

lucky dogTM magazine

complimentary

kennedy: a rescue with a twist
dog friendly getaway to the
cliffs resort

treatment options for pets
with allergies

rescue directory in every issue
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may/june 2008
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Lucky dog magazine

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| **editor's letter**



For most of you that know me, I try not to ever use the magazine for shameless plugs, but I want to wish my Francis a Happy 4th Birthday (May 17th) and our Zeus a Happy 3rd Birthday (May 8th)! I can't believe how fast the time has gone by already. Francis was only a year and half old when we started the magazine and she graced the very first cover. Now we're in our third year and she's turning

4! Had she not come into my life, Lucky Dog Magazine would not exist, so here's to her and Lucky Dogs everywhere!

If there was ever a dog that was destined to be mine, it would be Francis. Lately, she has taken up sun bathing in the backyard on the lounge chairs by the pool. A girl after my own heart! She just lays silent and basks in the sunlight with the breeze blowing in her face and through her fur. Truly the most wonderful feeling as I love the outdoors and love to drive with my windows down, sunroof open with the breeze blowing through my hair. Pure bliss! Of course, she loves to ride in the car and enjoy the breeze too. For the most part she sits there in the passenger seat as if she was human observing straight ahead to our next destination only to turn and look with curiosity at people next to us or people on the street. It is truly something to see. I find myself wondering what she must be thinking as she sits so human like with such deep soulful eyes peering straight ahead.

It is my own curiosity, fascination and love of animals that I continue to pour my heart and soul into this magazine. It is not always easy and it is not always glorious, but at the end of the day, if I can help a dog or cat or any other kind of animal find a happy and loving forever home, then I have done my job and hopefully done it well. Of course it could not be done without our advertisers as well. Many of which I have become very close over the years and whom I consider friends. I believe in what they do, who they are and what they provide to you, our loyal readers. It is a funny thing when you meet other dog lovers...there is an instant connection for most. Then there are people you meet who claim to be dog lovers but who are in a pet business for greed and profit only, and usually they are not true animal lovers and it shows...it shows almost instantly. But, the ones who are truly in it for the animals' sake are the ones that mean the most to me and we have formed a great bond. I am so grateful to have met them and get to know them so well over the years.

I hope you enjoy our 15th issue of Lucky Dog Magazine. Just a warning... the cover dog story is a tear jerker. You'll be amazed at the atrocity's that man kind can commit on helpless companion animals...but this one does have a truly happy ending. I promise. 

michelle danks

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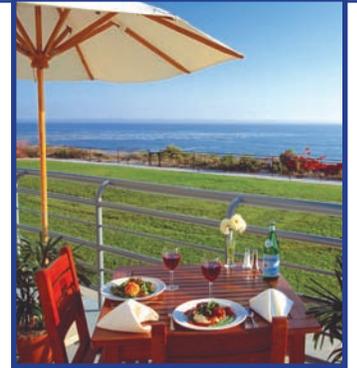
Francis, CLO (Chief Love Officer)
Zeus, CKO (Chief Kiss Officer)
Linus, CWO (Chief Wiggle Officer)

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Is your dog Tall, Bark, and Handsome?

Cain & Able Collection launches the 3rd Annual Haute Dog Super Model Search

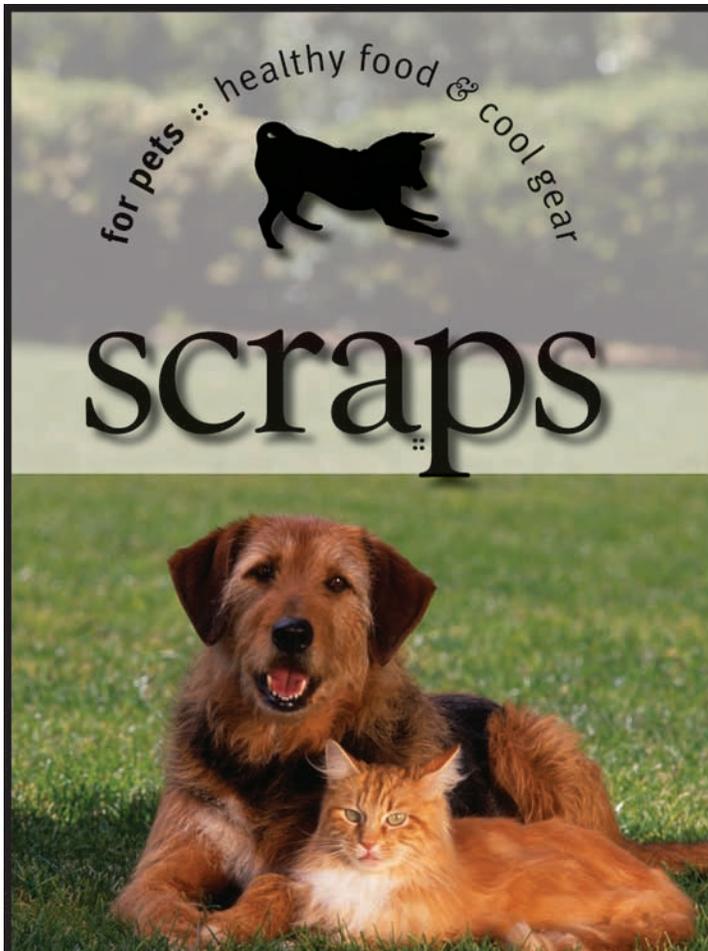
They are looking for a Super Model for their 2008 Christmas campaign. In addition, there are prizes for several other categories, including the very popular Celebrity Look-a-like contest.

Contestants can submit their photo and bio on the website at www.cainandablecollection.com through June 1st. Winners will be announced June 15th.

"Each year we have hundreds of submissions. It is definitely the most popular and fun promotion that we do every year," says, Candace Smith, President of Cain & Able Collection

About Cain & Able Collection

Created in 2003, Cain & Able Collection, LLC is a company focused on creating top-quality, natural products to nurture dogs. The original Cain & Able Collection product line, Every Dog Has His Day Spa, includes Shampoos, Conditioners, Between Bath Spritz, Soap-on-a-Rope, Candles, Accessories, and Gift Sets. These aromatherapy-inspired products combine the rejuvenating experience of visiting a spa with the practical benefit of repelling bugs and fleas. The KissAble Doggie Dental Products were added in October 2006 to ward of bad breath, gum disease, multiple infections, and heart disease. Dirty & Hairy Repel bath products were launched in January 2008. The products are available in over 2500 retail establishments in the U.S and also distributed in 15 other countries. For further information, please visit the web site at CainAndAbleCollection.com. Cain & Able Collection, Every Dog Has His Day Spa, KissAble Doggie Dental Products, Dirty and Hairy, and Go Ahead, Make My Day Spa are registered trademarks of Cain & Able Collection, LLC.



