

PetGazette

Asheville Area

April-May 2013

Volume 2 - Issue 2



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- Yappy Hours

Health

- Home Birthing
- Kitten Nutrition
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- Stem Cell Therapy
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Birds

Chickens

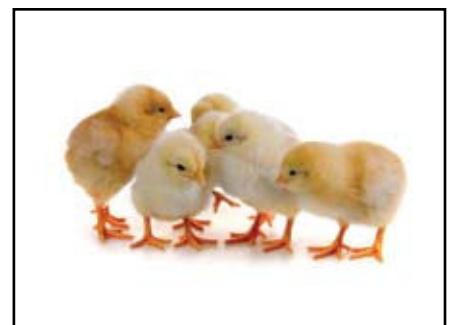
Remembrance

News

- Cocker Wins
- Dog Show Coming
- Wolfhounds Coming
- Dog Park Progress

Calendar of Events

Resource Guide



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Regularly Scheduled 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 Adoption Events with many cats and kittens, some dogs and puppies. Times vary. Call.

Every Sat. – 1pm. PAPC Small Dog Play Party at its dog park. Small breed dogs under 30 lbs welcome to frolic with others of similar size.

Every Sun. – 1pm. PAPC Puppy Play Party at its dog park. All

vaccinated puppies under 1 year old welcome to socialize in a safe place.

Every Sun. – 3pm. PAPC Pit Bull/Pit Mix Play Party. All healthy and friendly pitties and pit mixes 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 Third Sat. – 11am-3pm. WNCBR Adoption Day at PetSmart

Sundays – 10:30am-6pm. FF Adoption Days at Petco on Brevard Road.

April

Wed. - 4/3 – 6pm. Pet Planning Class at BWAR Re-Tail store.

Sat. – 4/6 – 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at Asheville Humane Society, Forever Friends Lane. For more information, email volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.

Sat.- 4/6 – 6:30pm – End. Trivia night for Asheville Humane Society. Team trivia, wine auction, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, more. At Asheville Events Center, 221 Sweeten Creek Rd. Must pre-register at ashevillehumane.org or 828 761-2001, X310.

Sun. – 4/7 – 1-5pm. Run for the Paws. 5K run and one mile walk to benefit BW. Fletcher Park, Fletcher, NC. Register, get information at www.bwar.org.

Sun. – 4/7 – 1-3pm. Urban Tails. Take a furry friend from AHS to Run/Walk for the Paws in Fletcher Park. Details at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.

Wed.- 4/10 – 6-7pm. Pooch Essentials Class. For those who want to interact with dogs and puppies at AHS Adoption Center and off-site events. Get details, sign-up at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org

Wed.- 4/10 – 6-7pm. Feline Fundamentals Class. For those who want to interact with cats and kittens at AHS Adoption Center and off-site events. Get details, sign-up at volunteer@ashevillehumane.org

Thur. – 4/18 – 6:30-9:30pm. ACN Release Your Inner Animal with Asheville Affiliates at the Mill Room, 66 Asheland Ave. Costumes-encouraged event will have music by DJ Marley Carrol, hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, party animal photo booth and raffle. \$25 at door, \$20 at animalcompassionnetwork.org.

Sat. – 4/13 – 9-10am. Pooch Essentials Class. See 4/10.

Sat.– 4/14 – 10-11am. Feline Fundamentals Class. See 4/10.

Sat. – 4/13 – 10am-2pm. Low-cost rabies and vaccination clinic at Biltmore Square Mall. Microchips also available for small fee. Details at AHS, 828 761-2001.

Sat. – 4/13 – 11am-5pm. YMCA Healthy Kids Day at Pack Square Park, Asheville.

AHS will bring adoptable animals to show the health benefits

of pets from walking and swimming to playing ball and Frisbee. Stop by and join the fun.

Thur. – 4/18 – 5:30-7:30pm. AHS Yappy Hour at Edna's on Merimon Ave. Adoptable pets, food and drink from Edna's, interaction with sponsors Paramount Kia, Radio Station Mix 96.5, Pet-Gazette. \$10 admission.

Sat. – 4/20 – 12pm. Ruby Tuesday's Community Giveback. 20% of sales go to BW.

Sat. – 4/20 – 10am-12pm. ACN/AHS Paws for Kids with Child Abuse Prevention Services. Lake Tomahawk, Black Mountain. Details at animalcompassionnetwork.org. or 828 258-4820.

Sun. – 4/21 – 12-4pm. Pawject Runway doggie fashion show by Girl Scout Troop 17 at Hair of the Dog on Hendersonville Road. Visitors donate supplies for BW. Live music, nail trims, more.

Sat. – 4/27 – 8am-1pm. ACN collecting donated crates, blankets, etc. at Asheville Tailgate Market on Charlotte Street. Details at animalcompassionnetwork.org. or 828 258-4820.

Mon.- 4/29 thru Thur.- 5/2. Irish Wolfhound Specialty at Crowne Plaza, Asheville. Details at www.IWCA2013.com.

May

Sat. – 5/7 – 5:30-7:30pm. Spayghetti and No Balls Dinner at Mayfels, 22 College Street, Asheville, to benefit BW.

Sat. – 5/18 – 12pm. Ruby Tuesday's Community Giveback. 20% of sales go to BW.

Sun. – 5/19 – 3-5pm. Trunk show at Fresh Produce Boutique, Lodge Street in Biltmore Village to benefit ACN. Fashions, pawdicures. Details at animalcompassionnetwork.org. or 828 258-4820.

Thur. – 5/30 – 5:30-7:30pm. AHS Yappy Hour at Frankie Bone's –Gerber Village off Hendersonville Road. See 4/18.

June

Sat.-Sun. – 6/8 & 6/9. Asheville Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show at WNC Agricultural Center, Fletcher.

Legend: ACN=Animal Compassion Network AHS = Asheville Humane Society AKC=Asheville Kennel Club BW=Brother Wolf PAPC=Patton Avenue Pet Company WNCBR=WNC Boxer Rescue Red type indicates a major fundraiser for Asheville rescue organizations.

Note: There are probably pet related events in the Asheville area that **PetGazette** missed including in our calendar. Our apologies to any person or organization whose event we missed.

For future issues, we would like your help in making our Calendar of Events as comprehensive as possible. If you know of a pet related event, please contact us about it so it can be included. Call the editor at 828 633-1348. Or email editor.petgazette@gmail.com. Thanks for your help in making **PetGazette** Asheville's pet lovers' resource.

Gratitude List

This publication could not exist without the generous contributions of dedicated and talented pet lovers. Some are professionals who care for pets in their work lives as well as their private lives. Others are simply people who love their own pets and have become lay experts in pet related areas. Whatever their status, we are grateful for their help.

We are particularly grateful to the veterinarians who contribute articles. They definitely have far more knowledge than the average bear, and probably have less time in which to share it. So we send special thanks to Jeff Smith, DVM and Juli Smith for their piece on Home Birthing Considerations; to Ted Wright, DVM, for his article on Foaling Basics; to Beth Rhyne, DVM, CCRP for making Regenerative Stem Cell Therapy understandable for us regular folk; and to Kristi Sowers, DVM, for warning us about Spring Pet Hazards. John Faherty is a DC who is certified in animal chiropractic and has worked wonders with this publication's Vice President of Customer Relations. Therefore, gets our special thanks, too.

We happen to have three articles in this issue that somehow involve the Asheville Kennel Club and/or its national parent organization, the American Kennel Club. One is about Lance, the Parti-Colored cocker spaniel who won Best of Variety at the Westminster dog show in February. Another is about the upcoming All-Breed Dog Show at the

WNC Agricultural Center. And the third is about the upcoming Irish Wolfhound specialty show at the Crown Plaza.

While none of these stories was written by anyone other than **PetGazette** staff, they all were only possible because of the gracious cooperation of the individuals or organizations covered. So we thank Elizabeth Mulvey, Dennis Wilson and Barbara Finch of the Asheville Kennel Club, and Bambi Rabe of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America for being so helpful.

Amy Carlson-Jacko, Shawn Chase, Andrea Demmons, Emily Trimnal and Jenna Yaroush are all experts in their respective areas of chickens, fish, pet nutrition, birds and pet nutrition. Jenna even contributed, again, at the last minute with an article on kitten nutrition. And Beverly Hughes certainly knows whereof she speaks when it comes to kids, horses, and the therapeutic relationship possible between them. We are grateful to all of them for sharing their expertise.

Regular columnist Cappy Tosetti stopped by Chainheart Cycling Studio, had a dialogue with Socrates, the English bulldog who is the unofficial greeter for the shop, and owner Andy Grabowski, then shared her observations with us. We're grateful for that, and also for the contributions of photographer Andrew Wayne.

We're also grateful, of course, for our readers and advertisers. You have fueled our growth from eight pages in our first issue in June, 2012, to twenty pages in the one you're holding. You have made us what we wanted to be – Asheville's pet lovers' resource – and taken us to our goal faster than we thought possible. That has really earned our thanks.

The Editor

Letter from the Publisher

Dear Asheville Pet lovers:

Asheville is an amazing pet town. Not only are we as batty about our pets as any city in the country with the possible exception of Denver, but we have an amazing array of businesses to help us care for and have fun with our pampered pets. Some of those businesses favor **PetGazette** with their commercial communications (otherwise known as advertising) so for heaven's sake, go buy something from them.

