san diego pets
A Lifestyle Magazine for Pet Lovers
DEC / JAN 2007-2008
FREE

INSIDE:
San Diegans Respond to Wildfires
See story page 6

Holiday Gift Guide
See story page 26

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PHOTO BY S. Noon/SD Humane
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Happy Holidays!

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The injured pets—mostly cats—leap from the “lost pets” pages of the County of San Diego’s Department of Animal Services (DAS) website, their faces marked with healing burns and their legs bandaged after encounters with hot embers during the October firestorms. Most of their stories are unknown, yet some survived infernos at their former homes.

One gray and white cat was found cowering in a drainage pipe at an incinerated mobile home park. Some animals’ families could not or chose not to rescue them, and others had owners with inadequate crates or trailers to transport them. Wildlife died in unknown numbers, unable to outrun the flames.

The lucky survivors at the animal shelters were rescued by DAS officers and hundreds of staff and volunteers from the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other regional agencies responding to DAS’ call for help in rescuing and caring for thousands of fire-endangered pets, horses and farm animals.

While some animals (especially horses) were treated in the field at evacuation centers, most of 44 burned cats and dogs received veterinary care at DAS’ three shelter hospitals, where some are still being reunited with their displaced families. More severely burned cats and dogs were transferred to private veterinary clinics for specialized care.

“Animals that are treatable are getting treatment. The veterinary community has really stepped up,” said Dawn Danielson, DAS director, who added that the animals are receiving pain medication as part of their care. DAS’ pain management program is state of the art, reported Dave Johnson, who oversees DAS’ full-service veterinary facilities.

One dog, dubbed Bernie because of his injuries, was treated at a Sorrento Valley specialty clinic with the same techniques used on humans. Manufacturers and vendors have contributed most of the specialized materials and drugs needed by the burn victims, and private veterinary clinics have donated and discounted many services. Friends of County Animal Shelters (FOCAS), the nonprofit group that supports adoption and medical care for animals in the county shelter system, is covering extra costs to help the survivors recover.

SDHS’ Animal Rescue Reserve (ARR), working under DAS when activated during emergencies, went behind fire lines to rescue animals. Personnel did welfare checks for evacuated residents not allowed back to check on or to retrieve their animals and brought many animals, large and small, to temporary shelters set up around the county. ARR volunteers, along with staff and volunteers from other agencies, brought hay, food and water to animals remaining in the burn areas in pastures, barns and homes.

“My staff had lots of addresses to check on animals. We were picking up keys to get into homes to feed and water the animals and, if we didn’t have keys, finding a way in if we saw animals inside,” Danielson explained.

Del Mar Fairgrounds and the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds received horses and other large animals in the northern part of the county. Fiesta Island, off Mission Bay, opened as a horse...
The Ramona-based all-volunteer Emergency Animal Rescue (EAR), which routinely assists people with injured and stranded animals in North County and responds to national emergencies, created a large-animal sanctuary at Bobby Neals Ranch near Ramona. EAR volunteers cared for about 200 horses, many with burns, along with smaller animals, said volunteer Pattie Hageman.

"After the immediate fire danger passed, we took care of about 300 animals in the community – cats, dogs, chickens, goats, miniature horses, pigs – and took them food and water. The hard thing was to get hay," Hageman said.

Animal welfare professionals agree that amid the lessons from the Cedar fire of 2003 and Hurricane Katrina two years later, public and private organizations were far more effective in evacuating and sheltering people and pets and carrying out their designated roles. DeSousa pointed out that Katrina demonstrated the importance of keeping the human-animal bond intact.

"It's better to keep the animals with the people," he said.

Before Katrina, the American Red Cross did not allow people to bring their pets to evacuation shelters, said Andy McKellar, disaster response manager for the San Diego-Imperial County Chapter.

"Katrina changed everything. We noticed that people were unwilling to leave their pets. They’re family members. They put their lives and the lives of their pets in danger along with the lives of first responders who tried to evacuate them," McKellar said.

Now, nationwide, the Red Cross works with local animal shelters and humane societies to plan pet shelters.

"Previous to Katrina, and even now, our standard is that we don’t allow pets in shelters. But we co-join shelters," offering pet evacuation sites in adjoining buildings or open space so animals may stay near their families, McKellar explained.

"People need to understand that we are serious about providing the best shelter possible for pets. We identify those shelters that are pet-friendly to the county," he added.

Danielson credited lessons from the Cedar fire for enabling everyone to do a better job of evacuating themselves and their pets.

"We were a lot better prepared. People were more prepared. We went around to schools and community groups explaining disaster planning. Everyone in the county was sent an emergency preparedness booklet. People had their trailers ready and were ready to move with their animals," she said.

SDHS employees and volunteers were pleased to work closely with the Red Cross.

"It was a really good system, and we want to continue to have it," said Candice Eley, SDHS public relations coordinator.

Eley also credits Katrina’s images of stranded people and pets with educating people about preparing for an emergency. "It helped people be aware that if something happened they have to be ready to evacuate immediately," she said.

For more information, visit DAS’ website at www.sddac.com and click on “Lost and Found” to view images of lost pets; click on “Disaster Planning” to download a pet disaster plan. For latest updates on SDHS’ fire animal rescues and Fire Relief Pet Assistance Program, visit www.sdhumane.org.

