

# PetGazette

Western North Carolina

March-April 2019

Volume 8 - Issue 2



## Coming Events

Agility Trials  
Dine to be Kind  
Drink to be Kind  
Dog show, obedience  
Wet Your Whiskers

## Behavior

Dogs training dogs  
Horse teaching people

## Rescue News

## Calendar of Events

## Memorial Page

## But wait, there's more

Bakery fosters dogs  
Bunny for Easter?



Calendar of Events March-April 2019

**Legend:** AHS=Asheville Humane Society AVL=Asheville Cat Weirdos BRAC=Blue Ridge Agility Club BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue CAAR=Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue FHS=Foothills Humane Society FUR=Feline Urgent Rescue HOHS=Heart of Horse Sense SARF=Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation WCDFA=Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association

March

Sat. 3/2 – 8am-1pm. SARF Dog Adoption Event at Haywood County Indoor Flea Market, Haywood County Fairgrounds, 758 Crabtree Rd., Waynesville. SARF and Haywood Animal Shelter both bring great dogs to meet, greet and get adopted. [sargeanimals.org](#), 828 246-9050  
Sat. 3/2 – 10am-12pm. CAAR Adoption Event, BMW of Asheville, 649 New Airport Rd., Fletcher. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)  
Sat. 3/2 – 9-10am. AHS Yoga with Cats, 14 Forever Friend Ln. Asheville. Led by Pure Yoga Asheville, the class is one hour. Cost is \$15. Attendees must register in advance at [pureyogaavl.com](#). Email questions to [beth@pureyogaavl.com](#)  
Sat. 3/2 – 2-5pm. CAAR Adoption Event, Hillman Beer, 25 Sweeten Creek Rd., Asheville. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)  
Sun. 3/3 – Sun. 3/10. National Professional Pet Sitters Week  
Sun. 3/3 – If Pets Had Thumbs Day  
Sat. 3/9 – 12-3pm. CAAR Adoption Event, PetSmart Arden, Southridge Shopping Center, 3 McKenna Rd., Arden. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)  
Sat. 3/9 – 10am-12pm. BWAR Orphaned Bottle Baby Kitten Care Workshop, Lenoir-Rhyne University Asheville, 36 Montford Ave, Asheville. Room 315. FREE. A comprehensive workshop about caring for orphaned bottle baby kittens - covers everything from birth to weaning. [bwar.org](#), 828 505-3440  
Sat. 3/9 – 4-5pm. AHS Pilates with Puppies, 14 Forever Friend Ln., Asheville. A basic Pilates class, with puppies provided by AHS. \$15. Pre-registration required. Register at [ciscopilates.com/puppies](#). Questions? Email [alexis@ciscopilates.com](#)  
Sat. 3/9 – 10-11am. HOHS Volunteer Orientation, 6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. [heartofhorsesense.org.](#), 828 649-7064  
Sat. 3/9 – 11am-12pm. HOHS Facilities tour and demonstration,

6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. [heartofhorsesense.org.](#), 828 649-7064  
Sun. 3/17 – St. Patrick's Day  
Sun. 3/17 – St. Gertrude of Nivelles Day (patron saint of cats)  
Sat. 3/23 – 1-3pm. BRHS Paint & Sip Fundraiser at Hues of Hendersonville and Point Lookout Vineyards, 408 Appleola Rd., Hendersonville. 40% of profits from this Paint & Sip, plus \$1 per glass of wine sold and 10% of all bottle sales. \$35 per painter. [blueridgehumane.org](#)  
Sat. 3/23 – National Puppy Day  
Thur. 3/28 – Respect Your Cat Day  
Sat. 3/30 – 10-11am. HOHS Volunteer Orientation, 6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. [heartofhorsesense.org.](#), 828 649-7064  
Sat. 3/30 – 11am-12pm. HOHS Facilities tour and demonstration, 6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. [heartofhorsesense.org.](#), 828 649-7064

April

American Red Cross Pet First Aid Awareness Month  
ASPCA Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month  
National Heartworm Awareness Month  
Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month  
Sat. 4/6 – 8am-1pm. SARF Dog Adoption Event at Haywood County Indoor Flea Market, Haywood County Fairgrounds, 758 Crabtree Rd., Waynesville. SARF and Haywood Animal Shelter both bring great dogs to meet, greet and get adopted. [sargeanimals.org](#), 828 246-9050  
Sat. 4/6 – 2-4. AHS Tea with Cats. [ashevillehumane.org](#), 828 761-2001  
Sat. 4/6 – 1-4pm. BWAR Dog Movie Trivia, Craft Centric Taproom and Bottle Shop, Unit 40, 100 Julian Shoals Rd., Arden. Tickets \$10 at [eventbrite.com](#). Proceeds to BWAR.  
Sat. 4/6 - 10am-12pm. CAAR Adoption Event, BMW of Asheville, 649 New Airport Rd., Fletcher. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)

Sun. 4/7 – Sat. 4/13. National Volunteer Week, the perfect time to volunteer with a WNC pet rescue group.  
Sun. 4/7 – Sat. 4/13. National Dog Bite Prevention Week  
Sun. 4/7 – 2-5pm. CAAR Adoption Event, Hillman Beer, 25 Sweeten Creek Rd., Asheville. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)  
Tu. 4/9 – 6am-11:45pm. AHS 16th Annual Dine to be Kind at dozens of great Asheville restaurants. 20% of proceeds at participating eateries will go to AHS to save pets. List of participating restaurants at [ashevillehumane.org](#), 828 761-2001  
Wed. 4/10 – National Hug Your Dog Day  
Thur. 4/11 – 10am-10pm. AHS first ever Drink to be Kind. Quaff a few brews knowing portion of day's proceeds will go to help homeless pets. List of participating breweries at [ashevillehumane.org](#).  
Thur. 4/11 – National Pet Day  
Sat. 4/13 – 5:30-7:30pm. FUR Wet Your Whiskers Fundraiser in Daniel & Belle Fangmeyer Theatre in Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, Pigeon Street, Waynesville. Wine, beer, appetizers, auction, raffle and voting on Cat Photo Contest entries. \$35 per person. [furofwnc.org](#)  
Sat. 4/13 – 12-3pm. CAAR Adoption Event, PetSmart Arden, Southridge Shopping Center, 3 McKenna Rd., Arden. Adoptable dogs. [charliesangelsanimalrescue.com](#), 828 885-DOGS (3647)  
Sun. 4/14 – National Pet ID Week  
Wed. 4/17 – Tu. 4/23. National Pet ID Week  
Fri. 4/19 – Sat. 4/21. 8am-5pm. BRAC hosts USDAA Agility Trials at FENCE, Tryon, NC. Free. Spectators welcome, but asked to leave pets at home. [blueridgeagility.com](#)  
Sat. 4/20 – Sun. 4/21 – 8am-3pm daily. WCDFA Conformation, Obedience and Rally Competitions, Haywood County Fairgrounds, 758 Crabtree Rd., Waynesville. Hundreds of dogs, plus breeders and vendors. Free.

