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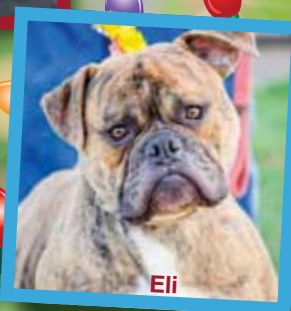
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wags, whiskers, hooves and fins



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Pets, like children, have personalities all their own. Sure, we may be able to generalize within a breed (high energy, independent, stubborn, kid-friendly), but that doesn't mean every one will fit that mold. "Just as siblings in a family have the same parents yet are very different, one cannot purchase behavior by buying a dog of a certain breed," you'll read on p.8.

Thus, pet personalities are surprises. In my home, for example, four English Springer Spaniels share our days. One lives for my husband. One lives for me. One lives for the ball. And the last one lets the rest of us live in her house. Each needs something different, and each gives us something different in return. We never could have imagined the fun we would have with them.

This issue is full of stories of animals who have surprised us with their gifts. Some are physical gifts, as in the blood Holly the Pibble donates when there is another dog in need. Some are emotional gifts, like the joy that Greg Hintermeister feels with his new dog after a lifetime of swearing that he'd never own one. Some are gifts of knowledge, like the research and discoveries that students at Lincoln Choice Elementary experience using zebrafish. Some are gifts of service: Can Do Canines assistance dogs become the hands and feet for their human partners. And some are gifts of friendship, like the kind that a man and his dog shared in the story "Melon Head." Their bond was so strong that the two died within days of each other.

We describe them as friends, partners, even heroes, for what our animals give to us.

What I love most about these stories, though, is that the humans went in to the relationships not knowing what they would get. Starting a new relationship is like bringing home a new baby. "What do we do now?" Cindy Thoreson-Arnold literally asked this question when her assistance dog, Blue, first arrived.

Some animals, like Holly, who raced upstairs to plop herself on the bed the first time she entered her new house, figure it out for you.

But you figure it out. You give and take. You learn from each other.

And you write your stories together.

We hope these stories keep you warm this winter.

Ellington

ON A SIDE NOTE, three of our stories include a dog or a person named Holly. As we head in to the holiday and winter season, we think that's serendipitously appropriate.



CORRECTION: In our Fall issue, we didn't credit the photographer for her work on the "Trapped!" article. The beautiful image work was done by Kris Harms.

Photos by Kelvin Andow:



Ellie, Kate and Kelvin

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send us pictures or stories about the wags, whiskers, hooves or fins in your family!

NEW CANINE COMPANION?



Starting out on the right paw

By Sara Reusche, CPDT

Photography by Kelvin Andow Photography

Whether you decide to work with a responsible breeder or adopt your next best friend, bringing home your new canine companion is an exciting time. Here are three quick tips to make sure your first few days set the stage for a lifetime of enjoyment.

A HEALTHY START

As long as your dog is coming from a reputable rescue or breeder, he should be current on shots and in good physical health. However, experts still recommend that you consider a well-pet check with your veterinarian soon after bringing your dog home.

“Most breeders want their puppies to see the veterinarian within 48 hours of coming home,” says Dr. Polly Lewis of Carriage House Animal Hospital. “But each case is different.”

For healthy adult dogs who are up-to-date on shots, that window can be stretched a bit. You should certainly bring your pet in if you have any questions, and she advises that “the sooner, the better” for first-time pet owners as well as all puppies.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

One of the reasons that puppies need to see the vet so soon is to prepare them for puppy training classes. This is because pups have a “socialization window”—a period of time between 7-16 weeks when they are especially open to new experiences. Whatever your puppy learns during this period of time will shape who they become as an adult.

“That old adage, ‘everything I know, I learned in kindergarten’ is true for dogs too,” says Dr. Lewis. “In puppy class, you learn about your dog and your dog learns about other people and dogs.”

Even adult dogs benefit from attending a quality training class. Starting with class right away will help you and your new dog learn a common language so you can better communicate with one another. Your trainer can help you address any bumps in the road that you may experience, such as inappropriate potty habits, chewing, jumping, barking or separation issues.

A BIT OF PATIENCE

Regardless of your new dog’s history, remember to be patient as your pup acclimates to his new home. Moving is stressful! Take it slowly the first few days, and allow your pooch plenty of time to get used to the routine. As much as you may want to invite all of your friends and

neighbors over to meet your new family member, resist the urge to parade your dog all over town.

Set your dog up for success by rewarding him generously for behaviors you like and manage his environment so that he can’t get into trouble. Until you know that your new dog is trustworthy, treat him much as you would a toddler. Don’t leave him unsupervised, and don’t blame him for getting into your garbage or peeing on the carpet if you aren’t there to explain the new rules to him.

A leash can be a great way to keep your pet close by until you know one another better. Simply clip the handle of the leash to your belt as you go about your day, and your dog won’t be able to slip away unnoticed to get into mischief.


FREE eBook



Paws Abilities Dog Training LLC offers access to “After You Get Your Puppy” by Ian Dunbar at www.paws4u.com/after_you_get_your_puppy.pdf.

Sections include Developmental Deadlines, Household Etiquette 101, Socialization with People, Learning Bite Inhibition and Adolescent Problems. **Enjoy!**

If you have multiple pets, make the introductions low-key and positive. It’s better to take several days or weeks to form a positive relationship than to force the issue and end up with a dog or cat who hates their housemate.

Above all, remember to enjoy your new pet. Enjoy those unique qualities that made you decide that he was the one you wanted to add to your family. May you have many more happy years together! 

Sara Reusche owns Paws Abilities Dog Training in Rochester. She lives with rescued dogs Layla and Trout. When she’s not teaching, speaking or writing about training dogs, she enjoys taking her own dogs on long walks and staying up too late. You can reach her at paws4u.com.

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Dogs Don't Say 'I LOVE YOU' With a Hug

5 Dog Myths that Can Lead to Tragedy



It's the kind of headline that makes dog behaviorist Melissa Berryman's blood boil: "DOG ON TRIAL AFTER ATTACKING CHILD."

According to the report, a pointer-hound mix named Milo, a dog that had never caused any problems, was napping on the couch in his home when a 6-year-old neighbor arrived. The boy sat down on the couch and started petting the sleeping dog. The child was bitten in the face after being left alone with the dog. No one witnessed the incident.

"The dog was put on trial for an accident that's preventable when people understand what our behavior means to dogs," says Berryman, who has spent years studying dog bites and is the author of "People Training for Good Dogs: What Breeders Don't Tell You and Trainers Don't Teach" (www.ptfgd.com).

"Dog owners are set up for failure because our default is to blame the dog. Owners get fined or sued for repeated human mistakes. Dogs often pay with their lives for mistakes made by people," Berryman says.

That's the case for Milo. At his hearing in Mansfield, Mass., selectmen voted to euthanize him.

"Prevention has to be the priority," Berryman says. "Sure, it's cute to us when the baby hugs the dog. But dogs do not say 'I love you' with a hug. When one dog 'hugs' another, it's an act of domination. It should be a given that people do not hug dogs. Yet the message for children to hug dogs is prevalent in our culture and the facial bites continue."

What are some other common misperceptions people have about dog and human behaviors? Berryman shares five:



1. MYTH: When greeting a new dog, you should extend your hand for it to sniff. FACT: Dogs don't sniff each other's paws when greeting and,

like us, prefer to be asked before being touched by a stranger. Instead, ask the owner and then also ask the dog by tapping your hand on your thigh,

simulating a wagging tail, and acting friendly. The dog will relax and nuzzle you, need to sniff more to get to know you or will stay away.

2. MYTH: Breed dictates temperament. FACT: Dogs, first and foremost, are predatory canines that live in groups. What dictates temperament is their pack position, the role you, the human, play in the group and the rank of group members. Dogs have superior/inferior interrelationships and command and defer accordingly. And just as siblings in a family have the same parents yet are very different, one cannot purchase behavior by buying a dog of a certain breed.

3. MYTH: When a dog charges, there is nothing you can do. FACT: When a dog charges you, it's trying to decide if you are friend, foe or prey. Their eyesight is poor so hats, sunglasses and other objects you may push or carry can scare them. Act like a friend and pretend you are not afraid. Stand facing the dog with relaxed body language, tap your thigh with your hand and use a high-pitched voice for a friendly greeting like "good girl." Fake it if you are afraid.

