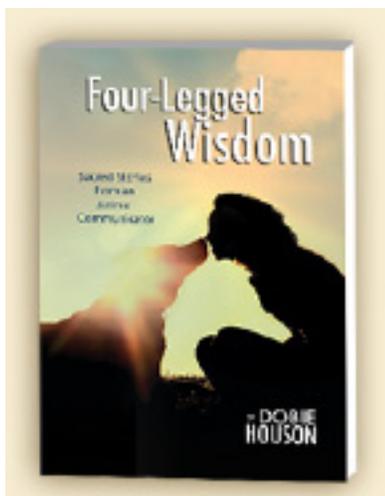
Dobie Houson, a lifelong animal lover and animal communicator, has worked with dogs, cats, and horses. But it was her desire to understand and connect with animals on a deeper, more meaningful level that ultimately led her to study animal communication, including honing her telepathic skills. She has trained with some of the country's most respected intuitive counselors and animal communicators and, today, is a sought-after teacher and trainer herself.

A professional communicator and prolific writer, Dobie Houson contributed to Why We Ride: Women Writers on the Horses in Their Lives (Seal Press, 2010), a popular anthology edited by writer and educator Verna Dreisbach. She also heads StrategiCreation, a marketing and communications consultancy for business start-ups.

When she's not working with animals, Dobie Houson serves as director of marketing research for The Ken Blanchard Companies, a global consulting firm specializing in leadership and talent development. Her research has been published in many world-class academic journals.

Dobie Houson lives in Valley Center, California, north of San Diego, with her family, her animal companions and her lively horse, Bear.

Our companion animals are complex, sentient creatures who feel love, pain, and joy and are as invested in their life goals and life direction as we humans are invested in ours. In this award-winning book, the author, an animal activist and animal communicator, beautifully illustrates how we learn from our animal companions and how our lives are enhanced by their presence.



Written to raise funds for animal rescues and sanctuaries, these stories show us that animals can be our wisest but often our most overlooked and misunderstood teachers. Journey into the hearts and minds of these amazing animals and learn the valuable roles they play in their human's lives. These remarkable stories are about partnership, humor, healing, life, love, and needing one another. This book will touch your heart and open your mind to the gifts and lessons our animal companions bestow upon us every day.

Dobie Houson is a freelance writer and amateur animal communicator. She is a contributing writer to Why We Ride: Women Writers on the Horses in their Lives and the author of Finding Forever: The Dogs of Coastal German Shepherd Rescue. She is the founder of Finding Forever, an organization that raises funds for rescue through writing and art projects. Dobie lives in Southern California with her family and animal companions.



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