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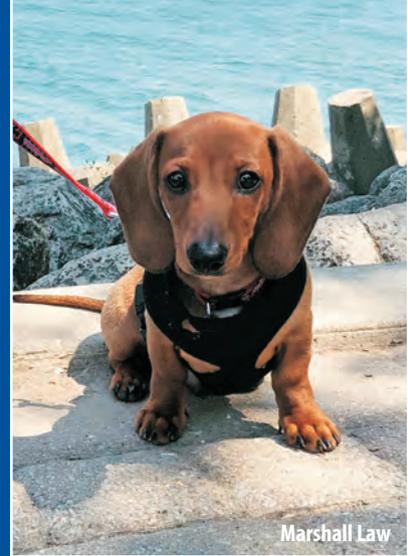
Meet Chance...

*A dog with a
purpose*

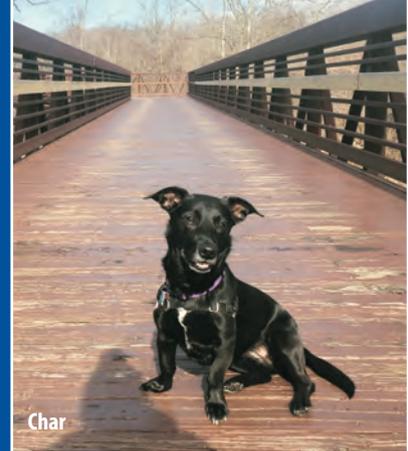




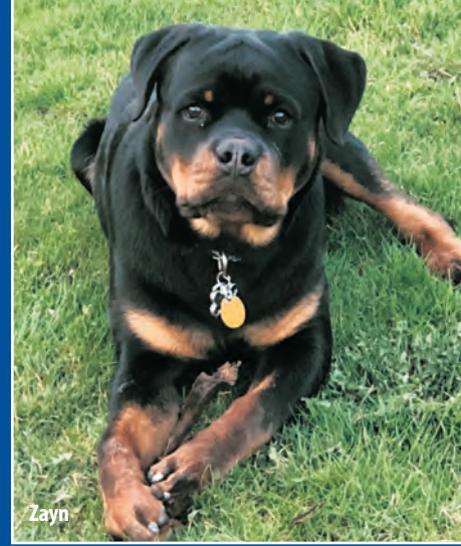
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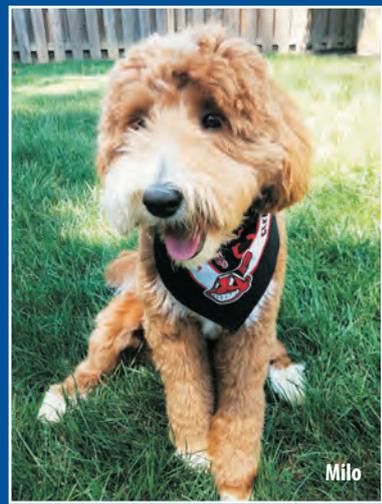
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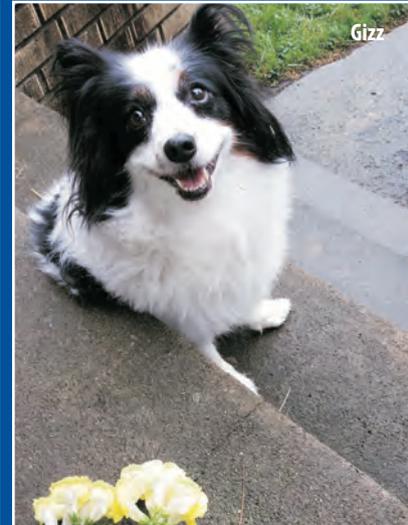
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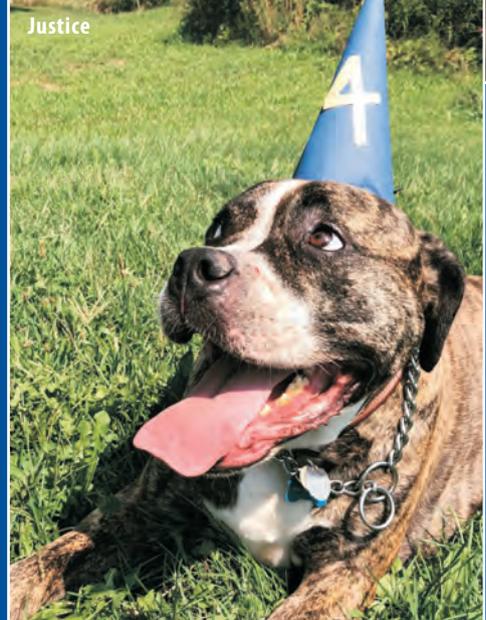
Bella



Gaia & Zoey



Gizz



Justice



Ambrosia



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On the Cover: Meet Chance, a dog with a purpose (shown with Joey Gallagher). This Golden Retriever was found as a stray, shot and dragging a trap. Now this tripod is a certified therapy dog, helping students learn to love reading. Full story on page 10. Photo by Greg Murray Photography



@CLEDOGMAG

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..... ASK THE TRAINER

BY LISA R. STUNEK

A New Puppy! Now What?

