

PetGazette

Asheville Area

January-February 2014

Volume 3 - Issue 1



Fun Events

Valentine Adoption Fair
Agility Trials
Dine to be Kind
Beemer Kissing Booth

Health

Dental Health Month
Fish Dangerous for Cats?
Horse Colic
Equine Therapy

Reptiles

Cool Coral

Pet People

Events Calendar

Remembrance

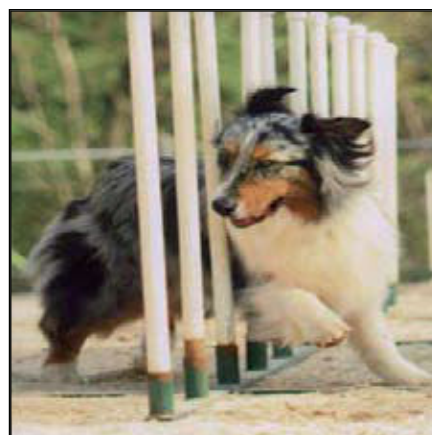
Resource Guide



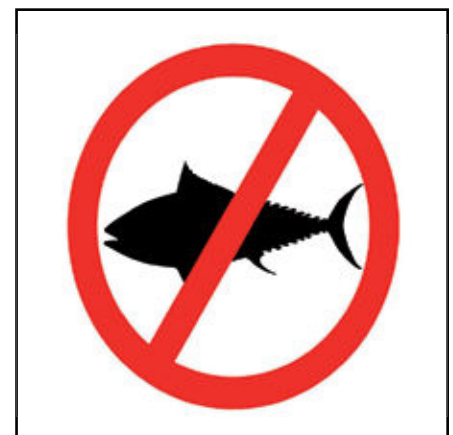
Valentine's puppy love.



PetGazette Adoption Fair – 7



AKC/Agility Club Trials - 5



Fish bad for cats? - 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed., Sat., Sun. – 10am. BW. The Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at the shelter to take dogs to great hiking spots. Great 1½ hour enrichment activity. Contact volunteer@bwar.org for details.

Every Wed., - 7pm. AHS. Puppy Class. Six week course for puppies 9-16 weeks. Fee, registration, Puppy WIN class required.

Every Wed., Sat. – BW. PetSmart Cat Adoption Events with many cats and kittens, some dogs and puppies. Times vary. Call 828 808-3440 for schedule.

Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC (across from the Biltmore Square Mall).

Every Sat. – 12pm. PAPC Puppy Play dates at its dog park. All vaccinated puppies under 1 year old welcome to socialize in a safe place.

Every Sat. – 2pm. PAPC All Dogs Play dates at its dog park behind the store.

Every Sun. – 12pm. PAPC Small breed play dates at its dog park. Small breed dogs

under 30 lbs. welcome to frolic with others of similar size.

Every Sun. – 2pm. PAPC Bullie Breed Play Party. All healthy and friendly bullies welcome to gambol with their own kind.

Every Sun. – 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Volunteers take shelter dogs for hikes. Applications, reservations at ahshikinghounds@yahoo.com

Every First Sat. – 11am-2pm. WNCBR Adoption Day at Pet Supplies Plus, Hendersonville Rd., South Asheville.

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

Every Third Sat. – 11am-3pm. WNCBR Adoption Day at PetSmart

Every Third Tu. – 6:30-8pm. Volunteer orientation at Asheville Humane Society, Forever Friends Lane, West Asheville.

Details at www.volunteer.ashevillehumane.org

January

Sat. - 1/11 – 10am-3pm. Brides for Barks fundraiser for Asheville Humane Society. Donated goods and services auctioned off as part of Wedding Festival at U.S. Cellular Center. \$8 admission. Details at lweldishofer@ashevillehumane.org or 828 761-7001 Extension 323.

Sat. – 1/11 – 10am-12pm. Vaccine clinic at Tailgate Market, 328 New Leicester Highway, Asheville. Low-cost rabies, other shots, microchipping available from Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Details at www.bwar.org, or 828 505-3440.

Tu. – 1/21 – 6:30-8pm. Volunteer orientation at Asheville Humane Society, Forever Friends Lane, West Asheville. Held every first Saturday 11:30am-1pm, every third Tuesday, 6:30-8pm. Details at www.ashevillehumane.org.

February

Sat. - 2/1 - Beemer Kissing Booth at Asheville Humane Society, Forever

Friends Lane, West Asheville. Time TBD. 828 761-2001

Sat.-2/8 – Beemer Kissing Booth raises funds for rescue/spay-neuter, at Woof in the Woods, 1451 Charlotte Highway, Fairview. Time TBD. 828 222-2222.

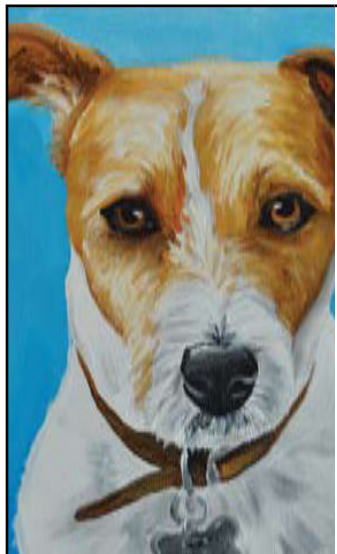
Sat. - 2/15 – 12-3pm. Valentine's Adoption Day to benefit pet rescue organizations. Four Points Sheraton, 22 Woodfin Street, Asheville. Family friendly event, leashed dogs welcome. Adoptable pets. Photos. Spin To Win rescue fundraiser. "Goody bags." Admission \$1, or more, goes to participating rescues. Beemer kissing booth. Call PetGazette at 828 633-1348.

Thur. – 2/20 – All day. All night. Love your pet day!