Spectators welcome, but please leave own dogs home. [wcdfa.org](#)  
Fri. 4/26 – Hairball Awareness Day  
Sat. 4/27 – 10-11am. HOHS Volunteer Orientation, 6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. 828 649-7064  
Sat. 4/27 – 11am-12pm. HOHS Facilities tour and demonstration, 6919 Meadows Town Rd., Marshall. [heartofhorsesense.org.](#), 828 649-7064  
Sun. 4/28 – Easter Sunday  
Tu. 4/30 – Adopt a Shelter Pet Day  
Tu. 4/30 – National Therapy Animal Day

Ongoing

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

Every Saturday morning - 10-11am. BRHS Yoga with Cats! A fantastic yoga class with YAM Yoga and Massage plus the opportunity to mingle with adoptable cats. Venues change. Details at [blueridgehumane.org](#). 828 885-3647  
Every third Mon. of the month: - 1-5pm. Low-cost vaccines at BRHS, Hendersonville. [blueridgehumane.org](#), 828 685-7107  
Every second Tu. of the month: Hendersonville Paws for Love tests potential therapy dogs. Venues vary. Sign up, get directions at 828 692-5641  
Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am. BWAR. Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at shelter to take dogs on hikes. [volunteer@bwar.org](#). 828 505-3440  
Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville. [fureverfriends@att.net](#); 828 398-4943  
Every Sun. - 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Take shelter dogs for hikes. [ashevillehumane.org.](#), 828 761-2001  
Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14Forever Friends Lane. [volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.](#), 828 761-2001

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PetGazette

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Carol Marks, Publisher  
[publisher.petgazette@gmail.com](#)  
Jim Marks, Editor  
[editor.petgazette@gmail.com](#)

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

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# Trained dogs help train other dogs

by Kathryn R. Gubista

Dogs and humans started an extraordinary co-evolutionary relationship together at least 15,000 years ago. The success of the human species is directly related to our incredibly unique, mutualistic relationship with dogs, the first species humans ever attempted to domesticate, and upon which all other agricultural plants and animals were developed. You can say dogs have been our best friends and evolutionary partners for a very long time!

## BENEFITS TO HUMAN HEALTH

The benefits of being around and touching/petting animals, especially dogs, are proven scientific facts that are supported by extensive medical research. Along with providing love, happiness and companionship, friendly interactions with dogs provide enormous human health benefits, which include reducing anxiety, blood pressure and phobias. Dogs help us stay physically fit and expand our social circles. Dogs give us confidence and moral support to achieve goals that may seem unreachable without their influence. Dogs protect us from external and internal dangers. They read us like no other species; dogs can detect our emotional and medical states just by sniffing us.

## DOG ASSIST HUMANS

Through evolutionary time, dogs have adopted the role of special assistants for humans and participate in a variety of special tasks, such as farming (e.g. sheepherding), service work (e.g., guide dogs for the blind), emergency work (e.g., search and rescue). Dogs protect our homes and valuables. Dogs act as personal body guards, an extremely effective way to protect women and children. As our assistants, dogs make our very complicated, stressful lives significantly easier and more peaceful.

## DOG ASSIST DOGS

Dogs don't assist only humans. Dogs have become assistants to a variety of other animals, including other dogs. Dog assistants help with issues like anxiety, fear and aggression. Dogs can help seemingly anti-social dogs learn to enjoy and seek out interactions with other dogs and humans. Dogs are naturally social creatures, but sometimes need to be taught social skills.



## HOW DOGS & HUMANS LEARN

Dogs and humans learn through a variety of processes, including: (1) *Associative Learning* and (2) *Observational Learning*. Many training programs are based solely on *Associative Learning*, which associates "good" behaviors with treats and "bad" behaviors with punishments/corrections/redirections. While *Associative Learning* is a popular approach to dog training, it is neither the only nor the most effective approach to training dogs.

## MONKEY SEE – MONKEY DO

*Observational Learning* is the most natural way for humans, dogs and other animals to learn new skills. Copying/imitating another's behavior, especially individuals of the same species, is the most natural way to learn. We describe this as "Monkey See – Monkey Do" training.

If you have ever had the great fortune of training an untrained dog with a trained dog, the value of this approach becomes obvious. The easiest way to teach untrained dogs is with other, better trained dogs. Just like humans, dogs naturally pick up new skills by watching other dogs and imitating their behaviors. Encouraging dogs to learn through observation, combined with associative learning techniques, is a powerful, effective approach to dog training.

Dogs naturally follow what other dogs are doing. If one dog is doing something interesting, the other dogs will naturally follow. This is great when desirable behaviors are being emulated. However, the flip side is that dogs will also follow other dogs who are misbehaving. Dogs are unable to distinguish or discriminate between good behaviors and bad behaviors, especially if their buddies are misbehaving and appear to be having a great time doing so.

## THERAPY DOGS FOR DOGS

Training novice dogs with the assistance of trained dogs represents win-win situations all the way around. Training is much easier when a trained dog demonstrates desirable behaviors. Training is a lot more fun and entertaining with trained role models. Dogs with behavioral issues/problems rely on the assistance of therapy dogs to learn "normal" dog behaviors.

## THE MUTTLEY CREW

Dogs helping other dogs is an important component of the training programs at *Lucky Dog Training Asheville*. Not just one, but four therapy dogs for dogs with diverse personalities regularly participate



in the training programs. Canine crew members help address tough behaviors such as dog aggression, high-energy issues, restlessness, anxieties and neuroses.

The Muttley Crew are canine teachers/mentors who assist in training programs by helping other dogs learn to enjoy life to its fullest, doggy-style.

*Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD is an evolutionary biologist, college biology instructor, former zookeeper, author and certified professional dog trainer with Lucky Dog Training Asheville. More on Instagram @ TrainingLuckyDogs and @KyloRenPup. Or, for even more information visit TrainingLuckyDogs@gmail.com or call 828-423-9635.*

# AHS adopts facial recognition to identify lost pets

The Asheville Humane Society (AHS) has partnered with Finding Rover to use facial recognition technology to identify lost dogs and cats in Buncombe County. The new 21st century tool provides an additional means for community members to recover their lost pets, and to help adoptable dogs and cats find their forever homes.

Now every dog and cat that enters the Buncombe County Animal Shelter system becomes registered on the Finding Rover system. Users of Finding Rover can then search the shelter and surrounding areas right from their

***“Every dog and cat can remain protected on Finding Rover.”***

smartphone or computer in efforts to find their missing pet, a neighbor's missing pet, the family of a found pet, or search for adoptable pets.

Every dog and cat that leaves AHS, either through a reunion or an adoption, can remain protected on Finding Rover when the pet parent registers on Finding Rover with the same email address that the shelter has on file. If that dog or cat ever gets lost, their record will already be in the system, and identifying that pet will be a snap.

Registration of your pet is FREE and as simple as 1, 2, 3! Just go to FindingRover.com and complete three simple steps.

1. Upload your pet's photo.
2. Enter a few details about your pet.

3. Enter your name, email address, and zip code.

That's it! Once your pets are registered, they're protected for life.

"Dogs and cats are beloved family members, and if he or she goes missing, it can be devastating to everyone involved. We want to do everything we can to safeguard our pets from being lost forever. Registering on Finding Rover is another step all pet parents should take to further protect their furry family members," said John Polimeno, CEO and Founder of Finding Rover.

