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Spring 2014

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*Bunny*

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Facebook friends save a Chihuahua's leg

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Therapy dog bones are an important kind of medicine

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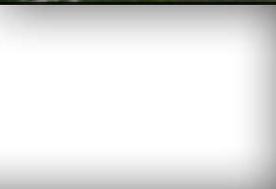
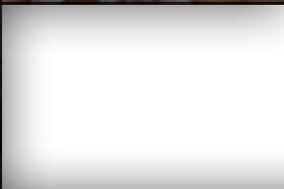
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the **wagazine** is published quarterly by the **wagazine L.L.C.**  
 P.O. Box 9073  
 Rochester, MN 55903

Subscriptions are available for \$20/year

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Printed in the USA.

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**Okay, I confess.** I never imagined seeing a bunny and a chicken on the cover of this Wagazine.

And I admit that I'm still amazed at the power of social networking. With one Facebook post, we had bunny people hopping all over and coming out our, well, ears. We didn't have to hunt and peck for chicken "tenders" either. Companion animals come in many types, and we are grateful to have found some passionate owners who share their love in the next few pages.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WAGAZINE!**

This issue marks our first anniversary. A year ago, could I have imagined that we would feature something called Chicken Run Rescue? Or a three-foot bunny named Lou? How about a woman who spends eight hours baking dog treats and then drives her doggie-themed van to local dog parks to sell them? And then—Boxers getting married?! All of those fun stories are in this issue alone.

As we look back on our first year, we wag our tails and shake our heads. Our first four issues included a horse farrier, a dog who donates blood, heartfelt pet essays, zebra fish, pet portrait artists, llamas, hamsters and hedgehogs. We shared fun stories of rescued dogs, search-and-rescue dogs, assistance dogs and therapy dogs. And we published an article on, yes, poop.

We helped to host several "yappy hours" at Wildwood Sports Bar & Grill. And we attended public pet promotion events in Southeastern Minnesota.

**THANK YOU**

We couldn't have done it without support from advertisers who believe in the importance of pets — those who run veterinary practices, grooming salons, dog camps, restaurants, training, boarding and pet-sitting services, dealerships and those who sell homes to people who make pets part of their daily lives.

New readers gave us the paws-up sign, too. We have subscribers across Minnesota and in six different states. More than 1,000 people like our Facebook page.

As we saddle up for our second year, we invite you to send us ideas, questions and photos (see our new features on p. 6 and 7). Let's make it rain cats and dogs. We'll have a whale of a time.

And hold your horses if you think we're done with silly animal idioms. We've only scratched the surface. Meow.

*Ellington*

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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



Photos by Kelvin Andow.

Kelvin, Kate, Penny, Mike and Ellie.

# ANIMAL WONDERS

Welcome to **ANIMAL WONDERS**, a new **wagazine** feature giving readers the opportunity to share animal-related questions and for our Wonder Woman to sleuth out the answers and respond. Got a question or something you've always wondered about? Send **WONDER WOMAN** an email at [wonders@thewagazine.com](mailto:wonders@thewagazine.com) and watch for her response in an upcoming issue.

**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:**

I heard about a new business in Rochester called "The Doggery." I was excited to think that it's a place where I could take my dog but since found that it's a cool cocktail lounge located downtown and underground. But why do they call it "The Doggery?"

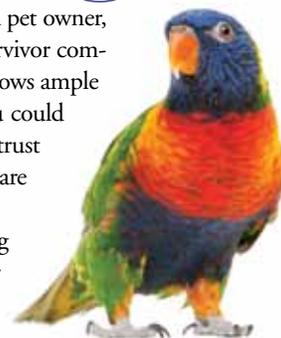


**WW:** According to Webster, the word doggery was first used in 1830 and refers to a "cheap saloon" or "dive." It was also used in reference to a "speakeasy," a place where alcoholic drinks were sold illegally during the Prohibition era. I agree, The Doggery downtown is indeed a cool cocktail lounge (and definitely not a dive). You won't be able to take your pooch to this parlor, but you'll probably have a doggone good time!

**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:** I just inherited a sweet, well-trained parrot. Felix is 12 years old and after a trip to the vet, I found that he could live to be 80! I'm in my mid-60's and wonder what people with birds do when it's likely they will outlive their owner.

**WW:** There's always that chance that something unexpected might happen to a pet owner, and family, friends or a rescue group need to step in to secure a home for the survivor companion. Knowing that a parrot could live 50 to 100 years and doing the math allows ample time to plan for the bird's future. If you have someone that wants the bird, you could make that designation in your will. You can also appoint a trustee and set up a trust for his care. Some folks leave their parrots to a reputable parrot sanctuary – there are a number of them listed online.

Kudos to you for giving Felix this important consideration. This is something that all pet owners should not only think about, but take action on to assure their companions will be loved and cared for in their absence.



**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:** What is the Rochester city ordinance on how many pets you can have at your home?

**WW:** You can keep up to eight vaccinated multiple animals (of which five may be dogs) over six months old in a household. "Multiple" means two or more cats, dogs or ferrets. The ordinance reads that no person can keep six or more dogs over the age of six months in a household in the City of Rochester. Exceptions include those who have a breeder's permit and those who live in apartments, condominiums or townhomes where property owners may impose greater restrictions.

**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:** I have a friend whose dog perished in a house fire. What can I do to let rescuers know that I have a cat and bird in case of fire?

**WW:** Placing a sticker in a window or on a door will let fire fighters or rescue personnel know that there are animals inside. You can get stickers from the ASPCA ([www.aspc.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack](http://www.aspc.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack)) in their complimentary safety pack that includes an ASPCA Animal Control Poison Control Center magnet with an emergency number. You'll also find an array of pet rescue stickers online, some allowing you to detail the number and types of pets in your home.



This is one of those things that pet owners may think about doing but don't always get accomplished – including me. I'm ordering mine right now!



# { Pets on Parade }

Want to see your pet in print?  
Send photos to [kate@thewagazine.com](mailto:kate@thewagazine.com).

**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:** I see so many horses standing outside when we've had such terribly cold weather and only a few of them are wearing blankets. Why don't more people blanket their horses?



**WW:** There are a number of factors to consider when determining if you should or shouldn't blanket a horse. Dr. Mike Cyphers, DVM, Chosen Valley Veterinary Clinic in Chatfield, explains that if you have a horse that's in good condition, has a long winter coat, is normally outside and has some form of shelter or protection to get out of the wind and rain, he could handle temperatures to -10 degrees and would be better off without a blanket. You have to be careful because if you put a blanket on in the morning and the horse is in the sun during the afternoon and begins to sweat, he'll lose body heat and get chilled. A horse that's been clipped for show, is being transported, or is on the thinner side and shivering, should be blanketed when the temperature drops to 15-20 degrees.

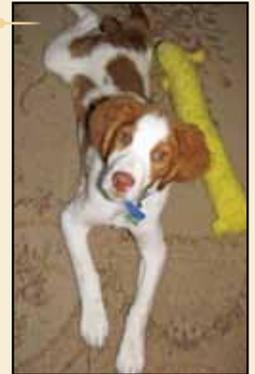
**DEAR WONDER WOMAN:** What does it mean when people talk about a "three-dog night" (not referring to the rock band)?

