RUFF RIDER
Canine rekindles injured man’s passion for surfing
www.sandiegopetsmagazine.com
While the calendar may say summer is half over, for San Diegans typical summer weather’s warmer temperatures, along with high fire risk, persist well into October and beyond, making it useful to review a few summer safety tips.

Remember: never leave your pets or children — in a closed car, even for the few minutes needed to shop or run an errand. With the sun beating down on its metal frame, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise to dangerous and even fatal levels quickly. Leaving the engine on with the air conditioning running is a bad idea because of safety and theft considerations.

In mid-July John Van Zante, spokesman for the Helen Woodward Animal Care Center, ran a demonstration of the heat mounting in a closed vehicle. He parked the center’s van outside with its windows and doors sealed. In just 17 minutes, the temperature rose from 80 to 128 degrees, potentially deadly for innocent pets and children.

If you leave pets outside in your yard at all, consider purchasing market umbrellas to provide adequate shade for your pets, especially if you lack shade trees, recommends Lisa Gess, owner of Fetch! Pet Care of San Diego Metro, which offers dog walking and Fiesta Island beach romps to dogs from downtown, Coronado and Pacific Beach.

As temperatures rise, for cats, dogs and small animals, be sure to put out extra fresh water, preferably two generous bowls. Change the water once or twice daily to help to prevent your pets’ dehydration.

Cats are especially vulnerable to dehydration because many don’t drink enough water, explains Jeanne Zammarchi, owner of Cat Care Extraordinaire in Pacific Beach, which serves the central beach communities plus Hillcrest, Mission Hills and La Jolla. She recommends feeding mainly wet food rather than kibble for its water content.

Zammarchi’s own cat, Sage, 14, whom she adopted from a neighbor when the cat was about 7, resists drinking water and tends to become dehydrated. When the temperatures rise she monitors Sage closely and squirts cool water into the side of Sage’s mouth, a little at a time, from a plastic syringe.

“The way to tell (if a cat is dehydrated) is to pinch the fur at the nape of the neck. If it stays up you know the cat is dehydrated. The cat will also be very lethargic, with her eyes closed or squinting and she may even be panting,” she says.

If the cat is severely dehydrated, she advises, be sure to get the cat to the vet for intravenous fluids.

Zammarchi also recommends checking the screens on your windows or doors. An indoor cat and especially a kitten can slip out through a hole in a detached or torn screen. Lacking a fear of
SUMMER TIPS

heights or sense of distance, a kitten or cat might also tumble or leap off a balcony if not restrained by a sturdy screen. While screens are usually not guaranteed “cat-proof,” many companies offer stronger screening materials more likely to keep cats safe inside.

Even indoor cats can get fleas, says Dr. Ann Middleton, veterinarian and owner of the Cheshire Cat Feline Health Center, located at 4680 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. in Clairemont.

“They come inside on your shoes,” she explains.

Middleton recommends using a flea comb on cats or dosing them monthly with Advantage or Frontline to kill fleas and larvae. Zammarchi notes that flea collars are not only ineffective but can be dangerous or even fatal to cats sensitive to the toxic fumes they emit.

“Dogs also should be treated for fleas, with modern chemical treatments such as Advantage and Frontline Plus the safest and most effective for both fleas and ticks, although natural treatments such as brewers’ yeast may also work. Gess found that her own dogs became resistant to the topical flea treatments. She turned to Comfortis, a new oral monthly pill available from vets, which she found kills fleas but not ticks.

Both cats and dogs should be brushed or combed regularly to remove excess fur from natural shedding. Gess also advises watching for and removing burrs and foxtails, particularly after Fiesta Island romps or off-leash country hikes, because they can get stuck in a dog’s paws and ears.

If your dog has put on a few pounds, it’s important to help him get in shape. Be sure to start slowly with shorter walks before taking him on longer walks or runs. Gess also recommends checking harnesses, collars and leashes for wear and fraying and advises using a snug, professionally-fitted harness rather than a collar while exercising your dog.

With fire season fast approaching, make sure you have a safety plan and emergency kit prepared in case you need to evacuate with your pets. Both the ASPCA and Humane Society of the United States offer checklists for disaster preparedness and pet emergency kits on their websites at www.aspca.org and www.humanesociety.org. The federal government’s disaster preparedness website at www.ready.gov also provides useful pet preparedness recommendations.

With good planning, preparations and common sense, it’s easy to keep your pets safe and secure no matter the season.

For more information, contact:
Liss Gess at Fetch! Pet Care of San Diego Metro
www.fetchpetcare.com (enter zip code 92101), (619) 501-3511
Dr. Ann Middleton at Cheshire Cat Feline Health Center
www.cheshirecatclinic.com, (858) 483-1573
Jeanne Zammarchi, Cat Care Extraordinaire (858) 581-3494.

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Yet thanks to the persistence of his girlfriend, Gigi Bagaporo, who had grown up with English bulldogs and urged Hokstad to adopt, the Mira Mesa resident not only discovered the joys and responsibilities of pet parenthood, but also reconnected with his old love of surfing.

Hokstad had never had a dog. A conscientious, serious-minded man with a charitable bent and need to give back to the community, Hokstad researched dogs — English bulldogs in particular — which, he learned, is a unique breed “with issues.”

Four years ago, Hokstad was finally ready to take the plunge. Dozer, an English bulldog puppy, took over his and Bagaporo’s lives.

“I looked at it as taking on a family member,” Hokstad said. “As my first dog, it was an awakening, a real responsibility. I didn’t understand how dogs change your life.”

Until then, he didn’t know any of his neighbors. Now, he knows all of his neighbors through their dogs.

Dozer, they discovered, was no ordinary canine, but a dog who brought joy and pleasure into everyone’s lives. For their first Christmas as a threesome, the couple dressed him in a holiday jacket and antlers and took him for photographs to Fashion Valley Mall. On his march through Macy’s, Dozer’s toothy hang-dog grin brought smiles to every face.

Hokstad tried to interest Dozer in skateboarding, but found he preferred to play with the skateboard rather than ride it. About three years ago, Bagaporo took Dozer to watch the Helen Woodward Surf Dog Competition but discovered him eager to hop aboard a board.“Our baby is a surfer,” Bagaporo reported. Suddenly, with Dozer on the board with Hokstad’s assistance, Hokstad was able to reclaim his passion for surfing through his beloved pup.

“Now I’m out in the ocean in the waves. My son is surfing!” Hokstad said. “It’s come full circle. I never thought I’d put a surfboard in the car again. It’s changed my life once more.”

By NICOLE SOURS LARSON
SAN DIEGO PETS

PHOTO BY DIANE EDMONDS
Dozer, an 80-pound English bulldog with a typical bulldog mug, classic protruding jaw and stocky build, took to the water like a natural and immediately attracted media attention. He and Hokstad began surfing and participating in competitions. They befriended a group of avid surf dogs and their humans, who eventually formed their own organization — So Cal Surf Dogs — to promote canine surfing.

Dozer began winning prizes, finishing first in his category in this year’s Purina Incredible Surf Challenge held in Ocean Beach, and winning prizes in other surf dog events, including the Helen Woodward Surf Dog Surf-a-thon and Loew’s Coronado Bay Resort Surf Dog Competition.

