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BLACK CAT WHITE DOG

Read All Over

The newspaper for pet lovers

March/April 2013

**WALKING WITH A
LOOSE LEASH**

**PETS: A LIFETIME
COMMITMENT**

**DON'T Get a
Rabbit
for Easter**

**HERBIE'S
STORY**

Leptospirosis



Letter from the Editor

March/April Issue



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Black Cat White Dog

P.O.Box 75542
RPO Edgemont Village
North Vancouver
V7R 4X1

www.BlackCatWhiteDogNews.com

Credits:

Cover Photo:

"Willie" by Tara Gregg
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Publisher:

Louise Luchka 604-980-8800
louise@blackcatwhitedognews.com

Production & Graphics:

Naomi teWinkel - www.mulBerryLand.com

Advertising:

advertising@blackcatwhitedognews.com

Contributors:

Irena Eacott; Kathy Gibson; Carmina Gooch;
Lin MacDonald; Tara Palardy; Barry Rueger;
Dr. Kathleen Sang DVM; Lana Simon; Lisa Wagner

Editor:

editor@blackcatwhitedognews.com

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"Sick as a dog" and "raining cats and dogs"... as I coughed in the downpour, I pondered the origin of these common idioms.

According to the Cambridge dictionary... "as sick as a dog" has been in use since the 1500's and has its origins in the fact that some dogs will willingly eat almost anything and be very ill afterward. Ok, that one seems obvious.

"Raining cats and dogs"

The British poet, Jonathan Swift wrote "City Shower" in 1710. This poem described floods that occurred after heavy rains. These floods often left dead animals in the streets and it is thought this may have led locals to this weather description. Another theory is that 'cats and dogs' may have derived from the now obsolete old English word 'catadupe' meaning waterfall.

The Cat's Pajamas ...in the 1920's the word 'cat' was used as a term to describe the unconventional flappers in the jazz era. Pajamas were a new fashion around the same time. The two words were used by 'hipsters' to describe someone who is the best at what they do. Or something very desirable and sought after.

"Hair of the dog" – we all know this as a suggested means to soothe a hangover. This may have origins as far back as 460 BC during the time of Hippocrates to justify an existing practice – "like cures like".

The expression probably took greater meaning in the 1800's from the treatment of a rabid dog bite by placing hair from the dog in the bite wound.

If you have been "under the weather" remember "every cloud has a silver lining". May "the sun shine on you" and present you with "a new lease on life".

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PLEASE, DON'T GET A PET...

... unless you are **really** prepared to make a lifetime commitment. The heartbreak of rescue work is seeing the same thing year in and year out – abandoned animals!

Like Charlie and Buffy – left behind when their owners were evicted from their house - unneutered and starving in an empty house. Or Mouse, whose drug addicted owner left the townhouse complex and him in the middle of the night. Mouse wandered for nearly 6 months looking for handouts and was finally rescued in the freezing cold winter when someone contacted PAF. Or Heidi, found in a back lane garage in Kerrisdale with helpless kittens by her side, 3 barely alive and 1 dead. She was probably kicked out of the house when she gave birth because her owner didn't do the responsible thing and spay her. A female cat can have a litter of kittens **every 60 days!**

Adopting a pet means COMMITMENT – a lifetime commitment – not just until it's no longer convenient. That means keeping the pet through major life changes and challenges – marriage, divorce, moving to a new place, having children, financial hardships, and getting transferred in your job. Your pet didn't ask to be adopted but, when you **did** make that choice, your pet thought it was for life!

Pets have feelings and can experience a great range of emotions from loneliness and depression to aggression and hostility towards new people when they lose their home. They have come to love and trust you and don't understand when their lives are suddenly torn apart. Every day we get phone calls and emails from people wanting us to 'take their pet' because they are moving to a 'no pets' building, in a new relationship, ending an old relationship, or wanting to travel. There are a million excuses! Problems like nipping, scratching furniture, spraying, disobedience and separation anxiety are all behaviours that can be re-trained and/or modified. Life **is** change but, with a little preparation, patience and loving kindness on the pet guardian's part, almost every situation can be addressed **if there is a commitment to the animal. Please, don't be a part of the problem.**

Article By: Lana Simon

"I hope to make people realize how totally helpless animals are, how dependent on us, trusting, as a child must, that we will be kind and take care of their needs . . . they are an obligation put on us, a responsibility we have no right to neglect, nor to violate by cruelty."