**WW:** The Australian Aborigines get credit for this one, although Eskimos and others often do. It references the number of dogs one would need to sleep with in order to stay warm based on the temperature. In other words, a one-dog night if it's not terribly cold, and a three-dog night if it's much colder. Another winter in Minnesota like this last one and "three-dog night" could become a common phrase. 🐾

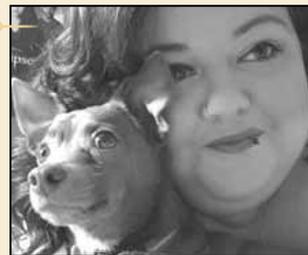


Walter, 4 months, is a long-haired Chihuahua/mix puppy that we adopted from Paws and Claws on Christmas Eve. We had been looking for just the right dog to join our family. And when we met Walter we knew he would be the perfect fit. He is sweet and tolerant of our 2 young girls who are absolutely "in love" with him. And although he wasn't intended to be a Christmas present, his addition to our family has been a gift for everyone.  
- Denise Walters

Our Brittany Spaniel, Louie, 4 months. Maybe we should be calling him Long Legged Louie! - Cherie Jensen



I adopted Oscar, a Chihuahua/Rat Terrier mix, in 2013 from Small Dog Rescue of MN. All I think when I see him is that I'm the luckiest woman alive. He is my world. We're inseparable. - Melinda LaQuier



Charlie is a Pomeranian whose life was saved by Small Dog Rescue of MN as he was in a high-kill shelter and scheduled to be euthanized. I agreed to "foster" him, but I knew after 2 days that I could not let him go. I work in an elderly adult foster care home and Charlie comes to work with me every day. I advise anyone looking for a pet, that they consider rescue animals first. They all deserve a second chance and can end up being the best companion! - Sara Schmidt

Here is Jacey! She is a 16 month old Morkie. Jacey loves to people watch out the front window and loves giving out lots of kisses.  
- Jordana Whalen



Scottie, age 2, an English Springer Spaniel social butterfly. He loves to play ball, give kisses, cuddle, swim, dock jump, do tricks for treats and pester his big brother Harley. - Danielle Sorensen



**Left Top:** Yellow Lab, Bud, and playmate English Springer, Dudley get to hang out 5 days a week when Dudley comes to daycare. **Left Middle:** Green Bay Packer fan - 9-year-old, Ella. **Left Bottom:** Carlos is a Mini Rex/Lion Face mix rabbit and will be celebrating his first birthday on March 20. - Kristina Priem



# SAFE HAVEN Pet Rescue, Inc.



By Alison Rentschler | Photography by Kelvin Andow

**ESTABLISHED:** 1998    **LOCATION:** 1001 ½ First Ave. SE, Rochester

**MISSION:** "To provide a safe haven for animals that come to our door and adopt them into new, loving homes."

[www.safehavenpetrescue.org](http://www.safehavenpetrescue.org)

## WHO THEY ARE:

A 501c3 volunteer-staffed rescue organization dedicated to finding new, loving homes for dogs and cats that are lost or surrendered. "We bring in lost and abandoned animals and care for them until they're adopted. They're seen by a veterinarian and given their shots. We work to find them a home," said Dona Fisher, director.

Safe Haven also has a referral service, run by a full-time volunteer who matches surrendered pets with people who would like to adopt a pet. Safe Haven also offers foster homes for some dogs and cats.

## PASSION:

"A few of us started Safe Haven in 1998. We

saw the need for another shelter. There were always more animals than Paws and Claws and the city pound could hold at that time. We started very small and never expected to grow to what we became," said Fisher.

## IN ACTION:

People interested in adopting a dog or cat are encouraged to come to Safe Haven and meet the animals. Visitor hours are Monday through Friday, 12 to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m.

## VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT:

"We're a volunteer organization," said Fisher. "Volunteers are our life-blood. We would not exist without them." Volunteers help with

daily activities, laundry, rides to veterinarians, planning fundraisers and more.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

Since 1998, the organization has rescued more than 3,000 cats and dogs. About 200 to 300 dogs and cats were adopted in the last year.

## HOW TO HELP:

To donate money or supplies, to volunteer, or to foster a dog or cat, contact Safe Haven at 507-529-0479 or [safehavencat@yahoo.com](mailto:safehavencat@yahoo.com). 🐾

*Alison Rentschler is a writer who lives with her two dogs and cat in Rochester, Minn.*

*Center, left to right:* Dona Fisher, Justin Clements, Bev Dotzenrod, Shawn Plenge and Barb Tupper. The cats they are holding are Cody, Raija, Bellacky, Desi and Charlotte. *Right,* Dona Fisher poses with Raija.



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# Bone Appetit Canine Bakery

By Bob Freund | Photography by Kelvin Andow



**W**hen Pam Miller wheels her white van into Rochester's dog parks this spring, dog owners and their canines will perk up.

It arrives like a rolling mural. Large dog images jump and run across the sides of the vehicle; a fire hydrant wraps around the tail light. Plastered in large letters is "BACB Unleashed."

The flamboyant vehicle is the equivalent of the neighborhood ice cream truck – only for dogs.

When the side door slides open, Miller and her Bone Appetit Canine Bakery (BACB) bring out bags of homemade dog treats, ready for munching.

The very visible van is her way to market the all-natural pet snacks produced by Bone Appetit over the past 15 years.

Miller, who lives just north of Rochester, owns the small business. She also is Bone Appetit's chef, baker, order bagger and shipper – well, sometimes with help from a few friends, she said.

## "HOMEMADE" IS NOT JUST A CATCH PHRASE

Her recipes are original, created with advice from a veterinarian. On production days, Miller becomes a one-woman factory. She blends the ingredients in her own Kitchen Aid mixer and bakes the morsels, tray by tray, in the oven at her home. "It can take a full 8-hour day to bake one flavor," she said.

"After many years of selling, the array of flavors has been pared down to the best sellers, along with holiday flavors during Thanksgiving and Christmas," Miller said.

Bone Appetit's core flavors are cheddar cheese, peanut butter and oatmeal.

## Q & A WITH BONE APPETIT FOUNDER PAM MILLER



**Wagazine:** How do dogs show that they like your treats?

**BA:** A customer shared with me a story about her dog that was a "runner" and would not return to her when called back. But, after having BACB treats, the dog started to learn the name "cheesy" for the cheddar cheese-flavored treats and became aware of the sound of the bag when he would get a cheesy. When he would try and run out of the yard, she would get the bag and shake it, saying "Do you want a cheesy?" and the dog would immediately turn around and come home.

**Wagazine:** Does your truck announce itself when you go to a dog park or an event?

**BA:** It is an over-height (9'+) (Dodge) Sprinter Van that is completely designed on all sides. I doubt anyone can miss it. In fact, when I've been at the (Rochester) North Dog Park, I've had people come in from West Circle Drive and say, "I saw the van and had to stop by!"

Miller ships online orders to distant customers, but she has no ambitions for mass production. "I'm not looking to go commercial and (distribute) throughout the United States," she said.

In fact, since opening Bone Appetit in mid-1999, the entrepreneur has made just one major concession to more efficient processing; she changed the shape of the treats from a miniature bone to a square.

### GOURMET AND HEALTHY

The dogs savor the flavors, but dog owners often buy Bone Appetit as a healthy, all-natural snack. The treat is "something that you can feel confident giving your dog and not worry that there's a risk of health effects," Miller said. At the same time, they

are made to be treats, not a well-rounded diet for dogs, she said.

Jennifer Olk of Mason City, Iowa, discovered Bone Appetit treats at a local crafts show and thought they would help her dog Pinto, who had diabetes. "Pretty much any treat that you buy in the store has sugar in it," she said. "Those were awful for him."

Bone Appetit's were healthier and "Pinto loved her treats," Olk said. She's still buying them for her current dogs, two energetic Jack Russell terriers.

Julie Call's dogs were snapping up Miller's treats before they became Bone Appetit's. "They were all made with human-grade ingredients. I think that was a huge thing for me as a dog (owner)," she said. "I knew what was in them."

### A PET'S INSPIRATION

A beloved pet inspired Miller, to launch her baking enterprise. She opened it "as kind of my therapy" after the loss of Boo, her canine companion for eight years, she said.

Bone Appetit operated a retail store, Bone Appetit Canine Bakery & Gift Shoppe, in Austin, Minn., for several years starting in 2002. Miller then moved her business to the larger Rochester market.

Customers can find the treats at [www.bacbunleashed.com](http://www.bacbunleashed.com) and at a few pet-related businesses. They also can watch for a Bone Appetit's mobile store, decorated with dog art. "It's been fun," Miller said. "I get to go where the dogs go!" 🐾

*Bob Freund is a Rochester-based writer.*



The BACB Van is like an ice cream truck for dogs, arriving at dog parks full of treats. Pam Miller bakes the homemade dog treats in her own kitchen. Her dog, Jackson, is the official quality control inspector.