Dozer’s outstanding performance at Loew’s, along with those of his surfing buddies Richochet, Nani, Guido, Kalani, Abbie and Zoe, snagged them roles as surf dogs in the movie, “Mar-maduke,” which opened in June. Dozer and Nani are shown surfing in the film, shot over three days at Zuma Beach north of Malibu.

The desire to post photos and videos of Dozer and his surfing buddies led Hokstad last year to develop a website — Dogtown San Diego (www.dogtownsandiego.com). He saw its potential as an information-sharing site for “all things dog,” including articles about rescue and animal welfare organizations, pet health, safety and well-being and fundraising events.

“I felt that just showcasing Dozer and his surfing pictures was self-serving,” Hokstad said. “I turned Dogtown into a community site where local organizations could list their events and adoptions and businesses could showcase their services.”

Among the services and businesses listed on Dogtown San Diego are pet-friendly restaurants that welcome dog — not just tolerate them — and Dozer-approved products including water-resistant collars and comfortable lifejackets.

A former pastor turned insurance financial consultant, Hokstad had always been involved in charitable causes. He enjoyed staging fishing tournaments to raise money for Angel Tree, a nonprofit organization providing Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents.

As he became more involved with Dozer and other dogs he gravitated to animal welfare causes for his charitable work, drawing in his So Cal Surf Dog buddies. His new website gave him the perfect tool to publicize yappy hours and other events benefiting animal-related non-profits.

Hokstad partners with dog-oriented businesses such as the Three Dog Bakery in Del Mar, Leash Your Fitness, and Pawtopia Dog Training and the Hotel Indigo in Little Italy to stage and promote animal welfare events.

“Our group is about having fun with our dogs in the ocean,” Hokstad said. “We’re supportive of animal welfare organizations and have raised money for Helen Woodward Animal Care Center, the Spay & Neuter Action Project (SNAP), Friends of County Animal Shelters (FOCAS) and the FACE Foundation,” which provides partial grants to families struggling pay for urgent medical treatment for their pets.

Peter Noll, is a co-founder of So Cal Surf Dogs whose dog, Nani — a Bernese Mountain Dog — surfs with Dozer. Noll is a strong supporter of Hokstad’s charitable activities.

“That guy’s heart is in the right place,” said Noll, an architect who met Hokstad over their dogs’ surfing. “Whenever Doug needs help with any kind of dog event, I’m there helping him out.”

Colleen Demling, owner of Pawtopia Dog Training, co-sponsors fundraisers and writes a monthly training column for the Dogtown website.

“He does great things through Dogtown to raise awareness for the pet and dog community,” Demling said. “It’s a great resource for dog-related education, entertainment, dog parks and restaurants.”


**Join the 3 Dog Walk for the Cure**

**On Sunday, Oct. 17, Dogtown San Diego and Three Dog Bakery will sponsor the “3 Dog Walk for the Cure” benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure (formerly the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation) to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month.**

Starting at 10 a.m., with same-day registration beginning at 9 a.m. at the Three Dog Bakery, 1555 Camino Del Mar in Del Mar village, the less-than-one-mile walk will proceed along one side of Camino Del Mar. Walkers will then return along the opposite side, finishing with festivities and dog-oriented vendors at L’Auberge Del Mar.

Registration for the event is $45 per dog, with business sponsorships available from $50 to $200. Participants are encouraged to recruit their own sponsors to help support the cause.

The Del Mar pet food shop and bakery decided to organize the event in conjunction with Dogtown because it ties together both their central mission of providing healthful, all-natural dog food and the popular “Three Day Walk for the Cure.”

Several of the bakery’s employees are breast cancer survivors, according to Kristine Blaser, manager of Three Dog Bakery.

For registration information, visit www.dogtownsandiego.com and click on 3 Dog Walk for the Cure, the Del Mar Three Dog Bakery Facebook page, or call the bakery at 858-353-6652.

— Nicole Sours Larson
Did you know that cats are only half as likely to see the veterinarian as dogs, even when they’re sick?

According to a study by the American Veterinary Medical Association, dogs visit the vet about 2.3 times a year compared to cats’ 1.1 annual visits. And only 28 percent of cats see a vet once or more a year in contrast to 58 percent of dogs.

Many veterinarians attribute this discrepancy to people’s false perception that cats are self-sufficient and don’t need medical care, whereas in fact cats, as a survival trait, are adept at concealing early signs of illness and appear healthy when they may be ailing. Often a cat’s illness manifests only when it becomes more difficult—and expensive—to treat.

To emphasize the importance and value of annual feline veterinary check-ups, Feline Pine, the manufacturer of natural cat litter, has expanded its sponsorship of last year’s one-day Chicago-only event to this year’s National Take Your Cat to the Vet Week, which runs from Aug. 16 to 22.

The program’s goal is to educate and inform the public about the benefits of regular check-ups for cats.

Preventive care for cats, as with dogs and humans, can result in significant savings in the long term, explains Dr. Ann Middleton, veterinarian and owner of Clairemont’s Cheshire Cat Feline Health Center and San Diego spokesperson for the educational campaign.

“It’s more cost-effective to bring the cat in for a regular check-up since waiting until cats are seriously ill could entail quite costly hospitalization and worse prognosis,” she says.

Many conditions respond well to early diagnosis and intervention. Two of the most common and potentially dangerous conditions for aging cats are obesity and an over-active thyroid (hyperthyroidism).

“Obesity can cause diabetes, arthritis, skin infections, respiratory problems, and be hard on the heart. High thyroid hormone can cause a high metabolic rate leading to hypertrophy of the heart muscles, high blood pressure and weight loss. If untreated, the cat may die from congestive heart failure. If treated, the prognosis is usually excellent,” she explains.

Middleton, along with several veterinary associations, recommends an annual “well kitty” exam up to age 10, unless there’s a problem, increasing to two annual visits between 10 and 15, and three a year over 15, depending upon the individual cat’s health.

While many people resist vet visits because the cat screams in the cat carrier and the car, pet parents should watch for symptoms triggering a needed medical call. Among these signs are loss of appetite, weight loss or gain, more frequent vomiting, changes in stool consistency or increased water drinking or urinations.

Other key indicators include lethargy, difficulty breathing, cat fight wounds or infections, car or other injuries, red or sore gums, limping, seizures, exposure to poisons, poisonous plants, snakes or spider bites. Signs of respiratory problems, including coughing, sneezing, eye or nose discharge, or a closed eye, as well as litter box problems or aggression also signal a need for a diagnostic vet visit, Middleton explains.

One of the best ways to prevent serious and potentially fatal illnesses is regular vaccinations. Middleton recommends that cats and kittens be vaccinated against feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia (FVRCP); feline leukemia, and rabies.

She also recommends flea control products even for indoor cats in summer, when fleas can come into the house on shoes or pass through a screened door or window, and year-round for cats going outside.

Cats also need to have their teeth professionally cleaned periodically and brushed regularly.

The newly expanded National Take Your Cat to the Vet Week resulted from the positive response Feline Pine received from both veterinarians and the general public about its educational efforts.