~ James Herriot 1916 – 1995



Left behind and wondering what happened to his home

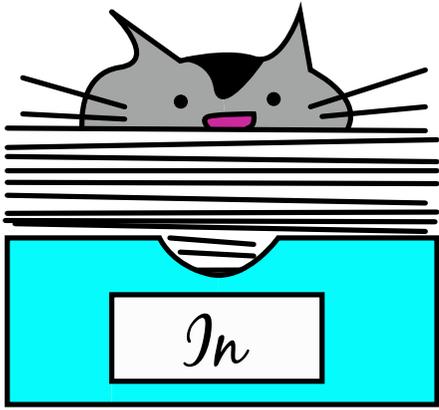
I ADOPTED YOUR CAT TODAY ... the reality

I adopted your cat today.
The one you left at the pound.
The one you had for ten years
And no longer wanted around.

I adopted your cat today.
Do you know he's lost weight?
Do you know he's scared and depressed
And has lost all faith?
I adopted your cat today.
He had fleas and a cold,
But don't worry none.
You've unburdened your load.

I adopted your cat today.
Were you having a baby or moving away?
Did you suddenly develop allergies
Or was there no reason he couldn't stay?
I adopted your cat today.
He doesn't play or eat much.
He's very depressed,
But he will learn again to trust.
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And here he will stay.
He's found his forever home
And a warm bed to lay.

I adopted your cat today
And I will give him all that he could need.
Patience, love, security, and understanding.
Hopefully he will forget your selfish deed.
..... Author unknown



INBOX

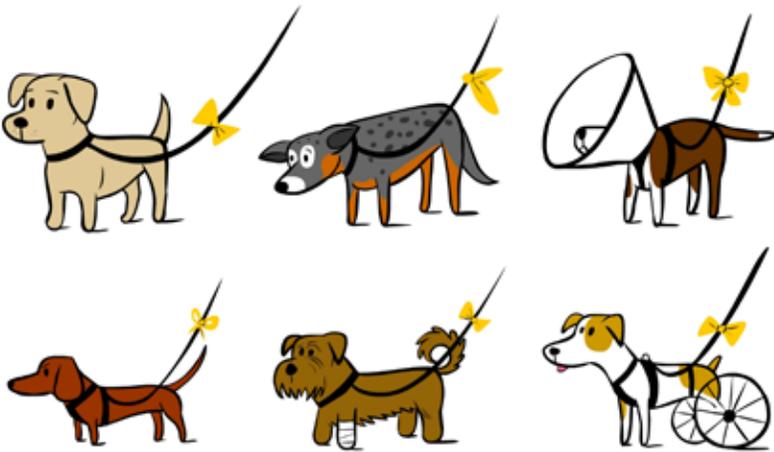
Our Readers Write

If you have any comments, tips or photos for the Inbox, please send them to . . . editor@blackcatwhitedognews.com

Submissions may be edited.

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space**. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

- HEALTH ISSUES
- IN TRAINING
- BEING REHABILITATED
- SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



Illustrated by Lil' Chin www.doggedrawings.net



Rain City Housing is the only Cold Weather Shelter provider that supports and encourages the bonding of Dogs and Cats with their owners by encouraging them to stay together. They allow their patrons to bring in their pets from the cold *“Cuz pets need to stay warm and have healthy meals too, right?”*

Thank you Carla and the great folks at the Highlands Animal Hospital and the West End Veterinary Clinic who pulled together an amazing amount of pet products and supplies that are already going to good use, as folks staying at our shelters now have more food AND warmer beds for their dogs.

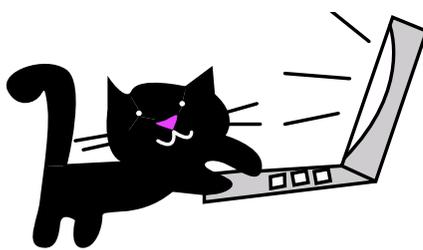
Carla sends out a **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to their Winter Charity Drive! If you'd like to donate please contact: donations@raincityhousing.org

**The Yellow Dog Project was created by:
Tara Palardy of Walks n' Wags
www.theyellowdogproject.com**



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Thinking of Buying a Rabbit for Easter? Don't Do it!

by Carmina Gooch

Every year, pet stores and breeders exploit baby bunnies as that perfect gift for a child. They are not Easter toys or 'starter pets.' Rabbits require the same responsibilities as other companion animals, like dogs and cats. Sadly, most Easter Bunnies end up unwanted, neglected, or abandoned once the novelty has worn off. Sometimes within days or weeks.

There are plenty of unwanted rabbits at municipal shelters or in private rescue, and many more fending for themselves in parks and other public places. Rabbits are sensitive, intelligent creatures. It cannot be stressed enough the diligence of doing homework before deciding if a rabbit is suitable for one's lifestyle.

