

PetGazette

Western North Carolina

March – April 2016

Volume 5 - Issue 2



Events

Fundraising Concert
Run for the Paws
Spa Fundraiser
WCDFA Dog Show

Health

Obesity
Oxygen Masks
Puppy Grooming
Rabies
Waynesville ER

Memorials

Events Calendar

And much more!



Cover photo by Louise St. Romain, Fast Cat Photography Studio

Beemer, ambassadress of the Yellow Ribbon Project of the Asheville Humane Society and the Buncombe County Animal Shelter. See story inside.

Calendar of Events March - April 2016

March

Tu. - 3/2 - 6-8pm. BWAR Petsmart Adoption Evening. Petsmart, 150 Bleachery Blvd., Asheville. 828 505-3440, bwar.org
Sat. - 3/5 - 12-3pm. CPPI low cost spay/neuter vouchers sold 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th of every month at Petco, Highland Square Mall, Hendersonville. Henderson County residents only. \$9 cat, \$25 dog.
www.communitypartnershipforpets.org.

Sat. - 3/5 - 11am-3pm. CAAR Adoption Event at Petco, Highland Square Mall, Hendersonville. wncanimalrescue.org.

Sat. - 3/5 - 12-4pm. BWAR Petsmart Adoption Afternoon. Petsmart, 150 Bleachery Blvd., Asheville. 828 505-3440, bwar.org.

Tu. - 3/8 - All day. Dine to be Kind at more than 50 area restaurants. 15% of proceeds go to AHS to help homeless pets. List of restaurants, details at ashevillehumane.org or 828 761-2001.

Sat. - 3/12 - CAAR Adoption Event at BMW of Asheville, 649 Airport Rd., Fletcher. wncanimalrescue.org.

Sun. - 3/13 - 2-4pm. CAAR Adoption Event. Patton Avenue Pet Company, 1388 Patton Ave., Asheville. wncanimalrescue.org.

Tu. - 3/15 - 9am-6pm. Sensibilities Day Spa benefit. 20% of sales to Heart of Horse Sense. Story page 18. Appointments at

828 253-3222 or 828 687-8760.

Sat. - 3/19 - 12-4pm. CAAR Adoption Event. New Ace Hardware, 3340 Boylston Hwy, Mills River. wncanimalrescue.org.

Sat. - 3/26 - 10am-1pm. CPPI low cost spay/neuter vouchers sold 4th Saturday of every month at Tractor Supply, Hendersonville. Henderson County residents only. \$9 cat, \$25 dog.

www.communitypartnershipforpets.org.

Sat. - 3/26 - 7-10pm. BWAR Benefit Concert. WNC Ag Center Expo Building, 1301 Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher. Tuatha Dea, The Dave Desmelik Trio, Carolina Ceili. Tickets through bwar.org or Eventbrite.com using keyword Brother Wolf/Asheville Area.

Thur. - 3/31 - 4pm. Ribbon cutting for new Haywood Animal Emergency practice. Public invited, refreshments. 3248 Asheville Road, Waynesville. 828 452-1478 Story page 18.

April

Sat. - 4/2 - 12-3pm. CPPI low cost spay/neuter vouchers sold 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th of every month at Petco, Highland Square Mall, Hendersonville. Henderson County residents only. \$9 cat, \$25 dog.

www.communitypartnershipforpets.org.

Sat. - 4/2 - 12-4pm. BWAR Petsmart Adoption Afternoon. Petsmart, Bleachery Blvd., Asheville. Mini Adoptathon with adoptable dogs, puppies, cats and kittens.

Also bwar.org.

Sun. - 4/10 - 10am-4pm. BWAR 2016 Run for the Paws at Fletcher Park, Fletcher. Dogs invited, not just tolerated. Live music, food, vendors. 828 505-3440, bwar.org. Story page 12. Come visit with PetGazette!

Sat. - 4/2 - 10am-12pm. CAAR Adoption Event at BMW of Asheville, 649 Airport Rd, Asheville. wncanimalrescue.org.

Sat. - 4/23 - 10am-3pm. CPPI low cost spay/neuter vouchers sold at Hendersonville Tractor Supply, 4 Seasons Blvd., Hendersonville. Sold there every fourth Saturday. communitypartnershipforpets.org

Sat. - 4/23 - WCDFA Dog Show and Rally/Obedience Trial at Haywood County Agricultural and Activities Center, 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville. www.wcdfa.org.

Sun. - 4/24 - WCDFA Dog Show and Rally/Obedience Trial. See 4/23 above. Story page 18.

Sat. - 4/30 - 10am-1pm. CPPI low cost spay/neuter vouchers sold 4th Saturday of every month at Tractor Supply, Hendersonville. Henderson County residents only. \$9 cat, \$25 dog.

www.communitypartnershipforpets.org.

Ongoing

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

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 first, second, third and fifth Saturday, 12-3pm. CPPI sells low-cost spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville PETCO.

Every fourth Sat. - 10am-1pm. CPPI sells low-cost spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville Tractor Supply.

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 Sat. - 12pm. PAPC Puppy Play dates at its dog park. All vaccinated puppies under 1 year welcome for safe socializing.

Every Sat. - 2pm. PAPC All Dogs Play Dates at its dog park.

Every Sun. - 12pm. PAPC Small breed - under 30 lbs. - play dates at its dog park.

Every Sun. - 2pm. PAPC Rough Players Play Party. All healthy and friendly dogs welcome.

Every Sun. - 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Volunteers take shelter dogs for hike

Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14Forever Friends Lane, West Asheville. Details at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.

Legend: AHS=Asheville Humane Society AKC=Asheville Kennel Club BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

CAAR=Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue CPPI = Community Partnership for Pets Inc. PAPC = Patton Avenue Pet Company WNCDDFA = Western North Carolina Dog Fanciers Association



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PetGazette Resource Guide

Please refer to ads in this issue for how these businesses can help you.
They make PetGazette possible.

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Diners can Dine To Be Kind for AHS

The 13th Annual Dine To Be Kind fundraiser of the Asheville Humane Society (AHS) will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Over 50 area restaurants of all kinds will donate 15% of the day's proceeds to AHS.

