

# PetGazette

Western North Carolina

May – June 2016

Volume 5 - Issue 3



## Events

All Breed Shows  
Barq in the Parq  
Dock Diving Dogs  
Free Training Workshops  
Million \$ Dog Games  
Paw It Forward  
VeganFest

## Health

Hot Spots  
Kitten Tips  
“Natural”?  
Pets for Vets

Rainbow Bridge  
Events Calendar  
And much more!

Champion Australian Shepherd Atasi jumping for joy.



## Calendar of Events May - June 2016

**Through June 15 – Paw It Forward unique fundraiser for Asheville Humane Society. Put your pet's photo and "voice" online to ask for donations. Prizes for pets getting most donations. Details at [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org).**

### May

**Sun. - 5/1 - 1-4pm.** Foothills Humane Society Annual Animal Fair at Chateau du Cheval. Buffet, desserts, bar, live music and animals. \$100 per person. 828 863-4444.

**Wed. - 5/4 - 6-8pm.** AHS Pints for Pets Adoption Event at Sanctuary Brewing, 47 1st Ave., E. Hendersonville. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Fri. - 5/12 - 6-8pm.** Yappy Hour with Mix 96.5 at Asheville Food Park, 219 Amboy Rd., Asheville. Drinks, food, adoptable dogs. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Sat. - 5/14 - 11am-5pm.** PetSmart Asheville Spring Adoptathon. 150 Bleachery Rd., Asheville. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Sun. - 5/15 - 11am-5pm.** PetSmart Asheville Spring Adoptathon. See above.

**Sun. - 5/17 - 10am-5pm.** Barq in the Park at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Presented by WTZQ FM 95.3 and AM 1600 to benefit Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue, and Blue Ridge Humane Society. Music, vendors, adopt-

able dogs. Your leashed dog welcome. \$5 entry goes to rescue of your choice. [WTZQ.com](http://WTZQ.com) or 828 692-1600.

**Fri. - 5/27 thru Sun. - 5/29 - 8am-5pm.** American Kennel Club sanctioned all breed Obedience, Conformation, Agility events at Western Carolina Agricultural Center, Fletcher. Hosted by Blue Ridge Agility Club, Hendersonville Kennel Club and Spartanburg Kennel Club. Parking \$5, events free. Please leave pets home.

**Sun. - 5/29 - 2-5pm.** Low-cost vaccine clinic at Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church, 238 S. French Broad Ave., Asheville.

**Mon. - 5/30 - All Day.** Memorial Day. Remember the fallen, including service dogs.

### June

**Thu. - 6/9 - 6-8pm.** Yappy Hour with Mix 96.5 at Creekside Taphouse, 8 Beverly Rd., Asheville. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

**Sat. - 6/11 - 8am-5pm.** Asheville Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show at Western Carolina Agricultural Center, Fletcher. Breeders, vendors, dogs of every stripe and spot. Admission FREE, parking \$5. 828 258-4833.

**Sat. - 6/11 - TBD.** BWAR VeganFest in Pack Square Park, Asheville. Music, food, beer, vendors, more. [bwar.org](http://bwar.org) or 828 505-3440.

**Sat. - 6/11 - 8am-5pm.** Asheville Kennel

**Club 83rd All Breed Dog Show at Western Carolina Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC.** Breeders, vendors, hundres of dogs. Parking \$5, event free.

**Sun. - 6/12 - 11am-5pm.** BWAR VeganFest in Pack Square Park, Asheville. See above.

**Sat. - 6/18 - 8am.** Mutt Strutt 5K to celebrate Polk Library Summer Reading Program at Harmon Field, Tryon, NC. Run or walk, with or without dog. If you need one, Foothills Humane Society (FHS) will provide one. No entry fee, but donations may be made to FHS. T-shirts available for \$10. [polklibrary.org](http://polklibrary.org) or 828 894-8721.

**Fri. thru Sun. - 6/24-6/26 - 8am-5pm.** Million Dollar Dog Games at WCarolina Diving Dogs, 477 Jenkins Rd., Waynesville. Dock diving, agility, flying disc events. Free to spectators, plenty of free parking. [Wcarolinadivingdogs.com](http://Wcarolinadivingdogs.com) or 828 200-2548

**Sat. - 6/25 - 8am-5pm.** Million Dollar Dog Games. See above.

**Sun. - 6/26 - 1-4pm.** Paw It Forward Victory Celebration at AHS headquarters, 14 Forever Friends Lane, Asheville. Music, refreshments, tours, awards. [ashevillehumane.org](http://ashevillehumane.org) or 828 761-2001.

### Ongoing

**Please call or email to confirm events since schedules can change.**  
**Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am.** BWAR.

The Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at the shelter to take dogs on hikes. Great 1½ hour enrichment activity. [volunteer@bwar.org](mailto:volunteer@bwar.org).

**Every first, second, third and fifth Saturday, 12-3pm.** CPPI sells low-cost spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville PETCO.

**Every fourth Sat. - 10am-1pm.** CPPI sells low-cost spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville Tractor Supply.

**Every Wed., Sat. - BWAR.** PetSmart Cat Adoption Events. Times vary. Call 828 808-3440 for schedule.

**Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm.** Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville.

**Every Sat. - 12pm.** PAPC Puppy Play dates at its dog park. All vaccinated puppies under 1 year welcome for safe socializing.

**Every Sat. - 2pm.** PAPC All Dogs Play Dates at its dog park.

**Every Sun. - 12pm.** PAPC Small breed – under 30 lbs. – play dates at its dog park.

**Every Sun. - 2pm.** PAPC Rough Players Play Party. All healthy and friendly dogs welcome.

**Every Sun. - 10am-2pm.** AHS Hiking Hounds. Volunteers take shelter dogs for hike.

**Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm.** Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14Forever Friends Lane, West Asheville. Details at [volunteer@ashevillehumane.org](mailto:volunteer@ashevillehumane.org).

**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 Inc. PAPC = Patton Avenue Pet Company WNCDDFA = Western North Carolina Dog Fanciers Association



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## Free dog training workshops offered

Dog trainer Debbie Dobson of "Good Dog" Animal Behavior will provide FREE workshops, open to the public, but not to dogs. The sessions will be held at Henderson County library branches from 10:30am until about noon on Saturday, May 7 in Edneyville, and again on Saturday, May 21 in Etowah.

Dobson emphasizes that positive, healthy relationships (of all kinds) are based on mutual respect, trust and affection. The love you have for your dog is the basis of forming the bond between you, and that strong bond means your dog wants to please you because s/he loves you. She says you should become your dog's "benevolent leader". As a leader, be patient, take small steps if necessary, and do everything you can to help your dog understand what you are asking.

Always remember to sincerely praise your dog – they recognize our genuine happiness and want to bask in it as much as possible! Over time, you will see a loving devoted partnership develop between you and your pup.

Dobson points out that there are eight things to remember when training a dog:

- Dogs can be opportunists: this is the origin of "counter surfing"!
- We are asking them to understand a brand new language – ours!
- Most dogs want and prefer direction from a leader – you!
- The calmer you are, the calmer your dog will be.
- All dogs need regular, daily aerobic exercise.
- Most dogs are not aggressive; they are excited.
- Dogs need to be socialized and exposed to other dogs and all kinds of people.

