

# PetGazette

Western North Carolina

September-October 2015

Volume 4 - Issue 5

## Events

AKC Obedience  
Agility Trials  
Bark in the Park  
Blessing of the  
Animals  
Costume Parades  
Doggie Dip  
Howl-Ins

## Health

Canine Flu  
Pet Food Buy-outs  
Microchips  
Skin

Sugar Gliders  
Wolfdogs  
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Events Calendar



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

Penelope Lane dances for foster Mom Caroline Gunther of WAG! (Story page 13)

# Calendar of Events September-October 2015

## September

**Sat. - 9/5 - 3-6pm.** Howl-In at Full Moon Farm, Black Mountain, NC. Stroll 17 acre sanctuary, meet and learn about wolfdogs. Potluck dinner available for \$5. Gift den. [info@fullmoonfarm.org](mailto:info@fullmoonfarm.org), 828 664-9818.

Also October 3 and November 7.

**Sun. - 9/6 - 11am-2pm.** BWAR Adoption Event at Ace Hardware, Merrimon Ave., Asheville. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Thu. - 9/10 - 5-7pm.** Yappy Hour at Moe's Original Barbecue in Woodfin. Dogs and owners welcome. AHS will have dogs for adoption. Good time will be had by all. 828 761-2001 or [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org).

**Sat. - 9/12 - 12-5pm.** Doggie Dip at Recreation Park Pool, 65 Gashes Creek Road, Asheville. Dogs 35 lbs. and under - 12-2pm, 36 lbs and up, 2:30-5pm. \$5 per dog in advance, \$10 day of event, fee includes one handler. Dogs must have current vaccinations, be spayed/neutered. More at [ashevilenc.gov/parks](http://ashevilenc.gov/parks) or 828 259-5800.

**Sat. - 9/12 - 10am-12pm.** Meet BWAR adoptable pets at "Midnight's Run - A Walk for Suicide Awareness"

at East Henderson High School, East Flat Rock. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Sat. - 9/12 - 2-5pm.** BWAR Adoption Event at Highland Brewery, 12 Old Charlotte Highway, Asheville.

**Sat. - 9/12 & Sun. - 9/13 - 11am-5pm.** Fall Adoption Weekend at Petsmart, 150 Bleachery Blvd., Asheville. BWAR and many other rescue groups will have dogs, cats, kittens and puppies to meet. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Sun. - 9/13 - 5-7pm.** BringFido Yappy Hour at Aloft Hotel, 51 Biltmore Ave., Asheville. Pups and people socialize in lobby bar and lounge. Prizes for some, doggie swag bags for all doggies. 877-411-3436, [ace@bringfido.com](mailto:ace@bringfido.com).

**Sun. - 9/13 - 10am-6pm.** Tattoo fundraiser at Freaks and Geeks Tattoo Sideshow on Haywood Road. \$40 designs, 100% proceeds to AHS. Adoptable kittens on site. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Wed. - 9/16 - 5:30-7:30pm.** "The Fine Art of Yappy Hour" at Aloft Downtown Hotel, 51 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville. AHS in partnership with Asheville Art Museum. Drinks and appetizers. \$5 donation. Dogs welcome. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Thu. - 9/17 - 6-10pm.** Brews and Brains: Quiz for a Cause trivia contest

at The Millroom, Asheland Ave., Asheville to benefit AHS. Info and tickets at [ashevillemillroom.com](http://ashevillemillroom.com).

**Fri. - 9/18 - 7am-7pm.**

AKC Agility Trials at Haywood County Fairgrounds, 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville for all breeds and mixed breeds. Hosted by Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association. [wcdfa.org](http://wcdfa.org). Also Sat. and Sun. - 9/19, 9/20.

**Sat. - 9/19 - 12-4pm.** BWAR Adoption Event at Tractor Supply, Lakeside Plaza, 121 Paragon Parkway, Waynesville. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Sat. - 9/19 - 7am-7pm.** AKC Agility Trials, Waynesville. See 9/18.

**Sun. - 9/20 - 7am-7pm.** AKC Agility Trials, Waynesville. See 9/18.

**Sat. - 9/26 - 11am-3pm.** BWAR Adoption Event at Dancing Bear Toys on Tunnel Rd., Asheville. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Sat. - 9/26 - All day, starting 10am.** BWAR Adoption Event at Hellbilly Hootenanny at A Broken Spoke, 874 Riverside Drive, Asheville. Admission \$20, kids under 13 free. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org), 828 505-3440.

**Sun. - 9/27 - 12-2pm.** Heart of Horse Sense tour, therapeutic horsemanship demonstration, volunteer orientation. 6919 Meadowtown Rd., Marshall. 828 649-7064.

## October

**Sat. - 10/3 - 3-6pm.**

Howl-In at Full Moon Farm, Black Mountain, NC. See 9/5.

**Sun. - 10/4 - 1-5pm.**

Bark in the Park at Mark Watson Park, Sylva, NC.

Blessing of the Animals, search and rescue demo, dancing dogs, therapy Dogs, rescue groups, vendors, more. Raffle with proceeds to Paws for Patriots to train service dogs for veterans. Sponsored by Jackson County Recreation and Parks and Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association. [www.wcdfa.org](http://www.wcdfa.org).