4. MYTH: Posting a "Beware of Dog" sign will protect you from liability if your dog injures someone on your property. FACT: Dogs can only read body language. These signs make people react to your dog in a fearful manner, which is more likely to cause a dog to consider visitors prey and bite them. Use No Trespassing and Dog At Play signs instead.

5. MYTH: Only bad dogs owned by bad people bite. FACT: Any dog can bite especially when it feels personally threatened, is exposed to prey behavior or thinks that someone lower in rank threatens its resources, such as food, toys, bedding and the attention of its owner. PAW

Melissa Berryman is a national dog bite consultant who founded the Dog Owner Education and Community Safety Council (www.doecsc.org) and works with communities, rescue groups, dog owners and bite victims.



Small Dog Rescue OF MINNESOTA

By Amanda Wingren | Photography by Kelvin Andow



ESTABLISHED: 2002

LOCATION: Rochester, the Twin Cities, Duluth and western Wisconsin

MISSION: "To rescue and rehome dogs 20 pounds and under, through strictly no-kill vetting and foster home rehabilitation until prepared for adoption."

www.smalldogsminnesota.org

WHO THEY ARE:

A 501c3 organization of more than 250 volunteers. Run by a five-member board, Small Dog Rescue of Minnesota (SDR) does not have a physical shelter.

"We believe that dogs do best in homes so they can be loved like a family member until they are placed in suitable adoptive homes," says Stefanie Binner, board treasurer. "Our fosters work very hard with these dogs and give them love and time so they can reach their highest potential."

PASSION:

"Every dog has the perfect home," says Binner. "We won't turn dogs away, even those with severe medical or behavioral

issues." Dogs are rescued from owner surrenders, puppy mills, high-kill shelters, and animal control, where no one else will take them and the animals are at high risk of being euthanized.

Dogs are fully examined, given necessary vaccinations, spayed, neutered and micro-chipped. In extreme cases, dogs may need back surgery, knee surgery or extensive dental work. "We do everything we can to get the dog the care it needs, for as long as needed, until they are ready for a forever home."

BY THE NUMBERS:


On average, SDR places 100 dogs per year in loving homes, with 25–28 in rescue at a given time.

IN ACTION:

Wine & Chocolate fundraiser in February, Big Hogs for Small Dogs fundraiser in August, as well as adoption events throughout Rochester and the Twin Cities.

HOW TO HELP:

Adopt, foster, volunteer or donate. SDR relies solely on the work of volunteers and the aid of donation and adoption fees. Most of the money raised directly covers veterinarian costs, behavior training during rehabilitation, or basic needs such as food, toys and supplies.

"And educate!" says Binner. "I've always been an advocate for rescue—to see the dogs come in, scared, alone, to being adopted out to wonderful families—it's amazing. There really is nothing better." 

Ivy, a Chihuahua, age 2; Beezus, a MinPin/Rat Terrier mix, age 5; and Freddie, a Poodle, age 5, who was used as a puppy mill breeding dog. All are available for adoption.



IF THE SHOE FITS

Horseshoeing is more than bending steel to a farrier

By Bob Freund | Photography by Kelvin Andow

Dave prouty crouches over an upturned hoof

clenched between his knees. He works a file back and forth, smoothing off the bottom of the hoof until he's satisfied. It's got to be flat," to take a horseshoe, he says.

The hoof belongs to Wyatt Earp, standing calmly behind him. The 16-year-old Appaloosa gelding outweighs Prouty by many hundreds of pounds, and if Wyatt Earp wasn't content with a nail trim and fitting, you can bet the horseshoer wouldn't be messing with its front hoof.

But the professional farrier easily will nail steel shoes on his powerful trail horse without upsetting it. He knows how to get along with Wyatt Earp and the many unfamiliar horses he encounters each year.

Prouty and other farriers practice a craft that's part psychology, part anatomy and part blacksmithing.



Steadying a steed's foot

Like our shoes, the U-shaped horseshoes are made to protect hooves from ground hazards such as rocks or other hard surfaces. Among other benefits, they can help prevent cracking of those hooves, which are thick versions of toenails. They also must be fitted correctly to avoid interfering with balance and leg motion.

Inside the mind of a horse

Wyatt Earp certainly recognizes his owner as Prouty begins to work on his front hoof on a fall day at his rural Mantorville farm. He raised the horse and taught it to tolerate the three-legged stances involved in attaching shoes. Today, Prouty also brought out his 6-year-old mare Shyenne to keep the older horse company while strangers are at the farm. He relies on a core herd instinct in the animals; they feel more comfortable in groups, the farrier says.

Prouty, 59, grew up watching the behavior of draft horses at his dad's farm in North Dakota. "Most horses you can get along with," with a little caution, he says. For example, he knows horses typically don't like to be looked directly in the eye, so he'll lower his head a bit and glance away on first approach, he says. Once you are near, though, they do like rubbing and "itching," he says. That's a way to gain the horse's confidence.

His career as a farrier began when "I bought this little bay mare ... and I couldn't find anyone to trim her feet," Prouty says. He grabbed an opportunity and completed a 4-month course at a horseshoeing school in Oklahoma. Prouty opened Rockin' P Horseshoeing and, now, "I've been doing this for 16 years," he says.



"It takes 45 minutes to an hour to shoe a horse, if they stand good," says Dave Prouty, a horse farrier.

Sizes 000 to 2

As the horseshoer holds Wyatt Earp's curled foot, he cleans the hoof and the "frog" inside the hoof. It is a flexible pad that absorbs part of the foot's pounding and helps to pump blood up through the leg.

"When a horse walks, its foot expands and contracts," Prouty explains. He also trims and levels the bottom of the hoof to prepare it for the shoe. "A horse should have three inches of hoof."

Prouty goes to the rear bed of his truck, which is a rolling workshop. He carries a range of steel horseshoes. (His are Minnesota-made from St. Croix Forge of Forest Lake.) Common shoes for trail horses range from size 000, or triple-"aught," to size 2. He fits a shoe up against Wyatt Earp's foot, but it needs a slight adjustment.

The farrier takes out a mallet, places the shoe on an anvil at the truck and whacks it into shape quickly. If necessary, he could also have fired up his portable forge to heat and soften the metal for shaping. Farriers actually owe their name to this blacksmithing. The word comes from "ferrum," which means "iron" in Latin.

Prouty gets some help from his tools, but he also must call upon his skill to set the horseshoe. Special nails slip into pre-forged holes. "The nail has a bevel that bends out when it gets into the hoof," he says. After he drives the nail, he clips off part of the nail that emerges from the side of the hoof and uses a "clinch bar" to turn the end back into the hoof so it will not snag. Wyatt Earp will not feel any pain, because the tough hoof tissue itself is not sensitive.

Not all horses wear shoes and some wear them only part of the year. Some owners also choose to shoe only the front legs of their animals. "A horse carries 70 percent of her weight on her front legs," Prouty explains. "So some people don't shoe the back (feet)."

His business is on their feet

Horseshoeing is demanding work, requiring time, strength and know-how. "It takes 45 minutes to an hour to shoe a horse, if they stand good," Prouty says. Just trimming the hooves goes faster at four horses an hour. Rockin' P Horseshoeing operates throughout southeastern Minnesota, and Prouty has clients with herds as large as 20 horses.

Horseshoeing also can be a dangerous job. Prouty says he had one bone-deep laceration when a horse moved suddenly and one fracture when a draft horse stepped on his foot.

But he remembers the cardinal rule taught at the horseshoeing school. "You have to love horses," Prouty repeats. And he does. 🐾

Bob Freund is a freelance writer based in Rochester.

Selected farrier and hoof care connections online

- Minnesota Farriers Association: www.minnesotafarriers.com
- University of Minnesota Extension Horse Program, fact sheet about hoof care: www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/care/hoof-care/#Conclusion
- National Museum of Horse Shoeing Tools and Hall of Honor: www.horseshoeingmuseum.com
- Minnesota Horse Council: www.mnhorsecouncil.org. See "How to be prepared for a visit from your farrier" under Horse Care tab.



Photo by Kelvin Andow Photography



Cindy and Blue

AND WHAT THEY CAN DO

Woman and her service dog are a package deal

By KL Snyder

Blue Thoreson-Arnold, arguably the most privileged member of the Macy's workforce in Rochester, has his own bed onsite and gets to use it while on the job.

Referring to him as a VIP, however, would be inaccurate. Instead, call him top dog.