So, you have a new puppy...how exciting! But at the same time, how overwhelming! You probably have many questions about chewing, potty training and getting your new furry friend to sleep through the night. Face it, you have a newborn. And while your new puppy doesn't come with an owner's manual, there are plenty of resources available to help make this transition much easier for both of you.

Getting your puppy into a training class as soon as possible is a great way to start. Trainers are a wealth of knowledge in helping you through the first critical months. Most training facilities start puppy classes when your puppy is between 8 to 10 weeks old. Did you know that one hour of mental stimulation for your dog is equivalent to three hours of physical exercise? And a tired puppy is a good puppy!

There are many benefits to training your puppy or dog. First, you are setting up expectations and parameters for your dog's behavior.

You are telling him what you want him to do, not constantly telling him what NOT to do. Training helps him learn that if he does a positive behavior, such as sit and not jump on people, he will be rewarded with a treat or praise. By setting guidelines early, you are setting your puppy up for a future of good behavior.

It is important to set the expectations early in the relationship with your dog. By using positive reinforcement training, you develop your dog's learning potential. Being consistent in giving cues to your dog is critically important to his learning process. By teaching your puppy to master cues, he not only learns to solve problems, but to control his own behavior. The result is a dog who is confident and understands how to fit in with his family.



It is important to remember there is an optimal window of opportunity for socializing your puppy. The initial window begins at 6 weeks. The second primary opportunity is from 3 to 5 months of age. During these periods, it is crucial to get your puppy around other dogs and other people so he is comfortable in social settings. It's been shown that socializing a puppy early on can be critical to the psychological health of an adult dog. There are specific classes offered to set your

puppy up for success in social settings. A Household Manners class teaches your puppy how to handle strangers petting him, how not to jump, and how to remain calm and to focus on you when around other people or dogs. There are also benefits for your puppy simply to be around other puppies and just play!

Perhaps most importantly, training affords you and your new dog a designated time each week devoted to just hanging out together and bonding. Training creates a mutual trust between you and your dog, and enriches the relationship you two share. Your puppy will start to gain confidence in himself as you reinforce

his sound decisions and good behavior. Your confidence in your puppy will increase as you see him doing what you expect him to do. And your confidence in yourself will rise as you see how YOU are turning your puppy into a wonderful member of your family! Training is a win-win!



Lisa R. Stunek is a trainer at CLERun Agility Training Center in Valley View, and was previously an Accredited Trainer through Petsmart for eight years. She and her dog, Lacy, live in Northfield Center with their three cats.

DOGS IN THE CITY

BY AMANDA ROUSH, BELLA & MIA
from *Dog Life in CLE*

There's nothing better than when fall comes around and the costumes come out! If you feel the same way, then you don't want to miss **Tricks & Treats at Crocker Park** in Westlake!

From 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, it's Halloween fun for the whole family. Dress up your canine and your kids for this event! There's a pet costume contest at noon, and the \$5 registration fee benefits Cleveland Animal Protective League. Then at 1 p.m., trick-or-treating for the two-legged kids starts.



And when you're all done, stop by the other event happening simultaneously at Crocker Park: **Shop Market Cleveland!** This event is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Market Square, and it's an indoor market with local shops and boutiques. Dog Life in CLE will be vending at this event, so bring your pooch and get a jump on holiday shopping!



Visit doglifeincle.com for more dog-friendly places and events in CLE, or email doglifeincle@gmail.com with questions.



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From the **Cage** to the **Couch**

Savannah (now Coco Savannah) arrived at Rescue Village very underweight and extremely timid. She was a transport from the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter, originally found as a stray, always with her tail between her legs. The Rescue Village team went to work to get this scared and skinny pup out of the shelter environment and into a home.

A few weeks after she arrived, Rescue Village took her to an adoption event, and her forever family walked in and chose the 3-year-old Pitbull mix. In a few short months, Coco Savannah gained 30 pounds. She loves going on adventures, cuddling on the couch, toys and running laps in her Stow yard. Mom, Jennifer, said Coco Savannah dances and bobs her head when she sings to her, and dad, Dennis, is her very best friend. Now her tail is always wagging.



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..... PICK OF THE PACK

BY JENNIFER BAKER

FALL WALK ESSENTIALS

Fall is a great season in Northeast Ohio, and the perfect time to take your dog and check out the metroparks. Before you head out, check out these great products to make the walk more enjoyable for you and your pup.



Start with a sturdy, comfortable collar and leash. **LupinePet's** products are made in the USA with great attention to detail. Available in a variety of unique patterns, both the collars and leashes come in three different widths for a great fit, no matter how big or small your dog is. The buckles are sturdy enough not to break, but designed for a quick release if your dog gets tangled with something. The leashes also have a comfortable padded handle for those unexpected squirrel alerts.



Another great choice for leashes is the **Fargo Fleece Co.** These paracord leashes are hand made in Fairview Park, and are available in two

lengths. Each strand is rated for 550 pounds, so they are extremely strong. If you walk two dogs, check out the splitters, designed to handle two dogs with one leash.



No walk would be complete without poop bags. **Earth Rated** poop bags are sturdy enough to hold the ickiness, but are also biodegradable. They are a generous 9 x 13", and available in larger sizes, too. Walking with poop is never fun, but the lavender-scented bags do make it a bit more pleasant. And the handy carrier clips right to the leash so you won't forget them.



Unless your dog routinely wears boots, a regular application of paw balm is a must.

