

PetGazette

Asheville Area

September-October 2013

Volume 2 - Issue 5



Cover Story

UNCA's Rocky I

Fun Events

Bark for Life

Dog Days Afternoon

Puppyfest

Health

Horse Sense

Officer Boris Back

Fish

Rabbits

Pet People

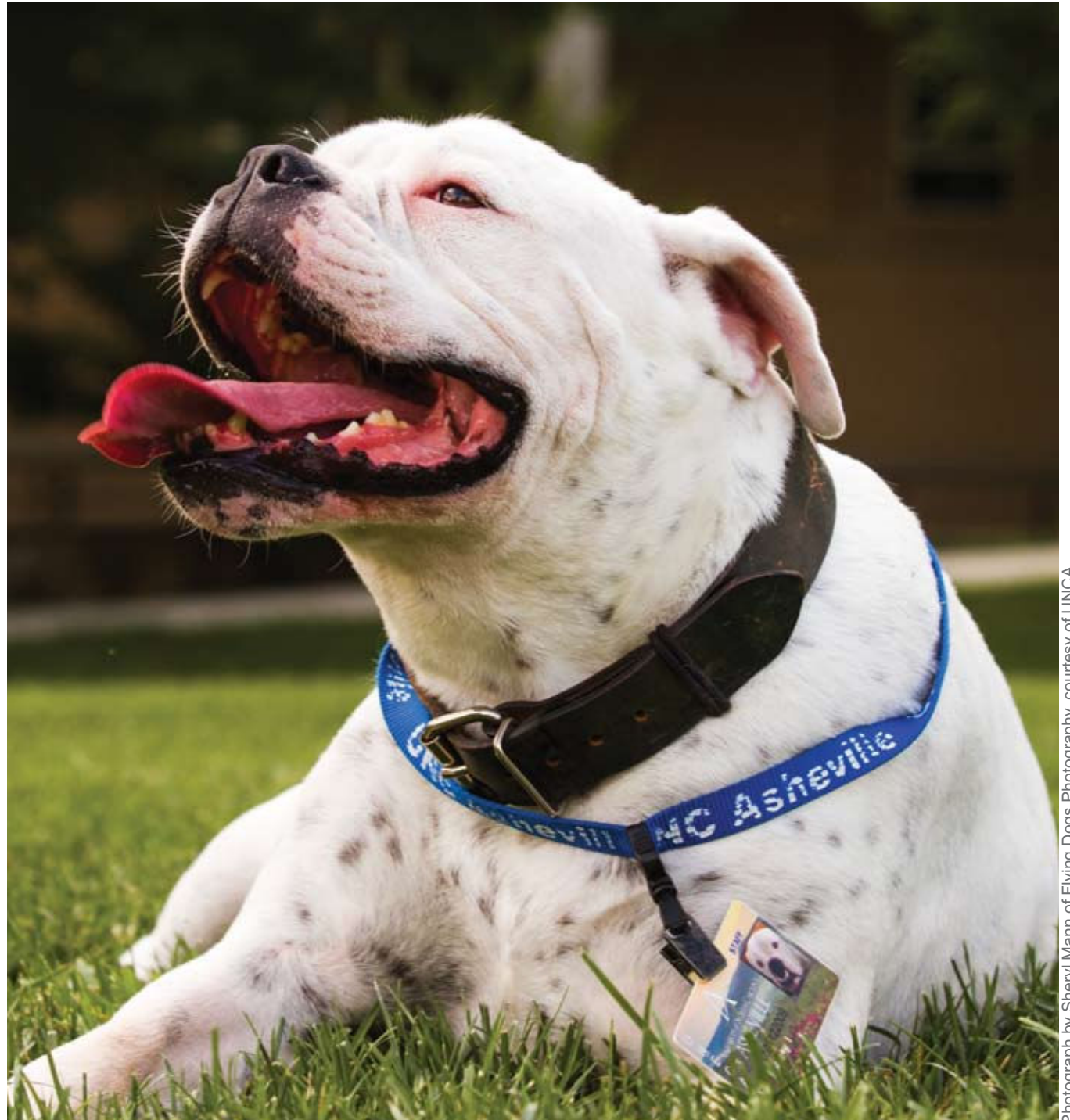
Pit Bull Month

Pit Bull Quiz

Pit Bulls and the Law

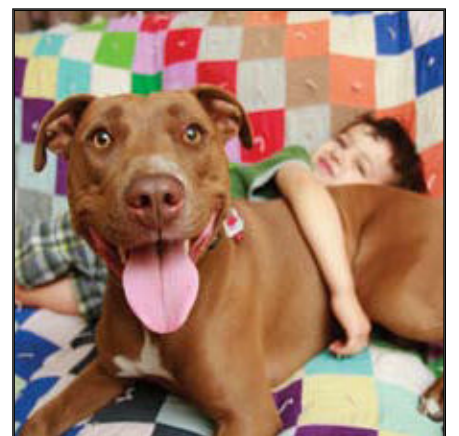
Events Calendar

Resource Guide



UNCA Bulldogs mascot Rocky I

Photograph by Sheryl Mann of Flying Dogs Photography, courtesy of UNCA



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 Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC (across from the Biltmore Square Mall). Not all cats are at Petco every weekend. If there is a specific cat you would like to meet at Petco, please email fureverfriends@att.net.

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

place.

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

Every Sun. – 12 noon. PAPC Small breed play dates at its dog park. Small breed dogs under 30 lbs. welcome to frolic with others of similar size.

