

PetGazette

Western North Carolina

May – June 2015

Volume 4 - Issue 3



Events

Air Dogs
Barq in the Parq
Blue Ridge Cluster
Outlets Opening
Therapy Walkathon

Health

Feathered Friends

Horse Camp

Memorials

Turtles

Events Calendar

Resource Guide

Lucy dresses fashionably for her Asheville Outlets office.

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Calendar of Events May – June 2015

Ongoing

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

Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am. BW. The Outward Hounds Hiking Club takes shelter dogs on hikes. www.volunteer@bwar.org.

Every first, second, third and fifth Saturday, 12-3pm. CPPI sells low-cost spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville PETCO. 828 693-5172. www.communitypartnershipforpets.org.

Every fourth Sat. - 10am-1pm. CPPI sells spay/neuter vouchers at Hendersonville Tractor Supply. www.communitypartnershipforpets.org or 828 693-5172.

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

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

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

Every Sun. - 12pm. PAPC Under 30 lbs. play dates at its dog park.

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

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

April

Thu. - 4/30 - 5:30pm. Friends of Transylvania AnimalS regular meeting open to public. Melissa Pasciolla, Humane Alliance training coordinator will speak. 828 883-8893

Thu. - 4/30 - Open Doors, Open Hearts Charity Preview Night at new Asheville Outlets. Shopping, exclusive savings, entertainment, prizes. 100% of the \$20 ticket prices donated to charities including both Brother Wolf and Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue organizations. Tickets available at www.blacktie-america.com.

May

Fri. - 5/1 - 10am - 5pm. Asheville Outlets Grand Opening. Pet friendly, shopper friendly with food court, covered pedestrian walkways, and a pet station. www.shopashevilleoutlets.com, or 828 667-2308.

Thu. - 5/7 - 6-8pm. Yappy Hour at Creekside Taphouse, Haw Creek. From Mix 96.5 to benefit Asheville Humane Society. Bring dog, \$5, get free appetizers, human and pet socialization. 828 761-2001 or www.ashevillehumane.org.

Sat. - 5/16 - 10am-5pm. Barq in the Park to benefit Blue Ridge Humane Society, Brother Wolf and Charlie's Angels Animal Rescues. at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center, 42 McMurray Road, Flat Rock, just east of I-26 Exit 53. Sponsored by WTZQ AM 1600. Live music, sponsors, vendors, fun. Pets encouraged, especially at the PetGazette tent. For more information, call 828 692-1600 or visit WTZQ.com

Sat. - 5/16 - 11am-5pm. Dog adoption event at Salvation Army, 750 Haywood Road, West Asheville. www.ashevillehumane.org. or 828 761-2001.

Sat. - 5/16 - 10am-2pm. Friends Of Transylvania AnimalS will hold an Open House at Transylvania Animal Shelter. All welcome. Tours, light refreshments, adoptable pets. 828 883-3173.

Fri.-Sat.-Sun.-Mon. - 5/22-5/25 - 8am-5pm. Blue Ridge Classic Cluster Dog Shows. WNC Ag Center, Fletcher. Free admission, \$5 parking. Conformation. Obedience. Agility. Rally. www.hkc.nc.org or 828 667-1414.

Mon. - 5/25 - All Day. Memorial Day. Remember those who sacrificed.

June

Sat. & Sun. - 6/6-6/7 - 8am-5pm. Asheville Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show involving about 1100 dogs at WNC Ag Center, Fletcher. American Kennel Club approved. Owner-Handler competition and Bullmastiff Specialty included within overall events. Admission free, \$5 parking. 828 687-1414.

Tu. - 6/9 - 5:30-8pm. Spay-ghetti and No Balls Dinner for Brother Wolf spay/neuter fund at Mayfels restaurant, Asheville. \$15 adults, \$8 kids 6-13, under 6 free. Three course meal, adoptable pets, silent auction. www.bwar.org or 828 505-3440.

July

Sat. - 7/4 - 10am - 7pm. Ultimate Air Dogs at Pack Square, Asheville. Part of Ingles Independence Day Celebration. More information at www.ultimateairdogs.com.

Legend: AHS=Asheville Humane Society BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue CAAR=Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue CPPI = Community Partnership for Pets, Inc. HKC=Hendersonville Kennel Club PAPC=Patton Avenue Pet Company

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PetGazette

Pet Resource Guide

Key: (N) North Asheville to Weaverville, (E) East Asheville to Black Mountain, (W) West Asheville to Candler, (S) South Asheville to Fletcher, (MA) Metro Area, (M) Mobile Service. **Red indicates a Hendersonville or Brevard location.**
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Horse Camps for Kids

by Nicole Watts

Seven one week sessions of Basic Horse Camp, from mid-June through mid-August, will be offered at Brown Bear Farm nestled within the apple orchards in Flat Rock, North Carolina. There will also be a week of Young Riders Camp from July 6-10.