March

Tu.- 2/4 – Early morning-late night. Dine to be Kind fundraiser in about 50 area eateries. 15% of day's sales - including take-out – benefit Asheville Humane Society. For questions, restaurant list go to www.ashevillehumane.org or call 828 761-7001.

Legend: ACN=Animal Compassion Network AHS = Asheville Humane Society AHA= Asheville Humane Alliance AKC=Asheville Kennel Club BW=Brother Wolf FF=Fur Ever Friends PAPC=Patton Avenue Pet Company WNCBR=WNC Boxer Rescue



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PetGazette

Pet Resource Guide

Key: (N) North Asheville to Weaverville, (E) East Asheville to Black Mountain, (W) West Asheville to Candler, (S) South Asheville to Fletcher, (MA) Metro Area, (M) Mobile Service. Please refer to ads in this issue for details and contact information.

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Read us online at www.petgazetteasheville.com!



PetGazette

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The opinions and recommendations of contributors are their own, not necessarily those of **PetGazette**.

Carol Marks, Publisher
publisher.petgazette@gmail.com

Jim Marks, Editor
editor.petgazette@gmail.com

Sheryl Mann of Flying Dogs Photography is an ongoing contributor.

Design and layout by Journey Design Studio.

Rosie, ShihTzu/Terrier
VP Credit & Collections

Phone: 828 633-1348
Mail: PO Box 151, Candler, NC 28715

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Photo by Sheryl Mann, Flying Dogs Photography

Jim Marks, Editor, with Remy,
former VP Customer Relations
D. 7/27/13



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Keeping Captive Reptiles

by Chip Bridges

Many children are undeniably drawn towards reptiles. It seems innate, since many of the parents that have brought children into my store looking for a first reptile pet, have downright aversions to reptiles, and certainly didn't promote the fascination. The child's interest often begins with dinosaurs or with running across a green snake or fence lizard in the yard. But whatever the cause, when a child shows an interest in something, we naturally want to foster that interest.

Reptiles are fascinating animals and can teach us much about our natural world. Many are low maintenance, easy to keep, reasonably sized as adults and docile. Many however, are none of these, so please, for your sake and the animal's, be an educated consumer.

Some reptile pets are easy to properly care for, and some require much more time and money than most people bargained for. And a few, quite frankly, shouldn't even be in the pet trade. So it is wise to research the species you are interested in keeping before you buy. To research your choice on the Internet, simply type "Care sheet" and the reptile you want into a search engine. Learn what they eat, what kind of enclosure and temperature they need, how long they live and how large they get. (No animal only grows to the size of its cage, in spite of this persistent wives' tale.)

Animals are not good impulse buys, and even worse impulse gifts! Not all care sheets are perfectly accurate, so read three or four results, and you should have a good overview of what will be involved. Feel free to email me chip@blueridgereef.com, if you encounter any questions or conflicting information.


Reptiles are broken down into four orders, but we can disregard Crocodilians

"With reptiles, it's 'temperature, temperature, temperature!'"

and Tuataras as pets. This leaves Chelonians, which includes tortoises and turtles; and Saurians, which are comprised of snakes and lizards. Among the turtles and tortoises, there are few I would suggest to a new keeper, and none that you are likely to find in a pet shop. As lizards go, I would strongly avoid the following species for a novice reptile keeper: green iguanas, anoles, any chameleon, any monitor, or tegu or Tokay

geckos. I usually recommend leopard or crested geckos, since they adapt well to handling and do not need special lighting or diets. Most popular geckos feed either on insects or a combination of insects and baby food. For a first snake pet, corn snakes are a no-brainer, staying reasonably small and colorful; ball pythons would probably be my next choice. All snakes eat animals exclusively; most of the popular pets feed on mice. Frozen mice are inexpensive, and much safer than feeding live.

In real estate, the important thing is "location, location, location". With reptiles, it's "temperature, temperature, temperature!" Reptiles are ectothermic, meaning they cannot produce their own body heat. It is paramount to give them a warm to cooler gradient of the proper temperature. With most species, an under tank heater is ideal. Those that require basking bulbs usually aren't the best starter reptiles. Hot rocks are not ideal for any reptile.

I could go on for pages and still not answer every question, but this will be a good starting point. I am happy to steer people towards the right pet for them, and suggest where to get the animal if it's not something I keep in the store. 

Chip Bridges is the owner of Blue Ridge Pets in Black Mountain. He has over 30 years' experience as an aquarium owner and reptile keeper. Email questions to: chip@blueridgereef.com.



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Agility Trials at Ag Center January 17-19

by Jim Marks

Well over 200 dogs are expected to participate in the American Kennel Club/Blue Ridge Agility Club (AKC/BRAC) agility trials at the McGough Arena at the WNC Agricultural Center on Friday, January 17 through Sunday, January 19, 2014. About 100 of the canine competitors and their handlers are expected to be from the Asheville area.

Spectators are welcome, and admission and parking are free for all the competitions. Events start at 8am and continue until “about 5pm” according to BRAC Trial Secretary Jayne Abbott. She added that Sunday’s events will probably end about 3pm, and asked that visitors not bring their own dogs, which could be distracting to the competitors.

The arena 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.

The January Ag Center trials are the last of six major events through which dogs can qualify for the AKC/USA Agility World Team Tryouts in Hopkins, Minn. The first of the qualifying trials was held in Dixon, California in May, 2013. Other events were held in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Oregon and again in California before coming to North Carolina. Winners at the Minnesota event will receive invitations for the 2014 Agility World Championships, which are scheduled for Luxemburg.

All trials have food vendors, so neither handlers nor spectators must go hungry. 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. 

