

PetGazette

Western North Carolina

January-February 2019

Volume 8 - Issue 1

Puppy Bowl!



Coming Events

Agility Trials
Dog Karaoke
Puppy Bowl!

Health

Healthy Dog Walking
Horses Healing Trauma
Mobile Spay-Neuter
Winter Protections

Behavior

Cabin Fever Cures

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Memorial Page

Obituary
When to Say Goodbye

But wait, there's more

New BRHS Director
Why a Purebred?

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL PACKAGES

We have advertising and promotion packages to suit every budget. For more information on advertising or starting a Pet Gazette in your area, please contact our office at **828-633-1348** OR **publisher.petgazette@gmail.com**

Calendar of Events January-February 2019

Legend: AHS=Asheville Humane Society BRAC=Blue Ridge Agility Club BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue CPPI=Community Partnership for Pets Inc. FHS=Foothills Humane Society FUR=Feline Urgent Rescue HOHS=Heart of Horse Sense SARF=Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation SBRF=Sweet Bear Rescue Farm

January

Sun. 1/20 – 7pm. BRHS “Under-standing Compassion Fatigue” Workshop, Hendersonville Co-op Community Room, 60 South Charleston Lane, Hendersonville. Therapist Maria Stine leads on managing stress related to animal welfare and rescue work. More at blueridgehumane.org
Fri. 1/25 – Sat. 1/27. 8am-5pm. AKC Agility Trial, WNC Ag Center, Fanning Bridge Rd., Fletcher. Open to all breeds, mixed breeds. Registration closes 1/14. Spectators welcome. Admission FREE. Please leave non-competitive dogs home. blueridgeagility.com
Sat. 1/26 – 6-10pm. Sarge's Karaoke Night, at The Gem Bar, downstairs at the Boojum Brewing Taproom, 50 North Main St., Waynesville. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. More details at Sarge's Facebook page, at sargeanimals.org or 828-246-9050.

February

Sun. 2/3 – 1-4pm. 4th Annual Puppy Bowl at Kanuga Conference & Retreat Center to benefit BWAR and SBRF. Presented by Sanctuary Brewing Company. Riotous puppy football, with players available for adoption. Craft beers, vegan food, photo booth. Tickets are \$20 at door, \$15 purchased in advance at <http://bit.ly/PuppyBowl2019>.
Ongoing
Please call or email to confirm events since schedules can change.
Every Saturday morning - 10-11am. BRHS Yoga with Cats! A fantastic yoga class with YAM Yoga and Massage plus the opportunity to mingle with adoptable cats. Venues change. Details at blueridgehumane.org, 828 885-3647

Every third Mon. of the month:

- 1-5pm. Low-cost vaccines at BRHS, Hendersonville. blueridgehumane.org, 828 685-7107
Every second Tu. of the month: Hendersonville Paws for Love tests potential therapy dogs. Venues vary. Sign up, get directions at 828 692-5641
Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am. BWAR. Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at shelter to take dogs on hikes. volunteer@bwar.org.
Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville. fureverfriends@att.net; 828 398-4943
Every Sun. - 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Take shelter dogs for hikes. ashevillehumane.org
Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14 Forever Friends Lane. volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.

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PetGazette
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Winter Cat Safety Tips from Animal Hospital of Waynesville

It's that time of the year when your "leaving the house" check-list goes: Coat, Scarf, Hat, Gloves.
 The winter months can be just as hard on your pets as it can be on you. The Animal Hospital of Waynesville wants to keep your cat warm and safe during the winter months. Here are some tips to help you and your pet though the cold months ahead.

Oh the weather outside is frightful... But the fire is so delightful
 Cold weather can make arthritis harder on senior cats, even for those that stay mostly inside. If you notice that



that adds moisture back to your cat's coat.
 When bringing your cats in from the snowy cold, make sure to towel dry them to prevent itchy skin. This also helps to remove ice balls, salt crystals, and snow from long-haired cats.
 Most cats enjoy a nice cozy bed or blanket of their own to snuggle up in.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland
 There are many things that can cause pain to your cat's paws. Snow, salt, and chemical deicers can hurt their paws. Be careful when walking on roads or sidewalks where deicers have been used. Some can be toxic if indigested (cat licks their paws).



Pay extra attention to your cat when you are around frozen ponds or lakes. Cats don't know how thin ice is, and could potentially fall in. Once in the water they have a hard time getting back out onto the ice. Hypothermia can then become a real threat real fast.
 One very important thing to be mindful of this winter is antifreeze. Antifreeze is VERY toxic to cats. Research shows that antifreeze has a sweet flavor and that most all cats will lap it up pretty quickly. It can only take a few licks to be fatal. Sometimes cats

It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year
 Even though the weather can be bone chilling at times, this is a wonderful time to spend some extra one on one time with your cats. Take this time to enjoy snuggling by the fire with your beloved cat.
This article is reprinted with permission from the blog of The Animal Hospital of Waynesville, a full service animal hospital located at 91 Depot St., Waynesville NC 28786, 828-456-9755. For more useful information visit their website at www.animalhosp.com.

Pet Allergies and Your Health

by Allergy Partners of Western North Carolina
 We know that pets are part of the family. Many people think they can't have a pet, or give one up, because they think they have a pet allergy. The good news is that symptoms can be managed, once the source of the allergy is correctly diagnosed by a physician.

A skin-prick test is the most common way of diagnosing a pet allergy.
 Avoidance is the ideal way to manage a pet allergy but we realize that pets are part of the family. Treatments for pet allergy vary, depending on the symptoms. Nasal symptoms



A pet allergy can contribute to constant allergy symptoms, as exposure can occur at home, work, school, and day care or in other indoor environments, even if a pet is not present.
 Animals produce multiple allergens, or proteins that can cause allergy. These allergens are found in hair, dander, skin, saliva and urine. All dogs produce allergens and the allergen levels increase for a patient if the dog lives indoors and are highest in the rooms where a dog is allowed. Dust and pollen in an animal's coat can also cause allergy symptoms. In those cases, the allergy is to dust or pollen, not to the dog.
 Symptoms for pet allergies include stuffy or runny nose, itchy and/or watery eyes, congestion, sneezing, wheezing, coughing and perhaps a rash or hives. If pet allergies are suspected, a visit with an Allergy Partners physician is warranted to provide an accurate diagnosis as well

Allergy shots (immunotherapy) are an effective treatment of allergies, which works by building up a tolerance over time through gradually injecting increasing doses of the allergen(s) that affect you. This is a long-term solution that negates the needed for daily medications.