- It's perfectly OK to set reasonable behavioral boundaries with your dog.

According to Dobson, the three most common unwanted canine behaviors, and their solutions, are:

- Jumping up on people when greeting them. She suggests owners teach "Sit" when greeting.
- Barking. Dobson says to gently place your hand around your dog's muzzle and say, "Quiet" or "No barking." You may also need to use a spray bottle filled with water.
- Pulling while on leash. Dobson reports "tremendous success" with the Freedom No-Pull Harness, available at [www.usadog.com](http://www.usadog.com). She also recommends reading a particularly helpful article about teaching your dog not to pull while walking. The article can be found at [www.aspcapet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/teaching-your-dog-not-pull-leash](http://www.aspcapet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/teaching-your-dog-not-pull-leash).
- Another increasingly common behavior is what is called "leash reactivity". There are usually two reasons for it: either your dog is thrilled about meeting another dog and wants to immediately greet them, or they fear an approaching dog, perhaps because they've had an unpleasant prior experience or simply because this is a new dog – an unknown. She urges dog owners to read a helpful ASPCA article for further understanding and suggestions. The article can be found at [www.aspcapet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/dogs-who-are-reactive-leash](http://www.aspcapet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/dogs-who-are-reactive-leash).

Dobson can be reached at 928-282-2550 or [dogmom7@gmail.com](mailto:dogmom7@gmail.com) for further information.



# PetGazette Pet Resource Guide

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They make PetGazette possible.

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# PetGazette

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Entire **PetGazette** home office staff.

**Carol Marks, Publisher**

[publisher.petgazette@gmail.com](mailto:publisher.petgazette@gmail.com)

**Jim Marks, Editor**

[editor.petgazette@gmail.com](mailto:editor.petgazette@gmail.com)

**Hunter, Golden Retriever**

VP Customer Relations

**Rosie, ShihTzu/Terrier**

VP Credit & Collections



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# Area therapy dog running for Hero Dog Award

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Sam, the compassionate therapy dog.

Saluda therapy dog Sam is once again in the running for an American Humane (AHA) Hero Dog of the Year award. In 2015, he was nominated but did not make the semi-finals in the Therapy Dog category, one of eight in which the Society presents awards.

Sam is a 45 pound Lab mix about seven years old. Saluda resident Nancy Weinhagen found him as a puppy outside a veterinarian's office. She fell in love with him immediately, so she took him home and adopted him after failing to find his owner. He passed the therapy dog training

program about a year later, and has been bringing joy and solace to people ever since. Sam is an equal-opportunity lover, and visits retirement homes, including those for veterans; hospitals, children's reading programs at the Saluda library; and elementary schools, where Sam and Weinhagen teach children how to safely meet and greet dogs.

He sat with one aging veteran and comforted her as she passed on. Then, as she had requested, Sam attended her funeral in Black Mountain. These days, Sam is a regular visitor to Mrs. Helen Cagney at the Tryon Estates senior facility. She always looks forward to his visits, and encourages him to join her on her bed, which Sam happily does.

In addition to the Therapy category, the other AHA Hero Dog award categories are Arson, Emerging Hero, Service, Guide/Hearing, Law Enforcement, Military and Search and Rescue Dogs. Semi-finalists in each category are chosen by on-line votes at [www.herodogawards.org/vote](http://www.herodogawards.org/vote). Supporters were able to vote once a day through April 27, which happened to be the first day of distribution for this issue of PetGazette. Sam's story was on the PetGazette web site and Facebook page, which hopefully helped him get enough votes this year to get into the semi-finals.

On-line voting for one of the three semi-finalists in each category begins Wednesday, May 11 and ends Sunday, June 22. In selecting a finalist from each

category, voting will count 50%. The other 50% of the decision will come from a panel of expert judges. Voting for the one overall Hero Dog of the Year Award will start July 6 and end August 24, 2016. As with the semi-finalists, winners in each category will be determined 50% by votes, 50% by judges.

The overall Hero Dog of the Year Award will be determined at an event in Los Angeles in September.



Sam visiting good friend Mrs. Helen Cagney.

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# Pets for Vets: How Dogs Help Veterans

by Ryan Jo Summers

The numbers are staggering, frightening and sobering. As of September 2014, there were 2.7 million American veterans just from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been estimated in 11 to 20% of those vets. For 2013, that was roughly 12,632 soldiers. Since 2002, 118,829 warriors have been diagnosed with PTSD. Also, there are an estimated 15% of Vietnam vets diagnosed as having PTSD. A 2013 Veteran Affairs study showed an average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day.

*Why?* For many of these soldiers, they are still in Afghanistan, Iraq or Saigon; the lands where they fought for America.

Imagine the complexity of this (partial) list of PTSD symptoms these warriors face: Flashbacks. Nightmares. Frightening thoughts. Avoidance and staying away from places. Losing interest in previously enjoyable activities. Feeling guilty. Feeling numb. Depression. Hyper-arousal. Feeling tense. Being scared easily. Having uncontrollable outbursts. Difficulty sleeping. Alcoholism and drug addictions. Their individual symptoms compiled can lead to an emotional paralysis.

Think of going to the movies. It's enjoyable for most people. With PTSD, it can become an anxious nightmare. It's dark, crowded, and people are whispering. There are frequently sudden outbursts of screaming or laughing. To someone already

tense and hyper-aroused, this is a hellish road to flashbacks--and just one example of how difficult normal, daily living can be. The price they paid for war can leave them emotionally--and physically--crippled.

Enter the dogs. There are two types of dogs that can be used to assist veterans. One is a service dog. These are trained with specific commands based on the needs of the veteran. They might do things like "Block" their owner, offering the protection of a barrier and space. "Lights" tells the dog to go ahead and turn on lights so the owner doesn't have to enter a darkened room. "Sweep" orders the dog to enter a room or house first, sweeping it for people and barking to alert the veteran they are not alone. "Bring" tells the dog to fetch an item and bring it back. For veterans with limited mobility or vision challenges, these skills are invaluable. For anyone with tension issues, these dogs can offer a true sense of security.


The second type is an emotional support dog, which are not necessarily specific-task trained. They offer comfort and

companionship. They provide a safe refuge from flashbacks, nightmares, panic attacks or other anxious moments. Health benefits for vets just having a dog range from decreasing their loneliness and anxiety to providing comfort and exercise. Dogs help vets with socialization challenges, reduce their stress and improve their self-esteem. Veterans often cite they feel shut down, afraid or unable to engage with family and friends anymore. The accepting nature of the dog breaks those barriers. The dogs can sense when their person is having a flashback, nightmare or panic attack and can bring them back. They do tasks difficult or impossible for vets to do and have even been credited for saving the lives of their owners on occasion.

The best part of all this? The dogs! Some are previously owned by the vets, and trained for their specific needs. Many more are shelter dogs who have been taken in by the numerous groups who provide dogs to vets and now have both a forever home and a wonderful new purpose in life. A dog's life is saved and now a soldier is helped and healed.

Groups all over the US provide trained dogs or training for vets. In North Carolina, there is Paws4Vets. Their "primary mission is to train and provide qualified individuals with certified assistance dogs custom trained to fit their individual requirements and needs.". (They also service VA, WV, OH, PA, MD, SC, GA and FL) [www.Paws4Vets.org](http://www.Paws4Vets.org).