He's the fellow who wears a red vest, which sports his Macy's name badge and five-year service pin, over his fur coat—the one with four legs, a cold, wet, shiny nose and an absurdly long tail.

Blue is a happy combo of Labrador Retriever and Australian Shepherd whose Macy's job is just one aspect of his career as Cindy Thoreson-Arnold's mobility assist dog.

Cindy, who has a progressive neurological disease that affects her motor functions, began using a wheelchair 31 years ago. When she's at work in Macy's merchandising office, Blue stretches out on his bed, a quilt that was a gift from a coworker. A sign taped to the wall above the quilt proclaims "Blue's Pad."

"Macy's has made him part of their team,

so he's not just a dog," Cindy says.

Blue snuggles on his quilt but doesn't sleep. "If I drop something, he picks it up. When I finish my work, there are scraps on the floor. He loves to pick up scraps.

"Macy's is a great place to work," she says. "When I began bringing him to work, they just accepted him. By law they have to accept us, but they didn't need the law."

"It's always just Cindy and Blue together," says her supervisor, store logistics coordinator Jon Weisbrod. "They're a package deal."



Blue, a former shelter dog, is now a mobility assistance dog for Cindy Thoreson-Arnold. His job is to open, pull, push, pick up, retrieve and monitor for Cindy.



Photo by Kelvin Andow Photography

Shelter Dog

Cindy and Blue became a package deal more than eight years ago when Blue was 2 years old. He came from a shelter via Can Do Canines, a Minnesota nonprofit agency that trains service dogs and gives them to people with disabilities.

During Cindy's application interview, Can Do Canines asked for her preferences in a dog. "I want a rescue dog and a mixed breed," she replied. "I want any dog that's been unwanted to have a good home."

So they found Blue.

"He was unloved and thrown away," Cindy says. "And just look at him now."

People do look. Lean and strong, Blue exudes dignity. His blue merle coat, courtesy of the Aussie Shepherd connection, shines. "I don't go anywhere that somebody doesn't say something about how beautiful he is," Cindy says.

Working Dog

Retriever/Shepherd – he's a working dog. "Sometimes when I don't ask him to do something for me for a while, he'll start bringing me stuff because he likes to work. He was dedicated from the start. From the moment Can Do delivered him, he went everywhere in the house with me."

Blue pulls doors and drawers open for Cindy and pushes power door buttons with his nose and paws. His main responsibility is retrieving things: pencils, papers, credit cards, the phone.

Once as she tried to get into her wheelchair, it rolled away from her. She lowered herself to the floor and told Blue, "I need your help. Go get me the phone." A worried Blue thought he should stay with her, and it took some insisting before she persuaded him to fetch her the phone. She called her husband, Lowell, who hurried home. "Without Blue," Cindy says,

"I would have spent eight hours on the floor."

Blue is her champion at doctor appointments, too. "He tries to get between me and the medical people. I tell him it's all right, but he still watches what they're doing to me. He takes good care of me."

Cindy needs to kennel Blue at night because he doesn't get any sleep otherwise. Unkenned, he leaps to his paws to check on her whenever she stirs in bed. Only when he's kenneled can he relax and sleep.

Advocate Dog

Cindy and Blue visit schools, libraries and civic groups to give presentations on service dogs and disability awareness, and they help Boy Scouts earn the disability awareness merit badge.

"It's really important that Blue and I serve as a good example to others," Cindy says. "Our goal is to educate people and show them the wonderful connection a dog and a person with a disability can have and what a benefit a service dog is. We enjoy speaking to groups, and Blue likes showing off his skills."

Superhero Dog

"He's my hero." And an imminent superhero, too, star of the book she and Laurie Brownell, program director at Hiawatha Homes, will publish soon.

"In Blue's Shoes," a whimsical tale for 5- and 6-year-olds, sets forth the adventures of Blue and a lost Christmas elf, Ellie, as Blue helps her find her way home to Santa's workshop.

Proceeds from the book will go to support and expand Hiawatha Homes' pet therapy program, which currently consists of Val, a Terrier/Pug; Fergie, a Shih Tzu and Cassidy, a cat with three legs.

It's no coincidence that an elf named Ellie is Hiawatha Homes' goodwill ambassador. She's

a Christmas doll who makes public appearances to promote Hiawatha Homes' gala fundraiser, Festival of Trees.

"Ellie is known around town," Cindy says. "Blue is known around town, too."

A Package Deal

Service dogs' and pet dogs' lifestyles differ radically. "We subject assistance dogs to a lot of things in public that other dogs don't encounter," Cindy says. "It's up to me to keep Blue safe."

Blue's tail, size extra-long, presents a particular challenge. In stores or restaurants when he lies down as he's trained to do when Cindy's wheelchair is stopped, that tail could get stepped on, and on occasion has, despite Cindy's vigilance. "We enter and leave elevators side-by-side. It would be terrible if we got separated."

She and Blue share a mutual trust, she says.

A pampered pet? Not Blue. He's a pampered service dog. "I spoil Blue rotten and I'm proud of it, Cindy says. "He deserves every joy in life. He's so dedicated. I give him everything with adoration, love."

Cindy and Blue: It's a perfect partnership. "I think this dog would be lost if he didn't have a purpose," she says. "And because of him I can work independently. That's my whole goal in living, to be independent." 🐾

Freelance writer KL Snyder lives with Cocker Spaniels Chester and Snicket.





"OUR ASSISTANCE DOGS FETCH AMAZING THINGS,"

says the Can Do Canines website. Can Do Canines is a charity that does amazing things.

Based in New Hope, Minn., Can Do Canines trains dogs to help individuals with disabilities, matches each canine to someone who needs a service dog, and then gives the dog to that person.

Yes, gives. Clients pay an application fee of \$50 to get an assist dog whose care and training expenses total around \$25,000.



THE MAKING OF AN ASSISTANCE DOG

Can Do Canines specializes in five kinds of service dogs – autism, diabetes, hearing, mobility and seizure – each requiring a distinct skill set.

The process begins with puppies and puppy raisers, volunteers who take dogs home and rear them from puppyhood to youthful maturity.



"Puppy raisers raise the dog as if it's their own," says Al Peters, Can Do Canines executive director. "They take on the costs, tax deductible for those who itemize, so it's not just time but also some money."

Can Do Canines sees pups and raisers on a regular basis. "We guide the puppy raisers and train them how to train," Al says.

Puppy raisers teach basic commands and also encourage the dogs to retrieve, tug, pick things up and perform other tasks that will translate to their Can Do Canines careers.

Puppy raisers socialize the dogs and take them to public places. Recently a group of Twin Cities puppy raisers took their furry trainees for ride on the light rail. Pups and their raisers visit Home Depot, Target and libraries and attend plays, concerts and athletic events. The dogs learn to take crowds, elevators, loud noises and other distractions in stride. Some go to the airport, pass through security and board a plane. "They get plenty of good exposure," Al says.



"At about 16 to 18 months of age they move to our facility for evaluation, and decisions are made on what they will do for a living and who they will be placed with.

Then, for three to six months, they get the custom training they need for that person."

SHELTER DOG PROGRAM

Most Can Do Canines' canines are purebred pups whose bloodlines promise good temperament and good health. But when possible, Can Do Canines works with dogs from shelters, dogs usually of unknown backgrounds and health.

"We take adult dogs, not puppies, out of shelters, and we check their hips, elbows, eyes and hearts right away," Al says. Once cleared, the rescue dogs start their training at Can Do Canines headquarters.

"We love to use shelter dogs whenever we can. About a third of our graduates across the years have been rescue dogs."

MAKING MATCHES

"There's an art about matching dogs to people," Al says. Can Do Canines goes to clients' homes to talk. What help do they need? What kinds of dogs do they like? "We try to meet their needs and wishes. We accommodate as much as we can."

Once matched, the client visits the facility to meet and play with the dog and learn proper commands. Not long after that, a field trainer delivers the dog to

LEFT: Puppy Raisers reunite with Stella, at graduation. MIDDLE: Mobility assist team Bryce and Dallas. RIGHT: A staff trainer works with Morgan using the "visit" command.

the client's home and helps the new team acclimate.

Cindy Thoreson-Arnold recalls her first day with her mobility assist dog, Blue. When the trainer left, Cindy says, "I turned to Blue and said, 'Okay, Blue, now what do we do?' Then, he was more educated than I was."

Can Do Canines knows that and helps its clients catch up. "A field trainer works with the client at home and in public for weeks, sometimes for months," Al says. Then when human and canine get their teamwork down pat, they take a certification test. Just two weeks after Cindy got Blue, they passed theirs. "We worked hard to get to that point."