are often treated with steroid nasal sprays, oral antihistamines or other oral medications. Eye symptoms are often treated with antihistamine eye drops. Respiratory or asthma symptoms can be treated with inhaled corticosteroids or bronchodilators to either prevent or relieve respiratory symptoms.
IS THERE AN ALLERGY-FREE DOG?
 Unfortunately what is well known to allergists is that the existence of a hypoallergenic dog is a MYTH. The myth is, some breeds of dogs are hypoallergenic, so dog allergic patients can tolerate having these dogs in the home. While poodles, Portuguese water

dogs and a number of other breeds (including several types of terriers) have a reputation for being hypoallergenic, a truly allergy-free breed does not exist.
 In a study published in 2012, investigators from the Utrecht University in the Netherlands compared the major dog allergen in the pet hair/coat samples and the home environment of various alleged hypoallergenic (Labradoodle, poodle, Spanish Waterdog, and Airedale terrier) and non-hypoallergenic dogs (Labrador retriever and a control group composed of 47 different non-hypoallergenic dog breeds and several crossbreeds.) Allergen levels were significantly higher in hair and coat samples in dog breeds considered hypoallergenic thus they are not less allergenic than any other dogs.
 And a study from 2011 which examined dog allergen levels in homes of hypoallergenic versus non-hypoallergenic dogs. It showed that there was no evidence of decreased shedding of allergens by dogs grouped as hypoallergenic. The myth of the hypoallergenic dog has been debunked.
This article is reprinted from the blog of Allergy Partners of Western North Carolina, with their permission. Allergy Partners has eight locations in Western North Carolina. Their website is www.allergypartners.com.

Watching Horses Heal Trauma

by Christine Tucker

I am the Early Education Specialist at Verner Center for Early Learning. Roughly 85% of the children we serve come from poverty, and poverty often brings trauma. Our goal is to make a big enough difference in the lives of the children and families we serve that it will change lives, ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty and trauma that they live in.

Several months ago, I was introduced to Shannon Knapp, Executive Director of Heart of Horse Sense, a nonprofit that supports Equine Therapy for At-Risk Youth and Veterans in Western North Carolina. She is also a trainer for Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (TF-EAP), a model of intervention for working with trauma. Shannon invited me to an introductory training about TF-EAP, where I was re-introduced to Dr. Bruce Perry's hand-brain model and the neuro-science behind trauma. Principles associated with trauma-informed care, resiliency, and horses were being implemented at Heart of Horse Sense to successfully treat children and veterans with trauma, and many others.

I then volunteered with the Heart of Horse Sense youth programs to see TF-EAP in action. And when I did, I was sold! During every session, I saw the "magic" happen. I saw trauma being healed right before my eyes. I saw sullen, angry children smile. I saw scared, abused children feel success and self-confidence for the first time. I saw sad, neglected children make connections and build relationships that were respectful, thoughtful and meaningful.

The healing happened through a program called Natural Lifemanship, the organization that created Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (www.NaturalLifemanship.com). It is based on two main components: Relationship Logic and Rhythmic Riding. Every youth experience has been heart-tugging, eye-opening and rewarding. My hope is to bring TF-EAP to the young children I work with and start the healing process as early as possible. When children are empowered with healthier, more regulated neuro-pathways, decision making skills, problem-solving abilities, self-confidence and tools to use when traumatic events occur, they will be more ably navigate life successfully. It will decrease the number of children who turn to crime, drugs, alcohol, and poor choices.

Relationship Logic teaches science-based principles for building connected relationships with horses in ways readily transferrable to human relationships. Rhythmic Riding re-trains the brain through rhythmic, patterned, repetitive movement to create new neuro-pathways that are regulated and healthy. Horses are utilized so people can experience the principles at work in the context of a real relationship with the immediate and honest feedback that horses uniquely give. Unlike traditional "talk" or "play" therapy, horses do not judge or enable.

Throughout the time I have spent with

Heart of Horse Sense, I have observed more of this "magic". One child, who witnessed several family members being killed, actually fell asleep on the back of her horse during a Rhythmic Riding session. Another child, who had lost his mother only months before said that without the relationship with "his horse", he didn't know where he would be. A third child, who was so terrified of horses, looked at me after several minutes of support and said I could let go, she "had it now" with an air of confidence and pride.

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Renowned developmental psychologist Dr. Uri Bronfenbrenner said, "Every child needs one person who is crazy about him or her." I believe that we could also say "...one person or one horse...."

I grew up riding horses and lived through my own childhood trauma. I have always said my horse saved my life. Now I know it is true and why. In my 30 years of working with traumatized children, TF-EAP, done with the principles of Natural Lifemanship is one of the most successful programs I have seen. It works when other therapies don't. It truly changes lives and teaches children principles they can use throughout life. Natural Lifemanship isn't "magic", but it is close.

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Christine Tucker has a degree in Child Development. She does training, presentations, and consulting nationally and has written numerous curriculum guides, articles and manuscripts. Email comments and inquiries to: shannon@heartofhorsesense.org.

Toward a safe, healthy and happy New Year

by Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD

It's time again for New Year's Resolutions. The annual promises many of us make to do some things to make our lives healthier and happier. We start off with the best intentions and stay committed for days, weeks, maybe even months. But in the end, many of us fall short.

Just think about today – right now. Are you still committed to last year's resolutions? Do you even remember last year's resolutions? Are they the same ones each and every year? What can we do to make our resolutions stay with us so we become healthier and happier?

The Doggy Key to Your Success

Believe it or not, your doggy can be the key to a happier, healthier you! Dogs provide love – lots of love! Unconditional love. Dogs also give us a sense of motivation and purpose. Even when we feel down and out, lacking any desire to get up and go, our beloved pups can be our motivators. Just look into their big puppy dog eyes.



Dogs provide loyal companionship. Even when you feel all alone, you are never alone with your dog by your side. And never being alone provides safety and security. Although everyone can benefit from a dog's protection, this is particularly relevant to women and children.

Daily Dog Walks

So how can dogs help you to stick with your New Year's Resolution of a happier, healthier you? Dog walks are the answer. Say what? Yes, dog walks are a great way to get to a new healthier, happier you. And, it will also result in a happier, healthier pup.