Spending time around horses can help children to learn important life lessons, such as responsibility, teamwork, friendship and physical fitness, in an environment that is natural and fun. The Basic Horse Camp option is open to children ages 5 to 14. Riders of all skill levels are welcome at the Basic Camps, even if the camper has never ridden a horse before. The Young Riders Camp option is open to children 12 to 17, who are already proficient at the walk and trot, and may be starting to canter or jump. These riders may choose a dressage or jumping focus for the week, which even includes a field trip to a farm in South Carolina for a picnic and schooling in

Cross-Country. All weeks of camp will run Monday through Friday, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Additional hours can be reserved ahead of time if parents need early drop off or late pickup around their work schedule.

Basic Course campers learn how to groom and saddle the horses, and will ride for two

make soap, learn about leather working, bake pony cakes, decorate t-shirts and much more.

Campers also have Horse Education Time each day and learn about tack, nutrition, First Aid, foaling, holistic therapies, jumping and dressage. They even get to paint the parts of the body on a real live horse. There is also

time allotted during the week for outdoor games, nature walks and scavenger hunts. The farm even has a range of fun indoor activities planned in case of inclement weather.

The cost for horse camp is \$500 per camper for each session. A discounted rate of \$350 per child will be given for campers who attend multiple weeks or for more than one camper from the same family or organization. Payment plans may be arranged ahead of time



hours each morning. Campers bring a bag lunch Monday through Thursday, and the farm provides pizza and ice cream for a party on Friday. In the afternoons, campers enjoy arts and crafts time, during which they can build bird houses, create horse shoe picture frames,

if needed.

For more information on all equine services which Brown Bear Farm offers, or to register a child for one of the camp sessions, call 864-276-8536 or email nicole@brownbearfarm.biz.



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New Asheville Outlets Pet Friendly



Pets are so welcome at the new Asheville Outlets that a pet station has been built right into the 325,000 square foot facility designed to house up to 75 brand name outlets.


The pet station will have a large grass area for rest, recreation and – ahem – other activities, plus a water fountain for drinking. There will also be plenty of benches and other places to secure pets while shopping in those stores that don't welcome pets inside.

An Open Doors, Open Hearts Charity Preview Night will be held on Thursday, April 30. Previewers will enjoy shopping, exclusive savings, entertainment and giveaway prizes. 100% of the \$20 ticket prices will be donated to one of the 20 charities the event will support, including both Brother Wolf and Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue organizations. Tickets will not be available at the door, but can be ordered at www.blacktie-america.com. Formal attire will NOT be required for

the event, despite the name of the ticket-selling website.

The Grand Opening for Asheville Outlets will be Friday, May 1. At 10am, the ribbon will be cut and shoppers will be able to enter the facility that includes a food court and open-air, covered pedestrian walkways as well as the pet station. The hours for the Outlets, located at the site of the former Biltmore Square mall on Route 191/Brevard Road, will be from 10am to 9pm Mondays through Saturdays, and 12 noon until 6pm on Sundays.

On Saturday and Sunday there will be variety of live entertainment, ranging from the Asheville High School Band to a Looks for Less fashion show hosted by Emmy-winning author and fashion designer Carson Kressley at 3pm. It is unknown at PetGazette press time whether the show will include pet fashions.

The slogan for the new Asheville Outlets is Real Brands. Unreal Savings. With tenants like Abercrombie and Fitch, Brooks Brothers Factory Store and Cole Haan, to name just three early-alphabet stores, the Outlets are expected to become a destination for shoppers from upstate South Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and all of Western North Carolina. For more details, visit www.shopashevilleoutlets.com, or call 828 667-2308. 

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Furry or Hairly, Grooming is Needed

by Kim Slagle

As a groomer, the first thing I notice is a dog's coat. This allows me to know where to start grooming. Dogs can have a coat of fur or hair. Some may have both or even be hairless.

Fur and hair are both made of keratin and both grow from a follicle. Humans have one hair per follicle whereas dogs can have many and this is why they shed. A dog's coat can be silky, smooth, wavy, curly, thick, and/or wiry.

Fur is shorter than hair and dense in texture with a finer undercoat. Fur has a shorter growth cycle. The top coat, called a guard coat, protects the dog from bugs and other elements that can damage the skin. It is important to keep the undercoat removed regularly so the guard coat can keep the dog's skin breathing and the body temperature regulated.