Thanks to National Take Your Cat to the Vet Week, more cats may be eyeing their carriers with trepidation and disdain, but they may also live longer and healthier lives.

Cheshire Cat Feline Health Center, located at 4680 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Clairemont, visit www.cheshirecatclinic.com, or call 858-483-1573.

For more information about the educational campaign, visit www.felinepine.com.
One of the most common diagnoses that veterinarians make daily is dental disease in dogs and cats. That’s why many veterinarians are stepping up efforts to educate pet owners on the importance of dental hygiene for their pets.

“The guidelines for good pet dental care are very similar to those established for people by their dentist. It’s a year-round process that includes both professional care and routine home care,” said Denise Piekarski, senior marketing manager for Virbac Animal Health.

Daily Dental Care Is Key

During a visit to the veterinary clinic, when the subject of brushing is brought up, pet owners frequently ask, “So how many times a day should I brush his teeth?” According to Stephanie Arnold, MPH, DVM, Virbac Research & Development, one answer that gets people thinking is: “How many times a day do you brush your teeth?” Of course, that gets a few laughs, but it’s not necessarily a joke. In reality, it’s sometimes not convenient to brush a pet’s teeth twice a day, so most veterinarians usually recommend weekly, if not daily brushing,” Arnold said.

“The idea of brushing an animal’s teeth can be a little daunting, but it’s really quite easy. Especially now that there are products out there that can make the brushing experience more enjoyable for pets and their owners,” Arnold said.

Best To Brush: The Basics

• Start when a pet is young (or adult age after a thorough dental cleaning). Slowly introduce the pet to veterinary dental toothpastes and soft-bristled brushes.
• Brushes should be the appropriate size and shape for a pet’s mouth. There are even brushes made for cats. If a pet owner doesn’t know what size to use, their veterinarian is the best source of advice.
• Make sure the paste used is veterinarian recommended. Human products can actually cause more harm than good.
• Toothpastes come in multiple flavors, usually beef, chicken, seafood or malt so they are tasty to your pet and help him look forward to brushing.

Good To Chew, Better To Rinse

If a pet loses patience before a complete brushing gets done, that’s okay. There are other products that can help clean the rest of the teeth, including water additives and dental chews.

Make It A Routine

The bottom line for home dental care is that frequent brushing (along with chews and water additives) not only helps protect a pet’s teeth, it can help to save him from painful dental disease.
It’s hard not to believe in fate when you hear Cody’s story — a deformed puppy that was abandoned at the shelter and is now a certified therapy dog.

Due to prejudice, even healthy pit bulls can have a hard time finding a home. But Cody landed in the shelter with a deformed foot, and his chances weren’t looking good until San Diego-based Even Chance Pit Bull Advocacy + Resources + Rescue stopped by the shelter to see another dog and noticed the limping puppy. Soon Cody was on his way to the rescue’s vet, where he was diagnosed with a congenital deformity called ectrodactyly or “lobster claw.”

Through donations, Even Chance paid to have an orthopedic surgeon correct the problem. Thanks to Dr. Sean Aiken at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital in San Diego, Cody underwent a successful procedure to fuse his two toes together and to connect the surrounding skin, transforming his “lobster claw” to a “mitten.”

Fate stepped in again when one of the surgical interns introduced Cody to her parents, who were looking to adopt. In his new home, Cody continued to rehabilitate with water therapy. He also began training and showed a natural inclination toward therapy work. His adopter, Barbara Sulier, describes him as a “sweet little loving boy with a charisma that pulls people over to talk to him. He loves all people and wants to make them happy,” she says. “We are so very proud of him and for what he is now doing for the breed’s image,” says Nicole Edwards, president of Even Chance.

At one year old, Cody is now the first pit bull to be certified as a therapy dog through New Leash On Life’s Lend a
Paw program in Los Angeles.

“During the wheelchair client test, he gently put his paws on the lap and kissed the client, who was thrilled,” describes Sulier.

And while Cody still has a slight limp due to missing bones and muscles in his right foreleg, he doesn’t let it slow him down. Sulier believes it will also help physically challenged children relate to him. Cody illustrates just what is possible when prejudice is set aside. Once discarded as damaged goods, he is now changing lives as a therapy dog.

About Even Chance Pit Bull Advocacy + Resources + Rescue: Even Chance is a 501c3 non-profit organization striving to counteract misinformation about pit bulls with factual education, communication and resources for the public, pit bull owners and potential adopters. Even Chance rescues temperamentally sound dogs from Southern California shelters, including dogs with medical needs and dogs rescued from organized fighting rings or other inhumane situations. Even Chance provides foster care for these rescued dogs until they are placed in safe and loving forever homes. For more information, visit www.evenchance.org.

Where not to take your dog

Stunning scenery, wildflowers, miles of trails and cool ocean breezes: no wonder hikers gravitate to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. But Torrey Pines is a terrible place to take your dog. Dogs and other pets, horses and other domestic animals are all banned from the Reserve, including the beaches, parking lots and northern Extension section.

While human visitors mostly enjoy the scenery, Torrey Pines exists primarily to protect a number of rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Surrounded by housing developments, freeways and businesses, the reserve remains one of the few coastal areas devoted strictly to nature. As a result, human activities are restricted to daylight hours, there’s no food allowed beyond the beach, and no animals except working service dogs (properly identified, and preferably well-brushed).

Park Rangers will write tickets for bringing a domestic animal into a protected State Natural Reserve. The fine is several hundred dollars plus court costs! We hope you will visit the Reserve — without your pet.

For more information go to: www.torreypine.org
**You can help Pets of the Homeless**

Announcing Perfect World Pets from Pet Flys, three adorable new doggie toys with a percentage of proceeds going to help Pets of the Homeless. The three different 100 percent cotton canvas pet toys named HOPE, FAITH & PEACE, come with hang tags that include their name and an inspirational message on the front, with the back explaining Pet Fly’s commitment to donate a portion of each sale along with information on how anyone can get involved in helping pets of the homeless.

“Pets of the Homeless is an amazing charity organization that focuses on keeping pets and their people together through tough times,” explains Pet Flys owner Tammy Ann Arnett. “I like the preventative approach to keeping pets out of the shelters and with their owner(s), the last thing anyone should have to lose or give up is their best friend.” Pets of the Homeless is a nonprofit volunteer organization that provides pet food and veterinary care to the homeless and less fortunate in local communities across the United States and Canada.

Tammy Arnett, the owner of Pet Flys, came to me with a unique fundraising idea. Her collection of Perfect World Pets are new 100% cotton canvas pet toys, named HOPE, FAITH & PEACE. They struck a chord with my entire board of directors and we are honored to receive a percentage of proceeds for our programs and are especially touched that Tammy saw fit to include information on how people can get involved helping Pets of the Homeless.

Because of the generosity of individuals like Tammy, we can continue doing our work toward our mission to help reduce hunger in pets belonging to the homeless and the less fortunate and provide veterinary care for those pets in communities across the country.

For more information go to www.petsofthehomeless.org.