A cat was rescued from a drainage pipe at this incinerated mobile home park.

and livestock shelter managed by HSUS. Supervisor Greg Cox recognized the need for a large animal shelter in South County, and arranged with Bonita’s Sunnyside Saddle Club to use its riding rink at Rohr Park as a temporary shelter.

"It was extremely well-organized and orderly. People had plenty of hay, and most people stayed with their horses,” Cox reported.

Noah’s Wish, a national nonprofit group specializing in disaster response, volunteered to organize and run the animal shelter at Qualcomm Stadium.

"They were a godsend to us," said DAS Lt. Daniel DeSousa, who coordinated distribution of resources during the wildfires. "They brought in kenneling equipment and set up and staffed a temporary shelter." DeSousa also praised the community’s volunteerism and generosity in responding to the disaster.

In addition to individual donations, corporations including locally based Petco and the PetSmart Foundation provided several semi-trailers loaded with supplies and equipment.

"We had one person who evacuated 20 large birds, which needed new cages. Petco sent in large bird cages from stores throughout the region,” de Sousa said.

Individuals and local organizations also volunteered their homes and properties as temporary shelters.
The San Diego Humane Society announced the establishment of the Fire Relief Pet Assistance Program on November 12 in order to provide financial support to pet owners directly affected by San Diego’s recent wildfires.

Though the threat from the fires has subsided, pet owners in need will continue to struggle with financial troubles brought on by property loss and emergency pet-care expenses. To help these residents, the San Diego Humane Society’s Fire Relief Pet Assistance Program will provide reimbursement of up to $500 per household to cover pet-related expenditures incurred due to the fires. Reimbursement is available for veterinary expenses, transportation and boarding expenses, pet food, livestock feed, and pet or livestock supplies.

**HOW TO APPLY:**
1. Pet owners directly affected by the fires may find out more about the Fire Relief Pet Assistance Program and complete an application for assistance by calling Kimmy O’Connor (619) 243-3434.

2. Return completed application with a copy of your current driver’s license and Red Cross Fire Identification Card, completed insurance claim forms, or government issued documentation related to the fires.

3. If applying for reimbursement, attach a copy of your pet care provider’s bill or livestock feed bill.

4. If for pet or livestock supplies, please list needs and preferred vendor information on the application.

To read more go to: www.sdhumane.org
DECEMBER

December 1
Photos with Santa at Dog Beach Dog Wash
10am-3pm Get a picture right before Ocean Beach Holiday Parade at 4933 Voltaire St., San Diego 92107. Proceeds benefit Labrador Harbor.
MORE INFO www.LabradorHarbor.org

December 1-2
Cool Yule Flyball Tournament, U-FLI™
COST: FREE to watch, Ramona Outdoor Community Center, 451 Aqua Lane, Ramona 92065.

December 2
50th Annual La Jolla Christmas Parade
1:30pm – COST: FREE, many animal organizations participate in the parade and of course equestrians. The parade route travels north up Girard and turns south on Prospect. Get there early.
MORE INFO: http://www.LJParade.com

December 2
Photos with Santa at The Springs in Oceanside
Noon-5pm COST: $12 for 4x6, proceeds benefit North County Humane Society. Location is The Springs at 3524 Lake Blvd., Oceanside 92056.
MORE INFO: Call (760) 945-1811 or www.NCHumane.org

December 5
Christmas Tree Lighting at Friends of Cats
5-7pm COST: Please support a kitty by sponsoring an ornament on the tree. We will have beverages, munchies and a good time for all. Location is at shelter at 15587 Olde Highway 80, El Cajon 92021.
MORE INFO: www.FriendsofCats.org

December 6
Jingle Mutt Mingle -Benefit the Baja Animal Sanctuary!
5-8pm COST: FREE. Meet Graham the trainer with West Coast K9 Training. Roaming pup-paw-razzi will be snapping away, and you can meet a professional framer from Laurel’s Custom Framing. Enter to win the raffle. Enjoy fabulous appetizers while your pup munches on gourmet all-natural treats. Plus, sip in style with Tommy Bahama rum tastings on the patio! Muttropolis, 227 South Cedros, Solana Beach 92075.
MORE INFO: http://www.Muttropolis.com or call (858)755-3647

December 6
Wine Tasting to benefit SNAP
4-9:30PM COST: $25 includes wine samples and hors d’oeuvres. At Wine Styles, 191 El Camino Real, Encinitas 92024

December 6
Jingle Mutt Mingle With Special Guest Arden Moore!
6-8pm COST: FREE. Grab your pooch and enjoy tray-passed dog treats, Christmas cookies, egg nog, hot cider and mutts more. Plus, meet cat scribe Cathy Conheim, www.henrysworld.org. Professional photographer Bryan Miller will be on hand taking pictures, www.pbase.com/millerbn. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Chula Vista Animal Care Center. At Muttropolis 7755 Girard Avenue, La Jolla 92037
MORE INFO: http://www.Muttropolis.com or call (858) 459-WOOF

December 6
Coronado Christmas Parade
6pm COST: FREE. Starts at Orange Avenue and 8th Street, with several dog groups participating this year.
MORE INFO: www.ECoronado.com, click on Holiday Events

December 8
Annual Holiday Party at Lions, Tigers & Bears
1-4pm COST: FREE with membership, which starts at $50
MORE INFO: www.LionsTigersandBears.org

December 8
Dog Beach Clean-up
9-11am All tools provided plus toys and treats for you and your dogs. Sponsored by Friends of Dog Beach and Dog Beach Dog Wash.
MORE INFO: Call (619) 523-1700
**December 9**
**First Aid for Dogs and Cats**
1-5pm **COST**: $55. The San Diego Humane Society, SPCA and American Red Cross. Class includes suggested treatments for choking or breathing difficulties, possible broken bones, shock, poisoning or snakebites, carsickness or temperature illnesses, and more. This class is for humans only - please leave your great pets at home. Reservations are required.
**MORE INFO:** www.SDHumane.com or call (619) 243 3424.

