No ‘Bones’ about it
Shelter dog finds home for holidays

Q&A with Helen Woodward’s John Van Zante

INSIDE:

Animals are royalty at Pet Kingdom
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These panthers like to eat bugs
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SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE INSIDE
The holidays are a wonderful time to create memories with friends, family and the family pets! Here are a few tips for capturing those endearing moments on camera! And remember, giving the gift of life by adopting a family pet will bring joy to many for years to come. But be responsible and committed in your adoption choices. Happy Holidays from all of us at San Diego Pets.

Julie Hoisington
Publisher/editor, San Diego Pets

These tips will help any budding photographer get good photos of their beloved pet just in time for holiday card season!

- **Get Low and Close.** Get on your pet’s eye level and as close to them as possible. Try to fill up the frame with their image.

- **Pay Attention to Background.** Try to minimize the amount of clutter in the background to ensure your pet is the sole subject of the photo.

- **Avoid Flash Photography.** Animals have a highly reflective membrane behind their retina that helps them see well at night but makes it impossible to take flash pictures of them without their eyes glowing.

- **Monitor Lighting.** Try to photograph outdoors if possible. When indoors, try to use natural light and have the light behind you or to the side.

- **Be Engaging.** It’s important to capture your pet’s attention when photographing them. Cats respond to things fluttering or moving. Dogs respond to sounds such as clicking, squeaking or tapping noises. And don’t forget the treats!

- **Exercise Your Pet Beforehand.** Exercise will tire out your pet so that it’s calmer before a photo shoot.

- **Go Professional.** It’s important to treat our animals as members of the family. A professional photograph of your beloved pet can be displayed alongside your other special family photos.

For more information, please visit us online at www.suttonstudios.com.
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If you or your family are contemplating bringing home a cat, dog, bird, tortoise, rabbit, guinea pig, rat, duck, chicken, horse or other pet this holiday season, there’s an orphaned animal waiting impatiently for you at one of the 25 San Diego County shelters and rescue groups participating in this year’s Iams Home 4 The Holidays (H4TH) adoption campaign.

Best of all, you can give yourself the gift of unconditional love while saving a life. Who wants to contemplate an orphaned pet waking up behind bars on Thanksgiving or Christmas morning? Or perhaps not waking up at all?

Now marking its 11th year, H4TH has ambitious goals for the season: to reach 4,000 participating shelters and rescues, up from last year’s 3,550-plus shelters in 17 countries, and 1.5 million pets placed in loving homes. Last year’s holiday placements exceeded by nearly 203,000 the original goal of 1 million pet adoptions between October and early January.

While the now-international holiday program boasts almost 3.3 million adoptions in its first 10 years, the program started small. Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) President Mike Arms and spokesman John Van Zante, both newcomers in 1999, were frustrated at seeing 40,000 pets euthanized annually in San Diego County and 5 million nationwide. They noted that, according to Humane Society of the United States statistics, about 83 percent of pets were reaching families through puppy and kitten mills, back- yard breeders and professional breeders, and only 17 percent through shelters and rescues, prompting the high euthanasia rate.

“More families invite pets into their homes at the holidays. For a long time, shelters and rescues didn’t do adoptions in December because they felt it was an emotional decision,” Van Zante explains. They decided to change their practice, making sure the holiday adoption is an informed commitment.

If parents had promised their children a puppy or kitten for Christmas and couldn’t adopt from a shelter or rescue, they would buy one at a mall pet store or parking lot from a vendor hawking appealing babies.

What it comes down to, Van Zante says, is do you want to support puppy mills raising sick animals in squalid conditions or do you want to save an orphaned pet’s life?

“If you’re buying from a pet shop, then the pet came from a puppy or kitten mill. A reputable breeder doesn’t load up a van with six- or seven-week-old puppies or kittens and drop them off at the mall,” he says.

Many are trucked in from the two biggest puppy mill states, Missouri and Arkansas, and in San Diego, from Kern County and Mexico. Many puppy and kitten mill pets wind up critically ill or dying within days of purchase.

Sheltering organizations and mall shops approach placement differently.

“We’re looking to make a match. They’re looking to make a profit,” Van Zante says.

The first year, 1999, H4TH’s goals were modest: increase adoptions, lower the euthanasia rate and deprive pet shops and their puppy mill suppliers of their holiday bonanza. The 14 participating San Diego shelters were delighted to find homes for 2,563 orphans. All departed with food gift packs from Iams, which became the program’s biggest booster and named sponsor.
By the third year, with the program operating nationally under HWAC’s guidance, they were seeing remarkable results. “We had one shelter call and say ‘what do we do? We ran out of pets!’” Van Zante says.

They advised transferring pets between shelters to meet demand.

A woman called in tears from a Texas shelter to report their adoption figures. When pressed, she said her shelter normally has to euthanize dogs and cats every day. But because of H4TH, they hadn’t had to euthanize a pet in two weeks.

Since 2001, celebrity spokesperson Diane Keaton, a HWAC board member, and animal-loving “ambassadors” including actresses Felicity Huffman and Kristin Bell have boosted their publicity successes.

This year’s H4TH ambassador is Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank, who volunteered in animal shelters as a teen and now is mom to two rescue dogs: Karoo, whom she saved from the streets of South Africa, and Rumi, whom she adopted from a Los Angeles shelter participating in H4TH.

Susan Reeves, volunteer executive director of Westie Rescue of California, which serves eight Western states and has 500 to 600 volunteers, has participated in H4TH since its inception and is delighted with the results. This year, because of the economy, foreclosures and evictions, her rescue is over-capacity with 29 West Highland terriers in their rescue and rehab program and eight more owner surrenders awaiting foster homes. She has at least six Westies, including some rescued from a desert puppy mill, available for adoption through H4TH and expects to place all available dogs.

Friends of Cats, based in El Cajon, has about 100 to 120 adoptable cats available.

San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society has participated for about four years and found it helpful in re-homing some of the 600 to 700 animals they rescue annually. They adopt out only to approved homes, including many red-eared sliders to people with outdoor ponds.

“Turtles and tortoises make great adoptable pets for kids with allergies who can’t have dogs or cats,” explains Ginny Teigen, Society president.

For more information about Iams Home 4 The Holidays as well as participating shelters, visit Helen Woodward Animal Center’s special Website, www.animalcenter.org/events/h4th, or call (858) 756-4117.
Q: Is there any one thing that stands out as your proudest moment, and/or greatest accomplishment? There are two things that I consider the greatest accomplishments and one that is my proudest.

Iams Home 4 the Holidays began when HWAC President Mike Arms, operations director Rita Truderung, adoptions manager LaBeth Thompson and I met to discuss Mike’s idea about a holiday adoption drive to help San Diego County increase adoptions, lower euthanasia and take business away from puppy mills during the holiday season. We started with 14 shelters completing 2,563 adoptions. This year we’re leading 3,500 shelters and rescue groups in 18 countries.

Our Surf Dog Surf A Thon originated in 2006 at Dog Beach in Del Mar. Families could teach their dogs to surf during Surf Dog Clinics, then come back the next month and compete for prizes. We work with the best people available, including Pat Weber from San Diego Surfing Academy, Rob Kuty from San Diego Pet Training, and the amazing Guy Takayama...a quality person who also happened to be a world champion tandem surfer, as well as designer and manufacturer of GT and Surfah Dog surf boards. In September we held our fourth Surf Dog event. It’s the largest dog-surfing event in the world. Thousands of people attended including people from Japan, France, Spain, and Korea. More than 100 million people worldwide saw the photos, watched videos, heard about it on the radio or read the printed stories about Surf Dog 2009.