Shaving your dog can be harmful as it can damage the guard coat causing long term problems with the fur growth. This damage is called *alopecia*. Shaving a dog in warm weather can actually cause overheating. Dogs only sweat in pads of their feet and nose so they need the guard coat to keep cool. Removing the undercoat, which is dead fur, is the best way to keep your pet warm or cool. Ask your groomer for a "de-shed" or "shedless" routine for your pet. They will be more comfortable, plus you'll see fewer fur bunnies at home. Some examples of fur bearing dogs include Labs, Golden Retrievers,

Huskies, German Shepherds, Pugs, and Newfoundlands.

Hair is thinner and finer in texture than fur. This texture traps shedding hair and dander inside the coat, causing matting. It also gives the appearance that the coat doesn't shed and doesn't produce allergic reactions. It may appear that hair just grows until cut. These pets need regular at-home brushings and professional grooming to prevent matting. Mats are very uncomfortable for the pet and can sometimes only be removed through shaving. Some breeds can be hand stripped instead of clipping the hair. Some examples of hair-bearing dogs are Shih Tzus, Maltese, Poodles, Bichons, Cockers, and Lhasas.

Combination coat dogs usually have to be groomed just like hair bearing dogs. They mat up quickly, so regular at home brushings may prevent the need for a total shave down. Doodle breeds are examples of combination coated dogs.

Keeping your pet's coat healthy and properly groomed will keep you both happy!

"Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend." Corey Ford 🐾

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.

Does It Talk?

by Emily Trimnal

Why does this seemingly simple and innocent question raise so many hackles and cause bird owners to politely smile, and answer through clenched teeth.

For thousands of years, parrots have been kept as companions for their color, striking beauty, and talking ability. Egyptian hieroglyphics clearly depict natives with their pet birds, mostly what appear to be African Grey parrots, which are world renowned for their talking and cognitive ability. They have been scientifically studied for over 20 years and found to have the cognitive ability comparable to that of a five year old child.

When an unassuming individual innocently inquires "Does it talk?" that person is placing all of the importance of bird ownership on the parrot's speech capabilities. Parrots, like dogs and cats, are unique individuals, and each bird should be enjoyed for how it is. Talking ability should be the icing on the cake, not a deciding factor or requirement. Purchasing a bird of any species, at any age, even one that is well known for its talking ability does not assure that the bird will pick up speech any time during its life.

Parrots are wonderfully smart, intelligent creatures that can learn tricks, obey commands, and much more. When people zero in on one particular aspect of bird ownership, they often, unfortunately, give up the bird. The re-home rate for parrots is high. Unfortunately, even well-intentioned

individuals delve into bird ownership before quickly realizing that owning a bird can be much more difficult and time consuming than a dog or cat. It is, sadly, not uncommon for birds to be purchased for their talking ability, and then rehomed later when they do not learn to talk, and develop adverse behaviors like screaming or biting.

When approaching someone to ask about their bird, a few questions that bird owners love to answer include - "What kind of bird (or species of bird) is it? How old is your bird? What is your bird's favorite treats? Does your bird do any tricks?" Leading your conversation with questions other than 'Does it talk', shows sincere interest in the bird as an individual, which the parrot owner will truly appreciate. While no question is silly or too trivial, we do appreciate the people who take the time to form questions that will allow us to give educational responses. Parrot owners view interaction with non-bird-owners as opportunities for education, as we realize that not everyone has the opportunity to interact with pet birds.

So next time you approach a parrot and its owner, think twice about leading with "Does it talk?" Often, an outgoing bird will answer the question before its owner can. 🐾

Emily Trimnal is a Certified Avian Specialist, a Level 2 Aviculturist with the American Federation of Aviculture, and a regular contributor to PetGazette. Her blog is Emily's Birds.

