

# DOGS \*\* OF THE \*\*

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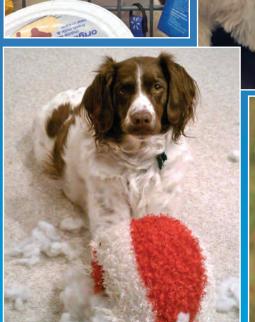




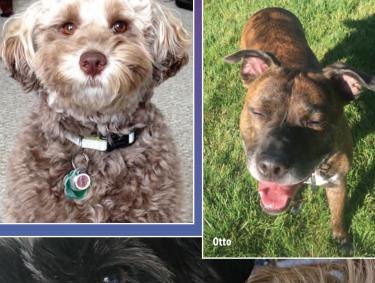




Hank













Lorain Police Officer Rick "Doc" Broz has helped over 2,000 stray and abandoned Lorain dogs since becoming the department's humane officer and dog warden in 2014. Here he's seen with his own dog, Skeeter, who he rescued from Friendship APL.

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# --- ASK #TRAINER ---

BY CHUCK STELLA

# . "What's the best way to manage a dog household?"

It's important for the human to be in charge, regardless of your theories on dog training. Whether it's all reward-based or balanced training, the pack animal follows a chain of command. If you let the dog make his own decisions, then chances are he will make poor choices. Remember, you want them to live in your world and be happy, so you have to reach a balance. Here are some simple rules to help you with that:

#### **Control excitement**

As much as I like my dog to be excited about me coming home, it's not healthy to have a dog bouncing off the walls when someone arrives. It sets a standard of behavior that is repeated every time that door opens. It in turn creates anxiety associated with coming and even going. Practice ignoring the dog when you arrive, and for several minutes afterward. If you don't feed the excitement, it will decrease.

#### Don't baby talk

This is a vocal affection. It's just as bad as petting an excited dog.

#### Teach a place

Teach your dog to go to alocation when you arrive home and remain there till you're ready to greet. This will give your dog time to relax while you are settling in from being gone. This also gives the dog a task. The task is to go and wait for me.

#### **Potty breaks**

Going out to potty is another problem area, especially if you're a multi-dog household. They love to go outside and play. This is often a really excited time for them, and can often cause a fight between dogs jockeying for first place out the door.

#### **Door control**

First thing you need to do is create calm with the door open. You can use a leash for this. Once you establish the door open doesn't mean you get to go out, you have a good start. Next is the release to go out the door calmly--this is where the leash comes in. If the dog bolts, step on the leash and start over. It may take a few tries, but the dog will get it.

#### **Feeding**

This is another area of over excitement. Start with a sit command when prepping the food. Make them stay in a sit, even when the food is set on the floor. The food is only allowed when the dog exhibits calm behavior. This may take a few minutes at first, but the dog will quickly learn that it needs to be in a calm state to get access to the

> food. If the dog does not calm down after five minutes, take the food up off the floor and wait for a bit before starting over.

Walking your dog should be a stimulating adventure, but not a crazy running and pulling event. This is essentially the hunt for your dog. It should be a time for taking in the smells and sites of his territory. But there are still rules to this, as well, so make him walk calmly with you while allowing investigation. Also, we should not allow aggressive behavior with neighbor dogs. In your dog's world, a neighbor dog is invading your dog's territory. But in our world that's not the case. You should discourage aggressive behavior on walks.

#### Cars

Your car is no different than your home; the same rules apply: calm behavior when you encounter a dog or a person. Again, this is a good time to have a leash or dragline on your dog so you can effectively manage the unwanted behavior. Remember, this is not mean.



Dogs live in a survival mode most of the time. It's just the nature of the animal inside. Be fair, be consistent, be in charge, but most of all, be calm.



Chuck Stella is owner of The Bark Club daycare and Elite K911 Training & Behavior, A professional dog trainer for 14 years, he is a member of International Association of Canine Professionals, a graduate of Columbia University and a Code 3 Ohio Humane Agent. His pack: Chupa, Venus, Radar and Butch, who recently passed.



# K9 VETERANS

#### March 13 is National **K9 Veterans Day**

By Karen Uthe-Semancik

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, things changed. Goods like oil, leather and rubber were rationed, men were drafted, women went to work building war supplies and dogs were called to duty. Yes, dogs.

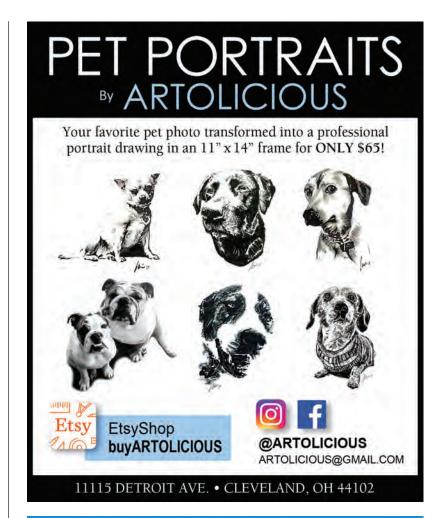
During WWI, the U.S. took notice of how Europeans used canines as sentries and messengers, and a Dogs for Defense program was initiated by civilian Alene Erianger, who, along with the AKC and a handful of breeders, trained dogs for military use.