In Asheville, we have Warrior Service Dogs, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that "provides disabled Veterans with specially trained service dogs to assist them in their path to recovery and everyday life". They can be found at [www.warriorservicedogs.org](http://www.warriorservicedogs.org) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/warriorservicedogs](https://www.facebook.com/warriorservicedogs).

Nationwide places to check include: Hawaii Fi-Do (serves Hawaii), K9s for Warriors, Pets for Vets, Freedom Service Dogs, Patriot Paws Service Dogs, Service Dog Project, Inc. (serves New England area), New Horizons Service Dogs (FL), Inc., Sam Simon Foundation (CA), America's VetDogs, Canine Companions for Independence, Canines for Service, Paws and Stripes, Paws for Purple Heart- Bergin University of Canine Students and Warrior Canine Connection. 

*The above is the final segment in a three-part series about pets enriching lives outside the familiar home setting. Ryan Jo Summers is a Hendersonville author and animal advocate. To learn about her recent big news see her website [www.ryanjosummers.com](http://www.ryanjosummers.com) or her blog [www.summersrye.wordpress.com](http://www.summersrye.wordpress.com).*





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## Barq in the Parq to again benefit area rescues


Barq in the Parq 2016, once again sponsored by radio station WTZQ FM 95.3 and AM 1600, will also once again be held at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center in Hendersonville, just east of I-26, Exit 53. The date for the Barq is Saturday, May 17, and the hours are 10am to 5pm.

The festivities will raise money for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue, and the Blue Ridge Humane Society to help them all continue to save homeless pets. The entrance fee of \$5 will be donated to the charity of the Barq-goers choice.

Although the list of participating vendors was not available at PetGazette press time, it is expected that there will be 40 or more vendor booths. Vendors will be offering everything from pet photos to people massages, pet insurance to doggie bling.

Food trucks will supply a variety of choices to satisfy almost any taste. And live music will liven up the day.

All the while, volunteers from rescue groups will be walking adorable, adoptable pooches around the grounds, letting them meet and greet Barq-goers in the hope that someone will give them a permanent home. Leashed pets will be enthusiastically welcomed, not just tolerated, all over the grounds. And they will get a special welcome at the PetGazette tent.

For further information, call 828 692-1600, or visit [WTZQ.com](http://WTZQ.com). 





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# Is “All Natural” pet food really all natural?

by Michael Rosenstock

Most pet parents are drawn in by pet food labels promising “All Natural” or “Organic” ingredients. But how are “All Natural” and “Organic” legally defined?

Many regulations relate to these terms, but the FDA says *there is no legal definition of the term “All Natural.”* The FDA and AAFCO (Association of Animal Feed Control) requirements simply dictate that if the product doesn’t include added colors, artificial flavors or synthetic substances it can be marketed as “All Natural.” Surprising, isn’t it?

It may also be surprising to know that pet foods processed with certain synthetic substances like petroleum products or hydrogenated sugars are often classified as “organic” as well as meeting the requirements for “all natural.” The National Organic Program of the USDA helps create a guideline for products labeled “Organic,” and is authorized to establish the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. This National List contains both synthetic substances that are permitted and certain natural substances that are prohibited for so-called organic production.

Most of us assume “organic” means “occurring naturally”. Most of us also assume that any product that can be labeled as organic must automatically be “All Natural”. But neither assumption is currently correct. That is why class action law suits against certain products labeled “All Natural” and/or “Organic” were successful in adding two new components to the definition of “All Natural”

a. A natural ingredient is one that comes from or is made from a renewable resource found in nature.

b. Minimal processing involves only kitchen chemistry; processes that can be done in a family kitchen and do not negatively impact the purity of the natural ingredient.

These definitions have not yet been legally adopted by the FDA, and as yet have no legal impact on pet food labels. They are, however, important to an accurate evaluation of pet products labeled “All Natural” and/or “Organic”.

When evaluating pet foods, it is also important to know whether they contain the vitamins, minerals, and enzymes necessary for the absorption of those nutrients. Foods in their original state, as grown or as raised, contain nutritional values that include vitamins, minerals and the enzymes needed for the absorption of those nutrients. But most pet foods today use added supplements that are chemically and structurally different from those commonly found in foods. The majority of vitamin supplements used are USP vitamins, also known or labeled “Natural” or “pharmaceutical grade”.

The USP or U.S. Pharmacopeia Convention is a non-profit scientific organization, whose goal is to standardize and verify vitamins. It says: *A supplement successfully meeting our rigorous testing and auditing criteria receives the USP Verified Mark. When you see the Mark, it means the supplement:*

a. Contains the ingredients listed on the label, in the declared strength and amounts,

b. Does not contain harmful levels of specified contaminants,

c. Is made according to FDA and USP Good Manufacturing Practices, using sanitary and well-controlled processes.

The second bullet point - “Does not contain harmful levels of specified contaminants” - raises a concern. This statement exists because “natural” or USP supplements are created by extracting and concentrating the vitamins from a food source in a laboratory. Unfortunately, this extraction requires a chemical process that in most cases utilizes petroleum derivatives or hydrogenated sugars. Those are the same potentially harmful “synthetic substances” that could be considered harmful contaminants.

My personal effort to create a pet food providing 100% of nutritional needs per feeding, without synthetic substances, ran into disturbing realities. “All Natural” doesn’t always mean all natural. Products labeled as “organic” can include inorganic synthesized compounds. By the manufacturer’s definition, “organic” includes no measures for quality. It only concerns itself with how an ingredient was grown or raised. In fact, organic ingredients sold for pet foods regularly include things that cannot be sold for human consumption, including dying, disabled, diseased and dead animals, plus fruits and vegetables showing signs of rot.

Look carefully as you choose your next bag or can of pet food. Is it really All Natural or Organic, as you understand those terms? Does it have a host of supplements? If the answers to those questions are “No”, “No”, and “Yes”, is it really the food you want to buy?

Michael Rosenstock is the founder of Finest Fetch, a new dog treat company.

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## Pets at Work

### Poodle approves of veterinarian employee

by Carol Marks

Senna the beautiful Standard Poodle pictured here, described to PetGazette recently what it is like to be a pet at a human's work.

"It can sometimes be very difficult for pets at a human's place of work, in my case Western Carolina Veterinary Surgery, to keep those humans on the job. My employee, David Crouch DVM., has a habit of stopping his paperwork to reach down to stroke my head. This also interrupts me when I'm trying to do my job, which is to sleep next to the desk."

"Every once in a while he actually asks me to do his job and sits me behind his desk. Being a dog, I can't read. But because I love David, I try to do my best. Because I am with Dr. Crouch only four years, I still have some work to do on this habit. But I am fortunate that Dr. Crouch is a veterinarian who loves his work, so he's a good employee because he's frequently at work in his custom-designed operating room with a dog or cat who needs help."

David designed this surgical suite

himself and it has all of the advanced equipment used in human surgical suites. He's in great demand as a surgeon, as his bon a fides attest: Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, charter member of the Canine Shoulder Society – and much more.