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Pet People

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Woof in the Woods / Specialized K9 Services


The Outer Banks of North Carolina’s loss is WNC’s gain, with the arrival in 2013 of Margaret King and Steve “the Dogfather” Canady. These two lifetime doglovers have combined their professional expertise to bring a “one-stop shop” pet supply store and training center to Fairview. Woof In The Woods is located in a charming stone building at 1451 Charlotte Highway, with a newly constructed training center for Specialized K9 Services. It



Margaret King and Steve Canady

nutrition is the foundation to transforming your pet’s life, so the store specializes in organic raw food, organic dry food, zero grains, gluten-free, wheat-free, zero beef, zero corn or soy, zero rendered meats, by-product meals or artificial preservatives.

Steve’s experience and expertise is broad: obedience, therapy, service, AKC Canine Good Citizen, Search and Detection, breeding / showing, agility, and criminal investigations

with both law enforcement and private citizens. Behavior modification is Steve’s forte, and he guarantees results with one visit. “We really work with people as much as the dog”, Steve says, “and the dog learns to make decisions based on experience.” Steve is listed with the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the AKC recognizes him as a therapy service dog trainer and Canine Good Citizen evaluator. Call Steve or Margaret at 828-222-2222. 

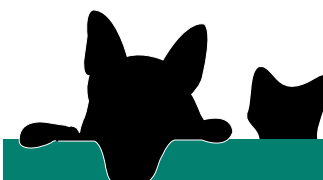
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Under New Ownership

Why Is Fish Dangerous to Cats?

by Karel Carnohan DVM


There are very few cats who don't like fish. So why is fish, as a staple diet for cats, dangerous? Fish contains an enzyme called Thiaminase. This enzyme breaks down Thiamine, an essential vitamin also known as B-1. If cats are fed mainly fish, either as tuna or in pet food that is not supplemented with Thiamine, they can become very sick. Vitamin B-1/Thiamine is essential for neural health.... it feeds and protects neurons.

If a cat is thiamine deficient, it will develop neurological symptoms and eventually die if its diet is not corrected. Fortunately, cats can recover from thiamine deficiency if they get proper care and a well-balanced diet.

Recently, several pet food companies have recalled their cat food because it was deficient in Thiamine (most recently, Diamond Pet Food issued a recall). Pet food companies must add Thiamine to their fish formulas to compensate for the enzyme and ensure cats get enough Thiamine. It is likely their food was tested and found to have inadequate levels. I like to give the pet food companies credit for doing the right thing by recalling their foods: it shows they are testing and following through.

Along those lines, a pet peeve of mine is pet food companies who market "cat food", mostly canned food, that is "all tuna" and "100% Natural Chicken". If shoppers are not careful and aware, they often assume this is a

complete diet for their cat. IT IS NOT! Many companies do not make it clear that this is designed to be a TREAT and not to be the cat's main diet. The words to look for on the label should indicate compliance with the guidelines of the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). The label should say: **"FORMULATED IN ACCORDANCE TO AAFCO GUIDELINES TO BE A COMPLETE AND BALANCED DIET"**, or some variation on that statement. Even better, a pet food company will test its food via feeding trials to ensure its products are healthy. For growing kittens, it is best to find a diet formulated for their age and that should be stated in the AAFCO statement.

AAFCO guidelines aren't perfect and are in need of updating, but they are the best we have at the moment. So please read labels and be aware there are many companies jumping on the pet food band wagon who neither have the expertise nor the resources to ensure that their products are healthy and complete for your pet. Good nutrition is important for your cat's long term health. 

After a long career in finance, Dr. Carnohan followed her heart. She returned to school and in 2005, 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, fulfilling her dream of owning her own practice and spending her time with the cats she loves.

Weaverville Newfoundland Delivers


by Becker Reep

Stella, our Newfoundland, gave birth to five purebred healthy puppies on Tuesday, December 17th.

Leading up to the birth of the puppies, there was lots of preparation. Stella had four progesterone tests to determine the perfect time to breed her based on her ovulating. We then road tripped to Maryland to meet the stud dog at the reproductive vet.

First we collected the stud dog, and looked at his semen under a microscope to see if it was alive and healthy. Stella then had a transcervical insemination. This was really cool because there was a camera and we got to see her insides. Because of the progesterone testing we knew exactly when she was ovulating and when her puppies were due.

Dogs are only pregnant 63 days, so it wasn't too long of a wait. When the puppies were finally all born, after 12 hours of Stella in labor, they were super active and squeaky.

We always have a theme for our litters, and this litter's theme was American muscle cars! We had Sting Ray, the only boy; Galaxie Girl; Camino Girl; Chevelle Girl; and Barracuda Girl! So far Stella has been a magnificent mother and watched over her babies with care and love. Stella is a little clumsy sometimes so she needs a human to assist her while she nurses her pups. It's so much fun to watch the puppies as they grow up to see different personalities and attitudes bud. 

Weaverville teen Becker Reep raises and shows both Newfoundlands and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Asheville Humane Society Volunteer Orientation


The first of the regular training sessions for Asheville Humane Society (AHS) volunteers will be on Saturday, January 4th at 11:30am at the Adoption Center on Forever Friends Lane. Regular sessions thereafter will be on the first Saturday of each month at 11:30am, and the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

Each orientation session will cover the types of AHS volunteer work available, the requirements, and the rewards of joining the team at the largest lifesaving animal welfare agency in Western North Carolina. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, although junior volunteers from ages 10 and up are welcome if a parent or guardian plans to volunteer with them.

Prospective volunteers should fill out an application online at www.ashevillehumane.org.

Once receipt of their registration form has been confirmed, they should make the necessary reservation for a training session online at cdpmaps@gmail.com.