Our heads are spinning with the rate of growth **PetGazette** has had since our launch with the June/July issue in 2012 – thank you Asheville! Lest we sit on our laurels here's some improvements on tap for this year:

A slight change in publication dates: Our issues for the remainder of 2013 will be: June/July, July/August, September/October – allowing a full two months for a Holiday issue of November/December. **Expanded Ingles distribution:** Merrimon Ave., Long Shoals, Hendersonville Rd. by Gerber Square, and Tunnel Road by the Tunnel and by the VA.. Read **PetGazette** online at www.PetGazetteAsheville.com. **Event Marketing:** Pick up an issue with goodies from our advertisers at the following events: April 7th at Brother Wolf Run for the Paws, April 18 Humane Society Yappy Hour at Edna's on Merrimon Ave, 5.30-7.30; and May 30th Yappy Hour at Frankie Bones 5.30-7.30.

Call or email with your ideas and comments. Got an interesting pet? Like a goat or a pig? Contact us at publisher.petgazette@gmail.com. Or call 828 633-1348. Look forward to hearing from you! Warm regards,

Carol



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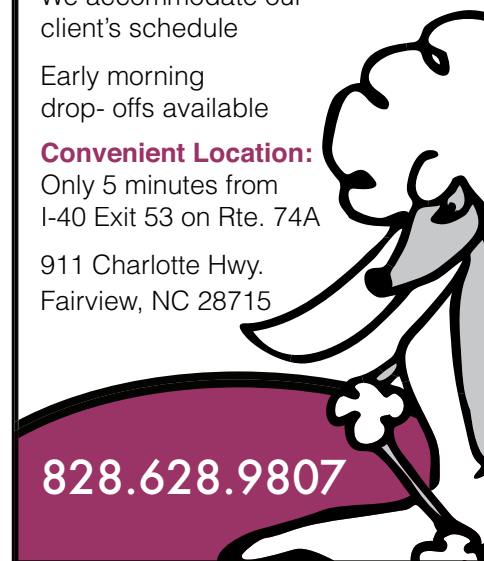
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PetGazette

Published bimonthly by Marks Media,
PO Box 151, Candler, NC 28715

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Subscriptions are available at \$12 for 3 issues, \$19 for 6 issues.

PetGazette focuses on the fun and care of pets in Asheville. It is written by local experts for local pet lovers.
The opinions and recommendations of contributors are their own, not necessarily those of **PetGazette**.

Find us on Facebook and
www.PetGazetteAsheville.com

Trivia Night Benefits Humane Society

If you have love animals and have a head full of factoids, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 6th. That's when the Asheville Humane Society will be hosting a Trivia Night at the Asheville Event Center on Sweeten Creek Road.

The doors will open at 6:30pm. The fun will start immediately, and the games will begin at 7:15pm. Teams/players of up to eight people will compete for first and second place cash prizes through eight rounds of questions in different categories. The categories will include such things as U.S. History, Pop Culture, Sports, Current

Events, and Entertainment. Participants can purchase mulligans for the Trivia game; raffle tickets for their potential economic gain; or wine and other beverages for their thirst. They can also bid in the silent auction for donated goods and services while enjoying the free popcorn available to all.

Those who would like to participate must pre-register at ashevillehumane.org, or call 828 761-2001, Extension 310. Admission is \$120 per table of eight, or \$15 per person. All proceeds benefit the Asheville Humane Society's Foster Program.

Correction

The correct web address for Friends2Ferals is now www.friends2ferals.net, not .org, as was incorrectly printed in the February – March issue of **PetGazette**.

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Do Birds Really Need Grit?

by Emily Trimnal

The eye-catching packaging with a brightly colored bird makes bird owners' wonder if they should buy some. Understanding what grit is, its purpose, and the possible problems it could cause, can help owners make an educated decision about offering grit to their bird.

The Purpose of Grit

"Grit is used by birds to aid in digestion of seeds" is a sentence seen repeatedly in both outdated parrot care books and other related texts. But it fails to convey that grit is used to aid in the digestion of whole, intact seeds. Parrots' digestive enzymes work amazingly well in digesting the inner portion of the seeds, but can have difficulty in breaking down the hull - the fibrous outer coating. Grit, in the avian ventriculus, aids in grinding and wearing away the hull, enabling the digestive enzymes to reach the nutrients within.

What Exactly Is Grit?

Two groups of substances are called grit - soluble and insoluble. Insoluble grit, the type discussed here, is composed of minute substances such as sandstones and other minerals often found in dirt and clays. It cannot be digested and will remain in the body until expelled.

Soluble grit is organic, and can include crushed shells, often oyster shells or cuttlebone. Since soluble grit is mostly calcium carbonate, it is easily digested by the acids in the proventriculus and poses little danger of accumulating in the digestive system. However, while soluble grit can offer an alternative source of calcium, it does little to aid the digestion

of seeds.

Do Birds Really Require Grit?

Only birds such as doves, which consume seeds intact, require grit in their diet. Birds such as parrots, and even finches and canaries, hull their seeds, so do not need the extra aid grit would provide. In fact, some species of parrots have ridges inside their upper beak that can hold the seed in place while the lower beak cracks and removes the hull. Birds on a pelleted diet should also not require grit. In the US, the use of grit is generally discouraged, especially if offered freely, which may lead to obstructive gastritis. In Australia, however, grit is commonly given to pet birds, and few problems have been reported. At the moment, there is no explanation for these interesting geographical differences.

Potential Problems

If given freely, some birds may over-consume grit products, leading to a possibility of impaction. And some commercially-made grit products contain charcoal, which can affect the absorption of vitamins, resulting in deficiencies.

In conclusion, the benefit of grit for parrots and softbills has not been positively demonstrated. While there are both potential risks and potential benefits, we recommend offering grit in moderation, if offered at all. 🐾

Author and behaviorist Emily Trimnal is a parrot owner who works with several U.S. rescue organizations; a Certified Avian Specialist; and a Level 2 Aviculturist with the American Federation of Aviculture. Her website is www.emilysbirds.com

Feeding your Dog a Raw Food Diet

by Andrea Demmons

In the past decades and to some extent still, people began feeding a raw diet to their animals due to a health crisis such as bloat, allergies, cancer, kidney disease, seizures or diabetes. After researching such problems, I concluded that feeding a fresh, wholesome raw diet could help my pets manage these and other health conditions. And that appeared true whether it completely replaced the existing diet, or was used to enhance traditional treatments.

Those of us who chose this then-unconventional diet noticed huge improvements in our animals, beyond those related to the original condition. So we began feeding all of our household animals this way. (Feeding one animal fresh meat and the others the same old cereal-based commercial food just wouldn't fly.) The result: Our dogs had increased energy levels and soft silky coats, the tartar and stains on their teeth were gone, and their soft bodies had become lean and hard. Plus, they produced small hard poop that doesn't smell - really!

Before commercially prepared raw foods were available, we mixed pounds and pounds of ice-cold meat with other ingredients such as eggs, egg shell powder, seaweeds, molasses, juiced veggies, and organ meat, then bagged it up and froze it. Today we can choose to make our own, to combine meat with a premix, or get totally complete meals. Any way it's prepared, a raw diet from the beginning does avoid many of the processed-food-diet-driven diseases in the first place. Just as with our own diets, whole foods are healthier than processed foods. And by preparing your own food, you control all

the ingredients, and the quality and quantity of each. A raw diet can definitely produce healthy dogs. But there are concerns.

- **Salmonella and Bacterial contamination:** Mostly the concern is for the humans handling the food and dishes, as dogs are less susceptible to salmonella, which can also contaminate dry foods. Using safe food-handling practices for pet or human meals can help prevent the spread of dangerous diseases.
- **Balancing diets:** The most common question I hear is, "How will I know my dog's diet is balanced?" The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) sets labeling rules and **minimum** nutrient requirements for foods labeled "complete and balanced." However, compliance tests are minimal and based only on survival, not optimal nutrition. It is fairly simple to feed a balanced homemade diet. There are a few cardinal rules, the primary being that when feeding meat, which is high in phosphorous, we **MUST** add a calcium source, be it ground bone, seaweed calcium, bone meal, etc. Commercial complete raw includes a source of calcium, as do premixes such as Sojos, The Honest Kitchen and Dr. Harvey's

There are now many choices in raw food. It can be as easy or complex as your dog or your life requires. You can pour out nibbles of a complete high-pressure pasteurized product. Buy a ground mix (meat and bone ground together) and add a premix containing vitamins, minerals and vegetables. Or you can purchase meat, organs and a calcium supplement and juice your own vegetables. You can even buy locally made organic complete diets, or choose a dehydrated diet. Just add water and serve.

The general rule is that the more "prepared" a raw diet is, the more it costs. While it is highly individual, an adult, middle-aged dog will commonly eat about 2%-2.5% of his body weight in whole food per day. So a 30-pound dog will average about 2/3 pound of food per day (30 x .02). Since commercially available raw food costs from \$1.95 to \$5.87 per pound, feeding that 30-pound dog would cost \$35.10 to \$105.66 per month.