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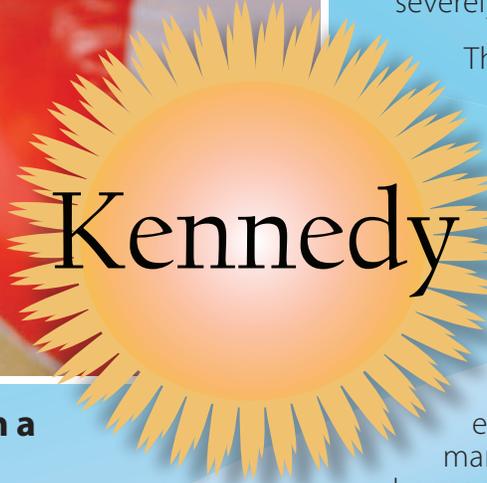
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As you can imagine, I went through years of being severely depressed and barely functioning. I think I spent two years smoking cigarettes and drinking wine. I cried everyday and I wished I were dead. I was alone and lonely and I did not choose to talk to my friends or family about my internal hell and crisis although I did seek professional help. I bought iron gates for my windows, I bought a shotgun, I got an alarm and I lived in fear and hell for a very long time. I isolated myself from everyone and everything while I tried to figure out how to escape the hell in my mind.

As I was in this never ending horror in my own soul, at some point I decided that I needed something to love and hold and be my companion. I decided to get a dog. My dog had passed away eight years earlier and I loved him so much, so it took me a while to decide to get another pet. I started the hunt. I researched books, studying personalities of different breeds. At the time, I did not understand the horrors of puppy mills or pet stores, and I started to contact breeders. I was considering a Boxer from a New York Breeder and then, one night, before I turned the television off for the night, a story came on Channel 13 news about a severely abused dog.



Kennedy

The news reported that a few days earlier, a security guard was patrolling an apartment complex and found a man with a 4-month-old puppy. The man had taped the puppies snout shut and taped his front and rear paws together so he could not defend himself. The man proceeded to take a large boulder and crushed the dogs jaw, broke his front right elbow, broke his front left arm between the wrist and elbow and broke eight ribs. (There were many other lacerations and old broken bones discovered later upon examination).

The security guard saw that this man was raising the boulder up and about to hit the dog in the head, surely killing him with one final blow and the security guard ran to the dogs rescue. The man was able to get away and was never caught, charged or arrested for this brutal crime.

Animal Control brought the dog to Dr. Kessler at the Animal Emergency Center. Dr. Kessler would have normally put a stray and abandoned dog in this condition down immediately. But Dr. Kessler felt that this poor puppy had such a sweet disposition, that he would work on him and help the dog recover. The next day, on the fourth of July, the puppy was taken to Mountain Vista Animal Hospital where Dr. Taylor took over. They

Kennedy: A Rescue Story with a Twist

Submitted by an anonymous reader

Cover Photo by Debbie Trevizo

Clothing provided by Flea Bags Barkery & Boutique

Many major crises' happened to me in a short amount of time. I was raped while vacationing in San Francisco, which left me with panic attacks and extreme fear. I was sick everyday for over a year waiting to see if I had contracted HIV as a result of the attack. During the same year, the developer I worked for decided to run with everyone's money and took \$125,000 in commissions he owed me. Additionally, the only man that I ever loved moved out of the country, my elderly sick relative was abandoned and I was confined to years of taking care of him. Then I was drugged and date raped.

named him Indy. When Indy's story hit the news, the community was outraged and showed their love and support by bringing him toys, blankets, a waterbed and cash donations for the new owner to take proper care of him. The puppy would need many more additional surgeries and treatment. Mr. Bill Bennett from the Circus Circus Corporation and the Sahara Hotel and Casino was a very generous donor to the animal shelters and made a very large donation to pay for Indy's medical needs.

With two casts on his front arms, a jaw that was wired shut and very sad eyes, there he was, on the late news, available for adoption. That was it for me. There was this little four month old battered and abused dog that looked on the outside the way I felt on the inside. I knew I could take him and give him a forever home where I would always remember his story and always be compassionate to his background. I knew what he was going through and what he needed. I needed the same. I began to call to adopt him. Channel 13 news said he was available for adoption. I later learned that 1,000 people called to adopt him but I was the persistent one that would not give up. This little guy was not going to just any home either. Dr. Taylor insisted on a home inspection and a recommendation from my veterinarian. Dr. Taylor needed to know that this dog would be in good hands. Luckily, I had the recommendation of a highly respected veterinarian, Dr. Pryble, who Dr. Taylor said "Gave me a glowing recommendation" based on the way I took care of my previous Pit Bull, "Packie", whom I had for 10 years.

Now approved, I was called in to meet Indy. His sad eyes and sweet face and his horrible situation was all I needed to see to make me wake up from the depression I was living in for years. Since I brought him home, I have never felt unhappy, lonely or depressed again. I almost immediately removed the shotgun from my home and I turned the alarm off. I began to trust and feel safe again. Indy's situation was so bad that I did not have time to feel sorry for myself any longer. I had purpose, I had something to take me out of my mind and focus on and I had love.

One day, I was at a County meeting where Joe Boteilho (the head of Animal Control) was giving a presentation with a slide show. He was showing Code Enforcement and Animal Control issues and all of a sudden there was a photo of "Indy" in a crate with his jaw wired shut and two casts. He had become the poster dog for animal abuse in Clark County.

Indy, who I later named Kennedy didn't come without some issues...he tore the sprinkler system up twice, I no longer have a beautiful garden, he barks all the time and has broken several expensive antiques. But I feel for me, in my life, the trade of a perfectly manicured yard and the inconvenience of barking at 5:00 am is very much worth it. Not only did Kennedy immediately bring me purpose

and joy and immediately bring me back to health, but he is my 8-year companion and I cannot imagine my home without him.

Kennedy is very happy at my home. He alerts me to the mailman, the garbage man and the landscapers... no delivery man can come near the house without the alarm sounding off...Kennedy acts vicious and scares everyone, little do they know what a love bug he is to me and the other pets in my home.

Kennedy loves to get on top of the patio table and lay in the sun all day. He has a doggie door and can come in and go out as he pleases. The mailman tells me that he only barks when I am home, as my guardian...when I am not home, the mailman tells me that he lifts up his head, sees that it is him, and lays back down.

I leave the air conditioning or heating on to a comfortable level all day. I leave the television on for them in both rooms. He walks me to the door everyday disappointed that I am leaving and is on the patio to greet me when I return.

I have more nic names for Kennedy that I can remember... Boo Boo, Moose, Big Guy and Big Love, just to name a few.

Kennedy and I have since opened our home to more pets through out the years and we have a full family of rescues including an 11-year-old Poodle that no one wanted and a 13-year old blind dog that was disposable to someone else. The cat runs the house and the puppy's tire all of us out. But everyday, year after year, we are a very happy family of rescues and from the minute we wake up, to the minute we go to sleep, each and every one of us is wagging our tails.

People often praise me and tell me how wonderful I am for rescuing Kennedy. I am not sure they would ever understand that this is not the case at all...Kennedy rescued me. 



Kennedy with full leg casts during his recovery.

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Roxy

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Roxy
Heaven Can Wait | www.hcws.org

Hi, my name is Roxy! I am a 7 month old Boxer/Rottweiler mix and fun and easy going girl. I love to get attention and enjoy playing with other dogs! I am completely house broken and can be left alone while you are gone with trust. I am still a puppy so toys would be great to play with for me! I am currently enrolled in the Pups on Parole program where I am learning my basic commands. To learn more about me, please call 702-227-5555.