One of the most popular programs for volunteers is Hiking Hounds. The volunteers take shelter dogs out for extended walks on weekends, providing healthy exercise and fun in the great outdoors of our beautiful mountains. But if hiking isn't on your list of favorite activities, with or without canine accompaniment, there are all kinds of volunteer opportunities available at AHS – from adoption counseling to socializing kitties.

For answers to any questions about volunteering at the Asheville Humane Society, contact Heather Brannan at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org or 828 761-2001, Extension 307. 

New Executive Director, new action plan at Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

Paul Berry has been hired as the new Executive Director of Brother Wolf Animal Rescue following approval by the Board of Directors.

Berry is the former CEO of Best Friends Animal Society, the largest animal sanctuary in the country, and past interim Executive Director of Alley Cat Allies. He has over 20 years' experience in animal welfare, including work at the local and national levels. Under Berry's leadership at Best Friends Animal Society, the national No-Kill organization did groundbreaking work in exposing the puppy mill industry and campaigning to protect pit bulls and feral cats.

During Berry's term as CEO of Best Friends, the group also led a massive effort following Hurricane Katrina that saved over 6,000 dogs; saved 22 of the Pit Bulls from the Michael Vick dog-fighting case, and produced the popular Dog Town TV series with National Geographic Television.

"Paul brings a wealth of skills and experience to our organization at a critical time in our expansion," said Denise Bitz, Founder and President of Brother Wolf. "We've just completed the process of strategic planning and board reorganization, and have recommitted to our founding mission to build a No Kill community where no placeable cat or dog dies for lack of a home."

"Our community has made great strides in reducing the number of homeless animals over the last few years," Bitz continued. "But, sadly, close to 2,000 animals lost their lives in Buncombe County last year. I know we can do better than that. The animals deserve it."

To achieve its strategic goals, Brother Wolf will implement a new four-point plan that will augment the work of local humane groups. The plan will provide a comprehensive approach to reducing the number of euthanized animals as aggressively as resources will allow. The plan includes:

1. Expanding Brother Wolf's adoption efforts by increasing offsite adoption events, growing its Volunteer Foster Network, and making key improvements to its Adoption Center.
2. Engaging the community's help in Pet Retention efforts. This will be done by organizing, neighborhood by neighborhood, to empower citizens with the resources and education to help keep animals from ever entering the animal sheltering system.
3. Developing a Community Cats Program by recruiting volunteers and providing them with the training and resources necessary to conduct effective TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, return), community education, and neighbor mediation to keep outdoor cats from ever entering the animal sheltering system.
4. Developing vital sanctuary resources to treat the behavioral and medical cases that require longer-term rehabilitation.

"Saving the last group of animals who are currently at risk will be very challenging – they are the 'special needs' dogs and cats. But I'm confident in our plan going forward and with Paul joining the team, I'm certain we'll achieve our No-Kill mission," said Bitz.

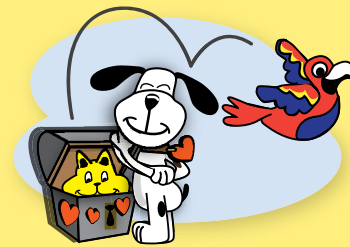
Valentine's Adoption Fair Raises Rescue Funds

The first-ever PetGazette Valentine's Adoption Fair will be from 12-4pm on Saturday, February 15th at the Four Points Sheraton at 22 Woodfin Street in downtown Asheville. The admission fee of at least \$1 will go to participating area rescue groups.

The Asheville Humane Society, Brother Wolf, and Charlie's Angels rescue groups, and others, will be there with dogs and puppies ready to find their forever home. Sheryl Mann, of Flying Dogs Photography, will take a free photo of newly adopted pets with their adopting family.

In addition to Mann's photo booth and the rescue groups, there will be vendor booths from local pet businesses offering everything from legal services to dog training services to pet toys and natural/holistic pet food. Free coffee or hot chocolate will be there for the taking, and attendees will get "goody bags" with coupons and gifts from PetGazette advertisers. There will also be a chance to win prizes in return for a rescue donation in PetGazette's "Spin to Win" game. And Beemer the rescued Pit Bull will be at her Kissing Booth to generate donations to the Beemer Fund, which supports pet rescue and spay/neuter efforts.

On-site radio interviews will be recorded for use on Pet Talk from PetGazette, which runs on Fridays at 2:30pm. The show airs on WZGM 1350, Asheville Community Radio, a co-sponsor of the Valentine's Adoption Fair. For more information call PetGazette at 828 633-0629.



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Pet Wills and Trusts: How to care for your pet when you no longer can

by Dennis Gibson, Esq.

On many typical days at an animal welfare agency the following question gets asked, "My mother/father/grandmother/grandfather recently passed away and we don't know what to do with their dog/cat/bird. Could you take them?"

In fact, every year approximately 3.5 to 4 million pets are euthanized in the United States - about 500,00 of them because of the above situation. In the confusion that follows the death of a loved one, a serious accident, or other incapacitating emergency, a beloved pet can end up in a shelter only because its owner didn't plan ahead. A half a million pet deaths are completely preventable.

However, the surrender and destruction of a beloved pet is not the inevitable outcome of dying or being seriously injured. These pets could live out their lives with a loving caregiver with a little prior planning. There are generally two ways that a beloved pet's care can be arranged.


The first is a will. A pet is part of the owner's estate and would be disposed of according to the directions of the will. The biggest drawback of this method is that it only becomes effective upon the death of the owner. There are many circumstances that could leave a pet vulnerable and without someone to care for it even though the owner is still alive.

The second method, and a way to address the drawbacks of a will, is a pet trust. A pet trust is a legal agreement that provides for the care and maintenance of a pet in the case of the owner's death OR incapacity. This agreement normally involves three parties. The owner or "grantor" creates the trust that would hold property, such as cash, to be used for the care of their animals. The other two parties are the trustee and the grantee or caregiver. The trustee oversees the use of the property or funds provided for the care of the pet and the caregiver is the one that provides said care.