Dine to be Kind is presented by Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery. Those who enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner, or order take-out from any one of the participating restaurants will be helping homeless animals. At PetGazette press time, some of the participating 2016 Dine To Be Kind restaurants were 12 Bones (River Arts District and South); Aloft Asheville Downtown WXYZ Bar and Refuel Breakfast Bar, Ambrosia Bar & Bistro; Another Broken Egg Café, Apollo Flame (Hendersonville Road), Avenue M, Biscuit Head (West Asheville and Biltmore Avenue), and the Blue Sky Café. The Cantina, Chai Panti, Charlotte Street Pub and Grill, Chestnut, Chiesa, City Bakery, The Corner Kitchen, Doc Chey's Noodle House, Edna's of Asheville, Glass Onion, The Hop Ice Cream Café, and The Hop West are also participating. Additional Dine to be Kind restaurants include IHOP, Juicy Lucy's, Lexington Avenue Brewery, Limones, The Local Joint, Marco's Pizzeria, Mayfels (participating Monday, 3/7), Mellow Mushroom, Native Kitchen, Nine Mile, Strada Italiano, Storm Rhum Bar & Bistro, Sunny Point Café, Table, Twisted Laurel and Urban Burrito to name just a few.

For a complete, accurate, final list of participating restaurants, go to ashevillehumane.org close to the March 8 event date.

Project Yellow gives ribbons to promote safety

The Asheville Humane Society (AHS) and Buncombe County Animal Shelter (BCAS) have joined together to launch Project Yellow to help the public recognize when dogs need extra space on walks.

The free ribbons are for the pet owner to tie to their dog's leash to alert other people that they should use caution or ask permission before approaching the dog. Katy Mahaley, AHS Behavior Department Coordinator, said, "Project Yellow is a wonderful education campaign for our community. Many dogs are a little shy or just need extra space, and owners struggle with communicating that to people who love dogs and just want to interact." The ribbon tied to the dog's leash takes the pressure off the owner and signals the public to give the dog the space it needs to stay confident and feel safe.

The yellow ribbon DOES NOT necessarily signify that the dog is aggressive. It could simply indicate that the dog gets overly excited, anxious or fearful around other people or pets. The yellow ribbon could also signify that the dog has a medical condition and needs to be approached in a special way. It is a good reminder that we should never approach an unfamiliar pet without the owner's consent.

Using the yellow ribbon will help the Asheville and

Buncombe County community become more aware of pet safety. The ribbons are free for the asking at the front desks of both the AHS

"Never approach a pet without the owner's consent."

Adoption and Education Center and the BCAS. The organizations are both located on Forever Friend Lane, just off Brevard Road south of the WNC Farmers' Market.

In addition to being available at the AHS and BCAS, the yellow ribbons are explained through a Kid to Kid program in elementary schools. Pet activist Joeline "Joey" Beckham and her longtime pet sidekick, Beemer, visit schools with eleven year old twins Ruby and Christel Schober. The twins explain the proper way to interact with dogs, and they let their peers know that a yellow ribbon on the dog's leash means that it should be approached carefully. It does not necessarily mean the dog is dangerous, but it does mean that the dog should be greeted slowly, carefully and gently, and only *after* its owner has given an OK.

The children in the visited classrooms get to pet Beemer, who is known far and wide in Buncombe pet circles. She and Beckham have helped raise over \$175,000 for area pet rescue organizations. Probably their biggest contribution generator has been the Beemer Kissing Booth. There, after a small donation, donees get to have a wonderful wet kiss from Beemer – after getting Beckham's permission, of course.

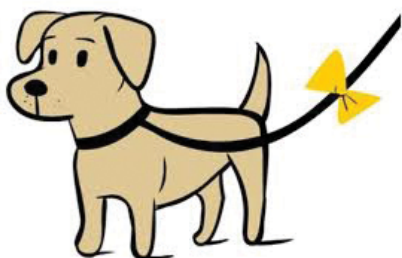
More information about Project Yellow is available at ashevillehumane.org. Those who would like to have Beckham, Beemer and the Schoder twins visit their elementary school should call Beckham at 828 681-9902.



Asheville Humane Society is providing FREE yellow ribbons for dogs who need space on walks!

A yellow ribbon tied to a dog's leash signals that the dog needs extra space upon approaching. They may fear other people or pets, get overly excited, or have a medical condition.

Please join us in educating the public by picking up a yellow ribbon if your dog needs extra space!



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Shelter pets get and give new lives in prison

by Ryan Jo Summers

Metal bars. High wire fences. Security guards. Locks and camera surveillance. Not the place you expect to find dogs frolicking, learning and cuddling. But placing shelter pups in US prisons is nothing new. The practice has been implemented at various correctional facilities since the 1990's.

This partnership between non-profit rescues or animal shelters and local prisons or correctional institutions has become a consistent mutual salvation for both pets and inmates. Here, everyone benefits, lives are saved and turned around, making it a total win-win.

The process goes like this: rescue groups or shelters take dogs deemed undesirable and send them to prison to do time. Inmates who have a clean behavior record while inside apply and interview for the slots to have the dogs. Some programs require reflective essays. Selected inmates have their personalities matched to the dog' and are formally trained by professional dog trainers who visit the prisons.

Over several weeks the dogs learn crate training, house breaking, and basic obedience skills like sit, come, heel and more. The 24/7 contact between inmate and dog creates a good bond, which makes for a more stable pet. At the conclusion, the dog graduates and is adopted by someone in the community. There is usually a long waiting list of citizens wanting these specially trained dogs. Some return to the shelter and are adopted soon. Others will become service dogs or pets for veterans.

For the prisoner, it is bittersweet. They must say good-bye to a pup they have become very attached too, but it also means an opportunity to receive another undesired dog, another chance to save a life. Close monitoring is provided throughout the process to ensure everyone's safety and success.

The benefits are countless. The dogs see 24/7 contact locked up with a human partner as a positive reinforcement. They learn basic obedience skills and trust. They are cared for and played with individually. Most importantly, they are taken from a dead end situation and move forward to adoption or service work. They get that second chance at a life they probably would not have received without going to prison.