**'BON APPETIT' FROM BACB** Dog Treats, 7 oz. bag, \$5-\$5.25 plus shipping - Cheddar Cheese, Peanut Butter Rollover & Beg Bites (also peanut butter), Boo's Oatmeal Squares, AssortMutt Variety Pack, Seasonal flavors of dog treats, such as pumpkin for fall. Carob cupcakes. "We kind of call it 'doggie chocolate.'" Miller said. Unlike chocolate, carob is safe for dogs.



**RETAIL OUTLETS** Bear Creek Kennels, Rochester; People's Food Co-Op, Rochester; Austin Veterinary Clinic, Austin; Double K Specialty Inc., Austin

**SPECIAL EVENTS** CeleBARK Your Dog Day - May 10 at the Eagles Club in Rochester. Sponsored by Bone Appetit Canine Bakery. Follow Bone Appetit's appearances on its Facebook page, "BACB Unleashed."

**THE BACB UNLEASHED VAN CARRIES:** Bone Appetit dog treats; Bowser Beer, a dog-safe drink; unusual fetch toys; dog travel and exercise gear, such as leashes, harnesses and a "Kibble Carrier" for food; other pet aids, clothes.

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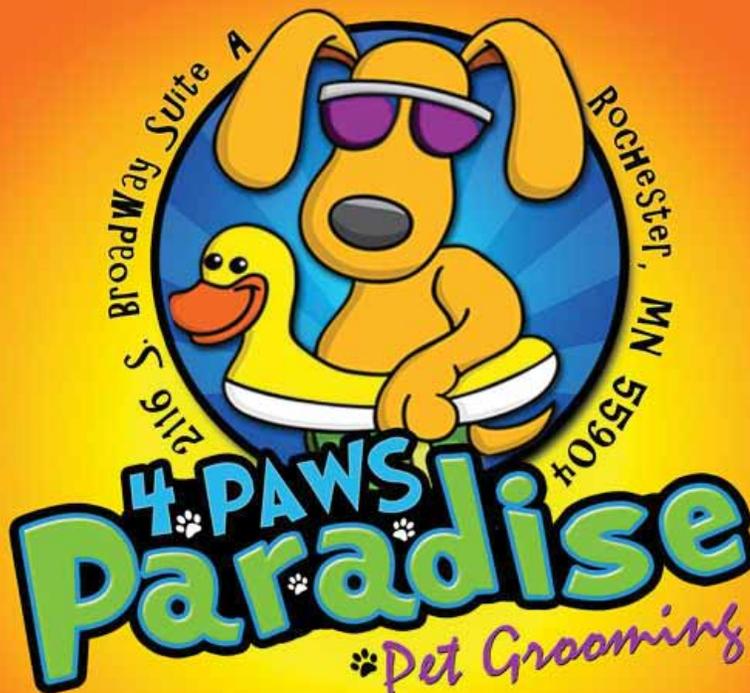
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## Chickens make eggcellent companions

By Bob Freund | Photography by Kelvin Andow

**You'll never think about chickens as just dumb clucks after listening to a flock owner.** Some chickens know their names; some even walk along with their handlers.

"If I call out (to) one of them, that one will look at me and will actually come over to me," says Tim Tjepkes of Rochester, who has raised the birds for 16 years.

"They're very curious creatures," Jodi Brossard of Byron says. "They're very smart." For example, "they know what will make them sick and what (won't)."

Chickens traditionally are thought of as farm fowl pecking around the barnyard. But they also have grown in popularity as companion animals, scratching around urban or residential backyards.

As of January, officials in Rochester had 58 active permits for chicken coops and runs, which are required for keeping the birds in the city.

### *A Feathery Friendship*

Chickens may not nuzzle up naturally to you, fetch on command or guard the house. Nonetheless, flock owners say they are fascinating critters.

"They talk and chatter and play with each other," says Brossard, who has two hens, Mia and Nell, at her Byron home. "There's something comforting about watching them scratch

out in our backyard. ... I could watch them for hours."

She is a former farmer who raised chickens along with ducks, horses, "lots of barnyard cats" and seven dogs as she grew up.

Netta Putzier, co-owner of Rochester Feed & Country Store, also has been around chickens for decades. "If you've ever raised chickens,

every one has (its) own, unique personality."

In fact, "you can clicker-train them, just like a dog," she says. They can be trained to jump in the air on command. And "you can train them to come into the coop at night," says Putzier.

But, what makes the birds pay attention to their caretakers? They know who brings food, for one reason. "They know you're

going to bring them the tips of the green beans or the outer lettuce and cabbage leaves," Putzier says.

At the same time, they also form strong attachments with the most familiar force in their lives, treating him/her like a parent. In short, they recognize who is at the top of the pecking order. "They hear your voice. You're the queen hen." Putzier says.



### *You Had Me at Hatch*

Many urban chicken raisers start their small flocks immediately after chicks hatch. They might obtain new chicks from a farm supplier, a local elevator or an online outlet. Some keepers select desirable breeds. Brossard, for example, chose a Wyandotte chicken. The breed is known for good nature, hardiness and regular egg-laying, as well as “laced” pattern of silvery and black-tipped feathers. Tjepkes is partial to Rhode Island Reds, which also tend to be hardy to cold temperatures, excellent egg layers and friendly birds.

A variety of breeds is listed at [www.mypetchicken.com/chicken-breeds](http://www.mypetchicken.com/chicken-breeds). Some breeds are better for egg-laying and others are bred for meat production.

Chicks require heat lamps and shelter until their feathers have grown out enough to protect them and hold in body heat, usually about a month.

### *Chicken Feed*

Backyard raisers allow their chickens to roam in their range and find food, such as bugs and worms. They also will give a mix of commercial chicken feed to balance the diet. Commercial feeds are available at pet stores or feed-and-seed businesses.

Brossard adds a gourmet treat for her two hens. In the mornings, she touches up the feed with alfalfa sprouts and a handful of blueberries or raspberries.

In the winter, “every night I make them a bowl of oatmeal

for something warm in their tummies.”

### *Legal Tending*

Tending chickens in residential areas is a much smaller hobby than raising a flock on the farm. City or county governments often limit the numbers of birds that are allowed; they also may require permits for coops and runs to control the animals.

The cities of Rochester and Byron restrict numbers of chickens at any residential property to three hens. No roosters are allowed. Olmsted County’s ordinance is more liberal, allowing up to 10 hens per single-family home in a residential district, but, again, no roosters.

Rochester and Olmsted

County both require permits for a chicken coop/run, which is approved by the City Council. An application requires a building plan for the coop or run.

Urban chicken raisers should check with local governments about regulations.

### *Cheep But Not Cheap*

A small flock of hens may not need to be expensive to maintain, compared to other hobbies. But getting started can involve some serious spending. Perhaps the largest start-up expense is for a coop and/or run. Brossard spent an estimated \$700 for her coop and another \$2,500 for the fenced-in run.

Chicken Run Rescue, a Twin Cities organization that provides safe circumstances for chickens



## CHICKEN RUN RESCUE

An unusual organization called Chicken Run Rescue is a leader in the cause to protect and to save unwanted hens and roosters from miserable deaths on the streets or even in parks in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Founders Albert and Mary Britton Clouse opened their rescue in 2001. It still is the only urban rescue of its kind, Mary says. The organization works primarily with five humane societies in the metro area and with the Minneapolis Animal Control.

Chickens often are abandoned because their usefulness has ended. They are hens

that no longer lay eggs, which is common. Or perhaps they were grown out of a nature experiment or are no longer wanted as a pet. Some simply were neglected.

Chicken Run Rescue takes some chickens in to their care. “Once they are here, they are magically transformed into companion animals,” Mary says. The group gives veterinary care to the chickens, which includes a contraceptive that halts egg laying. For many unwanted hens, high-volume egg-laying can lead to cancer and other health problems, she says.

Chicken Run Rescue also looks for an adoption for the bird and transports it to its new home, which must be within 90 miles of the Twin Cities. But it only can place a fraction of the numbers arriving. Last year, Chicken Run Rescue placed 16 birds and took in 41 for adoption. Another 161 were offered to Chicken Run Rescue by animal control or rehabilitation programs.

Perhaps the most difficult birds to place are roosters. Cities and other communities typically allow only hens, not roosters, as pets in residential areas.