Located in Medina, the folks at Gaughan Bee Dancin' make **Bee Silky Paw & Foot Balm**. A natural paw wax made from a blend of organic shea butter, beeswax and organic oils, Bee Silky will keep paws from drying and cracking year round. It is also great for human hands!



Jennifer Baker is owner of Grateful Dog Bakery in North Ridgeville, an all-natural dog and cat supply store featuring an in-store dog bakery. She is the proud mom of five dogs and one cat. To contact Jennifer, email news@gratefuldogbakery.com or follow [@gratefuldogbakery](https://www.instagram.com/gratefuldogbakery) on Instagram.

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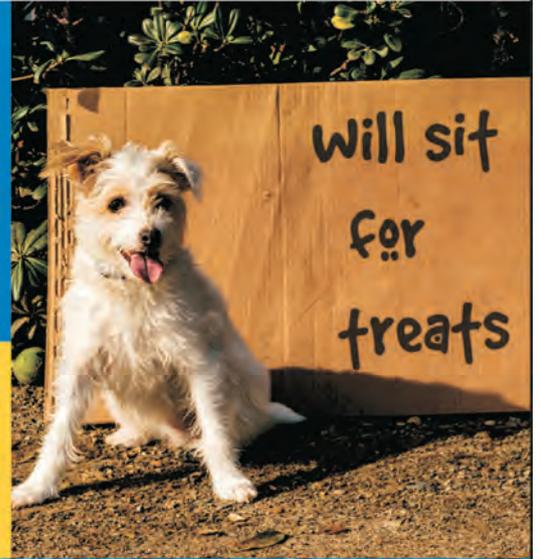
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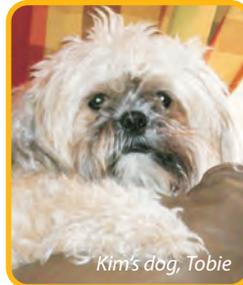
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Ask the Vet

Q: What does holistic mean regarding dog food? What are the benefits of holistic dog foods?

— Kim H., Avon



Kim's dog, Tobie



Dr. Debra Decker
Synergy Veterinary Care
and member of the
American Holistic Veterinary
Medical Association

A: Regarding pet food labeling, "holistic" is a marketing term often used to imply whole body health. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) does not have a definition of the word, so it is often used freely with no agency to regulate its use. Research shows that "natural" is the most sought-after term by consumers on pet food labels. Unfortunately, it gives little meaning regarding how healthy a food may actually be for your pet.

AAFCO defines "natural" as "food ingredients derived solely from plant, animal, or mined sources that have not had any chemical alterations except in amounts that might occur in good manufacturing practices." For example, sugar and salt are "natural",

but not considered healthy. Therefore, it is helpful to assess foods not just by their list of ingredients. Ask yourself, "how are those ingredients prepared?" There are two general categories of food preparation: whole food and processed food.

Most people agree that for both human and pet food consumption, fresh, whole foods have the most bioavailable nutrients for our bodies to absorb and use. "Whole food" pet foods are available as frozen, freeze-dried, and dehydrated. All dry kibble and wet canned preparations are highly processed (Extrusion Processing is the most common).

Byproducts from this manufacturing are unfortunately inflammatory to the body. And inflammation aggravates all medical conditions, including allergies, arthritis, ear infections, even anxiety.

Please consult your veterinarian when determining what whole food nutrition option is best for your dog's specific needs and lifestyle.



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A dog with a purpose

By Karen Uthe-Semancik



Greg Murray Photography

Chance the Golden Retriever

hops down the carpeted hallway to his classroom, losing his footing ever so slightly as he takes the ramp a little too fast. He quickly recovers, and unfazed, leads the way to Room 48-49.

Chance bounds into the large, bright room filled with kid-size tables and chairs, cubbies, colorful reading rugs and a bed with his name on it, excited to greet his two-legged friends. It's just another school day for Chance the tripod.



Chance goes to school with his mom, Heather Labuda, every Friday. Labuda is a Title 1 tutor at Brook Park Memorial Elementary School in Brook Park, part of the Berea City School District, and Chance is certified with Therapy Dog International. The boxy-headed Golden lends a paw to about 100 students in grades kindergarten through four every week, helping them gain confidence with their reading and writing.

"Chance has a real calming effect on students when they sit and work on their reading or writing," Labuda said. "Students are able to focus on their work by simply keeping a hand on Chance and petting him while they work."

Labuda said the students don't worry about making mistakes when they read because Chance won't judge them. They also work harder because they don't want to let him down. They know what Chance has been through.

"It's really impressive to see them read to him," said Labuda's team teacher, Rachel Gallagher.

Chance has a mailbox at school so students can send him "tail mail." Labuda said Chance reads each and every letter, and personally responds to all his fan mail with a positive message.



Malik Klooz with Chance at a Paws for Reading event held at The Natural Pet Enrichment Center

One student who Chance has a special bond with is Malik Klooz. The fourth grader started working with Chance last year, and Malik's mom has seen a big difference in her son.

"Chance has made learning positive for my



Greg Murray Photography

son," said Kim Klooz. "Malik hates anything to do with writing, but is eager to write a letter to Chance after school. He always comes home beaming with pride when he gets a response back."

Students aren't the only ones Chance helps. Gallagher said the Golden seems to sense when a staff person is having a bad day, and he'll linger a little longer to share some dog loving.