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**Campaign celebrates bond between people and pets**

Purina, Cincinnati-based Kroger Co. and animal lover Trista Sutter from ABC’s “The Bachelorette” have teamed up to launch the third-annual “Tales for the Pet Lover’s Heart” campaign, celebrating the unique bond between people and their pets, while donating funds to animal welfare organizations nationwide. Together Purina and the Kroger family of stores will donate $150,000 to animal welfare organizations in 2010 as part of the “Tales for the Pet Lover’s Heart” campaign and will recognize the outstanding efforts of animal welfare organizations nationwide. New to the campaign this year is the participation of 18 animal welfare organizations from across the country who submitted a pet tale, which will be brought to life through video. The selected “Top Tale” of 2010 will be awarded with $50,000. Runners up will each receive $11,500 and all participating animal welfare organizations will receive a $3,000 donation from Purina and Kroger. The campaign will conclude with a television special in November. Find more information at www.TalesForThePetLoversHeart.com.

**Dog-fighting DNA database established to help crack down on problem of animal cruelty**

The nation’s first criminal dog-fighting DNA database has been established by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of Missouri and the Louisiana SPCA, and will be maintained at the University of California, Davis, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.

Known as the Canine CODIS (Combined DNA Index System), the database is designed to help the criminal justice system investigate and prosecute dog-fighting cases.
CODIS
continued from page 10

The Canine CODIS contains individual DNA profiles from dogs that have been seized during dog-fighting investigations and from unidentified samples collected at suspected dog-fighting venues.

The database is similar to the FBI’s human CODIS, a computerized archive that stores DNA profiles from criminal offenders and crime scenes and is used in criminal and missing-person investigations. DNA analysis and matching through the canine database, available for a fee only to law enforcement agencies, will help to identify relationships between dogs. This will enable investigators to establish connections between breeders, trainers and dog-fight operators. Blood collected from dog fighting sites also will be searched against the Canine CODIS database to identify the source.

Stop over-POOP-ulation

Warm weather and the hustle and bustle of summer fun means more trips outside in public with your furry friend. It also means more messes in public from our four-legged companions. Pet ownership is at an all-time high with 75 million dogs in 45 million households. An average-sized dog weighing 40 pounds produces three-quarters of a pound of waste per day. This means that the U.S. dog population is depositing an estimated 13.6 million tons of poo a year! If we generously assume 35 percent of pet owners are picking up after their dogs, that still leaves 8.8 million tons of pet waste pollution.

Not only does it look bad — it is bad. Did you know that the bacteria found in pet waste poses health risks to you and your community? Pet waste may contain bacteria, which in turn can cause diseases that are harmful to both humans and pets. Rainwater can even wash pet waste on the ground into streams and rivers and contribute bacteria and excessive nutrients that cause algae blooms and rob the water of oxygen needed to support fish and other aquatic life.

Visit www.bagsonboard.com for information.

CODIS
continued from page 10

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Visit www.bagsonboard.com for information.

Doggy Daycare camp caters to new trend of pet care

Having kids and pets sounds great, but isn’t for everyone. Many would argue that their pets are their children. People are beginning to treat their pets like surrogate children, but as we all know, we can’t be with our kids all day, every day. Camp Diggity Dogs caters to clients who want the best care for their pets when they can’t be with them. Ted Greenberg founded Camp Diggity Dogs in 2007, aiming to open the most luxurious doggy daycare in San Diego that treats animals like a child at day camp.

With an 11,000 square feet indoor/outdoor facility, Camp Diggity Dog offers doggy transportation, expert bathing and grooming, and luxury hotel rooms, with human beds and linens, televisions, and toys that will make any pet beg for more. Located centrally in downtown San Diego, Diggity Dog provides cage-free dog boarding, five-paw overnight lodging, designated bathroom areas and even a swimming pool! The staff is comprised of interactive camp counselors who socialize with the dogs. The Wag Cam even makes it possible for parents to watch their pups play on five Camp Diggity Dog live webcams.

“We do extra things clients need like putting sunscreen on a dog, bringing them inside and giving them nap breaks” owner Greenberg explains.

Just like children Greenberg describes giving the dogs top-notch care: “We prepare their meals exactly as the owner requests, such as giving them vitamins, treats, salmon oil and even vegetables” “We give them baths as requested, blow dry, brush out, clip their nails, clean their ears, and even brush their teeth before going home” Greenberg says.

Knowing that your dog is experiencing the best treatment in San Diego is a relief to loving pet owners. However, the best part is that Camp Diggity Dog welcomes every pet from every financial background, with rates as low as $22 a day! Camp Diggity Dog is proud to be named San Diego’s Best Dog Boarding Facility by Channel 10’s A-List.

Prices are right to get a new LEASH on life today!

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Photo by Arteye Productions
Petco hosts local celebrity dog’s birthday party

It’s not often a major corporation like Petco hosts a birthday party for a single dog, but that’s exactly what they did on Sunday, Aug. 1 at their Unleashed by Petco store. But then again, the honored guest, Chopper the Biker Dog is a bit different than most dogs. Since he was a mere 3 months old, Chopper has been endearing himself to the San Diego area as he entertains people of all ages while riding his custom-made Harley Davidson motorcycle at a number of public & Charity events, including a recent Blood Drive named in honor of his predecessor, Bandit the Biker Dog who passed away 18 months ago.

Chopper, who is owned by Mark Shaffer, is carrying on Bandit’s legacy. Bandit the Biker Dog had become known world-wide for his tireless contribution to the community, donating hours of his time to public fundraising for various charities and entertaining patients in hospices and hospitals.

“When I got Chopper, it wasn’t my intention to necessarily have him pick up where Bandit left off,” says Shaffer. “But he took to riding Bandit’s little bike so quickly and naturally, it’s almost as if Bandit’s spirit has somehow inspired him.” Shaffer noted that Chopper has his own unique personality and even has his own riding style that sets him apart from Bandit. “He’s his own little biker dog,” Shaffer adds with a smile. “But he also has that winning smile that melts people’s hearts and puts a smile on the face of people of all types and ages.”

Shaffer was quick to point out how blessed he feels to be able to continue the work he and Bandit started. “Chopper has quickly grown into his persona as a biker dog and he is really enjoying it as much as the public. And I’m so glad that he and I will be able to continue the activities Bandit and I did for over six years.”

To learn more about Chopper, visit www.ChopperTheBikerDog.com

Otay Ranch Town Center boasts doggie retreat

During the dog days of summer, pets no longer have to “ruff it” while their owners are away. Travelers can give their dogs a “special treat” at Otay Ranch Town Center’s 10,000-square-foot fenced doggie park (located next to Macy’s at the open-air shopping venue).

Making special arrangements for the family pet can sometimes complicate travel plans. Otay Ranch Town Center understands how much people love their pets and how heartbreaking it is to leave them behind while traveling. Located in Chula Vista, Otay Ranch Town Center provides travelers with a pet playground making it convenient for pet-owners to travel with their four-legged friends. Opened in October 2006, Otay Ranch Town Center’s pet park has a pet-friendly setting and an adjacent doggie park with a centrally located chalk garden and popper fountain for children to make this destination especially one-of-a-kind.

Otay Ranch Town Center’s dog park is located at 2015 Birch Road, Chula Vista, California.