The community gets a supply of desirable, well-socialized and trained dogs to adopt or shift into service roles. This also means fewer adoptable pets being euthanized. The cost for inmates to train a service dog is less when compared to a typical service dog training program, and the success rate is much higher versus dogs trained by members of the general population. For example, Leader Dog for the Blind in Michigan had a 40% success rate for puppies raised in homes and a 70 % success rate for dogs coming from prison. In New York, the success was 50% for dogs raised in homes and 87% for prison pups.

Inmates benefit because the program gives them a new chance, a reason to stay clean while inside, a ray of hope. The dogs provide a calming effect. The program gives them a purpose, a chance to connect with and give

back to a society they might never otherwise touch. The prisoners learn about compassion, experience unconditional love and become better than they were. They find acceptance and build self-confidence. They learn animal care skills for possible re-entry into society. Those that do re-enter have better odds of not returning. Even more benefits include reduced depression and lowered blood pressure, and the program reduces fighting among inmates.

North Carolina has about 30 community partners working with 20 facilities. Locally, Animal Haven of Asheville partners with both Craggy Correctional Center in Asheville and Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women in Black Mountain. More information can be found at www.animalhaven.org or at the NC New Leash on Life website: www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/Program/leash.htm

According to prison.tripod.com, the Washington State Correctional Center for Women has the model for the nation with their Prison Pet Partnership Program. The program began in 1981 and has gone on to win high praises. In 1986 the PPPP was a finalist for Innovations in State and Local Government recognized by the Ford Foundation and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. In 1997, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf went to WCCW to host "What's Right in America" for NBC, feeling the program exemplified how the prison system can aid in the rehabilitation of inmates while serving the community at large. (<http://prisonp.tripod.com/index.html>)

Recidivism rate is a huge tool to measure the success of prison dog training programs. A

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) 2014 study found 67.8% of former state prisoners released in 2005 were re-arrested within three years. When considering those re-arrested within five years of release, the number rose to 76.6%. Basically, three of every four released prisoners will return within five years.

But for those who participate in pet training programs, those numbers shift dramatically. Leader Dog for the Blind trainer's recidivism rate is just 11 to 13%. Chatham County GA had 35 inmates participate in training programs in 2012. Only 4 of those 35 came back, compared to the expected 17 returnees. The average three year recidivism rate for Washington State prisons is 28%, but it's only 5% for inmates who participated in dog training programs.

The statistics are just starting to form, yet even now it is clear pet training programs in correctional facilities are a positive benefit to all involved; the inmate, the community, the overburdened shelters and rescue groups, and the lucky pets handed that second chance of a good, loved life.

The above is the second of a three part series about pets enriching lives outside the familiar home setting.

Ryan Jo Summers is a local author with a life-long passion for animals. To learn more about her pets or writings, visit her website at www.ryanjosummers.com, blog at <http://www.summersrye.wordpress.com> or Facebook author page at www.facebook.com/pages/Ryan-Jo-Summers-author-page/312875648810797



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Hendersonville STAR 5th graders get to

by Jim Marks

When the Hendersonville sheriff's department picked up two new bloodhound puppies from their Knoxville breeder back in December, the cuddly half-sisters came with serious pedigrees, but no names. So K9 handlers and School Resource Deputies invited county 5th grade public school STAR (Sheriffs Teaching Abuse Resistance) students to suggest names for the new K9 staff members.

Dozens of names were suggested, and the winning names were kept a closely guarded secret until the first week of March. Then sheriff's department K9 handlers, Deputies Turpin and Hawkins will take the pups to the schools of those who suggested the winning names. There, the students and their classmates will have the opportunity to meet the dogs and their handlers, and learn for the first time that the dogs have been named Bailey and Echo.



Echo or Bailey shortly after arrival in Hendersonville.



Echo after just two months in Hendersonville.



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name sheriff's office bloodhound pups

“...a nose with a dog attached.”

As it happened, one name was suggested independently by three different 5th graders: Shelby Cantrell of Hillandale Elementary, and Eric Rasheed and Jacob Nance, classmates at Clear Creek Elementary all suggested “Bailey”. The name “Echo” was suggested by Cameron Banks, who attends Etowah Elementary. Bailey and Echo, about sixteen weeks old as of PetGazette press time, are busy learning how to locate missing persons

and track suspects. The dogs will get their tracking certifications around six months old and will try for their longer-distance trailing certification when they are a bit older. Bloodhounds are often referred to as “a nose with a dog attached.” So it’s easy to see why judges generally accept bloodhound evidence as valid probable cause for the issuance of search warrants. Deputy Turpin is the handler for K9 Bailey, and Deputy Hawkins is the handler for K9 Echo. The two new pups and their handlers train every day to get better at their jobs of tracking and trailing. Eventually, Echo and Bailey will replace the two current adult bloodhounds which are approaching K9 retirement age. 🐾

Concert to benefit Brother Wolf

Alternative music, Americana music, and Celtic music will be performed in the Expo building at the WNC Ag Center on Saturday, March 26. The concert is humbly titled “Helping to Heal the Heart of Humanity” and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.

Tuatha Dea, from Gatlinburg, TN, will present its unique combination of Celtic, Tribal and Gypsy Rock music that has been described as producing pure primal energy. The Brevard-based Dave Desmelik Trio will play its own interpretations of the Americana musical genre, featuring unpretentious original compositions from Desmelik, who describes himself as “a journeyman musician.” And Asheville’s Carolina Ceili - a four piece band, not a single person - will perform everything from pub favorites to ballads in the Celtic tradition. (Note: Ceili is pronounced “kay-lee” in Irish, and means a social event at which there is Celtic music and dancing.)

The concert will open at 7pm, doors will be open at 6pm. Tickets for both sitters and standers are available. If purchased in advance, adult tickets are \$20 for sitting, \$15 for standing, and tickets for children under 17 are \$15 for sitting, \$10 for standing. Tickets in every category will be \$5 more at the box office on the day of the concert. Tickets can be purchased through Brother Wolf (bwar.org) or through Eventbrite.com using keyword Brother Wolf/Asheville Area. 🐾

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by Emily Trimnal

Pet birds are an increasingly popular household pet in the United States. In fact, statistically, they fall just behind dogs and cats. When most hear the phrase “pet bird”, they automatically conjure up a mental image of a friendly small budgie, or a larger more intimidating macaw. However, parrots are not the only type of bird kept as pets.