When we refer to dog walks, we do not mean taking your dog outside to "go potty" or take sniffing walks. They are not the dog walks that will create a happier, healthier you. We are talking about non-stop, athletic walks. It can be as simple as a jaunt around the block or as challenging as a several mile trail-run. Or something in between. The key is making regular dog walks athletic and aerobic. When you finish your dog walk, you should feel refreshed and invigorated.

How Dog Walks Change Our Minds

When you start exercising, you are changing your brain with powerful natural chemicals that our bodies produce when we exercise. Those chemicals are endorphins and certain hormones. Together, they can greatly affect our ability to keep our resolution and become happier and healthier.

Endorphin Effects

Have you heard of the "runner's high"? This refers to the release of natural endorphins during athletic activities. Endorphins have an opiate-like effect on our bodies. They make us feel good and are natural pain killers. While

synthetic opiates are dangerous, natural opiates are safe, effective and free.

Our bodies naturally make endorphins when we exercise. However, because they are neurotransmitters, they are not long lasting. They dissipate very quickly, which is quite different than the dangerous, synthetic opiates. However, we keep feeling good long after we finish our exercises and the endorphins have dissipated. This continued feel-good state is the result of our hormones.

Hormone Effects

There are over 50 hormones coursing through the human body. But when it comes to dog walks, the operative hormones include Adrenaline (a.k.a. Epinephrine), Cortisol and Oxytocin. Adrenaline is responsible for the

"fight or flight response". If your heart is racing, you can thank adrenaline. If you constantly feel edgy and stressed, you can thank cortisol, which is responsible for inflammation throughout your body. Both these hormones need to be managed so they do not rule and ruin your life.

The hormone you do want coursing through your body is oxytocin, the cuddle hormone. Just like adrenaline and cortisol, oxytocin is a stress hormone. However, unlike adrenaline and cortisol, oxytocin in large doses is great for your body. It makes you happy and healthy. It provides a sense of serenity and calm. Oxytocin flows through our bodies not only when we pet our dogs, but when we look at them and smile. And guess what? Oxytocin flows through our doggy's bodies too, making them happier and healthier.

Dog Walks Perfected

Have you tried including dog walks for exercise but failed because of poor leash skills? Does your dog pull on leash? Is your dog leash aggressive? Do you feel your stress hormones surge during dog walks? Do you need help teaching your dog to walk and/or run with you for fun exercise? Then consider letting a professional dog trainer help.

We do it all the time and would love to help you and your doggies live happier, healthier lives each and every day!

Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD is an evolutionary biologist, college biology instructor, former zookeeper, author and certified professional dog trainer with Lucky Dog Training Asheville. You can follow her on Instagram @ TrainingLuckyDogs and @KyloRenPup, email her at TrainingLuckyDogs@gmail.com or call her at 828-423-9635.

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The DOG'S PERSPECTIVE



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How to Protect Your Dog in Winter

Winter can be a dangerous time of year for all pets. Especially for pets that are kept outdoors. Temperatures drop to below freezing and dangerous chemicals can harm or even kill pets. So here are a few helpful tips to protect your pets during the winter months.

Keep Pets Warm

Frostbite and hypothermia can be deadly for your furry friends and can happen quicker than you think. According to *The Washington Post*, anything below 25 degrees Fahrenheit can be life-threatening to a small, short-haired dog. Make sure to put a sweater on your pup when going outside below these temperatures and keep walks short. If you have an outdoor pet, bring them in if temperatures drop below freezing. A safe rule to go by is "If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for them." For the rest of the winter days, provide an outdoor shelter and lay hay inside to add insulation. Also, provide a heated water dish, so their water does not freeze over.

Give Your Pet Plenty of Food and Water

When it is cold outside, our bodies burn more calories to keep us warm. The same thing happens with our pets. Feed your pet slightly more food during the winter months, particularly if he/she is

an outdoor pet. Along with feeding them more, give your pets more water as well. This will help keep their skin from getting flaky and itchy due to drier conditions.

Watch Out for Rock Salt!

Rock salt is thrown all over streets and sidewalks to melt ice that can be dangerous for you. However, rock salt can be harmful to your pet's paws. The little rocks can get pushed up into your pet's paws while on walks and actually burn their paw pads. When coming back inside from your walks, check their paws for any salt and remove it. You can also try out dog boots!

Prevent Antifreeze Poisoning

Antifreeze is highly toxic to animals and they can easily ingest it. All it takes is a leak from your vehicle and your pet can lick it up off the ground or get it on their paws, which they later lick clean. In order to catch antifreeze poisoning, Dr. Karen Becker says to check for these three signs:

1. Within 30 minutes to 12 hours after possible ingestion, check for staggering, excessive thirst, and vomiting.
2. Obvious signs calm and internal damage is taking place.
3. Kidney failure takes place with signs like loss of appetite, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, and seizures.

If you notice any of these signs, take your pet to the vet as soon as possible. The earlier it can be detected, the more likely they are to survive. Dr. Karen Becker also

Check Your Vehicle Before Taking Off

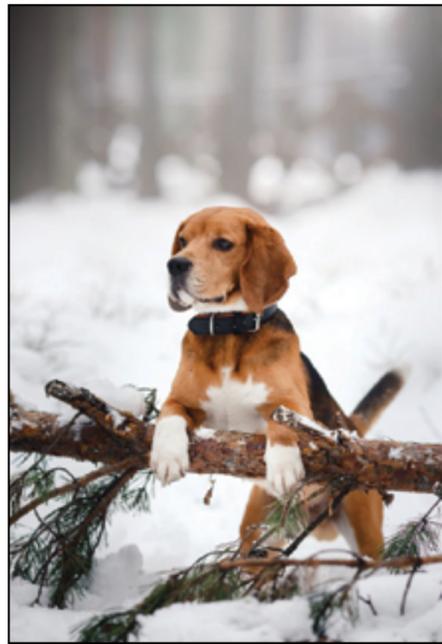
Small animals love to climb up into the underneath of vehicles when it is cold outside. The engine provides warmth for them and shelter from winds. Before starting your car, make some sort of loud noises to scare off any kitties that may have climbed into your vehicle. This could be honking your horn, hitting the outside of the car, or a quick sound of

your car alarm.

Keep Your Pet from Getting Lost

Losing your pet is a terrifying experience, especially when it is freezing outside. In order to get them back to you as soon as possible, microchip and tag your pet. A microchip is a tiny implant with your information on it that can be scanned at vet offices and shelters. Some microchips even let you send out a "lost dog" notification so that anyone else on the app can be on the lookout.