**Thu. -**

**Fri. - 10/9 thru Sun. - 10/11.**

Ultimate Air Dogs dock diving at Asheville Outlets. Proceeds to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Friday 5-7pm, Saturday 1-3pm and 5-7pm, Sunday 1-3pm.

Details at [ShopAshevilleOutlets.com](http://ShopAshevilleOutlets.com)

**Sun. - 10/11 - 5-7pm.**

Howl-O-Ween Social at Aloft Hotel, 51 Biltmore Ave., Asheville.

**Sat. - 10/31** Boo Bash Costume Parade to benefit Asheville Humane Society. Details at [ShopAshevilleOutlets.com](http://ShopAshevilleOutlets.com).


**Legend:** AHS=Asheville Humane Society AKC=Asheville Kennel Club BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue CAAR=Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue CPPI = Community Partnership for Pets HKC=Hendersonville Kennel Club WNCDDFA = Western North Carolina Dog Fanciers Association


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*Kam Parker, Certified Master Physical Fitness Specialist, The Cooper Institute of Aerobic Research, is a Personal Trainer with over 25 years of combined experience in weight loss, weight lifting, fat-burning, endurance training, rehabilitation, injury recovery, and motivation! Partner April Dennis, a Cooper Institute Certified Personal Trainer, has 12 years experience in personal transformation. If your pet is asking you to have more energy, contact The Fire at 505-7080, [Kam@havefunburnfat.com](mailto:Kam@havefunburnfat.com), or visit the studio at 736 Tunnel Road.*



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# PetGazette 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. **Red indicates a Hendersonville location.** Please refer to ads in this issue for details and contact information.

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# PetGazette

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# Microchip Saves Lost Lollypop

by Kathryn R. Gubista

Imagine your best friend of over three years suddenly leaving one day, unannounced, and never being seen again. You find yourself utterly heartbroken and devastated. You are confused because you have spent every single day in the company of your best friend, but now she is gone. To make matters worse, you cannot contact her and she cannot contact you. You cannot call her cell phone or send an email. What is most tragic is that your friend did not mean to leave your life. She dreams of being home by your side, but she cannot do it on her own. She cannot ask anyone for help. She is truly lost and needs help.

This unfortunate scenario can become a living nightmare for those unfortunate pet owners. There are countless reasons why dogs are lost, typically caused by some unpredicted mishap. For instance, loud noises, like thunder, terrorize dogs and make them run for the hills during storms or fireworks. However, dogs do not run away only out of fear. Many dogs love to run because it is fun. A dog's natural canine instinct is to run and chase squirrels, bunnies and other little, unsuspecting creatures. Dogs will take off in hot pursuit after their "prey toys". It is all fun and games to them, until they are lost and have no clue how to get back home.

Then there are dogs who are consummate wanderers. No yard can hold them. Their playground is the world, and they are up for an adventure. Lolly (short for Lollypop) is an example of the consummate wanderer. Lolly is a strong, athletic, 3 1/2 year mix of Australian Shepherd, Blue Tick Heeler and/or Coonhound. Her favorite pastime of jumping the fence to roam the neighborhood



Lolly in Summer 2015.

developed into a real problem this summer. Her silly mischief turned into heartbreak on Memorial Day Monday, 25 May, 2015, when she jumped the fence of her North Asheville yard and disappeared. Friends and family attempted to find her, but she was nowhere.

Days turned into weeks and Lolly's family gave up hope. They packed up and moved across North Carolina to settle

in Raleigh. However, on 22 July, over 8 weeks after Lolly's departure, her family received a call from a shelter in Winston-Salem, 150 miles east of Asheville. Lolly was wandering the area without any tags and without a human. Luckily, the shelter scanned for a microchip and notified her family. Her journey, covering 150 miles over 2 months, is unknown. However, this journey would not have had a "happy ending" if not for the tiny microchip embedded in her skin.

Having a microchip implanted in your pet can help your lost dog find its way home. Microchips are painless for both dogs and human pocketbooks, and can help you avoid the pain of losing your best friend forever. Shelters nationwide report a greater return-to-owner rate when animals are microchipped versus when not. However, it is critical to register the microchip in the national database to be of any real value. Please microchip your pets - for the love of dog.

*Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD offers concierge training from The Dog's Perspective through Lucky Dog Training LLC and has over 30 years of training experience in obedience, tracking, agility, sheepherding, dock diving and fieldwork. Kathryn is an evolutionary biologist and teaches a diversity of biology courses in higher education settings.*

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# Obedience Club teaches, tests, donates

by Darlene Colmar

The Obedience Club of Asheville (OCA) offers four eight-week-long training classes for both puppies and adult dogs beginning in September, January, March and June. The goal of the classes is to improve the owner/dog bond and to teach the dog to be well behaved in all situations. The fee for the eight classes is \$80, which covers facility rental, expenses, the November Obedience Trial, and OCA donations to Meals on Wheels and other charities. All instructors volunteer their time.

Classes follow an AKC-approved curriculum. Puppies and owners can earn the S.T.A.R. award (Socialization, Training, Activity, Responsibility) and owners and adult dogs can earn the CGC award (Canine Good Citizen). In both classes, training includes walking nicely on a leash, paying attention to their owner, coming when called, walking around distractions, obeying commands, and being polite with people and other dogs.