Sadly, rabbits are undervalued and unappreciated in society.

Rabbits are considered multi-purpose animals, bred for the pet industry and raised for food, among other uses. Protections for them are sorely lacking, leaving them wide open to abuse and suffering. Rabbit breeders fly under the radar and there are no Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Rabbits in Canada or in BC.

Please consider the rabbit this Easter. For ways in which you can help us help these lagomorphs contact the:

Rabbit Advocacy Group of BC
www.rabbitadvocacy.com



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POSTCARDS



If you have a photo of a creature in another land, please email it with a brief description to: postcards@blackcatwhitedognews.com



Paddy smiling in a field of bluebells which grow wild throughout the forests in spring.

Sent in by
Lucy Valenzia
Hampshire, England



Veterinarian Tips

LEPTOSPIROSIS

by Kathleen Sang DVM
www.carepetwellness.com

Care Pet Wellness Group
North Vancouver, B.C.

What is Leptospirosis?

Infection with the bacteria *Leptospira*, of which there are 5 different strains in Canada.

Is it serious?

Leptospirosis is a serious disease which can be fatal. The disease is most severe in unvaccinated dogs less than 6 months of age. Liver and kidney damage are the most common manifestations. Acute kidney failure affects 90% of dogs with leptospirosis, with 10-20% also suffering liver failure.

Where is Leptospirosis found?

Worldwide, that means it is here in BC! *Leptospira* survive in damp and wet conditions. The incidence of leptospirosis is directly related to the amount of rainfall with most infections occurring in spring and autumn in temperate climates. They are more likely to be found in stagnant or slow moving water, often following periods of heavy rainfall or flooding. *Leptospira* can remain viable for months in moist environments under optimal conditions. They are killed by the freezing and thawing of near-zero temperatures and also die if they dry out.

What animals get Leptospirosis?

Rats, mice and moles are the primary hosts. Dogs, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, deer, sheep and cows can be secondary hosts. An infected dog can pass on the infection to other dogs.

The incubation period in animals lasts between 2-20 days. *Leptospira* enter the blood stream and multiply the first 7-10 days. They then spread to the kidneys, liver, spleen, eyes, genital tract and central nervous system. Antibody production then occurs to help clear organisms. However, animals can remain carriers if the organism stays in the kidneys, where they are shed intermittently into their urine. They can shed for weeks to months, and sometimes for life.

How would my dog get Leptospirosis?

Most likely by coming into contact with leptospira from infected urine in the environment. Your dog may have been drinking, swimming, or walking through contaminated water, or ingesting contaminated food.

What are the clinical signs of infection in dogs?

Typical signs of Leptospirosis include:

- jaundice (the whites of the eyes turn yellow)
- vomiting
- fever
- anorexia
- decreased urine output and dehydration
- dark/red-tinged urine
- lethargy
- neurological signs if there is central nervous system (CNS) involvement

A pulmonary form of the disease can also cause severe hemorrhage in the lungs.

Severity of disease depends on the virulence of the organism and host susceptibility. Infected dogs can also be asymptomatic where no signs of disease are seen.

How is Leptospirosis diagnosed?

The first tests your veterinarian will run will be bloodwork and urinalysis to assess the kidney and liver function, as well as examine the numbers of platelets and white blood. If Leptospirosis is suspected, more specific testing for the organism might include:

1. Microscopic agglutination test (MAT)
2. ELISA Testing
3. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) assay
4. Culture (rarely used for diagnosis)

How is Leptospirosis in dogs treated?

Leptospirosis is typically very responsive to appropriate antibiotics. Aggressive intravenous fluid therapy is also crucial to support blood flow through the damaged kidneys. The prognosis is generally good for dogs with leptospirosis treated in this way, with survival rates approximately 80-90%. Many make a full recovery. Some, however, have chronic renal failure, or chronic active hepatitis which cannot be cured.

Can cats become infected with Leptospirosis?

Yes, although cases of leptospirosis in cats are rare and clinical disease is uncommon. Clinical signs are usually mild or absent, and the prognosis is good. There is no approved vaccination for cats against leptospirosis.

Can people get Leptospirosis?

Yes. The disease is zoonotic, that is, it can be transmitted from animals to humans. Infection occurs when urine from an infected animal comes into contact with the eyes, mucous membranes or through breaks in the skin. After a 14 day incubation period most people (90%) who become infected have mild infections, with flu-like symptoms, though some people may show no symptoms at all. However, approximately 10% of infected people have complications such as muscle inflammation, inflamed eyes, liver dysfunction, kidney failure, and meningitis.