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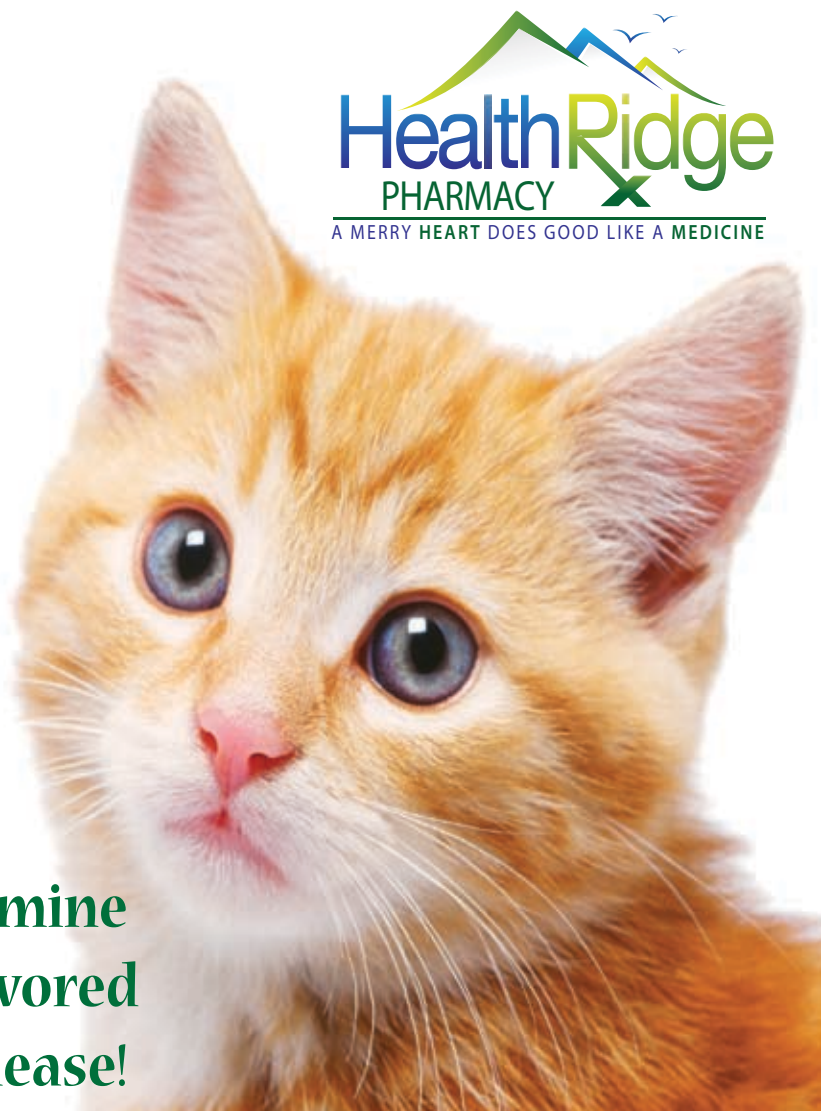
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Dock Diving Dogs to make splash in Asheville

by Kathryn R. Gubista

Dogs of all shapes and sizes will be making a spectacular splash in downtown Asheville as part of Ingles Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 4th. Ultimate Air Dogs, the premier dock jumping organization in the United States, will host the events as dogs from all over the country practice, perform and compete in dock diving activities throughout the day.

The dock diving will be held in the center of downtown in Pack Square, next to the Vance Memorial. The 17' x 45' giant pool, with distance calibrations on the sides, will be set up and filled with 20,000 gallons of water. Dogs run down a dock and fly through the air to capture a thrown article like a toy, tennis ball or training bumper. Ultimate Air Dogs owner, Milt Wilcox, said the only items banned from on the dock are other organisms or their previous parts. For example, "You can't throw a steak," he said.

For the distance competitions, dogs are assigned into classes based on their jumping ability, not their size, breed or age. Both mixed-breed and purebred dogs are welcome to join in any or all of the competitions, including the non-distance competitions "Catch It", "Fetch It" and "Chase It". Wilcox said previous events in Asheville have attracted competitors from as far away as Michigan and Texas.

The Asheville July 4th schedule will include several qualifying rounds starting at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm, leading to the evening's finals competition at 7:30pm. So individuals and families will have plenty of opportunities to watch amazing diving dogs and their human companions work, play and



Asheville Golden Retriever Calypso airs it out at 2014 event.

have a rollicking good time. As you imagine dogs flying through the air with huge smiles on their faces and tails wagging in the breeze, you may ask yourself, "What about

my dog? Would my dog jump off the dock? Can we try?"

The answer is YES! Do you think your dog would like to jump off a dock for a toy, stick or lure? Are you willing to get up on the dock with your dog? Any dog bringing an adult human is welcome to register for the dock diving event. What's more, Ultimate Air Dogs encourages new comers. For this reason, they offer ample open dock time between competitions for practice runs. The organizers are always on hand to provide helpful instruction and training.

The champion distance jump in 2014 was 23 feet, accomplished by a Chesapeake Bay retriever from neighboring Brevard, NC. Whether you think your faithful companion can better that mark or not, you can have a great July 4th by experiencing Ultimate Air Dog at the Ingles Independence Day Celebration.

More information about Ultimate Air Dog events and about registering your dog to participate can be found at www.ultimateairdogs.com.

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



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May 7th - Creekside Taphouse
June 18th - Twisted Laurel, Weaverville
July 16th - Moe's Original BBQ
August 13th - Zia Taqueria

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Adopting a New Family Member

by Ryan Jo Summers

I had been dog-less nine months when it came time to adopt again. But first, I needed a close inspection of my expectations of a dog and my ability to meet its needs. My space is limited, so I considered similar, but smaller versions of my preferred breed. I contacted rescues and toured shelters, searching for an emotional connection. Months passed.