In class, owner and dog meet new challenges each week. One example is the tunnel, basically a giant "slinky" covered in nylon fabric that stretches to about ten feet. At first, most dogs are leery to go through the tunnel, even at its shortest. The dogs are encouraged with words and treats and allowed the choice to enter the tunnel, rather than being forced. Each week the tunnel is expanded and

by the last class, most dogs are able to run through two tunnels attached together, with the far end not even visible where the dogs enter. Allowing the dog to choose to accept a challenge without force builds confidence and deepens trust with the owner.

**November Trial.** OCA holds an AKC all-breed obedience trial in November at which about a hundred handlers and dogs can earn



OCA Training Director Darlene Colmar and Izzie.

legs toward AKC titles. AKC licensed judges will come from all over the United States for the 2015 trial on November 7 and 8. Some owners and dogs enter one event, others several. Ribbons, trophies and cash prizes are awarded in levels from Obedience Beginner Novice to Utility Dog Excellent.

**All Dogs Welcome.** Any dog may be entered in an AKC competition if they have a registration number. Forms for registering

dogs are available on the AKC website. Competitors enter by completing a registration form and paying for each event they enter. Years ago, only pedigreed dogs could enter any AKC event. Now, owners of any dog, regardless of age, size or origin may submit paperwork to obtain a registration number.

The Fairview Community Center is OCA's new home for both classes and the trial. Only dogs registered for classes or the trial may attend. Interested spectators are welcome to visit classes or the Trial to learn about dog training and competition.

OCA welcomes new members. To join, participation in one of the public classes is a first step. Next is to attend three club meetings, which occur nine times each year, submit an application and pay the annual membership dues of \$10. In addition to helping with the public classes, members also help in various ways at the November Trial.

**Benefits of Membership.** Club members get to be around people with similar interests and goals. Members also get to train with others who have achieved a higher level of competency and learn from them. Last, but not least, club members can enroll their dogs in the public class at no charge.

For more information or to register for classes, visit [www.obedienceclubofasheville.org](http://www.obedienceclubofasheville.org), call 251-1114 or email [OCA4info@gmail.com](mailto:OCA4info@gmail.com).

*Darlene Colmar is the Training Director for the Obedience Club of Asheville.*



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## The Ever Changing, Ultra Confusing Pet Food Industry

by Larry Jandrew

It seems every day brings some kind of change to the Pet Food Industry, making it extremely difficult for consumers to know what is happening to the pet foods they use.

Large corporations such as Nestle, M&M Mars, and Smackers continue to buy out other pet food companies. M&M Mars (Mars Petcare) just recently purchased all the pet food companies owned by Procter & Gamble (Iams, Eukanuba, Innova, California Natural, Evo). This purchase, plus the other companies they already own, (Nutro, Pedigree, Whiskas, Royal Canin, Cesar, Kitekat, Sheba, Chappi, Frolic, Perfect Fit, Greenies, and Benfield Vet Services), makes them one of the world's largest pet care companies. If you buy any of them, you may want to know how this may affect you in the future.


With 41 brands there is much product duplication. Some are mostly grocery store and big box store brands that seem to come and go according to sales levels. Once brands stop performing they are eliminated, either by the manufacturer or the retailer.

Other products, i.e. Nutri, Innova, and Eukanuba, are higher quality, although very similar to each other. This duplication basically means limited brand growth. So what will probably happen is that some brands will be eliminated. Mars has already announced the termination of the Innova line, and the elimination of several distributors. They are basically going with two distributors nationwide.

In my opinion this is a recipe for disaster. One

surviving distributor does not currently carry all the Mars products, so will have to add the remaining brands. And this will have to be done while trying to keep the retail channels supplied and trying to figure out their own inventory levels. Out of stocks will probably be high, and during the changeover, current suppliers will be letting their inventory sell down before the new distributors gear up. This means you may not be able to get your pets' favorite foods. And more eliminations are inevitable.

This creates a consumer problem. It is difficult and time consuming to follow all the changes. It takes time to figure out which company owns what brands. It also creates questions. When one company buys out another, is it changing the formulas or buying practices?

Most times, little changes in the first year. But then we generally see significant changes to the products of the acquired company. Sometimes for the better, but more often for the benefit of the acquiring company. Any change in your pet's food is important information. That's why Pet Source is adding a site to its web page that lists most of the pet foods and the companies that own them. The additional information will help give you a more secure feeling about what you feed your best friend. For more, visit [www.petsourcenc.com](http://www.petsourcenc.com) or call (828) 698-6910. 

*Larry Jandrew has owned Pet Source since 1999, been in the pet industry for 35 years, and worked closely with most of the pet food companies.*

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## Blessing of the Pets

The fourth annual Blessing of the Pets will take place on Saturday, October 3 on Hendersonville's Laurel Park Green. All will be welcome to bring pet of any kind to be blessed by Pastor Richard Weidler of the First Congregational Church of Hendersonville.

The event was started in memory of Jane Peck, a Hendersonville animal lover and activist, and a long-time church member who passed away in 2012. Peck had introduced the "Paws for Love" therapy program in Henderson County, and also was active in the Foothills Golden Retriever Rescue, the Sandlapper Golden Retriever Club, the Obedience Club of Asheville and a 25 year member of the Hendersonville Kennel Club.

Parking will be available across from the park in the church parking lot at 1735 Fifth Ave. West. Water and pet treats will be provided.