My proudest moment “began” in late 2004 (during Home 4 the Holidays) when we learned about a U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel from La Jolla who wanted to bring home a puppy from Fallujah, Iraq. Jay Kopelman had given up his job as a stockbroker after September 11, 2001 to go back into the Marine Corps. During the battle of Fallujah, some Marines from Hawaii (the “Lava Dogs”) found a puppy in an abandoned house. Jay met the pup and fell in love. Working with my friend Kris Parlett from the Iams company offices in Dayton, Ohio, we thought, “How hard can it be to fly a puppy to San Diego?” Little did we know! Finally, four months later, bending a few rules and working with Iraqis, American radio and TV networks and a private company that trains bomb-sniffing dogs, we flew the puppy, “Lava,” to San Diego and reunited him with Jay. The story spread worldwide. Jay’s book, “From Baghdad...with Love,” hit the New York Times Bestseller List. Since then others have brought dogs to America from Iraq. Some called me before starting their projects to ask how much they could make on book and movie deals. That’s so wrong! I’m proud of this because we were able to do a good thing for Jay and Lava and because our motives were pure. I’m so undeserving to have been a part of this, but I’m proud that I was.

Q: I understand the famous dog actor “Benji” and his human Joe Camp sit on the board of directors at HWC. How is it working with them? Joe is very much of a Southern gentleman and other people’s pets when they’re out of town. I’m so blessed to even know these people.

Q: Would I imagine you’ve attended some pretty “swanky” events over the years and have rubbed elbows with many VIPS, and famous actors and actresses. Can you name just a few and tell who has been your favorite(s) and why? At HWAC we never know who will walk in. As far as the animals are concerned, it doesn’t make any difference if a person is rich or famous.

Betty White received our Humane Award in 1999. She was as amazing and wonderful as you would expect. Other recipients were Tippi Hedren, Kristen Bell and Linda Blair. They’re all wonderful! (Forget the rumors you’ve read about how her role in “The Exorcist” messed up Linda Blair. She’s a super sweet and absolutely beautiful woman who runs her own pet rescue organization!) Most recently we’ve been working with Hilary Swank as the 2009 Iams Home 4 the Holidays spokesperson. She, like Kristen Bell, began as a teenage animal shelter volunteer. Hilary’s a great talent and a nice lady. She loves animals!

Again this year, the great Chargers running back Darren Sproles helped us to kick off our San Diego Iams Home 4 the Holidays drive. Darren is as amazing off the field as he is on the field.

Q: How do you enjoy your spare time? I’m a runner, so that means getting up around 4:30 or 5 four times per week to run before work. This past summer I bought a surf board and began teaching Howie to surf. I also like to kayak (Howie goes on the kayak with me) and boogie board. There are also visits to the dog park almost every day.

I have a really unattractive, 30-year-old motor home that I take to Fiesta Island, Balboa Park, the beach, the zoo, etcetera. It’s a great place to hang out, read, or take a nap.

Q: We all have a “bucket” list, what is yours? Right now I’m training to run my first full marathon in February.

I’ve completed a short Triathlon but would like to do more of them. (I have a friend who is trying to convince me to do an Iron Man Triathlon). Maybe a leisurely cross country motor home trip (but with a newer motor home). More time with God. He’s always there and steady. I’m the one who strays or drags my heels. He doesn’t seem to mind carrying me when he has to.

Q: If you could be remembered for one thing, what would that be? Wow. Tough one. I would like to be remembered as someone who lived a good life and tried to make the world better, who never intentionally hurt anyone else and was there to support the people close to him.
THE ALL-NEW JUNGLE BELLS.
This winter the San Diego Zoo transforms into a holiday wonderland, San Diego style. Enjoy skating, festive entertainment, and world-famous animal experiences in a whole new way. Open late, December 12 - 23, 26 - 30, and January 1 and 2. To learn more, visit sandiegozoo.org.

$5 OFF BEST VALUE TICKET
Present this coupon at any San Diego Zoo ticket window and receive $5 OFF the Best Value Ticket. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer, discounts, special ticketed events/attractions, pass programs, advanced sale tickets, online tickets or Zoological Society Membership. No duplications of laminates. Prices and hours subject to change without notice. Limit (6) six people per coupon. Valid through 1/31/10.
Step into Pet Kingdom, located at 3191 Sports Arena Blvd. in the Midway District, and you know you’ve stepped into another world.

It’s not a zoo, it’s not a jungle, but there are hints of each as you find yourself surrounded by representations of plants, rocks and other natural elements plus cages, bowls and other paraphernalia designed to create a comfortable home or an appropriate environment for the exotic fish, reptiles, amphibians and even small furry animals offered for sale in the specialty shop, which caters to committed hobbyists.

One of the first things that strikes a visitor is the immaculate condition of the animal enclosures, whether for guinea pigs, tropical fish or sulcata tortoises, and how friendly, knowledgeable and informative the staff members are, answering questions as they continue to clean and scrub glass cases, aquaria and animal pens.

Meesha, a 7-year-old talkative cat who came in once with kittens and stayed to become the store’s resident cat and mascot, pops out from behind a display, informing her staff that it’s now time for dinner.

While you will find for sale a selection of rats, mice, chinchillas, rabbits and even occasional kittens (all with their first round of shots, feline leukemia testing, flea treatment and a certificate for a free veterinary visit), you will also find a prominently posted statement warning parents about rabbit adoptions.

“So your child wants a rabbit? Ask yourself these questions,” reads the posting, which also discourages rabbits as pets for children under age 8.

“Our main focus here in the animals. We want to make sure we’re providing healthy animals,” explains manager Ann Ancibor, who has worked at Pet Kingdom for 18 years and purchases the kittens and small animals only from local, small hobbyist breeders with whom the store has had a relationship for many years.

President Bill Bennett, who with his wife Diane has owned the shop since

Whether you’re looking for a “starter bird” like a cockatiel or an endangered Hyacinth Macaw, or just a new toy, perch or cage to keep your best feathered friend happy and entertained, Bird Crazy has something for you.

Located at 8878 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. in Kearny Mesa, Bird Crazy is one of the few bird stores that raise different species together, leaving many to sit on open perches in the shop’s showroom, explains Lenny LaRiccia, president of Bird Crazy. He opened the store in 1986 after loving birds since a sickly childhood, when birds became his favorite companions and his passion. Now he keeps about 20 pairs of varied species in his home aviary.

“My father always said that if there was a bird with a broken wing, then Lenny would bring it home,” LaRiccia says with a laugh.

Bird Crazy’s mission is not just to sell birds but to educate customers about the care and conditions required by these highly intelligent, sensitive creatures, many of which, LaRiccia says, have intelligence equivalent to that of a chimpanzee or dolphin. He points out that many birds can live to be 70 to 100 years old and are likely to outlive their guardians. He and his staff actively discourage and even refuse to sell certain birds into inappropriate situations, he says. They also offer a one-year trade-in to protect both birds and buyers.

“For a lot of birds, you have no business having a family,” since some birds are wrong to keep around children, he says, while others like cockatoos make great family pets. Some may become one-person birds, difficult for others to handle.

Serving as greeter in chief when this writer visited was a five-month-old Greenwing Macaw, elegantly clad in scarlet feathers.

Inside the main room are numerous perches populated by different bird species, including large Greenwing and Blue and Gold Macaws, the rare Queen of Bavaria or Golden Conure and the rosy Leadbeater’s Cockatoo, chattering and playing together and enjoying attention from customers who wander from perch to perch admiring the birds.

Not all birds on display are for sale, since LaRiccia encourages his staff to bring in their own birds and dogs to socialize with the store’s flock. Perched at the side of the store are four of manager Darcy Houser’s birds. Her female Triton cockatoo, Andy, enjoys twirling on a wire with her pale yellow crest unfurled and wings spread. Andy, an affectionate bird, jumped back onto her perch and then into LaRiccia’s arms, rubbing his face with her beak.

Birds are social creatures, he points out, and benefit from interaction with people, other birds and even dogs.