**December 14**
**Holiday Potluck at San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society**
7:30pm **COST:** Bring a dish to share, members free, membership $25 a year. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101.
**MORE INFO:** www.SDTurtle.org

**December 14**
**Winter Holiday Doggie Café at San Diego Humane Society**
6-8pm **Cost:** $10. Bring your leashed dog and listen to the band Forecast. Complimentary desserts and dog treats plus sandwiches, salads and beverages for purchase at our outdoor café. Photos available for $5.
**MORE INFO:** Go to www.SDHumane.com or (619) 299-7012, ext 2230

**December 15**
**Operation Greyhound - Muttropolis**
1-3pm **COST:** FREE. Join us in the afternoon with Operation Greyhound. Get all your questions answered and see photos of adoptable greyhounds. Muttropolis 227 South Cedros, Solana Beach, CA 92075.
**MORE INFO:** http://www.Muttropolis.com, or call (858) 755-3647

**December 15**
**Pug Christmas Party benefiting Pug Rescue of San Diego**
11am-2pm **COST:** FREE. Agility course, pug store boutique at the Canine Sports Center, 4821 Dehesa Road, El Cajon 92019.
**MORE INFO:** www.PugButts.com

**December 15**
**Photos with Santa, sponsored by Coastal German Shepherd Rescue and Petsmart**
Have your pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus - part of the proceeds go directly to the dogs!
Petsmart Encinitas, 1034 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas 92024.
**MORE INFO:** www.coastalgsr.org or call store number, (760) 436-1220

**December 15**
**Greyhound Walking Club**
Check website for time. All well-behaved dogs welcome. At San Dieguito Park, located at Lomas Santa Fe Drive and Highland Drive in Solana Beach. $2 to park.
**MORE INFO:** http://www.gwcsd.homestead.com or call (760) 805-2970
**December 15**
**Photos with Santa to benefit Wee Companions**
11am-4pm **COST:** $9.95 at Petsmart, 3610 Rosecrans St., San Diego 92110.
**MORE INFO:** www.WeCompanions.com or call (619) 523-4177

**December 16**
**San Diego House Rabbit Society Holiday Party**
1-4pm **COST:** $5 donation, children under 10 free. Please bring a vegetarian hors d’oeuvre or snack to share. Rabbits are welcome, on a leash or in a carrier. If you bring your rabbit, please also bring a pen and litter box to keep it safely contained. None will be provided. Loomis Auditorium, San Diego Humane Society, 5500 Gaines St., San Diego 92110.
**MORE INFO:** http://www.SanDiegoRabbit.org or e-mail hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

**December 16**
**Great Dane Appreciation Day – Muttropolis La Jolla**
10am-6pm Come and join us for Great Dane Day! Enjoy 10 percent off your purchase and a free goodie bag for your pooch. A selection of tough toys, beds and food for your gentle giant will be available.
**MORE INFO:** http://www.Muttropolis.com or call (858) 459-WOOF

**December 16**
**Howl-A-Day Dog Pawty**
Noon to 6pm **Cost:** $5. Location: Little Italy, India Street between Laurel & A St.
**MORE INFO:** Call Christina at (619) 321-9829
www.PawyardPawty.com

**December 20**
**Intro to Reiki lecture**
6:30-8pm **COST:** $10. Reiki is used to accelerate the natural healing process and provide relaxation in animals and humans. It differs from typical massage movements by using a variety of hand placement positions to balance the flow of energy and provide deep relaxation. In addition to helping balance and relaxation, Reiki can help enhance your pet’s positive behaviors while also relieving pain and stress. This class is for humans only - please leave your great pets at home. Reservations are required.
**MORE INFO:** www.SDHumane.com or call (619) 243-3424.

**December 22**
**Photos with Santa**
**sponsored by Coastal German Shepherd Rescue and PetSmart**
Have your pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus - part of the proceeds go directly to the dogs!
PetSmart Encinitas, 1034 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas 92024.
**MORE INFO:** www.coastalgrs.org or call store number, (760) 436-1220

**December 27**
**Annual Wiener Race Finals at San Diego Bay Big Balloon Parade**
9am **COST:** FREE to watch, races start in the television area for the parade downtown on Harbor Drive. Parade starts at 10 am.
**MORE INFO:** www.HolidayBowl.com

**December 29-January 1**
**Agility Trials, Golden Retriever Club and Southwest Rottweiler Club**
9am **COST:** FREE to watch, cost to enter. Rohr Park 4548 Sweetwater Road, Bonita 91902.
**MORE INFO:** www.JumpNFunAgility.net

**JANUARY**

**January 19**
**Family Dog 1 - Muttropolis Solana Beach**
**MORE INFO:** http://www.Muttropolis.com, or call (858)755-3647

**January 26**
**Super Small Dog Adoption Event**
Noon-3pm **COST:** Adoption fee to benefit SNAP. Held at Muttropolis La Jolla, 7755 Girard Ave., 92037.
**MORE INFO:** www.SNAP-SanDiego.org