Anyone interested in preparing their own raw diet should some research. Speak with your holistic veterinarian, local independent store, or read and visit some of the following:

Websites/Pages

<http://dogaware.com/diet/homemaderesources.html>
http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/15_7/features/Home-Prepared-Dog-Food-Nutritional-Information_20568-1.html

Books

Raw & Natural Nutrition for Dogs, Lew Olson, PHD
The Goldsteins' Wellness & Longevity Program, Robert S. Goldstein, VMD, and Susan J Goldstein
Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats, Richard H. Pitcairn, DVM, PHD
Dr. Becker's Real Food for Healthy Dogs & Cats, Simple Homemade Food, Beth Taylor & Karen Shaw Becker, DVM 🐾

Andrea Demmons owns The Tailgait Market. She holds a B.S. degree from Penn State University, School of Health and Human Development, and completed post-baccalaureate courses in nutrition at Western Carolina University.

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Stopping By Socrates the Shopkeeper

by Cappy Tosetti

One can't but smile when meeting an English bulldog. Who can resist that low-to-the-ground, roly-poly compact body with all those loose folds of skin, that massive head and wide jaws punctuated with a black-button nose?

One look and you're completely captivated. That's exactly what happened when I stopped by to meet Socrates, the shop dog at Chainheart Cycling Studio on Riverside Drive, just north of the Montford area. As soon as the door opened, he awoke from a nap and came barreling



across the carpet to greet me. This is what good customer service is: acknowledging your visitors and being there in the moment, giving them your undivided attention until perhaps a new rubber chew toy gets in the way.

Even sprawled out on the floor with that tasty toy in his jowls, Socrates looked over occasionally with great affection and admiration as shop owner Andy Grabowski and I chatted about the cycling world and the advantages of having a pooch on the premises.

"Socrates comes to work with me every day," he explained, "I don't like the idea of leaving him home alone, and besides, our customers enjoy his company and comical antics. If by chance someone doesn't fancy having a dog around, Socrates instinctively trots off to his bed in the back room for a nap."

Some people might think a sleek and slender Italian greyhound better fits the image for a company that custom fits and builds bicycles for serious cyclists, but Grabowski is perfectly content with the robust image this short and stout dog portrays. He sees how Socrates puts people to ease with his entertaining personality and playfulness. It's also apparent that any stress that a customer might walk in with, usually disappears within moments after playing with or simply observing this friendly canine. They ask about him when returning to pick up their bikes, often lingering to toss a toy or scratch a favorite spot on his back. Obviously, this mighty dog has quite the fan club.

Owning a business and having Socrates at his side pleases Grabowski immensely. He enjoys life in Asheville after 20 years on the road

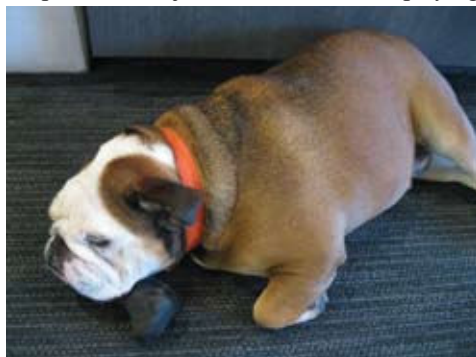
managing professional cycling teams, including Le Tour de France, where he coordinated the logistics on the international circuit for air travel and land transportation, meals, hotel reservations, entry fees and countless other details along the road. It was grueling at times, especially loading up equipment in the middle of the night to get to a new city for the next race or media event.

"I drove at least 50 cross-country road trips back and forth here in the United States and Canada and chalked up thousands of miles traversing narrow lanes and mountain roads in Europe and other locations. It was an exciting time, but now that I'm getting older it's nice to put down roots without living out of a suitcase anymore."

Falling in love, getting married and having children also helped shape this new chapter in Grabowski's life. The business idea evolved from a continued passion for Grabowski and his assistant, Ian Baldwin. They enjoy building bikes from the ground up, measured specifically to each individual's body for a more efficient ride and speed.

Grabowski is also a licensed mechanic and frame builder, certified by the Union Cycliste Internationale, the world body for sports cycling. A background in art and welding compliment the work he does now and when he designed a bike for Giant Bicycles, the company known around the world for high quality and affordable prices.

Owning and operating a business keeps Andy Grabowski busy, but he tries to get out on the road each afternoon, closing the shop at 3pm, so there's time for a bike ride before heading home. Socrates waits patiently inside by the front door, choosing not to tag along. He prefers short jaunts in the woods or playing



in the backyard with the couple's 20-month old twins, Marek and Finn. Besides, it's been another busy day greeting and entertaining customers. Andy will return shortly and it will soon be time for supper. Afterwards, Socrates will curl up with the twins for a bedtime story. Life is good! 🐾

Cappy Tosetti is a magazine and business writer focusing on animal health and wellness, draft horses and mules. She teaches positive aging classes, Aerobics for the Brain, at several area retirement facilities, and at workshops and programs for businesses, conferences and retreats. She also keeps busy caring for animals in the area with Happy with Cappy Pet Sitting.

If you have a story idea for Stopping By, please contact Cappy at: cappyt@att.net



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Pet Sitter Turns Taxi Driver

Kathy Connor is a “halfback” who grew up in Massachusetts, moved to Florida, and then moved to Asheville. She is also someone who turned her love of pets into two businesses.

The first was a dog walking/pet sitting enterprise which she has been running successfully for several years. The other is a pet taxi business she started three months ago. Together, they’re called ZZAG Pet Taxi for short. Connor’s business is modeled after similar services in bigger cities. “New Yorkers aren’t the only people with busy lives,” she said. “Asheville people also need help getting pets around.”

Connor picks up the pet at its home, takes it to its destination – daycare, vet, groomer, wherever – and either waits for it, or returns at an appointed time. It’s convenient for pet owners, and a chance for pets to ride in a car specially equipped for them.

The underlying vehicle is a Honda Element, but the interior is unlike any common Element. The front passenger seat carries a fleece-lined pet seat secured by the seat belt and equipped with a harness to hold

the rider/pet safely in place. The back seat holds a couple of pet crates topped by more comfy, fleece-lined seats with their own safety harnesses. And the cargo area has a soft-sided crate, a water bowl, and a small

fan to keep bigger dogs comfortable in warm weather. Even the floor mats are pet oriented, with dog bones in relief, while the seats are specially treated to be stain resistant.

Two of Connor’s three dogs love riding in the pet taxi. Alice, a Sheltie/American Eskimo mix, or Eskimeltie, jumps into the back seat as soon as the door is opened. Gracie, a Jack Russell/Beagle mix, prefers the front seat,

although she and her stolen desserts have to be lifted in. Meanwhile, three-legged Zzia, a mix of German Shepherd and Chow, protects home and hearth.

Connor already has nine regular clients for ZZAG Pet Taxi added to the 30 regulars for her pet sitting services. And she expects that her business will transition toward more driving as time goes on. Her web site is www.zzagpets.com. Her phone number is 828 216-1388. 🐾



Spring Pet Hazards

by Kristi Sowers, DVM

Spring brings blooming flowers, plus new hazards for pets. When pets are more often outside, there are more opportunities for injuries.

Many injuries can be avoided by spaying or neutering your pet. At the emergency clinic, almost half the injured animals we see are intact. Intact animals are more likely to roam and to get into fights with other animals. It is also important to have your pet fully vaccinated. Rabies vaccination is especially important and required by law. Keeping your cat inside and your dog on a leash or in a fenced yard can decrease the likelihood they will get hurt.

When injuries do happen, stay calm. Basic first aid for pets is the same as for humans. Most active bleeding can be controlled with direct pressure held for at least five minutes. The exception to this is ears, nails & tails. These areas will often continue to bleed and are difficult to bandage. Place a temporary bandage over wounds until you can get to a veterinarian. Be sure you can get at least one finger under the bandage to ensure it is not too tight. Bandages should not be left on for longer than a few hours and your pet should be monitored closely. Pets may try to remove the bandage and/or ingest it. Wounds can quickly become infected and large wounds can be fatal if left untreated. The sooner you get veterinary care, the better.

It is important to thoroughly clean any wound as soon as possible with mild soap

(like Dawn) and water. Ideally, clip the fur over the wound for better cleaning. DO NOT use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol, as these burn. DO NOT place any ointments on the wounds as these products can make pets sick if they lick them. Minor wounds do not necessarily need to be evaluated by a veterinarian. Any gaping wound or wound larger than a few inches should be evaluated.

ALL animal bite wounds should be evaluated by a veterinarian. Bite wounds are like icebergs: they look small above the skin but cause a lot of damage beneath it. They can form abscesses under the skin in less than 12 hours and many require surgical exploration.

Strains, sprains and bone fractures are more likely in warm weather. Any limping should be evaluated by a veterinarian, especially if the pet will not put any weight on a limb. NEVER give any over-the-counter human medication to a pet without speaking to a veterinarian first. Many human medications are toxic to pets.

Get out there and enjoy spring with your pets! Speak to your family veterinarian about making a “pet first aid” kit so you are prepared for anything that may happen while you’re having fun. 🐾

Kristi Sowers, DVM, graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2009. She joined the staff at the Regional Emergency Animal Care Hospital (R.E.A.C.H.) in January, 2013.

