

PetGazette

Western North Carolina

November – December 2016

Volume 5 - Issue 6



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Calendar of Events November-December 2016

November

Continuing - AHS iFoster program to help find forever homes for hard-to-place pets. ashevillehumane.org or 828 761-2001.

Continuing - Brick sales by Waynesville Park and Recreation Department. Proceeds will go to improve Waynesville Dog Park. rlangston@waynesvillenc.gov or call 828 450-2030.

Wed. 11/2 – 6pm. Kick-off party for Mountain Express' Give!Local fundraiser for area non-profits at Highland Brewing, 12 Old Charlotte Highway, Asheville. AHS is a participant and will be there with adoptable pets. Free, family friendly. www.ashevillehumane.org.

Sat. 11/5 - 11am-2pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Community Family Practice, Ste. 200, 260 Merrimon Ave., Asheville. bwar.org or 828 505-3440
Sat. 11/5 - 10am-3pm. Adoption Day, Sarge's Animal Rescue, 256 Industrial Park Drive, Waynesville. Lots of adoptable dogs and cats. 828 246-9050 or sargesanimalrescuefoundation@gmail.com.
Sat. 11/5 - 6-9pm. 13th Annual Taste of Compassion fundraiser for AHS. Live and silent auctions, featuring 2017 Subaru Outback from Prestige Subaru. Vegetarian hors d'oeuvres, wine, locally crafted beers. Story page 14. More

[details, tickets at ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org).
Sun. 11/6 - 11am-2pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Second Gear, Ste. 103, 444 Haywood Rd., Asheville. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Thur. 11/10 - 11am-4pm. Shopping event at Talbots in Biltmore Village. 10% of your Talbot's purchases that day will go to Brother Wolf. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Sat. 11/12 -12-3pm. National Adoption Weekend at Petsmart Charities. BWAR and other rescues will have adoptable pets at local Petsmart, 150 Bleachery Rd., Asheville. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Sat. 11/12 -1-3pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Sleepworld, 700 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville. Adoptable dogs, music, food, raffle. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Sat. 11/12 -10am-2pm. First Annual Dog Celebration Day, Jackson Park, Hendersonville. Proceeds to improve dog park. Adoptable dogs. Vendors. RAFFLE.friendsofjacksondogpark.com

Sun. 11/13 - 12-3pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Mast General Store, 15 Biltmore Ave., Asheville. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Sat. 11/19 - 11am-1pm. Asheville Holiday Parade featuring adorable army of adoptable dogs from AHS, BWAR. Ashevilledowntown.org/holidays.

Sat. 11/19 - 7pm. "A Dog's Behavior and Pain - How the Two Are Related" educational lecture by expert Julia Robertson at Lenoir-Rhyne University Graduate Center, 36 Montford Ave., Asheville. jrecthine@gmail.com or 585 905-8281.

Thur. 11/24 - Thanksgiving Day through Saturday, 12/31. Subaru's Share the Love event benefitting AHS. Prestige Subaru will donate \$250 to AHS for every Subaru purchased or leased during the event. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

December

Thur. 12/1 - 5-7pm. Photos of your pet with Santa at Asheville Outlets, outside Nike Factory Store and food court. Fee. Proceeds to BWAR. bwar.org or 828 505-3440

Sat. 12/3 - 1-4pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Skyland Automotive, 255 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville. Meet adoptable cats and dogs in lobby. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Thur. 12/8 - 5-7pm. See 12/1.

Sat. 12/10 - 12-3pm. BWAR Adoption Event at Petsmart, 150 Bleachery Blvd., Asheville. Meet adoptable dogs and cats. bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

Thur. 12/15 - 5-7pm. See 12/1.

Ongoing

Please call or email to confirm events since schedules can change.

Every second Tu. of the month: Hendersonville Paws for Love tests potential therapy dogs. Call 828 553-4085 to sign up, get directions.
Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am. BWAR. The Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at the shelter to take dogs on hikes. Great 1½ hour enrichment activity. volunteer@bwar.org.
Every Wed., Sat. - BWAR. PetSmart Cat Adoption Events. Times vary. Call 828 808-3440 for schedule.
Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville.
Every Sun. - 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Volunteers take shelter dogs for hikes. ashevillehumane.org.
Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14Forever Friends Lane, West Asheville. Details at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.



PetGazette Pet Resource Guide

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PetGazette

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Do Fish Have Feelings?

by Shawn Chase

Does your dog love people? Does he eagerly greet every person he meets? Do others tell you your dog is incredibly well-behaved and should be a therapy dog? Do you enjoy watching your dog make people smile? If you answered YES to any of these questions, perhaps you should consider becoming a registered therapy dog team with your best friend.