But life wasn't always this golden for the now 3 1/2-year-old Retriever. Back on a cold day in November of 2016, Chance was found as a stray in Lorain. He had a gunshot wound to his back left leg and was dragging a trap on his front left leg. The skinny, burr-covered and flea-infested dog was found by a Good Samaritan and taken to Lorain County Animal Emergency Center by the Lorain County dog warden.

Due to infection and the injury to the back leg, it had to be amputated. Another surgery was done to amputate a front toe crushed by the leg trap. He was 35 pounds underweight. The staff named him Chance, and hoped at that time, he would pull through so someone could give him a second chance at life.

The staff stayed by Chance's side throughout it all, and despite the pain and suffering humans caused him, he never attempted to bite and always took food gently. He seemed to know they were there to help when no one stepped forward to claim him. He had no identification tags or microchip.

The Lorain County Dog Kennel signed over responsibility to the clinic, who started a Go Fund Me account for Chance's medical expenses. The staff also decided at that time they would be the ones to find his perfect, forever home.

Labuda saw Chance's story on a local TV news station. She couldn't get his "poor sad face" out of her head. She had grown up with Golden Retrievers and loved the breed. Her mom took the family's dog, Gabby, also a therapy dog, to school with her. Labuda inquired about Chance without telling her husband, Doug.

Labuda told the clinic staff she was looking for "a dog with a purpose." Her name was added to the growing, potential adopter list. She broke the news to Doug, believing this dog "was meant to be ours." She filled out the application and waited for some news. Around Christmas they found out they were one of 10 families being considered. In early January, they met Chance for the first time during a visit to their Summit County home. A few days later the phone call came...they were chosen to give Chance his forever home!

Within six months, Chance received his therapy dog accreditation, and shortly thereafter, he started going to school with Labuda. The change is apparent, and this school district understands how Chance helps meet their students' social and emotional needs.

"Our students see in Chance resiliency and that

love can help overcome challenges in life," said Trish Kukura, administrative intern at Brook Park Memorial Elementary School. "He fosters a sense of acceptance and calm whenever he is around."

When Chance isn't inspiring young readers, he's learning new tricks. He's an AKC-certified tricks dog, and "will do any trick for a treat," said Labuda. He also loves bananas, peanut butter in his Kong and Benebones. Chance has four fur siblings: Lucy and Eugene, both senior Shih Tzus, and two cats named Lilly and Bodie, but his BFFs are Gabby and Daisy, a Golden Retriever and mix pooch respectively, who live at his grandparents' house.



Chance with Heather Labuda and Student Damien Prado

Less than two years after that cold November day when Chance was rescued, Labuda said that physically, Chance is doing great. He did water therapy to strengthen his back leg and increase muscle tone. She and her husband watch Chance's weight closely, and they go for walks regularly. But Chance still has some mental obstacles to overcome.

"There is still some evidence of his past, and we are working on that," Labuda said. "He seems to have insecurities with dogs he doesn't know, so we keep him enrolled in dog classes as much as possible. Classes not only help him mentally, but they also help to create positive experiences being in close proximity to new dogs."

Sometimes you have to go through some difficult times to find your purpose.

If you'd like to keep up with Chance, you can subscribe to his blog, goldtrap.tripawds.com, or you can follow him on Facebook, @dogwithapurpose.

Dog owner at a glance

Heather and Doug Labuda, dog parents to Chance the Golden Retriever.

Breeder or Shelter/Rescue? Chance was rescued and then adopted by us directly from the Lorain County Animal Emergency Clinic.

Flexi or Web Leashes? Definitely web leash.

Regular or Raw Feeding? I value the advice of the staff at The Natural Pet Enrichment Center in North Royalton. They suggested Dr. Gary's Best Breed Grain Free Salmon, and then we add Honest Kitchen dehydrated foods to his food. They also provide us with an abundance of choices for treats and toys.

Free Feeding or Fixed Meal Schedule? Fixed meal schedule twice a day followed by a piece of banana for dessert. Chance sits in the kitchen (props himself up against the cabinets), and waits to remind us.

Your Bed or Dog Bed? Chance has three orthopedic beds in the house, two of which are in the bedroom, but most of the time he prefers to sleep on the cool floor. He doesn't have an interest in getting on furniture or on our bed, and with only one leg in the back, we don't encourage it. The bed he spends the most time in is the one right alongside our bed. He waits until everyone else is in bed and will then go to that bed for most of the night.

Dog Park or Metropark? There is a pond and a park right in our neighborhood so that's where we walk.

Doggie Daycare or Daily Walk? We go for walks each morning before leaving for work and then usually again at night, sometimes even in the dark when the neighborhood is quiet (his favorite time). At least once a week all three dogs go to my parents' house (which we call "doggie daycare"), and they play with the two dogs there.

Trainer or Homeschool? We wouldn't be where we are without the help of our trainer, Chris Lantzer at Woofwise Dog Training. We've taken obedience classes, tricks classes and even tried our hand at Rally. Chris has played an important role in Chance's education, and as a result, Chance is a Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dogs International-certified therapy dog and both Novice and AKC Novice and Intermediate Trick Dog. We continue to take classes to help boost Chance's confidence around dogs he doesn't know. We have to be careful so that Chance doesn't harm his remaining back leg, so wearing him out mentally at dog class has really helped to keep him healthy and happy. Plus, he LOVES to go and learn new things!