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by Shawn Chase

OH NO! We don't want that!

With the popularity of *Finding Nemo* and television shows portraying ocean life, more and more people want to set up saltwater fish tanks. While it's wonderful to have this expanded interest, it's sometimes portrayed too simply as: Buy a tank, mix up some saltwater and throw in a bunch of pretty fish and coral. Not quite the case. So let's think about a few basic things.

First, let me state, saltwater tanks are easy! You just need some basic knowledge of how the eco system works. A good local fish store will spend the time teaching you, along with showing you great web sites and books that we know will give you the right information. We'll also share our experience about fish compatibility and when you should be putting these creatures in their new homes. That knowledge is priceless. As a store owner I have seen well-intentioned people make mistakes that cost these animals their lives due to misinformation or no information at all.

Next, consider how much space you have. Yes, there is more stability in a larger tank, but not if you can't care for it. The size is important so we can figure out the best filtration for your tank. A drilled, or reef ready tank is best for saltwater.

Fishing Nemo

That's where holes are drilled through the bottom or back of the tank so you can use a sump below your tank for filtration. But a hang-on-the-back filter can also be used. Just make sure it's over-sized for the tank. Remember, water movement is important for saltwater. So one or two good power heads, plus a heater, thermometer, a




hydrometer for checking your salinity, and appropriate lighting are also basic items for setting up your tank properly.

We now like to use live sand and live rock in setting up our tanks. Yes, it's alive!! It's alive with lots of bacteria and fun creepy crawly things that help the new tank become a more stable environment. Live rock acts like a living filter in the tank, along with keeping fish occupied and giving them a sense of safety.

Now it's time to slowly start adding fish. Not slow as in a month later. Once your water meets all the proper criteria and has tested no ammonia or nitrite, we want to put in an appropriate number of good hardy fish to start helping build that bacteria bed. Patience is critical here and truly pays off. Within just a couple of months you can have a tank with some amazingly colorful and personality-filled fish and invertebrates.

Just a quick word on corals. Corals are animals. They can eat, protect themselves, reproduce and sometimes move. Their colors are incredible and the varieties are endless. I personally love them the most! If corals are something you would like now or later, gear your tank for them. Lighting will be the most important factor, along with making sure all your other underwater pets won't eat them! There is enough basic information on the internet, along with a couple stores in Asheville and Black Mountain that can help you make all the right decisions.

I invite you to stop by and just look at what can be in your home. You won't need to watch those television shows anymore! 

Shawn Chase owns Mountains to Sea Aquariums on Sweeten Creek Road in Asheville.



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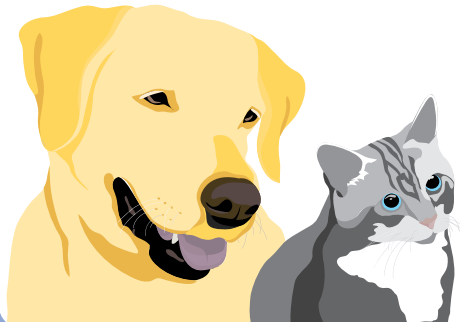
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Run for the Paws

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, which organizes this event, doesn't just allow dogs to participate. It encourages them. The family friendly festivities will be at Fletcher Park in Fletcher, and the running or walking around the park, with or without the family Fido, will begin at 1:30pm.

The runners will go off first on their 5K run, followed by walkers going a mile. Along with all the running around, there will be a Wagging Wellness Fair for people and pets from 1:30 to 4:30pm. Live music, lots of food, and doggie games and nail trims will be there for all, plus awards for some. There will also be a pet vendor area offering all kinds of products and services for pets and their owners alike.

Registration is \$25 until March 31, and \$30 from April first through fifth. Details and registration forms are at www.bwar.org.

Run for the Paws is sponsored by American Backcountry, Doc Chey's Noodle House, Hunter Subaru, Charlotte Street Computers, Foot RX Running Asheville, Fox Dental Associates, and PetCo.

Release Your Inner Animal

You can have a great time and help a great cause at this party thrown on Thursday, April 11 by Asheville Affiliates to benefit Animal Compassion Network.

The party will be at *The Mill Room*, the

new event space of the Asheville Brewing Co. at 66 Asheland Avenue in downtown Asheville. The jungle themed event will be an animal costumed evening welcoming foxes, wolves, and zebras of all stripes. There will be vegetarian and vegan hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants, accompanied by wine and Catawba Brewing Co. beer provided by Skyland Distributing.

The live music styling of local favorite DJ Marley will provide a sound foundation for dancing, while a party animal photo booth will capture images of Asheville's unique wildlife. A fundraising raffle, offering dozens of items donated by local businesses and artists, will also be part of the evening's activities.

Tickets to Release Your Inner Animal can be purchased at www.animalcompassionnetwork.org for \$20 in advance, or for \$25 at the door.

The Asheville Affiliates are a young professionals group that hosts "Parties with a Purpose" to benefit local non-profits.

Yappy Hours


The first of these two hour events will be at Edna's on Merrimon Avenue from 5:30-7:30pm on Thursday, April 18th. The second will be at Frankie Bones-Gerber Village off Hendersonville Road on Thursday, May 30th, again from 5:30-7:30pm. Both benefit the Asheville Humane Society.

Visitors can enjoy food and beverages compliments of the host venue and sponsors, and meet AHS volunteers with some loveable, adoptable pets. They can also interact with sponsors Paramount Kia of Asheville, Radio Station Mix 96.5, "today's best variety", and PetCo, Asheville's pets lover's resource. Admission is \$10. For details, visit www.Mix965Asheville.com.

Pawject Runway

Inspired by the popular TV show "Project Runway", the young women of Girl Scout Troop 17 will present the first-ever, supply-raising doggie fashion show, Pawject Runway. The event will be on Sunday, April 21st in the parking lot of Hair of the Dog groomers from noon until 4pm.

Hair of the Dog will provide free nail trims to the dogs of those who donate supplies for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Live music will be provided by City Limits, and Brother Wolf volunteers will have dogs for adoption. For a complete list of the kinds of donations needed, go to www.bwar.org.

Each of the Girl Scouts has spent a minimum of 50 hours on the pawject in an effort to win a Silver Award for Troop 17, the second highest in Girl Scouting. Their time was spent designing, making and fitting their fashions to their four legged friends. The canine models will parade the "runway" at 2pm. 

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AKC Dog Show Coming June 8-9

Show chairwoman Barbara Finch of Hendersonville expects there will be over 1000 dogs representing over 100 of the 177 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) at the spring 2013 All-Breed Dog Show of the Asheville Kennel Club.



Show Chair Barbara Finch, left, and Judge Audrey Lycan, right, with 2012 Asheville Kennel Club All-Breeds Best in Show winning Whippet, DC Ableaim Que The Music MC.

The show will be the 79th run by the local AKC affiliated club, and include contestants from all seven recognized groups – Working, Sporting, Non-Sporting, Hound, Herding, Terrier, and Toy. Judges and entrants for the 2012 show came from all over the United States and participants in the 2013 show are expected to represent that same geographic diversity. There is no entrance fee for spectators at the show,

which runs from 8am to 5pm both days, but there is a \$5 parking fee. The show will be held in the 45,000 square foot Davis Event Center, one of several facilities in the WNC Agricultural Center complex. Davis is fully air-conditioned and has a restaurant for the convenience of visitors.

Finch, who is chairing the show for the second time, pointed out that dogs from the tiniest Chihuahua to the biggest Newfoundland will be represented. She also said that the show provided a great chance for those interested in finding the right dog for themselves. Visitors can walk the aisles and chat with breeders and handlers about the pros and cons of the breeds they deal with. Instead of having to drive around the WNC area, or all of North Carolina, to meet with breeders, prospective puppy purchasers can meet many breeders at one location.

In addition to all the competitors, the All-Breed Dog Show will have about 20 vendors on hand. They will be offering everything from custom collars and leashes to specialty dog foods. Several artists will also be there to get commissions for dog portraits, a popular gift in the canine-loving world.

Although registrations had just started to come in at PetGazette press time, Finch felt that the show would probably follow past years and attract an especially high number of Golden Retriever and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel entrants. The former breed was the third most popular purebred

dog in the country in 2012, based on AKC registrations. The latter breed has so many enthusiasts in the Asheville area that there is a breed club, and many Cavalier owners are expected to enter their dogs in the show.

Judging for the show will follow the



2012 Best in Junior Showmanship winner Charles McDonnell of Greensboro, N.C. with Judge Sharon Clark and Pointer, CH Springpoint

standard AKC procedure. The contestants in each breed will be judged against each other to determine Best of Breed. Then the Best of Breeds will compete for the Best of Group title in their respective groups. Finally, the Best of Group winners compete against each other for the Best in Show title. Judging for the seven Group winners will take place roughly between 2pm and 3pm on Sunday, June 9th, with the Best in Show competition following about 4:30pm. 🐾

Local Cocker Conquers Westminster Show

by Jim Marks

GCH Seemarnan Its Time To Party At Maroxy's, aka Lance, did Asheville and handler Elizabeth Mulvey proud by winning Best of Variety at Westminster Kennel Club's 137th annual dog show, the Super Bowl of the canine world.