When a community comes together on Finding Rover, more dogs and cats can be reunited with their people. Finding Rover also features dogs and cats who are available for adoption!

Pet lovers can view AHS's found and adoptable pets with just a click on the Finding Rover Facebook Widget and on the Finding Rover Website Widget!

AHS encourages pet owners to register their pets for free on Finding Rover today and help spread the word! The more people who are registered on Finding Rover, the more AHS can help reunite lost dogs and cats with their families. And the more they can place adoptable pets in new forever homes.

# Drink to be Kind added to AHS Dine to be Kind

For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, dozens of Asheville area restaurants will be donating part of the day's proceeds to the Asheville Humane Society (AHS) with the Dine to Be Kind fundraiser. That event will run from 6am until 11:45pm on Tuesday, April 9.

And on Thursday, April 11, for the first year ever, many of Beer City's breweries will participate in a Drink to Be Kind fundraiser. As with the established Dine to Be Kind program, the breweries will donate part of the day's proceeds to AHS. The charitable drinking will start at 10am and end at 10pm.

The Dine to Be Kind program will begin at 6am and run until almost midnight. All during that time, area pet lovers can again indulge themselves with great food guilt free, knowing that some of their outlay will go toward helping homeless pets. And those who won't have time on April 9 for a sit-down meal at a participating restaurant can order take-out and feel good knowing that a portion of the proceeds from their order will be included in the restaurants donation to AHS.

Single diners will of course be welcomed at participating restaurants. But groups of diners will make all the restaurant

owners, the Asheville Humane Society and the pets it helps even happier. Still owe someone a meal from a lost Super Bowl bet? Choose the wrong side in the latest Blue Devil – Tar Heel hoops confrontation? Dine to be Kind day is absolutely the best day to pay off. From breakfast with colleagues from work, to lunch with a group of friends, to an

overdue dinner out with the spouse, April 9th will be the perfect day to eat out. You could call it "Saving lives with forks and knives."

For a list of the Dine to Be Kind participating restaurants, visit [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org). That's where a list of Asheville breweries joining in the Drink to Be Kind program can also be found. And since Drink to Be Kind helps provide funds for the AHS, it is the perfect excuse to gather a few friends and go have a few brewskis at a participating brewery. Think of it: You can quaff your favorite lager while trash talking the friend whose brackets were busted on day one of March Madness, and also get to feel good about helping some homeless pets. How good is that?

**"We don't come with a return address."**

Asheville Humane Society reunites over 1,000 pets each year with their worried families.

**Contacting us within the first 24 hours is the best way to help lost pets get home!**



**IF YOU LOSE OR FIND A PET, IMMEDIATELY FILE A REPORT: (828) 250-6430 | [lostandfound@ashevillehumane.org](mailto:lostandfound@ashevillehumane.org)**

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**Ace Hardware South Asheville**  
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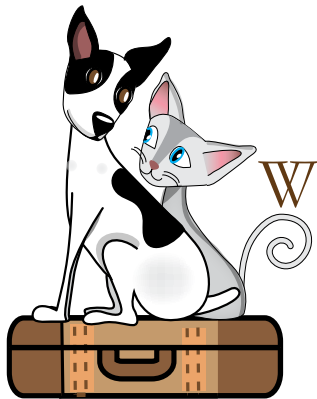
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## Orphaned Bottle Baby Kitten Care Workshop

Andee Bingham, who has raised more than 100 bottle babies for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR), will lead a workshop on bottle feeding. She will cover everything you need to know to keep orphaned kittens safe and healthy from birth to weaning.

The workshop will be held Saturday, March 9 from 10am to 12noon. The event is free, open to the public, and will be held in Room 315 at Lenoir-Rhyne University, 36 Montford Avenue, Asheville.



Bingham is the Editorial Development Manager and Grant Writer for BWAR and a dedicated cat lover. She moved to Asheville in 2015 with her two cats, Nora and Ida, in 2015. “Asheville let me experience the mountains and beauty of my home state of Vermont...but with more reasonable weather,” she says.

Before joining Brother Wolf, Bingham spent several years as a professional Cat Writer. A self-described lifelong animal advocate and caretaker, she admits to having a special passion for nurturing orphaned kittens through the BWAR bottle-baby program.

## Dog Movie Trivia to benefit BWAR

On Saturday, April 6, the Craft Centric Taproom and Bottle Shop will host Dog Movie Trivia from 2-4pm. Starting at 1pm, BWAR (Brother Wolf Animal Rescue) volunteers will have adoptable dogs there to meet, greet and, hopefully, get adopted by trivia lovers. (Full disclosure: while the adoptable dogs will all be healthy and friendly, they will NOT have been trained to fetch their owner a beer. But that could be done post-adoption.)

The trivia competition will be limited to ten teams of four people each due to space limitations. The cost for the trivia is \$10 and all trivia proceeds will go to Brother Wolf to help them continue rescuing and finding new homes for needy area pets.

The trivia competition will cover all the great dog movies: Bolt, Shiloh, Homeward Bound, Snow Dogs, etc. (Editor’s note: It was not clear at PetGazette press time whether classics like Lassie, Rin Tin Tin and Old Yaller would be included.)

Tickets for Dog Movie Trivia can be purchased online through Eventbrite, or at the bar at the Craft Centric Taproom and Bottle Shop at 100 Julian Shoals Road, Unit 40, Arden. The bar has 21 taps which are constantly rotated to provide the latest offerings of the area’s craft breweries. The establishment’s website says “Every beer we serve, we love.” It also promises a guaranteed great time, which will surely be fulfilled at Dog Movie Trivia.

## April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month

by Carol Marks

April is the American Red Cross’s *Pet First Aid Awareness Month*, and because of that, I became aware that I don’t know a thing about pet first aid (shame). In order to learn, I began my search for enlightenment with that paragon of all information, Facebook. And there I found the best advice of all. Someone posted a sign that said “Please Don’t Confuse Your Google Search with my Medical Degree”.

Good advice. But of course I Googled anyway, determined not to be confused. My first search, “pet first aid”, delivered such a long list of sites that discernment was difficult; reminding me that information is not knowledge and confusion is inevitable. And subsequent searches for individual problems – choking, burns – other awful stuff – produced additional, different site lists.

These sites include but are not limited to, Vets-now, petmd, petcoach, howstuffworks, firstaidforpets, vetwest, dummies.com, pettech, trupanion, wikihow, cuteness.com (really), etc., etc. Most of the information left me with an uneasy feeling that I was reading re-hashed press releases. I didn’t get the authoritative vibe. I’m sure it’s good advice to avoid getting bitten while removing an object from my dog’s throat, but I need just a little more help.

I found it at The American Veterinary Medical Association website. It has an excellent Pet First Aid section. Download or print their brochure at [avma.org/firstaid](http://avma.org/firstaid). Your vet can buy these in bulk, so there may be one in your vet’s

office. Who do you trust – some random website or the AVMA? I’m stickin’ with the vets. And it’s in print, so all the information is available in one glance.

Since it’s the American Red Cross’s Pet First Aid Awareness Month, it’s no surprise that they have an interest in educating all of us. They have developed the Cat and Dog First Aid online course which can be accessed on desktop or tablet at [redcross.org/catdogfirstaid](http://redcross.org/catdogfirstaid). It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete the course. Participants can stop and pick up where they left off.