How can I prevent leptospirosis in my pet?

Vaccination is available for dogs, and is effective for one year. Vaccination does not provide 100% protection due to the numerous (over 200) strains of leptospira, but the current vaccine used in North America provides immunity against the 4 most commonly found strains in Canada, and will decrease the severity of clinical signs. Vaccination is strongly recommended for your dog.



LEARNING TO WALK WITH A LOOSE LEASH PART 2

By Kathy Gibson

www.customcanine.com

This two part series will help your dog gradually develop loose leash skills. While he is learning (especially if you have a puppy), please use a harness. It is safer for your dog's throat and spine.

In Part One – Leash Clarity, we helped both of you learn how to walk in a controlled way that keeps both of you safe, and minimizes the bother of leash pulling.

Now that you and your dog are working better as a team with accurate and clear transitions between 'My Walk' and 'Dog's Name Walk', you are ready to start teaching the next step:

Part Two – Walking on a Loose Leash

Only teach the concept for a few seconds at a time. Then return to My Walk or 'Dog's Name Walk!' You will always use one or the other to maintain leash clarity between teaching sessions.

Keep your session short and successful. As both of you get more competent, teaching time will naturally extend as your dog is able to successfully concentrate for a longer period.

Repeated failure means you are trying to do too much, too soon, too fast. Slow down and keep teaching achievable, successful and stress free.

Important: Your only focus is to have a loose leash. Nothing more. It does not matter where or how the dog is walking. And when the leash is loose don't forget to praise your dog so he can learn what you want.

A. Introducing the Concept

1. In either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk' stop walking.
2. Move toward your dog and, at the same time, gather up the leash. You want to hold the leash as close to the leash snap as possible. The other hand stays rested on your waist so that the leash is taut between both hands
3. Face in the direction you want to go. Do not move as you say 'Let's Go' and open the hand that is holding the leash close to the snap so the leash goes loose. The other hand continues holding the leash at your waist.

If your dog keeps the leash loose for 1 second – put your hand back by the leash snap and then praise your dog. Repeat the exercise one more time and return to either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk'.

If your dog tightens the leash – turn in the other direction, walk two steps forward and then turn back to face in the original direction. As you do this, gather up the leash without jerking it and return your hand to the leash snap.

Repeat Step 3. If your dog fails again end the session by returning to either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk'. Your dog wasn't able to learn. Try again later.

B. Teaching Movement

With the success of Step A you are ready for movement. Lift your foot and then move it forward.

If your dog keeps the leash loose – stop moving as you put the hand back near the leash snap and then praise your dog. Repeat the exercise one more time and end the session. Return to either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk'.

If your dog tightens the leash - turn in the other direction, walk two steps forward and then turn back to face in the original

direction. As you do this, gather up the leash without jerking it and return your hand to the leash snap.

Try once more, but if the dog fails again end the session by returning to either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk'. Your dog wasn't able to learn. Try again later.

Success at Step B is the completion of two steps forward on a loose leash.

C. Teaching to Walk on a Loose Leash.

As soon as you are successful with Step A and B your dog and you are ready to learn how to move forward with a loose leash.

1. As you come to a stop in Step B, do not put your hand back near the leash snap. Just stop and quietly praise your dog. Keep your other hand on the leash at your waist.
2. Take two steps forward and stop but do not gather the leash at the leash snap.

If your dog keeps a loose leash - put the hand back near the leash snap and praise your dog. End the exercise and return to either 'My Walk' or 'Dog's Name Walk'.

If your dog tightens the leash – turn in the other direction, walk two steps forward and then turn back to face in the original direction. As you do this, gather up the leash without jerking it and return to Step A. Your dog wasn't able to learn. Try again later.

Success at this step means that your dog will gradually increase the amount of time he can concentrate on keeping a loose leash.

If you are not being successful at this step it means you are teaching when he cannot concentrate or you are moving too fast or trying to go too far. He can only learn when he can be successful. Adjust your teaching until you find this magic place.

D. Adding distance and distraction.

Distance: Once your dog understands the concept of a loose leash you can begin teaching him to walk further by increasing the number of steps you take before stopping to end the exercise. Take your time to maintain perfect success.

If he makes a mistake go back to Step A to end on a successful note. Adjust your teaching in your next session to assure success.

Distractions: whenever there is a new situations or distraction make sure you start on Step A. This will tell you if your dog is able to concentrate enough to learn.

If your dog is successful at Step A – move on to Step B, then Step C.