Vote for most extraordinary pet rescue survival story

Many pet rescue stories tug at our heart strings and show the unique bond between pets and their owners. Ten such stories represent some “paw”-inspiring tales of lovable canines that make up the finalists in the 2010 Purina® Pro Plan® Rally to Rescue® Doing More™ for Pets Rescue Stories Contest.

Now, America has the chance to vote for the most remarkable story and help choose the winner.

Nearly 100 stories were submitted, and a judging panel selected the 10 most inspiring success stories as finalists.

Through October 1, pet lovers across the country can visit to view the 10 finalist pet rescue stories and help make one canine the top dog with their vote. To vote, go to: www.rallytorescue.org.

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HWAC encourages kitten adoption now!

“We have more kittens than you can shake a stick at and they need new families right now!”

That’s how Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) in Rancho Santa Fe is describing their crowded Kittery and Cattery. They are encouraging anyone thinking about adding a cat to their family to do it NOW!

“Kitten season comes about this same time every year,” says HWAC spokesman John Van Zante. “This year it got here a little bit late but it arrived with a vengeance. We have more than 40 little fur bags that need families right away and more than 80 others in foster homes waiting for space in our adoption kennels.”

Adoption manager Brian Simpson says, “The term, ‘More than you can shake a stick at’ comes from an old custom where farmers used sticks as pointers while counting their cattle. If they had large herds the cows would move and the farmer would lose count…proving that they did, indeed, have more cows than they could shake a stick at.”

Visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe. Adoption hours are 11 a.m. to 6 PM Saturday through Thursday. Open until 7:30 Fridays. For more information call 858-756-4117.

Camp Bow Wow offers new training program

Camp Bow Wow, the nation’s largest pet services company, announced the launch of its newest program, Bow Wow Behavior Buddies, providing training to dogs enrolled at Camp Bow Wow locations. Continuing to expand its programming, Camp Bow Wow will now offer various training options in addition to boarding, daycare, home care and a nonprofit component.

The Bow Wow Behavior Buddies training is a progressive and comprehensive initiative for Camp Bow Wow and Home Buddies franchisees wishing to offer dog training. Created to help customers modify their canine’s behavior issues, the training commences in the pet’s home, in Camps, or in group classes and is specifically tailored to each pooch using proven training methodologies. Camp Bow Wow’s trainers combine extensive knowledge of dog behaviors to modify your pet’s manners.

For more information or to find a Camp or Home Buddies near you offering the Bow Wow Behavior Buddies program, visit www.campbowwow.com.
Good manners can earn good rewards

Does your dog have good manners or bad habits? The AKC (American Kennel Club) has a certification called the CGC or Canine Good Citizen program might tell you which one you have on your hands, — and how to improve.

The certification is a two-part program designed to reward dogs with good behavior and also stresses responsible pet ownership for owners. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.

Owners who recognize the importance of socializing their dogs know that training is an essential part of life. Dogs with a solid obedience education are a joy to live with, respond well to household routines and have good manners in the presence of people or other dogs. All of these skills serve to enhance the bond shared with their owner.

Lara Schindler, Trainer with Happy Dog Happy Owner, has received her CGC Evaluator certification, and is conducting training and tests for anyone with a dog that is ready to get started. Open to all dogs and their owners, regardless of the dog’s age or pedigree, it is not necessary to be a member of the AKC to get dogs tested. More like an obedience program, dogs and owners will go through a series of simple tests to demonstrate that the dog knows and is able to obey basic obedience commands. In addition, dogs are required to show no aggression towards people or other animals. Finally, the dog must show composure in a crowded and noisy situation, and in everyday social situations.

For the younger group, a special puppy program called S.T.A.R. Puppy is available. As a certified AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, Schindler can conduct the S.T.A.R. test and decide whether your dog has passed or needs more work.

For more information on the CGC Certification visit the AKC website at www.akc.org/events/cgc/program.cfm . For local classes and test dates, please go to www.happydoghappyowner.com.

People with disabilities receive assistance dogs

Canine Companions for Independence will hold a graduation ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 14. Canine Companions for Independence is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. The event will be held at the Mission San Luis Rey Parish’s Serra Center (4070 Mission Ave. in Oceanside) at NOON. Open to the public with free admission, this inspiring ceremony will honor the newest recipients of Canine Companions’ highly-trained assistance dogs. Canine Companions’ clients receive their dogs, training and ongoing follow-up services for free.

Canine Companions is expected to reach 3,500 assistance dogs placed nationwide since its founding. Regionally, Canine Companions has graduated over 800 human-canine teams from the Oceanside campus.

For more information, visit www.cci.org or call 1-800-572-2275.

Canine to Five, Exclusive Local Retailer

Oma’s Pride, the renowned natural raw food that fuels the winners of The Westminster Dog Show is coming to San Diego. Beginning Sept. 2, Canine to Five puppy training & socializing experts will feature Oma’s Pride selections. Your pet does not have to be a show dog to appreciate the overall health benefits of Oma’s and best of all you won’t pay show dog prices for this raw food diet. Canine to Five Retail shop open Sat & Sun 12 to 5 p.m., 2423 Morena Blvd., 92110, 619-684-5959.
Socialization and Fear:
Is your dog low on the ‘social butterfly’ scale?

If you’re wondering why your dog is not more playful with you, other people or dogs and what you can do, take heart. Most dogs can learn to be more playful and affectionate. Sometimes we have to train a water-shy Labrador to swim and socialize. Try to be realistic about your expectations for your dog and remember that Lassie was, in reality, a long line of actor-dogs raised by an animal trainer. Chances are, you have a real dog.

Sociability in dogs is believed to be driven by three things: genetics, early developmental experience, and the triggering details of an event. Fear is adaptive to survival and thus, easily acquired and difficult to dislodge as it is deep-seated in the brain. Many frightened dogs will run away or hide if possible. Others have an active defense reflex and will go after what scares them. If this is your dog, please seek professional help.

Early Development and Early Exposure. A dog’s fear of strangers may be inherited, but some studies show that the experiences in early development and socialization can trump the effect of genes. Neglectful or aggressive mothering, and relationships between siblings can have an effect on your dog’s later psychological development. The critical period of social imprinting occurs within the 3 -12 week window, although the ideal age to transition a puppy into a forever home is 7-9 weeks.

What happens during the critical period may dramatically affect your adolescent and adult dog. Expose your puppy or rescue dog to 100 new things in the first 100 days, enrich the environment with gradual, gentle exposure to new people, places, things, other friendly dogs, and moving objects. Encourage early chew-toy training, task training, and housetraining. Take your dog with you every other time you go out and make sure that your dog’s socialization is a series of positive experiences. Dogs often behave one way with their family and household pets, and differently with strangers.


Event Triggering. Negative associations from the past or unfamiliar stimuli can be triggers that generalize from one specific trigger, to wider and wider categories of events. Some fears can produce a state of hyper-arousal and chronic stress in your dog.

In regard to training, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior advises, “Training should be based on positive reinforcement with frequent rewards, praise, petting, play and/or treats. Positive and consistent training is associated with fewer behavioral problems and greater obedience than methods that involve punishment and/or encourage human dominance.” 2008.