Toucans are popular among a smaller subset of avian enthusiasts. Toucans can range in size from small – 13 inches from beak to tail like the green aracari – to large – 23 inches from tip to tail like the toco toucan; and provide a unique pet experience. There are three defined breakdowns of toucans: toucanet, aracari, and toucan. Toucanets are the family of smaller species, while aracaris are comprised of the medium size birds, and toucans are the largest of the birds in the species.

Life with a toucan of any size is a unique experience that comes with its own unique challenges. Unlike parrots, which eat a wide variety of food, including seed, a manufactured pellet diet, vegetables, fruit, and people food, toucans are primarily fruitavores. That means the majority of their diet is fruit based. Some of the larger species will differ slightly in their diet, eating varying sources of protein, including pinkie mice.

Toucans as pets

Just like parrots and other pet birds, toucans can be extremely messy. However, due to their fruit based diets, toucans can be more challenging to clean up after. Toucans

in their beak, and their serrated tongue pulls the item back into their mouth so it can be swallowed and ingested. As you can imagine, this means that some of their favorite foods, like berries, get the opportunity to ooze and splatter all over the environment as they are being consumed.


“Pet toucans are inquisitive, intelligent and bond to their caretakers.”

do not hold their food and eat it like most parrots do. Instead, they pick up the item they wish to eat, throw their head up, catch the item



Evita, Trimnal's collared aracari.

Pet toucans are very engaging; they are inquisitive, intelligent, and do bond to their caretakers in the same way other pet birds will. Most hand-raised toucan babies, with regular human interaction, enjoy cuddling with people and interacting with friends and family. Toucans are attracted to shiny objects, and, just like a magpie, will attempt to steal bottle caps, glasses, or anything else that looks appealing.

Compared to parrots, toucans are short lived. The larger species average 20 years, and the smaller species about the same. They are in general more expensive to acquire than parrots, and they are not widely bred, which can make acquisition more challenging. However, life with a toucan is worth the trouble. These engaging and intelligent birds are a unique pet that will certainly enrich your life. 

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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Small mammals like big mammals

by Melissa Nelson, DVM

More and more pet parents are finding that rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and other small mammals make social, playful, and enjoyable pets. What many people don't know is that these furry friends can develop many of the same issues as our dogs and cats, as well as problems unique to their species.

Did you know that rats, rabbits, chinchillas and guinea pigs can develop breast cancer? Did you know that spaying and neutering your small pet decreases the risks of unwanted pregnancy, breast cancer, and aggressive behaviors? Just as with dogs and cats, these routine procedures can help prevent problems later in life.

Did you know that the teeth of these pets continue to grow throughout adulthood? Regular dental checkups are a great way to make sure your small mammal pet stays healthy and continues to eat. If these little ones stop eating for more than a day, the bacteria in their intestinal tract will start to produce large amounts of gas that can cause them extreme pain and can lead to death if not treated. It is very important to make sure that these little ones are eating and drinking every single day and to have them checked out if there

is a problem!

Veterinarians have been seeing more and more of these adorable pets as they become more popular in the greater



Asheville area. Those experienced with small mammals can perform both routine and emergency surgery on these patients. For example, one area pet parent and Skyland client has three female rats and three (recently neutered) male rats. One of her female rats tried to attack her cat through the cage and broke her jaw, which, with several procedures, healed very well.

Recently, a poor guinea pig named Pepe went to REACH for a painful belly and not eating, and an x-ray revealed a bladder stone. Pepe was brought to Skyland Animal Hospital, where the stone was surgically removed and substantial infection addressed. Within thirty minutes of recovering from anesthesia, Pepe was happily eating the salad a staff member had brought for lunch that day! 🐾

Dr. Nelson knows small mammals. She once had a chinchilla that lived to be 18 years old. After graduating from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002, she first practiced in Michigan. She later practiced in Hickory, NC before becoming the new owner of Asheville's Skyland Animal Hospital. Skyland is a certified Fear Friendly Practice and is also becoming an accredited Feline Friendly Practice.

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The Law Says Pets Are Just Property

by Lin Sharp

Any pet owner will tell you their dog is priceless. So how is a dog's actual worth determined? Military dogs have saved the lives of an estimated 150-200 soldiers. Dogs work in Animal Assisted Therapy programs to help occupational and physical therapists meet important patient goals. They help keep patients safe in nursing homes, especially those with Alzheimer's disease or with mental illness. Service dogs help people with specific conditions like epilepsy, blindness, and PTSD. Some dogs can smell cancer. Dogs serve us and love us in endless ways.


What a shock to discover the law views our beloved canine companions as personal property! So calculating an animal's value in a wrongful death proceeding would be the same as estimating other property such as cars, clothes, or furniture. They do not take into account the cost of medical care or specialized training for a family pet. And most states do not allow an owner to recover damages for the emotional distress an owner experiences when an animal is hurt or killed through negligence whether intentional or unintentional. The owner is usually granted "replacement value", which is around \$200, and the market value proves less for a rescue animal.

If you sue for damages, you may find an attorney who specializes in cases involving animals. As the law considers this as injury to property, an attorney who handles injury to property (tort cases) should be able to handle

the case. Most likely, the attorney's fees will be more than any punitive or emotional distress damages.

North Carolina adheres to the national viewpoint of animals as property. In a well-known case settled in 2012, **Shera v. N.C. State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital**, the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled that the owners are not

entitled to recover damages for the negligent death of their pet beyond the cost to replace the pet. During a procedure the hospital had inserted a feeding tube into the trachea instead of the esophagus which resulted in Laci's death. The hospital admitted their error and offered to pay for the cost of interring the dog. Because the case was under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Commission due to the involvement of NCSU, the owners were eventually granted an award of \$3,105.72. It covered reimbursement for the cost of the treatment that led to Laci's death plus \$350 for the replacement cost of a new Jack Russell Terrier puppy. The judge in the Court of Appeals said "we sincerely empathize with the Plaintiff's loss of their beloved pet Laci." He added that "the Court of Appeals was not a law-making court and that the expansion of the law to allow pet owners to recover sentimental damages for the loss of a pet was within the province of the NC Supreme Court, or preferably the Legislature."