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER

Tu. 9/3 – 6-8pm. Animal Body Language Class at Asheville Humane Society, 14 Forever Friend Lane, Asheville. 828 761-2001, www.ashevillehumane.org.

Tu. 9/3 – 6pm. Horses and Yoga Workshop by Spirited Connections at Willow Creek Horse Farms. Also 9/20, 10/5, 10/15. 828 424-9636 or spiritedconnectionsnc.com.

Sat. 9/7 – 10am-5pm. Customer Appreciation Day at Blue Ridge Pets. Door prizes, raffles, educational programs, free food. 103 WNC Shopping Center, Black Mountain. 1-828- 669-0032.

Mon. 9/9 – 7pm. Friends of North Asheville Dog Park meeting, Animal Hospital of North Asheville, 1 Burden Road. nadogpark@gmail.com.

Fri. 9/13 –Sun. 9/15 – Noon-5pm. ACN/AHS/BW Petsmart Adoption Day at 150 Bleachery Blvd, Asheville. 828 761-2001, www.ashevillehumane.org.

Sun. 9/14 – 10am-4pm. Curiosity Market to benefit Animal Haven of Asheville. Pritchard Park, Asheville. See August 31.

Sat. 9/21 – noon-1pm. Horse Sense of the Carolinas Open House, 6919 Meadows Town Road, Marshall, NC. Learn about Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, therapeutic riding, other therapies. 828 683-7304 or www.HorseSenseOtc.com or. Also October 19th.

Sat. 9/21 – 10am-12pm. Parrot care class: Things I Wish I'd Known. 434 Cedar Hill Road, Alexander, NC. Free. www.phoenixlanding.org

Sat.- 9/21 – 10am-7pm. Woof-in-the-Woods grand opening celebration, 1451 Charlotte Highway, Fairview. Free food and drinks. Dog kissing booth. Adoptable pets. Canine Good Citizen tests. Giveaways. Ask the Vet. More. 828 222-2222.

Sat. 9/22 – 12-4pm. Dog Day Afternoon at Carrier Park from Mix 96.5. Proceeds to area rescue groups. Walks. Vendors. Games. Live music. Pet Gazette will be here with goody bags and prizes. Fun for all leashed dogs.

Wed. 9/25 – 6pm. Pet Planning Workshop at Brother Wolf re-tail shop, Glendale Ave., Asheville. Presented by Dennis Gibson, Attorney at Law. Reservations needed. 828 669-0375.

Thu. 9/26 – 5:30-7:30pm. Yappy Hour at Asheville Humane Society, 14 Forever Friend Lane, Asheville. \$10 admission includes food, beverages, donation, plus chance to meet adorable adoptables. 828 761-2001, www.ashevillehumane.org.

Thu. 9/26 – 7pm. Bark for Life kickoff party at the Bywater, 796 Riverside Drive, Asheville. Live band, food, and “Ready, Set, Draw” competition. Proceeds from new Bywater memberships that night go to Bark for Life. 828 230-8352

Sat. 9/28 – 11am-7pm. Puppyfest at Asheville Civic Center. Fun, contests, prizes. Open to all breeds up to eight months old. TV Pilot. \$10 admission, with portion of proceeds going to local rescue organi-

zations. Pet Gazette will be here with goody bags. www.puppyfest.com.

Sat. 9/28 – 9am-5pm. Rabies clinic at WNC Pet Spa, 415 New Leicester Highway, Asheville. Vet administered rabies shots \$10. 828 782-7096.

Sat. 9/28 – Sun. 9/29. 10th Anniversary 10% discounts on everything at Bone-A-Fide Pet Boutique, 118 Cherry Street Square, Black Mountain. 828 669-0706.

Sat. 9/28 – 9am-5pm. Rabies clinic at WNC Pet Spa, 415 New Leicester Highway, Asheville. 828 782-7096

OCTOBER

Tu. 10/1 – Thur. 10/31 – National Pit Bull Awareness Month

Sat. 10/5 – 6-10 pm. Trivia Night to benefit AHS at Asheville Event Center, 991 Sweeten Creek Road. Cash prizes, mulligans for sale, 50/50 raffle. Cash bar. \$120 for table of eight (\$15 per person). Pet Gazette will be here. 828 761-2001 or www.ashevillehumane.org.

Thur. 10/10 – Mon. 10/13. Great Smokies Veterinary Conference of North Carolina Academy of Small Animal Medicine at Renaissance Hotel, Asheville. www.ncasam.org. 910 452-3899.

Mid-October: On-sale Launch party for Dogs of Asheville fundraising calendar for BWAR. Call Flying Dogs Photography (828 380-9774) or Patton Avenue Pet Company (828 505-8299) to reserve a copy and get event venue, times.

Sat. 10/19 – 2-5pm. Bark for Life, Highland Brewing Company, Old Charlotte Highway, Asheville. Non-competitive walk with canine friends. On-going demonstrations, contests, games, all to benefit American Cancer Society and help fight cancer. Pet Gazette will be here with goody bags. www.relayforlife.org.

Sat. 10/19 – noon-1pm. Horse Sense of the Carolinas Open House. See 9/21.

Sat. 10/19 – 10am. Rabies Clinic at Asheville Humane Society, 14 Forever Friend Lane. 828 761-2001, www.ashevillehumane.org.

Sat. 10/19 – 10am-12pm. Nourish to Flourish for Parrots class on healthy nutrition for pet birds. 434 Cedar Hill Road, Alexander, NC. Free. www.phoenixlanding.org.