If your dog tightens the leash – he cannot learn, move further away from the distraction or make the distraction easier to cope with. Try Step A again to see if you have found the place where your dog can learn.

If the dog is not being successful, stop what you are doing and move away until you are able to teach Step A successfully. End the session. Try again later with a more achievable plan.

Learning to walk on a loose leash is not a race it is a process. Take your time, be successful at each stage and you will have a dog understanding, in no time, that he can walk on a loose leash.



ARTIST Profile



Irena Eacott came to Canada as a teenager from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Living in Brazil has had a profound impact on her philosophy of life and has influenced her colourful paintings. Irena is well known for her gorgeous flowers, Pacific landscapes and seascapes and also has many artworks featuring cats.

When did you begin creating art?

I was in a gallery in Seattle fourteen years ago and met an artist and was inspired by the water colour medium and the ways it can be applied to achieve so many looks and moods. With a few 'how to' books, I began drawing and painting flowers. I wanted to learn how to apply layers of every shade possible. Flowers provide so much range of colour and shape. My garden is my inspiration. I also began to paint my cats, their faces and eyes are so interesting...they are irresistible.

Where do your ideas come from?

Usually I get inspired by my surroundings, scenery, a particular flower.. generally things that visually attract me and that I want to take the time to paint.

Cats appear throughout your works of art. How do they inspire you? Do you feel you have a connection with them or a story to tell?

Love cats, love flowers...what a lovely combination! I take my Siamese cat, Catarina to Dundarave beach. She likes to walk along the beach and experience the outdoors and show off her beautiful self.

What famous artist has influenced you and how?

Winslow Homer. American landscape and marine painter. Largely self-taught, he painted extensively in watercolour. After I saw his beautiful seascapes I decided to paint in watercolour.

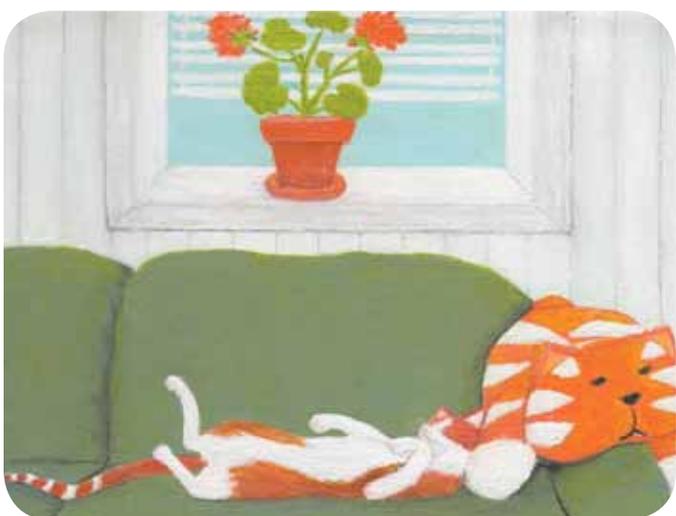
If you could have lunch with any person from history who would it be and why?

Micheangelo Buonarroti. Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, poet, architect and engineer who exerted an influence on the development of western art. Generally considered one of the greatest artists ever. I would love to have lunch with him and be privileged to watch him paint the Sistine Chapel and sculpt the Pieta.

Will you be attending any upcoming shows? Where can we view your art?

I am painting and preparing for juried shows in the Spring and Summer.

**Contact: irenart@shaw.ca
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National Leaders in
Pet First Aid

SAINTS

It's sad but true; many of British Columbia's pets are abandoned at some time in their lives. Fortunately, these unwanted pets have many hard-working animal rescues operating in our province. These organizations give a second chance to those who might not have had one otherwise. However, one rescue is especially worth noting: Senior Animals In Need Today Society (SAINTS) in Mission BC.

Specializing in the care of senior animals, a visit to SAINTS rescue is no ordinary experience. One would think it would be sad seeing a bunch of frail, senior animals, many of whom are nearing their final days. The experience is in fact the opposite.

When we arrive with our charity drive donations, a vast 3 acre property with a number of quaint, clean buildings awaits. A warm volunteer named Laura tours us around the facility, happily shuttling us from building to building.

Each building serves a different purpose: the storage shed/laundry, the rabbit hutches, the area for dogs that require extra attention, several cat areas, and a house filled with happy dogs. When I say house, I really mean "home" since SAINTS founder Carol Hine, a registered nurse lives in it with living room and bed full of dogs. Surrounding the buildings is a large fenced field where horses, sheep, pigs, goats, and chickens share a home. Volunteers are everywhere, ensuring the moving parts of SAINTS run smoothly.