For more information on how to protect your pet during the winter, visit info@thetailgaitmarket.com or call 828 258-1600.



New dog training option in Horse Shoe

Dogs are our best friends, until they decide not to come when called, and you are already late for work. Their rambunctious and playful attitudes are great when you are in the backyard on a nice Sunday, but not so much when you have guests over. Dog training is a lifelong pursuit for some dogs because good behavior must be reinforced.

Now one Horse Shoe entrepreneur has partnered with local dog training professionals to approach dog training in a whole new way. Derek Fox, owner of the Refined Pup in Horse Shoe, has opened a brand-new venture called The Cultured Pup. The new business is right next door to his existing grooming business. The Refined Pup, in a newly available space in the Horse Shoe Plaza at 3754 Brevard Road, Horse Shoe. The space has been retrofitted to provide an area for trainers to work with clients and teach classes indoors, where they can be safe from the weather and free from distractions.

The trainers in the venture are James Lyon from

Ilio Canine Care, Kayren Davis from K9 Etiquette, and Jennifer King from True Connection. All three are experienced, professional, and certified trainers who use positive methods to help dogs of all ages learn new skills or reinforce old ones. The trainers also make sure the owners have the tools to continue teaching their dogs well after classes conclude. Everything from Puppy basics to Advanced obedience classes are offered, as well as classes that prepare and test a dog for AKC's Canine Good Citizen program.

Classes are available on weekdays, weeknights, and weekends and are limited to five dogs or fewer in order to maximize personal attention to the both the canine students and their human owners.

Fox says that the ultimate goal is to "elevate the expectations of our already dog friendly community, and have our best friends join us in as many events as possible".

For more information on The Cultured Pup visit refinedpup.com/training.



The Cultured Pup trainers: L to R: Jennifer King, James Lyon, Kayren Davis.

Photo by Forever Friends Photography Service

Cabin Fever

by Jennifer King

Nobody likes being stuck in the house! Many of the "behavior problems" seen in dogs, especially when they're stuck inside, are occurring simply because don't have enough to do! They're bored! If you and/or your dog have Cabin Fever, try some/all of the following.

Things your dog can do alone.

Fill her favorite puzzle toy with or treats and watch her work them out. Give her a puzzle toy that is a larger toy with a smaller toy hidden inside of. These are great for dogs who love to dig or bury things. Great for smaller dogs! Fill a food dispensing toy such as a Kong and watch her work to get it out. These are toys that a dog plays with or chews on to get the food to come out. There are no removable parts which makes them safer for dogs who tend to eat small objects.

Give your dog a long-lasting chew. The appropriate chews will vary for each dog, so ask your veterinarian or trainer

for safe suggestions.

Games to play with your dog.

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Jennifer King is a CPDT-KA dog trainer and owner of True Connection Canine Education. You can contact her at trueconnectioncanine@gmail.com or 828 329-2852.



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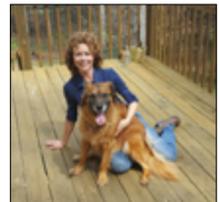
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Puppy Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, social media superstar Grey, the vegan rapper, will host Sanctuary Brewing Company's 4th annual Puppy Bowl! The festivities will be at Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center, 130 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville. Doors will open at noon; the fun will run from 1-4pm.

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and Sweet Bear Rescue Farm will be the beneficiaries of the not-to-be-missed action. The canine competition has adoptable puppies play an incredibly cute game of rough-and-tumble football while onlookers (and potential adopters) drink craft beer and cheer them on! The halftime show will feature a musical performance by Grey, plus adoptable senior dogs. Sanctuary Brewing Company will serve brews, and locally-based plant meat makers No Evil Foods and Garlik Vegan Kitchen will

"We're going to get so many puppies adopted."
- Lisa McDonald



and music video went viral. His superb cerebral and soulful flow ensured that his message went global, earning him 110,000 new followers and nods from Russel Simmons, DL Hughley, Ellie Goulding, Unilad, Worldstar, and Baller Alert. Notching a total of 30+ million views, he was catapulted from local stardom to the global stage.

In past years, Puppy Bowl was held at Sanctuary Brewing Company's downtown Hendersonville location. But for 2019 it is moving to the Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center's gymnasium to accommodate all the fans!

Sanctuary Brewing Company, located in the heart of downtown Hendersonville, is known for its award winning craft beers and dedication to



Asheville-based Brother Wolf Animal Rescue is well known in the area for providing resources and life-saving programs to help build No-Kill communities. It has saved thousands of animals since its founding in 2007. As a grassroots organization, Brother Wolf believes strongly in community engagement and

human and non-human advocacy. Each night, the brewery serves up a rotating list of award-winning handcrafted beers of all styles and imaginings. In addition, Sanctuary Brewing raised thousands of dollars for charitable causes since its opening in 2015.

Sweet Bear Rescue Farm is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by Sanctuary Brewing Company co-owners Lisa McDonald and Joe Dinan. The farm is home to nearly 40 animals with amazing stories. Residents include George the turkey; best friends Ollie the pot-bellied pig and goats Maggie and Shadow; and numerous other furry/feathered inhabitants.

making it easy to adopt, volunteer and become involved in its No-Kill mission.

"We are beyond excited for the 2019 Puppy Bowl," said Sanctuary Brewing Company Co-Owner Lisa McDonald. "Grey is an incredible host, the event will be the biggest

ever – and we're going to get so many puppies adopted!" This year's lineup includes Team Tuff and Team Gruff, and all players will be available for adoption from Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.

Puppy Bowl tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. A \$75 VIP option provides field-side seats and a limited edition T-shirt! Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/PuppyBowl2019>. 🐾

Blue Ridge Club again hosts Agility Trials

Well over 200 dogs are expected to participate in the American Kennel Club/Blue Ridge Agility Club (AKC/BRAC) agility trials at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher on Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27, 2019.

Spectators are welcome, and admission and parking are free for all the competitions. Events start at 8am and continue until "approximately 5pm" on Friday and Saturday, according to the BRAC website. On Sunday, the action will end about 3pm. While spectators are welcome, they are asked not to bring their own dogs, which could be distracting to the competitors and stressful for the canine visitors.