Sat. 10/26 – 1– 4pm. Howl-o-ween Pet Parade and Costume Contest, downtown Black Mountain. Parade participation free, costume contest entry \$5 with proceeds going to pet rescue organizations. Details at Bone-A-Fide Pet Boutique, 828 669-0706.

Sat. 10/26 – 11am–3pm. AHS Howl-o-Ween pet parade, Pet costume contests, pet-centric vendors, kids scavenger hunt, and an appearance by UNCA mascot Rocky I. Pet Gazette will be here with goody bags. 828 761-2001, www.ashevillehumane.org.

Sat. 10/26 – National Pit Bull Awareness Day.

Sat. 10/26 – 9am-4pm. Rabies clinic at WNC Pet Spa. See 9/28.

Legend: ACN=Animal Compassion Network AHS = Asheville Humane Society AKC=Asheville Kennel Club BW=Brother Wolf FF=Fur Ever Friends PAPC=Patton Avenue Pet Company WNCBR=WNC Boxer Rescue Red type indicates a major fundraiser or community event for an Asheville charitable or 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.

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.

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

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Daycare

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Food & Supplies (also see stores)

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Fun

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Calling All Cats (M) pg. 10
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Canine Crown n Glory (W) pg. 4
Dawg House Salon (W) pg. 7
Elena The Groomer (S) pg. 13
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Haw Creek Pet Care (E) pg. 13
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Pet Sitters Association (M) pg. 14
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ZZag Petsitting / Taxi (M) pg. 7

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Correction: In the July-August issue of PetGazette, the lead paragraph from a story in a previous issue about cat grooming was inadvertently inserted as the lead paragraph on a story about physical rehabilitation of pets by Dr. Lyn Bedsaul of All Pets Animal Hospital and Rehabilitation Center. We apologize to Dr. Bedsaul, and to our readers, who may have been very confused. We promise to try to never make the same mistake again.

PetGazette

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

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Photo by Sheryl Mann, Flying Dogs Photography

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



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Dog Day Afternoon at Carrier Park

The 2nd Annual Mix 96.5 (WOXL) Dog Day Afternoon festival will take place at the East Green of Carrier Park in West Asheville on Sunday, September 22. The event will benefit dogs through local dog rescue organizations.

The Asheville Humane Society and Brother Wolf Animal Rescue will be there with large adoption areas showcasing dogs ready for adoption. The organizations hope to match some of these would-be pets with a loving foster or forever home.

The Dog Day Afternoon will start at 11:30am with a dog-friendly 1.2 mile fun run around Carrier Park. The event will continue until 4pm with dog contests including a wiener dog race, "Silly Pet Tricks", "Best Bark" and the Fastest Dog in Asheville Competition.

Advance registration for doggie contests and the fun run is encouraged but not required. Walk up entries will be welcome. Participation in the fun run is \$10 per person and entry to the doggie contests is \$5 per contest per dog. Proceeds from all activities will benefit the Asheville Humane Society and Brother Wolf. Online registration will open on September 5 at www.DogDayAsheville.com.

In addition to the adoption areas and contests, the family-friendly free event will include live music, a mobile "Pretty Pooch" grooming station from WNC Pet

Spa, doggie photo booth from Flying Dog Photography, discounted microchipping services from Haw Creek Animal Hospital. To entertain and involve children, the YMCA of WNC will create a Kids' Zone complete with bounce house, intro to puppy classes and more.

Adults can purchase adult beverages, including local craft beer from Lexington Avenue Brewing and wine from The Wine Guy. Proceeds from these purchases will benefit the rescue organizations. Food will be available from Farm to Fender food truck, Eddie's Doghouse, Cecelia's Kitchen, Sweet Treats and the Hop Ice Cream. Local businesses will vend dog-friendly wares and products.

Attendees will also get to enjoy the beautiful walking trails and picnic areas surrounding the park. The festival will feature a large cooling tent as well as doggie pools to help both dogs and humans beat the heat.

Mix 96.5's Dog Day Afternoon is made possible with support from Prestige Subaru, Lexington Avenue Brewing, the Wine Guy and other local business sponsors. While the event is dog-friendly, owners must bring their dogs on leash and aggressive or unruly dogs will be asked to leave. For more information on Dog Day Afternoon visit www.DogDayAsheville.com.

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next copy of Pet Gazette:**

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Pet People

Get to Know Pet Gazette's Advertisers

A Groom With A View

Jamie Roper, the owner of A Groom With A View, is a native New Yorker who moved to Asheville in 2008. She had been a corporate interior designer in Manhattan, which entailed space planning and



decorating large offices. She says, "My day was spent with a tape measure riding subways to and from clients."

Now her days are spent at her salon overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounded by doggies. After moving to Asheville with a job in her profession, which was lost in the recession, she decided her next career was going to be from her passion – her dogs. She went to South Carolina School of Dog Grooming and apprenticed for another two years before she felt ready to be on her own. Now Groom With A View reflects her current and former careers, with space planning for people and pets: a comfy sofa for pooches and parents, patio garden entrance, and grassy fenced doggie play area. Check it all out at AGroomWithAView.com. Speak with Jamie at 828-505-3267.

Treasured Pets

Kathey Yarbrough, owner of Treasured Pets, is a local girl come home. "I lived in Weaverville and Madison County until Russ and I married and we went off to the Navy", she says. When they settled in SC,



Kathey trained as a pediatric nurse – "Good experience for working with pets", she says, "figuring out what our "kids" need!" Meeting those needs is the reason Kathey and husband Russ bought Treasured Pets in 2012. The store is now an interesting mix of toys, clothing (bunny slippers!) pet greeting cards, and new lines of natural and gluten or grain-free foods, as well as foods with limited ingredients aimed at specific problems such as allergies or arthritis. Tiki Bird, the Green Cheeks Conure parrot who is the store mascot, is helping Kathey develop a line of avian products. The line of pond products will be expanding to meet the needs of aquarium enthusiasts. Call Treasured Pets at 281-3645 or stop in on your way to Sam's Club to meet Kathey and Tiki Bird.