“Many of our bird owners have dogs. Why not let the birds get accustomed to them as early as possible?” he says.

Almost all birds talk nowadays, since they’re raised by hand in captivity. Even some of their finches, a species not known for talking, have learned to talk in Bird Crazy’s bird-talking environment, he explains.

When customers come in looking for a first bird, LaRiccia and his staff steer them toward a cockatiel because it’s relatively hardy, easy to care for and loving if adopted young. Bird Crazy hand-feeds all its young birds a special mash by spoon, safer than a syringe for birds.

“When you hand-feed them they’re really sweet. Then we start them with millet, which is a sweet fat treat. It’s important that a just-weaned baby bird gets more fat,” explains Jessica Ambriz as she feeds five-week-old cockatiels.

Bird Crazy also boards birds and, every few months, offers classes on teaching birds new tricks and on stopping birds from screaming.

Over the last year LaRiccia found himself taking in, often as donations, all kinds of birds, including ducks, chickens and even an East African crowned crane that people could no longer keep. He’s proud that he and his staff were able to rescue and find homes for the suddenly homeless and sometimes sick birds. They work with a local couple who take in distressed birds and rehabilitate them.

While the basic items required for bird care are relatively simple — a cage, perch, food, toys and calcium source — the most important are intangible.

“You need time, attention and love. And you have to adjust the animal to the life it will live,” LaRiccia explains.

For more information, visit their Website at www.birdcrazy.com, or call (858) 576-9858 or toll-free (888) 576-9858.
These panthers eat bugs

Panther chameleons are small, tree-dwelling reptiles that are only found in one place in the world, Madagascar. They are best known for being masters of camouflage that can change their brilliant colors in the flash of an eye. They have long, sticky tongues to catch their prey, binocular eyes that can see in two different directions at the same time, and prehensile monkey-like tails that they use for climbing and hanging from vines. With their many unique features and exotic color patterns, it’s no wonder they are considered one of the most beautiful reptiles on the planet.

Panther chameleons make great pets, too, and are perfect for someone who wants to take that step up into exotic reptiles but doesn’t want to spend a small fortune. They are relatively easy to care for and only require a screened cage about the size as a 20-gallon aquarium. They are guaranteed to be the talk of any party and will be a unique focal point of a living room where everyone will enjoy their amazing colors and peaceful movements. They also can help you relax during your busy days at the office and are great for families with children, too.

Chameleons are fun to feed and like to snatch up crickets, flies, roaches, giant green horned worms and other insects with their long, sticky tongues. Their food sources are inexpensive and easy to get at your local pet store or they can be shipped right to your doorstep. Being arboreal, chameleons like to drink water droplets that drip down onto the leaves of a plant below, simulating raindrops hitting the leaves of trees in the rain forest. They require a special, inexpensive fluorescent light that simulates the sun’s UV rays and they enjoy soaking up the warm San Diego sunshine, too!

We hope you enjoy caring for panther chameleons as much as we do. We also are happy to help with any questions you may have about purchasing or caring for the chameleon you may already have. We look forward to writing future articles about these amazing little guys and to teaching you some of the secrets we’ve learned over the years for caring for and breeding them, too!

For more information, call (619)-822-0093 or visit their Website at www.exoticpanthers.com.

PET KINGDOM
CONTINUED FROM Page 8

1981, has twice enlarged the premises to spotlight more freshwater and saltwater fish, reptiles and amphibians.

He notes that they’re located between two big box pet stores, but by focusing on their niche market they’ve survived and mostly thrived.

“We carry animals and products that are labor-intensive,” he says, noting that they require specialized knowledge and care. Some of his staff are themselves breeders of rare fish and reptiles that have been bred successfully in captivity nowhere else.

“Keeping animals is an art and a science. You have to have people who are interested and knowledgeable about what they’re doing,” he says.

When you have about 1,000 animals of so many species, he explains, you have to be cleaning constantly, as well as demonstrating how the animals should be set up and cared for at home.

He and his staff also make a point of educating customers about animal care. If a customer wants to buy an animal but is not prepared to learn about it and put it in its correct environment, they have refused to sell the animal.

“We want people to have a good experience with animals and stay in the hobby,” Bennett says.

They purchase some animals from customers. When people have to give up animals, in some cases they will accept them as donations if they have room for them, especially fish or small snakes. They then provide them to teachers for their classrooms or to breeders for their breeding programs.

Pet Kingdom also has a “full disclosure” policy of informing customers that a fish or reptile will grow and will require larger accommodations. They do not sell Burmese pythons because they become too big and difficult to handle.

They’ve seen a decline in sales of the number of fish that grow large, Bennett says. One of the most popular fish species now is the African cichlid, a colorful freshwater species that remains small.

For a child or parent seeking a friendly pet that’s easy to care for and will happily ride on a child’s shoulder, Bennett recommends a bearded dragon, which is mellow and likes people.

Pet Kingdom offers school tours for teachers with groups of up to 25 or 30 students, and will arrange for staff to escort children and explain the animals’ habitat and behavior.

For more information, visit their Website at www.petkingdom.com or call (619) 224-2841.
Capt. Marty Fogel is a natural-born storyteller, teacher and student of the seas. In his recently published novel, “The Adventures of Noah and His Seacats,” he uses all of these talents, combined with a wealth of nautical experience, keen eye for observation and clear love of animals and nature to craft an engaging yarn about a young boy’s exploits with his two “seacats” as they mature together on his family’s sailboat.

Through the young Noah we learn about sea lions, whales, sailing, scuba diving and, of course, cats who readily adapt to a life at sea. If you enjoy boats, cats and the marine environment, you’ll appreciate this book with its environmental and educational themes, no matter your age. It’s pleasurable reading and a great gift for both middle school age children and adults.

Fogel, 60, a Coast Guard-certified captain with a 100-ton license and a professional photographer, lives with his wife Jeannine and recently adopted rescue poodle (who survived two months alone without food or water in the backyard of a foreclosed home in Chula Vista) aboard their 38-foot Panda sailboat at a Shelter Island marina. While he skippers sailing and whale-watch cruises for Sail San Diego and handles yacht deliveries along the West Coast, his real love is teaching boat owners, both sail and power, how to use and enjoy their boats while appreciating the marine environment.

Fogel’s love of the sea, sea creatures, cats and the seafaring life comes through in the characters who inhabit Noah’s world on the sailing vessel Landfall, which his parents use for marine research.

Ten-year-old Noah’s two “seacats,” Zephyr and Kiri, whom he rescues from the sea as kittens, are based on Fogel’s own much-loved cats, also named Zephyr and Kiri, who shared many of their attributes and antics. Both the real and the fictional cats were “liveaboards” who could swim and get back aboard the boat by climbing burlap “ladders” hung over the side of the boat, Fogel explains.

All of the cats in the book, including the cats of “Catland,” as the marina became after dark when the cats came out, were named and modeled after real cats who had lived with friends or at marinas where he and his wife resided.

Fogel wrote the upbeat book partly as a tribute to his seacats after their passing, but also to convey a flavor of the marine world most people never experience.

“It’s also about bringing out the best in everybody. We spend so little time reminding them of the good things they are as people,” Fogel says.

While “The Adventures of Noah and His Seacats” is available from online vendors including Amazon.com, signed and inscribed copies are available only through Fogel’s Website, www.oceanharmony.net, where they retail for $16.95, including shipping. You can also order by e-mail at captmarty@oceanharmony.net, or phone at (619) 459-9642.
‘Tis better to give than to receive

Wild Holidays at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park will feature 12 days of gifts for its animals

By DANI DODGE | SAN DIEGO PETS

As they creep into their enclosure at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park, the lions definitely know something is different. Then, they spot it — a couple of cardboard boxes painted bright holiday colors. The lions sniff cautiously, then crouch and stalk the boxes like prey. In an instant, they hit a full run and pounce.