He's one of only 30 veterinarians in the country who can perform a very advanced elbow reconstruction on dogs. As if this weren't enough, he also works as a volunteer for the national organization Pilots n Paws, flying with his own plane to bring pets which are close to euthanasia to their forever homes. He helps the rescue organizations in the area by restoring rescued pets with ambulatory problems back to health.

Sometimes on the weekends he actually takes a break from all this work and flies us to somewhere warm in the winter, or we go camping in the summer. So I shouldn't complain. He's a pretty good employee after all."



Senna keeping her employee David Crouch D.V.M. at work behind his desk.



Senna letting Dr. Crouch take a break.



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## “Whole Bloomin’ Thing” includes Block Party Pet Events

Waynesville’s 14<sup>th</sup> Whole Bloomin’ Thing Spring Festival will be held this year on May 7, from 9am to 4pm, in The Frog Level area of Waynesville in Haywood County. Frog Level is an historic area of Waynesville too little known to visitors and residents alike, and this festival, shepherded by the board and members of The Historic Frog Level Merchant’s Association, helps draw people to the area to learn more. In fact Frog Level was instrumental in the growth of Waynesville. Like many western North Carolina towns, Waynesville did not see its initial development boom until the railroad arrived in 1884. The tracks were laid at Frog Level.

The Haywood Square Block Party will be the center of pet events, taking place in the spacious area in front of The Dog House Supplies & Grooming. Petlovers will particularly enjoy this location, with many animal events and a Customer Appreciation Day at The Dog House. There will be huge sales, free goody bags, raffle baskets, etc. Sarge’s Animal Rescue Foundation and many other rescues will be there with adoptable pets for you to meet, greet, and perhaps make a part of your family.


The times for the scheduled pet events at Haywood Square as of Pet Gazette press time are as follows:

- Pet Photography – all day!
- Waynesville Police Department K-9 Demos 9am - 9:45am.
- Best singer (dogs) 10am
- Longest Sit (dogs, not people) 11 – 11:45am
- K-9 Demonstrations 12pm

- Costume Contest 12:15pm
- Look-Alike Contest 1 – 1:45pm
- K-9 Demonstrations 2pm
- Best Trick (dogs) 2:15pm
- Best Kisses (dogs) 3 – 3:45pm

The Whole Bloomin’ Thing could be described as part Craft Fair, part farmer’s market. Flowering baskets, vegetable and herbs, berry bushes, potted plants, trees, perennials, fresh local produce & organic beef are just some of the available items. Local Food vendors will have hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ, fresh ice cream, kettle corn, and fresh squeezed lemonade. Local artists will feature a wide range of nature-inspired gifts and handicrafts. Live entertainment will be provided by local artists as each year brings new local talent to the Spring Festival.

In addition to the pet events at Haywood Square, there will be food, singing, face painting, bounce house, music, Caricaturist, and more. Participating businesses are: Blue Moon Salon, Urban Vapor, Carolina Coins and Precious Metal, Tek’s Cares, Forbidden Color Tattoo, Welcome Finance, Therapeutic Massage, Avada, Bruce McGovern, Music Box, Blue Mountain Chiropractic, Zoolies, PFG paints, Bosu’s Wine Shop, Somatic Healing Clinic, Mountain Home Collections.

Haywood Square is located at 304 N. Haywood St., Waynesville. For further information about the most recent scheduled events at the Haywood Square Block Party, call The Dog House at 828-452-9573. For information about The Whole Bloomin’ Thing, see the website at [historicfroglevel.com](http://historicfroglevel.com). 

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# Three Dock Diving Events Coming This Summer

## Million Dollar Dog Games in Waynesville June 23-25

## WC Diving Dogs Spring Fever Fling 2016

## Ultimate Air Dogs in Asheville Two Weekends

Finally, a way for your dog to repay you for all the room, board and medical care you've provided all these years. For the first time ever, your dog can win \$1,000,000. That's one million dollars.

Million Dollar Dog Games is looking for dogs to compete in a cross discipline competition featuring agility, dock diving and flying disc for cash prizes. The regional competition will be held Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26 at the Western Carolina Diving Dogs facility in Waynesville. Spectators are so welcome they get in free, and parking is also free.

The dock diving event will take place at the regulation above-ground competition pool, 21 feet wide by 41.5 feet long. The flying disc and agility competitions will be held in the horse ring. Dogs must compete in at least two of the three events to be eligible for immediate prizes and the chance to compete in the national championships in Dallas, Texas. One overall winner there will be awarded \$1,000,000. That's one million dollars! Individual winners in agility, dock diving and flying disc will each receive \$50,000.

Complete rules and regulations for the Million Dollar Dog Games event are available at [milliondollaroggames.com](http://milliondollaroggames.com).



The 2016 dock diving season will jump off on Saturday, May 14 and continue Sunday, May 15 at WC Diving Dogs in Waynesville, NC with an NADD (North America Diving Dogs) sanctioned event.

The facility's logo says it is "Where dogs fly", and the spring competition will prove that the description is accurate. NADD events provide competitions in distance dock diving, vertical dock diving, and air retrieve of a thrown disc. The NADD has competition standards that any hosting facility must meet, and WCarolina Diving Dogs meets them all.

The facility can be rented seven days a week from 10am to 4pm when not in use for competition. Rentals are available in one hour segments with or without dock diving instruction. Whether an owner wants to make his/her dog an NADD champion, or simply wants to give the dog a chance to go for a swim, WC Diving Dogs provides the place to do it at 477 Jenkins Road, Waynesville, NC.

For more information about dock diving events or more details about renting, visit [wcarolinadivingdogs.com](http://wcarolinadivingdogs.com), email [tracey@wcarolinadivingdogs.com](mailto:tracey@wcarolinadivingdogs.com), or call 800 200-2458.



The Ultimate Air Dogs show will be at Asheville's Pack Square on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 as part of the I Luv Food and Music Fest, then will return the next Saturday, July 2, to complement the Ingles July 4th fireworks.

No dog is too small or too big to participate, as long as they can swim. And in keeping with the Asheville attitude of inclusion, all breeds and all mixed breeds are welcome. From Yorkies to Great Danes, cockapoos to doodles, no jumper is turned away.

*"No dog is too big or too small to jump."*

Specific times and rules for the two events were not available at PetGazette press time. More information will

be available at [ultimateairdogs.com](http://ultimateairdogs.com) as the event gets closer.



Photo of champion jumper Calypso by owner Kathryn Gubista, Ph.



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### Bark for Your Park contest offers \$275,000

The 2016 PetSafe® contest is designed to help communities come together to build, improve or maintain dog parks for residents and their pets.

*"Supporters should organize to enter the contest."*

Five winning communities will each be awarded a \$25,000 grant for the construction of a new dog park. Ten communities will each earn a \$10,000 grant to improve existing facilities. Ten communities will each get a \$5,000 grant to maintain the parks they have.

Dog park supporters who would like to win a share of the prizes for a PetSafe® dog park should organize to enter the contest. Supporters should recruit members from their local pet community – veterinarians, groomers, sitters, walkers, store owners, kennel owners, etc. To be eligible for the contest, a group must have acquired land as well as the support of its local government.

Communities throughout the U.S. can start applying for the grants on Sunday, May 1. Entrance forms and rules can be found at [www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark](http://www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark).