A pet trust is your opportunity to say

how your pet is cared for and can be as detailed or as general as wished. For example, if your dog only eats a certain brand of food or requires certain medical care, this could be spelled out within the pet trust. The creator of the trust should also describe the standard of care that should be provided by the caregiver. Again, this can be as general or detailed as the creator wishes. It should include a description of the property that will be used for this care and how the trustee is to provide this property to the caregiver. For example, if the property in question is cash, the creator would spell out how that money is paid. This payment could be paid as a lump sum, by specific expense, or periodically, such as monthly or quarterly. The creator also decides what happens to the trust property should the pet pass away. The pet's final disposition should also be addressed.

A pet trust should include the name and address of all the parties. It should be noted that the person who creates the trust is not limited to only one person or organization in each of the roles. In fact, it is recommended that backup parties be identified just in case the primaries are unable to perform their roles. All the pets to be included within the trust should also be sufficiently identified. This could be as broad as stating that all animals owned at the time of death or disability should be in the trust or as specific as a particular animal's DNA. The choice is up to the creator of the trust.

Every beloved pet should live out its life cared for in the manner it deserves. Responsible pet owners can take the few easy steps needed to make sure this happens and that the dreaded phone call to a shelter never takes place. 

Dennis Gibson is an attorney in private practice and also a member of the Board of Directors for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, the largest No Kill Rescue and Adoption Center in Western North Carolina. He can be contacted at (828) 669-0375 or dennis.gibson@bellsouth.net.

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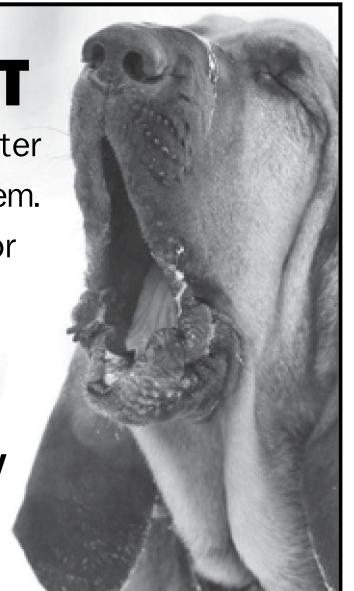
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by Shawn Chase

There are two types of people in the saltwater hobby, fish people and coral people. Yes you can do both, and it would be difficult for most of us to choose what we like best. But when the coral bug has bitten, (and it can bite hard), there seems to be a definitive moment when a select few say, "I think I will do a coral only tank". What!? Why in the world would somebody want to do only corals? It's just a bunch of plants and sticks! It's sooo boring!

I love to hear those words! I actually get a bit of a shiver! An innocent has spoken!! I can't wait to open up your world!

First and foremost, corals are animals. Yes animals. Classified as cnidarians. With mouths. And stinging polyps, predatory skills and some can go into chemical warfare. They can sense danger and protect themselves. They reproduce, have symbiotic relationships with other crazy cool creatures, and did I mention colors that make a rainbow look ridiculous? Sometimes they eat your pets...no, not Fido, but that cute little peppermint shrimp you put in your tank. Yup, he was careless, stung, immobilized and eaten. Circle of life and not so boring after all. Most of my corals have learned their big meal comes on Saturday nights,

so on Friday evenings they have started to swell up, extend their feeding polyps and are just waiting to open their mouths for some delicious shrimp, scallops and bits of seafood yumminess. Watching them eat is one of the most amazing things ever!

I'm sure the bug has started to bite and you are waiting in anticipation for the but...



There is no but. You can do this too. Corals are not as difficult as we have been led to believe. As always, knowledge is success. There are also different levels of corals: easy, a bit more easy and wow, it bit you hard difficult. The corals we are talking about need light. This will be their primary source of life. They have a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae, an algae. Not just any kind of light will do, but that's a pretty big topic. Just remember this piece of equipment is vital,

so do some research and put some money into it.

Water flow, lots of good clean water flowing all around in the way they like it. Every coral is going to be a bit different in its needs. Low, medium and high apply to their lighting and water flow needs. Do you know what that means? A tank filled with corals from top to bottom!

A lot of corals have a calcium skeleton. So they have a higher need for calcium, alkalinity and magnesium along with a handful of other stuff that will start to bore you. A quality salt, reverse osmosis filtered water and small frequent water changes, for the average person's tank, is going to take care of those needs. So there is no reason to spend a ton of money on numerous additives for your tank. Put your money into good equipment. Put the time into

learning and the next thing you know you will be calling yourself a reefer, showing all your friends the wild polyp extension on your scolyphia when you fed a new food last night! It really is that easy. 🐾

Shawn Chase has been the sole proprietor of Mountains to Sea Aquariums in Asheville for 31 1/2 years. She describes her business as a boutique marine animal store dedicated to doing the right thing for both animals and customers. Reach her at schase_4@hotmail.com.

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Equine Colic: What Horse Owners Should Know

by Ted Wright, DVM

Colic refers to abdominal pain or digestive upset. It is not a disease, but rather a combination of signs that alert us to the abdominal pain. This is the most common cause for an emergency farm visit by equine veterinarians.

Colic can range from mild to severe, but should always be taken seriously. Horse owners need to know the risk factors for colic, be able to recognize the signs of colic, and be prepared to act in the event one of their horses has an episode of colic pain because colic is the leading cause of death in horses of all ages. It is very hard to determine statistically the incidence rate for colic – I have read estimates that 5-10% of all horses' colic on average once yearly. Some horses colic frequently and others never.