Lance qualified for the Westminster show by winning the national specialty (single breed) title for his variety of American cocker spaniel. Mulvey, who has been showing cocker spaniels for 20 years, said that her February trip to New York was her first visit to the Westminster show in ten years. She explained that while regional specialty shows might draw a hundred or so competitors, a national specialty show will draw the best dogs from around America and the world. "Maybe 400 or more," she said.

The three and a half year old Lance is Parti-Colored, one of the three American cocker varieties recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). The other two varieties are Black and ASCOB (Any Solid Color Other than Black). The AKC also recognizes English cocker spaniels as a separate species. As is common in the world of purebred dogs, Lance comes from a line of champions. His father, CH Luzana's Look N Tri-If-Ic, earned even more titles than Lance, including his own Best of Variety award at the 2002 Westminster.

Mulvey owns Haw Creek Pet Care, which provides boarding, grooming and day care services.



Elizabeth Mulvey and 2013 Best of Variety, Parti-Colored Cocker Spaniel winner See Mar Nan Its Time to Party at Maroxy, (aka Lance) with judge Jamie Hubbard and Westminster Kennel Club officials.

She has been handling dogs in shows since childhood, when she competed in Junior Showmanship events as an apprentice with different established handlers and different breeds. James, her 10 year old son, is following in her footsteps, and competing in Junior Showmanship himself.

The current plan is for Lance to retire from the show ring to be a family dog, with his hair cut far shorter than for show competition. Mulvey says she is also thinking about training him for agility competitions, but wonders if she is fast enough to direct him. She thinks he could do well in agility. And she knows he has nothing left to prove in the show ring. 🐾



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Home Birthing Considerations

by Jeff Smith, DVM

After years as a veterinarian, some things still surprise me. One of these is clients saying they want their beloved cat or dog to have a litter, either because “it is natural for them to experience being a mother” or because they want their children to experience “the miracle of birth.” But since we already have an overpopulation of cats and dogs, I implore you not to breed your pet!

Get creative. It is possible to have these experiences while still being a responsible steward of these cherished creatures. If you want your children to experience kittens or puppies, foster a motherless litter from the shelter.

Pregnancy and birth are obviously natural events that have been going on - primarily unaided, I will add - for millions of years. But there are inherent risks. I always tell people, “hope for the best, plan for the worst.” Talk to your veterinarian about costs for an emergency c-section and related expenses, as well as costs associated with medical complications of sick animal babies. Ask, too, about controlling external and internal parasites (fleas, ticks and intestinal parasites). Few parasite medications are safe for pregnant or very young animals.

In my clinic, I emphasize nutrition as the foundation of health. So you might imagine that nutrition is vital for a pregnant pet growing anywhere from one to 17 babies “from scratch.” She must have all the building blocks of vibrant health within her own body before she can pass these on to her babies.

If you do plan to breed your pet, pay a visit to one of our locally-owned pet food stores and let these knowledgeable people guide you toward species-appropriate diets and high quality foods. Your pet will have twice the nutritional requirements while she is pregnant and three times those requirements while she is nursing. Do not skimp on nutrition! It is by far *the most important factor* in the health of your pets. What you spend on high quality food you will save many times over on veterinary care! If you don’t believe me, come spend a day in my clinic and see for yourself.

When birth time arrives, watch

for nesting behavior in your pet. And remember that it is completely normal for her to stop eating 24 hours before labor begins. Remember, too, that birth is a very private time. Give your pet solitude! (Yes, that means keeping the children away...) The most important factor in having a smooth birth is giving your female access to a quiet, dark, private part of your house – and then leaving her alone! Interruptions can stall labor – and stalled labor can quickly cause complications. Please, avoid the temptation to be with your pet while she gives birth. Checks should be minimal and brief. In nature, females disappear to a hidden location and give birth at night. They may be domesticated, but their instincts are still the same!

Once the kittens or puppies have all arrived, trust the mother’s instincts. She will remove and eat (yes, eat) the amniotic sacs and placentas. It may seem gross to you, but it is what they have evolved to do and is actually vital to the health of the babies. Keep all the babies with their mother full time. Let them nurse exclusively, remembering that mother’s milk is nature’s “perfect food.”

Let the mother wean the newcomers when *she* is ready, not on your schedule. She will naturally wean them at 7-12 weeks. So leave the babies with their mother until they are weaned and at least 10-12 weeks old. Don’t follow the misguided practice of taking animal babies from their mothers at younger and younger ages “while they are still little and cute.” Or “to give them more time to be socialized in their new home.” The best socialization they can get is being with their littermates and their mother until she weans them. Then they will be physically, nutritionally and developmentally ready to go to their new homes.

If you take away one message from this article, let it be the importance of trusting and allowing the instinctual nature of your pet to be your guide. She knows how to give birth. She is counting on you to trust her for this – and so are her cute, little newborn kittens or puppies! 🐾

Jeff Smith, DVM, and Juli Reeves Smith run *Vetcetera Animal Hospital* on Hendersonville Road.

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As you can see from the photo, Carol and her pal Clancy enjoy their jobs.

Carol has been grooming since 1984, when she apprenticed herself to a show groomer in her home town in Western New York State. Clancy is one of three shop dogs whose job it is to greet visitors, both human and canine. Together they run K-9

Klips Grooming Salon at 148 Weaverville Highway in North Asheville. K-9 Klips has been at this location since Feb. 1, 2000, but Carol has been grooming in Asheville since moving here in 1995. “I love this job”, she said recently. “It lets me spend my days with the animals.” When asked what someone should look for in a groomer, she replied “Definitely ask how long they have been grooming and how they learned. There are no licensing laws in NC, so basically anyone can hang up a sign. Drop in at the shop to see what’s going on there, too.”



Carol Bratz, owner of K-9 Klips on Weaverville Highway, and store mascot Clancy.

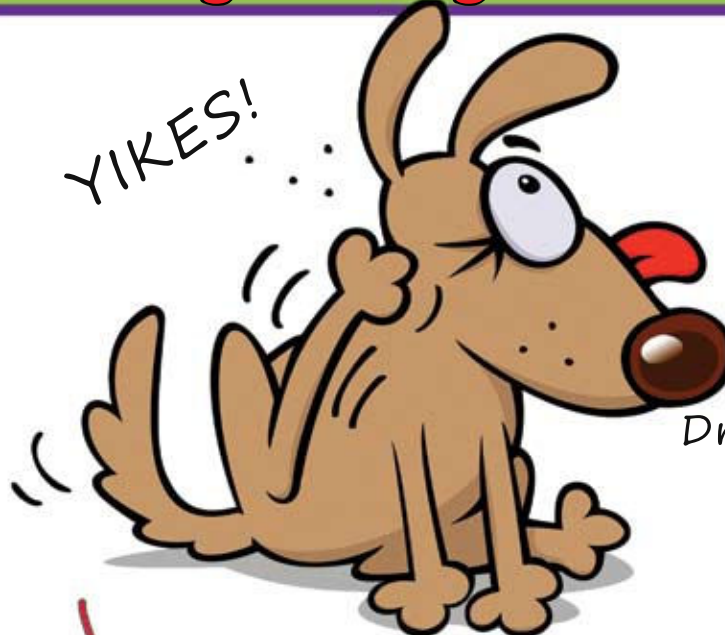
Weaverville Pet Pantry

In back of the counter at Weaverville Pet Pantry is a picture of an adorable Rottweiler puppy. Her name was Lola, and according to store owner Irene Libretto, “she’s one reason we have this store.” At 18 months of age, Lola was diagnosed with two types of untreatable cancer and sent home with not a lot of time to live. Not one to give up easily, Irene sought other remedies. “I changed her diet to ‘clean food’”, Irene said, “adding homeopathic remedies and herbs.” Instead of dying, Lola lived a joyful active life to age 4. “So when we opened the store, we knew we would focus on healthy natural foods. We also carry herbal products, combination homeopathic remedies and flower essences.” And a cornucopia of almost anything a cat or dog (or it’s guardian) could want or need. “This inventory is in response to what the community has asked for – that’s the advantage of a Mom and Pop store.” To visit Mom Irene or Pop Russ, head for the corner of 1 Merrimon Avenue/6 Central Ave. in Weaverville.



Irene Libretto amid treasures at Weaverville Pet Pantry

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Healthy Foaling Basics

by Ted Wright, DVM

All babies evoke joy, but perhaps none quite as much as a newborn horse. After 11 months of gestation, the pregnant mare will typically give birth uneventfully at night while lying down to a healthy foal. This foal will typically stand within an hour and begin to nurse within two hours.

Then this gangly 75 pound newborn will entertain all passersby with silly antics and awkward attempts at running or nursing or even lying down. Over the next several months, her limbs will straighten out; she will gain up to two pounds per day and begin to resemble the horse the owners had dreamed of when they discovered their mare was bred.

However, a lot can go wrong from the last trimester of pregnancy through the foal's first month of life. Expectant horse owners should know what to plan for during this critical time.