Hope
Heaven Can Wait | www.hcws.org

Hi, my name is Hope! I am a very playful and loving Boxer/Collie mix. I get along with other dogs great and am hoping to find a very loving and caring home! I am currently enrolled in the Pups on Parole program where I am learning my basic commands. To learn more about me, please call 702-227-5555.

Charlie Brown
Heaven Can Wait | www.hcws.org

Hi my name is Charlie Brown! I'm a very friendly 1.5 yr old Cocker Spaniel and a loving companion. I love to play with other dogs and would make a great addition to you and your family! I am currently enrolled in the Pups on Parole program where I am learning my basic commands. To learn more about me, please call 702-227-5555.

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NSPCA | www.nevadaspca.org

Lucky Strike is a very playful, fun-loving, sometimes silly, and athletic boy. He is a neutered male, two years young, and he's a unique Heinz 57 mix (with some Bully). Please meet and adopt him today

Maggie
NSPCA | www.nevadaspca.org

Maggie is a beautiful girl (spayed), housetrained, with an angelic smile. She loves adults, but children make her nervous. She is a White German Shepherd & Siberian Husky mix, approximately 8 years of age. She is available for adoption today.

Bunny
Sin City Saint Rescue | www.sincitysaintrescue.org

Bunny - this sweet, friendly 3 year old shorthaired female St. Bernard came into Rescue the day before Easter, thus her name! Bunny is fine with cats and gets along with other dogs. She is a good girl! If you are interested in adopting Bunny, please see our website, for adoption info.

Caper
Las Vegas Hot-Diggity Dachshund Club | www.lvhdachshundclub.com

Caper is a sweet boy around 5 years old. He is neutered, microchipped and vaccinated and he is ready to go into his new forever home. Caper is good with other dogs and he would do best with another friendly dog in his new home. If you would like more info please complete an adoption application from our website and call Brenda at 256-0321. We do require a home check/visit, a signed adoption contract as well as an adoption donation of \$200.00

Buttercup
Las Vegas Hot-Diggity Dachshund Club | www.lvhdachshundclub.com

Buttercup is a 5 or 6-year old wire-haired Dachshund. This sweet girl has some health issues including 95% blindness as well as her weight. She needs a special home with lots of love and attention. She has a wonderful personality and is always happy and her tail never stops. Buttercup is good with dogs but can become alarmed if they approach her too quickly. She is good with children as well as cats. Blind dogs get around very well and live a fairly normal life. There is a wealth of information on the Internet to help owners of blind dogs as well as books. For more info please contact Brenda at 256-0321



Buttercup

sponsor: Brenda Clark
www.lvhdachshundclub.com



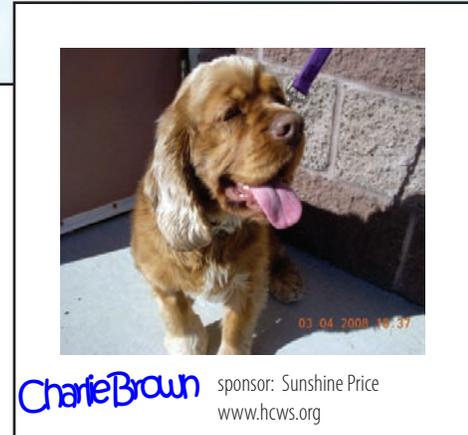
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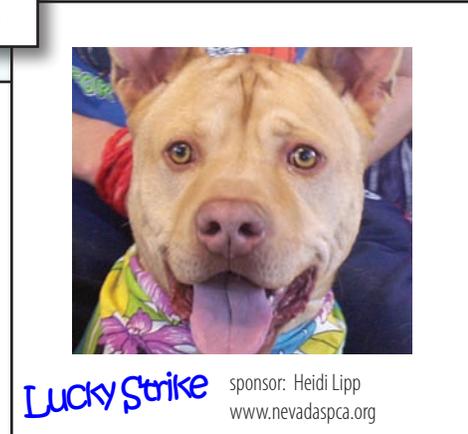
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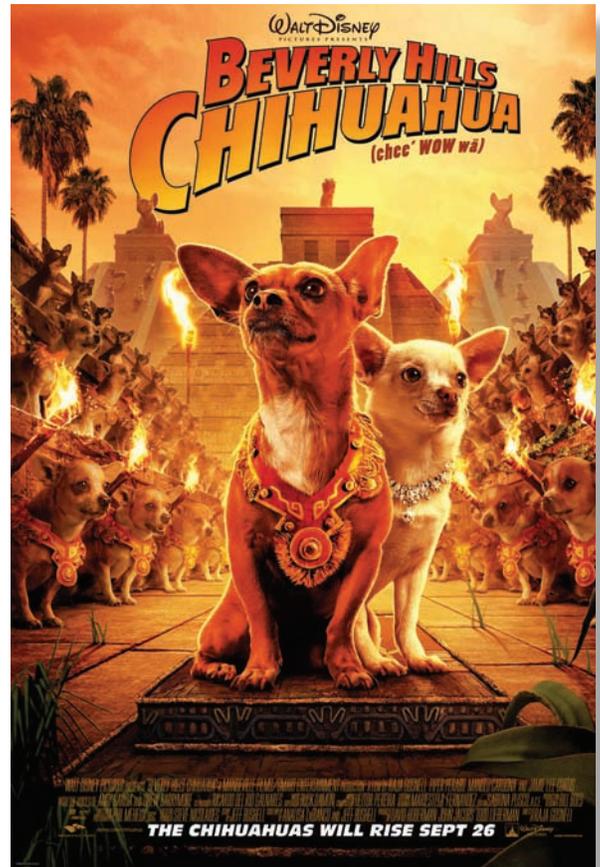
Michelle Danks at editor@luckydogmagazine.com.

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

In theatres September 26, 2008

Walt Disney Pictures presents BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA, directed by Raja Gosnell ("Scooby Doo"), written by Jeff Bushell and Analisa LaBianco and starring an all-star cast including Piper Perabo, Manolo Cardona and Jamie Lee Curtis with the voices of Andy Garcia, Plácido Domingo, George Lopez, Salma Hayek, Edward James Olmos, Paul Rodriguez, Cheech Marin and Drew Barrymore.

In the Disney comedy, BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA, a pampered Beverly Hills Chihuahua named Chloe (voice of DREW BARRYMORE) finds herself accidentally lost in the mean streets of Mexico without a day spa or Rodeo Drive boutique anywhere in sight. Now alone for the first time in her spoiled life, she must rely on some unexpected new friends -- including a street-hardened German Shepherd named Delgado (voice of ANDY GARCIA) and an amorous pup named Papi (voice of GEORGE LOPEZ) -- to lend her a paw and help her to find her inner strength on their incredible journey back home.



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The elegant Pismo Beach resort has long been known as a restful retreat for travelers nationwide, and is also a favorite of four-legged travel companions, thanks to its convenient beach access, huge lawn area and ability to accommodate outdoor dining for both guests and their furry friends. But the best treats worth begging for are the “Dogs in the Lap of Luxury” amenities – provided to all hotel guests who pre-register their dogs.

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- In-room doggie dining menu, sure to please even the pickiest pooches (menu items ordered are at an additional charge)

Room rates at The Cliffs Resort start at \$139 per night. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 826-7827 or visiting www.cliffsresort.com.