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My name is Becker Reep. I am 13 years old and I want to address some issues in dogs today.

The first issue is aggression. I have heard many people talk about certain breeds of dogs being extremely aggressive. To a certain point this is true. Some dogs may require more attention and socialization to be friendly to all humans. But it is also very wrong at the same time. When I hear about a dog having to be put down because it bit someone, I am very sad knowing that an innocent animal died. I feel this way because I know that it was probably aggressive because a naive owner didn't train it right.

Proper training of any dog should start when it is a puppy, socializing it with adults and kids alike, rewarding good behavior and disciplining bad behavior. This should continue throughout the dog's life so it knows what is acceptable and what isn't.

The second issue is body language. I think it is the responsibility of all people who interact with dogs to know the body language of a dog. The body language of a dog can range from "scratch my belly" to "I'm about to bite". I want to focus on the "warning of a bite" signs of body

language.*

The first sign is excessive nose licking. This is different than when a dog gets a spoonful of peanut butter. The second sign is a dog pinning its ears back. It also usually has a frightened look in its eyes. The third sign is panting. This is different than panting after physical activity or overheating. This panting is a sign that the dog is very stressed. The fourth sign is avoidance. When a dog is looking away or moving its head so you don't touch it, it means it wants to be left alone. The fifth sign is dilated pupils. This is yet another warning. The sixth and final

one I will address is tension around the eyes and mouth. If you pay attention to what a dog is telling you, you will not be bitten!

Dogs are amazing creatures. They do not deserve to die because of human mistakes! Train your dog right with lots of socializing, and keep your eyes open for warnings!

Editor's note: Despite his youth, Weaverville resident Becker Reep is an experienced dog handler. He trains and shows both Stella, a Newfoundland, and Lana, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, and has won many ribbons with them.

*Source:

<http://www.4pawssu.com/stresssigns.html>

"...know the body language of a dog."

Rabbit Emergency Kit

by Kimberly Whitfield, DVM

Since emergencies seem to happen when it's not easy to get to an emergency vet, I recommend that rabbit owners have an "Emergency Kit" at home. The three simple things in it will hopefully help you nurse your rabbit through until you can get it to your veterinarian. The kit should contain:

* Baby Gas Drops (Simethicone) - get these at your local drug store

* Pain Medication - get this from your veterinarian

* Critical Care (or another powdered food made especially for rodents and herbivores)

Talk to your veterinarian about the proper technique and dosages, but relieving the pet's pain and gas, and perhaps force feeding it, will give it a fighting chance until you can get it into the vet's office when it opens.

So although they are absolutely adorable, and will give you many years of love and enjoyment, please know what you are getting into before you buy a rabbit. Please don't enter into the decision lightly. Rabbits are not just a cute Easter present, they require time and care to keep them healthy. They should be spayed and neutered just like your dog and cat, and even though they don't require any shots, please have them seen yearly by your veterinarian for a complete physical exam. Take care of them, and yourselves. 🐾

Dr. Whitfield practices at the Animal Medical Center on Merrimon Avenue, Asheville.



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Puppyfest at U.S. Cellular Center

The search for America's ultimate puppy celebrity will start on Saturday, September 28th at Asheville's U.S. Cellular Center (formerly Civic Center).

The winner will star in a pilot for a TV series – think “American Idol” of puppies – and the owner will get a trophy and a cash prize. Admission to Puppyfest is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, with part of the proceeds benefitting the Asheville Humane Society and Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.


Puppies up to eight months old, of any breed or mix, are eligible. The winner will be chosen by a panel of four judges, based on five criteria:

- Casting call – a test of how photogenic the puppy is alone or with products.
- Friendliness – how a puppy reacts to attendees at a “puppy petting booth”.
- Feistiness – a race to see which puppies are most energetic and competitive.
- Personality – a costume contest in which each puppy will take the stage.
- Plea for your puppy – a chance for owners to explain why their puppy should be a star.

Asheville rescue organizations will have booths with dogs for adoption. There will also be vendors of all things puppy, from food to toys to training.

Owners can simply take their puppies to the PuppyFest. Or they can increase coverage of their puppy for the TV pilot by emailing a photo to contact@PuppyFest.com.

Puppyfest is produced by Asheville's

Joshua P. Warren and J.R. Yarnall, who promise that Simon Cowell will not be one of the judges. 

Humane Alliance Gets \$10,000 Gift

Executive Director Quita Mazzina of the Asheville Humane Alliance accepted a \$10,000 donation for “Beemer’s Fund”, which will be used to vaccinate, heartworm test and spay/neuter 100 dogs. Animal welfare activist Joeline Beckham presented the check on behalf of an anonymous donor.

The fund is named after Beemer, Beckham’s rescued female pit bull. Beemer accompanied Beckham to the presentation ceremony at Barberito’s Restaurant on Hendersonville Road. Until called upon to pose with Mezzina and Beckham for photographs, Beemer either slept quietly or surveyed the situation for potential treats.

Joeline Beckham presents \$10,000 check to Humane Alliance Executive Director Quita Mazzina as Alliance supporter Elaine McGuire approves. Beemer looks for new fans to meet.