Do fish physically feel? Apparently, studies on this weren't done until the 90's. I admit to being surprised that no one had been curious about this until vegetarianism become common. In any case, the answer is: Yes. Fish feel. Little fishie faces don't show emotions, but they can certainly feel pain. When fish have external parasites they start "flashing", scratching themselves on whatever they can.

Saltwater fish can hang out at cleaner shrimp stations and get a once-over by an extremely talented little crustacean. His precision at removing parasites, cleaning wounds and removing bits of rock from gills is remarkable. Shrimp also do a great job on cuticles and splinters on people. I've even seen pictures of scuba divers getting their teeth cleaned by shrimp...but that's a bit much for me.

Back to the point. A study done on freshwater danios had them live in a complex tank separated with a maze and divided into two distinct landscapes. One area was planted, the other barren. The fish hung out only in the planted area. Then half the fish were injected with an acid solution, the other half with saline. They all continued to hang out in the planted area until the scientists dissolved a painkiller

into the barren area. Lo and behold, the fish feeling the pain of the acid solution went for the painkiller area. Those feeling no pain stayed home. Conclusion? I'm voting for "fish feel pain."

But do fish experience emotions? Can they feel happy, sad, or angry? That's the question. I've seen fish try to assist other sick fish in swimming and hover around protecting them.



I've witnessed bonded pairs of fish lose a mate and stop eating. I myself have fish that enjoy being petted, and show "jealousy" if other fish come around. Is it a learned behavior due to my feeding them? I doubt it. Treats weren't given by this pettor to reward the pettees for coming to be petted.

Can fish communicate? No doubt. The cleaner shrimp I talked about earlier? The fish signals his need for a cleaning by changing colors and showing where it needs help. If that's not communication, what is?

I've learned that certain fish that just NEED a buddy. Alone, they would eat, but just a little. They would swim, but not much. Alone, they just don't show normal behavior. But give them a friend, and almost instantly it's a different fish, eating and swimming with enthusiasm, and generally being a much happier fish.

Some people believe that fish have a very short memory - I think I heard three minutes or three seconds. Bologna. I've seen fish recognize people who cared for them years ago. Divers have numerous stories of fish recognizing and responding to them for as long as 20 years in a row. And some tests showed fish figuring out mazes and remembering the path. There have been many interesting studies done and I encourage you to read some of them.

The reason behind this article is not to turn you into vegans to keep you from eating fish. No, the point is to encourage you to take a different approach to setting up aquariums. I've said it a thousand times: Do your research! Support your local fish store where the people helping you have oceans worth of ichthyological insights.

Shawn Chase is the owner of Mountains to Sea Aquariums at Suite 103, 1446 Brevard Road, Asheville. She is also has a tankful of fishy expertise and is a frequent PetGazette contributor. Find her store on Facebook or call 828 633-6624.

Foraging Tips and Tricks

by Emily Trimnal

Foraging for food in the wild is a major activity for birds, and can consume up to eight hours of their natural day. Foraging not only does provides them with life sustaining nutrition, but also keeps them active and entertained throughout the day. Many of the larger birds organize their entire day around foraging. Wild parrots will literally dig, tear, rip, and root their way around for food.

Unlike wild parrots, parrots in captivity have food available to them at all times. Most often, it's a quantity of food they wouldn't finish in two days, let alone one. What used to be a day long adventure (foraging) has now been replaced with the simple act of navigating to the bottomless food dish. No wonder so many parrots have behavioral problems - we've stripped them of what they have been hard wired to do! Bird owners can vastly enrich the lives of our parrots by simply implementing some low cost basic foraging materials that would replicate their natural activities.

Be creative. Mix and match commercially available foraging systems with homemade toys that encourage foraging activity. Following are some ideas to get you started, and are geared towards the beginning forager.

1. Use paper. Printer paper, newspaper, or even construction paper work well. You can crumple the paper and hide a treat inside, cover the food dish with a sheet of paper, or learn a few simple origami designs to hide treats. For the beginner forager this

is a great activity.

2. Small cardboard boxes. The boxes your tea and cereal come in are great for smaller to mid-sized birds. In smaller boxes such as tea boxes, you can hide favorite treats and have the bird chew their way through the cardboard to reveal the treat inside. For a larger box, stuff the box with shredded paper, sprinkle with seed, and watch your birds go to town as they root around in the box to find the food.

3. Paper cups can be used to crumple and hide a treat within the cup. Or you can string multiple cups up on a length of wire, chain, or sturdy cotton rope, so the two cup open ends are facing each other, and hide a treat inside each cup. Then hang in your bird's cage.

4. Coffee filters are a favorite in this household. You can purchase these unbleached and organic if you so desire. They are a great and engaging texture.

5. Paper towel rolls can be cut into small segments and used to hide treats and other foodstuffs.

6. Food bowls. Instead of having one food bowl in the cage as the primary source of food, mix things up a little. Have two or more bowls in the cage, placed away from each other and containing a small amount of food. This way your bird will have to work its way to each bowl to eat their fill.

