san diego pets
A Lifestyle Magazine for Pet Lovers
SEPT / OCT 2008
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Photo by Nicole Sours Larson

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Meet Your Canine Companion at our Dog-Focused Adoption Event!

Saturday, October 11, 2008
9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Join dog lovers from around San Diego County as the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA holds a dog-focused adoption event to find homes for 75 cuddly canine companions. Special adoption packages will be available at the event and don’t forget to check out the Canine Carnival, which will include dog-related booths, complimentary snacks and more!

Learn more at www.sdhumane.org!
Cats Rule in The Cats’ House

BY NICOLE SOURS LARSON | SAN DIEGO PETS

Ten-month-old Lily, a muted tortoiseshell, scampers up the shocking pink spiral staircase in pursuit of Dave, a year-and-a-half-old black-and-white cat with a black spot on his back that morphs into an image of Elvis Presley’s pompadour. Dave flees from Lily along the overhead catwalk, racing through a cat-face cut-out, and then skitters through a flame-shaped opening onto the star-strewn “River Styx” cat path above the hallway.

He zigs and zags along the path’s red neon-lit diagonals and dashes through an Aztec pyramid-shaped opening that pierces the wall into the bedroom. Here Dave makes a sharp turn and dives through a vivid green skull-and-crossbones hole (with the skull formed like a mouse’s head) to take refuge in the “Cats-Only Clubhouse,” a feline hidey-hole whose entrance is illuminated with an eerie black light. The message is clear: no humans allowed!

Welcome to the wonderfully whimsical and wacky world of The Cats’ House, a felineline paradise and playground that’s the ever-changing creation of Bob Walker and Frances Mooney, two artists who share their home and inspiration with their current nine cats.

Both grew up in San Diego with cats. Walker reports that his wife surrounded herself with kittens as a child and would tell her parents the kittens had followed her home.

They met while stuffing envelopes for a political campaign in 1970, and married three years later. They celebrated their wedding day by adopting their first cat, Beauregard, who spent their wedding night with them. Beauregard, they discovered, was a mischievous “holy terror” in dire need of a feline companion, whom they soon provided.

“We try to tell people to get two (cats) at once for companionship. Even though you try as you might to be their best friend, you just are not as good at washing behind the ears and chasing each other around,” Walker explains with the ageless enthusiasm that he and his wife share.

They began transforming their Bay Park residence, Mooney’s childhood home, about in 1986, when they owned a fine arts gallery and frame shop in Hillcrest and found themselves leaving their feline children home alone.

“The thesis for the house,” Walker explains, “is that we all go off to work and leave the cats. It’s the cats’ house – it’s really their house – and you ought to make it theirs. Cats love to look down on us. It’s just taking advantage of their natural space.”

Never imagining how their project would eventually take over their house and their lives, they began by building a scratching-post room divider for their cats, wrapping 400 feet of pink-dyed sisal rope around a post their cats could climb.

“We were just going to do one divider post, but it was a dead-end for them. They needed somewhere to escape,” Mooney says.

They soon added an overhead walkway, or cat path, so that their indoor-only felines would have places to run, chase each other and entertain themselves. They now have about 140 feet of cat path running throughout their house, tunneling through the walls, with each wall cutout featuring an imaginative design, intricately carved. Their orange cat-face cutout, complete with individual whiskers, is modeled from the face of Eddie, their orange cat, who loves to run along the catwalks. To provide access to the overhead paths, they built the shocking pink spiral staircase, set against yellow walls, through their living room.

Walker, an award-winning photographer, designer and author of seven books about their cats and the Cats’ House, as well as a museum-quality fine arts framer, is chief architect and builder for their remodeling efforts. Mooney, an artist who favors a vibrant, multi-hued color palette, is chief painter, interior decorator and “curator.” She regularly trolls eBay and local shops for just the right feline-themed furnishings and accessories to adorn the rooms.

In one corner of their dining room stands a human-size hot pink and purple paper-mâché “Cat Mail Box,” complete with an orange mouse imprisoned in its jagged-tooth maw, which Walker and Mooney created for an art gallery auction and later reacquired from its purchaser. Throughout the house – except for the “cat-free zone” of Walker’s office and design studio -- cats loll on feline-themed cushions, benches, upholstered furniture and special perches.

The beneficiaries of this feline fantasy-land are all rescue kitties, most adopted
from their favorite no-kill shelter, the National Cat Protection Society, nicknamed “NatCat,” with which the couple has been associated for about 20 years.

Just after their first book, “The Cats’ House,” came out, they organized a house tour, which attracted 900 visitors, to benefit NatCat. Walker and Mooney have designed fanciful feline playgrounds for NatCat’s feline retirement centers in Spring Valley and Newport Beach. Their most recent project, at the Spring Valley retirement center, called “The Paradise Project,” incorporates elevated catwalks as well as cat-scale rowboats and palm trees in the design.

NatCat also provided the couple’s most recent addition to the family: Lily, who joined their brood as a 7-month-old recent addition to the family.

All of their cats they have actively sought to adopt, Mooney says.

“Don’t worry about what people think. Just do it for yourself,” he says.

For more information about The Cats’ House, visit their website, www.thecats-house.com. “The Cats’ House,” which also contains tips on constructing your own playground for your feline friends, will soon be reissued in paperback by Andrew McNeel Publishing.

National Cat Protection Society provides second chance for orphaned felines

BY NICOLE SOURS LARSON

During World War II, while he was serving in a bleak fox hole during a frigid winter, the late C. Richard Calore was befriended and warmed by a courageous cat who inspired him to devote his life to teaching others about the humane treatment of animals.

In memory of that cat and others, in 1968 he founded the nonprofit National Cat Protection Society, or NatCat. Now overseen by his widow Gerri and a professional and volunteer staff, NatCat operates two centers, in Spring Valley in San Diego County and Newport Beach in Orange County, housing no-kill shelters and adoption facilities for owner-relinquished cats and kittens. The Spring Valley shelter hosts about 40-50 adult cats available for adoption and, depending upon the season, 20-25 kittens.

The organization also offers cat retirement facilities at both locations. At these centers, cats may “retire” after their humans pass on or are no longer able to care for them. With a one-time fee, owners can rearrange lifetime care and comfort for their beloved companions.

Both retirement centers feature the whimsical artistry of Bob Walker and Frances Mooney, owners of The Cats’ House in San Diego. For the Newport Beach cat retirement home, Walker and Mooney designed an imaginative ocean and wave-inspired playground. Recently, for the Spring Valley retirement center they created a paradise-themed feline fantasyland, which is currently under construction.

“The Paradise Project takes (the existing) retirement center and makes it into a Disneyland playground for cats. It will make it a more pleasant setting for them, more environmentally friendly with a picturesque look,” explains Richard Tanzer, NatCat’s vice president of legal/finance.

The new center will house 50 to 75 “retired” cats, who receive regular veterinary care and visits from staff and volunteers who groom, cuddle and play with them.

NatCat depends on contributions from supporters to maintain its sheltering and adoption facilities, and is currently raising additional operational and construction funding for its ongoing programs.

Both centers are open for visits and adoption Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4:30 p.m. NatCat is located at 9031 Birch St., Spring Valley, and at 6904 W. Coast Hwy, Newport Beach. For more information about its adoption and cat retirement programs or to make a donation, visit their website www.natcat.org, or call 619-469-8771 in Spring Valley and 949-450-1232 in Newport Beach.
What’s so funny? Sunny, the comedy dog!

The third generation of America’s first family of comedy has a barking good time entertaining his audiences and they can’t get enough of this four-legged phenom!

Sunny Skye Shore is an AKC show dog who does sketch comedy on the stage of The Comedy Store.