Learn more about Chicken Run Rescue on their Facebook page or at [www.chickenrunrescue.org](http://www.chickenrunrescue.org). The site includes a number of articles about keeping and raising chickens responsibly.

## WANT TO TRY YOUR CLUCK?

For more chicken raising info, try these sites:

[www.backyardchicken.com](http://www.backyardchicken.com)

[www.chickenrunrescue.org](http://www.chickenrunrescue.org)

[www.mypetchicken.com](http://www.mypetchicken.com)

The University of Minnesota Extension Service offers a “Small Farms” area of its Web site.

### CHICKEN-RAISING SEMINAR

Rochester Feed and Country Store will offer a seminar about raising chickens at 11 a.m. on March 8 at its south store in Rochester. The same seminar will be repeated at 6 p.m. on March 25 at the company’s north location. Information at 507-285-5547.

## May 4 is INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR CHICKENS DAY.

Enter Chicken Run Rescue’s photo contest:  
[www.chickenrunrescue.org/#CONTEST](http://www.chickenrunrescue.org/#CONTEST)

that have been abandoned or abused, estimates a cost of \$288 per year for feeding and otherwise maintaining each bird – without any veterinary bills. The organization also estimates about \$3,900 for a coop, run and equipment.

### Eggs Unlike The Grocery Store's

Even three hens can keep a family in eggs for much of the year. Each bird typically lays one egg a day for much of the year, producing about 250 to 275 eggs a year. Hens might only lay eggs for four or five years, with the most coming in the first two years. They can live a decade or more.

“The quality of the eggs is much different” than the white eggs commonly sold in supermarkets, Brossard says.



Jodi Brossard, of Byron, says the quality of the eggs from her hens are different from grocery store eggs. Right, Brossard, pictured with Mia the hen, says she enjoys spoiling her chickens.

The yolks from her hens' eggs are a dark yellow.

“You'll notice that when you crack egg in frying pan it will stand right up,” Putzier says.

The shell is harder and also can have some more exotic colors than whites and browns. Some breeds of chickens lay blue or green eggs. Want a hint? “If you want to know what

color eggs that chicken's going to lay, look at its ear lobe,” says the feed store expert.

### Companion Animals

For chicken raisers like Brossard and Tjepkes, their animals offer enjoyment just by their presence. “They do like attention,” Tjepkes says. If he starts to leave, “they're all waiting for

me to come over and talk to them,” he notices.

“I enjoy taking care of them. I enjoy spoiling them,” Brossard says. “If they would allow us to have more farm animals here, I would.” 🐾

*Bob Freund is a freelance writer in Rochester.*

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# Sheltering Strays

## A group of volunteers kept cats warm this winter

By Ellington Starks

It was a winter for the record books: cold, snow and several below-freezing days and nights.

Stray cats were in a position to feel the brunt of the harsh temperatures.

Sue Stanek and her network of animal lovers weren't about to let Mother Nature win.

### Stray Cat Huts

Sue fielded calls and emails for help with outdoor cats, but shelters and rescues were full.

"I was getting worried that this would likely continue and really hated to think of the outside cats that were simply going to freeze—no creature deserves this," said Sue. "In the past when we've had calls for dogs that are without shelter, we've been able to circle wagons to get the dog shelter. But, I wasn't really hearing cat shelter options. I found [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) with several DIY options. I thought, 'Well, we can all do this for our community!'"

Sue, an animal-rescue networker, engaged her contacts. She also reached out to Camp Companion, a TNR (trap-neuter-return) rescue. "I thought it'd make sense to pair up with them and track the shelters so we can hopefully in turn make a dent in the cat overpopulation too."

### It Takes a Village

Sue contacted area veterinary clinics, rescues and individuals to spread awareness of shelter availability, and she asked for donations of materials and money to support the project.

Like cats to a can of tuna, people appeared.

"Social media helped as a coworker saw it and helped out, and people I don't know on

Facebook helped gather supplies." Southern Minnesota Insulation donated insulation for the totes. Craigslist ads resulted in donated

straw bales. Another coworker offered to store extra shelters in her pole barn. Several people gathered to build the shelters.



Shelters stuffed with straw and ready for placement. Denise Koster helps build the shelters.

### HOW TO BUILD A STRAY CAT HUT

1. Start with 18-gallon or larger plastic totes and 24-can (30-quart) Styrofoam coolers. Styrofoam sheets work well too.
2. Cut a 6-inch circle in the side of the tote with an electric saw or a box cutter.
3. Insert insulation padding on the floor, then add the cooler.
4. Trace the hole in the tote onto the cooler.
5. Use a serrated knife or a keyhole saw to cut a hole in the cooler.
6. Stuff the walls between tote and cooler with insulation pads, straw or shredded newspaper.
7. Stuff the inside of the cooler with several inches of straw for bedding. Straw has insulated properties; do not use hay or blankets, which can retain moisture or freeze.
8. Place the cooler lid.
9. Add straw or insulation on top of the cooler
10. Place the tote lid.

Place the shelters near a natural barrier like a building, bush or a low tree to protect it from the wind. In an open area, weight it down with bricks or rock on top. Situate the shelter so the entry hole faces south.

"It was so amazing to have people in our community to just step up and offer help," said Sue.

### Cat Track Fever

The outdoor shelters keep the stray/feral cats dry and offer some protection from predators. They are built to last and should hold up for three years or more with annual bedding refreshment, said Sue.

Once the shelters are placed, the group logs the address or cross streets for each. Volunteer Ashley Ignatius does geographical information systems mapping, which helps them track the number of shelters and cats. "I've been sharing the info for the TNR project Camp Companion does as well—and Camp Companion can access the map too to try to track some of these cats," said Sue.

### Spreading the Word

Sue hopes other communities will consider building shelters. "I'm hoping others think, 'I can do this here' too."

If you know of a cat in need of shelter or want to donate to the cause for next winter, contact Sue Stanek at [chezst@hotmail.com](mailto:chezst@hotmail.com). Because the shelters are built with donated supplies, money and labor, they are provided for free, Sue said. "I didn't want to have a cost prohibit an animal from being warm." 



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# Bringing Home Bun

Ready for a new  
friend to hop  
in to your life?

By Nicole L. Czarnomski  
Photography by Kelvin Andow

**Note on terminology:** The terms bunny and rabbit are used interchangeably in this story. There is no difference between them.

**S**pring is in the air and Easter Sunday is right around the corner.

But, if you're thinking about buying a bunny to celebrate the big day, you've a lot to consider. Bunnies are wonderful pets, but they require quite a bit of attention and love, just like any other member of your family.

According to Tanya Weitzel, floor leader at Fish & Pets in Rochester, the best time to buy a bunny is after Easter. "We don't have a lot of rabbits available during Easter because we don't want people to buy a bunny on impulse." She says it's important

to find homes that will help bunnies lead a full life. "Rabbits can live for 10 to 15 years and will require time, love and money," said Weitzel.

## Bunny Money

The first expense is the bunny itself. Fish & Pets sells bunnies for \$30–\$40. A pure-bred bunny can range from \$70–\$100. Then, the bunny needs a cage, a litter box, a food bowl, a water bottle, a variety of food and chew toys. The initial investment can be \$200 or more.

The bunny also needs space to roam, so Weitzel recommends

buying the largest cage available. "If possible, it's also beneficial to cordon off an area of your house so the bunny can get plenty of exercise," urges Weitzel. Local bunny parent Dan West agrees that all bunnies should be allowed plenty of time each day to run and play. They should be kept in a cage on a part-time basis.

Food and water are other important aspects of a healthy rabbit's life. West feeds his rabbits a diet that consists of Timothy hay, fruits and vegetables and a spring mix. Another local rabbit owner, Elizabeth Gillard, says that her rabbit, Lou, loves

apples, oranges, carrots and pellets. A variety of food pellets, Timothy hay, alfalfa and other treats are available at Fish & Pets, Rochester Feed & Country Store or other pet and supply stores.

Other necessities for rabbits are chew toys and frequent nail grooming. The chew toys are made from wood and cardboard and file down their teeth as they nibble away. "Rabbits need to chew things often because their teeth never stop growing," says West. If the teeth continue to grow, it will inhibit their ability to eat. Their nails also continue to grow so it's important to trim the

ny

nails on a regular basis. Fish & Pets offers a nail trim for \$10.