The design of the horse's digestive system is very much to blame for colic. The system is 100 feet long and carries two to three days' worth of ingested feed. The horse lacks the ability to vomit or burp and therefore is very prone to gas or volume distention of its intestines. Once the normal gut motility is disrupted, the situation can progress to life-threatening in a relatively short period of time.

The leading risk factor for colic is a change in diet. This is followed by a change in weather. Changes in turnout routine or stabling conditions or exercise

regimen can also be contributing factors. Gas production is a common cause of colic pain – usually induced by a change in diet. Dehydration (particularly in winter when unfrozen water is not available) can lead to impaction-type colic. Intestinal parasites also play a significant role in colic incidence. Horses that are fed mostly roughage (grass or hay) are less


“...colic is the leading cause of death in horses of all ages.”

likely to colic than those fed mostly grain/concentrates. Horses that spend most of their time outside are less likely to colic than those who are stabled frequently.

Most episodes of colic are mild. Certainly, many episodes are never observed. Horses with colic will exhibit a variety of clinical signs including: refusal to eat (particularly grain), excessive yawning, pawing at the ground, looking at their sides, chewing at their sides, repeatedly lying down and getting up, stretching out

as if to urinate without doing so, sweating, or thrashing. Usually horses will exhibit only a few of these signs during a colic episode. Seeing any of these signs should prompt you to investigate further.

If you think your horse is experiencing colic pain, please call your veterinarian immediately. He or she can assess the severity of the situation over the phone based on the types of signs you are observing. The vet's goal upon arrival will be to determine whether or not your horse is a candidate for successful treatment on the farm or if it might need colic surgery. Your horse will likely be sedated, a nasogastric tube placed into the stomach, and a rectal exam performed. Pain relievers, laxatives, and IV fluids may be administered to treat the colic on the farm.

The key to reducing the impact of colic is consistent management practices and timely recognition of clinical signs. Establish a daily routine and stick to it. Establish a relationship with a veterinarian – set up a parasite control program and have regular dentistry performed on your horses. Feed a high quality diet consisting mostly of roughage. Provide fresh, clean, unfrozen water at all times. Make changes gradually. 

Ted Wright, DVM, practices at Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital and Equine Services, 828 575-2430.



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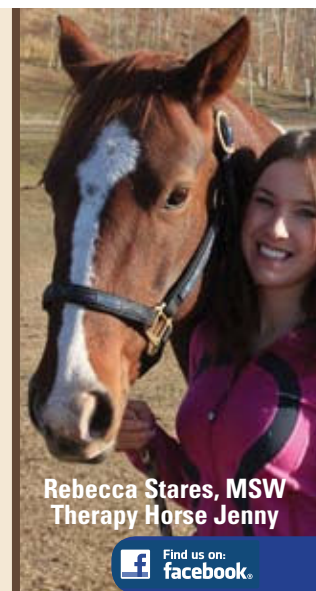
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February National Pet Dental Health Month

by Melissa Nelson, DVM

Did you know that most cats and dogs have moderate periodontal disease before the age of four? Many will have mild to moderate disease before the age of two! Yet most pet owners are unaware of the most common disease in their pets, or are unwilling to treat it.

That's why there is a National Pet Dental Health Month. Dental disease is not just "bad breath". It is a condition that can lead to pain, weight loss, tooth loss, and other problems.


Periodontal problems start when bacteria in the mouth form plaque and minerals in the saliva cause the plaque to form tartar. Tartar is the hard, discolored material on your pet's teeth that becomes obvious when pointed out by your veterinarian. Periodontal disease occurs when tartar spreads beneath the gum line and erodes the structures supporting the tooth, leading to tooth infections, gum recession, bone loss, loose teeth, and in severe cases, fractured jaws. The bacteria do not just cause local damage to the mouth. They can also be responsible for infections in the heart, kidneys, and other organs.

When tartar is found on the outside surfaces of the teeth, your veterinarian will recommend a dental prophylaxis to determine and treat the amount of disease present. Then he or she will recommend a regimen at home to help keep the teeth healthy.

There has been recent public controversy involving pet dental care, thanks to a popular television news program which described veterinary dentistry as expensive and unnecessary.

But the cost of a dental prophylaxis is not in the cleaning of the teeth. Instead, the bulk of the cost is due to the practice of safe anesthesia, dental x-rays, probing of gingival tissues for pockets to assess tooth and gum health, and extractions, pain medications and antibiotics when needed. Safe anesthesia often involves blood work and always involves monitoring of important vital signs just like human procedures.

Many people balk at the idea of anesthesia for dental care for their pets. But when you think about it, if you went twelve years without ever brushing your teeth, you'd probably be pretty uncomfortable having them cleaned! Having our gums poked and probed can hurt, which has spawned the concept of sedation dentistry for humans.

The American Animal Hospital Association 2013 Dental Care Guidelines state that cleaning a companion animal's teeth without general anesthesia and intubation is unacceptable and below the standard of care. After a dental prophylaxis, your veterinarian will recommend products to help delay or prevent periodontal disease. These products are designed to decrease the number of sedated procedures your pet will require. They are not a substitution for veterinary visits, however, and most pets will require several dental procedures during their lifetime to keep them healthy. 

Dr. Nelson graduated from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. She first practiced in Michigan, and then practiced in Hickory, NC before becoming the new owner of Asheville's Skyland Animal Hospital.

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The Horse Listener: Inside Therapeutic Horsemanship

by Shannon Knapp

When people hear that I work at *Horse Sense of the Carolinas* providing Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, they often ask, “Just what is it you do? Riding for the differently-abled? Horseman ship lessons? Petting horses and feeling better?”

There are many and varied approaches to Therapeutic Horsemanship. For this article, we’ll focus on an innovative program geared towards healing trauma, called Trauma-Focused EAP (TF-EAP). In a nutshell, TF-EAP is all about building good relationships!