He’s a rare white Rough Collie whose AKC name is Bellagio Platinum Playboy, but he also answers to his everyday name of Sunny Skye Shore. You can find him on stage at La Jolla’s Comedy Store, where he earned his chops at the comedy showcases of his “mom” Sandi Cee Shore, who is a legend in her field as America’s premier teacher of stand-up and sketch comedy, author and entrepreneur.

Sunny’s “brother” is famed funny guy Pauly Shore and his “grandparents” are Sammy Shore (who opened for Elvis in Vegas) and Mitzi Shore (owner of the Comedy Store), so he is carrying on the family tradition in a big way.

Says Sandi Shore: “At only nine weeks old, Sunny began attending the weekly stand-up comedy workshop I teach at the La Jolla Comedy Store. In the beginning, his favorite thing to do was to follow my students on stage and look out at the ‘audience’. As he grew older, I felt that he wanted to become more of a part of the group, so I put him in my comedy sketch class. I’ve never seen a dog in a sketch comedy troupe, so I didn’t know how it would work out. So we did this piece on ‘dog therapy,’ a student was Sunny’s voice, the audience screamed and a dog star was born.

“So now we work Sunny into scenes fit for a dog. On stage he shines, is happy up there and looks to my students for direction. He found his ‘home away from home.’”

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THE BEST FOR YOUR PET www.healthypetpantry.net
Pets become depressed when the new school year rolls around and the kids are not home.

New interactive pet website, MyPetCareTV.com, offers tips, advice and access to top veterinarians.

More than 71 million American households have at least one pet. Many consider the pet or pets integral members of the family. Like family members, every pet presents unique challenges, surprises and endearing, disgusting or harmful behaviors.

For example: Dogs and cats are creatures of habit; they love routines and they love their owners. During the lazy dog days of summer, it is not unusual for a pet to become overly attached to children through hours spent romping, playing ball, going for walks and generally just hanging out with each other. When the routine is broken at the start of the school year, separation anxiety often ensues. Separation anxiety can occur when any caregiver, child or adult, is absent more than the pet is accustomed to.

Dr. Bernadine Cruz, DVM, one of the resident veterinarian advisors on MyPetCareTV.com, says that signs of separation anxiety for a dog can range from refusal to eat to excessive barking, chewing of clothing, shoes, toys or furnishings. Severe cases of separation anxiety are best likened to panic attacks. These unfortunate dogs will experience vomiting and diarrhea, often coupled with constant pacing and whining. Dogs have been known to destroy baseboards, chew through doors and break windows in their attempts to reunite with their owners.

“However,” assures Dr. Cruz, “concerns over potential separation anxiety should not deter children and caregivers from forming strong attachments with their pets.” A companion animal medicine expert at Laguna
For information call (619) 225-8705.
For information about renting a booth at the street fair call (619) 225-8705.
or e-mail: oceanbeachkiwanis@gmail.com

NOTE: All dogs must be leashed at all times (fixed 6-foot leash, no Flexi-Leashes). This carnival is for dogs only; please don’t bring cats, birds, etc. We reserve the right to exclude any dog which causes problems (aggressive, in heat, etc.).

Hills Hospital in Southern California, and author of “The Secret Sex Life of Dogs and Cats,” Dr. Cruz suggests these simple steps to decrease the incidence of this behavior in dogs:

1. Start with goodbye. Don’t make a big deal out of coming or going. Don’t fuss over the dog. Give it a specially designed toy stuffed with bits of kibble, bits of rice cakes or peanut butter. Your dog will be so intent in getting all the goodies out of the toy, it will be some time before your absence is even noticed. When you return home, don’t smother your dog with attention. Go about your routine for several minutes before giving your pet lots of attention.

2. Vary your routine. Collect all of your school books or your jacket and car keys and then put them down. Your dog will initially think that you are going to leave, only to find that you are staying home.

3. Become a drill sergeant. Reinforce basic behaviors such as come, sit and stay. Make your dog work for attention or food. Make it sit and stay before it gets anything. This helps the pet to realize that it works for you.

4. Safety in surroundings. A dog’s ancestors were den-dwelling animals. A crate is not a cruel and unusual punishment; in fact, dogs can feel very secure in a crate but should not be confined in one for more than 4 to 5 hours. If you need to be gone for longer than 5 hours, have a neighbor or pet sitter come and let the pet out to stretch its legs. You can also make one room in your home a safe haven, with a comfy bed, food and water. Care needs to be exercised to ensure that your dog can not injure itself or damage the room.

5. Keep them active. Lots of exercise will keep your pet healthy and tired. It is harder for a pooped pup to get into trouble. More great tips like these (and for more types of pets) can be found at MyPetCareTV.com, an interactive website that brings pet-owners and veterinarians together in an all-in-one free online resource. With features from social networking to health advice from peers and professionals, MyPetCareTV.com is Facebook for pets, inviting owners to be a friend to their pet and find community for themselves.

Unlike other pet community sites, MyPetCareTV.com provides full access to valuable educational resources on pet health and wellness, including veterinarian blogs and a virtual on-demand library of pet-care videos developed and hosted by veterinarians such as Dr. Jeff Werber, national pet-care spokesperson, head of the Century Veterinarian Group in Los Angeles, and vet to “Lassie.” Pet owners who register at MyPetCareTV.com and create a member profile can also participate in a variety of groups and forums as well as post their own pet videos and photos.

3rd Annual
OCEAN BEACH CANINE CARNIVAL

A special “HOWL-O-WEEN” party for OBceans and their best friends
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Sunday October 26, 2008 • 10am to 4pm
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**Political Pet Bandanas**

*In a Doggone Close Race, Even Pets are Showing Their True Colors*

Even pets are getting into the Presidential election fray, with new political pet bandanas from FunStuffForDogs.com. The bandanas are made in USA, naturally, and come in red or blue. Great quality includes full lining, ribbon trim, snap closure and a charm that says "United We Stand." "It’s a great way to start a discussion with others as you walk your dog, play at the park, run errands or take your morning power walk," says Lisa Woody, President of FunStuffForDogs.com. "Perhaps campaign strategists should consider courting the pet vote."

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

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Anthropomorphism

anthropomorphism ən-thrə-pə-mər-fĭz’əm) n.
The attribution of human motivation, characteristics, or behavior to nonhuman organisms.

By Michael Landa

We’re all Guilty, but Most of us Don’t Even Know What it is.

American pets are getting naughtier by the minute. As the demand for dog behaviorists and for prescription medication to combat “Doggie ADD” and anxiety continues to escalate, we have to wonder who’s to blame for this hazardous trend. To answer the question, we have to first understand the phenomenon behind treating pets as humans.

As the number of kids per household declines, the number of pets is increasing. Baby boomers, a powerful segment of today’s market, are quickly becoming empty-nesters and replacing their grown two-legged children with four-legged ones. Look no further than the proliferation of the term “pet parent” versus “pet owner.” In fact, a full 83 percent of pet owners now call themselves their pet’s mommy or daddy.

One possible incubator of anthropomorphism leads directly to the burgeoning pet retail industry and the marketers who want your every pet dollar. Now a $43.4 billion annual jackpot for companies – larger than the entire U.S. toy industry – pet care spending has reached unprecedented levels of growth and staying power despite a recent turbulent economy.

“By buying pets human-type gifts, we are making ourselves feel good and making them happy,” says Bob Vetere, chief operating officer of the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association. According to marketing strategist Lisa Lehr, this trend suggests a hugely profitable strategy for entrepreneurs in the pet business to position pets as members of the family. “People are eager to spend a lot of money on their pets. You might as well be positioned to receive your share,” states Lehr. The unfortunate consequence is a misguided view of canine psychology that’s given rise to undesirable dog behavior in thousands, if not millions, of homes across the country.