### Rabbit Habit

Litter training can make life easier and is generally simple. Weitzel says that rabbits often use the corner of their cage to potty. She recommends putting a litter box in the corner. And, for some, the process is really that easy. "I found the spot where Lou likes to go to the bathroom, and, tada! He was trained," Gillard says.

Litter box bedding consists of soft granules and paper similar to shredded toilet paper. Both keep the odor at bay. Spot clean the litter box in the cage daily. Once a week, empty and clean

the litter box with a vinegar and water solution. Never use bleach or harsh chemicals.

### Funny Bunny

"Every bunny is different personality-wise," says Kevin Krein of Northfield. He and his wife, Wendy Placko, have adopted three rabbits from the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society. They are both allergic to cats and Wendy is afraid of dogs. They also liked the idea of adopting a rabbit because, for the most part, they're silent.

Krein and his wife currently have Annabell and Sophie. "Our girls are incredibly sassy and do lots of amazing things." He says they sometimes have bursts

of energy and run laps around the living room. They zip back and forth and handle corners with precision. "It's really fun to watch them."

### Honey Bunny

Considering adding a bunny to your home? West urges families to do their research. "If you've ruled out a dog or cat due to time commitment, lack of space or finances, you should rule out a rabbit too. They are not low-maintenance pets." 🐾

*By Nicole L. Czarnomski is a freelance writer living in St. Charles, Minn., with her husband and two adorable cats.*

## Rabbit Breeds

### The American Rabbit Breeders Association

recognizes 48 unique rabbit breeds. Lou, Elizabeth Gillard's rabbit, is a Flemish Giant. Dan West's first rabbit was a Netherland Dwarf. Other breeds include Mini Lop, Lionhead, Harlequin and Palomino.

### Got Bunny Fever?

[www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

Bunnies for Adoption

[www.mncompanionrabbit.org](http://www.mncompanionrabbit.org)

Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society

[www.west2k.com/misc/buns.htm](http://www.west2k.com/misc/buns.htm)

Rochester bunny owner Dan West's Rabbit Page, including how to litter-train your rabbit and how to build an outdoor pen



Elizabeth Gillard with her pets, Spark the Golden Retriever, Oliver the Teddy Bear and Lou the Flemish Giant rabbit.

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(See page 7 of this issue)

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**Building an Outdoor  
Rabbit Pen**

By Dan West

**You can make a pen any size,  
but remember these important  
considerations.**

- The pen is designed more to keep predators out than to keep the rabbits in. If there is enough room and distractions in the pen, the rabbits probably won't try to get out.
- Rabbits must have access to a shaded area and a shelter in case of rain.
- Never leave a rabbit outside if the temperature is more than 80 degrees. Heat is much worse for a rabbit than cold (since they have fur coats).
- If you are going to have the rabbits outside often, give them a flea treatment. Revolution for cats and kittens is safe to use on rabbits.
- My rabbits live in the house, so the outdoor pen is a play area where they spend a few hours on nice days. I don't recommend keeping rabbits outside full time.
- Regularly check on your rabbits when they are outside.



After chewable hazards such as electrical cords and books are removed, rabbits can live free in a house much like cats. Here West's rabbit, Buff, a Lionhead breed, enjoys some time on the couch.



Flop and Chatfield enjoy their own harvest of carrots, lettuces and herbs each year from the West garden.



Although the main element of a rabbit's diet is Timothy hay, rabbits can eat vegetables and fruit as snacks. Here Flop and Chatfield enjoy a plate of spring mix greens, carrots and strawberries. Flop has "helicopter ears" where the effects of crossbreeding sometimes produce a rabbit with one lop-style ear and one upright ear or two ears that stick out to the side. The condition is not due to injury and is perfectly normal (and adorable).

Rabbits develop unique personalities, and are naturally curious and social. Although Hathaway (foreground) and Flop are litter-trained indoor pets year-round, in mild weather they are allowed to frolic outside in a large fenced-in and shaded pen that includes netting on top to dissuade predator birds from swooping in.



Photo courtesy of Dan West.

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# TAKING THE BITE OUT OF PET LIABILITY

## Insuring against accidents caused by your companion

By Penny Marshall

### A sobering statistic from 2012

notes that more than one-third of homeowner's insurance claims were pet related. And according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 4.7 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs annually.

When it comes to situations where your pet is involved in someone's injury, it's advantageous not only to know who is liable for what but also how you can insure adequate coverage for everyone's protection.

#### DOG BITE LAW

Minnesota has what lawyers refer to as a "dog bite law."

"It is literally limited to dogs only and cannot be used as a basis to hold an owner liable under the act for harm caused by any pet other than a dog," explains Bob Spelhaug, J.D., O'Brien & Wolf, LLP. "The dog bite statute states that if a dog, without provocation, attacks or injures any person who is acting peaceably in any place where the person may lawfully be, the owner is liable. It doesn't matter if the dog had never been aggressive or bitten on any prior occasion, the owner is liable."

Conversely, say your dog is in your vehicle with the window cracked open and someone reaches inside and gets bitten. There would be no liability under the dog bite statute as the person placed his/her hand where one was not legally entitled to be. "Also, placing one's hand through the window might be seen as a provocation," says Spelhaug.

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"It doesn't matter if **the dog had never been aggressive or bitten** on any prior occasion.  
**The owner is liable.**"

--Bob Spelhaug, J.D., O'Brien & Wolf, LLP

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#### HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

When it comes to your abode, most people understand that there are some provisions for pets via their homeowner's insurance. According to Christopher Hart, Rochester Allstate Insurance agent, "if you have a typical homeowners insurance policy, there are two sections that provide protection: One, medical expense coverage if guests are

injured on your property, such as if your dog injures a guest or family member outside of the immediate family, and two, liability in the event the injured party wants to pursue more damages in court.”

If you have a dog, some insurance companies are interested in knowing there’s a zero in the history of bites. And some companies will not offer a policy if you own a dog that resides on their so-called “dangerous” breed list that frequently include Staffordshire Terriers, Dobermans, Pit Bulls, Rottweilers and a host of others.

**OTHER CANINE COVERAGE**

It’s not just a “bite” that might find you, Fido or Fluffy approaching the bench. There are other situations in which injury may occur.

For example, you’re walking your dog down the street and stop to chat with an elderly woman. Your pooch greets her and, in his excitement of pursuing the nearest tree, circles her with the leash; she falls down and breaks her hip. It wasn’t an aggressive act but injury did occur.

Or you’re at the dog park and while innocently playing, a new friend delivers a firm paw to your dog and injuries result.



Fortunately, in addition to insurers that provide coverage for a pet’s medical needs, some companies offer dog or canine liability insurance in various states and for all breeds. They cover things like veterinary bills if your dog hurts another dog or animal, damage your dog causes to other people’s property, attorney fees if your case goes to court and loss of wages to an injured party.

Some of those companies base premium rates on breed, weight, age, gender and bite history. Consideration is also given to the responsibility of the owner by proof of obedience or other specialized training.

**WHAT IF...**

Make sure to read the fine print on your insurance policy and communicate with your agent. If your insurer insists on excluding your dog, ask about a separate umbrella policy or seek coverage from a specialized dog liability insurance company. If an incident occurs, seek legal counsel from a reputable source. 🐾

*Penny Marshall is a Rochester freelance writer.*

Photo by Kelvin Andow Photography.

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# Playing With Your Dog

Dogs (and people) love to play! Playing with your dog is one of the best ways to reward him for a job well done. Done correctly, play can help a stressed dog relax and a distracted dog focus.

Every dog is different, so get to know what sort of play your dog enjoys. Just like some people enjoy wrestling and roller coasters while others enjoy reading and board games, different dogs will have different preferences. Try to find the level of excitement that's "just right" for your dog. Avoid play that gets your dog so amped up that he can't think or calm down. On the other hand, if your dog is bored by your attempts to play, try upping the level of excitement or changing to a different game. There are lots of different ways to play with your dog! Here are a few common favorites:

**One-on-one games**



**CHASE** is a great one-on-one game! Just make sure to have your dog chase you instead of chasing your dog. You don't want to accidentally teach your dog to run away from you.