Pet Sitter or Boarding? GRANDPARENTS! We are so lucky to have my parents to watch the dogs when we go away or have long days at work! When our three dogs go to my parents' once a week, they play on and off all day (big dogs and little dogs), and come home exhausted.

Purebred or Mix? Chance is a purebred Golden Retriever.

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TRAIL BUDDIES

Dos and Don'ts for Fall Hikes

By Jami Kinton

When the leaves begin to fall and the air turns crisp, we aren't the only ones who want to get outside and explore. Our doggos are ready to hit the trails for some autumn smells and time with their hoomans.

A

vid hiker and outdoorsman Dr. Frank Krupka of Avon Lake Animal Clinic said hikes with Brutus, his 5-year-old Cavachon (Bichon and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel mix), are his family's favorite way to spend time together. He shared some of the guidelines they follow when hitting the trails.

Dr. Krupka said to make sure you know ahead of time the general habitat you'll be hiking through. Are there physical hazards such as ponds and fallen brush? Will others be traveling through the same area? Are there any health concerns you may encounter? If so, keep your dog on a lead, and of course check for ticks after your hike.

"Awareness of your surroundings is key when evaluating the safety of the hike," Dr. Krupka said.

Although most recreational hikes don't require a food source, bring the treats anyway. And of course, bring water.

"A simple biscuit may be needed at times to help encourage a pet to mind the rules of hiking," Dr. Krupka said. "A water bottle can be shared between human and pet with a small, collapsible bowl. Dehydration is nothing to make light of, and prevention is the key."

Dr. Krupka said know your pet's limitations and honor them. You can always head out again next weekend.

Sgt. Michael Walsh of the Lake Metroparks Ranger Department said dog owners should consult with their vet to ensure their pet is physically capable, up to date on shots and has a good immune system before engaging in regular hikes. He also suggested brushing up on obedience training and trail etiquette.

"Good trail planning and picking appropriate trails to build the dog's stamina should always be considered," Sgt. Walsh said.

Lake Metroparks is one of many dog-friendly parks in Northeast Ohio, but they still have rules.

"We don't recommend, we enforce that all dogs be leashed while within the parks," Sgt. Walsh said. "(This is) For the safety of the dog and the

owners, and it is also safer for all other park patrons."

Sgt. Walsh said if owners want to have their dogs off leash and interact with other dogs, he recommends K-9 Meadow Dog Park just east of Lake Metroparks Farmpark on Chardon Road in Kirtland. It's a fenced-in area for dogs to run, and is separated into small- and large-dog areas. It even has a pond that dogs can jump into.

"This is the only area within the parks that dogs can be off leash," Sgt. Walsh said.



Dr. Krupka and Brutus

Just like people, Krupka said the longer the hike, the longer pets need to recover.

"If we are talking distance, miles or hours in the field, then we need to allow muscles to rest and for pets to regain their strength," Dr. Krupka said. "Daily short hikes will help to strengthen the human-animal bond, and your dog will encourage you to take to the open road as often as work will allow."

Dr. Krupka said most pets have the ability to hike much farther than their human counterpart. He finds that age and frequency of hiking is

more a determining factor than breed.

"The younger pets do not have the stamina, and the more active pets find more enjoyment in the adventure than the 'weekend warrior hikers,'" Dr. Krupka said.

Other ways to help keep hiking dogs safe is to bring a first-aid kit.

"The Boy Scout in me always says 'Be Prepared,'" Krupka said. "A simple first-aid kit is recommended to be at the very least in your car. Longer distance hikers should have a doggie first-aid kit with them."

For rough terrain, Dr. Krupka warns about feet and pad concerns. Some dogs may not tolerate boots, so use caution. You may need to limit outdoor exposure as the weather turns cold.

For dogs who may have trouble getting along with other dogs on the trail, Dr. Krupka suggests working with a trainer and trying a trainer-coordinated pack walk.

"Pets not good around others can often learn by watching the pack in action," Dr. Krupka said. "You have to be mindful of others and not ruin their walking time with their pets. We have to have good verbal control of our pets when out in public."

Dr. Krupka said working at home with simple verbal cues will help on the trail. With Brutus, he uses a small food reward, hand praise or verbal "leave it."

"Every day is a training day," Dr. Krupka said. "Repetition and consistency is key when training a dog."

Sgt. Walsh said he hopes to see as many pups as possible on the Metroparks' 60 miles of walking trails this fall.

"It seems more than ever before people are out and about with their dogs taking in the sights and the advantage of walking and hiking," Sgt. Walsh said. "It's wonderful!"

Jami Kinton is dog mom to Snowball, CLE DOG's cover model for February 2018. When she isn't taking Snowball to his next modeling assignment, you can find her voicing radio commercials for Q-104 and hosting games for the Cleveland Indians.

October is National Service Dog Month, so we're honoring these dogs, their handlers and two organizations that train service and assistance dogs.

WORKING DOGS

Providing the Gift of Independence and Support

By Susan Spisak

I'm the luckiest person in the world,"

said Wendy Crann, executive director of Working Animals Giving Service for Kids (W.A.G.S. 4 Kids). The reason she's so blessed: "Who gets to change people's lives?" This Berea-based nonprofit has placed nearly 90 mobility assistance and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) service dogs with children with disabilities since Wendy and her husband, Ed Crann, registered W.A.G.S. 4 Kids as a 501(c) 3 in 2004. (She's an animal trainer, he's a former special education teacher and they outlined the concept at their kitchen table—how's that for grass roots?)