Expecting dogs to think like humans is fairly widespread among pet owners. One reason that ancient Fido likely earned the title “Man’s Best Friend” versus other animals was his remarkable ability to adapt his life to fit with ours. It is this very skill set that is likely the cause for our frequent misreading of his intentions and motives.

Dogs ultimately need rules, limitations and conditions. When dogs live with humans, the humans become the dog’s pack. For this modern relationship to succeed, we must be perceived as the pack’s leader. To a dog, constant affection, gifts and accommodations without rules, boundaries and limitations goes against every grain in a dog’s instinct. In other words, dogs need to be treated like…well, dogs. And, pardon me, for such a politically unpopular statement!

All but the most chronic anthropomorphic dog owners can improve their relationship with their dog, and ultimately their behavior, if they make a valid effort to understand their dog’s unique emotional makeup. Whereas throwing your dog a birthday party (hey, I’ve done it!) or filling a holiday stocking with treats is not a heinous dog-behavioral crime, people should be wary when their own actions impinge on providing proper timing and fair corrections for their dog.

When a dog is in any other state than being calm and submissive (e.g., if he’s aggressive, obsessive, scared, hyper or anxious) and we give him a hug or pat on the head and tell him it’s OK, it is comforting to us but it only feeds the state of mind for the dog, making the experience more intense. While we think we’re soothing the dog, the dog sees us as being a weak leader.

Let’s look at an example. Many dogs are naturally afraid of fireworks or thunder. During the experience, the dog is in a weak state of mind. If we step in and comfort the dog in a way we understand (e.g., hugging or baby talk), the dog actually sees us as being weaker than himself at that moment. For your dog to be in a weak state of mind, and then be surrounded by a weaker state of mind, only intensifies his original fear.

Anthropomorphic “parents” often discover that their dog has separation anxiety (sometimes manifested by destructive behavior). In a pack, the leader is allowed to leave, but the followers never leave the leader. If your dog instinctually sees you as the follower and you leave him, the situation causes so much mental anguish that he begins to take it out on your house, or worse, on himself. Owners may want to think twice before buying that $3,000 four-poster canopy doggie bed and catering to their dog’s every humanistic desire.

Whether it’s the pet marketers to blame or the glut of Hollywood films now portraying pets as humans (have you seen Disney’s “Beverly Hills Chihuahua”?), giving dogs mixed leadership signals throws him off balance, confuses his psyche and ignites a canine imbalance. Whenever we try to evaluate canine behavior using human values, we run the risk of misinterpreting our dog’s emotions and motives while making minor behavioral issues become chronic.

So the next time you want to join the 63 percent of dog owners who engage in a little kissy kissy with Fido on the bed, let the conventional disciplinarian in you take over and remind yourself that it’s not only OK to treat your dog like a dog, but it’s the BEST way to live in complete harmony with him.

Michael Landa is the founder and CEO of The Pet Staff (www.ThePetStaff.com), Southern California’s largest and most experienced professional pet sitting, dog walking and dog training company. His staff of 170 pet experts caters to a demanding client base of more than 5,700 Angeleno anthropomorphists. Landa lives in Hollywood with his “baby,” Max, an 18-month old Labrador retriever.

Mutt Mile Comes to La Jolla October 4

Coastwise Mile is pleased to announce that PETCO is the presenting sponsor of the Coastwise Mutt Mile. In addition to a 1-mile foot race and Corporate Relay competition, the Mutt Mile brings a unique and fun element to the upcoming event on Oct. 4 2008. The participants (the dogs, not the humans) of the Mutt Mile will automatically qualify to be in a canine costume contest. The top three canine winners of the contest will receive awards and prizes from PETCO.

In the spirit of encouraging fitness, community and fun, the Coastwise Mile event offers numerous divisions for athletes of all abilities, including youth, masters (40+), baby jogger, walking and the Mutt Mile for people to run/walk with their canine companion. The family-fun event festival is based in Ellen Browning Scripps Park, one of the jewels of the Pacific, with sweeping views of La Jolla Cove. For more information and event registration, please visit www.coastwisemile.com.

Canine Capers Dog Show

The San Marcos Lions Club will present its 2nd annual Canine Capers Dog Show Sunday, Oct. 12 at Walnut Grove Park- 1450 Sycamore Dr., San Marcos, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Last year’s event was a great success, in spite of the drizzle, with 65 dogs of all breeds and sizes competing, from pedigrees to loveable mutts. All enjoyed strutting their stuff across the stage!

There will be seven categories, including: Most Beautiful; Dog with Unusual Markings; Dog with Best Trick; Adult with Cutest Dog; Child (under 12) with Cutest Dog; Dog in Best Costume and Most Look alike Dog to Owner.

Trophies and ribbons will be presented at the decision of the judges, who are local dignitaries.

The fee to enter each category is $5 and yes, dogs can enter as many categories as they wish.

There will be a variety of vendor-booths selling everything from organic dog food and pet apparel to portraits on glass.

This is family fun at its best! Even if you don’t have a pet… come, sit down and watch the hilarious show.

For further questions contact Lion Elsa Singh, (760) 746-7897; Lion Dennis Henderson, (760) 471-3800; or Lion Vivian Lopez, (760) 744-5203.

Golf for the Animals 2008

Sunday, Oct. 19, Salt Creek Golf Club
525 Hunte Parkway, Chula Vista
10:30 a.m. Check-In, 2 p.m. Foursome Shotgun Start / Scramble
Comes with barbecue lunch, green fees, cart, and free range balls.
$85 per person or $340 for a foursome.

Guardian Angels Animal Haven Inc. Rescue and Sanctuary, nonprofit organization located in San Diego operates as a loving rehabilitation site providing physical therapy, critically needed emergency and long-term medical care to animals in need. Animals there thrive in comfort knowing that staff lives on-site.

When animals are adopted at Guardian Angels, you are sure to know that your new best friend is spayed/neutered, up to date on all vaccinations and can be microchipped.

Guardian Angels Animal Haven is looking for animal lovers like you who will give your time and efforts to change lives for the better. Visit www.guardiananimals.com for more information. Get your giving groove on today, call 619-300-9059.

A Celebration for the Animals Celebrate 70 Years of Service

For Paws Fiesta, it’s the official 70th birthday party for the North County Humane Society & SPCA (NCHS) and of course, it is a fiesta for the animals. On Sunday, Oct. 26, 11a.m. – 4p.m., join NCHS for a special street fair at the NCHS Dog Park. This free event will include raffle prizes, live music, a dog/owner look a like contest, delicious food and unique gifts. Enjoy the party with your four-legged pals as you watch special dog performances and enjoy the band.

Anyone interested in having a booth at the event is encouraged to call the NCHS Development Department, 760-757-4357, ext. 1230, or visit the NCHS website at www.nchuman.org.

‘Antiques Roadshow’ Uncovers Hidden Treasures

Curious about the value of that inherited painting? Wonder if Aunt Edna’s mermaid lamp has any redeeming value? Find out if you have a hidden treasure – while helping San Diego’s lost and abandoned cats and dogs – at Friends of County Animal Shelters’ (FOCAS) “Hidden Treasures” event.

Held Saturday, Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint James by-the-Sea in La Jolla, Hidden Treasures is an “Antiques Roadshow”-style event featuring appraisers from the esteemed Bonhams & Butterfields auction house who will evaluate and appraise attendees’ collectibles. All proceeds benefit FOCAS.

Admission to Hidden Treasures is $15 for appraisal of one item, $25 for two and $30 for three items. All are welcome. Attendees with large or heavy items are asked to bring a photograph instead of the item itself.