**TAG, YOU'RE IT!**  
Many dogs like gentle tag games, where you tap, poke, or push your dog away from you, then run in the opposite direction, encouraging him to catch up.

**toy games**



**FETCH!** is a fun option. If your dog likes to play "keep away" once you've thrown the ball or Frisbee, try playing with two toys. As soon as your dog drops the toy in his mouth, throw the second toy for him.

Contrary to the popular myth, **TUG** won't make your dog aggressive. In fact, playing tug is a great way to teach your dog to control his mouth when he's excited! Just make sure to teach your dog to start and stop the game on cue so that you can control the fun and he doesn't think your winter scarf or bag of groceries is a potential tug toy.

**food games**

If your dog isn't interested in toys, don't worry... there are lots of other fun games the two of you can play, and just like not all people enjoy video games, not every dog gets the allure of the tennis ball.

For less-playful dogs, food can be stuffed in hollow toys like **KONGS** and **BUSY BALLS** for home-alone fun.

**Nose games**

Dogs have a great sense of smell, and letting your dog use his nose is a great game! Toss a piece of food on the ground in front of him and tell him to **FIND IT!**

As he gets better at the game, you can start tossing the food farther away, into grass or carpet, or even hide it ahead of time for a doggy scavenger hunt.



**training games**



Training can be a great way to play with your dog. Approach training sessions as games. The more you smile and laugh while you train your dog, the more your dog will love listening to you!

**CLICKER TRAINING** is one example of a fun and effective dog training method.

# IT'S WAY MORE THAN *Love*

## Vet Techs Need a **Passion** for Animals, a Penchant for Go-Go-Go

By KL Snyder | Photography by Kelvin Andow

### “WHAT DO YOU THINK VET TECHS DO?”

Amy Doherty, CVT (Certified Veterinary Technician), asks applicants to the veterinary technology program she chairs at Minnesota School of Business, Rochester.

“Some think we work with puppies and kittens all day,” a notion she promptly dispels. Puppy times are highlights in a demanding, unglamorous vocation.

“You have to be willing to get dirty,” says Amy Meier-Edwards, CVT, who’s done the work for 20 years and sums up the nitty-gritty: “You get peed on. You get pooped on. You get anal glands sprayed on you. But you come back. It’s your passion.”

“Do you have a passion for animals?” Doherty asks prospective students. “The job requires way more than love.”

“It’s not just loving animals. You have to want to help them,” says Meier-Edwards, who works at Heritage Pet Hospital.

### A VETERINARIAN’S RIGHT ARM

“When I graduated with a CVT, the main duties of the vet tech were to restrain the animals and do lab work,” Doherty says. “Now the job calls for 10 times the work and 10 times the knowledge.”



Amy Meier-Edwards, CVT, Heritage Pet Hospital

“Our techs are involved in every aspect of patient care,” says Travis Einertson, DVM, of Heritage Pet Hospital. “They are essential.”

So are the veterinary technicians at Northern Valley Animal Clinic, says Brad Treder, DVM. “We delegate everything we possibly can to them.”

Drs. Einertson and Treder list some of the techs’ tasks: take x-rays, insert IV catheters, administer and monitor anesthesia, clean teeth, collect blood samples, prep patients for surgery, assist in surgery, take patients’ medical histories, maintain medical records, give vaccines and medications, check on hospitalized animals, help with prescriptions, educate clients on various aspects of animal care and behavior, give emergency treatment, and on.

They still restrain animals and do lab work, too. They never complain that their job lacks variety.

“Because of vet techs, vets can be more efficient,” Dr. Treder says.

### A PASSION FOR ANIMALS AND . . .

In addition to a multiplicity of skills, vet tech work demands certain personal attributes.

“You need to be a high-drive person to be a vet tech,” says Lyndsey Geier, CVT, lead tech/patient care manager/kennel manager at Northern Valley. “The job is go-go-go.”

An excellent work ethic is requisite. “Our



Lyndsey Geier, CVT, Northern Valley Animal Clinic

days aren’t 8 to 5,” Doherty says. “Sometimes we’re there at midnight.”

Another must is strength, physical and emotional. “You have to be strong and strong-willed to hold the animals during examinations,” Meier-Edwards says. “And you need confidence in yourself that you can draw that blood or place that catheter – and sometimes you have to be quick about it.”

Limberness is an asset. When dogs are too heavy to lift, the floor serves as examination table.

Communications skills are vital, as are people skills. “You have to deal with people,” Doherty says. “Dogs and cats come attached with people.”

Add grief counselor to the duty roster. “You need compassion,” says Geier who finds the end-of-life phase the toughest part of her job. “That’s heartbreaking for owners. Whether they’ve had the pet for 13 or 14 years or it’s a puppy six months old they’re just getting to know that got hit by a car, I don’t know which is harder. We euthanize because the animals are sick and there’s nothing more that can be done. Then we offer what comfort we can for that client.”



## AND JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL . . .

Dogs snarf all sorts of stuff, says Meier-Edwards.

Abdominal exploratory surgeries save lives and retrieve underwear, towels, mittens, toys, Gorilla Glue and you name it. "Every time I think I've seen it all, something else comes along."

Geier's recollections include a six-foot leash, removed in tact from the belly of a canine apparently too ravenous to chew. Canines' eclectic appetites don't surprise her. She has six dogs, one whose adventures in cuisine have included a cell phone

and a computer charger – when it was plugged in. Amazingly, everything he's chowed down has made it through, no emergency -ectomies needed (yet). But the charger snack did result in a burnt mouth.

A career in veterinary technology promises hard work, challenges and a perk that's perpetual. "It's hard to be sad when you're working with animals," Geier says. "They're always glad to see you." 🐾

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



TOP LEFT: "It's hard to be sad when you're working with animals," says Lyndsey Geier, CVT.

BOTTOM LEFT: "It's not just loving animals. You have to want to help them," says Amy Meiers-Edwards, CVT.

## VET TECH EDUCATION

Two schools in Rochester, Minnesota School of Business (MSB) and Rochester Community and Technical College, offer two-year veterinary technology programs that lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree.

Job prospects are sunny. MSB reports a 90 percent placement rate, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that in the next eight years, employment in the veterinary technology field will grow 30 percent.

And wages? "This job isn't about the money," Amy Doherty tells prospective students. "But," she adds, "as a single mom, I make enough to live comfortably and raise my son."

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TO LENGTHEN AND STRENGTHEN THE UNIQUE BOND BETWEEN PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

# Dogs: Why The World Is So Messed Up

By Greg Hintermeister

## You want to know what's really wrong with the world? GET A DOG.

In just a few days, your dog will do things that will make it obvious to you why the world is so messed up. You want to know what my dog did?

**SHE SHOWED ME I'M IMPATIENT.** I want perfection, and I want it now. Never mind that my 11-month old pup is behaving beyond my wildest expectations. I still expect more. I don't like the pace of progress. The more she makes me feel impatient, angry or sad, the more I realize that pup is just chewing away my daytime masks to reveal that, at my core, I lack contentment and satisfaction in my own life.

I'm actually impatient at myself and am searching for more from this too-fast-to-appreciate-the-pup lifestyle, and my raw reactions show it.

*Hmm. Being impatient at someone or something based on my own irrational expectations and placing blame on others for my lack of personal satisfaction? That's messed up.*

**SHE REMINDED ME I ACT ENTITLED.** The running path has grass on the side of it specifically so my pup can pee and poo without me having to stop my run, right? I mean, my tax dollars built this 3-mile path, so I'm entitled to do with it, and leave behind, what I please. I have better things to do than prepare (like spend 17 seconds to grab a plastic bag) before the run so I can clean up after my dog. Right?

*Hmm. Not preparing, then asserting the world should pivot to accommodate me? That's messed up.*

**SHE PROVED I FEAR JUDGMENT.** Instead of just loving on this pup and understanding that when she sees another pup she's excited



Photo by Kelvin Andow Photography.

and wants to play like all young animals, I fear what the humans around me think of my training skills. I instantly react by popping her leash. She ends up laying down, not out of a response to our flourishing relationship, but out of fear, or pain, or at least deference to strength.