In addition, The Pet First Aid app is available for free through “American Red Cross” in your app store, or by going to [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps). This app provides information about pet safety in the event of evacuations and in situations where you may need to provide emergency care until veterinary assistance is available.

The app includes:

- Pet safety preparedness tips
- “Step-by-step” and “how-to” videos
- An ability to toggle between cat and dog content
- An emergency animal hospital locator
- Custom profiles that can help track your pet’s health history
- A pet-friendly hotel locator

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## Smoky Mountain Dog Bakery saves dogs

by Jim Marks

Just since early January, the Smoky Mountain Dog Bakery on North Main Street in Waynesville has found new homes for three great, adoptable dogs who had been passed over by shelter visitors.

Bakery owner Julie Moriarty Leffler and her staff have partnered with Sarge's Animal Rescue and the Haywood Animal Shelter to foster the dogs



**L to R: Stacey Lutz, Julie Leffler  
Moriarty, since-adopted Rebel,  
Windy McKinney**

right in the store. That gives the dogs a chance to meet potential adopters who might never visit a shelter. Leffler believes it's this exposure that motivates adoptions. "None of the people who have adopted dogs from our store were actually looking for a dog," she said.

"They just met the dogs and fell in love." She added that some adoptions were even done by customers who came in with their own dog and ended up with two dogs instead of one.

Leffler has helped dogs find adoptive homes for years—12 to 14 overall. She used to do it on an informal basis, helping friends and acquaintances who needed to re-home dogs for various reasons. Then she decided to foster and help dogs on a more organized basis and contacted Sarge's.

Stacey Lutz, Adoption Counselor for Sarge's, agrees that giving dogs a chance to meet people has been the key to their fast adoption from the Bakery. She pointed out that all of the dogs sent there had been in the shelter for many weeks, or more, but

were adopted, on average, within two weeks or less of going to the Smoky Mountain Dog Bakery.

Windy McKinney is Sarge's Foster and Volunteer Coordinator and also a believer in the value of giving dogs a chance to meet people. She is a key person in selecting the dogs to be fostered, and knows which ones have the gentle personalities right for meeting the public.

The dogs fostered at the Bakery have their own comfy spot in the back of the store, complete with dog bed and toys. They also get very well fed. According to Lutz, every dog fostered there has gained weight. Staff members and customers alike lovingly interact with the dogs, who staff members take for "necessary" breaks, exercise and outdoor play in the back yard outside the apartment under the store. All that happens during the day. At night, the dogs are cared for by Kara Wright, the apartment's resident.

The three dogs so far adopted from the bakery went to a wide geographic area. Rebel went to a couple visiting from the Carolina coast. Hyatt went to live on a farm in Georgia. And Wheaton went to a local adopter. The current foster dog at the Bakery—as of PetGazette press time—is Merlin. Lutz



**The ever-happy Merlin**

described him as follows: "Merlin really enjoys peanut butter Kongs and pupsicles. His dream family would be an active one that played with him in their yard, but he also wouldn't mind watching some sports with his humans on a comfy couch."



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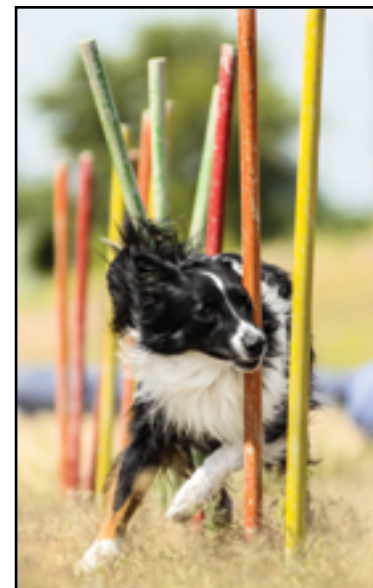
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## Spring Agility Trials at FENCE

At these USDAA trials, dogs



will compete in three classes—Veteran, for dogs over eight years old, Championship and Performance. Each class is subdivided into several divisions based on the dog's height at the shoulder. Dogs are measured by a judge before competitions begin to be sure their actual size matches the size for which they are entered. The obstacles are adjusted appropriately for each height division, and obstacles

include such things as jumps of different sizes and appearance, tunnels, weave poles, teeter-totters, A-frames and more. Scoring is based on the time taken to complete the course, with time penalties added for missed or incompletely negotiated obstacles.

While USDAA and AKC (American Kennel Club) sanctioned agility trials are similar, there are some differences in the kinds of events and size divisions. For the spring USDAA trials, the Veteran class will have four sizes of obstacles: 4", 8", 12" and 16". The Championship class will have six divisions from 10" up to 24". The Performance

strictly by height, there are no



***"The obstacles are  
adjusted appropriately for  
each height division."***

breed-specific events. In fact, mixed-breed dogs are welcomed into the competition. Entries for all would-be participants close April 10.

FENCE is at 3381 Hunting Country Rd., Tryon. For directions to the world-class facility, visit [fence.org](http://fence.org) or call 828 859-9021. For entry forms or more details about the event, visit [blueridgeagility.org](http://blueridgeagility.org).



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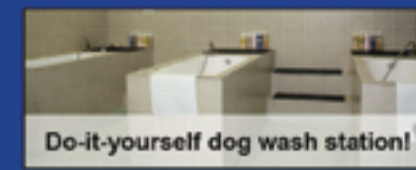
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## Wet Your Whiskers wine tasting, auction, raffle to benefit FUR

Following the success of 2018's event, Feline Urgent Rescue of WNC (FUR) will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wet Your Whiskers event on Saturday, April 13. The event will run from 5:30-7:30pm in the Daniel & Belle Fangmeyer Theatre at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART) on Pigeon Street in Waynesville.

Wet Your Whiskers is a wine and beer tasting event that includes an appetizer buffet. Harmon's Den Bistro, the HART restaurant, will provide the selection of appetizers, while Empire Distributing will provide the wines.

In addition to palate pleasing foods and beverages, the Wet Your Whiskers event will also include a silent auction and a raffle. "We are excited about the gifts and gift certificates that have been donated again this year for our auction and raffle," said Wanda Davis-Browne, FUR Volunteer. "I think our guests will be very pleased."

The evening will feature a display of all the photos submitted for the FUR cat photo contest. Whiskers wetters will have the chance to vote for the winners in each contest category as well as Best of Show. Photo prize winners will be featured in the FUR 2020 cat calendar.

"While enjoying the appetizers

from Harmon's Den Bistro, and sampling three featured wines or beer, people will be voting for their favorite feline photo," said Bonnie Smith, event chairperson. "We hope people will come not only for the wine tasting and food but also to vote for their own photos or their friends' submissions."

Tickets for Wet Your Whiskers can be reserved via FUR's website. Admission for the wine tasting is \$35 per person and includes 3 tastings of wine or beer. Sponsorships are available for \$125. Each sponsor will receive two (2) admissions, business card display, event recognition and gifts yet to be determined.