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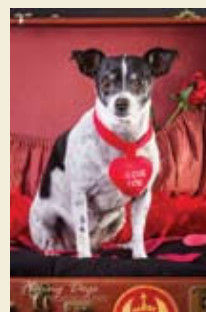
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Mommy, where do fish come from? Part II

by Shawn Chase

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Fish come from water. Simple, right? Nope, not so much. Sustaining the continuing life of our fish is a complicated subject. Water temperatures, ph, nitrates, weather patterns, etc., all come into play. Ambience is everything. Similar to Barry White and a good bottle of wine.

Now, I can't possibly go into the details of how we should be taking care of our waters. We all know to recycle, reuse and reduce. We also know that plastics are devastating for numerous aquatic creatures, that we should watch our carbon footprints, stop with the pesticides, and on and on. We all understand what polluted water leads to: endangered species and creepy two-headed fish. Personally, I cry a little when a fish becomes endangered. (Unless of course it has two heads!)

We in the aquarium business do a pretty good job of breeding freshwater fish. Not great, but good. Sometimes "great" is not cost effective due to what people are willing to pay, and what breeding costs. Think ambience again. And even those fish that do breed easily will eventually need to have some new genes in their bloodline.

But enough about freshwater fish. Let's talk wild collection of saltwater species. If the water is bad, then the new livestock will be bad or non-existent and here come

those two-headed fish again. Slightly exaggerated, but you see where I'm going

Saltwater aquariums are an introduction to a wonderful world, a way to enjoy the beauty of the ocean. In the last 30 to 40 years we have become successful at the breeding of some saltwater fish and the propagation of corals. Without wild collection, by people with a passion, we would not be where we are. And I bet most, if not all, of those passionate people grew up with fish



are fish that I refuse to sell because they just don't belong in the average person's aquarium. But you can get them at the big box stores. Then when those fish grow too big for a tank, they get dumped in the local lake where they happily gobble up all the native fish, flora and fauna. Then panic takes over and yet another bill banning all non-native fish is proposed.

Yes, there should be a common sense approach to watching over what we do. But banning is not the answer. Learning is.

Let me try to sum it all up: Take care of our water. Not just for the fish, for all of us. Preserve the species. Research before you buy. Tank bred is best, but wild collection is necessary to help our continued growth, so learn and support responsible practices.

Encourage the love of aquariums. Start one yourself. You never know what passions you will develop and what benefits you will enjoy. For openers, your blood pressure will drop, and your ability to focus will strengthen. And maybe, all of a sudden, you will feel the need to take scuba lessons and change your last name to Cousteau!

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

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Rocky I Inspires Bulldogs

by Jim Marks

The handsome and debonair Rocky I is the living mascot for the University of North Carolina at Asheville, known to friends near and far as UNCA. But Rocky I wasn't always Rocky I. Before that, he was just Rocky. And before that, he was Rebel.

Rocky I, referred to hereinafter as simply Rocky, was rescued by alumnus and math lecturer Ed Johnson from a foster home in Georgia. Johnson, with whom the mascot lives, always points out that Rocky is not a *Georgia bulldog* in any sense of the words. Genetically, Rocky is a Victorian bulldog. (More about that later.) Geographically, he is all southerner, having been transferred from a shelter in Alabama to a foster home in Georgia and then to Asheville. Fan wise, he is obviously a UNCA Bulldog. He had the Roman numeral I added to his name to distinguish him from Rocky, the bulldog statue that has long been on the UNCA campus.

Johnson and wife Alexis, also a UNCA graduate, had been instrumental in getting support for the adoption of a live mascot. The UNCA Bulldogs had been without a live mascot since the late 1980s and the Johnsons wanted to correct that situation. They enlisted the support of UNCA development officer Kevin Frasier and started the search for the perfect UNCA mascot. After a few disappointing meetings with potential school bulldogs, Johnson learned about Rocky on the internet in 2009. He visited Rocky's foster home and knew at once that he had found the university's mascot. Rocky came home with

Johnson to Asheville that day, and has been here ever since. He lives with the Johnsons and their Border collie, Savannah, and is clearly loved by his caretakers. Rocky visits



Johnson's office about twice a week, where he meets and greets students and faculty alike. But his main work is to bring enthusiasm and cheer to a wide range of UNCA events.

Rocky livens things up everywhere he goes, and he goes almost everywhere on campus. He attends sports, graduations, student events, admitted student's days, parent's days, and the faculty/staff picnic among other campus happenings. As Johnson says, "Rocky is not just involved with athletics."

Now about the Victorian bulldog, a

relatively unknown breed not yet recognized by the American Kennel Club: The Victorian bulldog was originally created to be a multi-purpose farm dog that could guard livestock, pull carts, and play with children. It became nearly extinct in the 20th century, but is making a comeback in popularity because of its gentle and affectionate disposition. Victorian bulldogs incorporate traits from mastiffs, English bulldogs and boxers. They are taller than the classic English bulldog, have a big head, a wide face, and a smooth coat. And they are friendly.

Friendliness is a good characteristic for a mascot, especially one that weighs 85 pounds, and Rocky has friendliness in abundance. He loves attention, and will make friends with everyone to get it. Rocky even has his own Facebook page, maintained by Johnson and Rocky fans in the UNCA communications office.

Johnson says Rocky doesn't travel in his official capacity, but does try to get to as many campus events as possible. In addition to visiting many non-sporting events, Rocky, accompanied by Johnson, visits many home volleyball matches and most home basketball games. His routine there is to visit fans in the stands before tip-off, sit quietly courtside during the game, greet fans in the mezzanine during halftime, then say goodbye to Bulldog supporters.