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## Sugar Gliders Not For Everyone

by Dr. Denise Henry, DVM

Sugar gliders have been gaining in popularity as pets for some time now. With a properly educated owner and the right care, sugar gliders can make wonderful pets, but they are not for everyone.

These small creatures are adorable, but their complex nutritional needs, nocturnal nature and a tendency to bite make them challenging pets. The internet is filled with conflicting information, which can make it difficult to decide if a sugar glider is right for you. So here is some basic, factual information on the care and behavior of these fascinating creatures.

Sugar gliders are tiny marsupials that originate from New Zealand and Australia. In their natural habitat they eat a diverse omnivorous diet that changes seasonally. Attempting to recreate their complex diet properly in captivity is difficult. An owner should be dedicated to providing a variety of fresh fruits daily, as well as feeding live insects supplemented with vitamins and calcium. A few suitable commercial diets are available, but, unfortunately, many diets and treats found at the pet store are not nutritionally balanced or appropriate for sugar gliders, (even though the label may claim they are!). Just as the right components of a sugar glider's diet are important, so, too, is the amount of each.

Too much, (or too little), fresh fruit and insects can create nutritional imbalances and obesity. Without the right diet many sugar gliders develop debilitating diseases, including seizures, paralysis, and bone fractures.

***“Sugar gliders  
are social  
creatures...”***

Sugar gliders are social creatures in their natural habitat, and in captivity they do not thrive when housed alone. Ideally, gliders will be kept together from the start, but new gliders can be introduced slowly and successfully, whether they are of the same, or

different, sex. To prevent unwanted breeding, male gliders can be neutered. Although they prefer to be kept in pairs or groups, sugar gliders typically only bond to a few humans. When handled by unfamiliar people they frequently bite, so interaction with young children is not recommended.

As nocturnal, tree-living marsupials, sugar gliders need a large cage space and a home that is conducive to their schedule. Gliders need a quiet environment during the day to sleep, with feeding and play time occurring in the late evening. Cage set-up must allow plenty of space for running, jumping, and climbing, while also providing plenty of hiding spaces to mimic their natural tree environment.

Sugar gliders can be wonderful pets, but they are not for the novice pet owner. Their intricate dietary, housing, and social needs make them challenging pets to say the least. If you are considering one, please

visit the owner information page of the Association of Sugar Glider Veterinarians at [www.ASGV.org](http://www.ASGV.org) for the best current information available. 🐾

*Dr. Denise Henry earned her veterinary degree from the University of Georgia in Athens in 2010. She is a member of the Association of Sugar Glider Veterinarians, and currently practices at Charlotte Street Animal Hospital in Asheville.*



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# Skin Care Important For Pets

by Kim Slagle

Pet owners often ask a lot of questions about why or why not certain products are safe for humans, but not for animals. It's simple: Pets aren't human.

The skin, also called the epidermis, is there to prevent water and nutrients from escaping the body. It also keeps dangerous substances out, for both people and pets. But dog and cat skin is much different from human skin. Human skin is usually 20-25 cells thick. A dog's skin is approximately 6-10 cells thick, about half of a human's. Basically, humans are thick-skinned; pets are thin-skinned and extremely sensitive. So human shampoos, even products designed for babies or adults with sensitive skin, are too harsh for your pets and do cause irritations. They could even burn the skin.

In addition to thickness, another important factor in skin sensitivity is called the acid mantle or the pH level. The acid mantle is a barrier for the skin and protects it from bacteria and viruses. A human's skin pH level is about 4.8, while a dog's skin pH is 7.4. As well we all know, a dog's skin is 95% covered in hair, a human's skin only 5% covered in hair. This means your pet's shampoo should have high alkaline and lower acidic ingredients. But human shampoo has a higher acidic level, which will disrupt the acid mantle on your pet. This allows bacteria to grow on the skin. With that bacteria, we see yeast infections,

staph infections (which smell) and very oily hair. It can also dry the skin and causes scratching. This starts a cycle of bathing more and sending the acid mantle in a tail spin. And you and your pet to the vet's office.

The vicious cycle of scratching, bathing, drying, scratching, bathing, etc. is why groomers suggest a dog-safe conditioner. The conditioner will close the hair cuticle and restore hydration, moisture and elasticity. It also soothes the skin itself, much like adding lotion to your skin.

When shopping for products for your pet, read the labels! Know what the ingredients mean. Make sure there are no artificial fragrances or colors added to the shampoo. Moisturizers should be vitamin E, aloe vera, almond or coconut oil and honey. Fragrances should be natural, like chamomile, lavender, eucalyptus, and citrus. Check for the pH levels or a statement that the pH is appropriate for dogs or cats. The pH level should be 7.

A healthy pet should not be bathed more than once every 4 weeks. This keeps the pH levels healthy. If you have questions or just aren't sure, ask your local groomer! 🐾

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




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## Wolfdog Howl-Ins Coming

The next of the eight 2015 Howl-Ins at the Full Moon Farm (FMF) wolfdog sanctuary in Black Mountain will be on Saturday, September 5, from 3 to 5pm. FMF is a federally recognized 5013(c)(3) not-for-profit currently caring for 60 resident wolfdogs.

Participation in the Howl-Ins is free, and includes a tour of the 17 acre sanctuary, a chance to meet wolfdogs, hear their howls, and learn about the breed and the obstacles it faces. Following the tour, visitors can opt to stay for a potluck dinner at \$5 per person. Meat and drinks will be provided, visitors are asked to bring a side dish.