Soon all that’s left is shreds of red and green cardboard. And that’s the point.

“Enrichment such as the boxes for the lions or gift bags for the gorillas give our animals the chance to engage in natural behaviors, to encourage exploration and investigation,” says Autumn Nelson, animal care supervisor at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park. “With 12 Days of Enrichment, we are inviting our guests to have a hand in the fun.”

Last year was the final time the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park celebrated the holidays with Festival of Lights. This year, the park is taking a page from the annals of Christmas carols by featuring 12 Days of Enrichment during Wild Holidays.

While the park’s animals regularly get enrichment items from animal keepers, this will be the first time the items will be presented at scheduled times, and that guests will have so many opportunities to help.

Among the enrichment projects park guests will have an opportunity to be involved with are painting boxes for the lions, creating mazes for meerkats and making tacos out of hay and food pellets for the elephants. Other animals enjoying guest creations during the 12 Days of Enrichment include vultures, hornbills and cheetahs.

“With Wild Holidays, we are bringing the holiday focus back to our animals,” says Adam Ringler, director of operations. “As they say, ‘Tis better to give than to receive,’ and here at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park, our guests will have an opportunity to create something for our animals.”

The Twelve Days of Enrichment are scheduled for Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 through 31, and Jan. 1 and 2, 2010. During the first 10 Days of Enrichment, the park’s hours will be extended to 7 p.m. On Jan. 1 and 2, the park will close at 6 p.m.

The San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park is located at 15500 San Pasqual Road, Escondido. For more information, go to www.SanDiegoZoo.org.
Resident Honored in the Field of Dog Training

The 2009 award winners were honored at the Association of Pet Dog Trainers’ annual Educational Conference and Trade Show held in Oakland, Calif., in October. Recipients were selected based upon criteria established by a committee composed of volunteer APDT members.

The Dr. Robert Curran NewTrix Video Award is designed to honor the recipient who creates a short video that describes a training concept or issue. This year’s theme was innovative ways to teach clients how to exercise their dogs. This year’s recipient is Emily Larlham of San Diego.

Larlham began her career in dog training at the San Diego Humane Society, taking care of the quarantined and unadoptable dogs and rooms full of puppies. After teaching classes at the Humane Society and South Bark Dog Wash, she began her own dog training business, Dogmantics Dog Training.

Larlham has combined her degree in fine art media and her passion for training dogs to create a free dog training channel, “kikopup,” on YouTube. Here she gives tutorials on teaching dogs complex tricks as well as modifying behavior. Larlham recently held seminars in Madrid and Barcelona on her clicker training methods.

For more information visit the APDT Website, www.apdt.com.

Veterinary Cancer Group Opens in San Diego

Dr. Mona Rosenberg, founder and chief of staff at Veterinary Cancer Group, has announced that the firm has opened a third location in Southern California to better serve its referring veterinarians and cancer patients. This newest Outpatient Oncology Facility in San Diego is headed by San Diego resident and Veterinary Cancer Group’s own Jarrod M. Vancil, DVM (practice limited to oncology). The new office is conveniently located in the Kearney Mesa area of San Diego at 5040 Convoy St., Suite B, San Diego, CA 92111.

Veterinary Cancer Group’s San Diego Outpatient Oncology Facility will offer a full range of services, including the latest chemotherapy protocols, immune system support and internationally recognized clinical trials. The group’s goal is to bring the same cutting-edge, progressive and compassionate care that it has provided patients in Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange County to cancer patients and their families in the San Diego community.

The San Diego office will be open for appointments from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Appointments will be also available on Thursdays on an emergency basis. The office can be reached via phone at (619) 414-5056. For more information on Veterinary Cancer Group or the San Diego office, visit www.vetcancergroup.com.

New Club For Water-Loving Dogs

Do dogs swim naturally? Taking to the surf or paddling like a duck seems natural for many breeds known for their
waterproof coats and webbed feet. Other dogs cringe at the thought of getting their paws wet merely walking on moist grass. You don’t have to own a special breed to be able to enjoy splashing around. However, safety is key, as not all dogs are natural swimmers. If you love water and want to share the fun with your pooch, San Diego’s year-round temperate weather is ideal.

Lara Schindler, trainer with Happy Dog Happy Owner, has launched a new meetup group open to anyone with a dog that likes water. The new Water Loving Dog Meetup Group offers San Diego dog owners the opportunity to socialize with others interested in water-based activities as well as implementing positive training techniques with their four-legged family members.

To register, visit www.meetup.com/The-San-Diego-Water-Loving-Dog-Meetup-Group. Schindler is an ABC certified dog trainer, honors graduate of Animal Behavior College and is pet first aid certified through the American Red Cross. As owner and founder of Happy Dog Happy Owner’s mission, training philosophies and services, call Schindler at (619) 889-8606 or visit www.happydoghappyowner.com.

Drsfostersmith.com Offers Shipping Deals

Check out our Website for our new shipping prices! Free shipping on thousands of new items, plus a new $5.99 flat shipping price on all other products, regardless of price or weight. Unprecedented shipping rates within the pet product industry. And our customers are responding… orders are flying in! drsfostersmith.com.

Select Dog Breeds Banned from Marine Corps Base

The most decorated canine war hero in United States history was a pit bull, but now this breed is no longer welcome on Marine Corps installations. The rule, which was signed Aug. 11, 2009, prohibits purebred and mixed breed pit bulls, rottweilers and canid/wolf hybrids aboard Marine Corps installations.

Residents who already own one of these breeds were given 60 days to apply for and meet the guidelines of the “grandfather” clause waiver. The waiver is only open to currently registered dogs and would only apply until Sept. 30, 2012. To meet the waiver’s provisions, owners must receive approval for the waiver from the local installation commander, and the dog must pass a “nationally-recognized temperament test, administered and interpreted by individual(s) who have been certified in technique and evaluation of the test results, at the service member resident’s expense. Such tests include Canine Good Citizen (AKC) and the Delta Test (Delta Society).”

Local trainers are offering additional classes and discounted classes to help dogs prepare for passing the Canine Good Citizen test, a 10-part test that includes accepting a friendly stranger, sitting politely for petting, walking on a loose lead, walking through a crowd, sit and down on command and staying in place, coming when called, reaction to another dog and to distraction.

Einhorn Insurance Combats Discrimination

Many dogs are discriminated against regardless of their personal history and temperament. A dog can be and often is “blacklisted” and its owners denied insurance coverage based on their dog’s breed. Akitas, Alaskan malamutes, chows, Dobermans, German shepherds, Great Danes, huskies, pit bulls, rottweilers, Staffordshire terriers and other lineages are often labeled as dangerous and unable to receive coverage under a homeowner or renter’s policy.

While running a successful dog walking business, Dori Einhorn became aware of this issue. Desiring to support dog lovers further, she decided to change careers. Einhorn, along with her husband Eric, founded Einhorn Insurance specializing in helping clients ob-
tain insurance policies regardless of their dog’s breed.

As proud owners of a pit bull themselves, the Einhorns understand the prevalence of breed discrimination. They found that most insurance companies would not consider giving a homeowner or renter’s policy to them. Not having adequate insurance coverage can be risky and potentially costly. Dori explains, “Thirty-three percent of all home claims are dog related, so it’s very important for the dog to be covered... These claims are not all from dog bites. You can have a super-friendly dog that jumps on someone just to say hello and that person falls and injures themselves.”

Any dog can cause injury, so having sufficient coverage that includes them in your policy is important.

Dori works with more than 30 rescues in California, helping people that have adopted a dog to obtain insurance policies. Loving dogs as they do and knowing the importance of insurance, the Einhorns provide coverage for dogs at no extra charge. They even offer auto insurance policies that will pay some of your pet’s veterinary bills if they are hurt in a car accident.

Visit www.einhorninsurance.com to find out how they can help you and your dog be safe and insured.