All the while, Johnson carries a towel to occasionally wipe the drool off Rocky's face, because he does drool a bit. But so what? What's a little drool among really good friends?



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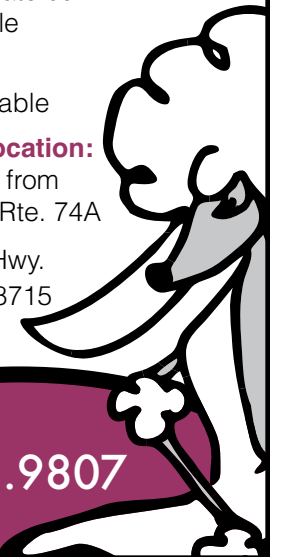
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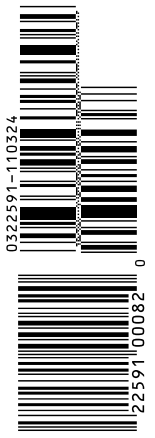
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Most of us know that “horse sense” simply means “common sense”. But few of us have realized that we can actually learn some common sense from horses. Who knew?

Richard and Shannon Knapp knew. They were ahead of the curve on using horses to help people who weren’t benefitting greatly from traditional psychotherapy or common approaches to learning. So in 2003 they started Horse Sense of the Carolinas. Their facility near Marshall has over 100 acres, with covered and open corrals, barns, houses, and even a labyrinth. They also have, as this is written, four dogs, four cats, and 26 horses, all rescue or rehabilitation cases. But there might be more horses as you read this.

Richard says that Shannon wants to rescue every needy horse she meets. And Shannon pleads guilty. So Richard tries to keep her away from horses in need of rescuing, but doesn’t always succeed.

Many of the rescued Horse Sense horses are “unrideable”. That is not a problem, however, since the Horse Sense EAP (Equine Assisted Psychotherapy) and EAL (Equine Assisted Learning) programs do not always involve riding. “We rescue ‘unrideable’ horses for people who don’t need or want to ride,” Shannon says.

The Equine Assisted programs focus entirely on helping clients, many of them youngsters and teens, who aren’t prospering from classical counseling or psychotherapy approaches. Potential EAP clients are first

interviewed by licensed mental health professionals to determine if the program is suitable for them. Then every session with that client involves a mental health professional as well as an equine expert. Shannon Knapp is an EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth And Learning Association) Advanced Equine Specialist, but emphatically states, “I am not a psychotherapist!”



person in the organization. She joined Horse Sense in 2009 after 19 years as a professional horsewoman in capacities from trainer to equine therapist. She is also a PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and, with the help of Adam Cranston, an Occupational Therapist, the two offer Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy alongside Horse Sense.

As talented and knowledgeable as the Horse Sense leaders are, they couldn’t accomplish

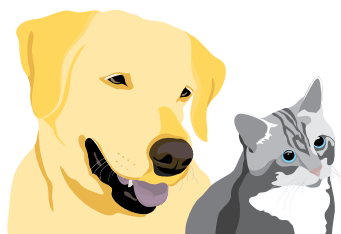
their mission without volunteers. Shannon explained it can take three volunteers – one to lead the horse and one on each side – to work with Lori or Adam in many Therapeutic Riding or Hippotherapy sessions. So volunteers like Anne Darling, a retired educator, and Mark Wood, retired from the fire service, are critical.

Horse Sense holds monthly open houses, (see Calendar of Events on page 2), to introduce potential clients to the facility and its programs. After touring the physical plant, Shannon gives visitors a taste of what EAL can do.

Inside a covered ring, she urges visitors to “meet” horses that are behind a rope separating them from the humans. They are invited to stand *silently* by the rope and let the horses come to them. “Unlike humans, horses don’t communicate with words,” Shannon says. “They read body language. So we teach people to go by ‘horse rules’, not people rules.”

The experiential process of learning ‘horse rules’ teaches clients valuable lessons. Over eight to twelve sessions, they learn to be assertive, rather than passive or aggressive; to live in the present, not the past or future; and to see the world as it *is*, not as it *seems* after being distorted by their personal fears and history.

In addition to working with individuals, Horse Sense offers leadership and team building programs for corporations and other organizations, continuing education programs for health care professionals, and retreats for people seeking inner calm. Some details about these programs and more are available at www.horsesenseotc.com.



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Haunted? Joe can help

by Rebecca Stares

My Joe is a one year old hound cross with a nose for busting.... ghost busting.

As a psychic medium and energy worker, I often get called into homes, businesses and buildings to clear the space of non-beneficial energies and entities. There are often reports of paranormal activity: sightings of ghosts, sudden drops in room temperature, objects being moved when no one is around. Sometimes, they just "feel creepy".

When a client requests an assessment and/or clearing of his space, Joe and I roll out. Once on site, I use my innate psychic ability to scope out the situation: Are there ghosts? Is there an energetic imprint from a traumatic experience? Have memories intensified to almost tangible entities? And so on. Joe does his own assessment, identifying "hot spots" where paranormal activity is especially high.

I discovered Joe's aptitude for finding paranormal activity accidentally, while visiting a friend in Asheville, a city known for having vortexes, portals, yeti, UFOs and ghosts. Joe began growling, an uncommon expression for my upbeat boy, and staring intently into one



particular corner. When I followed his gaze I saw it... a ghost! Joe kept growling until the ghost had been sent into the light and all traces removed. Then Joe led me around the perimeter, refusing to leave until all other ghosts (five in total) were cleared.