The competition area will be divided in half, with different events run simultaneously in both rings. Dogs compete in groups established by both size and skill level. That way, all events are kept competitive by grouping dogs of the same size and experience together. The dogs must run, off leash, through a course containing A-frames, teeter-totters, chutes, weave poles and jumps of all kinds. All dogs must jump at least their own height, as measured at their withers (shoulders), with feet on the ground. Some of the larger dogs must jump even higher than their own height. There are seven size divisions, ranging from 4 inches up to 26 inches. While running the course, handlers are not allowed to touch their dogs, which must respond to voice commands or hand

signals only. Handlers are allowed to walk the course prior to each event so they can plan where they should be to best direct their dog as it races through the obstacles.

Event winners are determined by the fastest time through the course without faults, such as knocking over or skipping an obstacle. While most of the competing dogs are purebreds, usually from breeds such as Border Collies or Retrievers specifically developed to work with humans, the AKC welcomes mixed breed dogs into the competition.

Events are not devoted to specific breeds, so visitors can't plan on going to see just terriers, for example. The best way to find out about the breed they are interested in is to go for events involving dogs the size of the one in which they're interested. Visitors might also talk with the handlers of specific dogs.

Food vendors will be at the trials so neither handlers nor spectators must go hungry. (The dogs have their own food.) There will also be vendors of all sorts of pet related items, from leashes and toys to agility equipment and T shirts. All in all, between vendors, handlers, lots of free parking, and hundreds of four-legged friends running and jumping around, the agility trials are about as good a place for a January family outing as you can find. And it won't cost a cent to get in.

For more information, visit blueridgeagility.com. And tell them PetGazette sent you. 🐾



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Sarge's Karaoke for Animals fundraiser features DJ Razor

The third edition of the popular Karaoke for the Animals returns Saturday, January 26, 2019. The Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation's Karaoke fundraiser Night at The Gem Bar will be held downstairs at the Boojum Brewing Taproom, 50 North Main Street, Waynesville. The festivities will run from 6pm until 10pm.

DJ Razor, a crowd favorite, will be back. Razor, nee Peter Osback, is a lifelong New Yorker and baseball fan who has a dream job for a man of his talents and interests. Razor serves as the Official DJ for the New York Mets for their home games at Citibank stadium.

In an article in DJ Times, Razor was quoted as saying "I still love playing in the clubs when my Mets schedule allows." The same article also quoted him as follows: "When I DJ at clubs, I only have to listen to two songs and the crowd. At the ballpark, I have a lot in my ears."

Razor started on the DJ track when he was ten or eleven. He used to sneak into clubs where his cousin was a DJ to see and hear how it was done. After deciding that he, too, wanted to be a DJ, he took some jobs, saved enough to buy turntables, and handed in his two week notice. That was the beginning of a career that has made him internationally famous and taken him from New York to London and Las Vegas.



The funds raised at Karaoke for Animals will go to Sarge's WuzBug Fund for Special Needs. That

program makes it possible for Sarge's to help animals with injuries, disorders and diseases requiring medical treatment outside of the routine.

Tickets for Karaoke for Animals will be available starting January 14, and are \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the door. More details about the event will be available on Sarge's Facebook page, at sargeanimals.org or by calling 828-246-9050. 🐾

Stress causes medical problems in cats

by Karel Carnohan DVM

Behavioral problems are a leading cause of pets being surrendered or euthanized. In particular, cats inappropriate urination is one of the most frustrating problems facing cat owners. As a vet, I think half of my clowder of fine felines came to me from owners who wanted to euthanize because of this bad behavior.

In addition, a large number of cats who come into my practice have medical conditions caused by stress. Blocked cats, cats with bladder infections, diarrhea, cats who lick themselves incessantly, acute liver disease and even diabetes are all conditions that are often caused by stress. You can avoid bad behavior and costly medical bills by reducing your cats' stress levels with natural enrichments to their environment.

Bored kitties are not happy kitties. Provide opportunities for cats to fulfill their natural need to hunt, play and climb. Use interactive toys that mimic prey, such as a toy mouse that is pulled across a floor, laser pointers, feathers, balls and other toys (Don't use hands or feet so your cat does not develop the bad habit of biting you). Food puzzles and food balls can mimic the action of hunting for prey. Scratching posts and climbing towers are important for healthy cat play. Check the local pet stores and online. There are great new interactive toys available now that can help enrich your kitty's day at home.

Cats are territorial animals and feel threatened when their territory is disturbed. Every cat needs a safe and secure place to retreat to so it feels protected. The cat should have the ability to exit and enter the space from at least two sides so it doesn't feel trapped. Good examples of safe places are a cardboard box, a cat carrier, and a raised cat perch. Cats use scent, posturing, and vocalizations to communicate their unhappiness if threatened. Urine marking is an example of this. If your cat can see or hear that stray cat in the yard, or smell him through an open window or on your shoes, he is threatened and stressed.

Strange smells or sounds, often undetectable or insignificant to us, can increase your cat's stress levels. That loud houseguest with strange smells and unfamiliar habits is incredibly stressful for most cats. Cats mark their scent by rubbing their face and body on things to establish

boundaries – you've seen that black gunk on the door jams. Don't clean these markings off – they are your cat's pheromones, which establish his safe space. This is especially important when a new cat is introduced into the home or there are other changes in the home. The use of synthetic pheromones, such as Feliway®, either as a spray or diffuser, can mimic a cat's natural pheromones and calm a stressed cat.

A cat's life is really quite simple; all she needs are food, water, litter boxes, scratching areas, play areas, and safe sleeping areas. In a multi-cat household, these resources should be duplicated and separated from each other so cats have free access without being challenged by other cats or anything else that frightens them. Cats feel threatened if another cat approaches when they are urinating or defecating. Multiple litter boxes placed in areas where your cat won't be disturbed or trapped will help encourage regular use. Don't put the litter box next to the noisy furnace. Try to find ways to reduce competition among your cats.

If your mild-mannered older kitty can't get to the water bowl without being jumped on by the frisky new kitten, she may avoid it and not get enough water. She may also avoid the litter box for the same reason and hold her urine, raising the risk of a bad bout of cystitis (bladder infection).

Socializing your cats from an early age can help keep stress levels down. Each kitty has his own personality and this will determine how much he likes being handled. Remember to remind guests and all household members not to force interaction and instead let the cat initiate, choose, and control the type of human contact.