Event sponsors include Bonhams & Butterfields, which is donating its appraisal services, Northern Trust Bank, and Susan and Peter Mallory.

Additional event information can be found at About Friends of County Animal Shelters at www.focas-sandiego.org.
‘Angel’ Survives

A tiny puppy whose pregnant mother survived a broken pelvis, malnutrition and the loss of the other two puppies in the litter will become at the Helen Woodward Animal Center. Adoption officials have named the puppy “Angel” in hopes that she will soar above the turbulence that has shaken her life since before she was born.

“This little Angel is an amazingly happy puppy, particularly after what she’s had to endure through no fault of her own,” says HWAC spokesman John Van Zante. ‘A rescue group called Help Animals’ Lives Today’ (HALT) tells us that an adult, female, yellow Labrador retriever was found lying beside a busy highway. The dog, later named Goldielocks, had a broken pelvis and she was extremely malnourished.”

In order to help promote the healing process, HALT volunteers picked the dog up and carried her outdoors several times per day to allow her to soak up some Kingman, AZ sunshine, breathe fresh air and “do her business.” A HALT supporter came forward to pay for Goldielocks and the other adult dogs being cared for by HALT to receive their annual Parvo / distemper booster shots. That was when it was discovered that Goldielocks had babies on the way.

“Two days later she went into labor. When the first two puppies were stillborn, Goldielocks was rushed to a veterinary clinic where a doctor performed an emergency Caesarean-section, saving the lives of both the third little puppy and her mother. These are special dogs. It took two miracles for them to survive.”

“Angel needs a family that will be patient, will begin training right away, and is willing to make a lifetime commitment to this young life that very nearly did not happen.”

If your family is considering puppy adoption, visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe, call 858-756-4117 for more information.

Dog Daycare Facility Opens

There’s a new stomping ground for San Diego area dogs to hang out and have fun while their owners are at work, and it’s already got a long line of tails wagging for a chance to gain entry into the ultimate dog daycare destination.

The new Dogtopia, an upscale dog daycare, spa and boarding facility, will offer personalized care and individual treatment for San Marcos dogs in a fun, safe and comfortable atmosphere that provides a home-away-from home for up to 50 romping canines while their “parents” are away.

Dogtopia opened its doors in August at 925 W. San Marcos Blvd. Dogtopia’s design features bright yellow, green and blue colors with the atmosphere of a chic, upscale spa. Laid out with a children’s daycare facility in mind, Dogtopia has two playrooms to suit every personality and size.

In addition to daycare and boarding, Dogtopia also offers a spa, self-service dog wash and boutique to San Marcos’ pampered pooches. Local canines can even enjoy a Dogtopia special – The Happy Pup™ daycare in the morning followed by...
a relaxing spa treatment with pawdicure in the afternoon.

Locally owned and operated by San Marcos entrepreneur Diane Wheeler, the new Dogtopia is one of ten locations throughout the nation that are filling a unique niche in the pet-care services segment.

The typical location cares for between 50 to 80 dogs per day with a ratio of one caregiver per 10-15 dogs. The San Marcos location is 4,500 square feet and has a 2,000-square-foot outdoor area, partially covered in a luxury synthetic turf, where the dogs can engage in activities.

For additional information, visit www.dogdaycare.com.

‘Benji’ Joins Helen Woodward Board

One of the most recognized actors in the world may not be allowed on the meeting room furniture, now that Benji and her owner Joe Camp have joined the board of directors of Helen Woodward Animal Center.

The current Benji is the fourth dog that Camp, his wife Kathleen, and their three children adopted from animal shelters and turned into internationally acclaimed movie stars. This Benji was rescued from the Humane Society of South Mississippi.

Benji and Camp join Academy Award-winning actress Diane Keaton and other animal lovers on the HWAS board. Along with President Mike Arms and existing board members, they will continue to carry on the wishes of the founder by making Helen Woodward Animal Center a place where “people help animals and animals help people.”

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

Point Loma Youth Dedicated Summer to Helping Animals

Instead of sitting back during the lazy days of summer vacation, Correia Middle School seventh-grader Alyssa Erikson chose to help animals by volunteering her time at Bone Appetit Ocean Beach Pet Supply, 4845 Newport Ave.

Store owner Patri Erikson said she was bowled over by the amount of dedication Erikson brought to her volunteer duties. Some of her duties included cleaning cages and food and water dishes, feeding the kittens and cats, pricing products, sweeping the store and giving treats to customers dogs.

The seventh grader said what she enjoyed most was getting to interact with different types of people and getting to play with different types of kittens.
Ocean Beach Feline Campaigns for Votes

Katu is one of five finalists in the “Hills 2008 Share Your Tender Tails Cat Contest” whose photograph and essay are posted on the website of Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc.

Owner and campaign manager Suzy Hagstrom is part of Ocean Beach, a community of pet lovers and animal-rights activists. Katu is a former resident of the San Diego Humane Society after being abandoned.

Hagstrom has been an active volunteer for the San Diego Registrar of Voters and has always been assigned to work in the Ocean Beach precinct. Now Hagstrom and Katu face an election of a different kind.

To vote, visit www.hillspet.com/tender.

New Blog Gives Dog’s-Eye View of Largest Urban Park in North America

Dog lovers planning to visit North America’s largest urban cultural and recreational complex, Balboa Park, can get a “Dog’s-Eye View” of the park’s many amenities thanks to a new blog that launched last month.

Linked from the park’s home page at www.balboapark.org, Cosmos’ Doggie Blog sniffs out all the canine-friendly activities offered throughout the park, which dogs and their owners, and even visitors without pets, can enjoy both seasonally and year-round.

Cosmos’ owner, a Balboa Park gardener, has brought the 9-year-old mixed-breed female to work every day for the past year, giving Cosmos a unique perspective on the park’s many facilities and activities, especially those that get overshadowed by major events and attractions.

The blog is the brainchild of the Balboa park marketing team, and is intended to not only draw attention to the Park’s broad range of recreational and cultural offerings but also to reveal a bit of history and little-known facts about the park, making the blog posts educational as well as entertaining and informative. The posts also slip in tips for pet owners regarding proper etiquette and conduct when bringing their dogs to the municipal park setting.

Have a Spooktacular Halloween!

“Ella” “Olaf”

DON’T BE SCARED TO BUY OR SELL
Dogs need homes too!
Call us to help you buy or sell your next condo, house, or units!
PLEASE CALL US!

Darlene Allen
858-539-4412
www.darleneallen.com

Marianne Kendall
619-708-3523
www.mariannekendall.com

SCOOPS

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www.darleneallen.com

Marianne Kendall
619-708-3523
www.mariannekendall.com
OK. Now I have heard everything, Alzheimer’s disease in dogs. Are you for real?

Well, believe it or not, there is a condition in dogs called Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS), which is very similar to Alzheimer’s disease in people. This condition affects the brain of elderly dogs, causing confusion, forgetfulness about many lifelong habits (i.e., eating, favorite people or house-training habits) and normal boundaries. While older dogs may move a bit more slowly and get a little gray around the muzzle, they should not experience a complete change in behavior. A dog that suddenly seems confused, distant or lost may be showing signs of cognitive dysfunction.

CDS is a degeneration of the brain and the nervous system in dogs roughly comparable to Alzheimer’s disease in people. It is caused by physical changes in the brain and brain chemicals. An ongoing study at the University of California-Berkeley has shown that 62 percent of dogs between 11 and 16 years of age demonstrate one or more signs of CDS, and the percentage goes up as dogs get older. And CDS does not discriminate between breed and age of dog.

So how do you know if your pet has CDS? Some of the most common signs of CDS are withdrawing from interaction with the family, aimless wandering, disorientation, sleeping more during the day and less during the night, house soiling, pacing, getting “stuck” in familiar places, not responding to name, and not recognizing family members or other familiar people. If your pet displays any of these symptoms, see your veterinarian. These may not be signs of normal aging.