While Joe's active involvement in my work is unique, animals' ability to sense paranormal activity is not uncommon. There are many stories, even locally, about animals being sensitive to ghosts, energies, etc.

As a ghost-busting dog, Joe transforms from a slightly ridiculous puppy to a stern and serious guard dog in the presence of the paranormal. He also validates the completion of our work, allowing people to rest easy when we leave.

And Joe is also learning to help people attend to their emotional demons. His ability to read energy – our emotions, intentions, motivations – makes him an exceptional co-therapist in my animal-assisted therapy team!

Rebecca Stares owns Spirited Connections Counseling. She is a psychic medium, an energy worker, and an MSW running an animal-assisted therapy practice. More at www.spiritedconnectionsnc.com and Facebook.



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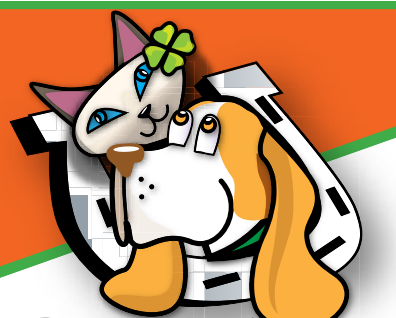
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Pit Bulls and the Law

by Temma Martin

People's perceptions of pit bull terriers seem to be changing for the better, if the passage of breed-neutral state and local laws is an indication.

Unfortunately, for many people who have never had real-life contact with pit bull terriers, their perceptions of the breed are based on infrequent media reports about incidents involving pit bulls. The dogs in these incidents are almost always owned by reckless or irresponsible people who fail to have their dogs spayed/neutered or trained and socialized. They also often mistreat their dogs, allow them to run loose, or force them to live on chains—all factors that increase the chances the dog might bite.

An estimated 5-7 million pit bulls live as pets in the United States, and the vast majority are loving, loyal family pets. In fact, statistics developed by the American Temperament Test Society show that 86.8 percent of American Pit Bull Terriers pass temperament evaluations—a better record than Golden Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels and Dachshunds. (The average for all breeds is 83 %).

An emerging trend indicates that states are moving away from breed discriminatory restrictions. This year alone, Nevada, Connecticut and Rhode Island have passed laws prohibiting cities and counties from banning or restricting dogs because of their breed. This brings the number of states prohibiting breed discrimination to 16.

"Best Friends is proud that nearly a third of our states have taken steps to prevent breed

discrimination," said Ledy VanKavage, senior legislative attorney for Best Friends Animal Society. "Every American who follows the right safety rules as a responsible dog owner should be allowed to own whatever breed of dog they choose."



The movement away from breed bans is based on studies and experience that demonstrate that laws targeting dogs based solely on breed are ineffective in reducing dog bites. Such laws are also arbitrary, difficult and expensive to enforce, violate basic property rights and ultimately punish responsible dog owners and innocent family pets. That's why more and more jurisdictions are enacting comprehensive breed-neutral ordinances focusing on the behavior of dogs and owners.

"We all want safe and humane communities," VanKavage said. "Communities should be protected against any dangerous dog, no matter the breed, and abused or neglected

dogs should be protected from bad owners. The simple truth is that breed discrimination doesn't work."

A 2010 study by the American Veterinary Medical Association found that serious dog bite injuries are so infrequent that approximately 100,000 dogs of a targeted group would have to be removed from a community in order to prevent one serious bite. Studies done in countries with breed-discriminatory laws, such as the United Kingdom, Spain and Germany, found that these laws didn't reduce the number of dog bites or improve public safety. Based on these studies and concerns about due process and property rights infringement, the National Animal Control Association, the American Bar Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, Best Friends Animal Society, the ASPCA, and the Humane Society of the United States don't support breed discrimination.

According to research by Best Friends, in the first half of 2013 approximately 28 cities, counties or states have enacted breed-neutral laws, (after considering a breed ban), or have repealed an existing breed ban. This is in contrast with only 10 cities that have adopted breed bans this year. Happily, that indicates that new laws based on facts and behavior are outnumbering those based on fear and misconceptions.

Temma Martin is a Public Relations Specialist with Best Friends Animal Society, the only national animal welfare organization focused exclusively on ending the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters. For further information, go to www.bestfriends.org.

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Pit Bull Challenge

Some highly publicized biting incidents and dog-fighting headlines in recent years have, unfortunately, tarnished the reputation of what can be friendly, stable, even calm pets. So there are now many myths surrounding pit bull breeds. See if you can separate fact from fiction.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Well-known celebrities have pit bulls. Fact or Fiction? | 5. Pit bulls are actually bred to be affectionate towards people. Fact or Fiction? |
| 2. American Pit Bull Terriers lock their jaws. Fact or Fiction? | 6. Pit bulls serve as therapy dogs. Fact or Fiction? |
| 3. There is no such thing as a "bad breed". Fact or Fiction? | 7. Petey, the faithful dog in the TV show "The Little Rascals", was a pit bull. Fact or Fiction? |
| 4. America's first war dog was a pit bull. Fact or Fiction? | 8. You shouldn't adopt a pit bull from a shelter. Fact or Fiction? |

Answers on page 14.

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Pit Bull Challenge Answers

1. Fact: Many well-known celebrities such as Rosie Perez, Alicia Silverstone, Sinbad and John Stuart have Pit Bulls.

2. Fiction: American Pit Bull Terriers don't lock their jaws. Studies show that the jaw of the Pit Bull is in proportion to its size and is no different than any other breed of dog. There is no evidence that any kind of "locking mechanism" exists in the American Pit Bull Terrier. The infamous locking jaw is a myth.