**January 26-27**
**San Diego Cat Fanciers Annual Show**
10am-4pm **Cost:** $7 plus $9 parking. Del Mar Fairgrounds, largest cat show and vendor product booths in San Diego County.
**MORE INFO:** www.SanDiegoCat.org (760) 942-6457

**FEBRUARY**

**February 17**
**Doggie Vday Pawty**
Noon to 6pm **Cost:** $5. Location: Little Italy, India Street between Laurel & A St.
**MORE INFO:** Call Christina at (619) 321-9829
www.PawyardPawty.com
While the county’s recent fires claimed the lives and health of untold numbers of animals, John Van Zante cautioned that this time of year signals an upturn in a more global, but no less demanding, difficulty. And he’s got just the example to illustrate it.

Six years ago, he’d spotted a bulldog loping across the grounds of Rancho Santa Fe’s Helen Woodward Animal Center, its elderly owner helplessly in tow. He quickly came to her aid and asked what prompted her visit – she said she needed to give up the animal “because since I got it, my life has been hell.” The dog’s brute strength constantly prevailed at home, she explained, adding that she’d sifted through all the torn and soiled household items she could stand.

Her grandkids had gotten the dog as a surprise, she said, as Van Zante stood unfazed. He’s heard the story too many times to count, especially over the holiday season. The Humane Society of the United States reports that more people will adopt pets at this time of year than any other, which translates to support for backyard breeders and puppy mills by uneducated families who take delivery on more than they bargained for, perhaps as a knee-jerk response to the needs of an animal hurt in the fires.

Van Zante, spokesman for the Woodward Center’s Iams Home 4 the Holidays pet adoption drive, says there’s a right way to go about taking in a pet over the season. This annual drive, which kicked off its ninth campaign Nov. 5, expects to facilitate some 415,000 pet adoptions, with 33 San Diego-area animal shelters and rescue groups leading 2,700 such organizations in 15 countries. The idea is to take the momentum away from marketers who breed substandard animals and hawk them to an unsuspecting public.

“You can’t buy a new best friend for somebody else,” Van Zante explained. “Families make a lifetime commitment when they adopt an animal. The responsible ones even put the animals in their wills. Shelters and animal groups can help families make informed decisions. They exist to match the needs of the pet with the desires of the family.”

He added that some 500,000 pets will be euthanized in California this year, and 5 million across the United States, as unwanted animals are shuttled to pounds and other terminal destinations.

“Let’s be the good guys,” Van Zante said. “Let’s save a life and speak on behalf of these animals.”

The drive is a product of the Woodward facility, which in 1999 organized 14 shelters in an effort to find appropriate adoptive families. The shelters placed about 2,500 orphaned dogs and cats that year. Two years later, 450 animal groups found homes for approximately 100,000 animals in four countries. Last year, the facilities placed 378,000 animals. Participating shelters report return rates of fewer than 2 percent of their holiday adoptions.

This year’s effort will run through Jan. 3. For more information on how to be a good guy, log on to www.home4theholidays.com or visit your local animal shelter or pet rescue center.
**Q.**

**MY DOG IS ABOUT 18 MONTHS OLD.**

I’ve had him since he was 10 weeks. We did obedience training classes, and he caught on real quickly. However, over the last few months, I’ve noticed that he seems to be forgetting what he learned, if that’s possible. He used to race right over when I’d call him, but now he acts like he doesn’t hear me. If I ask him to sit, he just looks at me, then looks away (or walks away). What’s going on?

— BARRY, TIERRASANTA

**A.**

Dear Barry,

Let me start by applauding you for taking responsibility and enrolling your dog in obedience class, one of the best moves you can make as a pet owner. The benefits you and your dog will receive are priceless. Remember, you and your best friend make up a great team. Like all great teams, if you have talent but don’t practice and be consistent, you will be destined to fail.

That being said, let’s talk about practice. Practice makes perfect! Set aside at least ten minutes a day and work on behaviors you learned in class. You won’t believe the difference ten minutes a day can make, not only for your training but also in the bond you two will develop. If you are having problems fitting in ten minutes each day for training, you may want to reevaluate who really has the discipline issue. Sometimes, training owners to train their dog is more difficult than training the dog.

Next, never give a command without being able to enforce it. For example, if you ask your dog to stay and he complies, follow up with a lot of praise while your dog is in the command position, then release him. If, on the other hand, he leaves the stay before you release him, follow up by quickly placing him back in the same spot he broke from. Then repeat the command. This way, you are explaining to him what “stay” means. You dictate what happens next, not your dog. If you don’t follow up when you ask a command, you are allowing your dog to win and indicating the unwanted behavior is acceptable.

Another factor in training is treats. If you depended on treats while initially training your dog, your dog will in turn depend on you to always have them when asking for a command. When a dog loses the desire for the treat or realizes he is not always going to get the treat, he may lose interest in executing the command. Treats are good when used correctly, but an obedient dog should not need treats to follow through. More important, you, the owner, should not rely on them.

Dog obedience is very important. San Diego Pet Training will begin basic obedience courses in January. Please visit www.sdpettraining.com for more information.

Good Luck,

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THE BEST FOR YOUR PET www.healthypetpantry.net
For many new pet owners, raising a puppy is like raising a child, replete with all the questions parents harbor. Meagan Karnes, dog trainer and co-owner of Metropawlitian Dog in downtown San Diego, offers answers to some of the most frequent questions asked by new puppy owners.