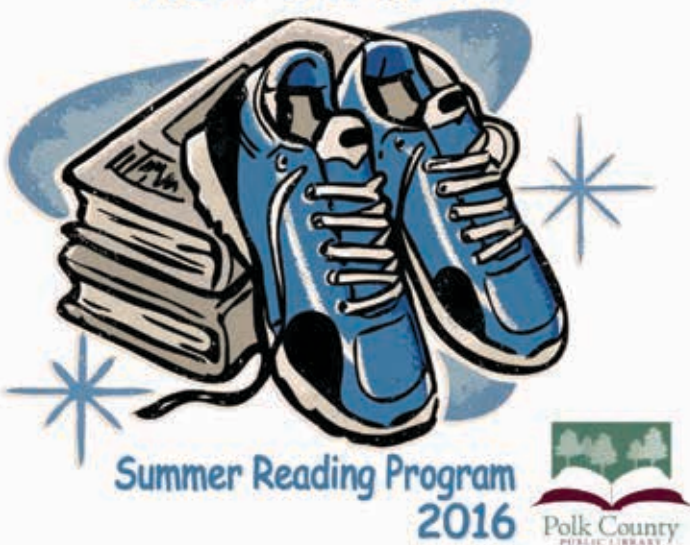
## Dogs to Walk, Run to Help Readers

The inaugural Mutt Strut 5K will step off on Saturday, June 18 at Harmon Field in Tryon, NC. The event will celebrate the beginning of the Polk County Public Library (PCPL) summer reading program.

Participants will navigate a course cordoned off for the event, and all will be encouraged to bring their family dog along with them. Those who don't have a family dog, or have a family dog that will not be up for the event, can have a dog from the Foothills Humane Society, (FHS), tag along with them for the event. There is no fee to join in the race, but runners may donate to the FHS on race day. Runners may also purchase an event T-shirt for \$10.

Purrfect Bark Natural Pet Market, Foothills Humane Society, Landrum Veterinary Hospital, and the Polk County Public Library will all have booths at the race. There will also be a photo-booth available to take a finish-line picture with your dog, or the FHS dog that joined you in the race. Prizes will be awarded

## Polk County Public Library Mutt Strut 5k



to the top category winners for pets and humans.

Amelia Derr, PCPL Programming Assistant, said the library was hoping to get about 300 human participants, but had no estimate on the number of dogs that would be joining the race.

On-line registration will open on May 1 at [polklibrary.org](http://polklibrary.org). Details concerning packet pickup will be made available at that time. At press time, volunteers to help with the event were still needed. To volunteer for the Mutt Strut 5K, or for more information about the race, call 828 894-8721, or go to [polklibrary.org](http://polklibrary.org).

## Combating "Hot Spots" in Pets

by Sarah Brown, DVM

Summer is almost here, and lots of pets develop skin problems. "Hot spots" are a common superficial infection that can spread like a fire, so they earn the name. Anything that causes damage to the skin surface can lead to a breakdown of natural defenses.

Hot spots usually start by the pet chewing at the site, making the area red and angry. Staph bacteria think this is the perfect place to live, and, very quickly, there is a growing area of crusting, pain, and inflammation. This problem is most common in thick coated dogs, but any dog with allergies or sensitive skin can have recurring issues with hot spots.

Prevention is the best way to deal with these infections. Be sure you use good flea products, and brush your pet often to prevent mats. Brushing also lets you check the skin for early problems. If your pet has allergies, check with your veterinarian for effective treatments and stick with them.

If you find a moist, irritated spot on the skin, carefully clip all the hair around the edges to help keep it dry. You can gently clean the area with dilute betadine or Hibiclens type product, but don't use any cream based medications. The goal is to help it dry! If the spot seems to be spreading or not improving quickly, have your vet check before it turns into a "fire!"

Dr. Brown has been a veterinarian for 30 years. Her web site is [www.healthcareforpets.net](http://www.healthcareforpets.net).

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by Kim Slagle

One of my favorite things about pet grooming is creative grooming - grooming that differs from the standard breed groom. It is using imagination, feathers, rhinestones, and even animal safe dye to style your pet without compromising the comfort or safety of the pet. It is also a hot topic among animal lovers. I hope this article can clear up some of that.

### *“Dare to get creative with your pet’s grooming.”*

When I started getting into creative grooming, I wanted to make sure I knew everything I could. The last thing I wanted was to use any techniques or products that were unsafe for animals. I quickly learned that knowing about the skin and hair/fur and the science behind it all was key to it all. Animals are so different from humans. I also learned quickly that knowing how to read ingredients and what they mean was important. Just because other groomers are doing it, doesn't make it safe. Not everyone takes the time to educate themselves on the matter. Creative grooming can be


## Creative Grooming

fun without harming the animal. As a pet parent, I encourage you to ask questions. Make sure your groomer is educated and stays on top of the changing field.

After knowing your pet is in good hands with an educated groomer, dare to get creative with your pet's grooming. Something as simple as a heart carved into the fur can give your pet a unique look. Want to get completely away from the breed standard style? Ask about an Asian style. That is basically a short body with longer legs and a short round face. Great for the pets that wear clothes. Want color? There are many choices for that. Everything from very temporary like a chalk, feathers, beads (great for black and dark pets), to something more semi-permanent like dye. There are many animal safe dyes. However, those of you that have black or dark pets don't have this option. Products that are used to lighten the hair are chemical and are just not safe.

OK. Now you know creative grooming is safe. But what about the pet's feeling about it? I have personally seen all the animals that leave my grooming table bouncing, excited, and even strutting out the door. Animals love when we humans are excited and give them so much more attention. They naturally want to please us. They may not fully comprehend

why their new haircut or blue tail or little rhinestones on their ears made their human joyful, they just know it did.

I hope this really helps pet parents explore the world of creative grooming. It really can be simple, safe and fun. 

*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.*



**Kiki, a survivor, had pink spots added to promote breast cancer awareness.**

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# Asheville Kennel Club hosting 83rd All Breed Show

The show will be on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher. Judging will take place in the 35,000 square foot Davis Event Center from 8am to roughly 5pm.

Spectators, but not their dogs, will be welcomed, and get in free. But there is a \$5 Ag Center parking fee. Over 1,000 dogs, plus even more owners and handlers, are expected for the event and the chance to earn points toward an American Kennel Club championship.

Visitors can shop dozens of vendor booths offering all things dog. Leashes, collars and harnesses will be in plentiful supply, as will all kinds of specialized dog food, from grain-free kibble to freeze dried meat. For those who want their dogs to be fashion forward, there will be doggie outfits in styles ranging from Chanel to Lady Gaga. Those whose pets have behavior problems will be able to meet with experienced dog trainers, and those who have had a dog pass on to Rainbow Bridge can order custom memorials.

Visitors can also chat with breeders to find out what breed might be the best for their family and lifestyle. They will be able to ask important questions, such as “How much exercise does this breed need?” Or, “Will it bond with the whole family, or become attached to just one member?” Or, “Is it prone to any specific health problems?”

In all breed dog shows, dogs are first judged by breed. Then the best of each

breed goes on to the group stage. Then the winners of each group make it to the Best in Show final.