GRADUATION DAY

Every spring and fall, Can Do Canines holds graduation. "It's a formal ceremony, a moment when

you and your dog have achieved becoming a team," Cindy says.

During the ceremony, the puppy raisers present the dogs to their handlers. "It's beautiful and emotional. I cried then, and I still get tears in my eyes when I talk about it," says Cindy.

Each furry grad gets a traditional graduation cap and a rawhide diploma.

Lucky dogs.

The luckiest dogs, Al says. "They're happiest when they're working, and they're never left home alone. It doesn't get any better than that for a dog."

HELP WANTED

The Can Do Canines contingent consists of (not counting canines) staff (14 full-time employees, 6 part-time employees and 20 field trainers) and volunteers (10 board members, 60 to 70 puppy raisers

and 100-plus other volunteers).

Demand for assist dogs is high, and the waiting list is lengthening. Can Do's goal is to double its number of graduates by 2017. To accomplish that, Can Do needs puppy raisers and money, Al says.

"We are desperate for more puppy raisers. We need more in the Rochester area. And we need money to keep our doors open and pay bills and help pay for things volunteers don't do."

Puppy raisers love the job, he says. "They're doing this for someone else, and they get to witness the positive change in somebody's life."

As for the sweet sorrow of parting, he has a cure: "Get another puppy. Many people do. We have people who've done this for 20 years. Once you do it, it's almost addictive." 🐾

HERE'S YOUR INVITATION

WHAT: Tails to Tell is a presentation about Can Do Canines Assistance Dogs. Meet staff, a volunteer puppy raiser, a graduate Assistance Dog team and see what we're all about!

WHO: Anyone interested in learning about how to apply for an assistance dog or volunteer opportunities. We hope to start a Puppy Raiser group in Rochester.

WHEN: Saturday, January 25, 11am - noon

WHERE: Leashes and Leads, Byron

RSVP: Laurie Carlson, 763-331-3000 x113 or lcarlson@can-do-canines.org

More information at www.can-do-canines.org



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Learning science in a fish bowl

By Bob Freund | Photography by Kelvin Andow

A spot of light bulges and then shrinks regularly under the magnification of a microscope. Sixth-grade students in Rochester's Lincoln Choice School can view a heart beating in the embryo of a tiny fish through a computer monitor. They might want to count the beats. Or measure the size of the embryo using the computer or iPad.

The fish developing in front of the students' eyes is a zebrafish. Originally found in

freshwater streams in India, the zebrafish now commonly swims in fish bowls and home aquariums. But, the fish also is the heartbeat of an innovative science education program at Lincoln Choice and three other Rochester schools.

INSCI-ED OUT

InSciEd Out, short for Integrated Science Education Outreach, is a three-way collaboration between the Rochester school system, Mayo Clinic and Winona State University. It educates students, but it also equips

teachers with innovative and sound ways to employ science school-wide, not just in the science labs.

In its first four years, elementary school teachers involved in InSciEd Out have written some 40 learning modules on topics ranging from "What is a Scientist?" for kindergartners to "The Impact of Chemicals" for middle-school students, which delves into alcohol, drug abuse and even pop culture. Their courses are designed to work with arts, language, math, social studies and even

physical education classes, along with science.

"Science is interwoven into everything here," says James Kulzer, technology teacher, who also runs InSciEd's zebrafish lab at Lincoln Choice. The program's aim is not necessarily to groom new scientists, but to acquaint all 700 students with science and its methods. "We want you to begin to think like a scientist," Kulzer says.

TINY FINS, SIGNIFICANT ANATOMY

The zebrafish swimming

behind the aquarium glass bear a significant genetic resemblance to humans, experts say. Mayo Clinic operates a Zebrafish Core Facility, which specializes in raising the fish and supplying them for experiments in topics ranging from simple anatomy to disease studies. The center, which holds about 50,000 fish, also is one source of zebrafish for InSciEd Out.

Scientifically, “we’re very similar in terms of our DNA, our behavior and then our disease outcomes,” says Tyler Koep, a Mayo Clinic Ph.D. candidate in biomedical sciences who works with InSciEd Out. “So we can study things like addiction, we can study cancer ... (through) the zebrafish.”

The zebrafish, a few inches long at most, is among a range of animals that researchers use to understand humans. It is one of the most accessible for studying development through embryos.

“Those (embryos) are transparent for seven days, so you can actually see the

development of the heart, brain and the internal organs,” Koep says. At Lincoln Choice, Kulzer says students are able to count and calculate the numbers of individual cells grown in the eye of the embryonic fish.

“The zebrafish also reproduce extremely quickly, so they can produce new embryos every week,” Koep notes. Researchers don’t have to wait long to track development.

FISHY THOUGHTS FROM STUDENTS

Until students are in fifth grade, Kulzer and other teachers bring fish into classrooms for students to see and study. In the middle grades, though, the students come to the InSciEd Out lab at Lincoln, which teems with the tiny fish in dozens of small tanks. They learn to handle the fish, view them with magnification by computer, and conduct and design experiments.

They are enthusiastic about the little creatures.

“When I was in fourth grade, I started to breed fish,” says Ashley Koehler, now a sixth grader. “I’m wondering if fish have feelings. I may have that as a science fair project with guppies,” she suggests.

Christine Lawrence, also in sixth grade, says it is a challenge just to “keep your embryos alive for a week.” Classmate Maria Fichtinger says it is important to get the right temperature, pH factor and other conditions for the fish to survive.

Megan Engelken also is interested in experimenting with genes that can change the color of the zebrafish.

The experiences with the zebrafish stimulate questions to be answered. Sometimes, the students are quite persistent with experiments. “We have eighth graders who have been working on this for three years,” Kulzer says.

INSCIED OUT FAME

The science education program already has won note for its

cooperative nature and results. What started at Lincoln Choice has spread to three other public schools, along with one in the Twin Cities area and, through a Mayo Clinic connection, one in the nation of Ghana.

Mayo Clinic brings the science to the program, and Winona State University faculty members contribute expertise in education.

Close to 200 teachers and student teachers have taken InSciEd Out training in science and curriculum development. Between 2,000 and 3,000 students now are learning from InSciEd Out coursework each year.

In addition, the program has been featured in articles in scientific journals, including one named “Zebrafish.” Kulzer says 57 students also have been recognized as authors of articles published in the scholarly journals. 🐾

Bob Freund is a freelance writer in Rochester.



Sixth-grade students (clockwise from left) Maria Fichtinger, Christine Lawrence, Megan Engelken and Ashley Koehler help their teacher, James Kulzer, in the fish room. Ashley Koehler and Maria Fichtinger use an iPad to look at images on a microscope. Maria Fichtinger adjusts the water flow in a tank to make sure sediment is moved from the bottom of the tank to the filter. Christine Lawrence looks through a microscope at some developing zebrafish embryos. The tank is one of more than 80 that houses fish. Each tank has a constant flow of water that is cleaned by filters.

HOLLY THE PIBBLE

*Rescued dog is breaking down
stereotypes and giving back
with her own blood*

By Penny Marshall | Photography by Kelvin Andow



Jamie Kull, CVT, and Dr. Stephanie Tagliente with Holly.

If you say “**Holly the Pit Bull**” in conversation it sometimes sounds like “**Holly the Pibble.**” The phrase does something more: it softens the label for an often-misunderstood breed and gives Holly an identity.

And doesn't Holly the Pibble sound like a dog you'd like to get to know? Well, sit back and get to know this Pibble.

Ruth and Rick Johnson adopted Holly, actually a Pit Bull/Boxer cross, from Paws & Claws Humane Society in 2011. Since her adoption, Holly has furthered her education, acquired more than 300 friends on Facebook, has her own business cards, filled countless lives with love and become a universal blood donor for dogs.

Holly's motto? “Breaking down negative Pit Bull stereotypes one kiss and tail wag at a time.”



Jamie Kull, CVT, Dr. Stephanie Tagliente, Tara Adams, CVT, and Lindsey Eckloff, CVT, monitor Holly as she donates blood.



Making herself at home

For 33 years the Johnsons enjoyed the company of German Shorthairs in their home and as pheasant hunting companions. Three weeks after their last dog, Sophie, passed away in September 2011, the Johnsons started looking at www.pawsandclaws.org for another pet.