**SAN DIEGO PETS:** At what age is it appropriate for a puppy to have interaction with puppies, dogs and other animals? What about interaction with people and kids?

**MEAGAN KARNES:** Young puppies need socialization. At a very young age (i.e., below 16 weeks), keep interactions with other dogs controlled. At this age, puppies are not fully vaccinated and therefore aren’t protected against many illnesses that can be spread from dog to dog. Some of these illnesses, including distemper and parvovirus, are potentially fatal to young, unvaccinated pups, so be sure to keep your pup protected by allowing only for controlled interaction with other healthy, fully vaccinated dogs. Also, keep puppies away from areas that unvaccinated dogs may have visited, such as public parks. Many illnesses can be spread through fecal matter in the soil. During this time, when puppies are vulnerable to contagious disease, socialization in controlled environments, such as in the home, is key. This is a great time for puppies to socialize with children and people of all ages. Just make sure the interaction and experience is positive for young pups. Ask strangers to wash their hands before handling young pups to prevent the spread of disease. At about 16 weeks, after the pup has received its final round of vaccinations, socialization with other dogs, animals and people is key for proper development of social skills.

**SDP:** What training exercises can a new puppy owner do at home?

**MK:** New puppy owners can introduce basic commands at home by merely luring the dog into a desired position with a treat and rewarding when the behavior has been accomplished. It is also great to practice a puppy’s recall - introduce this by calling the puppy’s name in a tone of excitement and telling him or her to come. When the puppy comes, reward with a tasty treat and lots of praise. Start the exercise only a few feet away from your pup and move farther away with each success until the puppy comes from long distances inside the home. Make sure to always reward a job well done!

**SDP:** What are the key things you need to teach a puppy for him to grow into a well-trained dog?

**MK:** Socialization is key when dogs are young. Introduce them to all sorts of new people, places, things and animals. Make the experience positive so that your pup grows up with confidence when faced with the unknown. At this age, it is a good idea to teach your pup how to greet strangers. Never reward a puppy for jumping. Often, we pet a puppy when he or she jumps up for attention. This encourages the behavior, and therefore, the behavior will continue. Rather, if someone wants to pet your pup, wait for all four feet to be on the floor before any attention is given. This goes for treats, too! Never treat a jumping dog. Wait for the dog to be calm before you offer a treat.

**SDP:** Should owners get a trainer or professional help?

**MK:** It is definitely recommended that new puppy owners establish a relation-
ship with a trainer while the puppy is young. The trainer can help new doggy parents understand what to expect, and can detect potential problems before they arise and help to nip them in the bud before they escalate. Training at an early age makes for a well-rounded, sociable and confident pup.

**SDP:** How should pet owners select a trainer or facility, particularly for puppies?

**MK:** Select a trainer you feel comfortable with. Make sure to ask them where they were educated and how many years of experience they have, specifically with dogs similar in age and breed as yours. Ask for references, and check them! Ask past clients what they liked and disliked about the training programs. Don’t depend on certifications or degrees. Many certifications are basic and only require an at-home study program that doesn’t really test a trainer’s hands-on capabilities with dogs. Last, make sure the person is someone you enjoy working with and that your pup takes a liking to him or her too. Make sure you agree with the trainer’s methods and are comfortable implementing the suggestions they make.

**SDP:** Anything a new puppy owner shouldn’t do?

**MK:** Never smack, hit or kick a young puppy (or any dog, for that matter). Taking your frustration out on a dog only tells the dog you are weak and not in control of your own behavior. In addition, it can scar young puppies and cause them to become hand-shy or even fear-aggressive. Also, never leave a young puppy unsupervised unless it is contained in a crate or pen. Puppies like to get into trouble and have been known to chew things such as household cleaner containers, cables and cords and other potentially dangerous items. Make sure your puppy is always supervised -- otherwise, create a secure space so that you can be sure he or she is safe.

Metropawlitan Dog, an upscale dog care facility located in San Diego’s bustling East Village, offers doggie daycare, a dog spa, dog training, unique retail and special events in a convenient and modern facility. To learn more about Metropawlitan Dog, visit: www.metropawlitanandog.com or call (619) 233-1364.
Here we are again, thinking about the start of a fresh New Year. If you’re like me, the arrival of the New Year can bring on thoughts about what I’d like to change, accomplish or add to my life. It’s time for reflection on the past year and a chance for new beginnings.

Many people bring on the New Year by resolving to make some specific changes in their lives. Maybe they want to quit smoking, lose weight, exercise more or even find a new companion and settle down. These are all good resolutions and ways for us, as individuals, to improve our own lives. However, while thinking about how we’ll make changes for ourselves, we should remember also to take into account our furry friends who need our help in making their lives better. Maybe Mr. BunBun needs to lose a pound or two? Or perhaps it’s finally time to get his diet into shape or to build him a new play area so he gets more exercise? There are many things you can do to not only improve your own life, but the lives of your rabbit friends as well.

**Diet**

To help BunBun get down to his healthy, normal weight, start first by eliminating sugary treats. Replace them with fresh, tasty herbs and lots of praise and attention. Many bunnies are looking for attention when they beg and you can reward them just as well with something healthy, rather than something sweet from the pet store aisle. Load up on fresh grass hays to ensure Bun is getting enough fiber to keep his digestive tract healthy and wear down his teeth. And finally, switch out those high-fat pellets (you know – the ones with the dried fruits and seeds in them) for a healthier alternative, such as Oxbow’s Bunny Basic’s T or other timothy-blend pellets from Brown’s, Kaytee or Zupreem. The key is to get your rabbit on a “limited pellet” diet and switch to a healthier alternative.