Whatever the source of your dog’s fears, the treatment is the same — desensitization and positive associations using slow, incremental exposure. Over-exposure to a feared stimuli, aka flooding, often further traumatizes a dog.

Insure the safety of all dogs and people, and remember that every good treatment plan begins with management. First, avoid getting the old response in order to make room for the new response and create new positive associations by linking a mild version of the fear with something your dog adores. Work to get the right amount of exposure and stimulation balanced with a sense of security and safety. Your best guide is body language. Learn to read your dog’s body language, so you can recognize fear: mouth clamped shut, ears pinned back, tail between the legs, attempts to hide, run away, growling if trapped, or air snaps.

Food can be the initial bridge to change your dog’s response from one of fear to one of positive experience. For more help see, The Cautious Canine: How to help dogs conquer their fears, by Patricia McConnell, PhD. For great online information check out www.FearfulDogs.com.

Take it slow and think of Ricochet—trained to become a service dog from the moment she was born, but who had a penchant for chasing birds. Ricochet’s new-found talent for surfing has made her Del Mar’s most loved surf-dog-fundraiser who will be appearing at our upcoming Surf Dog Surf-a-thon www.surfdog.kintera.org. She has a video gone viral on YouTube.

If your dog has people-aggression or severe separation anxiety fear-based issues, please consult a behavioral consultant for professional help.

Linda Michaels, MA Psych, CPDT, IAABC member, behavioral consultant and private trainer may be reached through www.WholisticDogTraining.com or 858.259. WOOF (9663).

If you have a question for the “Ask the Dog Psychologist” column about dog psychology, emotions or behavior please email us at: Linda@WholisticDogTraining.com.
If you think rabbits are boring animals who just sit in the corner of a cage, you probably haven’t seen a rabbit at play. Rabbits can be playful, curious, and silly when let out of their enclosures to socialize and interact with their environment. Rabbits need playtime as much as they need food and shelter.

It’s the dog days of summer, but don’t let your buns get too lazy. Rabbits are routine-oriented and social animals that like to have a job to do, even if it’s just having fun! Toys and games keep rabbits interacting with their environment, challenging them and stimulating their minds. Play builds confidence for your rabbit and helps strengthen your bond. Toys also provide an opportunity for physical exercise such as climbing and hopping, which keeps rabbits fit and healthy.

Most house rabbit behavior is based on natural instincts inherited from their wild cousins, such as chewing and digging. Here are a few simple and inexpensive ways to make your own toys and games, and keep your bunny happy all summer long:

- **Chewing:** Fill untreated willow baskets filled with hay. Inexpensive baskets can be found at craft stores or garage sales. Save any cardboard or paperboard such as the inner rolls of toilet paper or paper towels for your rabbit to chew, or stuff them with hay.

- **Digging:** Fill a cardboard box with hay, newspaper, or towels, or layers of each, and let them dig through it. Throw in an old phone book and see what happens.

- **Jumping:** Provide a simple ramp from the floor to a sturdy box, or connecting pieces of furniture. Many rabbits enjoy kitty condos that have stairs or ramps and windows from which to survey their kingdom. Even the staircase in your house can be a source of play when you interact with your rabbits.

- **Catch & fetch:** Gently toss a lightweight toy to bunny that he can hold with his teeth (ball, plastic baby toys, cardboard tube). Often bunny will toss it back!

- **Tug of war:** Some rabbits playfully tug on knotted towels, blankets, or thick ribbons. Dangle the item in front of bunny to see what he does.

- **Maze navigation:** Create a maze from cardboard and leave treats for bunny to find as he moves through the maze. You can purchase willow tunnels or pick up some cardboard concrete forms at the hardware store.

Of course, the best toy a rabbit could ask for is you! Get involved with your bunny by getting down on the floor at their level. You’ll find that rabbits have a delightful sense of humor and thoroughly enjoy playtime.
Cat boarding 101: How to pick the best cat kennels

Even though you love being with your cat, sometimes bringing her out of town with you isn’t possible or practical, and you need to look at catteries or cat kennels. Cat boarding with a reputable kennel ensures that your cat will receive regular attention from licensed animal-care professionals who will tend to her needs for diet, exercise, veterinary care, and companionship.

You can find reputable cat kennels by asking friends, neighbors, or your veterinarian. The American Boarding Kennel Association, a trade association founded by kennel operators to promote professional standards for kennel care, requires members follow a code of ethics and offers a voluntary facility accreditation. Check with your state licensing and inspection boards, too.

Catteries range from simple, affordable services to elaborate, resort-style accommodations with gourmet meals and spa treatments. Whether you go for no-frills or pet paradise, all reputable cattery services have these eight things in common:

1. **Visitor access to cat kennels.** You should be able to “surprise” any kennel and ask for a tour. Unless the kennel is busy handling an emergency, expect it to be clean, stocked with supplies, and full of healthy animals. Catteries also need to be well ventilated and kept at a comfortable temperature.

2. **Friendly, knowledgeable people.** You’re not just boarding your cat at a place; you’re boarding her with people. Ask the vet about what happens in an emergency — even if the emergency happens to another pet, what happens to yours? Talk to the staff to learn about their training and work routines.

3. **Vaccination requirements.** All cat kennels need to have stringent vaccination requirements to prevent the transmission of disease — this is NOT an option!

4. **Exercise areas.** Cat-boarding facilities also need to have clean, open areas with enough room for all boarders to get plenty of exercise.

5. **Resting space.** Check for resting boards and blankets that are comfortable and clean. Cats should have cozy spaces, room to stretch and roll around, and something to scratch.

6. **Proper nutrition.** Cat boarding should involve your cat’s regular routines as much as possible, especially food and diet. Learn when and what your cat will eat and whether the facility can accommodate any special needs.

7. **Pet grooming and extras.** Catteries don’t have to offer extras like massages or haircuts to be good, but the staff should groom your cat every day.

8. **Rates and additional charges.** Cat kennels can be very affordable, but if a rate seems too good to be true, it probably is. Likewise, unadvertised charges can add up quickly, so ask the person in charge of the facility to explain their rates — basic boarding and extras.

No matter which cattery you choose, trust your instincts. If a place feels wrong, keep looking. When you find the right place, stay upbeat when it’s time to check your cat in. Sure, you’re going to miss her, but she takes her cues from you. So relax, you have done your homework in order to pick a great cat kennel.
What’s really in your pet’s food?

Do you eat McDonald’s every day? Of course not! You would be unhealthy and 300 pounds! But if you are feeding your dog regular dog food, you may as well be giving him Big Macs. Pets are getting fatter and fatter everywhere in the world. Official statistics say in excess of 41 percent of the dogs in the USA are overweight and 5.1 percent of them are morbidly obese. Cats are also severely affected by this plague, with 6.4 percent being declared obese.

Just like us humans, man’s best friend needs proper nutrition and exercise - both combined will keep Fido fit, not fat. And like human food, it’s all about reading the label. Just a little research online into the dirty world of retail pet foods will have you sick to your stomach.