7. Whiffle balls, especially the slotted type, are great for stuffing items such as shredded paper, craft sticks, and anything else you can think of that your bird might

enjoy. The birds will delight in having to extract the item they want to play with from the ball.

8. Nut cages are a great and relatively inexpensive option for the serious forager. You can fill them with toys, nuts, or other food items so your bird has to really work for its treat. Nut cages are refillable and reusable, which makes them a great long term investment.

9. Popsicle sticks can be used as foraging treats as well. Put them over your bird's food dish to provide a challenge to get around when trying to reach their food. You can tape down the sticks using a cloth tape, available in the first aid section of your local store.

10. If you are serious about foraging, and your bird is too, consider investing in some foraging systems. There are lots of different types out there now, since the recent popularity and importance of foraging has come to light. Many systems double as toys, so your bird can get foraging and enrichment at the same time.

I hope you find these ideas useful and that they will give way to your creative side to come out and play. Remember, no idea is too simple and just because it might not look pretty doesn't mean it won't be an effective tool. Some of the most enriching forms have come from some pretty ugly prototypes!!

Emily Trimnal is a Certified Avian Specialist, a Level 2 Aviculturist with the American Federation of Aviculture, and a regular contributor to PetGazette. Her bird blog is Emily's Birds. She also blogs at ashevilleblog.com.

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by Carol Marks

When Hurricane Mathew roared along the East Coast, with its roof-high, record breaking storm surges and consequent floods, it drowned Louisiana and the Carolinas in the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean. There has been millions of dollars’ worth of property damage, and tragically, some of the residents or visitors caught in its path



lost their lives. Most were evacuated to shelters on higher ground, but in the press of both time and space were unable to bring their pets, leaving them behind to fend as best they could. Thousands of cats and dogs, domestic, stray and feral, were left stranded in the flood waters, trying to find a place to survive. Thousands of people were saved by government and volunteer emergency

rescue teams. What is the emergency rescue team for animals? Many animal rescue groups across the south leapt into action, including Asheville’s Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Eric Phelps, Rapid Response Team Manager, was there and gave an in-person description of the conditions and what it’s like to be part of such a rescue effort: “We’ve done this kind of work before in other floods but we’d never seen anything like this. It was very very bad. The town of Nichols was completely underwater, with floods up to the rooftops. We were asked by a woman to rescue a tabby cat from an attic and he was so glad to see us he jumped right into my arms. We pulled cats from a boat in a parking lot. Four semi-feral cats were huddled on a ramp to a house, so terrified they jumped into the water when the boat approached. We had to chase them down to rescue them. Sometimes people forget about the cats.” “Most of these animals had been without food or water for seven days,” said Jackie Teeple, Marketing Manager

at Brother Wolf. She described the overwhelming numbers of animals, primarily cats and dogs, which were rescued, brought to the shelter here in Asheville, or transported to other shelters around the country. “There were literally thousands”, she said. “We’re very grateful to Pilots n Paws for their volunteer pilots who transport rescues. They transported many of these pets to their network of shelters throughout the country. Many were brought back to the Brother Wolf Adoption Center on Glendale Avenue in Asheville.” Audrey Lodato, Shelter Manager, said “The number of intakes we had in just one weekend was overwhelming. We took in 10 dogs and cats from South Carolina on Saturday, and 23 on Sunday from Louisiana.” She described the lengthy process of intake, including description, identification, seeing if there is any ownership i.d. such as a tag (usually not), taking a health assessment (most are not spayed or neutered). “The worst part”, she said, “is because they were standing in chest-high water for seven days without food or

water, they were not only emaciated, but they were covered with black mold, and had to be washed with an antiseptic.” Teeple added, “ Some have injuries from the flood waters, and many have heartworm, but if people can help us get room in the shelter to save more animals, we pay the medical bills for those fosters.” Floodwaters are receding in some areas, but rescue efforts, and the care of the animals rescued, does not recede. .Denise Bitz, Founder and President of Brother Wolf, said Matthew and previous disasters have cost the shelter \$350,000. More information can be found at www.bwar.org/matthew-one-week to find out how to help. Video can be found on the Brother Wolf Facebook page. 🐾



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Choosing Holiday Gifts for Pets

by Larry Jandrew

We treat our pets as family and we want to share the holiday spirit with them. In our household, our pets have their own Christmas stockings, just like the rest of the family. On Christmas morning they share in the experience of opening gifts and seeing what Santa has left them. It is important that we understand that these presents are safe and healthy for our animals. Toys should match the size and chewing level of the pet. Too large and they may be intimidated. Too small and they may injure themselves or even choke on the item. Hearty chewers should not be given toys that they can destroy in minutes. Hidden items such as squeakers can present problems if the toy is destroyed and the hidden part becomes obtainable. Rawhide is treated with bleach or even arsenic. Know the country of origin. Rawhide from the United States is the safest. But even untreated rawhide can have negative consequences.