**Exercise**

Start building more activities into BunBun’s routine to help him get more exercise. Throw in some new toys for interest; make a maze out of cardboard boxes (or visit the HRS Bunny Store for a new Cottontail Cottage or Hopper Hideaway) for bunny to climb on, run through and play. Engage your rabbit in games of rolling a ball, throwing a paper tube, or tossing plastic rings back and forth. Put bunny’s pellets (a very small portion) up on top of a box so he has to jump up to get them. Right there, you’ve built in some exercise for your rabbit.

**A New Friend for Bun**

Perhaps your rabbit acts bored; lying around not doing much, just hiding under the bed and only coming out for meal times. Maybe bunny needs a new friend. If your rabbit has been spayed or neutered, and spends a lot of time alone, he would very likely benefit from a new friend. It’s best to try opposite sex bunnies first and ensure they are both altered before making an introduction. There’s a process to bonding rabbits, which can take from a few days to a couple months, but it is well worth it. When you see your bunny dancing with delight, running, playing and snuggling with a new partner, you’ll know that getting him a friend was one of the best moves you ever made.

San Diego House Rabbit Society can help you follow-through on your resolutions for your bunny’s better life. Visit www.sandiegorabbits.org to find detailed diet information, ideas for toys and play activities, and adoptable rabbits who need a friend – like your BunBun. Contact the Society at hrs@sandiegorabbits.org or (619) 718-7777.
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Helen Woodward Animal Center
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**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.ChihuahuaRescuedSanDiego.com

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

**Greyhound Adoption Center** Toll Free 1-877-478-8364
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**Greyhound Connection** (619) 286-4739
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www.OperationGreyhound.com

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

**Pit Bull Rescue of San Diego** Kate John (858) 361-3592
www.PitBullRescueSanDiego.com

**San Diego House Rabbit Society** Judith Pierce (619) 718-7777
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**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.WestieRescueCA.com

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**Labrador Harbor** Sue Frounfelder (619) 892-0049
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Dog Beaches

**NO LEASH REQUIRED LOCATIONS**

- **Coronado Beach** North end of Ocean Blvd., S. 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 June 15 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.
- **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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Saving unwanted pets one “leg” at a time
Internet groups join forces to find homes for last-chance animals

A disturbing number of dogs and cats – 6 to 8 million – enter animal shelters each year in the United States, according to estimates by The Humane Society of the U.S. Some shelter animals are strays, others are surrendered by their owners for a variety of reasons. Unfortunately, the population of homeless animals far exceeds the number of adoptive homes that can be found for them. As a result, shelters across the country euthanize 3 to 4 million innocent animals every year before they ever have a real chance to find a loving home.

But there is hope for society’s most unwanted animals, thanks to a compassionate group of people connecting online to find loving homes for these last-chance animals.

Animal lover, author and award-winning producer Bonnie Silva follows the heartwarming journeys of some of these animal rescue transporters in her new book, “Fifteen Legs: When all that stands between death and freedom is a ride” (Riverbank Press, December 2007). Through Silva’s accounts of traveling alongside a band of rescue volunteers for two years, the unsung heroes are recognized for their selfless acts.

With the help of the Internet, these rescuers locate last-chance animals and drive legs of cross-country excursions – sometimes 15 or more – to get them to their new homes or safe houses. “Fifteen Legs” highlights the homeless pet overpopulation issue in America and shows how people are getting involved to save lives.

“The thought of perfect strangers coming together and working as a team to shuttle society’s non human cast-offs out of harm’s way was too wonderful a story to pass up,” Silva says. After collecting more than two years worth of compelling stories for a documentary film, Silva decided to write a book as well in order to capture all aspects of animal rescue and transport in greater detail.

Silva is an award-winning producer and author whose work has appeared in publications such as Natural Life magazine, Life Learning magazine and Home Education magazine and on the Discovery Channel. She won a National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning through Broadcasting and served as creator, writer and producer for an Emmy Award-winning public service campaign. Silva received a bachelor’s degree in mass communications from Emerson College and currently resides on the north shore of Massachusetts with a dog she adopted from a local animal control officer.

For more information, please visit www.riverbankpress.com.

A Prince among Dogs
And Other Stories of the Dogs We Love

What would we do without our dogs? They are there for us when things are going great and when we are at our worst. And they still love us. Dogs bring an intense loyalty and love to our lives that no other pet—or human!—can match. When we want to give up, they come to us with wagging tails and goofy smiles, asking to go for a walk or play tug-of-war. Nothing can lift our spirits like our dogs.

In this heartwarming collection of true stories, you will meet many dogs—some big, some small, some rambunctious and some serene. Each of them has played an important part in the lives of their humans. You’ll meet a three-legged survivor who helps heal a broken family, a funny mutt who brings laughter to a house filled with anxiety, a local celebrity pup who brings smiles and customers to a couple’s store and many more ordinary and extraordinary canines.

So share a treat with the special dog in your life and dig into these uplifting tales.

Author information: Callie Smith Grant is the author of several nonfiction books for young readers and adults as well as many animal-themed stories and poems that can be seen in Guideposts anthologies and in magazines such as Small Farmer’s Journal.