**Humane Groups Will Merge by End of Year**

The North County Humane Society and SPCA and San Diego Humane Society and SPCA have announced plans to merge.

The merged organization will pool resources to increase life-saving programs and strengthen the human-animal bond.

The board and management leadership of North County Humane Society and SPCA (NCHS) and San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (SDHS) have announced that they have reached an agreement to merge and are now completing the steps required to accomplish this merger before the end of 2009.

Following a successful due diligence process, NCHS will merge with SDHS, and the combined organization will be called the “San Diego Humane Society and SPCA.” NCHS’s North County facility on San Luis Rey Road in Oceanside will operate under the name “San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, North Campus.”

“This merger will bring additional resources to advance animal welfare services provided by the two organizations,” said Julie Banks, NCHS executive director.

Other benefits of the merger include:

- More treatable animals’ lives will be saved in our respective communities as a result of the merger.
- The merger will bring additional resources to bear on animal welfare services provided by the two organizations.
- Increased services for individual pet owners when they are faced with the challenges and difficulties of separating from a beloved pet.
- Create a more compassionate community by bringing forward and enhancing lifesaving education programs for both children and adults.
- Work together to ensure that both owner-relinquished animals and stray animals receive the same standard of veterinary medical care as owned pets in our community.

Dr. Mark Goldstein, DVM, CAWA, and president of SDHS, will serve as president of the new SDHS organization. The SDHS senior management team will oversee the staff and operations of the new organization. Banks, executive director of the current NCHS, will become part of the new SDHS following the merger. In addition, two members who now serve on the NCHS board of directors will be appointed to the board of trustees of the new SDHS organization.

Pet Hideaway open at Seaport Village

Longtime friends Mike Downey and Nancy Clem join forces and passion to open Pet Hideaway in Seaport Village this July. Their shop specializes in dog and cat products, including a full assortment of trendy collars and leash sets, bowls, cute clothing, activity toys and treats! Just in time for the holidays you’ll find a wonderful selection of unique gift ideas for pet lovers too! Open 7 days 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Parking validated. (619) 338-0656

Best Tools to Combat H1N1 in Pets

News out of Iowa reports that we’ve seen the first confirmed case of H1N1 flu in a family’s cat. This is the first time H1N1 has been reported in a cat, though it is well-known that other influenza strains can be spread from humans to animals. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) reminds people to be vigilant in observing their pets. If they show signs of illness, such as a runny nose, sneezing or wheezing, loss of appetite, and lethargy, it is important to take them to a veterinarian, no matter what the species.

“The current influenza vaccines for animals don’t prevent the contraction of H1N1,” says spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein. “However if an animal becomes ill, antibiotics can be prescribed to combat secondary infections.”

Luckily, the cat recovered. Remember, if someone in your home becomes sick, practice good hygiene, keep infected humans away from pets, be vigilant and don’t hesitate to seek veterinary treatment if your pets are showing signs of illness.

For more info, please contact Ana Bustilloz at abustilloz@spcaLA.com or 323-730-5300 x252 or 323-707-1271.
**Gift Guide**

**Dogjoy: The Happiest Dogs in the Universe**
There’s no better book for dog lovers to give or receive this holiday season!

$16.95 hardcover

**Dog Heroes Who Save the Day**

ISBN: 978-1-60342-116-4
$9.95 paper

**Homer’s Odyssey**
A beautifully written story of an extraordinary (blind) cat and his human companion. It celebrates the refusal to accept limits — on love, ability or hope against any odds.

$20.00 hardcover

**Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know**
By Alexandra Horowitz
This book is a fresh look at the world of dogs — from the dog’s point of view. Alexandra Horowitz is a cognitive scientist who does research in the field of dog cognition; she is also an unashamed dog person. “Inside of a Dog” is the synthesis of these two perspectives.

ISBN: 9781416583400
$27 hardcover

**Nose Down, Eyes Up**
A howlingly funny story about a man who refuses to grow up, his confused relationships with women and his four (talking) dogs.

ISBN: 978-0-345-50020-S
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**The Organic Dog Biscuit Cookbook**
With over 100 of our best treat recipes, this makes a great gift for all dog lovers. This beautiful 6.5” x 9” hardcover book has 224 pages and features rounded corners, a canvas cover and sewn in ribbon bookmark. It truly is a top-notch gift. A free cookie cutter is included with every purchase.

www.bubbarose.com
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Step-by-step instructions and photographs of activities to engage, challenge and bond with your new puppy!

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**365 Days of Dogs/Cats Daily Companion**
Great gift idea for pet owners with 365 day of reading, from understanding basic needs, breeds, grooming, health-care to bonding.

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**High-Energy Dogs: A Practical Guide to Living with Energetic and Driven Canines**
Practical, easy-to-follow advice and training techniques help owners understand the physical and mental needs of highly driven dogs.

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$24.00 hardcover

**“Puppy Love DVD**
For Puppy Lovers of All Ages!
Cat lovers DVD also available
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623-217-7784

**Dog Heros Who Save the Day**

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**365 Days of Dogs/Cats Daily Companion**
Great gift idea for pet owners with 365 day of reading, from understanding basic needs, breeds, grooming, health-care to bonding.

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Gingerbread Toys & Treats Dog Gift Basket
Gingerbread toys and treats is the focus of this holiday gift basket! Dogs will turn circles of excitement when they receive this gift. Filled with an assortment of gingerbread man gourmet dog cookie treats, a plush gingerbread house toy, and an assortment of gingerbread man plush toys. $56.50. www.gingerbreadtoys.com

Springer dog exerciser
With the Springer dog exerciser, you can take your dog on bike rides safely. Used by 600,000+ bicyclists, the Springer absorbs up to 90% of the force of a dog’s unexpected tugs, so you keep your balance and your dog is protected from traffic, pedals and wheels. Available from www.springeramerica.com for $69.

Gift basket
At Eternal Paw Prints we know that nothing is harder than losing the companionship of a beloved pet. This wonderful gift basket of comfort and sympathy will show the recipient just how much you care and understand their loss. We include a Lavender-Vanilla Soy Candle with choice of memorial labels, a Rainbow Bridge poem note card, a velvet bag of Wild Flower seeds, and a handwritten sympathy card. $25.50. www.EternalPawPrints.net.

Zoo Med Naturalistic Terrarium
The Naturalistic Terrarium by Zoo Med adds a small piece of nature and tranquility to a home or office while providing reptile pets with a home of luxury. The terrarium features a full front glass opening door with a snap closure, a full stainless steel screen top that does not corrode and accommodates a Dome Clamp Lamp Fixture or the optional Light Bar. It is designed to allow for natural air flow inside the terrarium and a water-tight base allows for a “water pool” on the inside of the terrarium. www.zoomed.com. Similar products available at Pet Kingdom, 3191 Sports Arena, 619) 822-2317.

CAT-OPOLY board game
from National Cat Protection Society
CAT-OPOLY by Late for the Sky Company is the purr-fect board game for cat fans ages 8 and up. Adopt breeds from the Abyssinian to the Turkish Van, trade litter pans for fish bones and get Catnip cash! Don’t be a scaredy cat – be ready to also fall in water, catch flies or face a CAT-AS-TROPE (card). $25. All proceeds benefit the cats and kittens of National Cat Protection Society, a non-profit, no-kill cat shelter dedicated to the protection and welfare of felines. www.natcat.org

Fleece Snowmen Dog PJs
Keep your poohch best dressed all hours of the day. Comfortable, adorable, easy-care apparel. A warm and cozy treat for any pup also includes a coordinating snowman squeaker toy. This is almost too good to be true! $20-$26. Available at your local Muttropolis locations.