Rawhide is difficult for a dog to digest. Swallowing a large piece can block the intestines and require surgery. The dog also can cut its mouth on the jagged edges of the rawhide. We recommend natural body parts of animals such as bully sticks or hard, splinter- proof bones. Elk or deer antlers and Yeti bones (a hard cheese treat made from Yak milk) are favorites. When purchasing a toy, consider whether it is to be used as a tug toy, a retrieving toy, or just a toy that pets can entertain themselves with. Rope toys make great tug or retrieving toys, but are not good toys for the dog just to chew on.

The rope fiber can be ingested and cause stomach or intestinal problems. Plush toys are not manufactured to sustain the rigors’ of tugging. They are designed to be a friend for the pet when humans are not around. Puppies should be matched with toys as they grow. Start small and soft. Remember baby teeth can break easily. And because they are sharp, they can shred toys easily also. If you are buying a present for a neighbor or a family member, it is always best to first ask what they think their pet would like. If you want it to be a surprise, then we recommend a gift certificate. Always better to be safe than possibly waste your money. One last thought on the holidays: Keep your pets safe around the house. Plants such as poinsettias and holly berries are poisonous to pets. Make sure they are out of reach. Christmas ornaments can also be hazardous. Tinsel can be eaten and cause stomach problems. Power cords are attractive to puppies and kittens. They like to chew. Ornaments should not hang within reach of pets. Be careful with any water additives to the Christmas tree stand. Some of these can be toxic to pets. And please, if you are looking to add a pet to the family for Christmas, give it a lot of thought. Animal shelters are often overrun with unwanted pets after the holidays. Don’t just give in to temptation without thinking it out. Pets depend on you to care for them. Don’t let them down. 🐾

Larry Jandrew has owned Pet Source since 1999. He sends best wishes for Happy (and Safe) Holidays from the entire staff at Pet Source.



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Trish Loehr
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828-575-8373

Buncombe and Madison counties

New rescue group creates network

The infant Animal Rescue of Western North Carolina (TARWNC) has developed a system to connect shelters and rescue groups all over WNC to help prevent the needless euthanasia of adoptable pets.

The system’s acronym is PIC, for Population, Intake and Census. It connects participating organizations in all 23 WNC counties and makes possible the saving of animals that might otherwise be lost. A facility that is filled up, or is not allowed to take animals from other jurisdictions, can use PIC to find a place that can care for an animal until it is adopted.

TARWNC was founded by Tim and Julie Tipton. They have been active in WNC animal sheltering circles for a combined 15 + years and developed contacts and excellent working relationships with most area rescue groups. President and CEO Tim Tipton said the TARWNC motto is “saving lives by working together.” He realizes different groups have different goals, funding levels and ideologies. “We understand. We’ve been there,” he said. “So we don’t judge. We want everyone in WNC to work with us.”

TARWNC has already received 501(C) (3) status, and won a national award. The Pollination Project, based in Berkeley, California, identifies inspiring social change-makers and extraordinary grassroots leaders. It announced in August that TARWNC was among the fraction of applicants awarded funding. TARWNC was also selected to participate in the Mountain Express Give! Local fundraising campaign.

For more, visit www.tarwnc.com, email rescue@tarwnc.com, or call 828 208-1123.

Dog Celebration Day to fund dog park improvements

Volunteers from the newly formed Friends of Jackson Dog Park in Hendersonville will host the First Annual Dog Celebration Day at the park on Saturday, November 12. The event is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Henderson County and Henderson County Parks and Recreation.

The event will run from 10am until 2pm and will raise money for improvements to the dog park. There will be food vendors, pet store tables, and a giant raffle with over two dozen prizes. Area shelter and rescue volunteers will be walking dozens of dogs available for adoption. Anyone thinking about adopting a new furry friend should be sure to visit the event and meet some adoptable dogs. Participating groups will include Blue Ridge Humane Society, Brother Wolf, Charlie’s Angels, Foothills Humane Society, Sarge’s Animal Rescue and Yancey Humane Society.

Officers of the Henderson Sheriff’s department K-9 unit will demonstrate how officer-dog teams work to help citizens and capture bad guys. In addition, local pet experts will make interesting and educational presentations. Dr. Don Zehr, DVM of Hendersonville Veterinary Hospital, will talk about canine first aid. Nita Hunt of Pure Pets will update listeners on the latest thinking about dog nutrition. Karen Comstock of Aunt Karen’s Lucky Dogs will discuss how to train without pain or shame. And Nicole Watts, owner of Zen Puppy, will explain how the healing arts of acupuncture and massage can benefit pets. Watts is credentialed as a

Certified Animal Acupressure and Massage Therapist (CAAMT) and a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT).