A Dickens of a Cat
And Other Stories of the Cats We Love

According to The American Humane Society, 90 million cats are owned in the U.S. And one in three households have a cat - on average two cats - for a pet. Who do we Americans love as much as our pets? Our cats are more than pets. They are our best friends when times are tough, our partners when we are lonely, our pillows to cry on when we are sad. Cats bring companionship, humor and a sense of mystery to our lives that no other pet can match. A rumbling purr or a tender meow can change our moods and warm our hearts.

In this charming collection of true stories, you will find cats of all shapes, sizes and demeanors. Each of them has played an important part in the lives of their humans.

You’ll meet a scrawny kitten who helps an anorexic girl get well, a selfless mother cat who gives up her kitten to a little boy who needs a friend, a cat who acts as a partner down the lonely road of cancer recovery, and many more ordinary and extraordinary felines.

So grab a cup of coffee, find a comfortable chair, curl up with the special cat in your life and enjoy these uplifting tales.

Author information: Callie Smith Grant is the author of several nonfiction books for young readers and adults as well as many animal-themed stories and poems that can be seen in Guideposts anthologies and in magazines such as Small Farmers Journal.

The Puppy Whisperer
A Compassionate, Nonviolent Guide to Early Training and Care

By Paul Owens & Terence Cranendonk with Norma Eckrote

“I’ve known Paul personally for many years and have faithfully followed his training advice with wonderful results. I can’t recommend him highly enough.”-Jeff Probst, host of Survivor.

Following the success of his book, “The Dog Whisperer,” Paul Owens turns his attention to puppies. In “The Puppy Whisperer,” Owens and his protege Terence Cranendonk offer a compassionate step-by-step guide to all things puppy, including how to:

• Evaluate temperament
• Choose the right pup personality for your family
• Monitor diet, play, and exercise
• Train and problem-solve
• Provide early socialization and positive training
• Potty train, step by step
• Ensure safety and health care, including the latest on vaccinations

Puppies can be a lot of work, but they can also be a furry bundle of joy. If you’re thinking of bringing a puppy into your home, “The Puppy Whisperer” is your must-have guide.

Paul Owens is nationally recognized as a leading proponent of nonviolent training who promotes kindness, respect and compassion. His DVD, “The Dog Whisperer,” a companion to his bestselling book, has been rated the best family dog training DVD on the market. He lives in Los Angeles.

Terence Cranendonk apprenticed as a trainer with Owens and is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) as well as a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC). In addition to dog training, he is a professional actor and university instructor. He lives in Akron, Ohio.

Norma Eckrote writes on the holistic care of humans and animals. She produced the companion DVD to “The Dog Whisperer.” She lives in Los Angeles.$14.95
Delving into Dung with the San Diego Zoo

Why do pandas have yellow poop? Why do koala joeys eat their mothers’ poop? Why do male tigers poop around their territories? Why do termites build poop-houses?

You can find out the answers to these questions in Farcountry Press’ new release, “Who Pooped in the Zoo? San Diego Zoo: Exploring the Weirdest, Wackiest, Grossest & Most Surprising Facts about Zoo Poop.” In colorful illustrations, photographs and a lively narrative, Caroline Patterson’s book explores what poop tells us about animal bodies and animal behavior. It features 70 brilliant color photographs of animals ranging from giant pandas to Australian wombats along with 36 playful illustrations by artist Robert Rath.

Organized into ten chapters with titles such as “The Purpose of Poop,” “Group Poop” and “Fertilizer, Fuel, & Earrings?,” Patterson’s entertaining writing features a host of fun facts, such as:

• Penguins have pink poop
• Elephants produce 100 pounds of poop a day
• Dung beetles—there are more than 7,000 kinds in the world—can eat through a pile of elephant poop in just a few hours
• The world’s most expensive coffee—Kopi Luwak—is actually coffee beans pooped out by a cat-size animal called the palm civet
• The San Diego Zoo’s 4,000 animals produce 4 to 5 tons of poop a day!

Poop, Patterson tells us, may be brown, smelly and gross, but it also tells us stories about wild animals’ bodies. It tells us what an animal has eaten, what age it is, if it is healthy and if it is male or female. It also gives other animals messages about territory, such as “Hey, I’m here!” or “Hey, this is my turf!” The book explores other wild animal behaviors, such as those by animals that use latrines and animals that eat the poop of their young for camouflage. The book also has a special chapter that focuses on several stories from the San Diego Zoo elephant, polar bear, and koala keepers—including the story of the elephant that once ate a woman’s purse, credit cards and all!

The photographs, illustrations and text detail actual wild animal behavior and will interest young people in the lions, tigers and bears in the world around them. It’s available at the San Diego Zoo, at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers or from Farcountry Press at (800) 821-3874.

Caroline Patterson is an editor at Farcountry Press and recently edited “Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart,” which won a 2006 WILLA Award. She was 1990–1992 Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and said the poop book was great fun to research and write, although by the end her children didn’t always share her enthusiasm. “Each night I’d bring a new poop fact,” she explained, “and they finally got so they’d say, ‘Mom, can you at least wait until we’re done eating?’”