Winner of multiple Readers’ Choice Awards, The Cliffs is a sophisticated, full-service, oceanfront resort. Situated in Pismo Beach, CA, a location that averages 310 days of sunshine a year, the private oasis rests on beautifully landscaped grounds and offers stunning views, impeccable service and easy access to a host of Central Coast activities, including wine-tasting, surfing, hiking, biking, golfing and fishing. The resort also features a beachfront pool, exquisite cuisine, meeting facilities and a fully-equipped fitness center. For more information on The Cliffs Resort or to see additional property specials, please visit www.cliffsresort.com.





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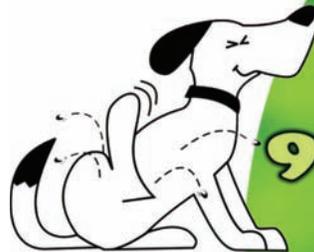
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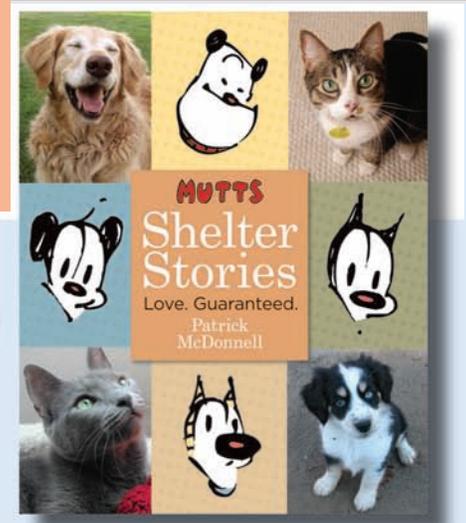
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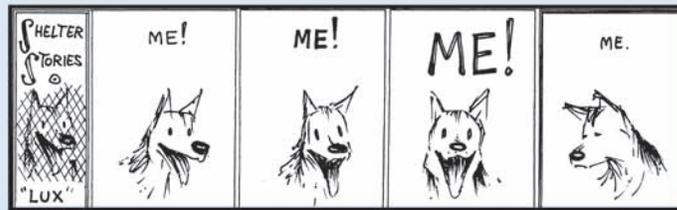
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Along with an inspiring introduction by Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, this collection combines more than 100 of the best of Patrick's "Shelter Stories" strips alongside 70 candid photos of the sweetest, most adorable faces of those lucky enough to have found loving homes. Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, and birds grace the pages of this heartwarming book with descriptions from the kindhearted souls who saved them. Patrick also includes a reference guide filled with tips for adopting the right pet and many useful links that encourage readers to, as he puts it, "adopt some love today."

Approximately 7.5 million dogs and 16.2 million cats living in U.S. homes were adopted from animal shelters. While that's a wonderful thing, the fact remains that a staggering three to four million are euthanized every year in our country's shelter system.



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About the Author

Patrick McDonnell has spent over a decade dedicating his time and talent to help homeless pets. For the past eight years, he's served on the national board of directors of The Humane Society of the United States, which bestowed upon him the prestigious Genesis Award.

New York Times best-selling author Patrick McDonnell boasts book sales of nearly a million. His comic strip, *MUTTS*, appears in more than 700 newspapers in over 20 countries. Patrick received the National Cartoonists Society's Reuben Award for Cartoonist of the Year, and *MUTTS* was named Strip of the Year. The official website, muttscomics.com, receives roughly one million visits each month.



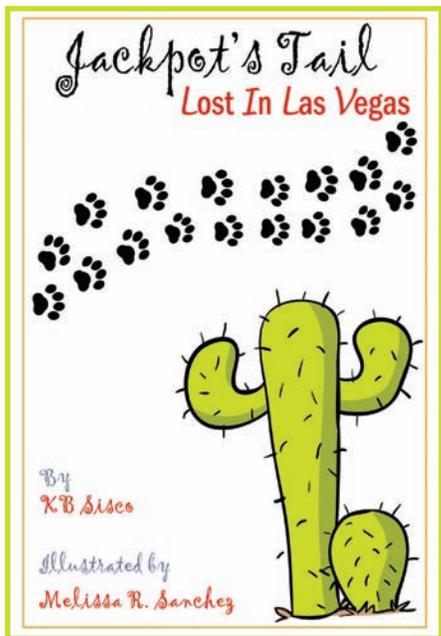
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Jackpot's Tail is available on Amazon.com for \$15.99. You can also check out Jackpot's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/jackpotstail



"It all started when I got out, got lost or was left on the side of the road... I ended up at the Lied Animal Shelter here in Las Vegas where I was taken to an adoption event at PetSmart. My mom showed up looking for a dog because Sasha had crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and my brother Zeke was SUPER lonely. Mom was looking for a girl dog, and I was the only one there...but boy did I win her heart! Mom thinks the pound was a bit traumatic for me, but after a few months of adjusting to my new house, loving family and being just spoiled rotten, I'm a happy, healthy little doggie! I'm so happy, mom wrote a book about me!" -Jackpot



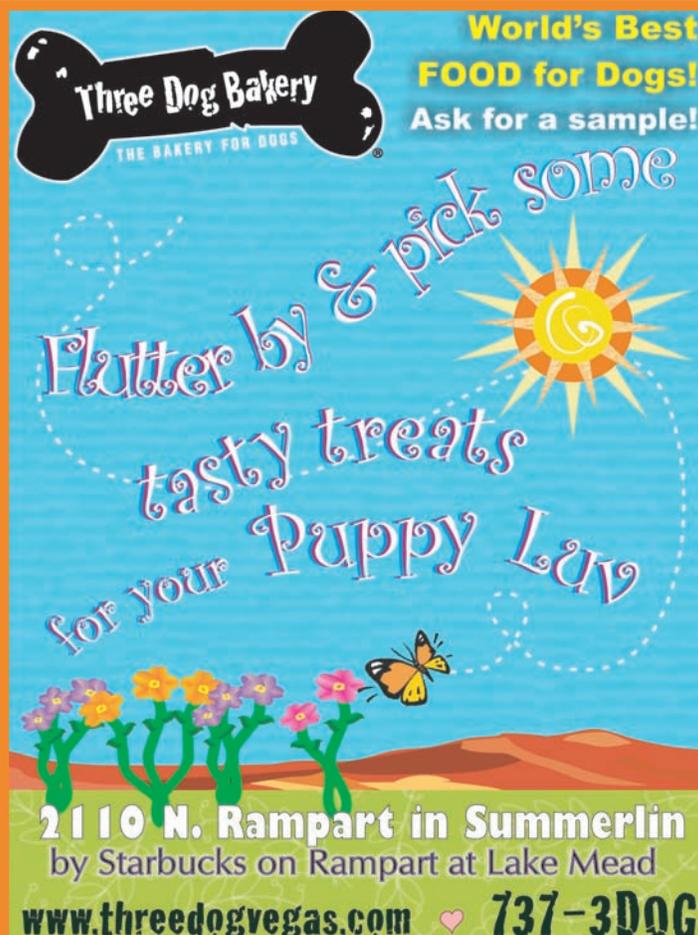
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Annie Wood and her dog, Lucy. Photo by: www.photographybydamon.com