The Asheville show results listed the usual seven groups - Sporting, Hounds, Working, Terrier, Toy, and Non-Sporting, plus a Miscellaneous group. Most people



Judging at a past Asheville show.

are somewhat familiar with the Sporting Group, which includes Labrador and Golden Retrievers, both of which are perennially among America’s five favorite purebred dogs. Last year, the Sporting Group was the biggest of all with 155 entries, including 36 Golden Retrievers,

26 Vizlas, and 18 Labrador Retrievers. The Hound Group, which had 33 Dachshunds in competition, includes the Plott Hound, the official dog of North Carolina. (Jeopardy contestants should commit that to memory.)

In the Toy Group, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels had the largest number of entrants - 19. That was no doubt because there are many Cavalier fans in the Asheville area, led by Elizabeth A Brown, CPA. She is treasurer for the Asheville Kennel Club and the national Cavalier club. Calvin, one of her dogs, graced the cover of the March-April 2015 PetGazette.

Dalmatians were the most numerous breed in the Non-Sporting Group, although there were just 21 of them, not 101. The Herding Group had more Australian Cattle Dogs - 12 - than any other breed. And in the Miscellaneous Group, there were breeds that few outside the dog world, and many within it, had ever heard of. A Polish Lowland Sheep Dog was in the field, as was a Grand Bassett Griffon Vendéen. Fans of the Westminster Kennel Club show may have heard of that breed. But what about Miniature American Shepherds? American Hairless Terriers? And the Pumi, not Puli, a small to medium sized Hungarian terrier?

The number of entries for the 2016 AKC All Breed Show was not available at PetGazette press time, since entries won’t close until May 25.



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## Save a Carnivore. Visit VeganFest.

Once again in 2015, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue will raise funds for its animal sanctuary with a giant VeganFest at Asheville’s Pack Square on Saturday June 11 and Sunday, June 12, 2016. The festival is free and open to the public of all ages.

On Saturday, June 11 there will be a panel discussion involving experts from around the country. There will also be a keynote speaker, whose identity was unavailable at PetGazette press time. On Sunday, the VeganFest will really kick into high gear. There will be over 100 vendors offering all kinds of food for consumption on the spot, vegetarian cook books, alternative medical treatments, and a whole lot more to fit the vegetarian lifestyle and/or help pets and parents live better. There will also be a farmer’s market offering fresh from the farm local produce from which to make delicious vegetarian dishes. In happy addition, craft beers will be available. (At press time, PetGazette could not confirm that some crafters would be offering free taste tests, but it has been known to happen.)

It wouldn’t be a festival without music, so VeganFest will have it. Festivators can just enjoy the sounds, or get up and dance. Not confirmed, but based on past festivals, there will be activities for kids of all ages.

Proceeds from the VeganFest will go toward the completion of the Dog Village, Phase One of the overall plan for the 82 acre Brother Wolf Sanctuary in Leicester.



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## AHS starts Paw It Forward campaign

The Asheville Humane Society (AHS) has started a new fundraising effort called Paw It Forward. The campaign began on April 15 and will run through June 15.

The Paw It Forward campaign has donors upload their pet's photo onto their donation page and use the pet's playful "voice" to ask for contributions. The theory is that few people will be able to resist the request from an adorable dog or cat, and the theory proved to be correct in early returns. After just five days, the campaign had received over \$11,000 in donations, more than 20% of the overall goal of \$60,000. The funds will be used to assist AHS in its mission to ensure that every companion animal in Buncombe County is safe, healthy and thriving!


Paw it Forward is presented by Dog Tag Art, and is ASH's first peer-to-peer fundraising campaign. The "Pets Helping Pets" campaign gives supporters and their pets the opportunity to help other local animals in need.

Peer-to-peer fundraising is a way to empower supporters to fundraise on behalf of an organization by engaging with their friends and family to reach a larger audience. Campaigners build their own Paw it Forward donation page through the user-friendly online fundraising platform, everydayhero. The pet's picture will be uploaded as the supporter photo and their playful and charming "voice" will do the asking.

For example, the "voice" accompanying the pet photo might say, "I'm Barkley and my family wouldn't know what to do without me! Who would finish off their leftovers and keep the bed warm while they're away? I'm so glad they chose me to be their companion! Will you please donate to help homeless pets find a loving family to call their own?"

Campaigners will be eligible for prizes throughout the campaign and grand prizes will be awarded to the top fundraisers at the Paw it Forward Campaign Celebration June 26 at the AHS headquarters on Forever Friends Lane in Asheville. There will be tours of the AHS facilities and the Buncombe County Animal Shelter next door, refreshments, music, and presentation of the "Top Pawlanthropists" awards.

Promotional materials for the Paw It Forward campaign list several donation levels and what they would provide for homeless pets. For example, \$10 would provide pain medication for two suffering pets. \$25 would cover vaccinations to protect five animals from life-threatening diseases. \$250 would cover the cost of essential dental cleaning for one senior pet. And \$500 would provide veterinary assistance to three at-risk pets, keeping them in their homes and out of the shelter.

See more at: [www.ashevillehumane.org/news/paw-it-forward-live](http://www.ashevillehumane.org/news/paw-it-forward-live). Or Email [publicrelations@ashevillehumane.org](mailto:publicrelations@ashevillehumane.org) with any questions. 

## 'Tis the Season to Avoid Hot Dogs


by Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD

Summer is just around the corner. However, SWNC temperatures have already climbed into the 80's in early spring. In warmer months, we are able switch to lighter clothes so we won't swelter wearing woolen sweaters and slacks.

Although some of us may find it inconvenient to switch our wardrobes from winter to summer clothes, at least we have that option. Unfortunately, other than possibly shedding an undercoat, dogs are always clothed in a fur coat. So what can we do to help our dogs stay safe and healthy in warm temperatures?

To keep your dog cool in the summer heat, should you shave your dog's fur? In general, the answer is "No". There are some breeds, like poodles, whose fur needs to be cut regularly because their fur is more similar to human hair and grows continuously. Also, there are some select cases that may call for shaving your dog. However, in most cases, shaving your dog's fur makes them less able to thermoregulate, or control their body temperature. Your dog's fur is naturally designed to keep them warm in the winter and cool in the summer. In addition, shaving your dog exposes their skin to the sun, which may ultimately lead to sunburn.

Never leave an animal unattended in a vehicle in warm weather. What is warm weather? Anything over 60 °F is too warm for an animal to be left in a car unattended, especially if it is sunny conditions. In general, the temperature inside a car will rise by 20 degrees during the first 10 minutes and 30 degrees during the first 20 minutes.

That means, if the outside temperature is 70 °F, the temperature inside of a car will rise to 90 °F within 10 minutes, and 100 °F within 20 minutes. If you are in a situation that the dogs need to be in the car during warm weather, have another (adult) human stay in the car with the dogs. Make certain that the car is parked in the shade and the windows are wide open. Equip the person with a cellphone so that he or she can contact you when they are feeling too uncomfortable to stay in the car. If possible, have the person then sit outside the car with the dogs until you return. 

*Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD is a certified professional dog trainer (CPDT) with Lucky Dog Training Asheville and has over 30 years of training experience in obedience, tracking, agility, sheepherding, dock diving and fieldwork. The Dog's Perspective is a training philosophy based on how dogs think. Kathryn is an evolutionary biologist and teaches diverse biology courses in higher education settings.*

***"Shaving dogs exposes their skin to the sun."***




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## Three clubs, four events, hundreds of dogs at Ag Center Memorial Day Weekend

For the third consecutive year, three area dog clubs are coming together to host the Blue Ridge Classic of the Carolinas, a long weekend of competitions in Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility.