I know in my gut that powering over her is no way to build trust, but in that nanosecond I care more about how I look to others than my long term relationship with pup. I end up discouraged about pup, frustrated at my failures and I block out any meaningful conversation I would have had with my fellow dog person, because I'm obsessed with how each word or gesture is pointing at my training failures.

*Hmm. Lashing out to control others to do what I want, especially when my ego is on the line? That's messed up.*

**SHE REVEALED I JUDGE OTHERS.** Dogs are imperfect animals with instincts that can be hard to manage, but that doesn't stop me from judging other owners when their dogs misbehave. I instantly judge that they are misguided owners, clueless trainers, or are just lazy.

*Hmm. Judging others based on limited (or wrong) information, especially after feeling judged 10 minutes earlier? That's messed up.*

**SHE SHOWED I DON'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.** Whether it's poo, keeping pup on leash, or training her to come when called (with distraction), I can't excuse all behavior with, "It's just an animal." I took this responsibility not only to care for pup, but also train her to be a reasonable member of the community. If I can't handle the

responsibility, then I shouldn't consume the benefits.

*Hmm. Not taking responsibility and assuming others should deal with the consequences of my irresponsibility? That's messed up.*

**Yep, want to know why the world is so messed up? Just get a dog.**

But, she showed me something else, too: How to love.

Regardless of how our training succeeds or fails, how regularly I exercise her or get frustrated at her, she shows me unconditional love. She greets me every morning with licks and snorts, leaps and bounds to the yard when we walk out to fetch. She lies next to me when I'm feeling blue, and I honestly think she feels proud when she does a trick—not at her own accomplishment, but that she was able to make me smile.

Yep, the world's messed up, but I'm beginning to think we can learn a thing or two about becoming better humans from our dogs.

Well, except for the whole "eating their own poo" thing. That's just gross.

But maybe they do that to remind us that nothing on this earth is perfect; that even with our flaws, we can still love and be loved. 🐾

*Greg Hintermeister 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](http://www.justarobot.com). His heart can be found wherever his wife is.*



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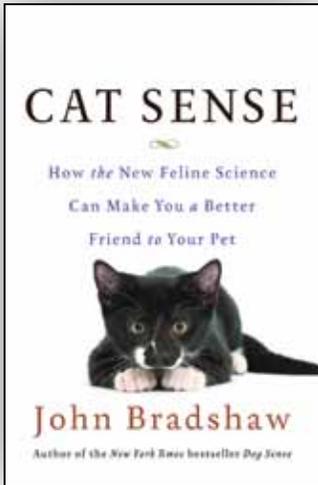


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## Cat Sense

by John Bradshaw  
c.2013, Basic Books,  
\$27.99 / \$31.00 Canada,  
336 pages

Your pantry is filled with things you can't eat. You never sleep alone, either, and there's a definite lack of black clothing in your closet. Small scratches cover the backs of your hands, clay is embedded in your carpet, and you're pounced upon at least three times daily.

Yep, you're owned by a cat.

And you love her, but does Kitty love you back? In this new book, you'll learn the surprising answer, and more.

So you've got a cat in the house, maybe two. You're in good company: around the world, pet cats outnumber dogs by three to one, and many of them are descendants of cats domesticated as long as 15,000 years ago.

For that, you can thank the house mouse, says Bradshaw. When humans started storing food (rather than constant foraging), mice seized a chance at free meals. Feline hunters were the answer to that freeloading, so kitties were welcomed in homes and shared by ships on new shores.

But back to the cat on your couch: strictly speaking, and especially if it spends significant

time outside, Bradshaw says it "cannot be considered completely domesticated" because you don't have total control over it like you would a dog.

For cat lovers, that revelation should come as no surprise.

To make your cat happy, says Bradshaw, train it by utilizing its inherent "raw material" and by taking advantage of its catlike traits. Understand that Kitty is probably "mentally incapable" of using tools. Pay attention to its body language: an "upright" tail is usually a good thing. Try to find out when, during its kittenhood, your cat was socialized; that timeline makes a big difference.

And lastly, don't force your cat to spend time with other, unrelated cats. It causes stress, the likes of which owners can only imagine...

Does your cat love you? Author John Bradshaw says she does, although her way of showing it is "somewhat limited."

This book is great for cat lovers who understand little-to-nothing about their pets and don't mind having overabundant, overly-detailed information. If you know your Kitty well, though, then stalk past "Cat Sense" and pounce on something else.



## There Are No Sad Dogs in Heaven

by Sonya Fitzpatrick, *The Pet Psychic*  
c.2013, Berkeley,  
\$15.00 / \$16.00 Canada,  
196 pages

These days, your arms feel awfully empty.

The house is too quiet and tidy. There's no click-click-click of toenails on the floor, no slobbered water, no toys strewn about, no kibble to clean up. You even miss those shedded little hairs.

Your pet is gone, and you're left with a tagged collar and lots of questions. Is she with other animals somewhere beyond? Did he know how much you loved him? Did she forgive the mistakes you made? In this new book, you'll find comfort and answers.

From the time she was very young, Sonya Fitzpatrick knew that she could communicate with animals. Her talent wasn't the Dr. Doolittle type, though; Fitzpatrick talked with cats, dogs, and cows telepathically "with mental images and physical feelings that don't depend on hearing..."

Today, that includes animals that live here and those that "live on... after they've passed from our lives." She can communicate with them, Fitzpatrick says, because our beloved pets

leave us physically but never in spirit. They are here, as they were in life... and that comes straight from the horse's (and dog's, and cat's, and rabbit's) mouth.

When a pet passes, says Fitzpatrick, they are greeted on the other side by other animals and humans they might have known. In the afterlife, they are happy, youthful, and pain-free.

They know they were loved, and they often tell Fitzpatrick how much they appreciated the care they enjoyed from us. Animals also ask Fitzpatrick to urge their humans to get another pet – because that new dog or cat may be the old pet in a brand-new body.

Annnd I can hear the skeptics right now.

It could be argued that Fitzpatrick tells pet lovers exactly what they want to hear. Indeed, many accounts are the same as the last, to wit: our pets don't leave us, don't blame us, are happy in heaven, and may reincarnate. Fitzpatrick does recount some spot-on conversations, but there's also a lot of overgeneralization.

And yet – does it matter? A book like this offers comfort to grieving pet owners who have empty arms and hearts. Even better, Fitzpatrick strongly urges animal adoptions and responsible pet ownership.

Skeptic or not, it's hard to argue with the goodness in that, and so I recommend this book – especially if you've lost a beloved pet. For you, the comfort inside "There Are No Sad Dogs in Heaven" may give you a new leash on life. 🐾

*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.*

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#### SAVE-A-BULL RESCUE

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Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of American Pit Bull Terriers and other Bull breeds.

#### SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE

secondchancerescue.org  
651-771-5662  
Foster-based dog and cat rescue organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for and adopting out homeless dogs and cats.

#### SECONDHAND HOUNDS

(Minnetonka)  
Secondhandhounds.org  
SHHAdoptions@gmail.com  
952-322-7643

#### SHIH TZU RESCUE OF MINNESOTA

shihztzurecuemn.org  
All-volunteer organization with a mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome Shih Tzus and Shih Tzu mixes.

#### SMALL DOG RESCUE OF MINNESOTA

smalldogsmnnesota.org  
info@smalldogsmnnesota.org  
All-volunteer group committed to the rescue,

rehabilitation, and placement of dogs 20 pounds and under.

#### SOUTHWEST METRO ANIMAL RESCUE

swmetroanimalrescue.org  
swmetroanimalrescue@hotmail.com  
952-368-PAWS (7297)  
Non-profit organization committed to the rescue of abandoned, abused and stray domestic animals.

#### STEELE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

(Owatonna)  
steelecountyhumanesociety.org  
adoptapetschs@yahoo.com  
507-451-4512  
Foster home based rescue helping stray and abandoned animals in greater Steele County.

#### SOUTHERN STAR MINPIN RESCUE

ssmpr.org  
lshutch@aol.com  
Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of Miniature Pinschers (minpins).

#### TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

tricityhumanesociety.org  
pets@tricityhumanesociety.org  
320-252-0896  
We believe in the human/animal bond and exist to support Central Minn. by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs.