Howl-Ins are one of the major ways FMF uses to educate people about the greatly misunderstood wolfdog breed. Visitors get to see and interact with wolfdogs from all across the country that have been rescued from bad situations. In the process, visitors learn that all domestic dogs, (canis lupus familiaris), from toy poodles to Great Danes, are descended from gray wolves (canis lupus). The “motto” at FMF is “Without wolves, there would be no dogs”.



Cyrus, one of 60 wolfdog residents at Full Moon Farm.

According to the Full Moon Farm website, wolfdogs are most commonly a cross of wolf and German Shepherd, Alaskan Malamute, and/or Siberian Husky. But regardless of common parentage, no two wolfdogs in a litter will be identical in looks and behavior. One might be very much like a domestic dog, fitting right in with family pets and children, while another might be much more like a wolf in the wild. In either case, the prey instinct will be strong.

As the website says: “If it’s small, fast

and squeaky, your wolfdog will want it.” Responsible parents should not leave a wolfdog, or any dog for that matter, alone with small children or infants.

The last two 2015 Howl-Ins are scheduled for Saturday, October 3 and Saturday, November 7. To find out more about wolfdogs, Howl-Ins, FMF, and ways to support its efforts, go to [www.FullMoonFarm.org](http://www.FullMoonFarm.org), call Nancy Brown at 828 664-9818, or write to Full Moon Farm, PO Box 1374, Black Mountain, NC 28711.



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## Sylva Bark in the Park

The 2015 edition of the popular Bark in the Park will be held on Sunday, October 4 from 1 to 5pm at Sylva's Mark Watson Park. Adults, children and leashed dogs will all be welcomed.

The family-friendly event will offer sheer fun for dog lovers of all ages, and adoptable dogs brought by local animal rescue organizations. There will be a blessing of the animals by local pastors.

Since Halloween will be approaching on the day of the Bark, there will be a costume contest for both people and pooches. On the more serious side, there will be a Search

and Rescue demonstration by teams of handlers and dogs to show how they can find and save things together that a human alone could miss. There will also be a K9 police demonstration to show how good guys with good dogs can beat bad guys.

Those eager to participate, rather

than just watch, can enter the Freestyle Dancing with Dogs event. (Dancing with Wolves not allowed.) There will also be demonstrations by of canine agility and by disc dogs, with a post-demo opportunity for visitors and their dogs to run with

the pros. A dog massage tent, dog breed bingo for kids, and therapy dogs will all add to the fun. Meanwhile, vendors will offer food, beverages, and dog related items from T-shirts to toys.

A highlight of the day will be the giant raffle of great doggie items. The proceeds will go to Paws for Patriots, which trains service dogs for returning

U.S veterans.

Bark in the Park is jointly sponsored by the Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association and the Jackson County Recreation and Parks Association. More details at [www.wcdfa.org](http://www.wcdfa.org) or 828 293-3215.



Saylon and Patti Cole doing "freestyle dance" at a past Bark in the Park.

## Doggie Dip at Recreation Park Pool

Ink it in on your calendar. Asheville's Second Annual Doggie Dip will splash off on Saturday, September 12 at noon, and end at the stroke of 5pm. Registration is \$5 per dog in advance, \$10 the day of the event, and covers one dog and one handler. Added spectators cost \$1.

All Asheville area dogs will be welcomed, and get to swim with their own weight class. Dogs 35 pounds and under will swim from noon until 2pm. Then the big dogs, 36 pounds and up, will be allowed to have the pool to themselves. There will not be a weigh-in to establish the dogs' actual weight. (Editor's Note: Evidently the Parks and Recreation Department figures people will be more honest when telling their dog's weight than when telling their own.)

Participating dogs must have proof of current vaccinations and be spayed or neutered, but those requirements don't apply to humans. Bathing suits are optional for the dogs. Humans will not be allowed to swim because the usual chemical level that makes the pool safe for humans will be reduced to make it safe for the dogs.

Volunteers and/or staff members from the Asheville Humane Society will be on hand to add to the fun and provide information about their programs. They will also bring some loveable adoptable dogs with them for people to meet, and maybe even bring home.

For more information about the 2nd Annual Doggie Dip, visit [www.ashevilenc.gov/parks](http://www.ashevilenc.gov/parks), or [www.facebook.com/aprca](http://www.facebook.com/aprca), or get answers to your questions the old-fashioned way by calling 828 259-5800.