Champions and would-be champions from all over America will compete at the Western Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher. The events are organized and run by The Blue Ridge Agility Club (BRAC), the Hendersonville Kennel Club (HKC), and the Spartanburg Kennel Club (SKC). All events are sanctioned by the American Kennel Club (AKC), and points won in Fletcher will count toward AKC titles.

The four days of events will start on Friday, May 27 with a Conformation competition hosted by the HKC. That two day event will be held in rings 1 – 8 in the Davis Center. After Best of Breed and Best of Group winners have been chosen, one of the Group winners will be judged Best in Show sometime on Saturday afternoon, May 28.

On Sunday, May 29 and Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, a second Conformation competition will be hosted by the Hendersonville Kennel Club. As in all Conformation events, purebred dogs will be judged based upon how close they come to the recognized breed standard. Best of Breed winners will be chosen on Sunday and early Monday. Best of Group will be judged on Monday, and the seven group winners will compete Monday afternoon for the Best in Show title. Obedience and Rally competitions will be held starting on Friday in the Expo building, rings 11-14 and continuing through Sunday. Rally is basically a “Beginner’s Obedience”, in which dogs and handlers go through a course at their own pace without the pressure of being timed.

Agility competitions will run for all four days of the Blue Ridge Classic of the Carolinas in the McGough Arena. Dogs of all kinds, sizes and backgrounds – mixed breeds are welcome – will jump hurdles,

go through tunnels, navigate a teeter-totter and weave through poles as their handler directs. Fastest time with fewest faults in each height category wins. The events will start each day about 8am and run until about 5pm.

In addition to seeing all the competitions, visitors can meet with breeders and browse through dozens of vendor stalls. Vendors will be offering everything from basic leashes and basic training to high-fashion dog ensembles and custom memorials. All of this is available absolutely free, but there is a \$5 fee for parking. And non-competing dogs should be left at home. 



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## Foothills Equestrian Nature Center offers Therapeutic Riding


The Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, better known as FENCE, has as part of its mission “...educational and recreational opportunities linking nature, animals, and people.” One program offered by FENCE, acronym TROT, uniquely links animals and people of all ages: Therapeutic Riding of Tryon. Therapeutic riding was developed in Europe during the early 1950’s as a tool for improving the lives of individuals with physical disabilities.

In 1952, champion rider Lis Hartel competed in the Helsinki Olympics. U Tube films clearly show her difficulty standing and walking from her bout with polio. Yet, she won the Silver Medal in Grand Prix Dressage, despite her challenges. Equine and medical professionals realized that with a therapeutic program, riding was beneficial to the physically challenged. This concept was brought to the U.S. through Canada by PATH, the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

The concept has now been expanded to a wide range of challenges including emotional, social, PTSD etc., which benefit from interaction with horses, whether mounted or unmounted. Quoting from the FENCE website: “TROT classes are planned and taught by PATH Intl. certified instructors and are built around the individual requirements of each student. In TROT’s mounted program, typically, three volunteers - one to lead the horse, and two to serve as side walkers - assist each student to

carry out the teacher’s instructions. Depending on the needs of each student, mounted classes include exercises and games designed to promote balance, strength and coordination, and develop cognitive skills such as focusing, sequencing, and understanding and following directions.

“In addition to therapeutic riding, TROT also offers an unmounted therapeutic program to individuals who, because of their disability, cannot sit astride a horse. Unmounted equine assisted therapeutic activities afford students the opportunity to experience the benefits of interaction with horses. Physical activities include grooming and leading the horses; cognitive and emotional activities include touching and caring for the horses, learning how horses communicate and relating the horse’s behavior to human behavior; and developmental activities include learning to follow directions for a variety of activities, sequencing, and learning about horses and basic horsemanship.”

For more information about TROT and FENCE, go to FENCE.org. As a Premier Accredited Center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, TROT follows the strict standards set by PATH Intl. for safety and effective teaching. The program is open to residents of Polk, Henderson and Rutherford counties in North Carolina, and Spartanburg and Greenville counties in South Carolina. 



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## Aloft Asheville Downtown donates \$10,000 to Charlie's Angels

The hotel chose Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue (CAAR) to be the recipient of the \$10,000 grant it was awarded by winning the 2016 Starwood Cares for the Community Hotel Volunteer Award.

***"Aloft/CAAR  
program  
has placed 58 dogs  
since 2014."***

The Asheville hotel was chosen from among 800 eligible hotels by more than 3,000 company associates. Charlie's Angels will use the funds to purchase a new van to transport animals from local kill shelters to their Safe Haven facility or new foster home.

Aloft Asheville Downtown partners with CAAR throughout the year to find an adoptive home for rescued dogs. Through the program, the hotel fosters

dogs in need of a forever home, housing one dog at a time who can be adopted by hotel guests and visitors. Since its inception in 2014, the program has placed 58 dogs with new families.

Michelle Naggar, vice president of social responsibility for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., said, "The associates at the hotel set an inspiring example by aligning their passions with the needs of the local community, resulting in long-standing partnerships with local nonprofits and tremendous community impact." The hotel's team of 55 associates participated in 15 volunteer events over the course of the year, benefitting more than 10 local non-profit organizations including Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue, Homeward Bound, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and Mission Health Children's Hospital.

In addition to the overall award, two members of the Aloft Asheville Downtown won Starwood awards.

Christine Kavanagh, Director of Sales, was honored with the Sales Leader of the Year award for leading the hotel's overall success in sales and community outreach. Emma Ledbetter, Food and Beverage Director, won the Starwood Cares for the Community Individual Award. She was recognized



**Aloft Asheville Downtown General Manager David McCartney and Director of Sales Christine Kavanagh accepting the Starwood Cares for the Community Hotel Volunteer Award.**

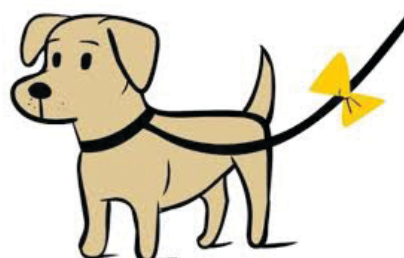
for her outstanding volunteer efforts and leadership in encouraging other hotel associates to take positive action to help strengthen the Asheville community.



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## 5 TIPS TO HELP KITTENS THIS SPRING

It is springtime - "kitten season" - when cats produce more babies than there are homes for. Alley Cat Allies, dedicated to the humane treatment of cats, offers five easy ways people can help cats and kittens this spring. Visit [www.alleycat.org/Kittens](http://www.alleycat.org/Kittens) for a comprehensive guide to caring for kittens. Following is a condensed version of their suggestions.

### Tip #1: Leave kittens with mom.

Like all babies, kittens are best left with their mothers, who instinctively know how to help their offspring. Neonatal kittens, four weeks old or younger, need around the clock attention and depend on mom for 100% of their care. Kittens five to eight weeks old can begin to eat wet food but are still being weaned. (To determine the age of a kitten, use Alley Cat Allies' Kitten Progression Guide at [www.alleycat.org/KittenProgression](http://www.alleycat.org/KittenProgression).)