If your veterinarian suspects CDS, he or she will take a thorough behavioral and medical history of your dog. Then a complete physical and neurological exam will be performed. Blood and urine tests may be done to help rule out other conditions such as kidney and thyroid problems, arthritis and hearing and vision loss. Unfortunately there is no one specific test to diagnose CDS.

Once a diagnosis of CDS is made, your veterinarian will discuss treatment options. Unfortunately, there is no cure for CDS. However, there is hope. Currently, the Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of a drug called Anipryl to help slow the process and alleviate the symptoms of CDS. The drug works by increasing the amount of dopamine (a brain chemical) in the dog’s brain. Though the drug does not work in all dogs, the drug can help many dogs with CDS enjoy a higher quality of life.

Currently, CDS is not known to affect cats.

So the next time your older collie wanders aimlessly through the neighborhood or your cocker spaniel gets stuck in corners or behind furniture, they may be showing signs of CDS. Remember, getting older does not have to come with a poor quality of life. Help your pet enjoy his or her senior years.

— Dr. David Robbins is a small-animal veterinarian at VCA West Bernardo Animal Hospital. In addition to practicing veterinary medicine, Dr. Robbins lectures to veterinarians on the topic of pain management. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and spending time with his family. For more information, call (858) 485-7570.
Rancho Santa Fe, CA – Raise your paw and tell the world which is better…cats or dogs. “Pet Paw-litics,” an online campaign and election created by Helen Woodward Animal Center, is giving voters a chance to speak their minds. No more pussy-footing. Sit up and announce which you pre-furr!

“Some people are ‘Dog People’ and others definitely prefer cats,” says HWAC speaker and purritical analyst John Van Zante. “Pet Paw-litics is giving them a chance to put their money where the hungry mouths are!”

Campaign promises from spokes-dog “Preem” and spokes-cat “Tigger” can be seen online at www.petpawlitics.com. The site also features an ongoing debate and, “the Straight Scoop from the Litter Box.” Anyone anywhere in the world can cast as many votes as they want for one U.S. dollar per vote. All proceeds help to fund the programs and services that HWAC provides for animals and people in need.

PetPawlitics.com will feature a free question of the week, ranging from “Have you ever dried your hands on your pet?” to “Do you think pets go to Heaven?” Voters can also give their opinions about Dogs versus Cats in a PetPawlitics “Furr-um.” “The fur could fly,” says Van Zante. “It could be a real cat-and-dog fight between now and the conclusion of PetPawlitics on December 31.”

Voters can log on daily to monitor voting. “Cat states” will be shown in red and the “Dog states” will be orange. “This could change several times during the day,” says Van Zante. “We’ve already seen some pretty serious challenges between the cat fanatics and the dog devotees. And in the end, both dogs and cats benefit from the money raised."

For more information about PetPawlitics and to monitor the voting state-by-state, log on to www.petpawlitics.com, visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe, CA, or call 858-756-4117.

(If you call this number, just be aware that your call could possibly be…but in all likelihood won’t be…monitored by some very secretive people under-covers, sitting in a small office, wearing suits and very, very dark glasses.)
Even physicists agree that everything is energy. We are energy, our pets are energy and so are our words, thoughts and emotions. Telepathy is a form of nonverbal communication. It is a transference of energy. We are energy, our pets are energy in the form of information and emotions. Telepathy is a form of nonverbal communication, whether we are consciously aware of it or not. In our interactions with others, we give and receive our thoughts, beliefs and expectations. It can be confusing to people and pets when we say or do one thing but actually think, believe or expect another. When the energy behind the words doesn’t match what is verbalized, it creates a conflict in what is communicated. Conflicting messages not only create confusion, but can also lead to frustration, depression and anger, as well as unwanted and troubling behaviors. Animals are clear readers of energy and skilled telepathic communicators. Our pets tune into us more than we realize. They not only communicate to us but they are also aware of what we are communicating to them.

Our pets are also aware of our emotions and can experience what we are feeling. Our fear, grief, anxiety, anger and stresses can and do affect our pets. A pet’s stress level is often a reflection of the stress level of their caregiver(s). A pet may have experienced fearful and even abusive experiences in its past. Residual anxiety from these memories can be further stimulated and intensified by the fears and stresses present in the pet’s new home.

Caring pet parents often worry if their pet is OK, healthy and happy. Although it is important to be aware of changes in our pet’s behavior and address potential medical issues promptly, our concern can sometimes do more harm than good. Often we move our worry energy and concerned thoughts outward and into our pet. This sharing of energies simply adds to the stress and discomfort of the pet.

In addition to us wanting our pets to be OK, our pets want us to be OK too! As we project our concern onto them, they are busy taking on our problems in hopes of making us happier and less tense. We are trying to ensure their well being while they are trying to ensure ours!

By addressing our personal issues, resolving our own problems, acknowledging our true feelings and emotions, we don’t have to look for outside distractions to help us avoid ourselves. In turn, our pets don’t have to come to our rescue quite as often.

The more we take care of ourselves, the more at peace everything in our life becomes. The calmer and more contented we are, the more relaxed and secure our pets can be.
SEPTEMBER 2008

September 20th
PUPPY FUN CLASS 1:30-3 p.m., 3-4:30 p.m.
New puppy parents can prevent problems by learning “how to raise their puppy right” through presentations on common puppy issues and engaging with their pups in dog-friendly training sessions to learn basic commands, greeting without jumping, leash walking and more. Puppies will also enjoy adventures such as splashing in wading pools, off-leash puppy play, socialization scavenger hunts and puppy massage. The investment in your puppy’s future is just $159 for all five sessions (more than 12 hours of training), and includes a training book, informative handouts, prizes and snacks for pups and people alike! Registration required.
MORE INFO: (619) 299-7012 x2247 or visit www.sdhumane.org for more information.

September 20th
PARROT EXPO 2008
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: FREE Many vendors with exciting products for you and your parrot plus adoptable parrots from the Parrot Education & Adoption Center of San Diego. Location: Marina Village Conference Center, near Sea World - 1936 Quivira Way, Room D-1, San Diego 92109
MORE INFO: (619) 287-8200 Parroted@cox.net

September 25th
AGILITY OBSTACLE SKILLS 7:30-8:45 p.m.
Already taken dog sports classes with your dog and want to go to the next step? If this sounds like you and your pooch, then the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA has a great new training class for you and your canine companion. The Humane Society’s Agility class will teach you and your dog the skills needed to participate in the highly popular dog sport agility! The investment is $149 for six class sessions and includes informative handouts and prizes. Participation in previous dog sports classes or the Society’s Foundation for Dog Sports class is a prerequisite for this class. Space is limited and registration is required
MORE INFO: (619) 299-7012 x2247, or visit www.sdhumane.org.

September 27th
BBQ FUND RAISER FOR BAJA ANIMAL SANCTUARY 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Cost $20.00 in advance, $25.00 at the door. Barbecued food, Chinese Raffle & Silent Auction. Glen Avon Drive Park in San Marcos.
MORE INFO: email, njrazd@yahoo.com or 760-489-8252 http://www.BajaAnimalSanctuary.com

September 27th
PUPPY WORKSHOP 1-2 p.m.
Have a new puppy? Got some questions? Bring your puppy for an hour of open-forum
problem solving and puppy play! This workshop will help to prevent and manage unwanted puppy behaviors before they become a problem while building great dog habits for life. Topics include digging, chewing, house training, nipping, barking, calmness in the house, puppy nutrition and more! Puppies must be current on their vaccines and under 16 weeks of age. The investment in your puppy’s future is $35 per lesson. Reservations required.