Jacob and Ryken

While they began training their handpicked pups (Standard Poodles, Golden Retrievers and Labs) as mobility assistance service dogs for children 18 and under, Wendy said their phone started ringing for ASD service dogs. They listened to the calls and began their journey down that path—she believes they're "pretty much" the national leader in placing ASD-appropriate animals for autistic children (but they won't place any service dogs outside their 22 county Ohio "zone" at this time).

Their dogs are trained with hand and verbal cues in task-specific areas, and also provide therapeutic, emotional and physical support. Speaking of training, this nonprofit (read Wendy) wrote the award-winning Accredited Cell Dog Training Program used by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for the W.A.G.S. 4 Kids inmate dog-training programs at Grafton and Mansfield correctional institutions.

The carefully screened and well-trained inmate trainers guide their mobility assistance and ASD service dogs through their first two years of life before they're matched with a child. (They ask families

dad, Jason Slarb. "Just the fact that Jacob literally didn't sleep in his own bed for two years...then Ryken's very first night (at their home) Jacob slept in his own bed, in his room, all night with just Ryken there...eight hours."

He and wife, Angie Slarb, have noticed other progress. While Jacob remains mostly nonverbal, he has said a few words including "mom." Jacob's also sought out Ryken during a "melt down" and petted the soft dog for comfort—once calmed he broke into a laugh. And a lifesaving plus: since Jacob is prone to wandering, his parents can "tether" him to Ryken, who will make like a statue if the boy attempts to bolt.



to fundraise \$9,000 toward the budgeted \$27,000 cost of purchasing, vetting and raising the dog.) Another plus—Wendy believes they're changing the lives of incarcerated trainers. Certainly for two former inmates who now run the W.A.G.S. 4 Kids training programs in those facilities.

One area child who has had a W.A.G.S. 4 Kids ASD service dog for several months is 7-year-old Jacob Slarb. His Golden named Ryken is slowly opening the world for this nonverbal, autistic boy. "We've seen some beautiful moments," said his amazed

Jacob's not the only one who's benefiting from a service dog. Emily Cikra's a spunky 36-six-year-old Bay Villager and has a Lab/Golden service dog named Dash from the national Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) organization. She has congenital muscular dystrophy and uses a motorized wheelchair due to her limited range of mobility. She applied to CCI for her service dog a few years after graduating from Wright State University. Her reason was simply put: "He just seemed an easy way to be more independent by not relying on family and friends for easy tasks."

Emily waited until after college to apply for her dog because she was no longer daunted by CCI's detailed application (college papers cured her of those nerves). There's good reason its apps are comprehensive—the staff is meticulous in pairing teams. They've matched 5,000 dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities, free of charge, since they were founded in 1975. Case in point, Emily is a laid-back gal and was paired with the low-key Dash six years ago. Their connection was instantaneous when she met the 2-year-old at the nonprofit's North Central

Training Center in Delaware.

So pleased with Dash and her CCI experience, Emily now volunteers for the nonprofit, speaking to school children and civic groups, educating them on CCI. She



Emily and Dash

explains the group uses volunteers who nurture their breeder pups--Goldens, Labs and mixes thereof. Puppy raisers socialize and teach basic obedience, then professional Canine Companion instructors teach the dogs commands that support their work as assistance dogs (CCI's umbrella term for the dogs they place--service, hearing, facility and skilled companion animals).

Emily thinks of her life in terms of "pre-Dash and post-Dash." While she lives with her folks for practical reasons, she has a career in marketing with a firm on Cleveland's west side (and Dash is there at her side). She appreciates the independence he's



brought to her life and calls him a gift--he not only performs tasks but draws attention away from her disability. "He really bridges the gap between me as a disabled woman...things about me that are intimidating. He has magical powers; he makes my wheelchair disappear."

For more info and to see all upcoming events for W.A.G.S. 4 Kids and CCI, visit their websites at wags4kids.org and cci.org.

What is a Service Animal?

While a service dog inspires confidence, serves, protects and assists her handler, she is a working animal, not a pet. That said, a service dog may become her handler's best friend and is invaluable to her.

According to the American Disabilities Act or ADA, the work or task a dog has been trained to provide must directly relate to the handler's disability. The dog must be certified with the ADA so she can enjoy all rights as a service animal, including access to all public places and being allowed in all housing regardless of pet policies.

The types of services and tasks these dogs perform are growing as needs arise. For example, a guide dog safely steers her blind handler, while a hearing dog alerts her deaf person to sounds like a smoke alarm. A diabetic alert dog senses blood sugar changes and tips off her handler. A seizure response dog presses an alarm or barks for help when her handler is having a seizure. An autism service dog calms those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A PTSD service dog interrupts nightmares and provides support to her handler in crowds. A mobility assistance service dog pushes door buttons and retrieves items for her wheelchair-dependent human and/or provides physical support.

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THE SPOOKY POOCH PARADE & FESTIVAL

By Ann McDonald



OCTOBER IS ONE OF THE BEST MONTHS FOR DOG LOVERS IN CLEVELAND. EVEN THOUGH SUMMER MAY BE OVER, THIS MONTH IS ALL ABOUT HALLOWEEN AND THE PARTIES GO ALL MONTH LONG.