Here are some great websites that give you many resources to help enrich your kitty's environment and keep the stress levels and the medical bills down:

www.catvets.com/cat-owners/caring-for-cats/
<https://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats>
www.hauspanther.com

Dr. Carnohan graduated from the Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine and has owned the Cat Care Clinic of Asheville since 2013. This article first appeared in PetGazette in January, 2016. 🐾

BWAR launches mobile spay/neuter

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR) has started operating a mobile low cost spay and neuter clinic within Buncombe County and the surrounding areas. Thanks to a generous donation from Fido Fixers, Brother Wolf and veterinarian Dr. Pam Carpenter will work with communities all over Western North Carolina (WNC) to help meet the increased demand for access to affordable and timely spay and neuter services.

"Recently the local stationary, spay and neuter clinic significantly decreased the number of animals we and other local animal welfare organizations were allotted to bring in for surgery," said BWAR Director of Animal Care, Audrey Lodato. "This is having a significant impact on our ability to adopt animals into their forever homes within a reasonable time."

"With limited space and resources, this posed a real threat to the progress made towards creating No-Kill communities in WNC. Thanks to Fido Fixers," Lodato said, "we can operate a mobile clinic that will serve animals in Buncombe County and outlying communities as well."

Fido Fixers is a Greenwich, CT based organization started in 2011. Its mission is to provide mobile spay-neuter services in areas with high-kill shelters. Volunteer Directors Susan Maounis, Lisa Wysocki and Suzanne Steinberg developed the original concept of Fido Fixers Inc. in late 2011 as a result of their years of experience working with not-for-profit dog and cat rescue organizations. They became increasingly frustrated with the seemingly never-ending supply of unwanted pets, especially in the southeastern part of the United States. They realized that while there are many groups who work tirelessly to rescue these wonderful creatures, many highly adoptable dogs and cats are sadly left behind to suffer and eventually be euthanized.

BWAR's new mobile spay and neuter clinic

team includes a veterinarian, two vet assistants, and a clinic manager. The clinic will provide services to shelter animals and to the public, and expects to spay and neuter about 6,000 animals in its first year. Appointments for individual pets can be made by calling 828 490-1578 or emailing holly@bwar.org. Shelter or rescue organizations that would like to schedule an appointment should also email holly@bwar.org to find out about upcoming travel dates. A list of services and fees is below.

Sterilization Fees*

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- Female cat spay – \$55
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- Female dog spay – \$65

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Additional Services*

- Heartworm test – \$15
- FelV/FIV test – \$20
- Microchip – \$20
- Deworming – \$10

*Vaccines and additional services are available the day of surgery for surgical patients only.

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For more about the mobile clinic visit bwar.org/mobile-clinic. 🐾

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February is National Pet Dental Health Month

Don't turn your nose to Fido's or Fluffy's bad breath! That odor might signify a serious health risk, with the potential to damage not only your pet's teeth and gums but its internal organs as well.

To address the significance of oral health care for pets, the American Veterinary Medical Association sponsors National Pet Dental Health Month every February. This information is from their website, which also has a video link to instructions on how to brush your pet's teeth.

Dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health, and dental problems can cause, or be caused by, other health problems. Your pet's teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian to check for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

Veterinary dentistry includes the cleaning, adjustment, filing, extraction, or repair of your pets' teeth and all other aspects of oral health care. These procedures should be performed by a veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary dentist. Subject to state or provincial regulation, veterinary technicians are allowed to perform certain dental procedures under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The process begins with an oral exam of your pet's mouth by a veterinarian. Radiographs (x-rays) may be needed to evaluate the health of the jaw and the tooth roots below the gumline. Because most dental disease occurs below the gumline, where you can't see it, a thorough dental cleaning and evaluation are performed

under anesthesia. Dental cleaning includes scaling (to remove dental plaque and tartar) and polishing, similar to the process used on your own teeth during your regular dental cleanings.

Your pet's teeth should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy. Have your pet's teeth checked sooner if you observe any of the following problems:

- bad breath
- broken or loose teeth
- extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- pain in or around the mouth
- bleeding from the mouth
- swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats – by the time your pet is 3 years old, he or she will very likely have some early evidence of periodontal disease, which will worsen as your pet grows older if effective preventive measures aren't taken. Early detection and treatment are critical, because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Other health problems found in association with periodontal disease include kidney, liver, and heart muscle changes.

It starts with plaque that hardens into tartar.

Tartar above the gum line can often easily be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gum line is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jaw bone. Periodontal disease is graded on a scale of 0 (normal) to 4 (severe).



The treatment of periodontal disease involves a thorough dental cleaning and x-rays may be needed to determine the severity of the disease. Your veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary dentist will make recommendations based on your pet's overall health and the health of your pet's teeth, and provide you with options to consider.

Why does dentistry require anesthesia?

Anesthesia makes it possible to perform the dental procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving

around and risking injury from the dental equipment. If radiographs (x-rays) are needed, your pet needs to be very still in order to get good images, and this is unlikely without heavy sedation or anesthesia. Although anesthesia will always have risks, it's safer now than ever and continues to improve so that the risks are very low and are far outweighed by the benefits.

What can I do at home for my pet's oral health?

Regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between dental cleanings. Daily brushing is best, but it's not always possible and brushing several times a week can be effective. Most dogs accept brushing, but cats can be a bit more resistant – patience and training are important.

There are many pet products marketed with claims that they improve dental health, but not all of them are effective. Talk with your veterinarian about any dental products, treats, or dental-specific diets you're considering for your pet.

This article was adapted with permission from an article on the website of the American Veterinary Medicine Association. For further information on this and many other topics for your pet's health, visit avma.org.

Planning for Natural Disasters

by Ryan Jo Summers

From wildfires and earthquakes in California to the recent September flooding from Hurricane Florence here in the Carolinas, natural or man-caused disasters have a way of capturing our attention and destroying our lives. But do they make us think?

No doubt our pets are an important part of our lives. Many people would automatically grab them, just like their children and the family photos, as they rush out of the house. However, given the sudden and unpredictable nature of some disasters, no one is guaranteed the chance to be home to gather pets and belongings. And sometimes frightened pets escape in the chaos. Then what?

When the hurricanes hit this fall, the Asheville Humane Society took in 33 pets from shelters in the hurricane zones, so those shelters could open up space for anticipated animals. Some were reunited with owners and others were rehomed. When disasters strike, humane organizations must care for the current residents and plan on an influx of more. What can owners do to help keep their pet from ending up in a shelter?

First, be sure your pet is microchipped. That's basic, whether or not disaster strikes. Then make a plan for what to do if it does strike.