Puppy Hugger
puppy hugger aims to lift the spirits in these serious times with vibrant fabric choices guaranteed to make you smile. Also new this year, the Cloud 9 beds in round, square and rectangle shapes made from super soft 100 percent polyester microfibers. Don’t forget to order a matching blanket to throw on the sofa or an even larger one for the kids or yourselves. The one thing about all the fabrics we use is that everyone loves them — so think Christmas gifts for the whole family, not just the dog. www.puppyhugger.com

EmeryCat
EmeryCat utilizes a patented abrasive coating that naturally files down cats’ claws as they play, stretch or scratch. The EmeryCat retails for $17.88 (MSRP) at select Walmart stores and $19.95 at www.emerycat.com. For more information about the EmeryCat please visit Everyday Edisons online at ww.everydayedisons.com.

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Cat Scratch Post
With two super comfortable v-shaped resting perches to while away the hours, and both a sisal and a carpeted post to satisfy your kitty’s need to claw! Made of wood and high quality carpeting, this piece will be your cat’s favorite for years. $109.99 plus shipping. For all of C & D Pet Products great line of cat furniture and outdoor enclosures check out their website at www.cdpets.com or call 888-554-7387.

Christmas Babble Ball
This interactive toy makes animal sounds when touched. It sings, talks, and interacts with your pet for over 10 different sounds and jingles! $14. Available at your local Muttropolis locations.
Help for a Jumping Puppy and a Cat with Gingivitis

By SINDI SOMERS | SAN DIEGO PETS

DEAR SINDI,

I’m trying to teach my 10-month-old puppy Rigby not to jump on people. He’s 22 pounds and I don’t mind it, but I have young children and when their friends come over his jumping on them can be bothersome. Do you have any suggestions?

Jumping up is a natural behavior for dogs, so unlearning it can take time and patience. The behaviors that we give the most attention to are the behaviors being trained, whether desired or not. If a dog jumps up and hears “no” or “down” or is pushed off, it is being acknowledged for jumping. Ignoring unwanted behaviors and rewarding preferred ones expedites training.

Try this technique. When your puppy jumps up on you, turn your back to him and act like a tree! When you turn around, stand completely still. If your dog brushes up against you, licks your hand or continues to jump, it must be ignored. Do not move your hands or body or look at your dog. Each time you interact with your dog and he jumps up, repeat standing still like a tree. Consistency is important, so everyone in the household practicing the tree exercise will greatly assist with the training process. You can even “hire” volunteers to participate.

Next it is important to consistently reward desired non-jumping behaviors. When your puppy has all four paws on the ground give him a treat, praise, pats or a toy. Reward with whatever is of high value to him.

When guests come to your house it can be a whole new challenge, which is why “hiring” volunteers can be beneficial. The key is to be prepared and proactive. Bring treats or other rewards on walks and public outings. You can reward him before he jumps as a distraction, but also to acknowledge your preferred behavior.

Don’t be discouraged if your canine companion jumps up sometimes after all your hard work. Learning is a process!

DEAR SINDI,

Do you know of any homeopathic treatments for gingivitis that might help my cat Juji? Not necessarily homeopathic, but natural alternatives, yes. Gingivitis is an inflammation of the gums caused by plaque buildup. It can advance into periodontal disease, which is a more serious condition. Having your cat examined by a holistic veterinarian knowledgeable about dental care may be beneficial to determine the severity of your cat’s issue.

Regardless of this determination, good nutrition is essential for a strong immune system and healthier mouth. Administering a high-quality multi-vitamin with C, A, E and other antioxidants is also beneficial.

Reading the ingredients label on your pet’s food will help you to become your
cat’s personal nutritionist.
Corn, soy and wheat can lead to digestive problems, allergic reactions and contribute to dental illness in cats and dogs. Cats are carnivores, and unless there is some medical reason to feed them otherwise, they actually don’t need grains. However, some felines do OK with small amounts.

Along with corn, soy and wheat, rice, oatmeal, millet and barley are some of the grains found in pet foods. Eating grains and other starchy carbohydrates that turn into sugar may be aiding Juji’s gingivitis.

Chewing on raw chicken necks can add an abundance of nutrients, enzymes and naturally occurring glucosamine and taurine to her diet while helping to clean her teeth. I suggest initially giving her the raw necks in short periods of five to fifteen minutes to allow her system to adjust. If the chicken neck is frozen, thaw it in the fridge. If she doesn’t go for the thawed raw immediately, sit it on the counter to be brought closer to room temperature. You may wish to pour room temperature or slightly warm water over the meaty bone for Juji. Never cook or microwave the chicken necks.

I also recommend brushing your cat’s teeth. Start by gently touching Juji’s teeth and gums with your fingers. Over time, progress to light massage. Then try using a small, soft-bristled toothbrush found at pet stores and veterinarian offices. Pet toothpaste is also available, but check the ingredients as many include a sugar derivative. Sugar substitutes aren’t a benefit to their diet either.

E-mail Sindi with your nutrition, behavior, health or other pet questions and energy healing, psychic reading and animal communication requests at sindi@sdnews.com.
It’s the holiday season again, and everyone knows what that means: colorful decorations, family gatherings, out-of-town trips, baked goodies, succulent holiday meals and presents, presents, presents. But what you may not know is that the seemingly benign trappings of holiday celebration can be dangerous, and even deadly, to your pet. So take these notes of these precautions whether your pet is feline, canine, rabbit, rodent or feathered!

As reported by local veterinarians, of the holiday ailments that pets sustain, the most frequent are stomach problems brought on by overeating or consuming things not on the regular menu. Sure, it may seem harmless to slip the dog a few scraps from the Thanksgiving table or treat the cat to a bit of gravy sprinkled on her food, but in truth these seemingly innocuous treats can cause digestive upset. While not especially hazardous, this condition can be uncomfortable and upsetting for both the pet and owner. And watch those open alcoholic drinks, as some breeds of parrot have been known to sneak a drink from an untended glass. Variations in diet can also give your pet pancreatitis. Fortunately, these pitfalls are easy to avoid. Keep food out of reach, and stick to your pet’s usual diet. If you have guests over, politely remind them to avoid give your pet that “harmless” extra snack. And be sure to maintain a regular exercise regimen. People aren’t the only ones susceptible to packing on a few additional pounds over the holidays.

Holiday decorations, on the other hand, can be a more serious threat. While decorations constructed from edible materials (such as candy canes and gingerbread houses) have their obvious attractions, an inquisitive pet may make an impromptu snack from low-hanging Christmas tree ornaments or take the bones from a plastic Halloween skeleton. The broken edges of glass and plastic can cause serious internal injury, and the chemicals used in creating decorative products, such as flocking, spider webbing, angel hair and tinsel, may be toxic if consumed. Even if the item isn’t overtly dangerous, it can cause gastrointestinal blockage, another injury commonly reported by local veterinarians.

The electrical cords associated with Christmas lights and other decorations that require power can be a deadly hazard. Exotic pets such as rabbits, ferrets and chinchillas can be aggressive chewers, as well as some breeds of dogs, and the cord may be too inviting a temptation to resist. Even if this is not the case, loose or unsecured cords still pose a threat; animals may incur broken or dislocated limbs, burns or even strangulation should they become entangled. Keep your Christmas lights secured properly, and make sure electrical cords are kept out of the way, taped to the walls or covered with plastic tubing. If your pet is a chewer, your veterinarian or pet supply store can provide you with a chew deterrent that can be used to coat the cords. And for extra safety, turn off or unplug any items requiring electricity when not in use.