Annie Wood lives in Los Angeles where she keeps busy with her acting and writing career. She is a contributing director as The Troupe @ the Hayworth Theatre in the historical Mid Wilshire district where several of her comedic scenes will be performed this summer. Send her an email to let her know how much you enjoy her column. She likes people as well as dogs. www.anniewood.com Also, be one of the 101 - www.DoGoodStuff.org

Life Lesson #5 from Leroy, Lucy + Bella:

Solitude

Lucy is still a little giddy over the joy of being the “Lucky Dog” cover girl for Jan/Feb, but her new found fame has not gone to her head. She still plays, fights and hides her toys from Leroy and our visitor pup, Bella.



above: Bella + Lucy

All three pups are getting along famously. None of them are too keen on sharing toys, bones or my affections, but, with that said, they find plenty of opportunities to wrestle with one another and run up and down the hallways ad nauseam. Bella enjoys chewing on Lucy’s ears and pawing Leroy in the face. In fact, they all seem to play so well together that I was caught off guard when Lucy let out a serious warning growl to the approaching Bella today. You see, Lucy was napping, which she quite enjoys, when Bella decides that she was in the mood for some more ear nibbling. Lucy growls a low alto of a growl. Bella looks confused. Bella moves in closer. Lucy’s growl gets more menacing. Bella backs off jumps up on the sofa, where Leroy is kicking back on a pillow. Bella playfully paws Leroy’s nose. Leroy shows his pearly whites. (Thanks to weekly brushing.) He freezes in his teeth baring growl, looking like he is just moments away from snapping at the annoying Bella. Bella looks confused once again. She gives Lucy another shot. No such luck. Back to Leroy. Still not having it. What’s the girl to do? Why won’t anyone play with her? I sense her disappointment and wonder the same myself. Why won’t they play with her? Just then, Leroy lets out a big sigh and walks into the bedroom. Lucy, as if on cue, jumps off of her chair and skips on over to her fluffy pink bed in my office. Bella remains in the living room wondering if it was something she said. Then, she settles into the chair that Lucy abandoned and she falls fast asleep.

It would seem that Lucy and Leroy just needed some alone time. I think by now we all have figured out that some alone time is important. Makes sense. I mean, I love my friends. I love my family. But, sometimes, I don’t want to play at all. I just want to curl up on my sofa with a magazine and not be bothered.

I would imagine that in prison, solitary confinement would be a drag, but, out in the world, it’s a necessity. Taking time with oneself to collect ones thoughts, relax, nap or just...be. And, there’s no need to worry, the ear chewing and face pawing will show itself once again. In the meantime, why not enjoy the time we have with ourselves?

Even if you have to growl for your space, it’s worth it. 🐾

Love and Peace,
Annie Wood



above: Bella waits for Lucy.

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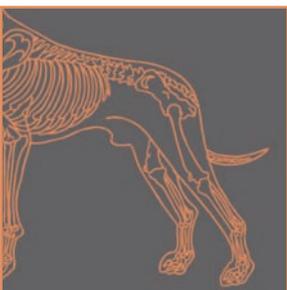
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Volume 2

by Schatar Sapphira

My name is Cash. I am a happy pup. My passion is to give and receive love. One of my favorite passions is to find a bone to gnaw on. What are some of your passions and goals for your life? Health goals, professional goals, social goals? You could do nothing toward your goals, but what's the alternative...

A lot of people confuse their destiny with their dreams. Remember as a child, you had dreams, beliefs and things you wanted to do with your life. Now, you have the opportunity to take real life steps toward your destiny, to be the YOU you would like to be.

You can take action on this path of living, to enrich your own life. This can be as good for you as when you enrich your pet's life by taking your pet for a walk or to play in the dog park.



Here some examples of practical steps to fulfilling your destiny plan:

1. Take a good hard look in the mirror.
2. Decide how great you are.
3. Decide that you are great JUST AS YOU ARE.
4. Make a list of the things you might like to accomplish within 1 week.
5. Make a plan as to how you can achieve these things within reasonable reach.
6. Make a list of resources you would need including people, friends, family, associates and professional resources.
7. Compile a list of classes you might need.
8. Work within your economic budget. If your plans exceed your budget, find out what community resources and online resources are available.
9. Involve family, friends and associates.

After one week, reward yourself with a cup of your favorite brew such as tea, coffee or other treat you enjoy. Reward your pet with something special too.

If your one week plan is successful, it can be extended to 2 weeks. If successful after 2 weeks, extend to 3. If successful at 3 weeks, extend it to one month. If successful after one month, extend it to 3 months. 3 months to 6 months. 6 months to a year.

After the first success, go back to the mirror and give yourself a warm congratulatory hug. Be sure to give your pet a hug too. We pets are on this journey with you! If your destiny plan includes travel, make sure you pet has what he or she needs too including biscuits, water, pillows, and toys.

Destinies change with time and technology. Now science can connect an electrode to an optic nerve and enable a person to see. Even though the people who received this surgery believed it was their destiny to be blind all their lives, they now have the opportunity to see. In addition, age should not be a factor for you. There is no age cap on the fulfillment destiny plans.

Maintain a cheerful attitude in the pursuit of happiness and your destiny. The pursuit of happiness is in the constitution! It all starts with a dream which becomes a rewarding life goal. Keep your promise to yourself to achieve it. Remember, when your pets like me are looking up at you with big eyes, encouraging you to be happy, we are saying "I am a lucky dog."

Love, Cash 

Schatar Sapphira is a Celebrity Actress, Award-Winning Singer + Published Songwriter. Email her at MoneyBanksRocks@aol.com. Media Site: www.myspace.com/MoneyBanksMusic + Online Channel: www.youtube.com/MoneyBanksMedia. Copyright 2008. ASCAP, WIF, SAG, AFTRA



Jennifer Harman Charity Poker Tournament Raises \$325,000 for the Nevada SPCA!

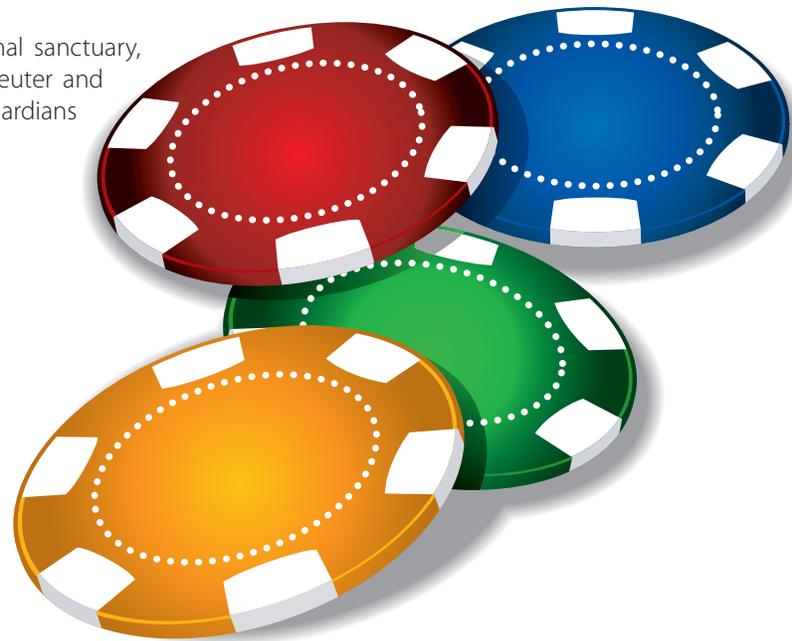
On April 18, 2008 more than 250 players participated in the 2nd Annual Jennifer Harman Charity Poker Tournament held inside the poker room at The Venetian Resort Hotel & Casino to raise money for the Nevada SPCA, Las Vegas' no-kill animal sanctuary.