Laura tells us about each animal we meet along the way. Where do these animals come from? Several are cruelty seizures. Some are from other animal rescue organizations that have experienced difficulty finding homes for seniors. Every animal has a story and many of them are too sad to think about. Most of the animals are available for adoption, while others are too sick, or simply have been too abused to move elsewhere. These special souls will call SAINTS their forever home.

The tour was eye-opening and definitely touched my family's heart. It's been 8 weeks since that day. Today I sit with my newly adopted senior dog Tux, one of those adorable dogs from Carol's bedroom. His friends at SAINTS Rescue gave him a second chance and for that we are thankful. Part of SAINTS mission statement is: *"We pledge to love them, to care for them, and make their dreams come true. We promise each of them that they will never be alone again."* SAINTS, you have kept that promise.

Learn more about how you can help SAINTS Rescue at: www.saintsrescue.ca

Lisa Wagner is the Operations Director of Walks 'N' Wags Pet First Aid. Walks 'N' Wags offers Pet First Aid certification courses across Canada. Visit their website at www.walksnwags.com



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Paws 2 Dance

Canine Musical Freestyle and Dressage



Canine Musical Freestyle (sometimes referred to as "dog dancing") is a recognized dogsport, the same as Agility, Flyball, Splash dog or Rally-O. There are Clubs all over North America, and throughout the world. The sport is showcased extensively at the prestigious Crufts competition in Britain every year.

Handlers teach dogs a repertoire of movements and choreograph routines using those movements. The range of moves is limitless. Dogs can be crawling, on all fours or up on their hind legs. They can move with or apart from the handler, forward, backward, or sideways. They can spin, roll, or jump. They can do paw tricks or strike interesting poses. They can even use props. Anything goes as long as the move is not dangerous to the dog.

Handlers choose their music to present their dogs in the best possible light. Costumes are also a part of the routine, but for the Handlers only, not the dogs! The rules of the sport say that the dogs can only wear special collars or cuffs—nothing to make them appear silly or be demeaning.

Paws 2 Dance came into being over 12 years ago. During that time, we have grown from a local Club to one that encompasses all of the Pacific Northwest, with members in Washington, Oregon, Vancouver Island and the interior of BC. We welcome dogs from any and all breeds. Many of our dance partners are rescues or older dogs that have been rehomed. Often these dogs come to us shy or frightened or with other emotional baggage and freestyle seems to calm and focus them. They happily flourish and gain confidence in working closely with their new owner and other dogs in the group.

As a Club, we perform demonstrations at Care Homes, Senior's Facilities and Children's Camps, such as the Zajac Ranch. We also lend our time free of charge to numerous charities such as SPCA Pet Fairs and Paws for A Cause, Whistler's WAG, CritterCare, S.A.I.N.T.S. and recently Big and Small Rescue. In November, we presented "Shadows of Eternity", a gala event that was very well received and last Saturday, from the proceeds from that show, we presented a cheque for \$2000, and a commitment for more, to S.A.I.N.T.S. In January, we will be making another donation to the Brookwood Senior Centre, also from the show proceeds.

Our dogs are trained using positive reinforcement methods and are first and foremost our pets. They share our homes and our couches! Most of them travel with us almost everywhere we go! We see ourselves as a group of similar minded people who have a love of dogs and a desire to work closely with them. Through our interest in music and movement we are developing ways to work as a team and bond more closely with our dogs, as well as keep them mentally and physically stimulated. Above all we see canine musical freestyle as a fun activity that is enjoyable for us as well as our canine partners. To suggest that we are a circus act is insulting, and blatantly uninformed! As anyone who has seen us perform can attest, part of the fun in watching canine freestyle is the obvious enjoyment the dogs are getting out of it!

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PAWS 2 Dance Activities
Presenting cheque to SAINTS.
Presenting cheque to Brookwood Seniors.
Performing and visiting at various carehomes,
Performing at a senior wellness symposium, Zajac's Ranch for children, in Whistler in support of WAG, an animal rescue group
at Critter Care Wildlife animal rescue



If you have lost a pet and would like to have them honoured in our Angels section, please send us a photo and a small write up to . . .

angels@blackcatwhitedognews.com

"HERBIE" - Deirdre MacNicol

December 1, 2012, the Lorain Police Department in Ohio got a call regarding a lifeless body of a dog laying on the lawn of an abandoned house. Sweet 'Herbie' had been beaten to a pulp, his head was so swollen, that it affected his eye sight, there was barely a pulse. The officers were not prepared for the abuse they saw that day.