What most consumers don’t know is that the pet food industry is an extension of the human food and agriculture industries. Pet food provides a convenient way for slaughterhouse offal, grains considered “unfit for human consumption,” and similar waste products to be turned into profit. This waste includes intestines, udders, heads, hooves, and possibly diseased and cancerous animal parts. Sure, pet food companies have created special formulas for overweight, older, or active dogs; but even these blends do not meet the necessary requirements for your pet’s health. In fact, studies have shown that your dog’s food may cause illnesses such as skin allergies, stomach problems, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

The manufacturing processes of rendering and extruding may kill bacteria, but they do nothing to destroy the toxins produced by bacteria. Other toxins that are not necessarily removed during processing include:

- Hormones, such as those used to fatten livestock or increase milk production
- Insecticide from flea collars on euthanized companion pets and patches from livestock
- Condemned and contaminated material from slaughterhouses
- Sodium pentobarbital, the drug used to euthanize pets

Even the grains used in pet food can be contaminated and may cause sickness and disease. Improper drying techniques or storage methods and low quality grains often result in the growth of mold or fungi. The toxins produced can cause vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, liver damage, lameness, or death.

So what’s a dog (or cat) lover to do? There are many organic, holistic brands that are much better than the big name brands on the marketplace. But even better is to skip the processed foods entirely and go for the real stuff, as in real food. Dogs are animals, and in the wild, they weren’t running around looking for kibble. They were eating meat and grasses.

The overall concept is simple — just like us, the more processed foods dogs eat, the worse their health will be. The more natural, the better.

My Perfect Pet announces grand opening of its larger, pet-friendly facility in Poway

A high demand for healthy, fresh, and natural pet food has sent one company on the move to Poway this month. My Perfect Pet, the first-ever frozen and fresh pet food company in California, announced the grand opening of its new facility. The 4,100-square-foot facility will allow My Perfect Pet to have the capacity to begin making cat food, as well as generate more lines and quantities of its all-natural dog food products.

My Perfect Pet’s new facility is pet-friendly with a large park area in the front. In addition, there is now an open-viewing lobby, looking into the entire kitchen, where visitors can watch as the food is made and prepared for distribution.

About My Perfect Pet: My Perfect Pet is the first company to offer a fully cooked, 100 percent complete and balanced food made with all natural, fresh, whole restaurant grade ingredients, frozen immediately to preserve freshness and avoid the use of any preservatives. Headquartered in San Diego, My Perfect Pet’s product line includes Boomer’s Blend, Hunter’s Blend, Roxy’s Blend, and Bobo’s treats for adult dogs. In addition, My Perfect Pet offers Buckaroo’s Blend for moms and puppies and the Personal Blend, customized per customers’ requests. My Perfect Pet will host a public open house later in August.

For more information, visit: www.myperfectpet.net
Under all that hair, did you ever wonder what your dog’s skin is really like? Is it just like your skin? Yes and no. There are similarities, and there are also some major differences that may surprise you.

**What’s under all that fur?**
For both dogs and people, the skin is the largest and one of the most complex organs of the body. It’s a natural barrier that prevents dehydration and protects us from the environment. The outermost skin layer is often compared to bricks and mortar. Skin cells are like bricks, and the lipid complex between cells is like mortar.

Your dog’s skin, which is just 3 to 5 cells thick, is actually much more delicate than yours, which is at least 10 to 15 cells thick. Your dog’s skin depends on the coat of hair and oils to help keep it in healthy condition.

**Why do dogs have so much hair?**
About 95 percent of a dog’s body is covered by hair. Besides making your dog soft and huggable, this coat of hair helps to protect the skin and keep it healthy. For most dogs, the hair coat grows on a cycle of two changes every year. That’s why most dogs shed in the spring as a new coat grows in, and the same process happens in the fall.

**How can you keep a dog’s skin healthy?**
If you remember that skin is like bricks and mortar, there are some basic steps you can take to help keep it strong and solid. These include proper diet, parasite protection, regular bathing and grooming.

**How often should you wash your dog?**
Opinions vary, although many experts agree, that how often to bathe a dog depends on a variety of factors, such as age, breed, life style, medical conditions, and overall health.

“To keep your dog’s skin in healthy condition, don’t allow any dirt or debris to build up on the skin because these can lead to troubles such as dry skin, itching, infections and other problems,” said Stephanie Arnold, DVM, MPH. “If the coat’s not dirty or smelly, it’s best to bathe no more than once every two weeks.

**Does my dog really need a special shampoo?**
Unfortunately, many pet owners aren’t aware it can be harmful to use their made-for-people shampoo, cream rinse or body lotion on their dog. The pH levels of human skin and canine skin are quite different. Products made to protect more acidic human skin can be troublesome for a dog’s more alkaline skin.

“If a shampoo formulated for human skin is used on a dog, it disrupts the dog’s skin pH. This can create ideal conditions for bacteria, fungi and parasites to get out of control,” Arnold said. “As the shampoo dries out the skin, the dog scratches. They can nick or cut their skin, which can allow microorganisms to enter and start a problematic skin cycle.”

**What’s best for my dog?**
Be sure to bathe your dog with a pH-balanced, moisturizing shampoo made specifically for dogs, such as ALLERGROOM® Shampoo from Virbac Animal Health. If your pet has itchy skin, ask your veterinarian about soothing options, such as EPI-SOOTHE® Shampoo and EPI-SOOTHE® Cream Rinse that are made to help restore a pet’s natural skin oils. An easy-to-use topical therapy, ALLERDERM® Spot-On is also available to help repair and restore a damaged skin barrier.

**Questions lead to better answers.**
For more details about how to keep your pet’s skin healthy, visit www.virbavet.com.
**EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS**

**Surf dog clinics**
**Aug. 14 & 21**
“On-the-Board Training” for dogs (and people) to prepare for the, “Surf Dog Surf A Thon” benefiting Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) start Saturday, Aug. 7 at Dog Beach in Del Mar. More Surf Dog clinics will be held Saturdays Aug. 14 and 21, leading up to the fifth annual “Surf Dog Surf A Thon” on Sept. 12.

During August “En Fuego” at 1342 Camino Del Mar in Del Mar is featuring a “Surfdogarita.” One dollar will be donated to HWAC for each Surfdogarita sold.

On Wednesday, Aug. 11, En Fuego hosts a "Luau Night." Guest bartenders included world champion surfer and board designer Guy Takayama, Bryce Rhodes (Helen Woodward’s grandson), and HWAC President Mike Arms. 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to HWAC.

Register now for the Doggie Surf Clinics on Sunday, Aug. 14 and Saturday, Aug. 21 at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Each one-hour clinic is limited to 25 dogs per session. The cost is $45 per dog, limit of no more than one dog per human.

For more information, visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe, call 858-756-4117 x 556, or log on to www.animalcenter.org.

**The Labrador Harbor 4th annual Kruise-4-K9’s charity motorcycle run is Aug. 28**
The Labrador Harbor fourth annual Kruise-4-K9’s is scheduled for Saturday, August 28! Day of event Registration opens at 8 a.m. at 2725 Vista Way in Oceanside and the ride ends at the Menghini Winery in Julian - 1150 Julian Orchards Drive, Julian. There will be giveaways, a 50/50 raffle, and more! Lunch will be provided to registered riders and The Cinco Tamayo Show will be providing DJ entertainment. Pre-register at www.labradorharbor.org 100% of the proceeds go towards helping California Labs in Need.