The day’s proceeds will go towards improvements in the dog park area within Jackson Park. The list of planned improvements includes replacement of the shelter roof, repair of the entrance road, easier access to Mud Creek and several landscaping projects.

The primary fund raiser at the Dog Celebration Day will be a raffle featuring dozens of prizes donated by generous local businesses. The Grand Prize, donated by Dunlap Construction, will be a bi-plane ride over Hendersonville. Prizes have been divided into seven groups, and ticket buyers can select the group they want to enter. Prizes range from art to theater tickets to meal tickets to salon visits to Zumba fitness sessions. There will also be gifts from local pet specialty shops Pet Source and WAG. Plus, plus and plus.

The event will be held at the big brick building to the right of the tennis courts. Since many adoptable dogs will be in the parking area in front of the building, visitors are asked to consider leaving their dogs at home. For those who do bring their dog, the off-leash dog area will be available and clearly marked on the day of the event. The rain date for the event is Saturday, November 19th.

For more details about the First Annual Dog Celebration Day visit www.friendsofjacksonpark.com.

The Dog’s Perspective eBook*

Volume 1: A Philosophy Primer

by Kathryn R. Gubista

Introducing the first volume of the *Kindle eBook** series, **The Dog’s Perspective: How to Train a Dog by Thinking like a Dog**. The objective of this book series is to explain how to train dogs by thinking like a dog. *The Dog’s Perspective* is a simple and straight forward approach to dog training that enables anyone to find solutions to many of their dog-related issues. The objective of this first volume, *A Philosophy Primer*, is to explain the philosophical foundation of the Dog’s Perspective.

This volume describes, compares and contrasts three different training philosophies and their ultimate effect on dog training success. Current training methods are easily categorized into two basic philosophies: *Wolf’s Perspective* and the *Human’s Perspective*, which represent aversive and positive training, respectively. This book offers another option by presenting a third training philosophy, the *Dog’s Perspective*, which is an evolutionary approach that shares both similarities and differences with the other training philosophies.

The *Dog’s Perspective* is a canine-version of *Positive Discipline*, a popular parenting model for human children. The positive part of *Positive Discipline* stresses calm, friendly and respectful training methods. The discipline part of

Positive Discipline has nothing to do with punishment, but everything to do with teaching and guidance. *The Dog’s Perspective* is the only training philosophy that is simultaneously dog-friendly, human-friendly, dogmane and humane.

There are numerous reasons this book needed to be written. First, so much misinformation about dog training is running rampant, especially where it comes to unsubstantiated claims of scientific evidence supporting an opinion or viewpoint. Second, some training methods are too complex and/or ineffective. These problems frustrate most humans to the point of quitting – just giving up on training their dogs.

The individuals harmed the most from this are innocent dogs. Some untrained dogs are just left home alone or confined to their yards. Others are less fortunate and find themselves surrendered to a shelter or worse. The goal of this book is to help stop the abandonment trend by explaining just how easy and straightforward dog training is from the *Dog’s Perspective*. Trained dogs are lucky dogs and their humans are very happy companions.

The *Dog’s Perspective, Volume 1: A Philosophy Primer* is available on Amazon. You have the ability to preview the first 10 pages to determine if you want to read more. Thank you so much if you read the book. If you find it informative or useful, we would



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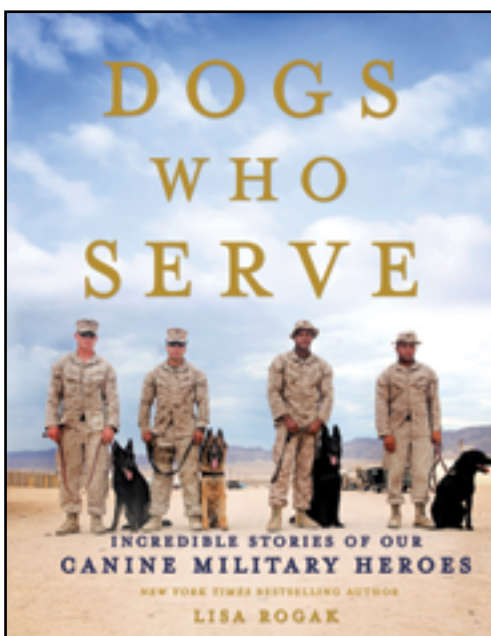
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Book Review



Dogs Who Serve: Incredible Stories of Our Canine Military Heroes

by Lisa Rogak

St. Martin's Press
\$29.95

Since the time of the Civil War, dogs have played a role in the efforts of our nation's military, saving countless lives in the process. In *Dogs Who Serve* you will learn of the great adventure of becoming one of the nation's select groups of highly trained military dogs.