The money raised for FUR at the Wet Your Whiskers evening will help to fund the cat sanctuary where homeless, abandoned cats and kittens have a safe place to thrive and receive medical attention and love until they can be adopted. And any cat not adopted will have a home forever at FUR's sanctuary in Waynesville. FUR can operate only by donations, fundraisers and volunteers.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [furofwnc.org](http://furofwnc.org), call 1-844-888-CATS (2287) or email [furofwnc1@gmail.com](mailto:furofwnc1@gmail.com).

## Sarge's gets new canopies after snowstorm damage

The Sarge's Adoption Center outdoor area in Waynesville suffered heavy damage from the snowstorm that hit WNC toward the end of 2018. The cats weren't stuck listening to the dogs for too long.

*"We are in better shape than ever before."*  
- Windy McKinney

All the animals were safely stowed inside the Adoption Center during the storm and its immediate aftermath, but the canopy collapses and damage made the outdoor pens and play area largely unusable. WLOS-TV featured the need for new canopies — and the community came to the rescue, funding new, more durable metal canopies. Now repaired, the outdoor area is again usable for the animals in Sarge's care.

"We're back under roof," said Sarge's administrator Penny Wallace. "Thanks to the generosity of our community we are in better shape than ever before."

"Special thanks go to all who came out Christmas Eve to help us put up the new canopies on the dog runs at the Adoption Center," said Windy McKinney, Sarge's volunteer coordinator. "It's great to have the dogs outside when the weather is good, enjoying the fresh air."

Thanks to Sarge's supporters, the repairs were done quickly and efficiently. According to Sarge's staff members, the dogs were not



The snow-damaged outdoor yard area at Sarge's Adoption Center.



The newly-repaired outdoor area at Sarge's Adoption Center.

## Cat Weirdos holding "Cat Chat" April 1

Asheville Cat WeirDOS (ACW) will hold its second "Cat Chat" April 1 at 6:30pm at Ginger's Revenge, 829 Riverside Drive, Suite 100, Asheville.

Dr. Karel Camohan, DVM, of The Cat Care Clinic of Asheville, will deliver a short presentation on feline nutrition. Dr. Camohan left a successful career in finance to return to school for education as a veterinarian. She graduated from the Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine at the tender age of 50, and bought the Cat Care Clinic of Asheville in 2015. A question-and-answer session will follow the nutrition presentation.

Dr. Camohan is a champion of all things cat. In addition to her professional work as a veterinarian specializing in cats, she is active with the Asheville

Cat WeirDOS organization. She is also a frequent contributor to PetGazette, sharing her expertise on such feline topics as nutrition, stress, seasonal dangers, and many other issues.

The "Cat Chat" event is sponsored by The Cat Care Clinic of Asheville, and is free of charge and open to the public. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase to win some amazing prizes. All proceeds will benefit the ACW Emergency Fund, which assists pet owners with unexpected veterinary costs.

Donations of cat food, cat litter and non-prescription medications for the ACW Cat Pantry will be gratefully accepted. For more information, visit [facebook.com/events/639508603134655](https://facebook.com/events/639508603134655).

## FUR Cat Photo Contest seeks entries

Feline Urgent Rescue (FUR) of WNC has opened its 3rd annual Cat Photo Contest for entries in six different categories.

"Everyone's cat has its own personality, so we've created six categories for submissions," said Bonnie Smith, co-event coordinator. "You can even submit a photo in each because sometimes our cats have multiple personalities." The photo categories for 2019 are: Cat-Aerobics, Best Cat-Accessories, Sleeping Beauty, Best Whiskers, Friends FURever and I Fits; I Sits. There will also be a Best in Show award.



2018 Best of Show

There is a \$15 per photo registration fee. Instructions can be found at [furofwnc.org](http://furofwnc.org) under "Coming Events" and at FUR's resale store inside The Big Red Barn Trading Post at 79 Branner Avenue in Waynesville. Contestants should mail their 5"x7" photos along with applicable fees and entry forms to Tony Dapore Photography, 527 Coyote Hollow Road, Waynesville, NC 28785. Digital photographs should be emailed to [tonydaporephotography@gmail.com](mailto:tonydaporephotography@gmail.com). Payment for these emailed entries can be made through PayPal on FUR's website.

The deadline for submission(s) is Monday, March 25.

First and second place photos in each division will receive a ribbon. Prizes will be awarded to each First Place winner and Best in Show. Any photos entered into the contest may be used in FUR promotions,

publicity or the 2020 FUR cat calendar. "Since we could be using the winning photos in other media, please be sure they are of the highest quality," said Tony Dapore. "They must be JPG and 800 pixels minimum on the long side."

Voting for photo category winners will take place on Saturday, April 13, at FUR's "Wet Your Whiskers" wine tasting event in the Daniel & Belle Fangmeyer Theatre at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART) in Waynesville. Winners need not be present. Look for more information regarding this event on FUR's website and in area news publications.

FUR fundraising events help to fund the cat sanctuary where homeless, abandoned cats and kittens have a safe place to thrive and receive medical attention and love until they can be adopted. And any cat not adopted has a home forever at FUR's sanctuary in Waynesville. FUR can operate only by donations, fundraisers and volunteers.



2018 First Place "Funniest Cat"

For questions regarding the photo contest, "Wet Your Whiskers", or FUR of WNC in general, visit the website at [furofwnc.org](http://furofwnc.org), call 1-844-888-CATS (2287) or email [furofwnc1@gmail.com](mailto:furofwnc1@gmail.com). FUR is also on Facebook at [facebook.com/furofwnc](https://facebook.com/furofwnc).

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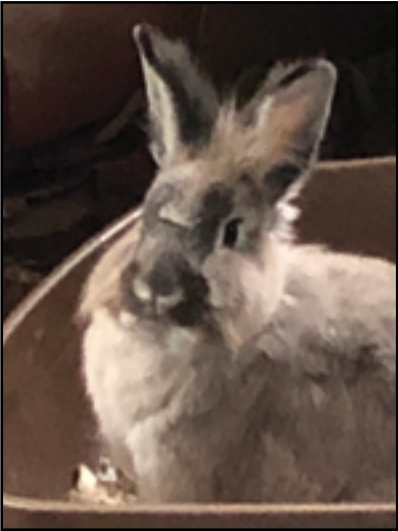
## by Ryan Jo Summers

Years ago, I was a volunteer at a wildlife rehabilitation center. I arrived one winter day for my shift and found a black and white Dutch rabbit in a cage. It seemed odd to have a domestic rabbit at a wildlife center and I asked about it. Seems there were two rabbits running loose in a local cemetery and this one was live-trapped and brought here for lack of any other idea of what to do with it. The other was still out there in the snow and cold.


My mistake was saying the breed and mentioning I always wanted one like it. Guess who went home with me that day? The other wily rabbit was never caught and most likely met a tragic end in that cemetery.

Why am I sharing this? To say this: “Jade”, as my bunny went on to be called, was a neutered buck. He was once someone’s pet. He apparently had been born in late winter that year, and was in the prime of his cute stage right around Easter. Yep, my wild rescue was really a throw-away Easter bunny. And, most likely, so was the other one who couldn’t be trapped.