As the caretaker of two wonderful dogs, I can attest to my savings in psychology altering drugs due to their constant affection and companionship. Isn't it time our society acknowledged the extended value of our furry companions? 

Lin Sharp, co-author of "Hey! Can You Hear Us? Messages from Animals" and "Fly Bird Fly" - available from Amazon or from Crystal Spectrum Publications. She blogs about pets at www.Pawz-itivelySharp.com.

Pawz-itively Sharp



Lin Sharp co-author of "Hey! Can You Hear Us? Messages from Animals"

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by Kim Slagle

More and more puppies are being brought into grooming shops, and more and more pet parents are calling to ask when a puppy should start being groomed. The answer is “The sooner the better!”

Introducing a puppy or kitten to a groomer and grooming shop helps socialize and prepare both the pet and pet parent for years of easy grooming. It is much easier to build a trust with a puppy. You do want to make sure your puppy has had all his/her shots before a full grooming session. That’s usually around 16 weeks old. But until then, you can visit a grooming shop and let your puppy meet the groomer, smell around, and even get a nail trim.

This visit will also give you, the pet parent, a chance to talk with the groomer and plan what is best for your new puppy. Remember, different breeds will need grooming more or less often. But if you are comfortable with a plan, chances are your puppy will be too.

Before the first grooming visit, you can work on your baby at home. Light brushing, playing with the paws and toes, rubbing the ears and even practicing standing are all good preparation for groomer visits. Getting your puppy used to these things will help reduce stress from unfamiliar touching while at the groomers.

Puppy Grooming

Puppies need to feel that a grooming salon is just as safe and enjoyable as home is.

Before the big day arrives, plan an introduction to the grooming session with the groomer. (I always suggest just

“You don’t want to overload or frighten the pup.”

a bath, nail trim; light brushing and face trim the first time. You don’t want to overload or frighten the pup.) The idea is to have the pup associate grooming with a fun and stress free experience. A good



groomer will go slowly, which is why a puppy’s visit could take as long as a veteran dog’s grooming session. Don’t get upset if your groomer calls and says he/she couldn’t do all of what you both had planned. Professional groomers want an unsure pup to turn into a confident adult on the grooming table. Usually within three short sessions, a pup can be totally acclimated to grooming.

I do hope this encourages you to get those puppies into a grooming shop early in their lives! We love sharing those first moments with you and them! Having a groomer become familiar with your puppy is also beneficial. If the same groomer can touch and see your pet regularly, he/she can become more aware of skin issues, lumps and bumps that may form, or other changes that occur between sessions.

Your groomer can be a great team member on your pet’s side. Feel free to call him or her for answers to your questions. 🐾

Kim Slagle has worked with animals for over 20 years. She is an experienced groomer currently working at Canine Shear Heaven. Her writing goal is to educate other pet parents about the value of regular and proper grooming for all breeds of dogs and cats.

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5K Run for the Paws aims at \$20k for Brother Wolf

There is no question that this year's Run for the Paws to raise funds for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue will again attract pet lovers, walkers and runners alike.

The question is: "Will it get to the ambitious goal of \$20,000 raised to help homeless pets?" Brother Wolf volunteers and supporters think the answer is "Yes". The event is the only 5K in the area at which dogs are not just allowed...they're invited.

The 2016 Run for the Paws - the 7th Annual - will happen on Sunday, April 10. The event will once again be held at Fletcher Park, 85 Howard Gap Road, Fletcher, NC –

just south of the Asheville line. Festivities will begin at 10am and go until 4pm. In between, the 5K run will step off at 1:30pm, and the one mile walk will begin at 2pm. Age group awards will be presented at 3pm.

Participants must register in advance, and would be wise to do so early. The 2015 event reached its limit of 500 participants and some pet loving procrastinators had to be turned away. Runners and walkers can ensure their spot in the event, and save \$15, by registering early through Fundly.com. Early registration is \$30 per person through Sunday, March 20. After that, registration


costs \$45. All registered participants get a specially designed event T-shirt which they can pick up at noon on event day. Dogs don't have to register and get in free, but don't get a T-shirt.

To help meet the \$20,000 goal for this year's Run for the Paws, runners and walkers can sign up family members, friends, perhaps even total strangers to sponsor them in the event. The added revenue will help Brother Wolf care for more animals in need. In 2015, the organization served over 6,000 animals.

As of PetGazette press time, the Brother Wolf web site listed ten sponsors, many of which have supported the annual 5K for several years. The list includes, in no particular order, Trader Joe's; The UPS Store; Keli Keach photography; O'Henry's and The Underground at O'Henry's; Kitchen Native & Social Pub; Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery, the practice of David Crouch, DVM; Ace Hardware;

R.E.A.C.H. (Regional Emergency Animal Care Hospital); and Hunter Subaru.

All during the Run for the Paws festivities there will be music provided by a DJ, and dancing by children of all ages will be encouraged. Brother Wolf volunteers will be walking around with highly adoptable dogs, dodging dancers and meeting and greeting potential adopters. And vendors of all kinds will be offering their food or other desirable items. At PetGazette press time, the vendor list included The Hop ice cream; Asheville Pretzel Company, makers of treats for people and pets; Massive Booth Photography; Dancing Bear Toys, Trader Joe's – which will provide food for runners and treats for pets; and, of course, PetGazette, Asheville's pet lovers resource.

For more information about the 7th Annual 5K Run for the Paws contact Brother Wolf Event Director Leah Craig Feiser at leahcraig@bwar.org. And tell them PetGazette sent you. 



Mixed pack takes off at past Run for the Paws



Thirsty pups drink to success at past 5K



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Rabies and The Law

A Veterinarian's View

by Karel Carnohan, DVM

As a cat vet, I am presented with the following situation quite often:

Owner brings in his/her indoor/outdoor cat, Fluffy, for wounds incurred while playing unsupervised outdoors. Often there is an abscess. Owner says the cat roams the neighborhood and there are many cats as well as wildlife such as raccoons, skunks and opossums. The owner has no idea what bit the cat.