New York Times bestselling author Lisa Rogak takes readers through the developmental process, beginning with breeding and puppy selection and progressing through training and eventually fighting on the front lines. *Dogs Who Serve* provides a glimpse into the highly selective and competitive nature of becoming a working canine. Readers will learn about the different jobs these canines are trained to do, including: search and rescue, bomb detection, and criminal apprehension. As you read along, you will see incredible illustrations depicting the devotion, bond, and trust forged through human-animal interaction.

Without these invaluable assets, many missions would not have been possible, despite some of the best, and most expensive technology in

the world. In fact, a canine soldier typically accompanies many highly trained teams, including Seal Team 6, those responsible for eliminating Osama Bin Laden. Despite their high level of training, many military dogs work multiple roles. When they are not out searching for bombs or apprehending criminals, they may be found comforting wounded veterans in military hospitals or even providing some comic relief and education to school aged children. As time progresses and retirement nears, these furry soldiers get to look forward to the life of a typical house pet, including relaxing on a couch and playing ball. After reading this book, you will certainly have a newfound appreciation of just how tough, smart, loyal, and loving these four-legged soldiers can be. 🐾

Reviewer Jeff Fink is founder of *Go Fetch Wellness*, an Asheville-based organization. It is dedicated to helping people with mental health challenges stabilize and heal by connecting them with dogs and other animals. More at www.gofetchwellness.com.

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Book Review

Oliver's life began with the trauma of being taken from his mother, put in a bag with his siblings and left to die. He's rescued and taken in by George, who owns the village pub, which also serves as a community center for the villagers. Oliver is narrating his life and experiences to a kitten, Charlie. The pub burns down and George is forced to take a job far away. Oliver ends up living with two families.

The people he lives with are poor and worried about various things, including having the wherewithal to celebrate Christmas. Apparently the entire village is concerned about meetings, clubs, and the Christmas celebration, because the pub has burned down and they have nowhere to meet. Oliver makes it his goal to save Christmas.

Oliver discovers a girl named Caroline at the Big House who is recovering from an illness which had hospitalized her for many months. Her father is the meanest man in the village. Oliver had been visiting her on the sly, as her father was so concerned about her recovery he only allowed her nurse, Laura, to be in the house all day, while he was away working. Caroline has no other friends and is not allowed outside. One day her father returns home to discover Oliver. He throws a fit, throwing Oliver out by the scruff of his neck. But Oliver returns, determined to help Caroline while the father is away.

A week later the father is a different person, to the extent one has to wonder what he's on. Everyone is welcome in the Big House and it's



Oliver, The Cat Who Saved Christmas

By Sheila Norton

St. Martin's Press, \$24.99

a very happy ending as all celebrate Christmas.

Most of the humans in this book are cardboard characters, so I cannot recommend it for adults. But Oliver might make a good gift for a child of thirteen who is precocious enough to be reading 300 page novels. 🐾

Reviewer Curtis Browne is an active volunteer with Waynesville's FUR (Feline Urgent Rescue).



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Canine Educational Seminar offered by Bernese Mountain Dog Club

The Piedmont Bernese Mountain Dog Club is sponsoring a seminar covering aspects of dog health and nutrition useful to owners of all dog breeds or mixes, in addition to some specific presentations regarding Bernese Mountain Dogs. The event will take place Sunday, November 6 at the Piedmont Kennel Club Showplace at 13607 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Dicki Kennedy, DVM, will discuss the core muscles in a dog, including the front legs, back, abdomen and hind legs. The experienced veterinarian will then explain specific exercises to develop those areas and help improve the pet’s stability, balance, and ability to enjoy physical activity and decrease injuries.

Dr. Barbara Eves, DVM, will examine the ins and outs of nutritional supplements to enhance a dog’s health and performance capability. She will also make it easy for listeners to choose the right supplements for their own pets.

Owners who would like their dog to earn an AKC title can have them tested to see if they quality for a Canine Good Citizen award. AKC certified evaluator Trish Carter will administer the tests and certify those

dogs that demonstrate their qualifications.

Bernese Mountain Dogs were originally used in Switzerland to haul dairy products from farm to creamery pulling either two-wheeled carts or four-wheeled wagons. To maintain the tradition of Bernese Mountain Dogs as a working breed, the sport of draft developed, with dogs and handlers meeting specific requirements to earn titles. At the



Charlotte seminar, dog owners, especially those interested in the sport of draft, can take Draft 101 and 102. Leaders Wendy Djang and Jim and Jenny Durrance will introduce the basics of draft work to new and novice handlers. Then handlers and dogs can move on to Draft 102 to hone their skills and learn BMCD (Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America) draft

test requirements.

Expert Dawn Hitchcock will lead a session on grooming. It is designed for the person who wants to keep his or her Bernese Mountain Dog looking its best. The seminar will cover the needed tools and the way to use them to get the best results.