Each year, shelters are overrun with



half-grown rabbits in the months following Easter. The novelty of having the rabbits wears off for the youngsters and the reality of the daily needs of rabbits replaces it. People get bunnies, and chicks and ducklings, on a whim because they are cute and adorable, and it's Easter and "Why not?" Too few think the responsibility through beyond the "Aww. Why not?" step.




Here's the first "Why not?" That cute, fluffy bunny should live about 10-12 years. Sadly, countless Easter bunnies will not live to see their first birthday. Rescue stories abound, including one poor rabbit who was left permanently blind in both eyes because her owners were unprepared and unknowledgeable in how to care for her.

Another had both its ears lopped off because a child was allowed to play with both bunny and scissors at the same time.

Rabbits are fantastic pets, but they are not spontaneous pets. They are cuddly, sweet, playful, curious, and mischievous. Much like the family cat or dog, they also require pre-planning and accommodations to help them reach their 10-12 year life expectancy.

Because of their playful and inquisitive natures, and the fact they tend to nibble on everything in their reach, they need a safe bunny home and a supervised area to romp and explore. Most commercial rabbit hutches and cages are not adequate for permanent housing. Rabbits should preferably live indoors, with their family. Many bunny parents keep their rabbits in play-pens, on

foam mats, and modified wood-and-wire hutches, or any combination of these homes. It is also important to note many rabbits live peacefully with the existing animal-



life inside. However, if there are personality clashes, owners must be prepared to work around them. Rabbits are prey animals, and easily scared or hurt.

Rabbits' curious minds require regular play and cuddle time with their humans. They need room to safely explore without access to cords, woodwork, or toxic plants.

Diets are simple, consisting mostly of fresh timothy hay, a modest amount of plain

pellets, daily helpings of leafy greens and small quantities of fruits and vegetables. However, the hay is the most important part of their diet, and yes, it can be messy inside the house. So can their litterbox wood shavings. Their respiratory tracks are sensitive to dust, so be careful what you use in their box, both due to dust and because they will eat some.

Vet care consists of the highly-recommended spay/neuter and periodic nail trims and dental check. Bunny teeth grow for their lifetime, and if they don't have adequate items to gnaw on, their teeth could run into trouble. They also need regular grooming, especially when shedding.

If you're thinking of adding a bunny to the household this spring, do so with a healthy measure of investigation and planning first. Start with [houserabbitsociety.org](http://houserabbitsociety.org). Rabbits are a long-term commitment, not a passing fad. With care and love, they will be treasured members of the family, valued for their playful, loving natures. Hopefully they will never be released into the wild when their novelty wears off or dumped at the local shelter to become another sad statistic.

Ryan Jo Summers is an animal advocate and a local author. To learn more about her fiction writings, check out her website [ryanjosummers.com](http://ryanjosummers.com), her blog [summersrye.wordpress.com](http://summersrye.wordpress.com) or her Facebook page [facebook.com/RyanJoSummersAuthor](https://facebook.com/RyanJoSummersAuthor). 

## by Shannon Knapp

The fields of Equine Assisted Learning and Equine Assisted therapy wouldn't exist without Natural Horsemanship in our culture. Equine-assisted work in all its forms wouldn't exist if we still used horses as machinery. So much would be different.

This is not to say horses haven't been therapeutic for people even back in the day when horses were used for plowing fields, transportation, and welfare. But people of those times likely would have scoffed at any attempts to make this therapeutic benefit tangible and credible.

Like Natural Horsemanship, equine-assisted practice, as an activity, has deep roots. References from as early as 600 B.C. speak of early Greeks utilizing horses not only for people with disabilities, but for general health and well-being. Jump forward to the 1800's, where European physicians found horseback riding helpful in the treatment of certain neurological conditions to improve balance, posture, and strength.

Physicians used riding therapy during a Scandinavian outbreak of poliomyelitis (a kind of polio) in 1946. In a famous case at that time, horsewoman Liz Hartel used daily riding sessions to recover from the disease, and later went on to win a silver medal in Dressage in the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. Her story brought attention to horseback riding for the disabled, and she later partnered with physical therapist Ulla Harpoth to bring equine therapy



to patients.

Therapeutic riding began in the U.S. and Canada in the 1960s; in 1969, the North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA) formed in the U.S. Therapeutic riding practitioners were able to catalogue a range of beneficial aspects, including physical, psychological, social, and educational outcomes. These included improved balance

and strength, decreased spasticity and increased coordination, emotional control and self-discipline, and improved hand-eye coordination. Hippotherapy evolved as a separate focus in therapeutic riding, with a direct application toward achieving functional outcomes as part of a physical, speech, and occupational therapy treatment strategy under the supervision of a professional therapist. Hippotherapy is also often viewed as another form of rehabilitation.

In Therapeutic Riding, the focus is instruction to ride, with a goal towards independent riding, along with all the intangible benefits. In Equine Assisted Practice (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL), the end goal is not about horsemanship or instruction to ride or competence to ride. To learn more about the history of Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy, visit the website of PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) and peruse PATH's *Strides* magazine. Much of the preceding information was gleaned from those two sources.

During the following decades, the beginnings of EAP for psychotherapy and learning formed. Equine-assisted activities evolved from the focus on special needs and physical and occupational therapy to include a focus on therapeutic benefits in the realm of mental health professionals. Practitioners realized the implications of expanding equine-assisted work into other areas. They started working with different populations and focused on adapting equine-assisted work to include mental health issues, complex social problems, skill building, behavioral and motivational psychotherapy aspects in their work with at-risk youth, family therapy, and personal growth therapy.

*Shannon Knapp is Executive Director of Heart of Horse Sense and President of Horse Sense of the Carolinas, Inc., both based in Marshall, NC. For comments and inquiries, email [shannon@heartofhorsesense.org](mailto:shannon@heartofhorsesense.org).* 

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A photograph of Dr. David T. Crouch, a man with dark hair and a friendly smile, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white shirt. He is holding a small, fluffy white dog with black markings on its face and ears. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees.

The logo for Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery. It features a green square on the left containing the white letters 'WC' stacked above 'VS', with a stylized green caduceus symbol in the center. To the right of the square, the words 'WESTERN CAROLINA' are stacked above 'VETERINARY SURGERY' in a green, serif font.

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The logo of the American Veterinary Association. It is a circular emblem with a blue border. Inside the circle is a white background featuring a blue silhouette of a person standing next to a horse. Below the circle, the words 'AMERICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION' are written in a small, blue, sans-serif font.



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A vertical advertisement for Aloft Asheville Downtown. The background is dark grey. At the top right is the Aloft Hotels logo. A bright pink horizontal bar is below the logo. The main headline 'Welcome Pups!' is in large white font, followed by 'And Humans Too!' in pink. Below is a paragraph in white about a pet-friendly bar. Then 'WXYZ® bar' and 'Aloft Asheville Downtown' in white. A grey box contains the address: 'Aloft Asheville', '51 Biltmore Ave.', 'Asheville, NC 28801'. Below that, a pink box contains the website 'aloftashevilledowntown.com'. A horizontal strip shows a blurred neon sign with the letters 'WXYZ' in blue and purple. Another pink horizontal bar is near the bottom. The bottom section features the 'spg.' logo with 'Starwood Preferred Guest' underneath. At the very bottom is a small white disclaimer about trademarks and terms of use.