One Halloween event you don't want to miss is the Spooky Pooch Parade & Festival from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20 at Kaufman Park in Lakewood, 15450 Detroit Ave. This tradition brings out Cleveland's most creative dog owners who dress up their dogs, and often themselves, in some of the best costumes you'll see this Halloween.

Spooky Pooch is free to spectators, but if you want to walk in the parade with your dog in costume, you'll need to pay a registration fee. Dogs that walk in the parade can win prizes for their costumes. Categories this year include: Best Dog & Child, Best Dog & Adult, Best Dog & Group, Spookiest Pooch and Best in Show. Each category winner receives a trophy, and the "Best in Show" winner receives one year's worth of free dog food, courtesy of Pet's General Store.

Last year's Best in Show winner was "Spaceship & Martians," two small dogs dressed as Martians within a spaceship made out of a Little Tikes turtle sandbox. Ian Andrews, executive director of Lakewood Alive, the organization that coordinates this annual event,

says that it's hard for him to pick a favorite among the creative costumes each year.

"There have been so many outstanding costumes over the years," Andrews said. "A few that come to mind include a pug dressed as ET in his owner's bike basket, a larger dog converted into a kayaker complete with kayak, paddles and life vest, and a family that pulled off the cast of Star Wars with their dog as Chewbacca. The creativity of Spooky Pooch Parade participants never ceases to amaze me."



The parade will start at 2 p.m., but spectators will start lining the streets early, so don't be late if you want to get a view of the costumes. There will also be kids' games and dog-related vendors, including rescue groups and other nonprofits offering dog products and services.

You can pre-register online for \$10 per dog, or pay the day-of fee of \$15 per dog. Find out more at lakewoodalive.org.

Ann McDonald is a writer, dog foster and dog mom to two rescue dogs. You can find her writing about her dogs, dog-friendly activities and dog rescue at dogsinthecl.com.

DOG COSTUME TIPS

Although we all love a great dog costume, it's a good idea to consider a few things when deciding what to dress your dog up as this Halloween:

1. Consider your dog's temperament.

If you know he will likely wiggle out of the costume or be too uncomfortable to move, it may not be a good idea to outfit him in an elaborate costume. Keep it simple, or use him as a prop in a family-themed costume that doesn't require much of a costume for him. You can always opt for a fun fall or Halloween-themed bandana or collar. Also, many Halloween events, especially the Spooky Pooch Parade, are very crowded, and there are a lot of kids that may want to pet your dog. If you think your dog may be uncomfortable in this type of environment, it's probably best to stay home and do your own photo shoot.

2. Consider the temperature. October is an unpredictable month in Cleveland. It can snow one day and be 80 degrees the next. Last year's Spooky Pooch Parade was particularly hot. Please keep in mind the temperatures when deciding whether to deck your dog out in a heavy robe or some other thick layer of fabric. Dogs, especially short-nosed ones, can overheat quickly.

3. Don't leave your dog alone in a costume. This is especially important if he is wearing a hat or something that could block his eyes, nose or mouth and make it hard for him to see or breathe. Also keep an eye on your dog to ensure nothing is too tight or uncomfortable. Make sure he can move freely in his costume. Watch for buttons or other objects that could become a choking hazard.

11th ANNUAL



POOCH PARADE

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Spooky Pooch Festival
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Parade
2:00pm

Awards
3:15pm

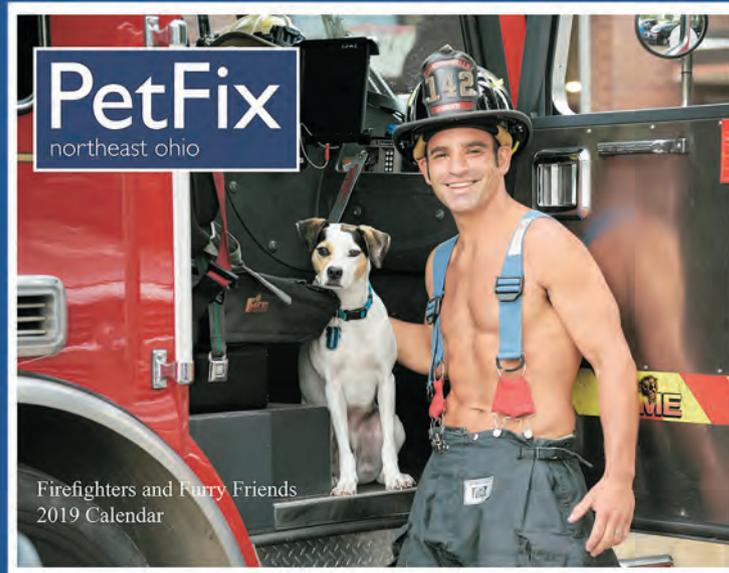
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THE GREAT PUMPKIN

By Karen Uthe-Semancik

As the days get shorter and the temperatures are as crisp as a hand-picked apple, it's time to harvest a fresh fall tip for keeping your pets happy and healthy this autumn: pumpkin. As you're trying out new recipes with some canned pumpkin, don't forget to add some to your pooch's food bowl. One hundred percent canned pumpkin (not the pumpkin pie variety) is good for your pet's diet. The soluble fiber in pumpkin can help with digestive issues, and additional nutrients found in pumpkins such as beta-carotene and iron, might reduce the likelihood of your pet developing cancer. Try mixing 1-2 teaspoons of canned pumpkin in your dog's food a few times a week. (I have a cat who likes it, too.) Of course check with your veterinarian to make sure this occasional treat is okay for your pet, and if so, here's an easy, no-bake recipe to try that you can nibble on, too!