For further information about these seminars, email Elizabeth@idoeventsatlanta.com. 🐾

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13th Taste of Compassion fundraiser “A Night at the Moulin Rouge”

The theme is different each year, but the goals are the same: to raise money for the Asheville Humane Society (AHS) and to find forever homes for adoptable pets.

The 2016 edition of this annual charity gala will be held on Saturday, November 5 from 6-9pm at the Morris Hellenic Center, 227 Cumberland Avenue, Asheville. Gala goers are encouraged, but not required, to attend in their best Moulin Rouge themed attire. As always, they will be treated to fine vegetarian



Raised paddle drew approval at 2015 event

hors d’oeuvres and desserts prepared by local chefs, fine wines courtesy of Mutual Distributing, local craft beers, and the chance to bid silently on a huge array of gifts donated by local artists and businesses.

There will also be a live auction conducted by returning host and auctioneer Ben Farrell. He will be eliciting bids on a 2017 Subaru Outback from Prestige Subaru, a long-time supporter of AHS and

its work. Farrell will also conduct the third annual “Fund-the-Need” event, asking potential donors to raise their paddles to pledge donations to AHS and its life-saving programs. Throughout the evening, AHS volunteers will be introducing adoptable puppies and dogs to the attendees. The hope is that the evening will generate many dollars and many adoptions.

Those who would like to make the evening an extra special outing can assure a rouge carpet treatment by purchasing VIP tickets to attend

a pre-gala reception from 5-6pm. VIP guests will get the first opportunity to bid on outstanding auction packages and try the AHS signature drink, “The French Kiss.”

For more information about this year’s Taste of Compassion, or to buy tickets for the event many consider the unofficial opening of Asheville’s holiday season, go to ashevillehumane.org. And tell them PetGazette sent you. 🐾



A sampling of gifts
in 2015 silent auction



Volunteer and adoptable
puppy at 2015

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Pet Obituaries *by Pet Cremations of Western Carolina*

Bunk lived with his dad, **Matt** and two canine siblings. Though we aren’t really supposed to have favorites, Bunk was closer to his brother Rusty, a fellow Shi-Tzu – namely because they were close to the same age. He passed away on August 16th, and he is missed by Matt Phillips.

A few years ago **Black Jack** made the cross-country trip to WNC with his human-mom, Bess Baehler. Bess says the two of them rescued each other. A beautiful black cat, he quietly passed away at home on August 21st.

John adopted sick little **Spenser** from the Madison County Shelter 13 years ago. John, Irene and R.D. McHone immediately bonded with their canine child, and a year later went back to the shelter and adopted Haley. Family friend Jamie Plott says Spenser filled their hearts over the years. Spenser passed away on September 1st and leaves behind John,



Spenser

Irene, R.D. and canine-sister Haley. Jamie says one message Spenser would want everybody to hear is “Please Adopt – we are worthy and lovable animals”.

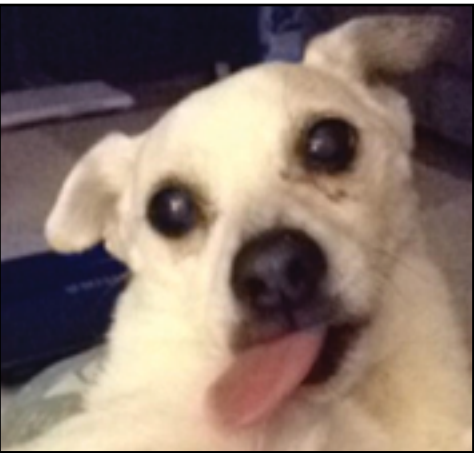
Simarilis Boudreaux Bear (**Boo**), a beautiful English Golden Retriever, was actually white! He was a big pile of lovable fur adored by his mom, Mara, and his grandparents, Bill and Ann Mayer. At the age of nine, he left for the Rainbow Bridge on September 3rd.

Carabas was quite the little man in the Wood household. He loved snuggling in his mommy’s lap or hanging out with Dad. On Fridays his two older people-brothers, Walter and John, Jr. would take Carabas to the airfield where they fly remote control planes. Carabas would get so excited about those trips that he frequently abandoned sleeping in bed with his parents and curl up on a chair next to the door to await his brothers’ arrival on their way to the airfield. Carabas excitedly waited for the oversized model planes to take off and land. On September 9th at the age of 12, Carabas said goodbye to Bernice, John, Walter and John, Jr. as he took to the skies where he can now chase those planes with wild abandon.



Carabas

Shannon Frazier and J.W. Baynard lost their beloved **Trendy** two weeks before their wedding. In Shannon’s words, “She was a beautiful bright eyed bundle of love and for 15 years we were fortunate enough to have her in our lives”. Trendy’s name came from her eyes that glowed beautifully from her sweet white face. She taught her parents “to love unconditionally”. Trendy said goodbye to her Mamma and Poppa on September 9th.