The 100-acre San Diego Zoo is operated by the not-for-profit Zoological Society of San Diego. The Society, dedicated to the conservation of endangered species and their habitats, engages in conservation and research work around the globe. It also manages the zoo’s Wild Animal Park, more than half of which has been set aside as protected native species habitat, and the center for Conservation and Research for Endangered Species. These entities’ important conservation and science work is supported in part by the Foundation for the Zoological Society of San Diego.
**Cottontail Cottage™**

This custom-made cardboard playhouse is a hit with rabbits and cats alike!

Three levels (the floors for the two upper levels are made with double-wall cardboard for extra strength). Ramps between levels for easy jumping access. Several doors and windows at each level -- great for running through and peeking out. Cutouts and graphics give it the look of a quaint cottage, which will look nice in any living room. Blank name sign above one of the doors to write your pet’s name (in non-toxic ink). The front has a large opening at the bottom and paned windows that swing open on the second level. If your rabbit or cat prefers to jump in and out from the window, it is perforated for easy removal. On the left side (shown) is a paneled swinging door. Again, this can be easily removed, depending on your pet’s preferences. Made of chew-safe cardboard and printed with soy-based ink. Recommended for rabbits under 9 pounds and cats under 15 pounds. 24” tall x 18” square. Shipped flat. The Cottontail Cottage can be purchased from Online Companies: Cats & Rabbits & More.

**The new Hopper Hideaway** is a unique concept in small animal playhouses. The versatile design allows you to expand the Hideaway indefinitely in any configuration you’d like. In the basic configuration (as pictured above), two cardboard houses are joined by a tunnel in between. The houses have openings on all four sides, into which additional tunnels can be inserted. The tunnels notch securely into the houses and have a swinging door in the middle for more run-through fun.

The starter Hopper Hideaway set here includes two houses and one tunnel (as pictured above); you can purchase additional houses and tunnels separately to make a larger play toy for your furry friend. Make a long straight line down a hallway, a fort or a maze through the bunny room. The only limitation is your imagination!

Note: the Hopper Hideaway is best used on a carpeted surface.

Ships flat. Houses: 14” square; openings are 9” x 8”. Tunnel: 18” long by 9” high x 8” deep. Total length as pictured: 46”. Online Companies: Cats & Rabbits & More.
NEW YORK – Love your dog. Sexy Beast™ (www.sexybeaststyle.com), the luxury canine-care brand that provides dogs with the ultimate in pampering, offers pet parents a luxurious gift to spoil Fido with this holiday season.

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For additional information or for Sexy Beast™ product samples, please contact Lindsey Clark press@sbstyle.com (212) 929-6428, ext. 102

*According to the American Pet Products Manufacturing Association, 44.8 million households in the U.S. own a dog of which 56 percent will buy their dog a Christmas present.
LOVE YOUR DOG™

The limited-edition Swarovski fragrance bottle retails for $850. After all, you enjoy the good life. doesn’t your pooch deserve a taste of it too?

“Sexy Beast,” “canine style unleashed” and “100% vegan, 100% safe and 100% sexy” are trademarks of Project Rover, LLC, Dist., New York, NY 10011.

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Happy Holidays!

Sugar & Spice Gingerbread Cookie Overalls by Ruff Ruff Couture

This holiday, it’s all about gingerbread cookies! The Ruff Ruff Couture Sugar & Spice Overalls features red, no-fuss overalls, complete with antique brass buttons, plaid velour, a white collar and a textured gingerbread appliqué. Your festive pooch is sure to have a good, old-fashioned Christmas wearing this little treat. Available at Lucky Dog

THE PAWKIT is a stylish, neoprene messenger bag stocked with everything you need to take your pup on any outing. It is organized with seven labeled pockets and is stocked with a leash, water bottle, bowl, toys, clean-up bags, a towel and a training clicker. Black, blue and red bags are available. $36.99. Muttiqe at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA.

WICKER BEACH BUNGALOW gives one or two cats a great place to rest, play, and hide. Features dual level perching platforms, each with a removable, machine washable cotton cushion in a lively, striped print. $58.99. Muttiqe at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA.

Orbee Christmas Bulb

Our whimsically shaped all-purpose toy is doggie-durable, buoyant and minty. The bulb has a treat spot for stuffing and other great leftovers. Burp! Available at Lucky Dog

Sugar & Spice Gingerbread Cookie Dress by Ruff Ruff Couture

This holiday, it’s all about gingerbread cookies! The Ruff Ruff Couture Sugar & Spice Dress features a white Peter Pan collar, red plaid velour double-ruffle skirt and a textured gingerbread appliqué. Your festive pooch is sure to have a good, old-fashioned Christmas wearing this little treat. Available at Lucky Dog
**Christmas Henrietta**

The life of the party and the spirit of the season, Christmas Henrietta is a new seasonal staple. This hand-painted, poly-filled latex dog toy is sure to bring your friends and family a hearty holiday chuckle. Available at Lucky Dog

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**Sugar & Spice Gingerbread Cookie Toy**

by Ruff Ruff Couture

This holiday, it’s all about gingerbread cookies! Cute and cuddly. Soft and squishy. The Ruff Ruff Couture Sugar & Spice Gingerbread Cookie Toy looks good enough to eat. Available at Lucky Dog

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**Pawprints Ornament Kit**

The holidays are a very special time for friends and family. Now you can adorn your wonderful holiday setting with a tiny pawprint of your most cherished member of the family. Everything for assembly is included: plastic shaping ring, air-drying impression material, wooden rolling pin, plastic straw hole puncher, elegant satin holiday ribbons, and easy-to-follow instructions. Available at Lucky Dog

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