MORE INFO: (619) 299-7012 x2273 or visit www.sdhumane.org.

September 27th
BUNNY FEST 2008 - SAN DIEGO
HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: FREE The day includes the “Fund Raising Auction” where you can get great deals on bunny-themed collectibles, dishes and artwork. Also find hotel and spa packages, theatre tickets, restaurant packages and more. Watch the amazing rabbit agility demonstration, visit the Bunny Kissing Booth, shop with lots of great bunny-themed craft vendors and enjoy refreshments from the Cotontail Cafe. All proceeds go to benefit the San Diego House Rabbit Society. Location: Heritage Park in Old Town, corner of Harney St. & Juan St.
MORE INFO: http://www.sandiegorabbits.org/

September 28th
MOVING ON UP
3:30-4:45 p.m. This five-part intermediate-level training class builds on the good skills learned in Head Start or Puppy Fun Class; hones behaviors to an appropriate level for the Advanced Education class. This is class is for dogs 18 weeks old and up. This investment in your dog’s future is $69 and includes informative handouts and prizes. Space is limited.
MORE INFO: (619) 299-7012 x2273

September 28th
2008 COWBOY SWAPMEET
8 a.m.-2 p.m. McClintock Saddles in Descanso 25077 Viejas Blvd. Proceeds from booth rentals at this event benefit horses of Tir Na Nog, a non profit horse rescue organization. Save the date, and clean out your tack sheds.

September 28th
PARROT CLASS – SUBJECT: FORAGING
1 p.m. Cost: Members $5 Non $15 Pre-register at web site for discount. Classes held at Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA 92109 Room D-6
MORE INFO: www.PEAC.org or Email Parroted@cox.net

September 28th
PARROT CLASS – SUBJECT: NUTRITION
2:45 p.m. Cost: Members $5 Non $15 Pre-register at web site for discount. Classes held at Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA 92109 Room D-6
MORE INFO: www.PEAC.org or Email Parroted@cox.net

OCTOBER 2008

October 4th-5th
TOY DOG FANCIERS OF N. SAN DIEGO SHOW
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: FREE $8 parking–Del Mar Horse Park-14550 El Camino Real
MORE INFO: www.ToyDogFanciers.com Horsepark 858-794-1171

October 11th
THE 3RD ANNUAL ANIMAL HOUSE - FUND RAISER FOR RANCHO COASTAL
7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Cost: $100 per guest. Celebrity designers are creating animal houses that will be built by local builders and auctioned off by our emcee Sam Bass of radio station KYXY. Location: Encinitas Community Center 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, 92024.
MORE INFO: email Patty Brooks at PBrooks936@aol.com

October 11th
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE 5K WALK - BENEFITING THE SAN DIEGO ZOO
7:30 a.m. sharp Cost: $25 take advantage of this unique opportunity to stroll through the San Diego Zoo before it opens to the public. Enjoy an opportunity to meet Joan Embry and animal friends. Walkers will be given an event T-shirt and goodie bag and will be treated to healthy refreshments, live enter-
October 4th-2pm-4pm
Saint Francis Celebrated to Honor the Poor and Bless the Animals All Souls’ Episcopal Church Corner Catalina & Chatsworth Blvds.

Bring your pets to be blessed or momentos for memorial blessing. Meet those who help the poor in Point Loma, San Diego and elsewhere. Refreshments, pet treats, balloons and storytelling!
For more info call 619-223-6394

Saint Francis of Assisi was a Roman Catholic friar and the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as the Franciscans. He is known as the patron saint of animals, birds, the environment, and Italy. It is customary for Catholic churches to hold ceremonies honoring animals around his feast day of October 4.

October 21st
4TH ANNUAL DOG WALK AT RANCHO BERNARDO DOG PARK
8am to 11am Cost: Pre-Registration for WALK is $25.00 and includes an event T-shirt, Day of WALK registration is $30.00. vendors, free samples, raffle prizes, refreshments. 18448 West Bernardo Drive, San Diego, CA 92127
MORE INFO: contact Robin at Rbn1nest@aol.com or 858-487-6227. www.RanchoBernardoDogPark.com

October 22-26th
DEL MAR FALL FESTIVAL 2 HORSE SHOW
8am-5pm - COST: FREE to enter and to park. This horse show will take place at Horsepark, located two miles east of the Fairgrounds at the intersection of El Camino Real and Via de la Vallee.
MORE INFO: www.JumpDelMar.com

October 25th
SPOOKTACULAR WALK FOR HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER
8:30am-Noon Cost: Collect pledges for walk. Walk with your pets, food, entertainment, raffles and vendor village.
MORE INFO: 858-756-4117 www.AnimalCenter.org

October 25th
HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST & ALL BREED LURE COURSING BY LURATICS
9:30am-1:30pm Cost: $10.00 costume contest, Lure Coursing and Agility Entries $5 each, includes FREE Buffet Lunch! Lonnie Brewer Park, 10925 Fury Lane, La Mesa
MORE INFO: (619) 749-0724 www.Luratics.com

October 26th
OCEAN BEACH CANINE CARNIVAL - SPONSORED BY THE OCEAN BEACH KIWANIS
10am-4pm FREE for you and your dogs, a street fair and party featuring costumes, prizes, a doggie parade, games, food, and lots of craft items for pets and people. Location - on Santa Monica Ave between Sunset Cliffs Blvd. and Ebers Street.
MORE INFO: Call Sioux at 619-339-0001 or Melanie at (619) 225-8705 or email Melanie at oceanbeachkiwanis@gmail.com

October 26th
FOR PAWS FIESTA IN OCEANSIDE
11am-4pm - FREE come celebrate 70 years of service to the community at the North County Humane Society Dog Park at 2905 San Luis Rey Road, Oceanside, CA 92058. There will be a live band, raffle prizes and animal vendor booths.
MORE INFO: Call Lindsay Hood at (760) 757-4357 x1211 or Email at PR@nchumane.org

October 26th
21ST ANNUAL HALL-O- WIENER PICNIC - SAN DIEGO DACHSHUND CLUB
Noon - Cost: FREE Bring your lunch, blanket, shade gear and your costumed dachshunds and watch the doxie’s invade Balboa Park. Corner of Park Blvd. & Presidents Way. NO extending leashes please.
MORE INFO: Go to www.sddc.us

October 26th
THE DAILY PET’S 8TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE
1:00-4:00pm Cost: FREE At the Del Mar Highlands Town Center Amphitheater family event with costume contest and pet activities benefiting rescue and adoption at the Rescue House and Wee Companions.

October 30th–November 2nd
GREATER SAN DIEGO HUNTER/JUMPER ASSOCIATION FINALS
8am-5pm COST: FREE to enter and to park. This horse show will take place at Horsepark, located two miles east of the Fairgrounds at the intersection of El Camino Real and Via de la Vallee.
MORE INFO: http://www.gsdhja.org

NOVEMBER 2008
NOVEMBER 7th-9th
DEL MAR CLASSIC DRESSAGE SHOW
8am-5pm COST: FREE to enter and to park. This horse show will take place at Horsepark, located two miles east of the Fairgrounds at the intersection of El Camino Real and Via de la Vallee.
MORE INFO: http://www.sandiegodressage.com
Cats

People are passionate about their cats, often going to great lengths to pamper and please them. “Cats” seeks to indulge the passion of feline fanciers by presenting a beautiful boxed set of two volumes, “Cat Tales” and “The Most Beautiful Cats.”

Flammarion is pleased to present this charming boxed set: CATS. The two volumes present a wealth of information about our feline friend— from historical cats to applicable tips and suggestions for today’s cat owner. Both books are secured together and tied with a ribbon, making this the perfect gift for the holidays or simply an attractive addition to your library.