I cringe as I check the vaccine status of this cat, which we haven't seen in three years --way past due on rabies vaccine. This is a serious situation for me, as a vet, for the family, and the cat, and for anyone else who comes into contact with the cat, such as my staff.

In North Carolina, the rabies virus is carried by raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats as well as dogs and cats, both indoor-only and outdoor. The rabies virus is spread

through the saliva or nervous tissue of an actively infected animal. The species with the highest number of rabies cases, by

far, are cats. They are one of the most susceptible species; outdoor, free-roaming cats coming into contact with other cats and wildlife have a VERY high risk of contracting rabies. Rabies can take up to five months for the cat to become sick and infectious. So when Fluffy has an abscess in August and mysteriously becomes sick in December, Fluffy's family likely will have no idea it is rabies from that bite months ago.

What am I obligated to do when Fluffy comes in? I am morally obligated to treat Fluffy's abscess – I cannot let a cat suffer. However, I am placing myself and my staff at risk. Now to be fair, if Fluffy was bitten 4 days previously by a rabid animal, there is little chance the rabies has reached the saliva glands and the animal is infectious at that time. But what about sending the cat home with its rabies booster and the family thinking the cat will be okay? If the cat was infected, there is nothing I can feasibly do to cure the cat. The chance that rabies develops is real and I am placing that family at risk.

This is why North Carolina's Animal Control and Public Health law requires ALL pet mammals to be vaccinated for rabies with a certificate and tag to prove it. Here's what the law says if you cannot prove the animal that caused the bite is free of rabies:

If a pet is bitten by an unknown animal and is current on its rabies vaccine, the pet is revaccinated within five days and no other action needs to be taken.

If the cat is NOT up-to-date on rabies vaccine, the owner must present the offending (biting) animal for rabies testing. Rabies testing requires that the animal be euthanized and its brain sent to an authorized lab for testing. Public health

and animal control authorities can force this. So imagine asking your neighbor if you can euthanize his cat to test it for rabies? Is it feasible to find and euthanize the neighborhood raccoons that hang around?

If you have absolutely no idea what bit your cat, your cat is ASSUMED by law to have been exposed to rabies. The authorities don't take any chances. Rabies is 100% fatal in humans if not treated immediately.

If the Public Health authorities determine there has been a possible exposure, here are your options if your cat is even one day overdue on its rabies booster:

- Euthanize the cat and test it for rabies.
- Place the cat in strict quarantine, as dictated by the public health authorities, for SIX MONTHS! Boost the vaccine before it is released.

It has been my experience in North Carolina that the authorities won't allow a quarantine at home, so this option becomes very expensive. Cat Care had an indoor-only cat who was overdue and caught a bat that flew down the chimney. Unfortunately, the owners didn't save the bat for testing. They elected to pay for a six month quarantine at the clinic to save their cat.

Here's the dilemma: As a responsible citizen and human being, I am supposed to report any possible rabies exposure to the public health authorities. In Fluffy's case, the authorities would enforce the law and Fluffy would likely be euthanized. Do you see the horrible position in which clients place themselves, their cat and their veterinarian when they don't keep their pet's rabies vaccinations up to date? If the veterinary community and the public authorities don't take enforcement of the law very seriously, we would place everyone at risk of contracting a fatal disease.

So I wish everyone would keep their pets' rabies vaccines up-to-date - *even for indoor-only kitties*. If you have an outdoor cat, be sure to schedule your cat's booster ONE MONTH prior to its due date. Why? North Carolina does not consider your cat vaccinated until 28 days AFTER his shot!

I would love it if everyone would make their cats indoor cats or build outdoor "catios" - safe, outdoor enclosures that keep cats in and raccoon, foxes and skunks out.

Cat Care Clinic of Asheville cares about you, your family and your cat. Please talk to us about scheduling a rabies vaccine if your cat is overdue. 🐾

After a long career in finance, Dr. Carnohan returned to school and graduated from the Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine at the tender age of 50. She bought the Cat Care Clinic of Asheville in August 2013.

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Animal Emergency Facility to open in Waynesville

The new Haywood Animal Emergency is due to open Monday, March 28. The new facility will be a division of Junaluska Animal Hospital and be housed in the same building at 3248 Asheville Road, Waynesville.

Junaluska Practice Manager Suzanne Cianciulli said that the new emergency care facility is in response to "a really serious need." She pointed out that there are currently no animal emergency care practices between Asheville, NC and Knoxville, TN. "A lot of animals could be lost because of the travel time to one of those locations," she said. A news release about the new emergency facility pointed out that its location, just off Exit 104 of Highway 23/74, near Lowe's, makes it easily accessible. In addition to Haywood County residents, people and pets coming from Macon, Swain, Cherokee, Jackson, Clay and Graham counties will find it easy to get to.


The new emergency service will originally be open from 5:30pm until midnight on weekdays, and 8:30am until midnight on Saturdays and Sundays. Weekday emergencies will be covered by the current Junaluska Animal Hospital crew of eight veterinarians backed up by 12 other staff members. Cianciulli said that the plan is to transition to a 24 hour availability every day "once we know we have everything properly organized

and running smoothly." All the services currently provided at Junaluska Animal Hospital – vaccines, surgery, laser therapy, digital radiography and more – will be available to emergency patients of Haywood Animal Emergency.

The Practice Manager said that two new veterinarians have been added to the staff to help with the increased work load the emergency service will bring. One of the newcomers will work full time from the start, while the other will work part time. In addition to the two veterinarians, some new equipment and extra security measures have been added to provide better service for emergency patients and better protection for staff and visitors during extended hours.

Veterinary technician Sara Dodson said that the staff at Haywood Animal Emergency would fax copies of the records of emergency care to the pet's regular veterinarian for follow up care. Printed copies of records will also be provided to emergency patients who do not have to be patients of Junaluska Animal Hospital.

A ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, March 31 at 4pm.

Cianciulli said that refreshments would be served, and that members of the public are invited. For more information, call 828 452-1478, or email jahpracticemanager@gmail.com. 

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Pet Obesity

by Larry Jandrew

Every January 1, millions of Americans resolve to lose weight and get into shape. Maybe it's time to include our pets in this resolution.