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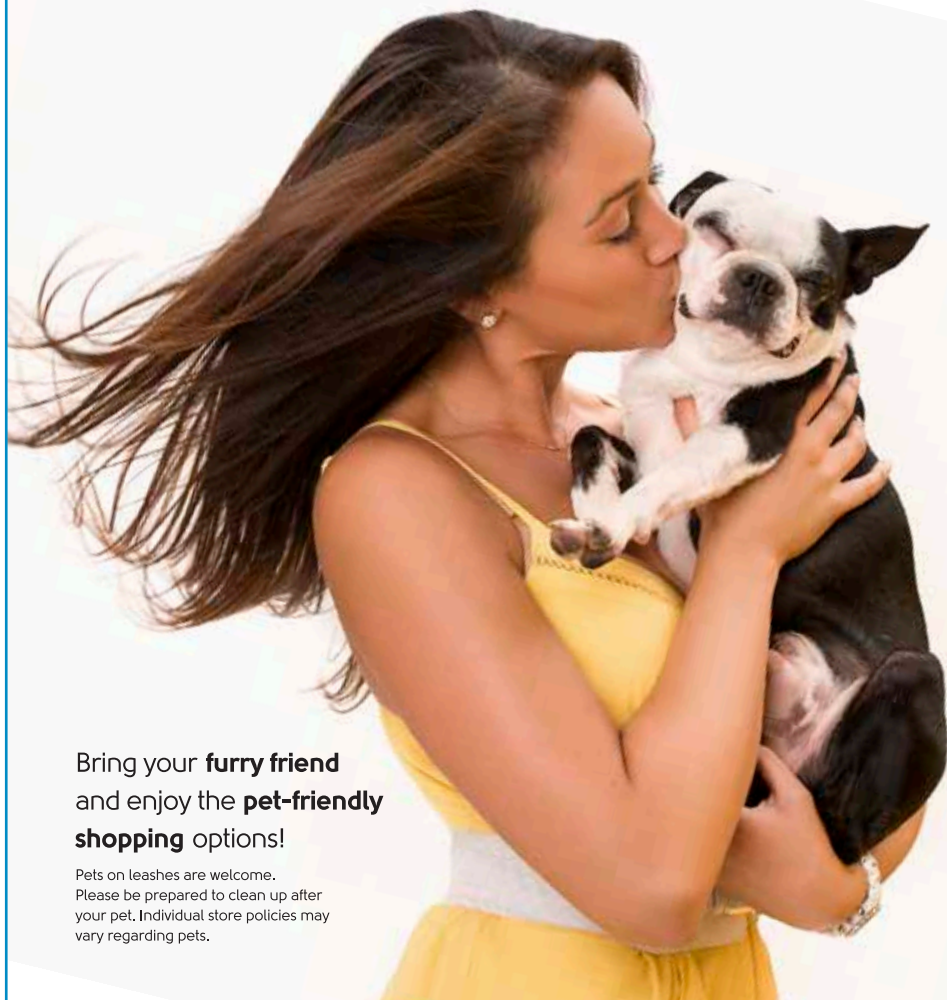
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## Campaign launched to meet \$400,000 challenge

by Denise Bitz

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR) has launched a “Bricks” campaign to raise the \$400,000 needed to earn a matching gift from the Donald C. Jones Foundation. The monies collected will help fund Phase One of the new Brother Wolf Animal Sanctuary (BWAS).

Over the past several months, BWAR has worked with local philanthropists to raise just over \$240,000 towards the \$400,000 challenge goal. To raise the rest, BWAR has launched the “Bricks” campaign, through which donors can have a brick inscribed in honor of their gift. The bricks will then be used to pave the Sanctuary walkways and terraces.

Guardian Donors at the \$100 level can get a 2”x2”x8” brick and Founding Donors at the \$240 level and above can get a 2”x8”x8” brick. Donations for all levels may be paid in monthly installments up to one year.

The Sanctuary will forever change the equation for special needs animals in Asheville, Buncombe and nearby areas. It will help animals like Toni, a dog who spent her whole life chained, all alone with nobody to love, or to love her back. It will give her a chance to heal and trust before going on to a forever home. Sadly, there are too many animals in the shelter system like Toni. They need to heal from a lifetime of hurt, and that process takes time and patience and space.

Many animals coming to BWAR need more than just food and shelter. They also need advanced medical care as well, due to a lifetime of neglect. These longer term, more complex cases are the reason the BWAS was founded. It is the critical missing resource needed to help achieve a truly sustainable No Kill community.

BWAR has worked with architects and engineers to get the Sanctuary plans in place. The first phase of the Sanctuary will include the Dog Village, the Sanctuary Dog Park, and the Sanctuary Clinic. The second phase will include the Cat Village, a Learning Center (for youth programs and humane education) and Guest Cabins for visitors and volunteers. Finally, the third phase will include an upgrade to Brother Wolf’s Welcome Center and Tours, a Memorial and Reflection Garden, and Group Cabins for youth groups, family reunions, and corporate retreats.

People from all walks of life, from all around the world, will come from all over to give themselves to rescue work. And the orphaned animals in our care, as well as the people who help care for them, will have their lives changed forever.

To see all the Sanctuary plans and to learn how to become a Founding Donor of Brother Wolf Animal Sanctuary, visit [www.bwar.org/sanctuary](http://www.bwar.org/sanctuary). Or email [denise@brotherwolf.org](mailto:denise@brotherwolf.org). 🐾

*Denise Bitz is the Founder and President of Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.*

## Black Pet Syndrome real but unfair

by Ryan Jo Summers

Black Pet Syndrome is a real phenomenon. It’s what makes black cats and dogs the most unlikely to be adopted and the most likely to be euthanized. But what created this phenomenon?

There’s the idea that black animals don’t photograph well, that it’s hard to capture their expression. Some feel the black coated dogs don’t do well in public. Others think light-colored coats are more eye-catching. There is also the argument that black animals are hard to see at night. And popular media and culture often show black animals as villains or aggressive.

Because of those thoughts, black haired pets are viewed as unlucky. Lastly, some dogs more prone to aggression might be black, including Chows, Rottweilers, Dobermans and pit bulls. There’s also the plethora of scary Halloween images showcasing black cats as evil, linking them to witches. To counter these arguments, I offer some heroic black cats and dogs that pushed past their coat-color stigma.