Cats by Claude Pacheteau, Flammarion
Hardcover/8”x 8”/ 192 pages
200 color illustrations
$29.95 ISBN: 978-20-803-0066-9

Dog Blessings

Dog Blessings: Poems, Prose, and Prayers Celebrating Our Relationship with Dogs by June Cotner

The poems and prose in “Dog Blessings” reflect every phase of a dog’s life, from the fun of watching a young puppy at play to our utmost compassion in caring for an elderly dog. Bestselling author and anthologist June Cotner has carefully selected poems that eloquently show how dogs bring blessings into our lives in countless ways.

Local San Marcos resident Mary Lenor Quigley penned two poems, which were selected along with those of award-winning poets such as Ellen Bass and Barbara Crocker.

Hardcover Book
$16.00
ISBN-10: 1577316169
New World Library

Narrow Dog to Carcassonne

“We could bore ourselves to death, drink ourselves to death, or have a bit of an adventure”

And so begins Terry Darlington’s offbeat travel memoir, “NARROW DOG TO CARCASSONNE,” which earned rave reviews from critics and became a national best-seller when published last year in the U.K. Now, this high-spirited tale of a man, his wife, their beloved dog and the many adventures they shared sailing a 7-foot-wide narrowboat from the tame canals of England across the treacherous English Channel and through the south of France is available in the U.S. When they retired, Terry and his wife Monica decided to take their canal narrowboat and their dog—a whippet called Jim—on a journey most of their friends and many nautical experts said they were crazy to attempt.

Bantam Dell Pub Group (2008)
Paperback - 336 pages
ISBN 038534208X

A Cup of Comfort for Cat Lovers

There are more than 77 million pet cats in the United States, according to the National Wildlife Federation. Peaceful, loyal and loving cats bring joy to their owners lives in numerous ways. Now cat lovers everywhere will be uplifted by “A Cup of Comfort for Cat Lovers: Stories That Celebrate Our Feline Friends.” This lovely assemblage is great for basking in the warmth only a pet cat can bring. A nationally best-selling brand, “A Cup of Comfort®” continues to delight and comfort readers everywhere with personal accounts of life’s sweetest moments. With stories like “A Cat Named Bob” and “The Purrfect Cure,” this book is sure to capture the hearts of readers—one meow at a time.

Edited by Colleen Sell
Adams Media
$9.95
WESLEY THE OWL

The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl by Stacey O’Brien

Owls are a part of popular culture—as message bearers in the Harry Potter series and numerous characters in cartoons and literature—and they symbolize wisdom with a touch of the mysterious. Owls are not only a presence in fiction but also in our world, and one such story begins on Valentine’s Day in 1985 when biologist Stacey O’Brien meets a four-day-old baby barn owl in a fateful encounter that would turn into an astonishing 19-year saga. With nerve damage in one wing, the owlet’s ability to fly was forever compromised and he had no hope of surviving on his own in the wild. A young assistant in the owl laboratory at Caltech, O’Brien promised to care for the helpless owlet and give him a permanent home. O’Brien’s heartfelt memoir of life with this wild bird, “WESLEY THE OWL: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl” (Free Press; August 19, 2008; $23.00) recounts their dramatic, and often humorous, life together.
Small rabbits, those considered to be dwarf breeds, are very popular with rabbit adopters. These include the Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly, Dwarf Hotot and Mini Rex. We do get a number of these smaller rabbits in foster care but placing them can sometimes be tricky. Many families with small children mistakenly believe they are best matched with a small rabbit. They make the assumption that a smaller bunny will be easier for a small child to hold and to care for (HRS recommends larger, more mellow bunnies for small children).

What these families don’t understand is that these smaller rabbits have a “charm” all their own. They are well-known for being feisty, opinionated, not afraid to “nip” to get their point across and downright bossy! For a rabbit-experienced family, this type of attitude can be fun. That’s because they’ve learned what these behaviors mean and know how to work with bunny and his challenging attitude.

For families with small children, or limited experience with house rabbits, these small dynamos can be “too hot to handle.” This quickly turns the situation from fun to frustrating, as the family tries to figure out why bunny does not want to be held, runs and hides under the dresser or boxes everyone who tries to move his water bowl. They’re thinking, “Oh no! We got a bad rabbit. Now what do we do?”

First of all, ensure your small friend has been neutered. Hormonal behaviors can cause aggression, dirty litter-box habits and a high level of agitation that does not lend itself to becoming a cuddly companion the family was hoping for. Prevent small children from picking up bunny, until a level of trust has been earned and bunny is comfortable. And, only while sitting on the floor; even a short fall can result in a broken leg or back.

Secondly, do your homework and visit websites from the House Rabbit Society and other rabbit rescue organizations to learn more about rabbit behavior and what you should expect. Learn the “language of lagomorphs” so you can better understand your rabbit’s communication style and what he’s trying to communicate to you if he should nip, grunt or box your hands when you reach into his cage.

Always love your rabbit for who he is. Acceptance can go a long way to improving the relationship between you and your rabbit companion. Set him up for success by putting together a safe indoor housing environment that allows him to come and go on his own, preventing the “don’t hold me” kicking and scratching episodes. Give him room to stretch out and play, along with plenty of toys such as cardboard boxes, willow tubes and chew mats and brightly colored rattle balls.

Finally, just hang out quietly with your feisty bunny and let him get to know you. Read a book, talk on the phone with friends, chat with him as you feed him sprigs of parsley or tiny slivers of apple. Through gentle interaction and careful
handling by all members of the family, your smaller, feisty bunny can become a gentle best friend.

To learn more about rabbit behaviors and how to set up your new bunny for success, visit www.sandiegorabbits.org or email San Diego HRS at hrs@sandiegorabbits.org.

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**Bunnyfest 2008**

**Saturday, September 27**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Heritage Park, Old Town, San Diego

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We can’t have Bunnyfest without you!

**Raffle Coordinator:** Need a key person to coordinate Bunnyfest Raffle. Also need volunteers for shifts throughout the day.

**Contact:** hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

The Raffle will replace the Bunnyfest Auction. Prizes are from Bunnyfest vendors and local businesses.

**Kidz Korner:** Face painting, decorating projects and more. Coordinator and volunteers needed.

**Contact:** hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

**Cottontail Cafe**: Volunteers and Food Donations needed.

Contact Shelley attigermimi@cox.net.

Cafe’ coordinated by Shelley Thraen, Tamara Swanson and Cheryl Oliver.

**HRS Premiums:** To volunteer, contact Tina Otis at sdbunny13@aol.com

**General Helpers:** Assist with setup of various booths, transporting supplies, and teardown at end of day.

**Contact:** hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

Get all the details on Bunnyfest 2008 at www.sandiegorabbits.org

Bunnies are welcome, but please use a leash, carrier or stroller, and take precautions to protect them from the heat and crowds.