The last national survey of veterinarians concluded 58% of all cats and 53% of all dogs in America are obese. These stats are startling. We are endangering our pets' lives by overfeeding, feeding the wrong foods, giving too many treats, and not providing the correct amount of exercise. Obese pets can develop more health problems and their lives can be drastically shortened.

A few pounds of extra weight are huge for a pet. If the ideal weight for your pet is 10 pounds and they weigh 13 pounds, that's 30% extra weight for your pet to carry around. Think how you feel when carrying an extra 30% of weight. Your pets can't decide for themselves to lose weight. So it is pet owners' responsibility to do what we need to do to keep them healthy.

We can help our pets lead a healthy life by providing a healthy diet and exercise. Not all pet foods are equal. Lower quality foods purchased in grocery or big box stores can contain a lot of ingredients not necessarily healthy for our pets. By-products, corn, wheat, soybean meal, artificial food colorings, and chemical preservatives can

cause health problems for your pet. They also can contain high levels of sugar and salt. These ingredients can lead to problems such as being overweight, allergies, hot spots, severe tear stains, diabetes, and in some cases, organ diseases.

High levels of salt can make your pet retain water and can also hinder kidney and liver functions. Sugar, along with being



overweight, can lead to diabetes. But let's just examine weight issues.

Some of the ingredients listed above are harder for your pet to digest. The less digestible the food, the more your pet needs to eat to absorb the vitamins and minerals needed to be healthy. A good way to monitor this is to look at the feeding recommendations on the bag of your pet's food. Compare this to other similar products.

If bag A recommends 4 cups of food and a bag B recommends 2 cups of food then you can assume B is more digestible and less fattening.

Be careful with the amount of treats you give your pets every day. Treats are just that, they should be given as a reward, not as a regular feeding. Most treats contain high calorie levels.

Use tricks like breaking treats in half so your pet still thinks they are getting the same number of treats. Or substitute their food as a treat. Giving a couple of kibbles of food is usually a lot healthier than a couple of treats. Pets still feel like they are being rewarded and you are keeping them healthier. Using fresh fruits and vegetables as treats is another healthy way to reward your best friend.

Exercise is the final tool to keep your pets healthy. Give cats more toys to play with and make up games to play with them. Take your dogs for an extra walk or play ball with them. A few minutes of your time can keep them from becoming couch potatoes. And help them live happier, healthier, longer lives.

Larry Jandrew has owned Pet Source since 1999. He says: "My goal is to give you the knowledge needed to make your own choice in deciding what to feed your pet."

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Dogs Smell Human Emotions

by Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD

Dogs and humans have been companions for possibly the last 100,000 years, which is a long time for BFFs. Although dogs and humans are two different species, we have developed a highly beneficial, co-evolutionary relationship. The success of our relationship with our canine companions depends on their ability to communicate and cooperate with us.


A recent study* reports that “dogs recognize dog and human emotions” by using the senses of hearing and vision. These are the two senses humans use, so human psychologists assume these are the two senses dogs use. This is a prime example of thinking from the Human’s Perspective.

However, to really understand how dogs think, consider the dog’s perspective. Dogs are experts at reading human emotions, but NOT through vision and hearing. The reported conclusions of this study may sound plausible from the Human’s Perspective, but not practical from the Dog’s Perspective. Humans want to believe that dogs look at us, just like we look at them. We want to believe that dogs interpret sounds and sights just like humans. But they don’t.

First, dogs work primarily from their extraordinary sense of smell, aka olfaction. Humans have very little concept of communication through olfaction, but it is a dog’s primary, go-to sense. This difference CANNOT be ignored. The part of the dog’s brain that is devoted to analyzing smells is approximately 40 times greater than humans.

There is NO comparison! Dogs can read human emotions, but they do it through olfaction, not sights and sounds. If dogs can smell drugs, bombs, cancer and someone about to have a seizure, dogs can smell emotions. Dogs smell fear. Why do you think you should never act afraid near an animal?

Second, the study showed images on a screen/monitor that has a flicker rate appropriate for human vision (60 Hz), but NOT appropriate for dog’s vision (70-80 Hz). It is impossible, impractical and inappropriate to assume dogs view their world just like humans, through vision and hearing. They don’t “see” the world as we do. They smell it.

When humans start recognizing we need to better understand olfactory communication, maybe then we can start understanding how dogs perceive and communicate with their world. We need to understand dogs from The Dog’s Perspective and realize that dogs do not experience the world as we do. Dogs perceive their world through the Dog’s Perspective. 

*Albuquerque, N, Guo, K et. al. 2016. Dogs recognize Dog and human emotions. *Biology Letters* 12(1): 12 20150883

Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD is a trainer, consultant and coach for dogs and their human companions through Lucky Dog Training, Asheville. She has over 30 years of training experience. The Dog’s Perspective is a training philosophy based on how dogs think. Kathryn is an evolutionary biologist and teaches higher education biology courses.



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Dog Fanciers, vets donate pet oxygen masks

Fire departments in Western Carolina recently received pet oxygen masks to help save pets involved in emergencies. The masks were donated through the generosity and volunteer work of members of the Western Carolina Dog Fanciers (WCDFA) and two area veterinarians.

Dr. David McCracken, DVM, of Country Lane Animal Hospital in Clyde and Dr. Kristin Hammett, DVM, of The Animal Hospital in Waynesville launched a program to ensure that every fire department in Haywood County had the proper

equipment needed to respond to animal victims of smoke inhalation and fire. The veterinarians began by purchasing oxygen mask kits for three local fire departments, one in Clyde and two in Waynesville. Then clients of the Animal Hospitals donated additional funds to purchase three more

kits to give to other area fire departments. But that still left some Haywood County fire departments unequipped with pet oxygen masks.


Tara Manning, Office Manager at

DuBose, a long-time friend of Country Lane, to secure a discount volume price for additional masks.

With the volume discount secured, the WCDFA aided the oxygen mask effort.

It provided the funding to equip those Haywood fire departments that were still without pet oxygen masks. Then the organization went on to expand the program to Jackson and Macon counties. When distribution of the masks is completed, about the end of March, the WCDGA will have donated 27 pet oxygen mask kits to WNC fire departments.