"The tournament raised \$325,000! A breathtaking amount for Nevada SPCA's animal rescue, and so very much needed during this time of emergency with animals left behind when homes foreclose," said Doug Duke, Executive Director of the NSPCA.

Several celebrity poker players were on hand including Jennifer Harman and her husband Mark, Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Daniel Negreanu, Doyle Brunson and many more.

The winner of the charity tournament was Las Vegas resident and animal lover, Seth Dupre. His prize was a \$10,000 set in the World Series of Poker.

The Nevada SPCA, a nonprofit organization, operates a no-kill animal sanctuary, promotes humane education, makes referrals for lower-cost spay/neuter and vaccination services, and challenges people to be the best possible guardians for the companion animals in their care.



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Treatment Options for Pets with Allergies

By Kimberly S. Coyner, DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Dermatology

Introduction: Pets with allergies to pollen, grass, or dust are affected with atopic dermatitis, or atopy. People with allergies have symptoms such as runny eyes and sneezing, but animals with allergies more commonly show symptoms such as scratching, licking of the feet, and recurrent skin and ear infections. These symptoms may appear only during certain seasons, if the main offending allergens are seasonal pollens, but can occur throughout the year if the allergens persist in the environment year round (such as housedust mites and human dander). Atopic dermatitis typically starts in dogs between the ages of 6 months to 5 years; in cats, atopy can occur at any time of life. In dogs, there is an increased incidence of allergies in certain breeds such as terriers, Cocker spaniels, Labradors, golden retrievers, Shar peis, and German shepherds, however any dog breed can be affected. The diagnosis of atopy is made by considering the symptoms, seasonality, and response to medications. Additionally measures must be taken to ensure no other similar itchy skin diseases such as food allergy, skin parasites, or skin infections are present. Once the clinical diagnosis of atopy has been made, the treatment options include treatment of allergic symptoms with topical and oral medications, or allergy testing and desensitization injections to treat the underlying cause of the itching.

Symptomatic Allergy Treatment: Allergic animals with mild or very seasonal symptoms can often be managed by just using medications to treat their symptoms. Symptomatic medications include topical products such as shampoos, conditioners, and sprays, as well as oral medications such as antihistamines, fatty acids, steroids, and cyclosporin.

Topical products: Shampoos, conditioners, and sprays used for allergies usually contain ingredients that help reduce itching such as oatmeal, topical anesthetics, antihistamines, or steroids. Allergic dogs benefit from frequent bathing not only because of the anti-itch ingredients, but because bathing helps to reduce allergens that are accumulated on the skin and coat. Due to animals' skin pH differences compared to humans, shampoos designed specifically for pets should be used. Weekly bathing and daily rinses or wipedowns with a wet washcloth are usually recommended. It is important that the shampoos be gentle (avoid tar and benzoyl peroxide products unless the dog is very greasy) so that the skin and coat do not become dry. Note that topical products that contain steroids (such as hydrocortisone, betamethasone, and triamcinolone) should be used carefully, as excessive use of topical steroids can predispose a pet to skin infections, and can cause the skin to become excessively thin or create blackheads.

Antihistamines: Oral antihistamines (such as benadryl, clemastine, chlorpheniramine, and hydroxyzine) are helpful to reduce itching in 30-40% of allergic pets; they are not as potent as steroids, but also do not have unwanted steroid side effects. No antihistamine is better or more potent than another; just as in humans, multiple antihistamines often must be tried to find the best one for each individual pet. They also need to be consistently given two to three times daily for benefit, and the dose requirements for pets are usually higher than for people (so it is important to ask your veterinarian about the right dose for your pet). In some pets, side effects can occur such as sleepiness or excitation. When buying over the counter antihistamines, it is very important to select products which do not contain pain killers or decongestants. Antihistamines may not be appropriate if pets have certain medical conditions such as seizures, glaucoma, hypertension, or urinary retention.

Fatty acids: Omega 3 and 6 essential fatty acids are derived from sources such as fish oil, flaxseed oil, and vegetable oils. They have mild anti-inflammatory effects on the skin, as well as help to decrease skin dryness. They have to be given for 1-3 months before a beneficial effect is seen. An oral mixture of omega 3 and 6 fatty acids appears to be ideal for treatment of allergic dermatitis in dogs, and there are multiple combination products manufactured for pets, available in capsule, powder, liquid, or chewable tablet form. Fatty acids also work synergistically with antihistamines to help reduce allergic skin inflammation and itching. They may not be appropriate for use in pets with other medical disorders such as high cholesterol or clotting problems.

Steroids: Injectable or oral steroids such as cortisone or prednisone have many pros and cons in the treatment of allergies in pets. They are inexpensive and work quickly and effectively to reduce itching, and for short term use they are relatively safe. However steroids have numerous side effects, such as increased thirst, urination, hunger, and weight gain. With prolonged use at high doses, steroids cause liver enlargement and increased liver enzymes, can cause high blood pressure and kidney disease, weakened muscles and ligaments, infections of the skin and bladder, and thinning of the skin and hair loss. Animals that are treated with long-term steroids should have physical examinations, bloodwork and urine testing regularly to monitor for side effects. Additionally, other options to treat their allergies and to reduce their dependence on steroids should be tried.

Cyclosporin: Cyclosporin (brand name Atopica) is a relatively new oral medication which can be used as a non-steroidal way to reduce allergic skin inflammation and itching. It is helpful in approximately 80% of allergic dogs to control itch, but is more expensive than steroids. Cyclosporin is given orally daily for 4-6 weeks, then the dose and frequency is slowly decreased to the lowest possible amount needed for comfort (some dogs need it daily, and in some the dose can be reduced to every 2-3 days). Cyclosporin has fewer side effects than steroids, but because it is still an immunosuppressive drug (it is the same medication used to prevent organ transplant rejection in humans), regular physical examinations with bloodwork and urine testing should be performed in pets on long term treatment. Potential side effects include vomiting and diarrhea, and more rarely skin or internal infections and benign growths on the skin or gums.