Trendy

Chico belonged to Darrell Morgan & his daughter Renee. Chico’s favorite thing was going for a ride. Pampered Chico was hand fed every meal he ate! His unique personality brought so much joy & happiness into Darrell and Renee’s lives. Renee says “He is worth every tear we have shed.” Chico was truly loved & will be forever missed. He passed away at age eight on September 14th.



Chico

Zoe loved tennis balls. They had to be yellow and dirty. Her eyes lit up and she would grab ‘her ball’ and that would be the end of it. Getting the ball back was anything but easy. She also loved the sport of agility and held many titles in that and other areas as well. A gal who loved to please was a large presence in her home. She is survived by Joan and Jeff Shields who will always hold the precious memory of Zoe in their hearts.



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Introducing Your Cat to a New Cat

by Trish Loehr

So you're bringing a new cat home! It should be really easy to integrate her with your current cat - just open the box and let her go, right?

Well, maybe. If both cats are young and well-socialized, it might be an easy transition. But if your middle-aged indoor cat has never seen another feline up close and personal, releasing that new kitten to charge into her space may not be such a great idea. And letting cats "just fight it out" is definitely ill-advised.

Cats have a long memory, so avoiding fights is essential. Go slowly, and set them up for success.

A year ago, we introduced our new cat, Pan, age 3 to our old cat, Kindi, age 8, who had a history of not loving other felines. Here are the steps we followed:

1. Choose a safe area for the new cat. Pan moved into our spare bedroom with food, water, resting places, toys, scratchers and a litter box.
2. Trade scents – rub a cloth on each cat, and then put it in the other cat's territory and let them investigate. Don't put the cloth right on the other cat's bed or near their food, but allow them to acclimate to the scent of their new roommate.
3. If your setup allows, have the cats trade areas every day or so – let them thoroughly investigate the other cat's territory without seeing the other cat.
4. Feed the cats on either side of the door separating them. With Kindi and Pan, I started with each bowl about three feet from the door. If there is hissing, the cats are too close.
5. Every meal, gradually move the bowls closer to the doorway.
6. When the cats are able to eat a foot apart with the door closed,

put a baby gate between them and crack the door slightly as they eat, starting with the food bowls far apart again. If they hiss, you are too close.

7. Gradually crack the door more and more, and then move the food bowls toward one another with each meal, continuing to swap scents and sides of the house..
8. Keep the door closed when you aren't around to supervise.
9. Once the cats are showing friendly or at least neutral signs toward one another (playing "footsie" under the door is a nice sign), you can try letting them mingle. It may take a few days to intergrate sociable or younger cats, but it took a month before Kindi was comfortable with Pan in her house.

Other tips:

Don't leave cats together unsupervised until you are sure they are OK together.

Make sure both cats have plenty of places to hide and perch, if they wish to get away from one another. If there is a fight, have a thick towel handy to help you pick up one cat without getting hurt.

We introduced heated cat beds last winter, and slowly moved them closer together, near a good bird-watching window. Spending hours each day in a heat-induced coma has been a nice way for the girls to hang out without squabbling.

If there is a fight, separate the cats and start the feeding protocol again. If you would like help with this in person, contact me.

Trish McMillan Loehr, MSc, CDBC, CPDT-KA offers dog, cat, and horse behavior counseling at LoehrAnimalBehavior.com.

Dog Behavior/Pain Lecture to Benefit Charities

Award winning author and canine therapist Julia Robertson will lecture on "A Dog's Behavior and Pain – How the Two Are Related" at the Lenoir-Rhyne Graduate Center at 36 Montford Avenue, Asheville. Her talk will begin at 7pm on Saturday, November 19. All proceeds from the event will go to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and War Dogs Remembered.

Robertson is based in England but is known world-wide for her expertise in Galen Canine Myotherapy. She works closely with veterinarians and other professionals. She is in Asheville to present a four day educational seminar on canine exercise physiology. That seminar is sold out, but Robertson has volunteered to do a talk for the general public which will help educate area dog owners and raise some funds for local animal organizations.

Robertson uses a very common sense and scientific approach to evaluating dogs with musculoskeletal issues. One area dog trainer, Joann Rechline of Black Mountain, says that after studying with Robertson, "I completely changed how I evaluate and create training plans for the dogs in my care."

Early registration for the Robertson talk is \$15 and admission is \$20 at the door. To register, contact Rechline at jrechline@gmail.com or call 585 905-8281.

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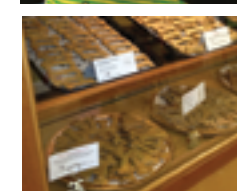
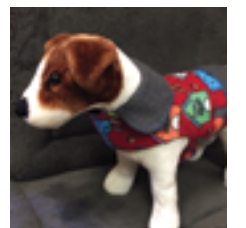
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Asheville & Surrounding Areas

**Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly Scheduling
No Contracts | Insured & Bonded**

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