Pumpkin Oatmeal Dog Treats

- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/4 cup water

1. Add pumpkin, peanut butter, oats, and water to a large bowl and stir to combine.
2. Form mixture into 1-inch balls and roll each ball through additional oats.
3. Place treats onto a rimmed sheet pan and refrigerate until firm, about an hour.

*Recipe adapted from GoodHousekeeping

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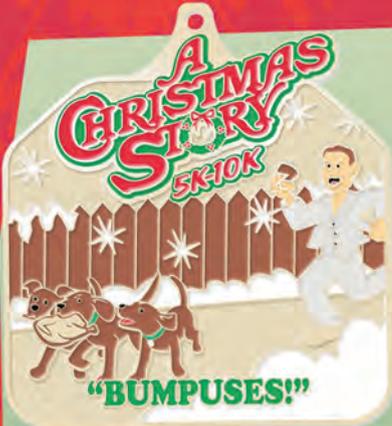
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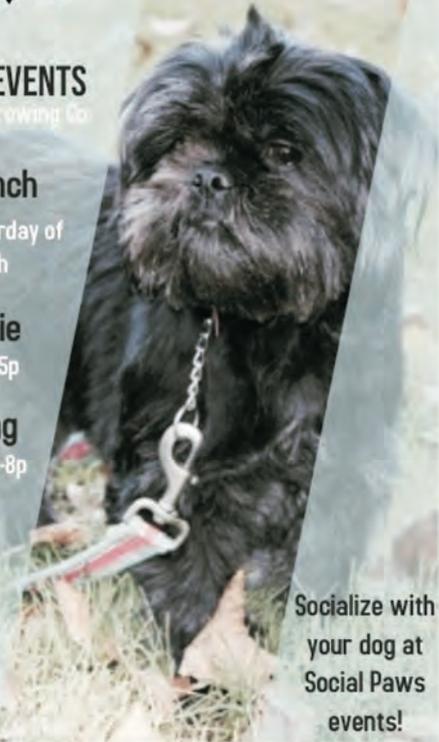


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DOG EVENTS

OCTOBER

RUNNING WITH THE BULLIES 5K

Sunday, Oct. 7, beginning at 8 a.m. at Dublin Community Rec Center, 5600 Post Road, Dublin. This annual event includes a Bulldog Run, (Frenchie and English) 5k Run, 1k Walk and the Buckeye Bulldog Family Reunion Picnic afterward. Fees range from \$10-\$35. Proceeds benefit Buckeye Bulldog Rescue, an all-Ohio rescue. Visit buckeyebulldogrescue.org for specific race times and costs.



HOWL-O-WEEN PARTY & CHILI COOK OFF

Sunday, Oct. 7, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Brecksville Reservation's Oak Grove Pavilion in the Cleveland Metroparks. This event is a benefit for Golden Retrievers In Need (GRIN). Costume contest, 1- or 2-mile fun walk, chili cook off and reunion for the group's rescue dogs from Turkey. Cost is \$5-\$15 per person. For questions and to register, email development@grinrescue.org.

POOCH PARTY AT PETPEOPLE

Sunday, Oct. 7, Noon-3 p.m. at PetPeople in Avon, 35901 Detroit Road. Join Love-A-Stray for an adoption event. Come visit, do some shopping and hang out with dogs available for adoption. Please visit loveastraydog.com for more information.

11th ANNUAL SPOOKY POOCH PARADE & FESTIVAL

Saturday, Oct. 20, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Kauffman Park, 15450 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. This dog-friendly festival, parade and costume contest is a family tradition with kids' games, dog-related vendors and rescue groups. Pre-registration for the parade is \$10 per dog. Multiple dog discounts available. Rain or shine event. Proceeds benefit LakewoodAlive. For the event schedule, to pre-register or for more info, visit lakewoodalive.org.

TRICKS & TREATS

Saturday, Oct. 27, Noon-4 p.m. at Crocker Park, Westlake. This dog-friendly event offers a costume contest, live entertainment, kids trick or treating, food trucks, adoptable pets and more. \$5 fee for the pet costume contest benefits Cleveland Animal Protective League. For the schedule of events, visit crockerpark.com.

HOLIDAYS

- Adopt a Dog Month
- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- National Pet Wellness Month
- National Pit Bull Awareness Month
- National Service Dog Month
- National Walk Your Dog Week, October 1-7
- National Black Dog Day, October 1
- National Fire Pup Day, October 1
- National Pit Bull Awareness Day, October 27



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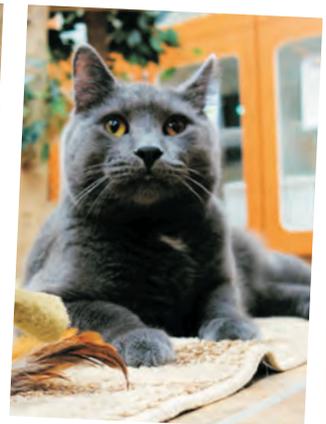
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