Hope for the best, and plan for the worse. Keep a "bug out" kit packed for each person and pet in the household. Include water, food, medications, medical records, snacks, toys, blankets, batteries, leashes, clean-up supplies, etc. tailored to each member. Think of things you can grab "Right Now!" In addition to being micro-chipped, pets need ID on them, with multiple numbers: home, cell, vet, relative, or someone who can provide directions in case you are separated. Maybe your groomer or pet sitter?

Have a list of pet-friendly hotels where you can stay, either in the same town or several towns or another state away if necessary. Confirm that everyone in your house knows where the Bug-out kits, carriers, and leashes are kept. If all else fails, grab a pillow case to hold cats, small dogs, birds or other small pets.

That plan is good assuming someone is home when disaster strikes and there is time to "grab and go". What if no one is home, or unable to get home, and disaster strikes, leaving your pets home alone? Or what if there is no time to "grab and go"? Then what?

Plan B. Keep a list on you with emergency contacts who can reach your house, and know your pets to some degree. Contact them with directives. If they are unable to help, keep working down your list. Also call the local shelters with descriptions of your pets and explain you are unable to reach them. Text or email the shelters a current photo. Keep in contact to see if your pet ends up there.

Have a plan on what to do if you and your pets are reunited and you are unable to go home for a while. Where are you going to stay? How will you keep providing for their needs, and possibly medications, if

you are far from home? Living short term with relatives or in a hotel can be challenging. How can you make it easier? More plans. The NC Extension office has a good series of lists at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/caring-for-your-pets-in-an-emergency>

This is key: if you are able to evacuate, always take your pets with you! Try not to leave anyone behind, but sometimes it's unavoidable.

As to the worst: what about if you don't survive the disaster and your pet does? Horrible to consider but a reality. If your pet is in the shelter waiting for you, do you have documents for someone to take to claim your pet? Do you have legal plans in place regardless of what happens to you that someone will step up and provide for your pets? Are those papers in safe places with trusted individuals who can act upon them?

What if your pet is with you, post-disaster, and something terrible happens to you before your normal lives can be resumed? Who will step in? Where are those legal documents allowing them the right to your pet?

There are no easy answers to any of these questions, and spending time thinking about possible scenarios will doubtlessly create more questions. Talk to family and friends, and your pet-care team. Make legal documents covering a wide range of situations, and have them in accessible locations. Make your plans and pack a Bug-out kit or two. Then rest easy knowing you have done the best you can to prepare for the worst nature might throw at you.

Ryan Jo Summers is a local author and pet advocate. She also provides pet care and is listed as an emergency contact for a number of her clients. To learn more about her writing, check out her website at www.ryanjosummers.com or her blog at www.summersrye.wordpress.com.



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New Executive Director at BRHS

Angela Prodrick, a three year member of the BRHS (Blue Ridge Humane Society) family, has been named its new Executive Director.

Caroline Gunther, BRHS Board of Directors Chair, said, "Angela's passion for our mission is evident and I am elated to have her continue with us in her new role."

Prodrick, a graduate of New York State University at Geneseo, brings a wealth of knowledge to the role with over seven years' experience in animal welfare. Prior to joining BRHS as Community Outreach and Volunteer Director in 2015, Prodrick worked at the Seneca Park, NY, zoo and as Humane Education Manager at Lollypop Farm Humane Society of Greater Rochester. During her tenure with BRHS, she created and facilitated their volunteer programs, the community pet food assistance program, the pet rehoming incentive, their pet helpline and vaccine clinics. Prodrick also led the Meals on Wheels

Pet Pals program, Safe Haven, Reading to the Rescue and the BRHS school-based animal humane education programs.

Prodrick is a member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators, a 2018 graduate of Vision Henderson County, and a volunteer as a Raptor Care/Interpreter & Education Docent at the WNC Nature Center. She lives in Hendersonville with her rescue cat Ampersand and her rescue dog Laverne, a BRHS alumnus and frequent visitor at local elementary schools.



Angela Prodrick interacts with students during school visit for BRHS.

"It is a true honor to be offered this opportunity," Prodrick said. "For the last three years I have seen the number of lives we saved increase each year. As we look to 2019, I am confident that we will continue to expand our reach and better serve the pet and pet owners of our community."

"I look forward to working in my new capacity with our dynamic team of volunteers and staff as we continue to dedicate ourselves to our mission. That mission," Prodrick concluded, "is to save the lives of those who have no voice." 🐾

Anonymous \$10,000 ups fundraiser total

A late September 2018 fundraiser called Rockin' for Rescue, presented by BMW of Asheville, seemed to have raised \$6,030 for the Asheville Humane Society (AHS). Then, in early December, an anonymous and supremely generous donor added a check for \$10,000, bringing the fundraising total to \$16,030.

Pet activist and BMW staff member Joey Beckham said "Thanks so much to our generous donor friend for this incredible extra money! This will help so much." 🐾



BMW of Asheville staffers accept \$10,000 anonymous donation for AHS
Back row/L to R: Mark Miller, Michael Newman, Norman Loyce, Cecelia Taylor, Jim Fulton-AHS, Joey Beckham, Jen Harrison
Front: Sarah Clark, Roscoe, George Hoskin

When to Say Goodbye

by Susan M. Young

We got our first Golden Retriever in 1994. I remember looking at Taylor's sweet, golden face and hoping that it never turned white. I thought that Golden Retrievers with white faces looked rather silly. What a naive thought.

We lost our beautiful Taylor to Mast Cell Cancer at age nine. Her face had only started to turn grey. Since then we have said goodbye to three other companions, each of them well loved. We now have our Truly who is 13-1/2 and her face is pure white. I no longer think a white face is silly. In fact, I now feel deprived if I never get to see my beautiful companion with the white face of old age.

Truly's time is coming, we have no doubt. She has had a bad thyroid since she was one. At age five she was diagnosed with Pigmentary Uveitis, a hereditary eye disease somewhat similar to glaucoma. Last spring she developed kidney disease. Three years ago we had a Hemangiopericytoma on her elbow removed, but it quickly grew back. This is the type of cancerous tumor that stays contained, but the more you mess with it, the more aggressive it gets.

We decided to leave it be unless we saw it was bothering her. This fall, Truly started limping and we think the tumor is pulling on the leg. I really hate putting senior dogs under anesthesia but if it meant relieving the pain without pain meds, I would consider it.