Developed by Tim Jobe and Bettina Shultz-Jobe, *Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy* is an innovative and experiential program that works with horses to teach a way of interacting with others utilizing sound relationship principles. Originally designed for working with children suffering from Developmental Trauma, TF-EAP is now being used with all kinds of clients, including military veterans and others with PTSD and trauma histories, chemically-

dependent and addicted populations, those with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and/or Oppositional Defiance/Conduct Disorder and, of course, youth and adults suffering from Developmental Trauma.



Without ropes or enticement, this horse joins a trainee in a walk around the Horse Sense arena.

The principles of TF-EAP can be learned by parents, foster parents, educators, caregivers and many others. Sessions of TF-EAP always include a mental health professional, a horse professional, and one or more horses. In each session, clients learn how to develop relationships that foster trust, mutual respect, healthy communication, and cooperation. Simple principles are taught while building a relationship with a horse, which is a simpler

relationship than the often more complex human relationships. Ultimately TF-EAP moves everyone, horses and clients, towards doing “the right thing” because *they* think it is the right thing to do, not because someone else does. “The right thing” is that which builds relationship, rather than tearing it apart.

Why work with horses to do this? The shift in horse training from an often controlling and intimidating approach to a more humane and psychological methodology has been closely paralleled by the same shift in child rearing. TF-EAP relationship building is based on simple, easily understood principles that aid in developing relationships based on trust, respect, understanding, and love. **An underlying belief is that a sound principle is a sound principle regardless of where it is applied.** Therefore, when caregivers and parents gain a clear understanding of these same principles, they are able to transfer them to their relationships with others.

There are two components to TF-EAP: *Relationship Logic* and *Rhythmic*

Riding. Relationship Logic offers people the opportunity to build a relationship with a horse on the ground, where everyone, including the horse, has a choice about whether to ignore, resist or accept a request to be in relationship. In *Rhythmic Riding*, clients learn self-regulation



Curiously investigating each other, this trainee and horse learn about concepts of pressure and release in relationship.

skills in the slightly stressful environment on the back of a horse, managing their own ability to smoothly shift from a state of fear or alarm to a state of calm. Specific skills are taught in *Rhythmic Riding* to assist in that smooth shifting. Like building a muscle by working out, clients can practice these skills while riding horses, and then transfer the techniques they use in the arena to their everyday lives. 🐾

Shannon Knapp, M.A., has worked with thousands of clients and trained hundreds of practitioners in the field of Therapeutic Horsemanship as Founder and President of Horse Sense of the Carolinas in Marshall, NC. Learn more at www.HorseSenseOtc.com, or call 828-683-7304 to see if Therapeutic Horsemanship or TF-EAP is right for you.



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Puppygrams, volunteering make hearts beat

by Ryan Jo Summers

It is that time of year again; a time of paper hearts in grocery stores, rows of heart themed greeting cards, floral commercials and beautiful boxes of chocolates—all aimed at our emotions.

What most of all that won't tell us is what some already know—the heart is a muscle. Consider a moment these incredible statistics from a 1999 study at San Jose State University in California: The average human heart beats around 60 times per minute, a cat's about 150 times per minute, a small dog's around 100 times, a medium dog's about 90 times, and a large pooch's will beat about 75 times. Compare that with a staggering 205 beats a minute for a rabbit, 312 beats for a barnyard chicken, or a

horse whose heart beats only about 44 times a minute.

To think of that in other terms, a house cat will have 1.18 billion heartbeats in a 15 year life span. Humans living to be 70 will have 2.21 billion heartbeats. And the average dog will have somewhere between .53 and .71 billion heartbeats in its lifetime.

So what do all those numbers mean? The heart, like any hard working muscle, needs proper exercise. And Valentine's is the perfect time to stretch it a bit. Any search bar check of animal rescue stories will provide enough reading material to make almost anyone grab for the tissues. Searching any pet adoption website will provide endless faces to tug at most anyone's heart strings. I have worked

pet rescue for years and have literally hundreds of stories.

We are swamped this time of year, ever pressed to find that perfect gift. But if you really want to experience a case of the warm fuzzies, consider the gift of time for one homeless pet this year. Depending on your situation, you could volunteer, donate, foster or adopt at any number of great adoption agencies in our area. If in doubt, ask a veterinarian, groomer, pet store, search engine or neighbor.


Another highly creative option is ordering a PuppyGram through Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in Asheville. Consider this: a snuggly new puppy with a big red bow would get some serious points for you with that someone special. But if you're not ready for the morning after chewed-up shoe, you can still have a furbaby deliver your Valentine's Day love with no strings attached. You can send a Puppygram.

For a donation of \$45, a cute-as-can-be Brother Wolf rescue dog or puppy will be brought by for a visit at your honey's home or workplace

on Friday, February 14th. And the Puppygram will include a flower and personalized card, balloon, and sweet treat. Send a Puppygram to family, friends, and coworkers too - who doesn't love puppy kisses? Deadline is Thursday, February 13th; available within 15 miles of

Asheville. Visit www.bwar.org or call 828-575-2699 to order.

To really exercise your heart, you can volunteer for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Contact the volunteer coordinator, Ben, at volunteer@bwar.org. Opportunities include helping at the PetSmart Cat Habitat, working with the cats at the Adoption Center and taking dogs on hikes. Or, if you have the means and ability, consider adopting a pet in need. A plethora of pets would happily spend the rest of

their heartbeats showing you how grateful they are. 

Ryan Jo Summers has done about everything in the pet world except become a veterinarian. She is an author, an owner of many pets, a rescue volunteer, a former veterinary technician and a former boarding kennel owner. Now she will also be a frequent contributor to PetGazette.