See you at Bunnyfest!
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MARKETPLACE
Animal Adoption Organizations

**A Passion For Paws Akita Rescue** Cheryl Weatherford (858) 551-7511  
www.APassionForPaws.org

**Angel Wings Cat Rescue Inc.** Wilma Daubman (760) 744-0764  
www.AngelWingsCatRescue.com

**Bat Rescue** Richard Wilkins (858) 679-0211  
www.batrescue.org

**Chihuahua Rescue of San Diego** Ann Pollack (858) 277-3557  
www.chihuahuarescueofsandiego.com

**German Shorthaired Rescue** (760) 726-4813  
www.GSP-Rescue.org

**Greyhound Adoption Center** Toll Free 1-877-478-8364  
www.greyhounddog.org

**Greyhound Connection** (619) 286-4739  
www.greyhoundconnection.org

**Operation Greyhound** Bruce or Bob (619) 588-6611  
www.operationgreyhound.com

**Paws of Coronado** Louise Shirey (619) 435-8247  
www.pawsofcoronado.org

**Pug Rescue of San Diego County**  
www.pugbutts.com

**San Diego House Rabbit Society** Judith Pierce (619) 718-7777  
www.sandiegohouserabbits.org

**S.D. Turtle & Tortoise Society** (619) 593-2123  
www.SDTurtle.org

**Southwestern Rottweiler Club San Diego** Deanna Giller (619) 645-8800  
www.srcsd.net

**Westie Rescue of California** (619) 579-6395  
www.westierecuseca.com

Animal Welfare Organizations

**Labrador Harbor** Sue Frounfelter (619) 892-0049  
www.labradorharbor.org

**Lions, Tigers & Bears** Bobbi Brink (619) 659-8078  
www.LionsTigersAndBears.org

**Project Wildlife** Caring for sick, injured & orphaned wildlife  
(619) 225-9202 www.projectwildlife.org

**Zoofari inc. - A partner in preservation** Jackie Navarro (760) 630-9230  
www.zoofari.net

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**Dog Beaches/Parks**

**NO LEASH REQUIRED LOCATIONS**

**Coronado Beach** North end of Ocean Blvd., South of Naval base & North of Lifeguard Tower

**South Coronado Cays Park** Coronado Cays Blvd.

**Del Mar North Beach** N. end of 29th Street Sept.15 to June15 only

**Fiesta Island** Sea World Dr. & Fiesta Island Rd.

**Ocean Beach Dog Beach** end of Voltaire St. & W. Point Loma Blvd.

**LEASH REQUIRED LOCATIONS**

**Cardiff State Beach** Old Hwy 101, Cardiff lot seaside

**Coronado Tidelands Park** Mullinix Dr. & Glorietta Blvd.

**Del Mar Beach** S. of Powerhouse Park & Ocean Ave.

**Encinitas** San Eljio State Beach, Manchester Ave.

**Imperial Beach** 5th St. & Imperial Beach Blvd.

**Oceanside** Oceanside Harbor, Hamor Dr. west to Harbor

**La Jolla Shores Beach** 8200 Camino Del Oro From 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. only

**Mission Beach -The Strand** S. end of Mission Blvd. at channel entrance From 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. only

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**Dog Clubs**

**BREED SPECIFIC DOG CLUBS**

**Aztec Doberman Pinscher Club of San Diego** Angie Monteleon  
(619) 443-8944  www.AztecDPC.com

**Irish Setter Club of San Diego** Madelon McGowen (619) 441-7339  
Email - MadMac646@yahoo.com

**San Diego Whippet Association** Jo Rufing (619) 477-4222  
www.SanDiegoWhippets.com

**DOG WALKING SOCIAL CLUBS**

**San Diego County French Bulldog meet-up** Robert Goulet (760) 207-0332  www.FrenchBulldog.meetup.com/41

**AGILITY/DISC/DOCK/FLYBALL/LURE COURSING/ OBEDIENCE & SPORT DOG CLUBS**

**All Breed Obedience Club Inc.** (619) 287-2211  
www.aboci.com

**Ballistic Racers Flyball Team** B & J Matsumoto (619) 991-5267  
www.ballisticracersflyballteam.com

**Catchers on the Fly** Pamela Beane (760) 471-9087  
www.catchersonthefly.org

**Luratics Lure Coursing & Earth Dog** Pat Bennett (619) 749-0724  
www.Luratics.com

**Martini’s Ranch – Agility Debby Wheeler (760) 294-4085  
www.Martini’sRanch.com

**HERDING CLUBS**

**Action K9 Sports** Terry Parrish (760) 739-8673  
www.actionk9sports.com

**Spay & Neuter Services**

**Feral Cat Coalition** (619) 758-9194  
www.feralcat.com

**Pet Assistance Foundation** Betty Brokaw (619) 469-5008  
www.orgsites.com/ca/pet-assistance/

**SNAP – Spay Neuter Action Project** (619) 525-3047  
www.Snap-SanDiego.org

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Animal Shelters & Humane Societies

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County Animal Services – Central
5480 Gaines St., CA 92110 (619) 236-4250
www.sddac.com Hours: Tues-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

BONITA

County Animal Services – South
5821 Sweetwater Road, CA 91902 (619) 685-6309
www.sddac.com Hours: Tues-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CAMP PENDLETON

Camp Pendleton Animal Shelter
4th St. Area 25 Bldg. 25132 CA 92054 (760) 725-8120

CARLSBAD

County Animal Services – North
2481 Palomar Airport Road, CA 92009
(760) 438-2312 or (760) 746-7307
www.sddac.com Hours: Tues-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CHULA VISTA

City of Chula Vista Animal Shelter
130 Beyer Way, CA 91911 (619) 691-5123
Hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CORONADO

Animal Control Facility
700 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 522-7371
Hours: 7 days 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.

EL CAJON

City of El Cajon Animal Shelter
1275 N. Marshall Ave., CA 92020 (619) 441-1580
Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am to 5:30 pm

ESCONDIDO

Escondido Humane Society
3450 E. Valley Parkway, CA 92027 (760) 888-2275
www.EscondidoHumaneSociety.com
Hours: 7 days 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OCEANSIDE

North County Humane Society
2905 San Luis Rey Road, CA 92054 (760) 757-4357
www.NCHumane.org Hours: 7 days 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

THESE SHELTERS ONLY ACCEPT OWNER RELINQUISHED ANIMALS.

BAY PARK/MISSION VALLEY

San Diego Humane Society & SPCA
5500 Gaines Street, CA 92110 (619) 299-7012
www.SDHumane.org
Hours: Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

EL CAJON

Friends of Cats
15587 Olde Highway 80, CA, 92021 (619) 561-0361
www.FriendsofCats.org Hours: Tues-Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ENCINITAS

Rancho Coastal Humane Society
389 Requeza Street, CA 92024 (760) 753-6413
www.RCHumaneSociety.org
Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. every day except Tues. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE

Helen Woodward Animal Center
6461 El Apajo Road, CA 92067 (858) 756-4117
www.AnimalCenter.org Hours: 7 days 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SPRING VALLEY

National Cat Protection Society
9031 Birch Street, CA 91977 (619) 469-8771
www.NatCat.org Hours: Tues-Sat. Noon to 5 p.m.

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Emergency Hospitals

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Pet Emergency & Specialty Center of South County (619) 591-4802
885 Canarios Court, #108, Chula Vista, CA 91910 M-F 6 p.m.-8 a.m. Sat. Sun.
3:30pm-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
5610 Kearny Mesa Road San Diego, CA 92111 M-F 6 p.m.-8 a.m. Sat. Sun. 24 hrs.

LA MESA
Pet Emergency & Specialty Center (619) 462-4800
5232 Jackson Drive #105 La Mesa, CA 91942 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.PESCSanDiego.com

MISSION VALLEY
VCA Emergency Animal Hospital & Referral Center (619) 229-2400 2317 Hotel Circle South San Diego, CA 92108 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.VCAEmergency.com

MURRIETA
California Veterinary Specialists (951) 600-9803
25100 Hancock Ave. #116, Murrieta, CA 92562 7 days 24 hrs.
www.CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com

POWAY
Animal Emergency Clinic (858) 748-7387
12775 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064 M-F 6 p.m.-8 a.m. Sat. Sun. 24 hrs.
www.AnimalEmergencySD.com

SAN MARCOS
California Veterinary Specialists (760) 734-4433
100 N. Rancho Santa Fe Road #133 San Marcos, CA 92069 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com

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