Schnautzie, a striking black cat, saved her Montana home and family from blowing up when a gas pipe broke in October 2007. She was only six months old.

Tara is a dark tabby who saved her four-year-old master by charging out and thwarting an attack by the neighbor dog. The video has gone viral.

Charley, a black cat, saved his owner when she collapsed from hypoglycemia by waking her sleeping husband.

Simon, a tuxedo cat, was a 1947 war hero for his duties aboard the HMS Amethyst.

Buddy, a black-and-tan German shepherd, saved his owner when the man’s workshop caught fire by finding an Alaskan State Trooper and leading him back.

Max, another German shepherd, woke his 80-year-old owner when the wall heater malfunctioned and carbon monoxide levels rose dangerously high.

Jade, another German shepherd, sniffed out a newborn baby while on a walk with her owner. After being taken to the hospital, the baby was christened Baby Jade.

Major, a black pit bull, pounded on the keypad of a phone and reached 9-1-1 when his owner suffered a seizure.

Khan a Doberman, tossed a toddler out of the way of a poisonous snake in 2007.

During WW 2, coal-black Schipperke dogs carried messages for the Belgian Resistance.

Katrina, a Black Lab, saved a drowning man from Hurricane Katrina floodwaters.

Eva, a Rottweiler, pulled her paraplegic owner from their burning truck.

Nyla, a black-and-tan mixed breed, barked and guided her owner out of their burning house.

Nellie, a Black Lab, saved her deaf owner from home intruders.

The list could go on and on, but I think you probably get the point: When it comes to pets, black is not only beautiful. It is often also heroic. 🐾

*Ryan Jo Summers is a local writer. More can be found about her work at [www.ryanjosummers.com](http://www.ryanjosummers.com).*

# Pets at Work — A Fond Furry Welcome at WAG!

by Louise St. Romain


Many people who come into WAG! A Unique Pet Boutique often ask why there are two dogs stretched out in the display case. After all, WAG! offers things for pets, not pets themselves.

“It made for a warm, welcoming feeling.”

WAG! owner Caroline Gunther has a simple answer to the visitors' question. She rescued both Jane and smaller Winifred over six years ago and is not about to give them up. The two used to push the display case doors open so they could hang out and watch the goings on in the store. Finally Caroline gave in, took the doors off and gave them both comfy cushions to snooze on.

Caroline opened WAG! in February 2010 and it has become the go-to place in Hendersonville to pick up all sorts of goodies for furry friends. The WAG! dogs are currently joined by three kittens being fostered for Blue Ridge Humane Society: orange tabby Devlin, black Ripley and calico Penelope Lane, all of which will

be up for adoption. People often stop by the shop on Main Street in downtown Hendersonville to say hello and pet the animals as a way to de-stress during their lunch break.

When I was there, many folks stopped by to not only purchase items for their pets but to pay attention to the pets in the shop. It made for a warm, welcoming feeling. When in Hendersonville, stop by WAG! You'll be glad you did! 

*Louise St. Romain is contributing photographer for PetGazette and proprietor of Fast Cat Photography Studio.*



Jane guards the sofa.



Though peerless, Winifred peers.



Cover girl Penelope Lane.

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## Canine flu not gone, not forgotten

The number of new cases of the virulent canine flu that hit the Asheville area in July had declined as of PetGazette press time. But area veterinarians are advising clients to think “safety first” and use common sense to avoid unnecessarily exposing their dogs to the new flu strain.

Dr. Joshua Cook of All Pets Animal Hospital said that they are still treating new cases in the tent set up in their parking lot so they could keep potential flu carriers away from other dogs. “We’re not seeing as many cases as we did before,” he said. “But we still recommend caution. Keep dogs away from places with unfamiliar dogs – like dog parks.”

Dr. Jerry Shelton of Smokey Park Veterinary Hospital also recommended keeping dogs away from canine social situations, especially those with mystery guests. He pointed out that dogs can have the flu but be asymptomatic for a while. That makes it much easier to spread the flu to other dogs, whose owners have no reason to be concerned about contact with an infected pet that exhibits no flu symptoms. Shelton explained that there is yet no vaccine effective against the new H3N2 flu strain.

“There is an effective vaccine against the old H3N8 flu,” Shelton said, “but it doesn’t work against this latest strain.” 🐾

## Agility Trials coming to Waynesville

The Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Association will host a three day, AKC licensed Agility Trial on the weekend of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 18, 19 and 20 at the Haywood County Fairgrounds in Waynesville, NC.

The trials will be held outdoors in a covered arena on packed dirt in two 100’ by 100’ rings. All breeds and mixed breeds are welcome to compete. Spectators are welcome to enjoy the competition and the great food available from on-site vendors.

Trial hours each day will be from 7am to 7pm. A VMO, which is someone authorized to measure the height of competing dogs, will be on hand. Dogs compete in classes based on their height at the withers (shoulder), running an obstacle course specifically set up for dogs of their size. They run the course at their handler’s direction, running, jumping, and turning, weaving and crawling as needed to complete the course in the fastest possible time. The obstacles they encounter can include teeter-totters, chutes, weaves, A-frames, tunnels, jumps of all kinds. Each new course, set up by volunteers, can include some or all of the above obstacles in just about any order.