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Remembrance: My Beloved Carson

by Vicki Walker

"Black Dog Syndrome" says that black dogs are the last to be adopted and the first to be euthanized, especially the larger breeds. As a Great Dane owner for decades, and once having had a black Great Dane, this was a new phenomenon to me. But when I searched the pet rescue sites, the "syndrome" appeared to be true.

While searching the websites, I found Carson, a black Great Dane in Atlanta that looked like skin and bones. He was the victim of abuse and had cigar burns on his tall, frail body. On my way to go see him, I was talking to my Dad. I was unemployed and already had two Great Danes. Dad had reason to be concerned and said, "You better think long and hard about this".

When pulling into the meeting place, the moment I laid eyes on Carson, I knew I would be taking him home. Carson was very skittish and had no reason to trust me, but he did. My goal was to provide him with love, security, and patience. He was so sweet and very easy to love.

Carson was never able to put weight on his frame. On paper, he was perfect and the vets could not find a problem. He always seemed to have horrid breath, but I was told it was "normal". In 2010, we went to see the incomparable Dr. Tami Shearer. She found a tumor in his mouth that everyone else had missed. She did surgery and the diagnosis was acanthomatous epulis. More radical surgery would be needed, and Dr.

Keith Allen of Upstate Veterinary Specialists performed a very successful unilateral rostral maxillectomy. (In other words, Carson had a tumor in his mouth/jaw and had to have his upper left teeth and jaw removed.)



Although the surgery is radical, it was completely curative. Soon my boy was putting on weight and his coat became so sleek and shiny. He became the happiest boy ever! He would waggle his whole bottom and tap dance with his long legs on his tippy toes.

Due to some anxiety from his past life, Carson always liked to carry a stuffed toy in his mouth. This was his security blanket. I always tried to be careful around him, but my clumsiness in knocking into things would send Carson "hitting the deck". He could go from standing to lying flat in a split second. I always felt terrible for him.

Carson brought me so much joy and love. He trusted me to make the best choices I could for him. I tried to provide him the best home possible, making him feel loved and safe. In early November, it was becoming clear that Carson had given me his all. The kindest, gentlest Dr. Beth Marchitelli of 4 Paws Farewell came to my house and helped Carson cross the rainbow bridge.

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them, and every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are." -Anonymous-

Carson, I love and miss you. Special dogs bring special love and Carson; you were the sweetest and best boy ever! You will always be in my heart.

Vicki Walker is a sales and marketing professional who volunteers with several animal rescue organizations, including Great Dane Friends of Ruff Luv. Carson is survived in her home by his "sister", Shasta, and "brother", Gabriel.

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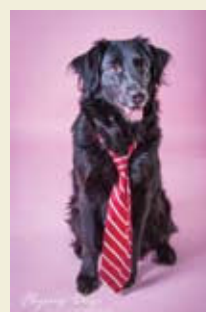
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Valentine's pet photos to be shot Jan 18th

Sheryl Mann of Flying Dogs Photography and Jenna Yarosh, owner of Patton Avenue Pet Company, have again teamed up to provide a service to the pets and pet owners of the Asheville area.

On Saturday, January 18, 2014, Mann will be taking photos of pets for use in Valentine's cards, as gifts, or for whatever the pet owner fancies. Prints and cards from the photo shoot will be available by Valentine's Day. The photography will be done at the Patton Avenue Pet Company at 1388 Patton Avenue, just west of the intersection of Patton Avenue and Haywood Street in West Asheville. Mann will have some Valentine-appropriate props available, but asks that customers provide any special props or costumes they know they will want to use.

Reservations are necessary. Call 828 505-8299 and ask for Jenna to schedule a time and get details about costs and arrangements for delivery of the finished photos.

Mann and Yarosh are both very active on the local pet scene, and work extensively with local rescue groups. In October, they brought out the Dogs of Asheville 2014 Calendar, which was several months in production. It features rescued dogs dressed to represent familiar Asheville denizens. All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will go to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Most of the calendars have already been sold at \$20 each, but a few may still be available, perhaps at a discount, for those who haven't yet calendared-up for 2014.

"Kiss a Bull" Fundraiser

Beemer, the rescued Pit Bull, and Joey Beckham, the rescuer, will again be raising money to help homeless pets, this time through their "Kiss a Bull" program.

All through February, the "month of love", Beemer will be available to share kisses, "puppy love" and photo sittings with people and groups of all kinds. Once a date is arranged, Beemer and Beckham will visit schoolrooms, offices, bridge clubs, bowling teams and dance classes – just about any place they are invited - to collect donations and share the love. Potential donors can also simply visit BMW of Asheville, Beemer's home base, to deliver donations and buss Beemer at her Kissing Booth.

In December 2013, Beemer and Beckham were able to give \$10,000 to the Asheville Humane Society to support its Safety Net program. They also raised another \$10,000 to add to Beemer's Fund at Asheville Humane Alliance. In total, Beemer, Beckham and their supporters generated almost \$35,000 for area animal welfare organizations during 2013.

At PetGazette press time, Beemer and her kissing booth had already been booked for appearances at the Asheville Humane Society on Saturday, February 1st; at Woof in the Woods on Saturday, February 8th; and at the PetGazette Valentine's Adoption Fair on Saturday, February 15th. To get more information, or to schedule a Beemer visitation, call Beckham at her BMW office (828 681-9902) or on her cell phone (828 646-8677).

The "Kiss a Bull" program is sponsored by BMW of Asheville.

charliesangelsanimalrescue.com

hello, my name is chuck.
Can you take me for a walk?



I live temporarily at Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue's Safe Haven. Along with 23 of my other friends, we are comfortable and safe, waiting for our "furever" home. We would love some exercise. Could you spare some time to take me and my friends for a short walk? I promise I'll (try to) be good.

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