**“WAGS to RICHES”**
**Rummage Sale, Aug. 28**
Saturday, Aug. 28, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Helen Woodward Animal Center. Now accepting donations! From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday & Friday, volunteers will take drop-off donations at Club Pet Boarding. All items donated are tax deductible. Receipts will be given. Phone us to come pick up those large, unwanted, impressive items! 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit all programs at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

For more information call 858-756-4117, ext. 350 or log on to www.animalcenter.org.

**Wiener Dog Nationals San Diego Finals, Sept. 6**
Labor Day, Sept. 6, brings one of the season’s most festive crowds to celebrate the last weekend of the racing season when the Del Mar Racetrack hosts the Wiener Dog Nationals San Diego Finals for the first time. This year, racing fans will not only catch thoroughbreds on the track, but wiener dogs, too. The Wiener Dog Nationals San Diego Finals will determine the fastest wiener dog in San Diego. The top dogs will compete in the final competition in December.

**Location:** Del Mar Racetrack, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA 92014. For more information, visit www.delmarscene.com

**PETCO Park adoption**
**Sundays, Sept. 5 & 26**
Sept. 5: Padres vs. Rockies & Sept. 26: Padres vs. Reds Visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at the adoption kiosk located at ‘Park in the Park’ until the sixth inning! Game time starts 1:05 p.m. Bark at the Park and stop by to say ‘Hello!’

For more information Call Trisha St. George at 858-756-4117 x-379

**Bunnyfest is coming!**
**Sunday, Sept. 26**
Keep an eye out for future details; we’re in full Bunnyfest mode and planning is well under way. We’ll add details as they become available, but for now — mark your calendars for Sept 26 at San Dieguito State Park for Bunnyfest 2010.


**FUNdraiser to benefit the cat and kitten rescue of Ocean Beach**
San Diego-born stand-up comedienne Sindi Somers will produce and host an evening of live entertainment and philanthropy! The FUNdraiser, Wild and Tame Comedy Cougars, Kittens and Lions will be Thursday, Sept. 9 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Dream Street Live in Ocean Beach. Sindi welcomes the hilarious headliner, stand-up comedienne Christina Pazsitzky! Christina is a regular on Chelsea Lately on E! Christina can be seen telling jokes at the Round Table on Chelsea Lately and is now one of the writers for the show. She is joined by local comedienne Jivani Linayao, Cate Gary and Sarah Burford.

Along with laughs, attendees will experience the beautiful sounds of the co-ed quartet Balboa 4, featuring Natalie Mann who has a scheduled performance at Carnegie Hall! The lineup continues with a creative dance performance by the talented OB-based Valentina (Unity) of Unity Hoops as seen on Showtime! Funnyman and comedian Jeff Bilodeau helps Sindi as the show’s co-host and head lion. A silent auction with a variety of quality goods and services will be a part of the night’s festivities. Live music will follow at 10 p.m. All profits from Cougars, Kittens and Lions will benefit the Bone Appétit Cat and Kitten Rescue of Ocean Beach.

Advance tickets are $7 and available at Bone Appétit Ocean Beach Pet Supply at 4845 Newport Ave. and Dream Street Live at 2228 Bacon St. both in San Diego and through Sindi Somers by emailing wildandtame@gmail.com or calling 619-384-0761.

Tickets are $8 at the door. NO drink minimum. 21+


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San Dieguito State Park for Bunnyfest 2010.

We’ll add details as they become available, but for now — mark your calendars for Sept 26 at San Dieguito State Park for Bunnyfest 2010.


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**When:** Wiener Dog Nationals San Diego Finals, Monday, Sept. 6, Time TBD
**Location:** Del Mar Racetrack, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA 92014. For more information, visit www.delmarscene.com

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Need a friend? NATCAT has many cats and kittens of all ages, breeds and personalities, just waiting for warm homes – and hearts.

Adopt today and receive a free gift! Bring this ad with you for 20% off your adoption fee.

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MARKETPLACE
san diego pets magazine presents its premier photo contest

Submit a photo of your pet dressed in its best Halloween costume for a chance to win an array of prizes and possibly be on the front cover of the October issue.

E-mail entrees to contest@sdnews.com

Please label the subject “photo contest” and include your full name, your pet’s name and a phone number to contact you.

Entrees may also be mailed to:
San Diego Pets Magazine
4645 Cass Street; 2nd Floor
San Diego, CA 92109

If you would like your photo to be returned, you must include a self addressed stamped envelope.

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EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Summer photo contest will determine Balboa park’s top dog

A longtime haven for dog lovers, San Diego’s Balboa Park is celebrating the two-year anniversary of its popular blog, written by Cosmos the Dog, with a photo contest to determine the top dog in Balboa Park. After judges have selected five finalists, visitors to Balboapark.org can vote on their choice for top dog, with the grand prize winner receiving an exclusive overnight Su’ruff Camp package from Loews Coronado Bay Resort.

The Top Dog Photo Contest is designed to give park visitors an opportunity to demonstrate just how photogenic their pooch is when photographed in one of the most picturesque settings in San Diego. Photos of a single dog taken somewhere in Balboa Park can be submitted via e-mail to balboaparktopdog@gmail.com beginning Aug. 2 until noon on Aug. 20 (one entry per family). A committee of judges from Balboa Park will choose five finalists to be posted on Balboapark.org, where visitors to the website can vote for their favorite from Aug. 24 through Sept. 1.

The top vote-getter’s family will be awarded Loews Coronado Bay Resort’s Su’ruff Camp package, which includes a one-night stay in deluxe accommodations at Loews Coronado Bay Resort, surfing lessons for one dog, and a variety of other doggie amenities and treats, as well as a family four-pack of Balboa Park Passports, good for two adults and two children. One first runner up will receive a $50 gift certificate to Fetch Pet Care, and one second runner up will receive a $25 gift certificate to Terra Restaurant in Hillcrest. Participants can visit Cosmos’ Blog at www.balboapark.org/blog/ for a complete listing of contest prizes and rules.

For more information on Balboa Park, visit www.balboapark.org.
Emergency hospitals

BONITA/CHULA VISTA
South Co. Emergency Animal Clinic (619) 427-2881
3438 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 M-F 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sat. Sun. Open 24 Hours
Pet Emergency & Specialty Center of South County (619) 591-4802
885 Canarios Court, #108, Chula Vista, CA 91910 M-F 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sat. Sun.
3:30 pm-8am  www.PESCSanDiego.com

CARLSBAD
California Veterinary Specialists (760) 431-2272
2310 Faraday Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008, 7 days 24 hrs.
www.CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com

ENCINITAS
VCA North Coast Veterinary & Emergency (760) 632-1072
414 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas, CA 92024, 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.VCANorthCoast.com

ESCONDIDO
Animal Urgent Care of Escondido (760) 738-9600
2430 A S. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025, 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.AUC.US.com

KEARNY MESA/CLAIREMONT
Animal ER of San Diego (858) 569-0600
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www.PESCSanDiego.com

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www.VCAEmergency.com

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www.CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com

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www.AnimalEmergencySD.com

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