The Christmas tree itself can be troublesome for your pet. Imagine how a cat would feel: stuck indoors all day long, and suddenly there’s this fresh, fun tree in the house to climb. Except there’s no root structure holding the tree into the ground, and the sudden addition of weight sends it toppling over, posing a danger not only to the cat but anything else that might be in the way. Keep your tree firmly secured. Use a wide-legged stand and, if possible, anchor the tree to the wall or ceiling. As rule of thumb, don’t water your tree with anything you wouldn’t use to water your pet. Your pet may steal a drink from the tree stand when you’re not looking, so when keeping your tree green, remember to only use the same clean, safe water you’d give your pet... or yourself, for that matter. You may choose to forgo the live Christmas tree in favor of an artificial one. It has its upsides: no need to water, no dead pine needles littering the floor, and at the end of the season you can just pack it up and put it away for next year. But please remember that artificial trees pose their own hazards. The plastics and aluminum used their construction may be harmless to the touch, but if swallowed can lead to intestinal blockage, internal bleeding and irritation of the mouth. When assembling your tree, check it carefully for any loose bits and keep a sharp eye out for anything that may have subsequently broken off.

As a pet owner, you should be aware that the various plants used in holiday decorations could be toxic to your pet if eaten. While the exact level of danger posed by the stems and leaves of poinsettias is still a matter of debate, the plant does possess a level of toxicity, and can in the very least cause your pet serious gastrointestinal discomfort. Mistletoe, on the other hand, is highly toxic. If you chose to hang it, be sure to do so securely. Even a minimal amount can prove fatal to your pet.

Other decorations can be dangerous to your animals as well. It only takes one tipped-over candle to burn a house down. Factor in a curious cat or mischievous ferret, and your odds of having a candle tip increase astronomically. Remember that a domesticated pet will not necessarily recognize fire as a threat, and may find the soft glowing warmth of a candle interesting. Keep that lit wreath or menorah out of reach of pets, and be sure to extinguish the candle promptly after a gathering can bring, such as unfamiliar people, smells or loud noises, can provoke negative or antisocial behavior in an otherwise docile animal. Depending on your pet’s individual temperament, it may be wise to designate a separate part of the house as a “pet-friendly” zone, setting it up with the toys,
bedding and other items that signal “home.” If your pet is socially agreeable with crowds, you should still be conscious of his well-being. An animal running around underfoot at a gathering is an animal at risk of being stepped on. And sadly, a high percentage of pets go missing during this time of the year. As people come and go, the door is constantly opening, providing ample opportunity for your pet to go exploring outdoors. Make sure your pet is wearing its tags at all times. After all, won’t your other guests be dressing up? And speaking of “dressing up,” it can be tempting to dress your pet in one of the novelty costumes routinely sold by stores during the holiday period. Please think twice before doing so. As the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) advises, “Don’t dress up your dog or cat unless you know it likes to be dressed up. If you decide to do so, make sure the costume isn’t annoying or unsafe, and doesn’t restrict movement. Avoid costumes with small or dangling accessories.”

Though it may seem generous and loving to give a pet as a gift, please don’t. The chaos of the holiday season makes it a terrible time to attempt to bond with a new companion, especially if the intended recipient is an inexperienced pet owner. Statistics have shown that a higher percentage of animals given as gifts during the holidays wind up at rescue shelters than during other parts of the year.

If you decide to travel, you should still be conscious of the stress your pet incurs. Crate your animal properly and comfortably, and if at all possible avoid flying your pet in the plane’s cargo area. Most airlines provide specific accommodations for traveling pets. Given the difficulties in bringing a pet on a long trip, it is understandable if you choose to leave yours at home during your holiday travels. If you do so, a boarding service or pet sitter can prove to be an invaluable asset. A pet left alone in the house for lengthy periods can be endangered by its own sense of boredom. Seeking to entertain itself, a pet may act out or engage in destructive behavior. A bored, lonely dog, for instance, may howl and cry or tear up the furniture. And though cats may be more self-sufficient than dogs, when isolated for long periods of time they will also turn the furniture into an impromptu scratching post, not to mention find new and interesting locations to designate as the litter box. Deprived of the contact to which they’re accustomed, birds will often excessively pluck their feathers, leaving ugly bald patches. And as well-intentioned as they may be, your neighbor or family volunteer just might not have the time to give your pet the love and attention it needs. “Don’t rely on a neighbor,” the Bonita Pet Hospital recommends. “Use a pet sitter or home sitter.” Their opinion is seconded by the Spring Valley Veterinary Clinic, which warns that whatever your plans, you “use a pet sitter or trusted friend at least once a day, [keeping] TV or music on as it helps with anxiety.” A sitter or service will dedicate full-time attention to your pet’s well-being, leaving you free to enjoy your trip without worry.

When selecting a pet sitter or boarding service, apply the same criteria you would when selecting a sitter for your child. Be sure to check their credentials and references. If your first choice doesn’t fit your needs, simply select another. It’s important that both you and your pet feel comfortable with your chosen service provider. Remember, though, that as a pet owner it is your responsibility to keep your sitter or boarding service informed as to your pet’s needs and proclivities. Like their owners, each pet is a unique individual with a unique personality, and the more information you give your sitter, the better off all around the relationship between the three of you will be.

For more information about the pet sitting industry, please visit Pet Sitters International at www.petsit.com. For more information on using a professional pet sitter and the benefits for your pets in San Diego County, as well as how to find other Pet Safety resources and information, please visit www.petsitdogwalkbykat.com.
WINTER EVENTS

**November 2009**

**ADOPT-A-SENIOR-PET-MONTH**
ESCOONDIDO HUMANE SOCIETY
3450 East Valley Parkway
Or call us at: (760) 888-BARK

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, 7:30 P.M.**
JEFF CORWIN - 100 HEARTBEATS:
The Race to Save Earth’s Most Endangered Species
Warwick’s - 7812 Girard Ave. - La Jolla, CA
In 100 Heartbeats, conservationist and television host Jeff Corwin provides an urgent, palpable portrait of the wildlife that is suffering in silence and teetering on the brink of extinction. From the forests slipping away beneath the stealthy paws of the Florida panther to the giant panda's plight climbing ever higher in the mountains of China in search of sustenance, Corwin takes readers on a global tour to witness firsthand the critical state of our natural world. Along the way, he shares inspiring stories of battles being waged and won in defense of the earth's most threatened creatures by the conservationists on the front lines.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14**
HOPE TELETHON ON KUSI 9/51
Helen Woodward Animal Center,
6461 El Apajo Road, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
Again this year we invite you to join some of San Diego's most popular animal lovers for the HOPE Telethon benefiting HWAC. The four-hour show airs on KUSI television. Meet animals. Learn about our programs. Laugh. Cry. Phone in your pledge.

**SATURDAY NOV. 14, 10 A.M.**
HEALTHY PET FESTIVAL
Petco - 1210 West Morena Blvd.
Be a part of the celebration! It's important for all of us to assure that our pets are in good health. Don't miss out on important information from our veterinarian, groomer, nutritionist, dog trainer and pet sitter.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15, DEC. 6 & DEC. 20**
HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY ADOPTION DAY
Please complete our adoption application form available from our Website www.sandiegorabbits.org, or e-mail hrs@sandiegorabbits.org if you are interested in adopting. All potential adopters must be pre-screened well in advance of adoption days in order to best match them with rabbits who are appropriate for their home and family. Screening requires the completion of our adoption application and an interview to determine your level of rabbit experience and your preferences and/or expectations of a rabbit. Our goal is to make the best match for the rabbit and the home, ensuring a lifelong adoption for the rabbit. We do not hold adoption events that are “open to the public.” Please contact us in advance so we can match you to one of our foster rabbits and invite you to our adoption day.