3. Fact: There is no such thing as a "bad breed". The pit bull breed gets a bad rap, but more often than not they are the VICTIMS of irresponsible and abusive ownership. In a study of 122 dog breeds by the American Temperament Testing Society, pit bulls achieved a passing grade of 83.9%. That's as good or better than beagles, at 78.2%, and Golden Retrievers at 83.2%.

4. Fact: America's first war dog was a pit bull named Stubby, who served in World War I. He went on to inspire the United States Military K-9 Corps.

5. Fact: Pit bulls are actually bred to be affectionate towards people. They have been bred for hundreds of years for strength, agility, high pain tolerance and absence of aggression toward humans.

6. Fact: Pit bulls do serve as therapy dogs. In fact, Helen Keller's canine helper was a pit bull.

7. Fact: Petey, the faithful dog on the

TV show "The Little Rascals", was a pit bull. He spent countless hours day after day with children on the set, and was said to be one of the most intelligent dogs in Hollywood.

8. Fiction: You shouldn't adopt a pit bull from a shelter. The fact is that any reputable shelter or rescue will not adopt out any dog that shows signs of aggression, and most pit bull adoptions are successful. An adoptable pit bull makes a wonderful pet.

Editor's note: The pit bull questions and answers were based on a website article of the Massachusetts SPCA and printed with their permission.



Dog Park Meeting

The next Friends of North Asheville Dog Park meeting will be at the Animal Hospital of North Asheville Education Room on Monday, September 9th at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to come to find out the latest news or join a committee to help make a new dog park happen. This will be the first general meeting since the public meeting at Jones School in July. The September meeting will include updates on the committee meetings and the progress that has occurred since July. See nadogpark@gmail.com for more information.



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Bark for Life Event to Fight Cancer

Asheville's 4th Annual Bark for Life will be held Saturday, October 19th from 2-5pm at the Highland Brewing Company on Old Charlotte Highway. The event is run by the Relay for Life division of the American Cancer Society and proceeds will benefit cancer research.

Participants will receive a doggie bag, an event T-shirt, a doggie bandanna, doggie treats, and a ticket for one free beer or soft drink. (Redeemable by the human, not the dog.) There will also be a giant raffle for great gifts donated by local people and businesses, and lots of great food available from some of Asheville's popular food truck vendors.

Local rescue organizations will be on hand with adoptable dogs and puppies to brighten your day even if you don't take one home. And Alarm Clock Conspiracy will be there to provide live music.

A kickoff party for this year's Bark for Life will be held at the Bywater on Riverside Drive, starting at 7pm on Thursday, September 26th. There will be a live band, plenty of good food, and a "Ready, Set, Draw" competition. All the proceeds from new members joining Bywater that night will go to Bark for Life.

Registration for the Bark for Life event, sponsored by Prestige Subaru and Highland Brewing, are \$20 in advance, or \$25 the day of event. For more information go to www.relayforlife.org/barkasheville. 



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Officer Boris Back

Officer Boris, a Belgian Malinois bred and trained for police work and a valued member of the Asheville Police K9 Unit, is well on his way to recovery after a complicated surgery to repair his ACL performed by Dr. David Crouch of Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery. Handler Officer Scott Muse reports that his canine partner is back on his duties as a patrol dog which includes narcotics, tracking the missing or suspects, and retrieving evidence. Apprehension work, where the dog pulls a suspect to the ground, will be the final stage of Boris's recovery, expected in the early fall.

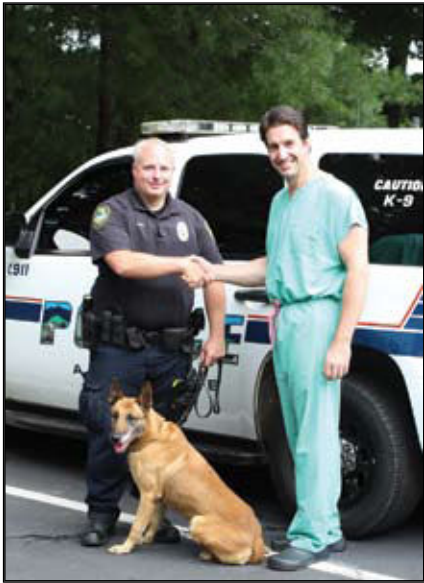
"Boris is an athlete", reports Muse. "He runs at 33 mph and turns on a dime, and is notorious for jumping off high places in pursuit, because dogs have poor depth perception. The adrenaline runs so high when he's working, that he wouldn't exhibit injury immediately. We noticed him limping in his kennel."

Dr. David Crouch reports that tremendous advances have been made

in recent years in canine ACL repair. "Canine knees are not shaped like human knees, so we actually screw a metal brace into the bone", he said. "Recovery from this surgery is 12 to 14 weeks, and the most difficult part for an athletic dog is to have limited movement in his crate for

the first six weeks, to allow the bone to heal." Recovery training after that was gradual: short leash walks, then 4 weeks on a long leash, tracking on good terrain, and swimming in the pond at the Azalea Road dog park as part of family outings. "Boris is a member of our family", Muse says. "He's not aggressive. In fact we use him at all our demos with schoolkids."

Muse reports that Boris has contributed to the economy of Asheville with his outstanding record in recovery of drug money, almost \$1,000,000 so far, of which 80% comes back to Asheville. "We use it to purchase equipment such as vehicles and weapons", he says, "and the money also provides training for the police."



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Saturday, October 5, 2013

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WHEN : Saturday, October 5, 2013
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