Ruth had always wanted a Pit Bull and when she perused photos of available dogs, she sighted Holly (then named Cali).

“I loved her face, and when we met her, we also loved her personality,” said Ruth. Holly quickly made her way into the Johnson's heart and into her new home.

“Our other dogs were puppies when we adopted them, and getting Holly, who was 2 ½, was like getting a dog that was made just for us. She fit right into our household just like she was born here,” said Ruth.

In fact, upon entering the Johnson's home for the first time, Holly made a beeline up the stairs, to their bedroom and onto their bed—right after Rick made the statement “this dog we won't let sleep on our bed.”

Because Paws & Claws recommends obedience classes and the Johnsons' experience was with field training, they signed up for a course.

“It went very well and helped her to bond with us. Although I found that I actually needed the training more than she did,” said Ruth.

Holly brought love and delight to all through the Thanksgiving holiday with the Johnsons, embracing young and old alike. Her endearing personality and wagging tail were indicative of her joy in having a family who loved and cared about her.

Becoming a canine blood donor

Ruth read an article about canine blood donation, which cited that breeds like Boxers, German Shepherds and Pit Bulls were good breeds for donating. That inspired Ruth to call Affiliated Emergency Veterinary Services (AEVS) to find out the requirements for donating.

“In order to be a donor, a dog must have a comprehensive screen to make sure they're healthy,” explained Stephanie Tagliente, DVM at AEVS. “A dog must be between 2 and 7 years of age, greater than 50 pounds, spayed or neutered, current on vaccines, have no history of receiving a donation, be on no chronic medications, use flea and tick preventative, have blood and heartworm testing and donate no more than every eight weeks. It's also very important for the dog to have a relaxed, calm and friendly demeanor.”

Ruth was told that dogs are minimally sedated with mild tranquilizer and the blood is taken from the jugular vein in the neck.

Just in time and in the spirit of the holiday season, Holly was found to have a DEA 1 negative blood type, which translates to a universal donor. She joined one other dog and two cats who are donors at AEVS. This meant that chasing balls in the backyard, napping, meeting new friends, or chasing squirrels and butterflies would have to wait if the Johnsons receive “the call” that Holly’s blood is needed.

Canine Good Citizen too

Meantime, Holly continued to develop her social skills by making regular visits to a local nursing home, delighting the residents and soaking up the attention.

“Holly is very patient and doesn’t react to wheelchairs or walkers,” said Ruth. “And because she’s a big dog when she sits, she’s at people’s level if they’re in a chair or wheelchair.”

Because the Johnsons hope that Holly will be certified as a therapy dog, the next step in her education was to become Canine Good Citizen Certified. So back to school she went and was successful in earning yet another diploma in June, 2013.

Snake bite calls for Holly’s help

Then in July, “the call” came. The Johnsons were told that a dog had been bitten by a rattlesnake and Holly’s blood was needed to help the victim survive. Holly arrived at the clinic about 8:30 a.m., donated a unit of 450 ml (an approximate equivalent of 1 pint or half a quart) of blood, received replacement fluids and was ready to go home about 2:30 p.m.

Ruth said Holly was a little groggy and had to take it easy for a day or so. She had a small wrap on her leg from the IV fluids, and a scarf concealed where she had been shaved on her neck and upper chest.

“We get packed red blood cell units and plasma from a blood bank,” said Dr. Tagliente. “But some medical situations warrant fresh whole blood from a donor, and that was the case with the rattlesnake bite. We infused Holly’s blood into the other dog right away. Holly’s role really contributed to the dog’s recovery. It made a huge difference and helped save the dog’s life.”

The owner of the bitten dog expressed his great appreciation for Holly’s willingness to give. “Rick and I are blood donors, and now this whole experience just really completes our circle,” Ruth said.

You can visit Holly at her Facebook page, facebook.com/HollyThePibble, where you’ll see her enjoying her family, favorite pastimes, peeps, and glamming it up with fashion. You might even notice her about town handing out her business cards.

Holly the Pibble got the second chance she needed at her life. And now she’s giving it back. One unit at a time. 🐾

Penny Marshall is a Rochester freelance writer.



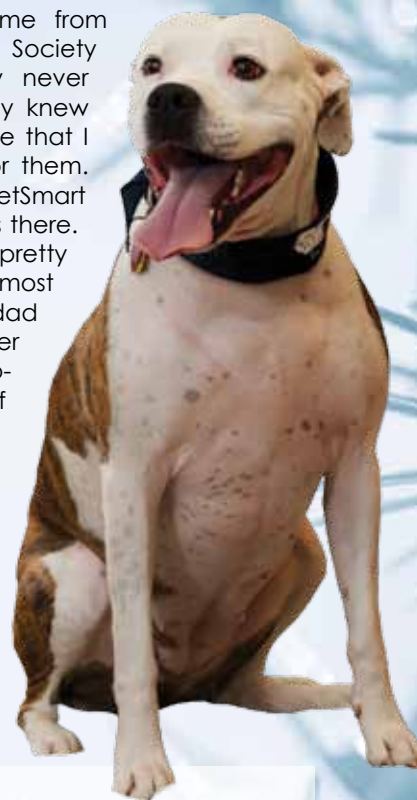
Ruth and Rick Johnson, and their stereotype-busting Pibble, Holly.

Holly’s Facebook Bio

My mom & dad adopted me from the Paws & Claws Humane Society on October 7th, 2011. They never had a pitbull before, but they knew just from meeting me one time that I would be the perfect dog for them. They took me to school at PetSmart University and I got 2 diplomas there. They found out that I’m a pretty smart dog and very obedient (most of the time!) I love my mom & dad and every other person I’ve ever met. I love riding in the car, going for long walks, taking lots of naps and bacon!

Personal Interests

Napping, chasing balls in the backyard, dozing, meeting new people, sleeping under the covers, chasing squirrels and butterflies, cuddling, eating, snoozing, riding in the car.



CANINE BLOOD TYPES

There are eight major canine blood groups, labeled as DEA (dog erythrocyte antigen) 1 to 8. The most significant for blood transfusion purposes are DEA 1 and its subsets. Dogs who are DEA 1.1 positive are universal recipients, while dogs who are DEA 1 negative are considered universal donors. Most Greyhounds are DEA 1 negative.

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PET FRIENDLY Gift Giving Guide



Photography by Kelvin Andow

1 BLUE KNIGHT CASTLE by Penn-Plax, **\$39.99**, *Fish & Pets*. **2 PUPPY PLANTER** by Georgetown Home & Garden, **\$30.99**, *Shades of Green*. **3 BETTA BOWL & PLANTER** by elive extraordinary fish **\$38.99**, *Fish & Pets*. **4 DOG WREATH HOLDER**, by Evergreen Garden, **\$37.99**, *Rochester Feed & Country Store*. **5 INTERACTIVE FEEDER** by Aï KIOU, **\$14.99**, *Leashes & Leads*. **6 NFL TEAM JERSEY PETWEAR** Chicago Bears SM Jersey, by NFL, **\$21.99**, Green Bay Packers LG Jersey, by NFL, **\$24.99**, Vikings Plush Toy, by NFL, **\$10.99**, *Leashes & Leads*. **7 DOG BACK PACK** by Ruff wear, **\$79.99**, *Terra Loco*. **8 COWBOY HATS** M&F Western Products, Inc., **Pink Hat: \$30.00, Black Hat: \$30.00**, *Rochester Feed & Country Store*. **9 DOG TREATS**, **\$2.99 ea.**, *Shades of Green*. **10 GRIP-TREX** all-terrain paw wear, bark'n boots, **\$69.99**, *Terra Loco*. **11 DOG TWISTER FUN INTERACTIVE GAME** by Nina Ottosson, **\$59.99**, *Leashes & Leads*. **12 NATURALISTIC TERRARIUM FROG KIT** by Zoo Med Laboratories Inc., **\$89.99**, *Fish & Pets*. **13 BONE APPETIT DOG TREAT JAR** by Heartfelt Kitchen Collections, **\$29.99**, **CATCH OF THE DAY COOKIE JAR** by Heartfelt Kitchen Collections, **\$24.99**, **WOOF DOG FRAME** **\$7.99**, *Rochester Feed & Country Store*. **14 CAT WREATH HOLDER** by Evergreen Garden, **\$37.99**, *Rochester Feed & Country Store*



1



2



3



Melon Head

Rescuing a dog who rescued my dad

By Dr. Ann M. Anderson, DVM



Fresh out of vet school, one of my biggest challenges was being on call. Nights, weekends, and holidays I found myself at the mercy of strangers, drunkards, or worse—animal control officers with yet another victim of animal abuse and neglect. Such was the case one July 4, more than a dozen years ago.