I applied to three breed specific rescues, outlining my experience, my time limitations and dreams of having a dog again. Honesty is paramount in this step. The application process is very similar in any quality breed rescue. Usually it begins with an internet search or word of mouth. Pictures intrigue and an application is started. Only one group required an application fee.

While the questions seem nosy prying, they really are from people who want only to see their animals placed into permanent homes with families that will treasure them. The process was not unlike applying to purchase a house. I had to provide character references and a vet reference. There were also house inspections with more questions. Why this breed? Where will it be kept when I am out? What would happen to it if something terrible happened to me? Would other family members be supportive? How are other household pets expected to interact? The list is endless, and tailored to each individual applicant,

all to make interested parties think about what they are committing to.

One group called to ask even more questions. What would the deal breaker




Ty, the adopted one. More at www.collierescue.com

be? Had I considered this and that? No, they were not implying I was stupid or careless, just foresighted and careful. Another group requested I reinforce part of my fence.

Finally the time came to meet some dogs. I drove four hours to meet one. I wanted him. The choice was mine. I left to think it over and ultimately passed on him because he had special needs I didn't feel I could provide. I already had a special needs cat and felt it unfair to add

a special needs dog. He would find a great home, but not with me. A second group did not have anything matching my goals so I waited, touring the shelters again, watching Petfinder, and waiting.

When word finally came of some possibilities, I drove to meet them. A lovely blue merle collie caught my eye. He came from a hoarding situation, was insecure, unsocialized, had no training, was terribly underweight, matted and neglected. Yet looking into his eyes, I saw the look of intelligence, a heart of loyalty and a soul of desire. I could bond with this dog; we could eventually become best friends. Without even trying him on a leash, four months after my search began, I adopted Ty.

Life with Ty has been challenging and rewarding, progress coming in slow, steady baby steps, sometimes backward. But trust is forming, we'll get there. One thing I would highly recommend is joining a forum while waiting for the perfect partner to appear. My rescue group has a private Facebook page where Ty has his own fan club. People follow my updates, looking for pictures. Volunteers use the positive progress for fuel to help the next one, readers weigh in with suggestions for our obstacles and those waiting to adopt their own furbaby say they are learning what they can expect. 

Ryan Jo Summers is a local author who has adopted several dogs, cats, rabbits and one bird.

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Friends Of Transylvania Animals will host an open meeting Thursday, April 30 at the Community Services Meeting Room for anyone interested in supporting spay/neuter programs and the work of FOTAS. The guest speaker for the 5:30pm meeting will be Melissa Pasciolla, training coordinator for the Humane Alliance.

Then on Saturday, May 16, FOTAS will host an open house at the spacious new Transylvania Animal Shelter. Festivities will run from 10am until 2pm. Visitors can enjoy light refreshments and a chance to tour the facility and meet some of the cats and dogs housed there until placed in new homes.

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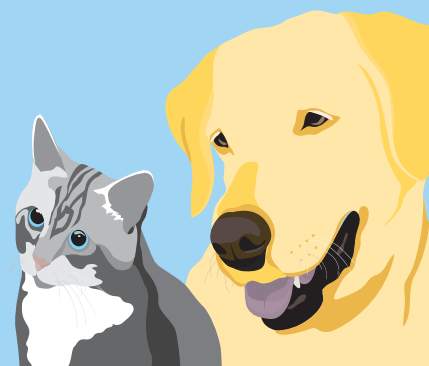
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Care of Aquatic Turtles: Part I

by Chip Bridges


Before purchasing or adopting an aquatic turtle, you need to know what will be required to keep them! I am a big fan of pet turtles, but without question they are among the most labor intensive reptiles to care for. They are extremely messy and their aquariums MUST be cleaned often. If the work of keeping a turtle isn't offset by the enjoyment you would get, please avoid the impulse buy! If you do buy, plan to have a large (40 gallons or larger) aquarium, in which the water must be changed weekly. Turtles live 20 years or much longer, so factor this in when deciding if they are for you.

Identify Your Species Before Buying

You will often see cute little green turtles at flea markets, T-shirt shops at the beach, and on Indian reservations. They have a low price tag, usually five to ten dollars. These are most often baby red-eared sliders, one of the larger aquatic turtles. Many folks have come through my store with these, having been told that either they would stay tiny, or would grow only to the size of their tank. Neither of these statements is true. Expect a female turtle to grow to about a foot in length, a male to about seven inches. Other species, such as musk and mud turtles, are a bit smaller and less messy.

Aquatic Turtle Setups

Most people either use a canister filter or an oversized Aqua-Clear filter on their turtle tanks. Avoid cartridge filters for turtles, those expensive filter cartridges will have to be replaced too often. I personally use Aqua Clear filters and I only use the foam pad, which must be rinsed weekly. A heater set to keep the water around 78-80 is needed. Try to find one either made of plastic or with a plastic cage around it so the glass does not break.