Allergy Testing and Desensitization: Allergy testing is performed in atopic pets NOT to make a diagnosis of allergies, but to indicate which allergens are to be included in a hyposensitization vaccine. (Remember, the diagnosis of atopy is made by symptoms, response to medications and eliminating the possibility of other itchy skin diseases such as food allergy or skin parasites/infections). Allergy testing and hyposensitization injections (immunotherapy) are appropriate in animals with allergic symptoms that last longer than 2-3 months per year, and in pets in which the symptomatic therapy for allergies is not helpful, or which need steroids longer than 2-3 months out of a year. Allergy testing can be done with a blood test (which is more convenient and can be performed

by most primary care veterinarians, but may be less accurate than skin testing), or by intradermal/skin testing (usually performed by veterinary dermatologists, it requires a light sedative and shaving, and is considered the “gold standard” of allergy testing). Allergy hyposensitization injections are given every 1-4 weeks (the dose and frequency of the vaccine are different for every pet), and are helpful in 70-75% of allergic pets to reduce symptoms and needs for medications. Allergy immunotherapy is usually a lifelong treatment and the degree of response to therapy varies with each individual animal; some pets only need the hyposensitization vaccine, some still need some symptomatic medications such as antihistamines, and some still need steroids, but at lower doses, less often or only during certain seasons. Allergy hyposensitization injections address the cause of a pet’s itchy skin by changing/ calming down the hyperactive immune response to the environmental allergens, but require time (2-12 months) for effect, so symptomatic medications are continued while immunotherapy has time for effect.

Summary: Although allergies in pets are not “curable”, they are very treatable and controllable in most pets. Every animal is an individual and often different medications need to be tried or combinations of medications may need to be used for maximal comfort. When the motivated pet owner, family veterinarian, and, in difficult cases, a veterinary dermatologist work together, our allergic pets can live long, comfortable lives.



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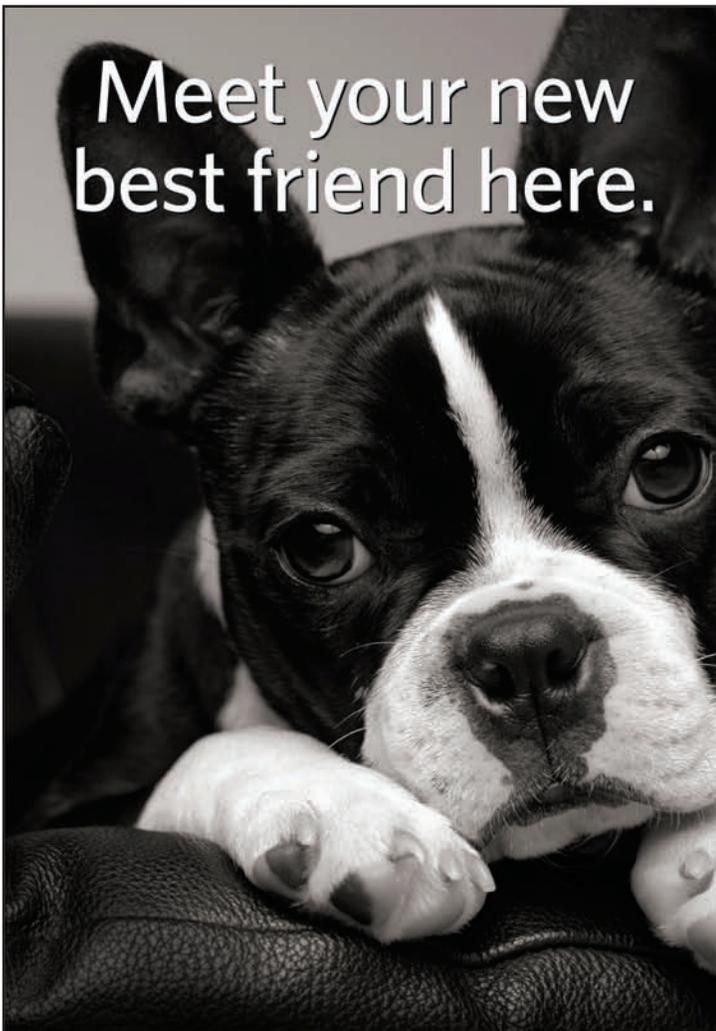
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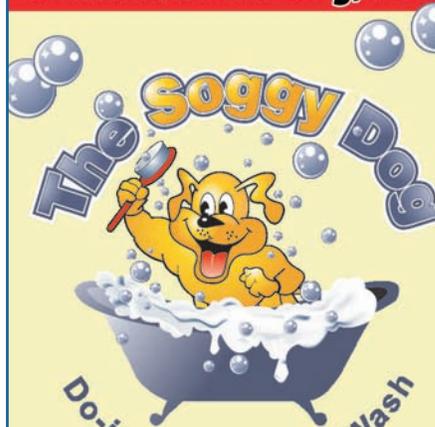
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Can Responsible Pet Ownership Be Enforced?

By Lisa Plummer

America is in a pet overpopulation crisis. According to the Humane Society of the United States, approximately four million dogs and cats are euthanized in U.S. shelters each year. Due to irresponsible pet ownership and indiscriminate breeding, sheltering facilities have become the dumping grounds for unwanted and neglected animals.

Such is the case in Las Vegas. As the impound for three jurisdictions, Clark County, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas, Lied Animal Shelter took in approximately 50,000 dogs and cats last year, with less than half adopted into new homes.

To address this nationwide crisis, many communities across the country are establishing mandatory spay and neuter legislation. North Las Vegas is one example of a city proposing such a solution that, while not perfect, appears to be a first step in the right direction.

On January 1, the city passed an ordinance that gives citizens until May 2 to have their pets voluntarily sterilized. The ordinance, which is the first of its kind in Nevada, will give North Las Vegas Animal Control power to legally address irresponsible pet ownership.

According to NLV Animal Control Division Manager, Dale Smock, the goal is to work in cooperation with the community and promote enforcement through education. Officers won't be going door to door to check for compliance, but can enforce the law when called out for secondary violations, such as nuisance barking or an animal at large.

"Enforcement will take place when we come in contact, if we receive a complaint," Smock says. "Once we're at the residence, we'll ask if the animal is spayed or neutered and they'll have to show proof. If it's not, they'll be given a citation and thirty days to get the animal sterilized."

As with other, similar ordinances, such as one recently passed in Los Angeles, the law states that all dogs or cats over four months of age must be sterilized. It makes exceptions for animals belonging to licensed breeders, show or service animals, and those physically unfit to undergo the surgery. Smock says Animal Control hopes the law will especially cut down on unaltered dogs and cats that are repeatedly picked up for roaming in search of mates.

Yet despite the straightforward nature of the ordinance, some in the community question its enforceability.

"I don't believe these laws will fix the problem because people have to observe the law," says Veterinarian James Wilson of Cheyenne-Tonopah Animal Hospital, who has been in practice in Las Vegas for over 25 years. "We currently have legislation within the City of Las Vegas that any dogs that are bred are supposed to be licensed with a breeder's license, but that's basically unobserved. You see ads in the paper for puppies for sale and I'll bet those people don't have licenses. Why aren't these laws being enforced on people who are blatantly violating them?"

Wilson also believes that sterilizing animals, especially dogs, at four months of age is premature. According to him, unless an animal comes out of the shelter system, where it must be sterilized in order to be released to its new owner, a responsible pet owner should have the freedom to let the animal mature a couple more months before spaying or neutering it.

Another concern is the lack of low-cost spay and neuter services available to keep the public law-abiding. These procedures can run \$100-\$200, an expense not all pet owners can afford. Smock agrees that the ordinance can't be effectively enforced without providing resources for the community, and says the city is working with non-profit rescue organizations, such as Heaven Can Wait and the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, to make low-cost services available.