"We've got a big Rottweiler for you, injured bad. You'll probably have to put it down."

It was a quick drive to the clinic in my hometown, where the animal control vehicle sat waiting. As the door slid open, I had my first glance at my patient. Short cropped ears, two big testicles, and one festering leg.

"That's a Pit Bull," I said, "not a Rottweiler."

The animal control officer shrugged. "Same thing. He scared the crap out of some guy picking blackberries."

I glanced at the dog's smiling face, wagging tail, and protruding ribs. "He doesn't look too scary to me. Maybe he just wanted the berries. Are you hungry, buddy?"

The dog wagged his tail even harder.

UNCHAINED

Encircling his neck was a thick metal chain fastened with a padlock. I took the long end and slowly climbed the steps to the clinic as he hobbled next to me. Inside I gave him a bowl of water and offered him one kibble. He wagged his tail again, eager for more.

I kept feeding him, one piece at a time, as I checked out his injuries. Besides being malnourished, he couldn't bear any weight on his left rear leg. The skin from below the knee to halfway up his belly was missing, and the underlying tissues were covered with an oozing, yellow-green, smelly discharge.

The big-headed dog limped to the scale at my urging. Fifty-five pounds. "You should weigh 60, and that's without this stupid metal chain. Let's take it off."

I gently tugged, trying to gauge how much handling this unknown, neglected dog would tolerate without sedation. He held perfectly still as I attempted to ease the weight off his neck. No luck.

"Sorry, buddy. I can't get it over your big melon head."

I called my dad, who had lived through the Depression and was as much of a hoarder as Mom would allow. "Can you bring your key collection? I've got a job for you."

When Dad arrived at the front door "Melon Head" hobbled over to lick his hands, dragging the heavy chain after him.

"He seems like a nice dog," Dad petted his head. "Can you fix him?"

"Let's get that stupid chain off first."

We tested about 50 keys on the lock before he suggested we try

yanking the chain off again. With the two of us working together, thankfully, it worked. I hefted it on the scale.

Eleven pounds.

HE KNOWS

With that problem solved, I turned to Melon's wounds. The idea of sedation concerned me. The dog was severely underweight and likely dehydrated from the hot July weather, so he wasn't a great anesthetic candidate.

He stood calmly as I touched his sore leg. Apparently he trusts me. But can I trust him?

I started to gently clean his wounds. Content with the kibble and a few words of praise, Melon Head rested on his side the entire time. He wagged his tail in response to my voice. His soft brown eyes begged for kindness.

Dad stayed to watch. "He knows you're helping him."

"Maybe," I nodded. "But you don't understand. This is the best dog ever. I can't believe he's so good for this."

"What do you think happened to him?" Dad asked.

"I'm guessing he pulled out his chain, ran away from home, and got hit by a car. He must've kept running for a while after that, because it had to take at least a week for these wounds to have gotten this infected."

"Do you think his owners will come looking for him?"

I glanced at the chain on the floor. "I hope not."

ONLY HOPE

After cleaning the wounds, I could do no more without shelter authorization. Funds were tight. X-rays would have to wait. For the rest of the holiday weekend I kept Melon Head going on pain meds, antibiotics, and kibble.

By Monday he was using the leg, so I transferred him to the shelter without doing X-rays. I visited Melon often. He'd rest his big head in my lap and wiggle around, smearing the greasy yellow ointment that protected his wounds all over my pants.

After a week or two, a shelter worker took me aside. "He's a really friendly dog, but his injuries are so extensive that no one's going to adopt him. They're considering putting him down unless you want him. You're really his only hope."

I'm ashamed to admit that the one thing holding me back thus far was that he was a Pit Bull. I knew what most people thought of the breed and I honestly didn't want to deal with it. In my heart, I didn't care what breed he was. He was patient. He was kind. And I was in love with him.

BUBBLES AND BUMPS

He went home with me that day. It took six months and countless bottles of antibiotics to heal his wounds. At my command of “show me the leg, Melon,” he’d obediently fall over—Timber! and the endless daily cleaning and medicating would begin.

Melon got along well with my parents’ Beagle, Holly. Despite the fear many people feel towards the breed, the only two things Melon ever attacked were his food bowl and soap bubbles.

Nothing entertained my father more than blowing bubbles in the backyard for the dogs. Holly had a two-minute attention span before she wandered off to sniff the yard. In contrast, Melon would jump straight up in the air, over and over again, mouth wide open covered with soapy froth, snapping at the floating spheres.



The best entertainment: blowing bubbles for Melon.
TOP: Holly and Melon, great friends.

Everything was perfect for six months until Holly fell ill with aplastic anemia. Her bone marrow stopped producing red blood cells. She had one blood transfusion and at any moment could require another. I had to move away to a different job so I left Melon at home as a potential blood donor, planning to reclaim him once Holly passed away.

I never got Melon back. He napped with Dad. He took car rides with Dad. He ate with Dad, which meant my father fed Melon anything he wanted. They became inseparable.

Melon aged right alongside my father. They napped together, tired from the day. Melon’s brindled coat spotted with grey, and he developed a fine collection of skin tags, affectionately referred to as “old man bumps.” His leg bothered him at times. Pain meds and glucosamine helped.

JOY RIDING

My father’s leukemia took a toll on him the year I got married. My parents moved to Minnesota so I could help out. Dad wasn’t the only

one who was sick. My mother had Alzheimer’s. Dad struggled to care for her and keep her safe.

My parents began a new routine of driving Melon to the bank once a week, walking Melon through the park, and introducing Melon to their new neighbors. As my mother’s dementia advanced, Dad needed Melon to keep him smiling.

My parents travelled up north to a reunion Labor Day weekend of 2009. I babysat Melon and noticed his breathing rate seemed elevated. After Dad returned, I had him bring Melon in for chest X-rays and an ultrasound of his heart.

On ultrasound, Melon’s heart looked like a plate of jumping spaghetti. His heart was greatly enlarged on the X-ray, and his pulse was elevated. I put him on a pharmacy of medications, which Dad said made him eat better for the next few weeks.

Then one sunny October afternoon, on my Wednesday off, I received a phone call from work. “Your dad’s on his way to see you. Melon’s dead.”

I waited outside the front door of my house. My father got out of the car, shoulders slumped and his face crumpled up in tears.

He told me what happened. The morning started the same as usual—after breakfast he and Mom told Melon they were going to the bank. He jumped into the car, happy as ever.

Halfway to the bank, which was only a mile away, Mom glanced back at Melon and gasped, “I think he’s dead.”

Silently, without any pain, while doing one of his favorite things—a car ride, Melon passed away.

All the happiness in Dad’s life died along with Melon. I planted flowers at their house the next two evenings just to check on Dad. His profound sorrow worried me.

TOGETHER FOREVER

On Saturday, we planned to meet my parents at evening Mass. The phone rang.

“Something’s wrong. Dad’s at the bottom of the stairs...and there’s blood everywhere.”

I called 9-1-1 and raced over there. Paramedics filled the staircase to carry Dad out with an oxygen mask over his face.

Dad fell down the stairs while trying to attach a coat hook at the top. Both his thin blood and his heartache made it easier for him to fall to his death. He died before he got to the hospital.

The pet cremation service made sure I received Melon’s ashes in time to bury him with my father.

Melon was my father’s best support. I think he made him happier than I did, and I’m okay with that. Dogs give us something we, as humans, can’t give to each other.

I like to imagine Dad and Melon hiking in the mountains of Colorado that Dad loved so much during his years at grad school. I picture them climbing higher and higher, no longer impaired by illness or arthritis, rising into the clouds towards Heaven. 🐾

The author lost her father and his dog four years ago. She still thinks of them most every day.

I'M A DOG PERSON (DAMMIT)



Discovering unexpected joy in dog ownership

By Greg Hintermeister

From the time I was 3 and was toppled by my grandpa's excited farm dog, I HAVE NOT LIKED DOGS.

I did have a brief moment of insanity when I was 12 when I pontificated about the perfect dog: big enough to wrestle, but not too big, something like a Collie but not the Lassie kind. Luckily, by the time I was 16 I came back to my senses. I just don't like dogs. Or kids. (They're really the same, aren't they?)