The pet oxygen mask donations are the latest WCDFA

effort to help address pet related issues. In past years, the group has donated canine Kevlar vests to area law enforcement agencies, sponsored a service animal in the PAWS for Patriots program, and rotated monthly donations to Meals on Wheels of Haywood and Jackson counties. 





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WCDFFA annual dog show April 23-24

The Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association, (WCDFFA), an AKC licensed club, will hold its annual dog show on April 23-24, 2016 at the Haywood County Agriculture and Activities Center on Crabtree Road (NC 209). The show will include competitions in conformation, obedience and rally, and is expected to once again attract well over 600 entrants.

The two-day event will run from 8am until approximately 3pm each day. The public is welcome to view the many breeds that will be competing, but is asked to leave non-competing dogs at home. Admission to the show is free, but a small parking fee will be collected from visitors. Food concessions will be available for breakfast and lunch items and several dog supply vendors will be on site. The show also provides an opportunity to see and learn about different breeds by watching the competitions and talking to breeders.

Last year's event featured 655 dogs in 119 different breeds or varieties, including 57

obedience entries and 21 rally entries on Saturday. On Sunday, visitors saw 645 dogs in 122 different breeds or varieties compete, including 52 in obedience and 21 in rally.

The WCDFFA is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2016. In addition to hosting AKC sanctioned competitions, the group supports and participates in a variety of pet related community activities. These include Dog Days of Summer at Hazelwood Elementary, Children's Dog Show, and Bark in the Park, a Pet Responsibility community event in Sylva, NC.

For more information about the show or the host club, please visit the club's website; WCDFFA.org or showentries.infodog.com.



Irish wolfhounds and handlers at past WCDFFA show.

Sensibilities Spa helps Heart of Horse Sense

On Tuesday, March 15, Sensibilities Day Spa will donate 20% of its sales to Heart of Horse Sense, a grassroots non-profit organization that provides various forms of equine therapy to veterans, their families and to at-risk youth.

Heart of Horse Sense is an off-shoot of Horse Sense of the Carolinas, (HSoTC), which was founded in 2003. The original purpose was to rescue horses from abuse and neglect and partner them with people who could benefit from equine therapy. But the program grew beyond HSoTC's ability to provide equine therapy free of charge. So founder Shannon Knapp created Heart of Horse Sense, a 501c3 organization, to raise funds specifically to provide services for veterans and at-risk youth.

"We're honored to be a part of the healing process for our veterans, and to provide practice in important life skills for young people," Knapp said. "We're especially grateful to our community and to Sensibilities for their support."

Those wishing to help Heart of Horse Sense make a difference in the lives of veterans and at-risk youth should book a Sensibilities Cares appointment for Tuesday, March 15. Then they should simply shop or enjoy a massage, facial, body treatment, nail service, waxing service, a combination of the above, or all of the above! Sensibilities will then donate 20% of the money they spend to Heart of Horse Sense.

Appointments can be made for Sensibilities Downtown at 828.253.3222 or for Sensibilities South at 828.687.8760. Or an appointment can be booked by email at relax@sensibilities-spa.com.



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Pet Obituaries

from Pet Cremations of Western Carolina

Gretel

Gretel was a small dog with a lot to say. She loved to greet visitors and she met them at the door with a loud “Hello, and let me tell you what I’ve been doing” – and she did! With a bit of an under bite, Gretel’s little face was fixed in what appeared to be a constant smile. She was the loving canine-child of Renee and Ken Brain. Renee and Gretel spent a lot of time together each day, and Renee is greatly saddened. Gretel passed away February 2. She is survived by Renee, Ken and big-doggy-brother Merlin – whom she didn’t really like so much anyway. Shuler and Forest Lawn Funeral Homes offer deepest sympathy to the Brain family.

Lady Belle

Laird Milne said goodbye to his faithful companion on January 27. **Lady Belle** was a beautiful 15 year old Keeshon dedicated to her best friend and master since she was a puppy. The two enjoyed a long and loving life. When her owner recently suffered from ill health, Lady Belle stayed by his side with the devoted attention he had always shown her. Surely her long life is proof of the love and care Laird bestowed on her.



Lady Belle

Punky

Debbie and Steve Kraftcheck were saddened by the loss of 15 year old **Punky** on February 8. This loving cat is greatly missed by her family.

Pi and Shadow

The Ashmore family had the misfortune of losing two special family members within two days. On February 10, their beautiful cat, **Pi**, died suddenly at the age of 14. The next day, February 11, Pi’s close feline companion and the Ashmore’s second cat, **Shadow**, died following a long illness. As heartbroken as Debbie and her daughter are over the deaths of Pi and Shadow, they find comfort in knowing the two are together once more.

Chloe

Chloe lived 19 long years because she was loved and cared for by Becky Lane. Becky said goodbye to Chloe on February 8.

Chico

Chico was an adorable little 16 year-old-terrier who was adopted by Christa Eversman from the West Suburban Humane Society at the tender age of nine months. Chico immediately bonded with Christa’s parent’s dog, Diamonds, and the two became inseparable. In fact he moved in with his grandparents, John and Alexandra Kiefer when they moved to Asheville in 2005. Chico’s mom, Christa, continued to be a big part of his life. Several years ago Chico lost his sight as a complication of diabetes. Sweet Diamonds became Chico’s ‘seeing-eye-dog’ whenever they went for walks. Sadly, Diamonds passed away in December 2015. His people family continued to shower Chico with love and care, but it was obvious that he missed Diamonds. On February 13, Chico joined his friend Diamonds at the Rainbow Bridge. He is survived by Christa, John and Alexandra.



Chico

Keiko

Keiko was a beautiful white standard poodle, and canine-child who lived with canine-mom Pat DeLemos for 12 years. The two were great companions who enjoyed every day they shared together. Keiko lives on in Pat’s heart.

Copper Penny

Copper Penny was an adorable long-haired Dachshund who enjoyed being a large part of her people-parents’ lives. After a lengthy illness, Sally and Richard Nicol made the brave decision to honor the true spirit of Copper Penny by saying goodbye. She now romps at the Rainbow Bridge as a healthy young puppy, and the Nicol family knows she is always close by in their hearts.



Copper Penny

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