Christine Robinson, executive director of Lied Animal Shelter, is enthusiastic about the ordinance. She hopes the City of Las Vegas and Clark County will take North Las Vegas' example, pass their own laws, and be able to resolve the community pet overpopulation problem as a team.

"For an effective resolution of any community challenge, a regional approach is always best," Robinson says. "I believe any kind of spay and neuter program will help advance the mission of reducing pet overpopulation."

Despite some community misgivings, Smock says the city is excited about the law's potential. The first year of the ordinance will be period of fine-tuning and trial and error, but he believes it's a good start.

"This ordinance is about reducing the large number of animals being destroyed every year," he says. "You can build a shelter the size of the hotels on the Strip, and they're going to fill up. We'll still have to make room for other animals on the streets because of irresponsible pet owners." 



June

6th Annual Best in Show to benefit The Animal Foundation

Sunday, June 1 | Noon | The Orleans Arena

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, Kids Under 12 & Seniors are \$5

For more information visit www.animalfoundation.com

A Rock n Roll Night Out With Your Dog

June 2008 | Details TBA

Vegas Rock Dog Lounge presents a benefit for Best Friends Society & The Las Vegas Weimeraner Club & Rescue.

www.vegasrockdog.com

Bark-a-thon to Benefit Vegas K9 Rescues

Saturday, June 14 | 8am to 1pm

Barking Dogs Bakery & Boutique

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Bring your pooch or adopt a new one at this fundraising event you and your furry friends will enjoy. The theme is "Splish, Splash I was taking a Bath" with an outdoor doggie wash for \$5 to benefit

K9 Rescue groups. There will also be free pet I.D. tags for dogs that are adopted at the event. Participating rescues include: Weimeraner Rescue, German Shepherd Rescue, Bearded Collie, Old English Rescue, St. Bernard Rescue, Dachshund/Doberman Rescue among others. www.vegask9rescue.com

PETopoly Fundraiser to Benefit Homeless Cats AND Dogs

Saturday, June 14 | 5pm-9pm

Las Vegas Elks Lodge

Homeward Bound Cat Adoptions will host its first annual PETopoly fundraiser to help the charity place local cats and kittens in 'fur-ever' homes. All proceeds from the evening event will benefit Homeward Bound Cat Adoptions, a local charity that gives residents who have to give up their cat or kitten, another alternative to taking them to local shelters. KVBC-Channel 3 Chief Meteorologist John Fredericks will serve as master of ceremonies for the function, which features a cocktail reception, dinner, and opportunity drawing leading up to fun-filled simultaneous CATopoly® vs. DOGopoly® tournaments where players compete for a shopping spree at a local pet store. Early Bird sponsorships are only \$300 for tables of 8, with individual seats selling for \$50 per person for dinner and tournament seat. For more information, call 232.6732 or visit www.homewardboundcats.org.

Golden Retriever Rescue to Host "Golden" Day of Golf

Saturday, June 21 | 7:30am

Silverstone Golf Club

Golden Retriever Rescue of Southern Nevada invites the community to enjoy a "Golden" day of golf! Format: Four-person scramble Cost: \$125 per person; \$400 per foursome. Price includes BBQ awards luncheon, tee prizes and certificate for a free Magique golf bag. Contests and games: Long drive for men and women; closest to pin; Triumph motorcycle with hole in one, Putt for Cash, \$50,000 Shoot Out, and \$500 cash in the helicopter golf ball drop.

To sponsor hole, contest or donation, email "rescuegoldens@cox.net"

To register: clubs.golfhub.com/silverstonegolfclub/tournaments/tournament.php or visit

Visit www.grrsn.org for more information.

7th Annual Jewelry, Wine & Gift Luncheon to Benefit Heaven Can Wait

Sunday, June 22 | Stirling Club at Turnberry Place | 2777 Paradise Road

The Heaven Can Wait Sanctuary is hosting their 7th annual Jewelry, Wine & Gift luncheon with Honorees Denise Clemente and Anthony Rais. 11 a.m., lunch starts 12:30 p.m., entertainment at 1:30 p.m., HCWS presentation following, shopping ends at 3:30 p.m. The event serves to raise funds for HCWS' homeless cats and dogs and community programs. The goal for this event is to raise \$50,000. Tickets-- \$90 per person; \$600 for table of 8 To purchase tickets or advertising in luncheon program—www.hcws.org/luncheon For additional information, 227-5555, ask for Nicole.

Calendar of Events

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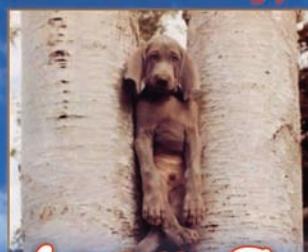
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15-Year Old Receives New Canine Assistant During Special Ceremony in Las Vegas

(Las Vegas) – After three years of patiently waiting with excitement, 15-year old Kelby Ryan of Pahrump, Nevada, was recently presented with a new Canine Assistant by Milk-Bone® and the new Sam’s Club located at the Arroyo Crossing at Rainbow/215. The ceremony was part of a national program called Milk-Bone® Canine Heroes which works to strengthen connections between dogs and people in communities across America. Through Canine Heroes, Milk-Bone® brand donates police dogs to law enforcement agencies and also provides service dogs to people with disabilities in partnership with Canine Assistants, a non-profit organization, founded in 1991, which trains and provides service dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities or other special needs.

Kelby was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and a seizure disorder at birth and is confined to an electric wheel chair most of the time. However, receiving a new canine assistant will provide Kelby with much needed independence and give him comfort and confidence to sleep alone. It will also help provide his mother, Sherri, with peace of mind knowing that in a seizure should occur, his new service dog will alert her.

Friends and family were on hand during the celebration and included Heather, Kassie, Sasha, Quinten, and Sherri and Stewart, Kelby’s parents, Kelly McMahon and her Canine Assistant Pele and presenter, Donna Foreman.

Canine Assistants is a non-profit organization, founded in 1991, which trains and provides service dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities or other special needs. In addition to physically assisting those with disabilities, Canine Assistants service dogs are instrumental in removing many of the barriers faced by the disabled in today’s society. One recipient made the value of this skill quite clear when asked by a reporter what she liked most about her service dog. Immediately, she responded, “My dog makes my wheelchair disappear.”





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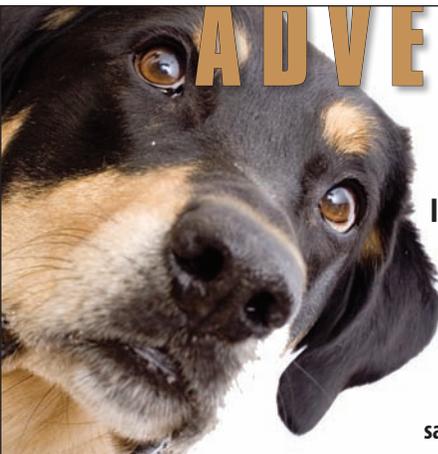
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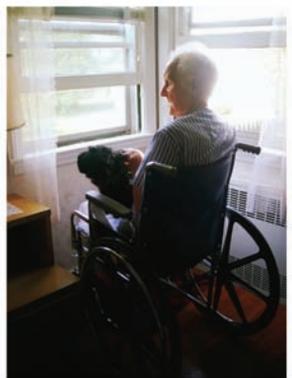
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