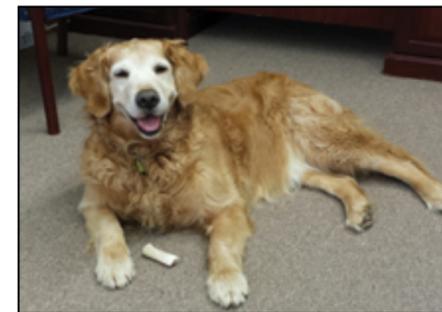
Before we could do the surgery our old girl stopped eating and was in obvious pain. We took her to the vet, who discovered a large

mass pressing on her esophagus. He suggested surgery but we said no. Our goal with our seniors is always quality over quantity. We will keep her comfortable and when the time comes, we will hold her head in our lap as we peacefully let her go.

The veterinarian gave her a cortisone shot and prescribed another pain pill. He said not to bother refilling her other pills because she wouldn't last the week. I wasn't so sure about that, but agreed I would get a refill if needed. That was two months ago. I know my dogs and I know Truly is one obstinate red-headed girl.

So when will we know it is time to say goodbye? This is the question that everyone who gives their heart to an animal will struggle with eventually. With Taylor, we think we left it too late in our selfishness to have her for just a few hours more. We gave her a wonderful last day but then at 10pm we realized she was in distress, so we went to the emergency clinic. This was not how we wanted to say goodbye. Maggie was the next girl we lost. She just

collapsed one night. Truly was about a year old at the time but had taken on the job of pack leader. She stayed by Maggie's side all night and wouldn't let anyone near her. When we took Maggie to the clinic in the morning, our vet asked if we were sure it was her time. Yes, because Truly told us it was time. We peacefully let Maggie go before she ever had to suffer.



T u c k e r ' s cardiac tumor suddenly burst without any warning that it was even there. There was never any second guessing for him, only one immediate outcome. Tag's tumor was on his spleen. I had patted his tummy and it vibrated. That's a sign of leakage into the abdomen. X-rays and tests showed hemangiosarcoma on the spleen. I had always vowed never to put a dog with Hemangio through surgery as I personally do not know of any dogs that had any quality of life in the few weeks it bought them. But my vet felt that if any dog had a fighting chance, it was Tag. At only eight years old we decided to give him that chance. The next day his spleen was

removed along with the tumor. He recovered as if surgery was just a blip on his radar. We had him for five more beautiful weeks. In the end, it was our younger boy, Tripp, who alerted us that Tag needed help. It was his time. I trust my dogs to know their pack mates and they have never been wrong.

As this is written, Truly is still running around our pasture, chasing shadows that her cataract eyes think are intruders. She happily eats her mushy food and takes her multitude of meds. When her weakened back legs give out, when she no longer wants to eat, when she seems to have no joy in life, we will know it is time. What if we decide to early? Ah, but what if we decide too late? Saying goodbye and releasing our companions from their pain is the last gift that we can give them. It is the hardest gift for us to give. But if you know in your heart that you gave your dogs a good life, that they were well loved, comfortable and happy to the end, isn't that the most we can hope for? Too early? No, not if it means they are no longer in pain. Quality over quantity. The quality is for Truly, the quantity is for me. This is about Truly, who will be well loved to the very end. Hopefully, that is still a long way away.

Susan M. Young is a long standing Asheville, NC Real Estate Broker and has been active in dog sports with her Golden Retrievers for over 20 years. She can be reached through her website at www.SusanMYoung.com. 🐾

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Heather, your forever family misses you so much...with forever love. Jamie Tara



Heather

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Why Choose a Purebred Dog?

by Betty Ann Brown

Your choice of a canine best friend is a life decision thing. While it is wonderful to rescue mixed breed dogs, with a purebred puppy you will be able to know adult size, general personality, and activity level bred into the animal and the distinct characteristics of the breed.

Responsible breeders want you to own a carefully bred animal that fits your lifestyle and enriches your life. You can do that without feeling the least bit guilty for not having adopted a dog that someone else has given up, whether because of health problems, behavioral issues, or changes in the owner's life situation that forced him/her to give up the dog...

Here are some guidelines for the seeker for a family pet:

The choice begins with looks and size. Researching your breed candidates will let you know if that cute 10 lb. puppy will grow up to be a 100 pound adult – not very suitable for an apartment dweller!

Coat length and grooming is a

consideration. Does the breed require professional clipping or bathing – or do you have the time to spare daily or several times a week for grooming? If not, choose a short haired breed or one with a coat that does not mat! Silky coated or long hair coated dogs need often 'rear end' washing because poop gets stuck on the long hairs – not a pleasant odor or job to keep clean.

Activity level is another serious consideration. If you don't have the time or energy to provide your dog with the exercise it needs, don't expect a hunting or working dog to be happy as a couch potato. On the other hand, don't assume that size = exercise. Some smaller dogs – beagles come to mind – need a lot of action, while some big dogs are happy just hanging out.

Research. Look at photos and read the breed "standards" – available through AKC.org website. Look at the breeds' history and purpose – that will let you know what to expect of behaviors that are hard wired. For instance, if you have other pets that might be considered game

by some dogs – don't get a terrier!

Fragile breeds don't do well with children. An Italian Greyhound, for instance, is adorable and sweet but may break easily with a child's rough handling. On the other hand, responsible Dalmatian breeders will not sell a dog to anyone with children five years old or younger, because Dals are strong, active dogs with a highly developed guard dog instincts and are way too much dog to be trusted with younger children.

Remember – whatever your final decision is – whether it be a purebred puppy, an adult purebred from a breed-specific rescue group, or a mixed breed rescue from a local rescue group or humane society, your dog will have lifetime costs. Vet bills, food costs and grooming are all necessary expenses that will probably increase as the dog ages, just as with humans. (By the way, it is a myth that mixed breeds are healthier than purebreds; in fact, a mixed breed dog might inherit the genetic health issues of *all* the breeds

that make up its genome.)

For each breed of purebred dog that is recognized by the American Kennel Club there is a parent club with full information about the genetics, behavior, and exercise level required for the breed. Each of those parent clubs have foundations dedicated to research into ameliorating or eliminating the diseases/conditions that plague that breed – and by extension, add to the scientific knowledge about all dogs.

After you do all your research – and get your puppy - find an obedience training club to train you to train your dog – and that will cement your relationship with your buddy for life.

Betty Ann Brown is VERY active in purebred canine organizations. A Certified Public Accountant, she serves as Treasurer for the Asheville Kennel Club, the Hendersonville Kennel Club, the Obedience Club of Asheville and the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of America.





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