In addition to a water heater, a basking light is needed. Place this directly over the area where your turtle crawls out to bask. The basking light is typically only turned on during the day. Commercially made turtle docks look nice, but anything that floats with the weight of the turtle will suffice if it is easily accessed from the water. Typically, I set aquatic turtles up with an aquarium 75% full for yearlings and older turtles. Tiny babies do best in very shallow water. As with all reptiles, proper temperatures are critical for turtles. If they experience a cold spell, they will usually go off feed and may develop respiratory problems. 

Chip Bridges is the owner of Blue Ridge Reef & Pet at 102 WNC Shopping Center Drive in Black Mountain. More of his expert advice will be in Part II, in the next PetGazette. Meanwhile, you can reach him at (828) 669 - 0032 or www.blueridgereef.com.



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Dogs competing at Ag Center Memorial Day Weekend

by Jim Marks



Following their great success in 2014, three area clubs will join forces at the WNC Ag Center to put on four days of all-breed canine competitions including Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility from Friday, May 22 through Monday, May 25, 2015.

The events collectively are called the Blue Ridge Classic Cluster. The participating clubs are the Hendersonville Kennel Club (HKC), the Spartanburg Kennel Club (SKC), and the Blue Ridge Agility Club (BRAC). Spectators are welcome at all events. All the venues within the Ag Center complex are indoors and fully air-conditioned, so visitors won't have to worry about early summer heat. Dozens of vendors providing everything from super-nutritious dog food to one-of-a-kind collars to canine DNA testing will ring the competition rings. Food and beverages will also be available.

Conformation, Obedience and Rally competitions will be run by HKC on Friday and Saturday, and by the SKC on Sunday and Monday. The activities will be divided between the Davis Event Center and the nearby Expo Building. The BRAC Agility Trials will run from Friday through Monday at the 65,000 square foot McGough Arena. A pedestrian gate connects the McGough Arena and the Davis/Expo venues so spectators can easily stroll from one place to the other.

The conformation competitions, held in Greenville until 2014, will feature dozens of



purebred dogs being judged on how closely they come to matching the ideal for their particular breed. Judging each day will start at 8am and go until the last dog is judged. Since the event is sanctioned by the American Kennel Club (AKC), "best of" winners for breed, group and show will earn points toward their championships. If the show attracts as many canines as it did in 2014, or more, there will be hundreds of prized pooches on hand. Show goers will have a chance to meet breeders and discuss with them whether their pups would be right for the visitor's family and lifestyle.

Rally is a new sport that provides a link between the Canine Good Citizen Program of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the more rigorous competitions of Obedience and Agility. Dog and handler must complete a course designed by the rally judge at their own pace. The course has 10 – 20 stations, depending on the level of competition. In Agility competitions, dogs must run an obstacle course off-lead, following just the voice or visual



commands of the handler, who runs the courses with them. Agility dogs compete in classes based on height, and the obstacles, including jumps of different kinds, ramps, weave poles and teeter-totters are set at appropriate heights for each class. In Rally, the dog is on a lead while competing.

Visitors to the events are asked to not bring their own dogs. People wishing to go to the Davis Event Center or the Expo Building should enter through Gate 5. Those going to McGough Arena should enter through Gate 1. Admission to the events is free, but there is a \$5 general parking fee. For further information, contact the Hendersonville Kennel Club at www.hkc-nc.org, or call the WNC Ag Center at 828 667-1414.



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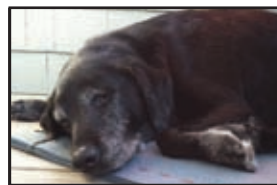
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7 Tips for Great Dog Photos this Summer

by Lin Sharp

Now that warm weather has finally arrived it's time to swing into full gear with outdoor activities with your dog and *with your camera*. What a great opportunity to snap those animated shots in favored locations that evoke your dog's personality! Some situations for great action photos of dogs are: frolicking at the dog park, running an agility course, playing in the surf or digging a hole in the sand at the beach, jumping to catch a Frisbee or ball, interacting with children, standing in a boat, peeking over a log, or splashing through one of North Carolina's many streams during a hike.

Here are seven easy tips that can turn your average photos into great ones when photographing dogs.

1. Use Natural Light

Avoid flash, as the flash burst can result in red eyed photos or frighten the dog.

2. Focus on the Eyes

We all know that "Eyes are the window to the Soul" and this works for dogs as well as people.

3. Show Off Their Character

What is the character of your pet? Is it hyper, lazy, or snoopy? Can you convey that in a photo?