#### WAGS & WHISKERS ANIMAL RESCUE OF MN

wagsmn.org

wagswhiskersmn@gmail.com  
Volunteer 501(c)(3), non-profit animal rescue organization dedicated to saving the lives of homeless animals and educating the community on responsible pet ownership.

#### WASECA COUNTY ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

wcahs.petfinder.com  
wcahsadoptions@gmail.com  
507-201-7287  
501c3, no-kill organization that helps homeless animals of all types in numerous counties in South Central Minn.

#### WINONA AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

winonahumanesociety.org  
507-452-3135

## LOST AND FOUND PETS

Report lost and found pets of Southeast Minnesota:  
facebook.com/SEMNLost.Found

Report lost and found dogs of Minnesota: facebook.com/LDoMN

## STOP OVER-POPULATION SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS



## GET THE SCOOP

### MARCH

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

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

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

**March 6** MNSNAP Clinic, Martin County Humane Society, 9am, Eagles Club, Fairmont, mnsnap.org

**March 8** Save-A-Bull: Walk Your Dog Without Spilling Your Wine, 6:30pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply, Uptown, saveabullmn.com

**March 8** Wags & Whiskers Adoption Day, 11am–3pm, 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 at He Fest, 11am–6pm, St. Paul River Center, saveabullmn.com

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

**March 15** Second Chance Rescue at Petco in Roseville, 11am–2pm, secondchancerescue.org

**March 19** Humane Lobby Day, 9am–Noon, State Office Building, St. Paul. Let your state legislators know that animal issues matter to you and that you'd like them to support animal protection legislation. Learn about animal legislation and issues currently before the legislature, and then head out to meet with your representatives. Co-hosted by Minnesota Voters for Animal Protection and The Humane Society of the United States. votersforanimals.org/2014/01/save-the-date-humane-lobby-day-2014

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

**March 22** Bake Sale for Martin County Humane Society, 9am–1pm, Fleet and Farm in Fairmont, mchsofmn.org

**March 22** Meet the Springers of English Springer Rescue America, 11am–2pm, Chuck & Don's, Bloomington, springerrescue.org

**March 29** Dog Olympics, presented by University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, 10am–4pm, Leatherdale Equine Center, St. Paul. Games, demos, booths for dogs and humans, tickets \$10, proceeds benefit St. Paul Police K-9 Foundation, https://sites.google.com/site/umndogolympics/

### APRIL

**April 5** Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Bone Adventure, NE Minneapolis, saveabullmn.com

**April 6** Martin County Humane Society at Mankato Petco, 1–4pm, mchsofmn.org

**April 11** Paws and Claws 7th Annual Wine Taster, 6–8:30pm, Rochester Athletic Club, tickets \$25 at the door or in advance at Paws and Claws Shelter, pawsandclaws.org

**April 11** Martin County Humane Society

Shrimp Feed, 5–8pm, Northrup Legion, mchsofmn.org

**April 12** Small Dog Rescue of MN Spring Social, 11am–2pm, Rochester Pet & Country Store (North), smalldogsmnnesota.org

**April 12** Second Chance Rescue at Petco in Roseville, 11am–2pm, secondchancerescue.org

**April 19** Save-A-Bull Adoption Event, 12–2pm, Urban Tails Pet Supply, Uptown, saveabullmn.com

**April 26** Meet the Springers of English Springer Rescue America, 11am–2pm, Chuck & Don's, Bloomington, springerrescue.org

### MAY

**Yappy Hours at Wildwood Sports Bar and Grill**, watch for dates and details on the Wagazine Facebook page and wildwoodsportsbarandgrill.com

**May 1–3** Camp Companion Rummage Sale 8am–3pm daily, Rochester Fairgrounds (Graham Park), campcompanion.org. Now accepting gently used items for our sale, contact Amanda

at grumpybr24@gmail.com or  
231-672-0251

**May 3** 20th Annual Paws and Claws Pet Walk, Paws and Claws Shelter, 9am registration, 10am walk, pawsandclaws.org

**May 4** International Respect for Chickens Day. Enter Chicken Run Rescue's photo contest: chickenrunrescue.org/#CONTEST

**May 4** MNSNAP Clinic, 9am, at Martin County Humane Society, mnsnap.org

**May 10** CeleBARK Your DOG Day with BACB Unleashed, 11am–2pm at the Eagles Club, Rochester. Games, contests, treats, prizes, demonstrations, a medallion hunt, rescue groups with adoptable dogs. The ultimate PAWtee of the season! BACBUnleashed.com.

**May 16** Camp Companion UnCorked 5–9pm, Salem Glen Winery, campcompanion.org

**May 17** Small Dog Rescue of MN Garage Sale Fundraiser, 8am–4pm,

3553 8 1/2 St NW, Rochester, smalldogsmnnesota.org

**May 17** Birding by Ear, learn to identify the birds of Southeastern Minnesota, 9am–1pm, Assisi Heights, free will donation, rochesterfranciscan.org

**May 17** Plant Sale, 9am–1pm, at Martin County Humane Society, mchsofmn.org

**May 17** Second Chance Rescue at Petco in Roseville, 11am–2pm, secondchancerescue.org

**May 17** Meet the Springers of English Springer Rescue America, 11am–2pm, Chuck & Don's, Savage, springerrescue.org

**May 18** Martin County Humane Society at Mankato Petco, 1–4pm, mchsofmn.org

**Late May through Labor Day** Brat wagons to benefit Safe Haven Pet Rescue at Silver Lake Foods, Rochester (dates and times will be posted on our Facebook page when established)

## JUNE

**Yappy Hours at Wildwood Sports Bar and Grill**, watch for dates and details on the Wagazine Facebook page and wildwoodsportsbarandgrill.com

**June 7–8** Paws and Claws Annual Rummage Sale. Olmsted County Fairgrounds. Donations taken June 1–5, pawsandclaws.org

**June 14** Riding with Rover and Friends for Safe Haven Pet Rescue, 10am, North Star Bar in Rochester

**June 21** Birds and Bees! Meet the bees, learn hive structure, beekeeper dress and bee identification. Taste their gift while learning of their contributions to the world. Meet the owls, hometown birds who do not migrate, 9–11am, Assisi Heights, \$8, rochesterfranciscan.org

**June 21** Save-A-Bull Minnesota Rescue Run Motorcycle Event, River City Saloon, Anoka, saveabullmn.com

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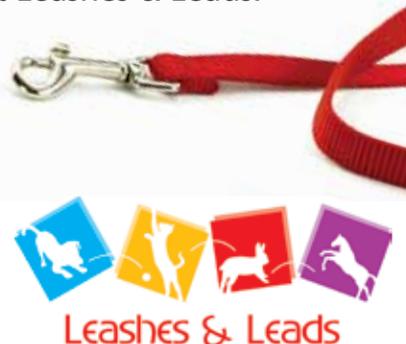
Look for the **SUMMER** issue of the **wagazine** in **June 2014!**



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# VOW WOWS: boxers wed



Photography by Kelvin Andow Photography

Four alumni of Minnesota Boxer Rescue paired off as couples and were "married" on February 8 in a fundraiser for the rescue.



Brody took Olive as his soulmate, promising to share his pup tent with only her.

Banjo took Molly as his soulmate, promising to nibble her armpits only.

The couples solemnly swore to represent Minnesota Boxer Rescue in that way that only Boxers can – with wiggles, kidney beaning, woo-woos and snoring (and a little gas here and there).

The couples were registered on Amazon.com with "wedding gifts" donated to the rescue to help more Boxers in need.



The Boxers exchanged dog tags and tied their leashes in a knot. Now 4 wiggle as 2.



Duraye Marshelle, MNBR President, officiated. Olive's sister Isis stood up for her as maid of honor, and Molly's brother Bo was best man.



The happy couples and the mothers-of-the-brides-and-grooms:

Banjo (with Sonia Hambrook), Molly (with Mercedes Cox), Olive (with Sue Stanek) and Brody (with Lisa Loeffler).



The event raised more than \$1,300 in donations and another \$600 in "wedding gifts" in the form of beds, collars, leashes, food and treats.



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