The pregnant mare should be kept on a veterinarian recommended parasite control program. She should be in good dental health and vaccinated against equine viral rhinopneumonitis (which can cause abortion) at months five, seven and nine of her pregnancy. Four to six weeks before her anticipated foaling date she should be fully vaccinated (rabies, encephalomyelitis, tetanus, West Nile virus, rhino/flu, etc.) to maximize protective antibodies that will transfer to the foal via her colostrum ("first milk.") I typically recommend deworming

with ivermectin at this time.

Here in the southeast it is extremely important to remove the pregnant mare from fescue pastures for the last 60 to 90 days. This is to prevent fescue toxicity from a fungal toxin which can cause abortion, dystocia (difficulty birthing), and poor milk production. Feeding a non-fescue hay



Newborn foals will stand soon after birth.

also helps to prevent this serious problem. Gradually increasing the mare's diet over the last trimester is important. She will be using more energy nourishing the rapidly growing fetus and, while nursing the newborn foal, will continue to need added nutrition. This will require increased quantities of grains and non-fescue, high-quality hay. Plenty of clean water and a mineral block should be provided at all times. And a clean large stall (12' x 20') or small paddock should be available for the mare to foal.

Over 90% of mares foal normally, typically in 20 to 30 minutes. But, when there is a problem, time is of the essence. Wise owners notify their veterinarian of the foaling so they can arrive quickly if their help is needed. Once born, the foal will normally rise and nurse within two hours. The mare will normally pass the placenta ("afterbirth") within two-three hours as well. A retained placenta (over four hours) is a veterinary emergency. Whenever it is passed, the placenta should be saved, preferably in a trash bag on ice, for the veterinarian to examine. He/she will make sure none of it was left in the mare's uterus, and check for evidence of edema or placentitis.

Nothing is more critical to the health of the newborn than the postpartum exam of both mare and foal, performed 12-24 hours after foaling. Blood will be drawn from the foal for an IgG (antibody) test to see if it absorbed enough antibody (passive transfer) from the colostrum to protect itself from disease. Failure of passive transfer is common and often fatal, so must be detected and corrected early.

There are many risks associated with the foaling process and certainly no guarantees. But, with proper management and a little luck, the rewards can last a lifetime. 🐾

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

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Horses Help Kids at Sweetwater Youth Ranch

by Bev Hughes

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"I cry myself to sleep most every night, but when I come here I don't cry".

These were the words from a beautiful, hazel eyed girl as she stroked Biscuit, our little dark gelding. This little girl is one of the children who visit us here at Sweetwater Youth Ranch. Her words were the kind of fuel I need to keep going, the encouragement that we are on the right track and indeed making a difference.

Our program began as a spark in our hearts ten years ago and slowly grew into a flame. Finally one day my husband said, "We can't wait until we have everything we think we need. We have to start with what we have and trust the Lord to provide what we don't." So, in March 2012, Sweetwater Youth Ranch was born on about four acres in West Asheville with a handful of horses and a pocket full of change.

Looking back, I realize my husband's words were indeed wise. I'm certain now that our step of faith was the right one. We did not have what we needed for all the goals we wanted to accomplish, but we did have enough to begin.

One question we get asked a lot is, "Is our program just for troubled teens?" While this was a question we pondered for a long time ourselves, we chose not to define or target a certain group of children. We feel, instead, that living in a dysfunctional society, all children are a target and can benefit from the Ranch in one way or another. We use a natural method of horsemanship because it is based on communication, trust and respect, which

is the very foundation of a good relationship, the very thing we need more of. Horses are very relational. That's why we say we let the horse be the mentor. They are therapeutic on their own.



safe around them and how to meet the horse's needs, as well as learning basic ground and riding skills. A session would typically start with grooming, then move on to a few ground skills, next saddle, mount and dismount, learn how to put the ground skills to a purpose and finally end with a chore.

At this point our immediate needs are basically simple. Granite Screenings for the riding area, fence repair, shed repair, saddles, and helmets but especially for the rainy spring season, wood chips to cover the two acres where the horses reside. The ideal situation would be to have one acre each for grass, but we can meet the horse's needs on less. Good hay and the right diet will sustain them so gift certificates for feed or donations of good horse hay would be a blessing. All monetary donations are allotted for the general needs of the animals and grounds management unless otherwise designated for the relocation fund. Our main criterion for relocation is the accessibility for the children. Research has shown that similar ministries have far greater success when located within 15 to 20 minutes of a city or town.

The past year we served children from Leicester, West Asheville, Enka-Candler, Mills River and Hendersonville. So we are hoping to relocate somewhere in between in order to continue with these relationships as we make new ones. 🐾

Bev and Phillip Hughes have a website www.sweetwateryouthranch.org. They can be contacted at 828-253-2515 or sweetwateryouthranch@yahoo.com.

During a session, the child has the opportunity to learn about horses, how to be



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Regenerative Cell Therapy for Companion Animals

by Beth Rhyne, DVM, CCRP

Asheville area companion animals can now enjoy the therapeutic benefits of stem-cell treatment. To understand how this therapy speeds healing and reduces pain, it is necessary to first understand how stem cells function.

Adult stem cells, not embryonic stem cells, are used in companion animal therapy. Broadly grouped as *mesenchymal* stem cells, they are found in mature animal tissues such as bone marrow, muscle, and fat. Also called MSCs, these cells serve to repair local tissue trauma. They mature into the various tissue cells needed for self repair. These MSCs can also signal other cells to assist the healing process, and overall can decrease inflammation. Over an animal's life span, s/he uses increasingly greater numbers of the stem cells in daily life and for trauma repair—which is one reason healing becomes slower with age.

Contrary to popular belief, fat actually contains 1000 times more adult stem cells per gram than bone marrow. (Neither contains embryonic stem cells). Fat is also typically easier to collect, due to ample supply, and is generally less painful than bone marrow collection.

Regenerative cell therapy starts with grams of fat being sterilely collected from the patient under general anesthesia. This procedure can often be combined with a surgery such as dental prophylaxis, neuter, spay, or other soft tissue or orthopedic surgery. The harvested tissue is then shipped overnight for processing. An animal needing treatment for a specific joint, tendon, bone, cartilage or ligament injury will

return to the clinic exactly two days later, as the harvested stem cells arrive back at the clinic. The patient is again sedated and the processed cells are injected sterilely into the site of injury or disease. Some cells may be injected into a vein, but this may benefit the targeted areas less.

There also is an option of banking the stem cells for future use. Owners can store the collected adult stem cells in the banking lab for a yearly fee. Banking ensures future treatment options for injuries or joint disease. And, as research evolves, the banked cells may help treat other internal diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, kidney disease, environmental allergies, and immune mediated diseases.

Relief through stem-cell therapy can vary animal to animal, but improvements in pain and lameness are expected a couple of weeks to a couple of months after the injection. For the best outcome, animals should undergo physical rehabilitation during recovery.

In arthritis cases, studies have shown that 50% of dogs will be able to reduce or discontinue the use of anti-inflammatory pain medications (NSAIDS) three months post-treatment, and about 60% of dogs will have reduced or discontinued NSAIDS eight months post-treatment. Long term success can vary from one to two years with one injection, but some animals with severe injury or disease will require a second injection. Approximately 65% of older dogs and 75% of younger dogs do not need re-treatment after the first year post-injection.

Contraindications to stem-cell therapy

include cancer, tumors, and active infections. Currently, due to lack of evidence of effectiveness, stem cell treatment is not recommended for diabetes, neurological disease, or diseases of the heart or eye.

Research using canine MSCs began in the 1990 and therapeutic use has occurred in horses since 2003. Several veterinary stem-cell companies, each offering slightly varying protocols and technology, currently market to veterinarians.

Vet-StemRegenerativeVeterinaryMedicine is one of the original companies founded in 2002. They began providing treatment for dogs in 2004, and have since become a leading force in research and development for the veterinary use of fat-based stem cells. Their California-based stem-cell processing and cell-banking lab facility is highly monitored and enforces rigorous measures to ensure superior quality control. By contrast, many newer veterinary stem-cell companies rely on veterinary clinics to rent and maintain in-house equipment and sterilely process the stem cell material on site. Charlotte Street Animal Hospital is proud to offer stem cell therapy using a Credentialed Vet-Stem Regenerative Veterinary Medicine veterinarian.

When considering this therapy for your beloved furry one, I encourage you to research the pros and cons and consult with an experienced veterinarian.

Beth Rhyne, DVM, CCRP (Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner) practices at Charlotte Street Animal Hospital. She can be reached at www.charlottestreetanimalhospital.com, or 828-232-0440.

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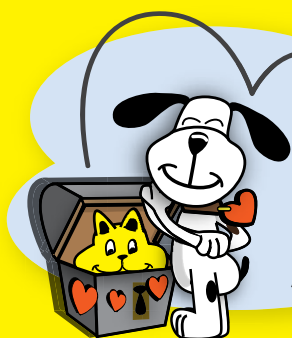
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Momma's Milk Best Kitten Nutrition

by Jenna Yaroush

Let's face it: few things are cuter than a tiny kitten. But they are actually baby carnivores. Remember this when deciding what to feed your new baby kitten!

It is very important for a kitten's long-term health for him or her to stay with mom as long as possible, ideally until 10-12 weeks. Then they can get all the nutrition from mom's milk, and learn how to be a cat from their mom and littermates.