4. Change Your Camera Perspective

Try different angles. Get down on their level. You may have to lie in the sand

on your stomach to get that special shot. Watch your composition. Boring photos are usually centered so set up the subject to be off-center. Get in close physically or

Pawz-Itively Sharp



Lin Sharp co-author of "Hey! Can You Hear Us? Messages from Animals"

by zooming your camera in to catch a paw, perked ear, or a water-covered snout.

5. Use a Higher Shutter Speed

Because the dogs move around so quickly

a faster shutter speed will help catch their best action. This works especially well outdoors in good lighting. However, balance the shutter speed with the available light. Indoors may require a slower shutter speed. Setting your camera on burst or continuous mode, if it's available, can freeze the action during active play and give you a wonderful sequence of shots.

6. Use Special Treats to Get Their Attention

A little meat treats goes a long way to divert your dog's snout from whatever they are smelling at the side of the road. Making funny noises will usually get them to tilt their head or look up at you.

7. Add People

Add context to a shot by including your pet's special people. Sleeping with a child or settling into a family member's lap will yield photos that stand the test of time.

What is my biggest tip? Take a fantastic setting that will photograph well and add your furry friend in the foreground! This technique will add dimension and personalize your picture. Most of all, do a little preplanning. Remember to pack treats and take your camera and necessary accessories along with you.

Lin Sharp, co-author of "Hey! Can You Hear Us? Messages from Animals" (available from Amazon or from Crystal Spectrum Publications), writes a blog about pets, PawzItivelySharp.com.



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Pets at Work - Asheville Outlets

by Louise St. Romain



In pet friendly WNC, it has become quite common for business owners or employees to have their beloved furry friend with them at work. Recognizing that, the new Asheville Outlets have created dog friendly areas, including a doggy way station so Fido has someplace to go. There's even a fountain providing fresh water.

And the Outlets have their own resident canines. I was able to meet Lucy, a Shih Tzu owned by marketing director Tammy

Cox. Lucy, born seven years ago in Tennessee, was a surprise gift to Tammy from her parents, family and friends. They had all decided that Tammy needed a dog and plotted to surprise her with Lucy, who is quite a character.

She has a wardrobe of different outfits which she insists on wearing, and she gets her picture taken so often that Tammy tells people there is a five dollar fee per image. Lucy doesn't care about that, but poses like a pro until she decides she has had enough. Then she simply turns and leaves the area. She also enjoys riding motorcycles with Tammy's dad, who fits Lucy out with her very own set of goggles.

Lucy also is quite fierce when it comes to her toys; when I got there, she was tossing one of them about and carrying it around. She also managed to take my pen when I laid it down when I paused in taking notes.

Lucy is not the only dog in the Outlets office. There is also Hensley, whom I did not get to meet because he was out at a spa day. I'm hoping I'll be able to meet him next time I stop by. It is great that the Asheville Outlets are encouraging animal visitors as well as human shoppers. 🐾

Louise St. Romain is the contributing photographer for PetGazette. Her business is Fast Cat Pet Photography Studio. This article is the first in her planned series on Pets at Work in WNC.

Tips on Pet Arthritis

by David Crouch, DVM

Degenerative joint disease (aka "arthritis") is a very common affliction in dogs and cats, and can be found in pets young and old.

Some ways to help prevent and manage arthritis include diet, nutritional supplements and controlled exercise. Make sure your pet does not become overweight or obese. If your pet is very overweight, ask your vet about what weight loss diet would be best.

Large and giant breed puppies are at greatest risk for joint problems. A balanced diet during the puppyhood months is very important. Likewise, senior pets will require a different balance of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. As your pet ages, seek your veterinarian's advice before changing its diet.

Joint nutritional supplements like glucosamine, chondroitin and omega fatty acids (fish oils) have been linked to cartilage and joint health. Consult your veterinarian about which joint supplement may be right for your furry friend.

Exercise is extremely important in maintaining muscle strength and joint mobility and flexibility. Explosive activities or rough play should be avoided if your pet has arthritis. Many pets may require prescription medications to ease painful arthritic joints. **Always** consult your vet before administering any medication. Many human over-the-counter medications may be harmful or deadly to pets.

Following these simple tips will help your friend live a more comfortable and happy life!

Dr. Crouch is a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon whose practice is Western North Carolina Veterinary Surgery in Arden. www.wncvs.org, or 828 684-0019.

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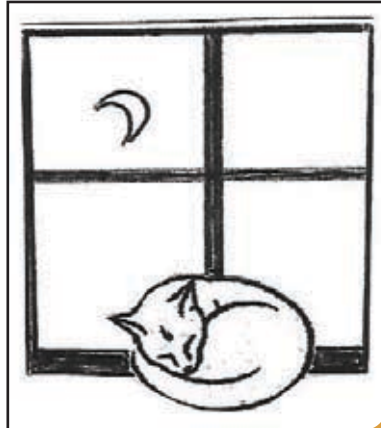
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The Stanberry family misses them, but says that Louie and Lily have left a light that will shine on forever.