Dogs must respond to their handler’s directions, which can be given only by voice, hand signals or body language. No treats allowed! Class winners are decided by the fastest time through the course without faults. These include such things as missing an obstacle entirely, knocking down a fence rail, or missing a weave gate. Before the runs for each class, handlers are allowed to walk the course to plan where they should station themselves as the dog runs the course so they can be in the best position to give directions. Faults can be caused by the handler being in the wrong place, or not giving clear directions to the next obstacle on the course.



In addition to hosting two AKC national events each year, the WCDFA is very much involved in its communities. The group presents events like the Dog Days of Summer at Hazelwood Elementary in Waynesville and a Pet Responsibility event in Sylva. WCDFA also donated two K-9 Kevlar vests to the Haywood County Sheriff’s Office and the Waynesville Police Department.

For more about the agility trials or the WCDFA, visit their website at [www.wcdfa.org](http://www.wcdfa.org). 🐾



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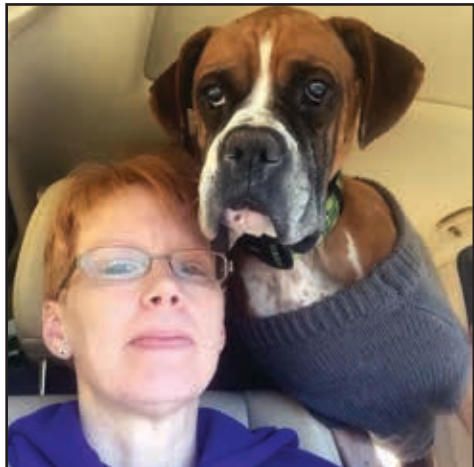
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## Pet Obituaries

### from Pet Cremations of Western Carolina

**Sampson** was a Boxer who had the spirit of a tiger and heart of a lamb. His life started out with abuse and neglect so severe that his chance of survival was bleak. Heidi Wagner adopted Sampson and became his 'forever mom'. She dedicated herself to caring for the health conditions left over from his previous home, and Heidi gave Sampson the one thing he needed the most - love. For the last seven months of his life, Sampson knew what it was like to be loved. Sampson died on July 19. He was eight years old.



**Lucky** was indeed lucky! Rachel Venezia met the beautiful cat when she lived with another family. Several years ago Rachel brought Lucky into her home as well as her heart. Lucky passed away on July 20th at the age of 19 years old.



Kathleen Johnson said goodbye to her beautiful 13 year old Sheltie on July 6. **Anthony** was a lovable companion, and he is greatly missed.

**Shadow** was a loving black cat who adored his family. Cindy, Gary and Cassandra Kelley loved him for 14 years. Shadow went to the Rainbow Bridge on July 14th, but lives on in their hearts with many fond memories.

Sweet **Bella** was a gorgeous Great Dane loved by Dale and David Sparacino. On August 1st Bella passed away at home in the comfortable care of her human parents. The Sparacino's love for 'the gentle giants' was never tampered by their relatively short lives, and their hearts embrace the precious time their Dane children spend with them. Bella was ten years old.

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## ASPCA Acquires Humane Alliance

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals announced on August 7 the acquisition of the Humane Alliance, Asheville's nonprofit resource for spay and neuter services.

Since its founding in 1994, the Humane Alliance has earned a national reputation for cutting edge practices. It has helped over 141 clinics nationally to establish best practice programs for low-cost, high volume spay/neuter. The Asheville Citizen-Times recently reported, "Nearly 1,000 veterinarians and students have come from all over the world to learn its techniques, including staff from the ASPCA's large adoption center and animal hospital in New York City."

The ASPCA website says, "We believe that animals are entitled to kind and respectful treatment at the hands of humans, and must be protected under the law."

The Humane Alliance efforts will now become a program of the ASPCA, giving the Alliance the support and resources to greatly expand its programs and staff. Quita Mazzina, Executive Director of the Humane Alliance, has said that the ASPCA's ownership of the Humane Alliance will allow it to provide many more surgeries and increase the organization's training capacity into the future. The move will also allow the rescue organizations, shelters and other professionals with which the Humane Alliance works nationally to expand their own capabilities. 


## Halloween Walkathon at Carrier Park

The first-ever Howlin' Halloween Walkathon will start at noon on Saturday, October 31 and run until 4pm to benefit Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR). The walk will cover one mile.

All walkers, including dogs, are encouraged to wear costumes. Prizes will be awarded for best costume in adult, children and dog divisions. Before and/or after the walk, children will be allowed to go trick or treating around the Carrier grounds east of the gazebo.

Vendors will offer all kinds of pet products and services, as well as delicious food. Highland Brewing will provide beer, and hard cider will be provided by Urban Orchard Cider. Music will fill the air as BWAR volunteers walk adoptable dogs around Carrier Park. The dogs will be introduced to members of the crowd and, hopefully, find a forever home.

Walkers can raise money for BWAR by signing up walkathon sponsors or simply asking for donations from among friends, neighbors and colleagues. Or total strangers for that matter. Prizes will be awarded for fundraisers who reach certain established goals. To register as a walker, or to get more information about the Howlin' Halloween Walkathon, go to [www.bwar.org](http://www.bwar.org).

Carrier Park is beside the French Broad River off Amboy Road in Asheville. BWAR volunteers will direct vehicles to expanded parking areas on the day of the event. 



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