Once at the veterinary hospital, it was confirmed that not only had Herbie been beaten and starved but he had inoperable terminal brain cancer. This precious soul was thrown on a lawn to die and left like garbage. Doc Rick Broz, the constable that went to the call, felt a special bond with Herbie and decided to do everything in his power to show Herbie what love was all about.

So began the most incredible story of pure devotion and love between Herbie and Doc. When Herbie was well enough to leave the clinic, the two of them would head home for a weekend of bonding: watching the super bowl, going for car rides, and little walks around the yard. Doc would tend to Herbie's medical needs as well, being blind, and deaf, Herbie had to learn his way around Docs house.

Well wishes, gifts and love poured in from everywhere around the globe. School kids came to visit and smothered Herbie with love and Valentine's cards, people made blankets, donated toys and money for medical expenses.

Herbie found happiness and was loved for what was probably the first time in his life. The fact that such an abused little soul could learn to trust and love a human being again is a true testament to the hearts of these sweet animals. We humans can really learn a lot from these precious souls.

March 1, 2013, Herbie passed away in Docs arms. My world stood still, I could not see through my tears. I was not alone...the messages of condolence and love that poured in on Herbie's page were overwhelming. To think that Herbie had only been allowed to be loved for such a short time is something I can not understand.

If you would like to read more about Herbie and Doc, please visit "Justice for Herbie" on Facebook. RIP my sweet little man Herbie. As you cross Rainbow Bridge..remember We Love You!



"CRICKET" - Dani Gifford

On December 28, 2012, beautiful little Cricket, you left me for heaven, to join your brother Finnegan and so many others before you. I am in shock, and I cannot believe you are gone. My heart is weeping. From the day you were born, a little preemie weighing only 53 grams, almost eleven years ago, I have had the exceptional joy and privilege of caring for you, hand-feeding you and raising you (and your precious brother) ... such a miraculous little soul ... thank you for giving me this time with you ... my world is forever changed because of you my princess. Love, Mum xxx



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A Dog With No Name

By Barry Rueger

Four Legs Good! Canine Services
barry@1234legsgood.com



See the lovely dog riding beside me in my truck? Do you know her name? I don't.

I had just finished loading six dogs into my truck after an hour and a half on the trails. This happy girl became an extra passenger. I met her as she wandered down a road in West Vancouver, following her favorite mail carrier. He even knew where she lived, so I tried to take her home, but the house was locked, and no-one answered the door.

Finally I dropped her off at the West Vancouver SPCA. All in all this little girl cost me an hour or more of my time, her owners the time and expense of recovering her. Plus who knows how much worry when they found that she was gone. All for the sake of a five dollar name tag.

As a commercial dog walker I'm handling dogs all of the time. And like most other walkers, I also wind up taking care of lost dogs on a regular basis. Whether it's the time of day, or the truck, or just a positive doggy "vibe", you can bet that the dog that's been wandering your neighbourhood all afternoon will come up to me and say "Hi! I'm lost! Please take me home!" And truly, I'm delighted to do it, but first I have to know who she is and how to find her owners.

If you own a dog it needs a collar. A collar that's around his or her neck, and fastened securely. And on that collar you need a name tag, with the puppy name, and the phone number to call when I find her.

Yes your dog has the proper municipal license tag, and possibly a rabies tag as well. He or she is likely micro-chipped and tattooed to boot, but none of these are much use to me, or to most people who might meet your dog on the street. What we really want is your phone number so that we can bring Rover home.

Now, about that collar. It has to be on the dog. All the time. Yes, I know that Fluffy likes to lounge about sans collar at home, but he's just not organized enough to put it back on before leaving. I'll repeat: the collar has to be on the dog. All the time.

Just because your dog is at home – even if he or she is inside the house, with the doors locked and the alarm set – you should still assume that a Great Escape is imminent, and leave the collar on.

Having your dog escape is not a reflection on you, or your worth as a dog owner. Sooner or later every dog finds a reason to wander off, chase a squirrel, check out the neighbor's garbage. It's a dog thing, like shedding, and drooling, and snatching that piece of toast of the kitchen table when your back is turned.

Our poster girl? She wasn't wearing a collar or tags, but she was wearing a electric fence "shock" collar. Was it turned off? Were the batteries dead? Was she just happy to ignore it as she dashed off of her property? I have no idea, but it didn't slow her down.