If a kitten is orphaned or abandoned, it is vital to replicate as closely as possible a mother's nutrition. Colostrum, which is passed through mother's milk within the first 72 hours, contains important antibodies that help build the kitten's immunity. A kitten that does not get this is susceptible to illness and disease. A motherless newborn cat needs to get colostrum, either from another mama kitty or from a colostrum donor through their blood. Bovine colostrum can also be used in extreme cases.

If a kitten must be fed for several weeks before weaning, there are a variety of commercial feline milk replacements suitable until the kitten is old enough for solid foods. NEVER use cow's or human's milk or formula. A little bit of yogurt can be added to the milk replacer to help with digestion.



Kittens begin weaning (transitioning from mother's milk to solid food) around four weeks old, and are usually on a solid diet at eight weeks. During this time, it is important to find a high-quality food to help the kitten grow big and strong.

Cats are obligate carnivores, descended from desert animals and designed to eat mice and other small animals. Because of their evolution, cats/kittens do best on high protein, high moisture, and low carbohydrate foods. Raw meat is the ideal diet for a cat, and the

younger you introduce it, the more likely they will be to enjoy it. Canned diets are the next best food after raw. While kibble is the most convenient and least expensive, it is also the least appropriate food for a cat.

Make sure any food you choose is specifically for "Growth" or for "All Life Stages" to ensure that there is an appropriate amount of nutrients to help the kitten grow healthily!

Jenna Yaroush owns the Patton Avenue Pet Company. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Animal Science from the University of Vermont, and a Graduate Certificate from the Humane Society University in Animal Policy and Advocacy.

Pet Poison Alert!

by Jim Marks

According to an article in DVM NEWSMAGAZINE, bromethalin has become the new toxin of choice for rodenticide manufacturers. But bromethalin has no known antidote, unlike the anticoagulants previously used. And bromethalin can only be detected post-mortem.

The magazine advises pet owners to be extra careful when traveling with their pets. Hotels and motels may be using bromethalin rodenticides in places pets could get into. A Samoyed in New York for the recent Westminster Kennel Club dog show might have died because it ate the rodenticide at its motel.

At home, pet owners should be careful when buying or using a rodenticide to be sure it doesn't have bromethalin, and/or is totally inaccessible to their pets. Baits should be placed where rats and mice can get at them, but dogs and cats can't. Look for places in basements and garages that are too high or too small for pets to get into.

Anticoagulants have long been the active ingredient in rodenticides. But in 2008, the EPA issued a regulation prohibiting the use of second-generation anticoagulants in residential settings. That prompted many manufacturers to switch to bromethalin, a neurotoxin. (The makers of d-Con brand rodenticide have refused to comply with the EPA regulations. They continue to use an anticoagulant as their active ingredient.)

Ahna Brutlag, DVM, MS, is a diplomate

of the American Board of Toxicology and assistant director of veterinary services for Pet Poison Hotline (800 213-6680). She believes the EPA rule may make rodenticide poisoning more difficult to diagnose and treat. "We feel like it was well-intentioned, but we've ended up with some really frightening consequences," Brutlag



says. "With anitcoagulants at least we know there is a very effective test and there's an antidote." Vitamin K is the recognized, established

antidote to poisoning with anticoagulant rodenticides.

With anticoagulant poisoning, veterinarians had three to five days before bleeding began – maybe a week before death. Bromethalin poisoning can be fatal in just a couple of days.

Now that the bromethalin products are in the marketplace, Brutlag concedes it could be difficult to return to preregulation standards. She thinks the best solution may be to simply educate pet owners and veterinarians, so she travels the country giving lectures on the dangers of rodenticide poisoning.

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Me and Remy on PEF

by John Faherty, DC

Years ago when I injured my knee, (ACL and medial meniscus), surgery was not a good option. So I endured the pain of arthritis settling in, discomfort whenever I walked, and limitations on doing many things I loved doing. Then along came PEMF! (Pulsed Electro Magnetic Force)

I borrowed a PEMF machine, and after using it daily for two weeks, my knee pain was dramatically reduced. I could exercise enough to rehab my knee without surgery. Since then, I have used this excellent therapy on many people, and, through my affiliation with several veterinary offices, am now using it with animals - mostly dogs, some horses, and some cats.

PEMF is a small electric current targeting a specific area (i.e. spine, knee, neck, elbow) which induces biochemical changes that promote healing. It reduces inflammation, increases wound healing, and controls pain (including degenerative arthritis, etc.). It would be used in conditions that your veterinarian would use anti-inflammatory and pain meds. Easy to use, it is painless, and can be done at home with portable units. **PEMF is non-invasive,**

non-pharmacological, and has no adverse effects. Visit www.assisianimalhealth.com for information on their targeted PEMF device. Their research is solid.

PEMF is used on top canine athletes to lessen their post-competition pain levels; on older animals that have difficulty

a bit depressed, which was understandable, because he was limited in running and he is, after all, a Golden Retriever. Daily Cosequin and occasional Rimadyl were helping, but his quality of life was definitely suffering.

In addition to chiropractic treatment for Remmy, I also recommended that the owners use PEMF at home. They did, and there was wonderful improvement! He now moves with greater ease, and has a dramatically improved quality of life. He still has some old dog problems, but Remmy also has greatly increased movement and decreased pain. And his humans are joyful to see him doing so well.

Ask your veterinarian if PEMF could help your dog or cat. 🐾

Dr. John Faherty has been providing chiropractic care to humans since 1985, and animals since 1996. He is dedicated to helping individuals and their animals enjoy an improved quality of life as they age and recover from life's injuries. He served for many years on the Board of Directors of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). He is affiliated with a growing number of veterinary offices in Asheville, Swannanoa, and Dillsboro. Dr. John can be reached at drjohn@main.nc.us or 828-712-8017.



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Where can I get baby chicks?

There are a number of companies, called hatcheries, which will mail chicks as soon as they hatch. The advantage of hatcheries is the wide variety of breeds, colors and patterns they offer. On the negative side, many require you to order 15 or more chicks at a time. But you can arrange a group order with others if you just want 4-6 chicks.

Local feed stores will often only carry just a few breeds, but you are able to pick out the specific chicks you want to take home. Local breeders and Craigslist are other sources for chicks.

What will I need to raise baby chicks?

You will need a brooder, which is a safe place to keep the chicks warm, draft-free, watered, and fed. You can buy or build elaborate brooders, but you can also simply use a large plastic tote or large cardboard box. Be certain to have the right size for the number of chicks you will be raising. You will also need a lid with air vents for when they are a little bit older, as they will try to jump out to explore.

Place pine shavings or shredded paper several inches deep across the bottom of the brooder, and place paper towels on top for the first 24-48 hours to prevent chicks from eating the bedding. You must have a red heat lamp over the brooder for warmth. The temperature, which

you can monitor via placing a thermometer in the brooder, needs to be at 95° Fahrenheit for the first week and then reduced by 5 degrees each week until the chicks are completely covered with feathers.

You will need a waterer and a feeder designed for chicks. When you first receive your chicks, dip their beaks in the waterer and then place them in front of the feeder,



one by one. This is how they learn what it is. Remember, you are mama to the chicks. Have all needed items set up and ready to go before the chicks arrive.

What do I feed chicks?

A chick starter feed should be fed to all chicks until they are six weeks old. You can get different types of starter feed - Medicated, Natural or Organic - at your local feed store.

Vaccinations against diseases are available

when you order your chicks from hatcheries and some breeders will administer vaccinations to the chicks they hatch. Personally, I have our flock vaccinated against Mare's disease.

Some Final Chick Comments.

Handle your chicks daily. Spending time with them when they are young will get them used to being around people. I also suggest you research breeds of chickens before purchasing your chicks. If you live within the Asheville City limits or if you only want chickens for eggs, make sure you only purchase pullets (females) and not straight runs (males and females).

Here are some websites to use for research: www.BackyardChickens.com; www.UrbanChickens.com; and www.facebook.com/AshevilleCityChicken's Facebook page. Here are several books that have great advice on raising chicks: *Chick Days:*

An Absolute Beginners Guide to Raising Chickens from Hatching to Layin;; *Backyard Chickens for Beginners*; and *Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens*.

Welcome to the world of chickens! 

For the past five years, Amy Carlson-Jacko and her family have been raising baby chicks until they are ready for their new families. You can contact her at sassychickymama@gmail.com or at her Facebook page www.facebook.com/sassychickymama.

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All the art cats are pre-named. And each one is weighted – appropriately enough - with kitty litter, so it won't be blown off your furniture. In keeping with Asheville's environmental ethos, the cats are made from up cycled materials such as – appropriately enough – cat food containers. All are made by artists who exhibit at Woodfin's Common Ground gallery.



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Irish Wolfhounds 6ming

by Jim Marks

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) will have its annual Specialty at Asheville's Crowne Plaza Hotel from Monday, April 29th through Thursday, May 2nd. It will be the 84th Specialty event for the breed, which has been recognized by the American Kennel Club since 1897.

A Specialty for any breed attracts the finest of its kind – and only its kind – from all over the country, and perhaps other countries. The Best of Breed winner gains fame, fortune, and an invitation to compete in the Westminster show in New York, the Super Bowl of dogdom.