For the next 27 years I happily stood by that statement. Don't like dogs and don't like kids. Sure I had my own kids along the way and to my surprise I actually do love them. But, I figured it was because they were my responsibility ... or because they are like a parasitic organism—once they attach themselves to the host, the host becomes delusional and wants to make the parasites happy and comfortable. My evidence? Because every other kid (and dog) I ever saw annoyed me.

Then one day it happened. I was betrayed.

First, by my oldest son. He talked for nearly a year about how much he wanted a dog. How much the dog would make him happy, give him a constant companion, and other elements from his "How to Emotionally Blackmail Your Parents in 3 Easy Steps" booklet.

Second, and most surprisingly, I was betrayed by my own self. I actually said out loud, "I could see getting a dog." (Dammit.) Why? WHY did that come out? Further, why didn't it bother me?



Orchid as a pup.

Third, by my wife. Even if I was being mentally hijacked by my son, at least my wife, who I installed as a failover backup parental system, would cover my lapse in verbal filtering and we'd still be safe.

"Well, here are the parameters you should look for online," she said.

Ah well, I thought. Most of our kids were surprises, so why not a dog? I think we hoped this new animal would help our oldest with responsibility, companionship and the therapeutic aspects a dog is supposed to have on a teenager.

On January 12, 2013, on my son's 16th birthday, Orchid arrived.

And then something absurd happened. Something troubling, vile, evil.

I started enjoying the pup. A lot. (Dammit.)

I found that training her to be a better pup made me smile and laugh harder than I have in a very long time. I found deep joy when she crossed her paw across my foot while we watched TV. I started being OK with holding her, letting her lick my hand, my arm, even my face!

I praised her when she went poo ... IN MY YARD.

I looked forward to games of fetch where I could whip a ball as far as I could and she'd race after it, prancing back like she was "Queen of the Ball," and drop it in front of me. I thought nothing of holding liver treats—WET liver treats—in one hand, clicker in the other, while training her.

Now, we have a near-daily regimen that involves the commands Sit, Stay (with distance and duration), Wait, OK, Lay Down, Come, Shake, High Five, High Ten, Drop It, Leave It, Walk (loose leash, off leash), Go Get It, Return, Put Away, Get Your [Insert Toy Name Here], Jump (over me), Roll Over and Play Dead.

Does she have them all in every circumstance?

Not at all. And that's the fun part: We're both on a journey to see how far and deep this relationship can go, and training seems to be very enjoyable for both of us. I'm learning about other areas of my life as well because of this creature.

Am I a dog person now? To be honest, I don't know. I might be. (Dammit.)



I might be a dog person now.

But, I can tell you one thing: I am definitely an Orchid person. 🐾

Greg is an inventor, musician, believer, husband, father, parrothead, and a dog person. His thoughts on dogs and other areas of life can be found at www.justarobot.com. His heart can be found wherever his wife is.



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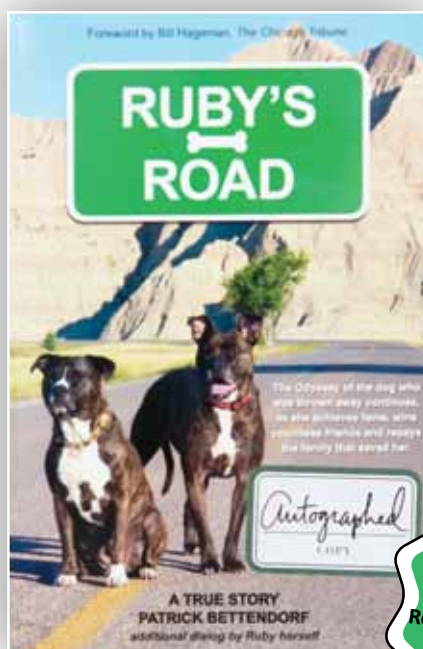
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RUBY'S ROAD

By Patrick Bettendorf, c.2013, Tascara Books, \$26.95, 208 pages

The little face stared at you from your screen, asking for... well, not much.

A little food, perhaps, is what she wanted. A warm, dry place to sleep, for sure – preferably on your bed. A good brushing, although you'd need to be gentle.

Oh, and love. Lots of that, all that you can spare and more.

In her last book, "Ruby's Tale," you read about a homeless puppy, abandoned in the trash behind a vacant house. Now, in her sequel, "Ruby's Road" by Ruby the dog and Patrick Bettendorf, you'll see where Ruby's been, literally and in her life.

Following the publication of Ruby's first book (and the publicity behind it), Ruby and her "tribe" of Rotties and Pitties have traveled with their human companion, Bettendorf.

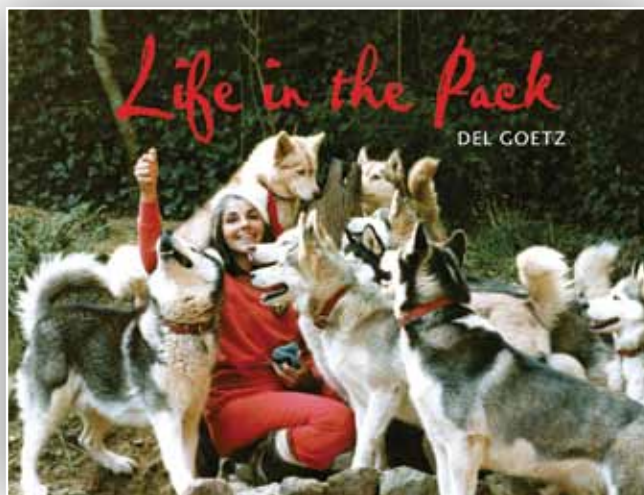
From east to west, north to

south, Ruby and crew visit schools and libraries, and they take in the usual tourist sites. There was a certain bone treat episode where Ruby became even more famous than she already is, and there were visits with friends old and new.

In this book, Ruby even gets a new, special friend.

For dog lovers, particularly anyone who's a fan of rescue Rots and Pits, this book is a fun diversion. It's easy to read and lighthearted, but it does contain some serious business that will encourage fans and volunteers alike.

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer. Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with one pampered little pooch and 13,000 books.



LIFE IN THE PACK

By Del Goetz, c.2013, Del Goetz and Associates, \$47.50, 168 pages, includes bibliography, available at Amazon.com

As all dog lovers know, there comes a time when a certain breed calls to you. A Siberian Husky led Del Goetz to a life of howling with the pack.

Her love affair began in 1968 with a birthday gift: Flower, a Siberian Husky mix. While living with Flower and other canines at her home on Mt. Tamalpais in Mill Valley, Calif., Goetz made a life decision. She started Wolfmask Kennel in 1978 to breed, show, and mush with Siberian Huskies. Her memoir spans more than 40 years.

"Living in a pack dramatically altered my consciousness," Goetz says. "I look at life through different lenses as a result of undertaking research on domestic dog behavior."

The "Doggie Log," her record of conduct and causes, nutrition, genetic conditions and cancer, holistic treatments, and care for aging canines, is the basis of this book. She uses anecdotes and pictures to describe instinctual canine behaviors like alpha and beta

dominance roles, teaching pups by example, working in teams, full moon and environmental mood shifts, and plain old 'naughty' fun. An article by Cal Orey, published in "The Dog Magazine" (1992), highlights Goetz's research and her pack's ability to predict earthquakes.

Reading this book is like sitting around the table, listening to Goetz's stories. The family scrapbook invites you to turn pages and enjoy photographs of three canine generations and the lovely pen and ink wolf drawings by artist Genna Panzarella.

You'll learn a lot from Goetz's years of experience. Her desire to show how animals enrich our lives and to help dog owners make wise decisions about caring for their animals is evident on every page. PAW

Terri Dugan is a dog person who fell in love with Siberians in 1982. She admits this book caused extreme "husky envy."

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COCO'S HEART DOG RESCUE

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ashley@cocosheartdogrescue.org
Foster-based rescue that has saved dogs and cats from unfortunate circumstances, rescuing more than 800 dogs and cats in 2.5 years.

DOBERMAN RESCUE MINNESOTA

dobermanrescueminnesota.com
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springerrescuemidwest@gmail.com
507-271-8107
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Michelle (ND): igrescuend@gmail.com
iggyrescue.org
Foster-based rescue and rehoming service, and an IGCA affiliate.