Nine times out of ten when we find a lost dog it's slipped away from home – through the back door, under the fence – you would be amazed how many ways a dog can escape. Trust me. My own dog has been known to sneak out of the house and go play in Princess Park. As an owner your obligation is to expect it, and be prepared. It's good to check your fences and fix holes. It's good to teach your dog recall, and encourage her to respect boundaries. But it's also good to plan for the worst – just the way you would with a young child. The dogs that we find are only a block or less from home, and half the time the dog owner is at home too, but there's no way we can know that. The first step is always to look for a name tag, and call the owner.

So do yourself, your dogs, and your local dog walkers a big favour and add a tag saying "My Name is Fang, and my phone number is 555-1212."

Special hint: If your dog does get lost while you're hiking the North Shore trails you can ask any commercial dog walker for help – we'll spread the word to everyone walking that day to keep an eye out.

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Marley was a stray cat that a nice old lady fed and let in her house when it was cold outside. He loved her but she passed away and the house was sold, so VOKRA found him a nice foster home with another older lady who is now terminally ill, and her wish is to see Marley find a nice forever home. Marley very much enjoys the company of others. He likes to be petted and to sit with you, but he doesn't like to be picked up so he would be best in a quiet home with no kids or dogs.



Bizzy & Cubby are a bonded pair and need to be adopted together. Cubby is a beautiful long haired kitty and is unbelievably friendly. Bizzy is a big beautiful ball of love! They would be equally ideal for a busy family or a senior who is looking for two companions. Both Cubby and Bizzy are great with dogs & with strangers.



Bianca When La Bella Bianca first arrived at VOKRA she was a little, round, dark dust bunny. She has since grown into a spectacular beauty. She enjoys wrestling, toys, tummy rubs, hide & seek. She needs a buddy & should be adopted with a friendly buddy as she tends to be a little timid.



Estrella is a very pretty, sweet girl who is shy at first, but then comes around. She has the most amazing long white whiskers on her cute black face. You never know when she's going to come up and rub against your legs. She is much better at coming up to people on her own terms, and is very gentle and great with children.



**DNV Animal Welfare Services
and Facility**
299 Mansfield Place
North Vancouver
(604) 990-3711
paws@dnv.org



STEVE

Age/Sex: 3 years/ neutered male
Breed: Siamese Mix
Colour: Seal Point

Description: Very friendly with people he knows and likes. Typical Siamese, aloof and mischievous. Would prefer a home where he is the only cat.



PUMPKIN

Age/Sex: 5 years/spayed female
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Colour: Tortoiseshell

Description: Very sweet girl with an affectionate personality. Pumpkin is pretty laid back, and would love a quiet home where she could snuggle up and enjoy her afternoon naps.



LOKI

Age/Sex: 7-9 years/ Neutered male
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Colour: Brown Tabby

Description: Extremely affectionate and loves to talk and nuzzle. Loki is being treated for kidney disease, so requires a special diet and a home that will care for his medical needs.

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Surrey Animal Care Center

6706 152 Street, Surrey BC
604-502-6092



GRACIE is a middle aged mixed breed medium sized all black dog who is 'dog selective' - Poor Gracie has been here since November 2012 because on paper, she doesn't have much going for her. But in reality, Gracie is a hilarious dog with a fantastic sense of humour. She LOVES people and will do just about anything for food, so she is fun to train. Gracie is best with adults, and in a home with a securely fenced yard as she loves to go exploring, with or without her human! Gracie would love a home of her own at long last, so please consider her if you have room for a lonely lady like Gracie!



BALOO is an old man dog, a Rottweiler cross with a big smiley face, but shaky old man legs in the back. He is a gentle, sweet, quiet dog who wants nothing more than to love and be loved, and have short leisurely walks to keep his senior legs moving and keep him active in his final years. He has some minor medical issues that necessitate some pain medication to keep him mobile. Baloo may not be here for a long time, but for a good time, and he deserves a wonderful soft place to rest his head for his final years. Baloo has been in the shelter since December 2012 and wants nothing more than a home of his very own.



SUSHI is dressed formally in a tuxedo coat and has been waiting for someone to take her dancing since November 2012. A sweet cat, Sushi does not know why she keeps getting overlooked by adopters and is getting depressed waiting for someone to choose her. She has a great personality - quiet but polite, friendly but not pushy. She is basically just wonderful. If you are looking for something wonderful, try some Sushi!!

The Surrey Animal Care Center is located at 6706 152 Street in Surrey, BC. We are open for adoption viewing from noon to 5PM daily. All of our animals for adoption are/were unclaimed strays - we have dogs, cats, small animals like rabbits and guinea pigs and even chickens, peacocks and pigeons! Please come visit us or view our adoptable pets online at petfinder.com. We look forward to introducing you to your newest family member!

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