# Questions for your Vet about Euthanasia

by Carol Marks. Questions provided by Beth Marchitelli, D.V.M.

The American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines state that euthanasia should be done “...with the highest degree of respect and with an emphasis on making the death as painless and distress free as possible.”\* Questions like the following will help both you and your vet have a clear understanding of what is to come, and ensure that your expectations will be met.

1. Do you have a separate room and entrance designated for euthanasia, not an exam room?
2. Is there a time restriction on this appointment?
3. Can I bring a blanket or her toy from home?
4. Who will be in the room? Who will handle my pet?
5. Do you give sedation prior to allow my pet to relax? How is this administered? How

- long does it take for her to feel the effect? Side effects? Can I spend time alone with her after sedation but before euthanasia?
6. How long will it take for my pet to pass away after the euthanasia injection? Can I hold her? Spend time afterward?
  7. What arrangements for cremation or burial do you make? Can I make my own arrangements?

Beth Marchitelli, DVM  
4 Paws Farewell  
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Pub Note: \*AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition, Section 13.1, “A Good Death as a Matter of Humane Disposition”. 🐾



Jeb

Jeb Bradley was born April 1, 2009. Saluda was the home of this big, strong, solid boy. Jeb was well behaved. On his first day with Jeff, they stopped by the Subway in Saluda. When Jeff, not thinking of Jeb, left the sandwich in the truck, her returned to see that the food was untouched. Jeb also never tried to steal food from Jeff’s plate at home. He knew it was not his to take. Jeb could be very friendly and playful, but was always protective of his truck. He could sense when people were to be trusted. When Jeff was going to give a ride to a stranger, Jeff let the person know that although Jeb would growl initially he would not bother him while Jeff was with him. Jeb, however, did not trust the passenger and had to ride in the bed of the truck. Jeff and Jeb lived through many trials during their time together and always had each other’s back. The close bond and devotion they had for each other lasted until Jeb’s passing on September 21, 2018.



Tanner

Tanner Bradley was born in North Carolina in 2007. Originally owned by Jeff Bradley’s son, over time she chose to make her home with Jeff. She would let Jeff know when to begin his day with a sniff to his ear. She loved sleeping in the bed and the treats she would get for being such a good girl. A devoted mother to Jeb and Jessie, she was very protective of her litters, even keeping Jeb away from new puppies. When she sensed that her time on this earth was reaching its end, she chose a place where Jeff would find her. On October 24, 2017, Tanner left behind her beloved human, Jeff and her sons Jeb and Jessie.



Halo

On October 15, 2018, Haley Jade Plott McHone, “Halo”, left behind the pain and sorrow of this world to be met by the arms of Jesus in Heaven. Being born in 2003, Haley was a strong 15-year-old mixed breed dog who briefly lived in Henderson County before finding her forever home in Asheville.

Her personality lived up to her name as she was gentle, full of love, with an angelic glow that out shined the sun every day of her life. Her angel duties included being a guardian angel to all of us in her pack. A protective motherly type dog, she knew just what to do in every situation from compassion to growling. There was nothing she was not prepared for.

Haley loved walks around West Asheville with her Pawpaw John and her Mama Jamie. She also enjoyed going for hikes with her brothers Luke and Spenser who have been waiting to be reunited with her in Heaven so their hikes can continue. She is preceded in death by brothers Luke and Spenser, sisters Tara and Heather and three cats: Checkers and Joey and feline sister Pnut.

She is survived by her Paw-Paw John, her mama Jamie, her Mamaw Irene, Papaw RD, and Nana Joyce. She is also survived by fellow K-9 sister Jenny, and seven cats: Sam, Sheba, Hunter, Augusta, Taylor, Noah and her little buddy Chewie. As of January 7, 2019 a new puppy we named Mike Han McHone has been added to her family. I’m sure she’s looking down with love for him too.

In her memory, please adopt an animal. These 15 years with her have been priceless to her family. Give the joy and blessing of an adopted dog, cat or other needy pet to yourself and your family. The love will last a lifetime.

With forever love,  
John P McHone

# Pet Obituaries

# Pet Obituaries



Rosie Marks  
December 12, 2006 – January 15, 2019.

Christmas Eve Day, 2008. I’m depressed, so Jim suggests I start looking for the little dog I’ve always wanted. I walk in to a Brother Wolf adoption event not expecting anything, and - BAM. Love at first sight.

Black and white scruffy face, in a little pink coat, bright eyes looking right at me. Later, Jim said she should have been dressed in a biker jacket. It wouldn’t have mattered. As soon as I saw her, she started to rescue me.

Laughter is the best medicine, and with her pushy, busy terrier personality we got plenty of that. She’d try to grab a tennis ball right out of our Golden Retriever, Remmy’s, mouth. And he’d tease her unmercifully with keepaway. Every day started with laughter watching their antics, especially hers, as she

engaged in mortal combat with her stuffed bunny and squeaky ball, complete with growls, barks and mighty pounces.

Her sharp little barks instructed us it was time to get up, time to feed her, time to go out, time to make lunch, time to make dinner. Time to play - take a work break - she’d come in and drop her ball – or turn over the trash can, one of her favorite hobbies, next to opening cabinets. Her favorite food was socks, shoes, etc., and, one time, it was embarrassing to have a house guest inquire if Rosie had stolen her underwear. But we loved Rosie unconditionally. As Jim said, “She wasn’t a bad girl. She just made some bad choices.”

Rosie was our companion 24/7. I never thought of her as a Velcro dog, maybe because she was short, and not always visible. But now we realize she was always with one or both of us. She loved to sit in Jim’s lap while he watched TV, and lie next to my leg during my occasional afternoon nap. Underfoot while we’re cooking, or at the computer, staring at us as we ate, putting her face on the console in the car while we drove, or smiling at us from the passenger seat, getting treats from all our drive-throughs – bank, fast food, CVS, garbage dump - taking over the bed at night.

Rosie was a small dog with a big heart and a bigger personality. She pushed way above her weight, and left a large silent hole in our life.

Carol Marks



Beemer

On December 8, 2018, for the love of my sweet Beemer girl, I let her go - the cancer had won.

Beemer was found in Atlanta, curled for shelter into a cat house on a porch. After no one claimed her, she came to me in a cat carrier as a 4-month old puppy. At home, she was playful and rowdy - always the instigator. She loved “squeaky” toys and would squeak them until the squeaker died - then tear them to shreds! She loved chicken nuggets and pepperoni pizza. She slept with me every night of her life until the very end, and was still ready to go, when I put on her collar and leash.

Everyone will remember Beemer from her events and for the hundreds of thousands of dollars donated in her name

to support local pet rescue groups. Many remember her as a frequent guest on WLOS TV, and for her Kissing Booth, where she shared her brand of nearly one hundred pounds of pit bull love with everyone from State Troopers to the tiniest baby ever saved by Mission Hospital NICU. For many, she forever changed their perception of a pit bull.