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Phone: (951) 660-9803

[www.californiaveterinarianspecialists.com](http://www.californiaveterinarianspecialists.com)
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 6:30-8 P.M.
PET DISASTER PREP LECTURE
SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY AND SPCA
You can never be too prepared in case of emergencies and neither can your pets! Come learn how to plan for emergencies, what supplies your pets will need, what to do with your pets in case of evacuations and more from a representative from our investigations and Animal Rescue Reserve team. Cost is $12 per person and includes materials, light snacks and non-alcoholic refreshments. Please note all classes are for people only — please leave your great pets at home. Space is limited. Pre-register by calling (619) 243-3424 or RSVP online.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25, 4 P.M.
THANKSGIVING FEAST FOR DOGS
78 Eastlake Parkway #1210 - Chula Vista, CA
Have a seat at our decorated Thanksgiving table and enjoy lots of good food. Limited seating; therefore reservations are required. Each dog will receive a goodie bag to take home.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28, NOON-3 P.M.
SNAP PUPPY / DOG ADOPTION EVENT
Muttropolis, 7755 Girard Ave. in La Jolla, CA
SNAP of San Diego will be hosting a puppy/dog adoption event Saturday, Nov. 28 from noon-3 p.m. Give thanks by rescuing a life!

December 2009

SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
POINT LOMA HOLIDAY HOME TOUR & MARKETPLACE
3725 Oleander Drive, San Diego, CA 92106
All proceeds benefit Best Friends Animal Society, www.bestfriends.org, which operates the nation’s largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned homeless companion animals and also is known for its grassroots outreach to animal rescue groups and shelters across the country. This event will include five home tours in the historically rich Point Loma neighborhoods, and a Holiday Marketplace featuring more than 20 local artists and designers offering unique holiday gifts, home accessories, jewelry and more. The Holiday Home Tour is open to the public. Tickets may be purchased for $25 prior to Dec. 5 at Cottage Antiques in Ocean Beach. Tickets will be $30 the day of the event and will be sold at the Home Tour’s holiday marketplace at 3725 Oleander Drive, San Diego, CA 92106, where maps will also be handed out to ticket holders. For more information or tickets: call (619) 518-8663.

FRIDAY DEC. 11, 7 P.M.
HOLIDAY POTLUCK AT SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101
Bring a dish to share. Members can attend for free ( membership $25 per year).
For more info: www.SDTurtle.org

SUNDAY DEC. 13, 1:30-5 P.M.
PET CHRISTMAS COSTUME PARADE & PET EXPO - GASLAMP QUARTER ASSOCIATION
$10 per pet/human duo. Fee will include participation in the parade, collectable Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade dog tags, a goodie bag featuring animal treats, discounts, coupons and other pet-friendly gifts. There will also be a Pet Expo with local pet product and service vendors. Location – Hilton Park at the corner of K Street and 4th across from Convention Center. For more info: www.gaslamp.org.

DIGGY and her human Grace love to go for car rides!
SUPPORT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS WITH PRESENTS 4 PETS DRIVE

Drop off a pet present & attend “Yappy Hour” with your dog on Nov. 21

For the second year in a row, the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa is partnering with Dogs on the Run (www.dogsontherun.com) and supporting the nation-wide Presents 4 Pets collection drive now through Nov. 21. By bringing in a pet supply item you will be invited to a complimentary “Yappy Hour” Saturday, Nov. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the lawn of the resort. Items for pets are being collected in a bin in the lobby of the Sheraton Carlsbad (5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad, CA). Dogs of course are the main attraction, so pet lovers are encouraged to leave the felines at home this time.

The Presents 4 Pets collection drive helps local San Diego animal shelters and rescue groups. By donating a pet item, guests are given a complimentary dessert ticket in the resort’s restaurant Twenty/20 and a invitation to “Yappy Hour,” which will feature live music, dog contests, treats and a raffle, plus complimentary appetizers and beverages for humans. Pet lovers are encouraged to drop off pet presents between now and Nov. 21, or they can bring them to “Yappy Hour” and the gift will allow guests to attend.

The nationwide Presents 4 Pets program assists in helping all shelter animals and local shelters in the greater San Diego area, creating an awareness of community shelters. This year, items collected will be donated to the following organizations:

- The Barking Lot
- Labradors & Friends Rescue
- German Shepherd Rescue
- Paws of Coronado

For further information on dropping off pet items or “Yappy Hour,” contact April Alvillar, Dogs on the Run, at 760.521.9444, or Nancy Hirsch, Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 760.827.2603.

EDUCATION CLASSES

PET FIRST AID

American Red Cross Classes Held Monthly - Cost: $60.00 4-hour class includes Pet First Aid Handbook, Mission Valley & Vista.

MORE INFO: www.SDARC.org or call 858-309-1439

HAPPY HOUR LECTURE SERIES

San Diego Humane Society 3rd Thursdays, Different classes and times.

MORE INFO: http://www.sdhumane.org

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

Escondido Humane Society Bi-monthly classes

MORE INFO: click on “Education”, then “Upcoming Classes at http://www.escondidohumanesociety.org/

DOGGIE CAFE

San Diego Humane Society Last Friday 6-8pm - Have fun socializing with your pets and trainers will be on hand for training tips. To reserve a space call 619-299-7012 extension 2230

MORE INFO: http://www.sdhumane.org

KIDS

ANIMAL TALES

FREE story telling program for kids 4 to 8yrs. Stories and crafts. 3rd Sunday, 1:00pm

MORE INFO: Please call 619-299-7012 ext. 2251 or visit http://www.sdhumane.org and navigate to “Just for Kids”.

TOTS TALES

FREE story telling program for preschoolers or your playgroups. 4th Thursday, 10:30am

MORE INFO: Please call 619-243-3432 or visit http://www.sdhumane.org

PARROTS

PARROT CLASSES

Monthly classes held at the Marina Village Conference Center, $10.00 Non-Members, $15.00 at the door.

MORE INFO: To register go to web site at http://www.peac.org/sem_by_site.shtml

RABBITS

SDHRS

Volunteer or find out more about San Diego House Rabbit Society.

MORE INFO: 619-718-7777 or visit web site at www.sandiegorabbits.org

RADIO PROGRAMS

TALKIN’ ANIMALS WITH DR. DOG

Every Sun. 9-10am - 760AM KFMB

MORE INFO: www.drdog.com

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Please call (858) 756-4117 www.animalcenter.org

SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY

619-299-7012 ext 2230. www.sdhumane.org
WINTER CALENDAR

JANUARY 22 — FEBRUARY 21, 2010
LOVE IS A DOG
San Diego Art Institute, in Balboa Park.
Reception Jan.29, 2010, 6-8 p.m.
“Love is a Dog” 50 paintings featuring man &
woman’s best friend. For more info contact
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BETH SIMONS
Owner

www.petmepleaseSD.com
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
German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue (760) 726-4813 www.GSP-Rescue.org
Greyhound Adoption Center Toll Free 1-877-478-8364 www.greyhoundog.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 Bulldog Rescue Finding loving homes for bulldogs in need. You can help our program by visiting www.ralphs.com. Select “Community” and use our NPO number 90619. web: www.sdbr.org Phone: (619) 501-0219

Animal Welfare Organizations

Labrador Harbor Sue Frounfelter (619) 892-0049 www.LabradorHarbor.org
Lions, Tigers & Bears Bobbi Brink (619) 659-8078 www.LionsTigersandBears.org

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
ANIMAL RESOURCES

Animal Shelters & Humane Societies

SHELTERS THAT WILL ACCEPT STRAYS & HAVE ADOPTIONS

BAY PARK/MISSION VALLEY

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 Bayer 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 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ESCONDIDO

Escondido Humane Society
3430 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.
Emergency Hospitals

BONITA/CHULA VISTA
South Co. Emergency Animal Clinic (619) 427-2881
3438 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 M-F 6 p.m.-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.-8 a.m. Sat. Sun.
3:30pm-8am www.PECSanDiego.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

Veterinary Specialty Hospital (760) 466-0600
2055 Montiel Road, Suite 104 San Marcos, CA 92069
www.vshsd.com

SORRENTO VALLEY
Veterinary Specialty Hospital (858) 875-7500
10435 Sorrento Valley Rd. San Diego, CA 92121 7 Days 24 hrs.
www.VSHSD.com

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