LUCKY'S PLACE

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jan@luckysplace.org
320-241-1829
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MARTIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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mchsofmmn.org
pawprints01@hotmail.com
507-238-1885
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MNBoxerRescue@yahoo.com
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MINNESOTA GREYHOUND RESCUE

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MinnesotaGreyhoundRescue@yahoo.com
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MINNESOTA HOOVED ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION

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info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org
763-856-3119
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DECEMBER

December 5 Winter, Wine & Whiskers wine tasting for Camp Companion, 6–9pm, hosted by Holiday Inn Downtown, Thyme Restaurant and Apollo Liquor, campcompanion.org

December 7 Cat-Craft Extravaganza and "Flea Market" for Feline Rescue, 11–4, Liberal Catholic Church of St. Francis, 3201 Pleasant Ave. S, Minneapolis, www.felinerescue.org

December 7 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Elk River, wagsmn.com

December 7 Midwest Pug Rescue Santa Paws, 12–3pm, Animal Inn, 8633 34th St. N, Lake Elmo, mnmidwestpugrescue.com

December 7 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Bone Adventure, NE Minneapolis, saveabullmn.com

December 7 Small Dogs of Minnesota HOWLiday Party, 11–2, meet-and-greet with SDR elves disguised as foster dogs, a holiday goodie bake sale, photos with Santa, Rochester Feed & Country Store north, 3155 Wellner Drive, smalldogsmnnesota.org

December 7-8 Paws Abilities Dog Training, LLC presents: Loved to Pieces – Why the 21st Century Dog is a Fish out of Water, Presented by Kim Brophey, CDBC, CPDT-KA, BA - The Applied Relationship between Human and Animal Behavior Paws4u.com

December 14 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Woodbury, wagsmn.com

December 14 Doberman Rescue Minnesota meet and greet, Chuck & Don's, Northfield, www.dobermanrescueminnesota.com

December 21 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply Uptown, saveabullmn.com

December 29 Midwest Pug Rescue Rescue Reunion and Playtime, 1–3pm, Dog Days, 350 University Ave, St. Paul, mnmidwestpugrescue.com

December 28 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Richfield, wagsmn.com

JANUARY

January 4 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Elk River, wagsmn.com

January 4 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Bone Adventure, NE Minneapolis, saveabullmn.com

January 11 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Woodbury, wagsmn.com

January 11 Doberman Rescue Minnesota meet and greet, Chuck & Don's, Northfield, www.dobermanrescueminnesota.com

January 18 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply Uptown, saveabullmn.com

January 25 English Springer Rescue America meet and greet, 10–1, Chuck & Don's, Edina, springerrescuemidwest.org

January 25 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Richfield, wagsmn.com

FEBRUARY

February 1 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Bone Adventure, NE Minneapolis, saveabullmn.com

February 1 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Elk River, wagsmn.com

February 4 Dog Food Detective, 6:30 pm, Waseca Community Ed building (501 E Elm Avenue) Wondering what to feed your pet? Which food is best? Join Michele Wencil-DeBlicke from Leashes and Leads/Dulce de Doggie Bakery in Rochester to learn what the nutrition label on your dog's food bag means and what to be aware of when choosing treats. Then roll up your sleeves and make a batch of Michele's Grrrrnola Bite mix to take home with you. Class is \$12, 507-835-5626 or ce.waseca.k12.mn.us to register.

February 8 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Woodbury, wagsmn.com

February 15 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply Uptown, saveabullmn.com

February 15 Doberman Rescue Minnesota meet and greet, Chuck & Don's, Northfield, www.dobermanrescueminnesota.com

February 22 English Springer Rescue America "Meet the Springers," 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Savage, springerrescuemidwest.org

February 22 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Richfield, wagsmn.com

February 22 Polar Plunge for Great Dane Rescue of MN and WI, grdomn.org

February 22 Wine & Chocolate fundraiser for Small Dogs of Minnesota, 6–9pm, Johnny Mango's, smalldogsmnnesota.org

February 22 & 23 Twin Cities Pet Expo, entertainment, demonstrations, presentations and the latest products and services for pet owners and pet enthusiasts, Minneapolis Convention Center, twincitiespetexpo.com

February 28 Canvas & Chardonnay Mardi Paws

for Camp Companion, 6 pm, Rochester Art Center, campcompanion.org

MARCH

March 1 Mardi Paws Masquerade – Camp Companion Rochester Art Center 7–10pm campcompanion.org

March 1 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Elk River, wagsmn.com

March 1 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Bone Adventure, NE Minneapolis, saveabullmn.com

March 8 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Woodbury, wagsmn.com

March 15 Meatballs for Mutts for Northwoods Humane Society, 4–7pm, Forest Lake VFW, Northwoodshs.org

March 15 Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply Uptown, saveabullmn.com

March 22 English Springer Rescue America "Meet the Springers," 11–2, Chuck & Don's, Bloomington, springerrescuemidwest.org

March 22 Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11–3, PetSmart, Richfield, wagsmn.com

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Look for the **SPRING** issue of the **wagazine** in **MARCH 2014!**

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www.campcompanion.org

*Happy
Holidays*

**TO ALL OF YOU,
FROM THE
wagazine**



he's a lover AND A FIGHTER

Abandoned at 2 weeks old, pup overcomes all obstacles

By Penny Marshall | Photography by Kelvin Andow



Buzz (aka Baldwin) is a Labrador, not a Boxer. But his fight to survive warrants every canine championship title imaginable. With a host of fans in his corner, the hairless pup conquered several bouts of adversity.

"A woman came to Paws & Claws (Humane Society) last spring saying she'd found the newborn puppy on the side of the road," explained Tanya Johnson, shelter manager.

"He was very young, his eyes were closed, and it looked like he'd been burned because he didn't have any hair. We always give animals a name when they arrive at the shelter, and Baldwin seemed appropriate since he was bald."

A veterinarian thought maybe Baldwin had gotten too close to a heat lamp and that caused the hair loss. They had no idea what had happened to him.

The one thing Baldwin needed immediately was supportive care. Holly Johnson, a receptionist at the shelter, volunteered to take Baldwin home with her at night and give him his feedings every two hours.

"He had an eye infection too and needed so much help. He was so sweet, I fell in love with him right away," said Holly. "He was a real fighter." Then, after three days of caring for Baldwin, Holly had to leave town on a scheduled trip.



Tanya asked Dan and Sheree Estes, 30-year Paws & Claws volunteers, to foster the puppy. "It was like karma that the need arose at the specific time that we could do this since I had just, within a matter of days, retired," said Sheree.

Nestled sideways in a cat carrier surrounded by heating disks and soft stuffed toys to simulate other bodies, eyes and ears still closed and weighing less than 2 pounds, Baldwin headed to the Estes home.

"I had no idea how to bottle feed a pup or stimulate them to go potty — things that are normally done by the puppy's mother. But I appreciated the opportunity to learn," said Sheree.

The Estes maintained Baldwin's vigilant care, but after about three weeks, he developed pneumonia. Baldwin spent nights at the emergency vet clinic and days at a veterinarian office. He began to improve, slowly.

"Paws & Claws has the obligation to care for individual animals but keep in mind that they have a lot of animals to care for," said Dan. "This was a 3 1/2-week-old puppy running up quite a bill."

Unbeknownst to him, Baldwin already had a significant number of supporters. "He had a tremendous following from Paws & Claws on Facebook. When hearing about his special needs, many people stepped up with donations," said Dan. "We knew that Baldwin had to thrive then if he was going to make it. And he did."

After eight weeks of fostering, the Estes adopted Baldwin. He joined Hank, an 8-year-old Golden Retriever, also a Paws & Claws rescue. They changed Baldwin's name to Buzz since he looks like he's had a buzz cut and is always buzzing about.

"Hank really helped Buzz to develop some dog boundaries that the best human in the world can't do as well as another dog can," said Sheree. "Hank has tolerance beyond all of us put together. Buzz grabs Hank by the collar and pulls him around. When Hank has had enough, he just lifts his upper lip and Buzz backs away."

Though there are no physical repercussions from the pneumonia, Buzz has been diagnosed with alopecia (baldness). "The lack of hair exposes him to more scratches, abrasions, and sunburn," said Dan. He has some hair on the fringe of his ears, some on his legs but for the most part, he's bald and that's just another facet of this pugilistic puppy's character.

The Estes look back on Buzz's rocky start, how he needed so much, and how scared they were that he wasn't going to make it. A sharp contrast to the healthy, energetic and spunky 52-pound dog today.

Buzz Estes. No longer the underdog but champion over his misfortune.

Woof! 🐾



Penny Marshall is a Rochester freelance writer.

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