In 2010 BMW of Asheville’s then GM, Steve Gordon, and I, started our community outreach/charity initiative with Beemer as our mascot. She was

always perfect - she never made even one mistake, when she was “working”. Any child, no matter how small, could take her leash, share their food, nap with, or just cuddle up, and know they were safe. For those of us who knew her best, Beemer will be most remembered for the joy she brought to thousands of children, at “Christmas is for Kids” with Tammy Jones, for kids in domestic violence shelters and court mandated foster care, and with her “Kids to Kids” program, teaching the do’s and don’ts of dogs to local elementary school children. From Stray to Star - she was loved and lived an incredible life. She was, for me, perfect. Forever in many hearts.

Joey Beckham



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# Angel Pets Conference 2019

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Downtown Asheville Renaissance Hotel

Conference topics will focus on:  
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- Medical, emotional, and practical considerations during pets’ end of life transition
- Assessing Quality of Life
- Senior Pet Nutrition
- Explaining Hospice & Palliative Care
- Grief Healing

Speakers:

- Dr. Beth Marchitelli, DVM
- Asheville 4 Paws Farewell
- Coleen Ellis, CT, CPLP
- Dr. Kasandra Garner, DVM
- Animal Hospital of North Asheville



Early Bird tickets are only \$90.00 and include entrance to the Angel Pets Expo.

# Angel Pets Expo 2019

June 8, 2019 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Downtown Asheville Renaissance Hotel, 31 Woodfin St, Asheville, NC 28801

Admission to the Expo can be purchased separately from the Conference for \$5.00. Vendors specializing in services and products for senior pet care needs, end of life, caregiver, and grief healing and pet support will be available with their expertise.

**Select Featured Vendor Presentations**

For further information and forms for vendor participation, see [AngelPetsExpo.com](http://AngelPetsExpo.com)

Angel Pets Conference is sponsored by



For further information and forms for Sponsor participation, see [AngelPetsConference.com](http://AngelPetsConference.com)



## BWAR ADOPTION CENTER STAYING OPEN

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR) has taken its Adoption Center on Glendale Avenue in Asheville off the real estate market and has no plans to sell the property.

Leah Craig Fieser, who became BWAR Executive Director in February, confirmed that although the facility was previously for sale it will stay in BWAR's hands. "Our Adoption Center is open and very active," she said. "Maintaining this location is the best way we can serve the animals that need us. I encourage our community members to visit us, meet the animals, and get involved in our No-Kill mission."

In addition to their adoption program, BWAR cares for animals through their thriving foster and volunteer networks, pet retention and community cat programs, and a mobile spay/neuter clinic. Fieser anticipates that BWAR will

positively impact the lives of approximately 10,000 animals in 2019. This is up from 6,000 animals served in 2018, due to the impact that the organization's new mobile spay/neuter clinic is having on animals in the area.

"I'm excited to step into this role at Brother Wolf and be an integral part of the impact that this organization has for animals in our community," said Fieser. "This year we'll be focusing on embracing our roots of companion animal rescue and our core mission of building No-Kill communities. Brother Wolf is a place where all are welcome," she added.

"Without our donors, volunteers, and fosters, this life-saving work would not be possible," Fieser said. "I am committed to transparency as Brother Wolf moves forward and will keep our community involved and up-to-date." Fieser assumed the BWAR leadership post when the group's founder, Denise Bitz, resigned to pursue her passion in vegan advocacy. Although Fieser has been Executive Director a very short time, she has been part of the Asheville nonprofit community since 2013 and previously worked with BWAR in a different position.

To best understand the entirety of the organization, Fieser will continue to meet with BWAR's Board of Directors, management team, staff members, donors, volunteers and supporters. She will also participate in the day-to-day work at the busy Adoption Center, review financial information, and look over the status of current projects.

"I'm so grateful for the community support we've received over the past 12 years, which has helped Brother Wolf grow into the incredible resource it is today for the animals," said Bitz. "When I cashed in my savings to start this organization, I never imagined it would become such a lifesaving powerhouse. I know Brother Wolf will continue to strengthen its No-Kill mission and save thousands of lives each year.

Fieser brings extensive and diverse experience in the nonprofit sector, including her previous position as Development Director at the Friends of the Western North Carolina Nature Center as well as the former Event Director at Brother Wolf. Fieser's nonprofit career also includes impactful work at Eliada Homes, Catskill Animal Sanctuary, and The Children's Museum in Wilmington. She holds a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Nonprofit Studies and Animal Science from NC State.

Bitz founded BWAR in 2007 in response to the number of dogs and cats being euthanized in the community. Since then, BWAR has grown into the largest No-Kill organization in North Carolina. Through adoptions, behavior training, robust volunteer and foster networks, pet retention programs, and disaster relief work, BWAR now positively impacts the lives of thousands of animals annually.

To learn more about Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and its life-saving programs, or find out how to get involved in its missions, visit [bwar.org](http://bwar.org).



## WCDFFA dog show, obedience trial and rally at Haywood Ag Center

The Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association will hold its annual spring events at the Haywood County Agricultural and Activities Center on Crabtree Road (NC 209) the weekend of April 20-21.

*"AKC Rally® is a companion sport to AKC Obedience."*

The AKC licensed club will offer competitions in conformation, obedience and rally on both Saturday and Sunday. Each day's events will start at 8am and run until about 3pm.

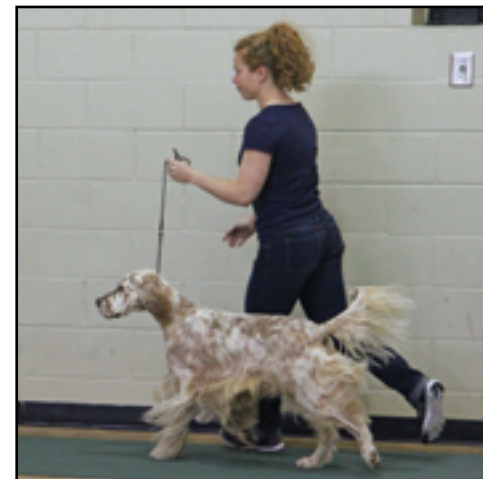
Based on participation in prior years, the 2019 events might involve 650 to over 700 canines. Over 120 different breeds and varieties are expected to compete in the conformation event, while more than 50 dogs are expected for the obedience trials and over 20 dogs are anticipated to compete in rally.



Unofficially, many dog lovers call rally "beginning obedience". Officially, according to the AKC web site, "AKC Rally® is a companion sport to AKC Obedience. It too requires teamwork between dog and handler along with

performance skills similar to obedience. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC events for new dogs and handlers, and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills. All dogs are eligible to compete in rally." And speaking of eligibility:

The public is welcome to view all the competitions, but their non-competing dogs are not eligible to attend. Admission to the events 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 conformation events will provide an opportunity to see and learn about different breeds by watching the competitions and talking to breeders.

The WCDFFA celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2017 and has made a good start on making its second next quarter century even better than the first. 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 held in Sylva, NC.

For more information about the 2019 show and competitions, or the host club itself, visit [WCDFFA.org](http://WCDFFA.org) or [showentries.infodog.com](http://showentries.infodog.com).

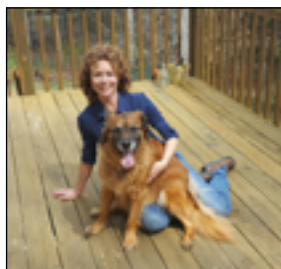
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