Irish Wolfhounds are the tallest of all dogs, standing 34" or more at the shoulder, and are swift and powerful. Their history

goes back as far as 391A.D. when they were mentioned by Roman occupiers. Born to hunt wolves and Irish elk, the Irish have long described them as “gentle when

stroked, fierce when provoked.” The breed was almost extinct by the 19th century, but has made a comeback in the United States. It is now most commonly a family companion dog.

The 2013 Irish Wolfhound Specialty will get underway at 7am on Monday, April

29th. People and hounds will leave their Crowne Plaza accommodations and travel to the Taylor Ranch on Cane Creek Road in Fletcher. There the day's events will include obedience, rally, and ASFA lure coursing – a sporting event in

which hounds chase a mechanical lure – developed by the American Sighthound Field Association. There will also be a puppy sweepstakes at 1pm.

Back at the Crowne Plaza on Tuesday and Wednesday regular conformation classes will be judged starting at 9am and ending when necessary. It is expected that most of the wolfhound males, and perhaps some bitches, will have been seen by end of day on Tuesday. The balance of wolfhound classes will be judged on Wednesday. Best of Breed and Non-Regular Classes will be judged on Thursday.

IWCA show chair Bambi Rabe said

that the group was really looking forward to visiting Asheville. She pointed out that the Crowne Plaza is a popular venue for many breed specialty shows, and that the Biltmore Estate has been especially helpful to visiting club members. “Many of our people are planning to stay on after the show to enjoy all there is in Asheville,” she said. She also pointed out that the Asheville Kennel Club was helping provide equipment for the obedience and rally competitions. “We really feel welcome in Asheville,” she said.

Further information is available at www.IWCA2013.com.



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Dog Park Backers Move Forward

Supporters of the establishment of a new dog park in North Asheville moved forward with their organizing efforts by establishing four committees to address specific issues. The committees were promotions and publicity, fundraising, site design, and property research and investigations.

City Councilman Chris Pelly reported to the group on progress toward finding and securing a location for the park that would be more accessible and convenient for North Asheville residents. Bob Roepnack of Asheville Parks and Greenways updated the group on the financial management of donations by a not-for-profit organization. Supporters will need a way to properly

collect, manage and report income and disbursements once fundraising for the park is started.

The group decided that future general meetings would be held on the first Monday of every other month, with committee meetings on the months in-between. The next general meeting will be at the Meeting Room of Animal Hospital of North Asheville at 7pm on Monday, May 6th. For further information, or to join the group, contact Julie Maccarin or Nancy Alenier at nadogpark@gmail.com, or Chris Pelly at chrispelly@avlcouncil.com. The dog park supporters also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northashevilledogpark.



Most Popular Breeds

Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherd continued in first and second place, respectively, in 2012, according to the American Kennel Club rankings. The Lab led the pack for the 22nd straight year, tying with the Poodle for longest reign on the throne.

The Golden Retriever leapt back into the top three, switching places with the Beagle, 2011's number three. Farther down the list, the Bulldog jumped over the Yorkshire Terrier to fifth place, and the Rottweiler stepped over the Dachshund.

2012 Most Popular U.S. Dogs

1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Golden Retriever
4. Beagle
5. Bulldog
6. Yorkshire Terrier
7. Boxer
8. Poodle
9. Rottweiler
10. Dachshund



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- Focus on preventative medicine
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Monday-Friday
8am-5pm



Bring this ad in for \$5 off your first visit! Expires 5/31/13

Saturday, April 6, 2013

B.Y.O.B. Trivia Night

BRING YOUR OWN BRAIN

Exercise your brain for homeless animals at this fun-filled evening of trivia! Each table competes for the coveted bragging rights of being the smartest team helping homeless pets (well, and a cash prize!)

WHERE : Asheville Event Centre

221 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803

WHEN : Saturday, April 6, 2013

Doors open at 6:30pm | Trivia starts at 7:15pm

WHY : 100% of proceeds

benefit Asheville Humane Society's Foster Program

Table of eight: \$120 (\$15 per person) • Cash Bar
Cash Prizes for 1st & 2nd place • 50/50 drawings
Wine Grab & Silent Auction • Complimentary Snacks

You **MUST** pre-register at ashevillehumane.org or by phone at 828.761.2001 x 310

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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.

Aquarium Fish & Supplies

Blue Ridge Reef & Pet (E) pg. 12
Mountain to Sea Aquariums (MA) pg. 16

Artists

Pomeroy Animal Portraiture (M) pg. 6

Daycare

Dog House Doggie Daycare (N) pg. 16

Food & Supplies

K9Kraving Dog Food pg. 5
By Nature World's Best Cat Litter pg. 17
By Nature Pet Foods pg. 15

Groomers

Animal House (N) pg. 9
Arden TLC Groomers (S) pg. 18
Buckeye Kennels (E) pg. 18
Blue Ridge Kennels (N) pg. 12
Calling All Cats (M) pg. 4
Canine Shear Heaven (MA) pg. 7
Elena The Groomer (S) pg. 6
Groom With a View (E) pg. 12
Haw Creek Pet Care (E) pg. 14
K-9 Klips (N) pg. 11
Shampoodles (S) pg. 3
Shear n Shine (N) pg. 8
WNC Pet Spa (W) pg. 16

Health & Wellness

Canine & Equine Chiropractic Care (MA) pg. 10
Animal Acupuncture & Pain Relief Clinic (N) pg. 9

Kennels

Blue Ridge Kennels (N) pg. 12
Buckeye Kennels (E) pg. 18
Haw Creek Pet Care (E) pg. 14

Petsitters

The Asheville Area Professional Pet Sitters Association (M) pg. 8
ZZag Petsitting / Taxi (M) pg. 14

Pet Loss

4 Paws Farewell Hospice and Home Euthanasia (M) pg. 19
Best Friends Pet Cemetery and Crematorium (W) pg. 19

Photographers

Andrew Wayne: Pets and their People (M) pg. 15

Real Estate

KW Real Estate (MA) pg. 12
Ken Blank, Realtor

Restaurants (pet friendly)

Edna's of Asheville (N) pg. 9

Stores (Food, Nutrition, Supplies)

Blue Ridge Reef & Pet (E) pg. 12
Mountain to Sea Aquariums (MA) pg. 16
Patton Avenue Pet Company (W) pg. 3
The TailGait Market (W) pg. 8
Treasured Pets (W) pg. 13
Weaverville Pet Pantry (N) pg. 6

Trainers

Asheville Dog Rehabilitation (S/M) pg. 13
Woof in the Woods (S) pg. 20

Veterinarians

4 Paws Farewell (M) pg. 19
All Pets Animal Hospital (N) pg. 6
And Rehabilitation Center
Biltmore Veterinary Clinic (S) pg. 18
Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital (E) pg. 12
and Equine Services
Charlotte Street Animal Hospital (N) pg. 16
Pet Vet on Patton (W) pg. 7
R.E.A.C.H. Animal Emergency Hospital (W) pg. 3
Vetcetera Animal Hospital (S) pg. 10
Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery (S) pg. 4

Remember Bruno

by Greg Forsythe



We had over 30 pet names for him. For 13 years he protected and comforted us; for a few months we cared for him so closely that we became a part of his physical being. No closer bond has ever graced our lives. All the things dogs do, he did. Many of the ailments dogs have, he had. Most of the remedies that dogs can get, he got. Never once, not even when he was walking on a double compound leg fracture while healing from ACL surgery, did Mr. B. even whimper.

When we were hurt, and our "bud" was within 100 yards, he was first on the scene. And nobody came onto his two acres of Blue Ridge mountainside without his permission: never aggressive, but always the assertive eminence. Everyone loved Bruno. In the end, we had to soothe his fear and still his pain by releasing him from his disabled body, but before we really wanted to part. Did he decide that morning to let his body fail enough so that our guilt would be assuaged? Was that a last protective act of his love or of a Power Greater than We?

Our canine companions have but one mission: to teach us to love.

If love is truth and truth is beauty, then Bruno was Beauty, now become Glory in the spirit. Our hearts reside with him. 🐾



Remember your beloved pet here

This page of Pet Gazette has been dedicated to providing a place for you to honor your companion animal who has gone on before you. In his wonderful book "Going Home: Finding Peace When Pets Die", John Katz writes that a powerful means of working through grief is to memorialize our pets by telling stories. This page is where to tell your pet's story. Please send an email to publisher. petgazette@gmail.com to discuss your submission. 🐾

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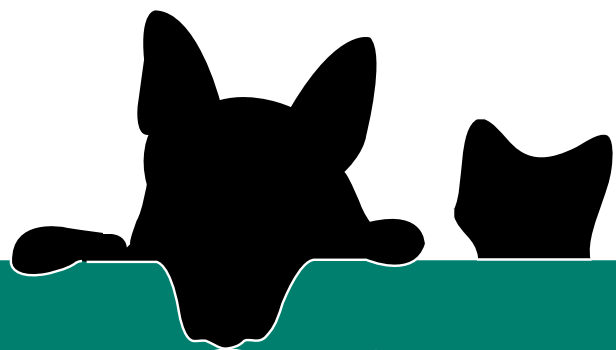


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