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Remembering Porsche

I still see your little face looking up at me for approval.

I look into your eyes so deep as to say "I love you" with all my heart. I would die for you. I'm so sorry I wasn't there. Please forgive me once more.

I still hear you bark at me when you want to play or go out, always loving you, never ignoring you. You're my everything.

I see your cute face when I call you from in the shower and peek around the curtain to see you come. You're always there for me.

I remember you always trusted me to give you a bath. Then you ran around the house, happily rubbing your wet scent on everything. I knew you felt good.

I remember dressing you for any occasion. You looked so precious. You are mine always and forever.

I remember running you with my bike for exercise. You ran doing a jogger's type breathing. You're so smart. When I said, "Grandma" you ran faster. My Mom loved you so.

I remember when I'd come home from wherever and you looked for your present in the bags. Nine out of ten times you got one.

I loved you so much, but most of all at night when we'd get ready for bed. You would put your head on my left side and listen to my heart beat. I covered you up like a baby

Goodnight Porsche. I'll see you in the morning.

Your best friend, Lisa XXXX



The Maltese Therapist

by Nancie Liles

There is no greater wealth than to love and be loved. The obscure side of love is grief. It is important each person's grief process be honored in a way that allows them to work through it and move forward. One of the tools our funeral homes use is a canine Pet Therapist named Fred.

He is a three year old Maltese adopted from Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. As a non-assuming member of our staff, he meets people on their own terms. Fred brings comfort to those experiencing loss. Always ready to be held and petted, Fred can sit in a private area with someone or attend a service when requested. His greatest talent is quietly listening and being able to keep secrets.

As a part of our Community Outreach Program, he visits people in hospitals and assisted living facilities. When Shuler Funeral Home cared for a six year old boy who died unexpectedly of a rare heart condition, and the staff learned his five year old sister was diagnosed with the same condition, we began to raise funds for the sister's needed heart transplant. Fred and adorable Jadyn Cash became fast friends. She visits with him at our Shuler location. Arkansas artist Merwin Abbott saw photos of the two and painted a picture of Jadyn and Fred playing in a magical place he called Jadyn's Garden.

Fred takes his job seriously – even bringing comfort to employees. Fred is paid in hugs and doggy treats.



Nancie Liles is a colleague of Fred and the Community Outreach Liaison and Funeral Celebrant at Shuler-Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Hendersonville.

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Pet Therapist **Fred** with Funeral Director Apprentice
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Paws on Parade Walkathon At NC Arboretum May 9

People who like other people, and pets, and walks in beautiful settings can help themselves and the Mission Health's Pet Therapy Program by joining the fundraising walk on Saturday, May 9th at 11am.

The entire fee for joining in – with or without a furry friend – is \$25. There will be no additional fee to enter the Arboretum and stroll the serenely beautiful grounds. The proceeds from the Paws on Parade event will go to support Mission Health's innovative and highly successful Pet Therapy Program, which is entirely self-supporting.

In the 16 years it has existed, the Pet Therapy Program has helped 27,000 patients in and out of the hospital. Currently, there are 77 dogs and 71 humans in the program, whose visits to patients can brighten the day for them, everyone around, and everyone involved. Research has proven that pet therapy can

lower a patient's blood pressure and heart rate, reduce anxiety, and improve mental outlook. Visits from therapy dogs can even increase production of oxytocin, sometimes called the "hug hormone." More details at MissionFoundation.org. click Paws on Parade, or 828 213-9272.



Misha, in the running for Hero Dog of the Year – Therapy Dog Category.

In a related story, Asheville clinical psychologist Kay Loveland has long been one of the volunteers in the Paws on a Mission program, mostly with her Goldendoodle Misha. The dog has been so much help to veterans with PTSD, children and adolescents at local hospitals, inmates at Craggy Prison and Loveland's own

clients that Misha has been nominated for Hero Dog of the Year in the Therapy Dog Category. Loveland urges all to vote for Misha every day through May 16, 2015 at www.herodogawards.com. The winner will get a cash prize for the Therapy Dog Association Pet Partners.



Barq in the Parq Benefits Rescues

The Blue Ridge Humane Society, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue will all benefit from the May 16th Barq in the Parq in Flat Rock from 10am to 5pm.

The annual event of WTZQ AM 1600 will once again be at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center, 42 McMurray Road, Flat Rock, just east of I-26 Exit 53. There will be live music, a host of sponsors, and a horde of vendors who will provide everything from food and beverages to cell phone repair to pet portraits. And, of course, pets will not only be allowed, they'll be enthusiastically welcomed, especially at the PetGazette tent.

For more information, call 828 692-1600 or visit WTZQ.com.



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