If you find a kitten and know the mother is present, it is best to leave the kitten with her. To determine whether the mother is caring for the kitten, wait and observe for two to four hours to see if the mother returns. If she doesn't return, the kitten could be abandoned. If you are unsure, Alley Cat Allies has a number of resources available to help. The Alley Cat Allies' National Cat Help Desk can provide advice and direction. Another option is the Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network - local individuals and

organizations that may be able to help with hands-on advice.

### Tip #2: Don't bring neonatal kittens to an animal shelter.

Most shelters are not equipped or trained to provide the necessary round-the-clock care for neonatal kittens. Some shelters have lifesaving programs for cats, but nationally, more than 70% of cats that enter shelters are killed. That number rises to virtually 100 percent for feral cats.

*"Volunteering to foster kittens is lifesaving and rewarding."*

### Tip #3: Volunteer as a kitten foster parent for a local rescue group.

There are kitten foster parent programs across the country. Though it is an investment of time and requires training, volunteering to foster young kittens is lifesaving and rewarding. To learn the basics of kitten care, register for Alley Cat Allies' free "Help! I found a kitten!" webinar at [www.alleycat.org/KittenWebinar](http://www.alleycat.org/KittenWebinar).

### Tip #4: Support and practice Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR is the only effective and humane way of stabilizing and reducing community cat populations. In a TNR program, community cats are humanely trapped, brought to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped (the universal symbol that a cat has been neutered and vaccinated) before being returned to their outdoor homes. (Note: In the Asheville area, Friends2Ferals operates a TNR program.)

### Tip #5: Advocate for policies and programs that protect cats.

Contact your shelter and local officials and tell them you support lifesaving policies for cats, including spay and neuter funding and spay and neuter before adoption. Write letters and call in support of community outreach and education programs that spread awareness about spay and neuter, community cats and TNR - you can make a big difference. 🐾

*Alley Cat Allies is the only national advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. It has more than 600,000 supporters and helps tens of thousands of individuals, communities and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide. Its website is [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org), and Alley Cat Allies is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ and YouTube.*



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## “Advance Directives” protect your pet

by Cynthia Alleman

We have all heard how important it is to make arrangements for the care of our children, the handling of our property, finances, and medical decisions in case we become disabled or die and can't manage those things ourselves.

The documents used to accomplish this are called “Advance Directives” and include a Will, Durable Financial Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will. They allow us to make the decisions now, and, with the help of a lawyer, put our decisions in writing in a legally valid way. That insures our wishes can be honored even if we're no longer able to express them. ***But what about making arrangements for our pets?***


Making sure a pet it is cared for in case we can't is a responsibility too often overlooked. Sadly, many dogs and cats end up in animal shelters or have been abandoned due to their owner's death and failure to provide for the pet's continued care.

You can avoid that tragedy by adding provisions to your Last Will and Testament regarding your wishes for your pet. But you cannot leave money to your pet, because animals are defined as property under the law. A Pet Trust is an excellent way to provide for your domestic animals even after you pass away.

A Pet Trust creates two roles: Caretaker and Trustee. The Caretaker assumes day-to-day care of your pet. The Trustee holds

the money that you have set aside, and disburses it to the Caretaker to pay for your pet's expenses, such as food, grooming, and continuing veterinary care. You designate the people you want to fill these roles when you set up the Trust.

You can also name backups in case your first choices are unavailable for any reason. It is recommended that you choose a Caretaker who knows your pet, and who you trust to care for it as you would. The Trustee you choose should be someone who handles money responsibly, and who will communicate frequently with the Caretaker. The Caretaker and Trustee can be the same person, but a system of checks and balances is created if they are different people.

There is no set limit on the amount of money you can designate for your pet's care. But it is recommended that the amount be reasonable so as not to be challenged by family members or invalidated by the court. It is important to include information about your pet's habits, and personality, as well as the name of your pet's veterinarian and medical history. That will help make your pet's transition to a new home as smooth as possible. 

*Cynthia Alleman is an attorney and lifelong pet lover. She has been practicing law in Western North Carolina for over 20 years and would gladly provide more information about Advance Directives for pets (and humans). You can reach her at [www.AshevilleLaw.us](http://www.AshevilleLaw.us) or 828-253-6092.*

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# Pet Obituaries

## from Pet Cremations of North Carolina

### Tobith Lee Raines

**Tobith Lee Raines**, better known as **Toby**, passed away on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Born on Christmas Eve in 2006, he was the beloved puppy-child of Nicole Blake and Ronnie Raines. A sensitive little Chihuahua, Toby loved everyone he met. The little guy would sit on the arm of the living room couch to wait for his dad to come home, and that's when the celebration of Ronnie's return would begin - an excited Toby would let his dad know how happy he was to see him arrive safely home. Toby's family received friends at Pet Cremations of Western Carolina's Peony Room on March 7<sup>th</sup>.



Toby

### Django

**Django** was a larger-than-life Chocolate Labrador Retriever who brought delight to Pat and Robert McClurkin. At the age of 13, Django never lost the desire to entertain and play. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and is greatly missed by Pat and Robert.

### Stella

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Scott and Ryan Murphy were saddened by the death of their 12-year-old **Stella**. While short in stature the robust English Bulldog had plenty of room for fun and love. Stella is survived by her parents Scott and Ryan and her people-siblings Lexton and Lana.

### Frosty

**Frosty** Shipman was an adorable Pomeranian cherished by her family for 14 years. She was an outgoing little girl who exuded love and happiness. Frosty was a beloved member of the Owens and Shipman families, and she is greatly missed. Her mom, Elaine Shipman, treasures beautiful memories spanning from puppyhood until March 7<sup>th</sup> when sweet Frosty crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.



Frosty

### Layla

**Layla** Tucker died on March 11<sup>th</sup> near the home she shared with her family, Jesse, Charlsta and Malaysia. A sweet dog, Layla brought joy to those she loved.

### Zoey

Jean McNeil said goodbye to her precious **Zoey** on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The beautiful little 11-year-old West Highland Terrier lived a life of joy and happiness knowing that Jean would see to her every need. Jean and her friends are deeply saddened by Zoey's loss.

### Gabby

Adam and Shannon Pressley loved their gentle-giant, **Gabby**, for 8 wonderful years. That is actually a long life for a Great Dane, and Gabby exemplified the treasures that 8 years with a wonderful canine-child can hold. Adam and Shannon feel truly blessed to have enjoyed Gabby for so long, and they miss her. Gabby passed over on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Snowball

Debbie Reemes Ford lost **Snowball** on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was a sweet white cat who rarely left Debbie's side. She will never forget the loyalty and love of her beloved kitty-child.

### Dalton

**Dalton** was a playful little boy throughout his life. Born with a genetic disorder, the beautiful Shih-Tzu enjoyed everything around him, especially his parents, Sherry and Otis Steadman. Dalton's favorite food was SpaghettiOs, and he was never seen without his favorite toy Bear-Bear very far away. As a puppy, the Steadman's were told that Dalton wouldn't live for more than a year. With all of the love and joy in his life, Dalton decided to stay around for 6 fun-filled years. Dalton passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup>.



Dalton

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