By 1942, the first Dogs for Defense canines were ready for duty in North Africa. But, as the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand, and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions, took over the training of the dogs.

Over the years, the military, police and rescue groups have developed a variety of training methods to help each K9 unit meet its specific demands.

Today, we honor National K9 Veterans Day on March 13, the official birthday of the U.S. Army K9 Corps, which was formed in 1942. Joseph White, a retired military working dog trainer, originated the idea for this special day.

So when you thank a veteran for his or her service, don't forget about the K9 veterans, also.











# ge to the Couch

**Rascal** was found as a stray in the City of Cleveland. A sweet senior, he was blind from ulcerations on his eyes due to infections. He also had poor hearing. No one claimed him, so Lake Erie Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc., stepped up and took him in on July 13, 2017.

From the moment the rescue team met him, this nice Lab mix had a tail wag for everyone. His big Lab heart beat in time with every wag of his tail. Through three baths (he smelled!), and his vet appointments, that tail wagged on.





Even after the surgery to remove his painful, damaged eyes, his tail wagged. It wagged right into the heart of a wonderful, senior dog-loving woman in Michigan.

Today, Rascal is living it up with his new family, including fur siblings, Sasha and Radar--also seniors--and his adoring mom, Susan. He loves massages, and gives gentle love nibbles in return. Despite his sightless state, his tail continues to wag with his love of life and people.

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Partners With Paws of Lorain County, Inc., raises funds for pets in need, like Rascal, "Saving homeless pets...four paws at a time." @PartnersWithPawsOfLorainCountyInc

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# PICK OF #PACK ....

BY JENNIFER BAKER

#### **NATURAL FLEA & TICK PREVENTION**

When it comes to preventing fleas and ticks, it doesn't have to be chemical warfare. While it is convenient to use monthly chemical products, the side effects can range from serious to deadly. Not to mention the topical chemicals can rub off on to human kids and furniture. So, what are some of the non-chemical options, and do they really work?

We started using all natural flea and tick preventatives five years ago on our dogs and cat, and have had very good results. We use a combination of a daily oral product, and a topical spray when we are headed to the Metroparks or anywhere we're likely to encounter woods or tall grass.



The Healthy Dogma Co. makes Flee Flea Flee. It's a blend of garlic, kelp, flaxseed and yeast that works by changing the taste of your pet's blood, making it unappealing to fleas and ticks. It's a weight-based dosing formula, and is given daily. The Earth Animal Company has a similar product available in either a liquid or powder formula. Our cat refuses the powder formula, but doesn't mind the drops, while the dogs absolutely love the powder, so it's nice to have the liquid option.

For people who don't want to deal with a daily preventative, the Alzoo Company makes herbalbased topical products for both dogs and cats. These are applied between the shoulders, and are effective up to three months, but they aren't waterproof. If your dog goes swimming or has a bath, the product needs to be reapplied.



Another alternative to the daily products is a flea collar. Earth Animal and Alzoo both have herbal-based, allnatural flea collars available for dogs and cats. These collars are made to repel fleas, ticks, mites and mosquitoes without harsh chemicals. Once you put the collar on, the protection lasts for four months.



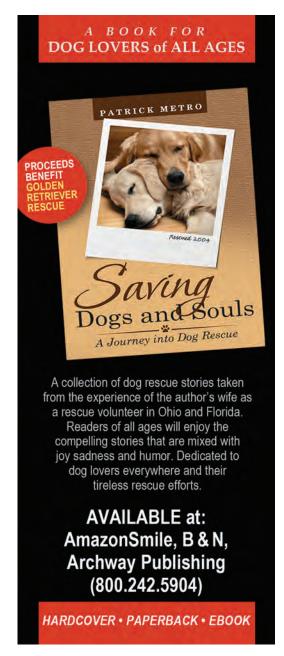
Also available are herbal-based topical sprays. Ark Naturals makes Flea Flicker, Tick Kicker spray, a blend of oils that repel fleas, ticks, flies and mosquitoes. This can be used daily, and works for dogs and cats. (I've been known to borrow it when the mosquitoes are making my life miserable, too). Earth Animal also has an herbal spray as part of its all-natural Flea & Tick program, but it's for dogs only.



Jennifer Baker is owner of Grateful Dog Bakery in North Ridgeville, an allnatural dog and cat supply store featuring an in-store dog bakery. She is the proud mom of five dogs and one cat. To contact her, email news@gratefuldogbakery.com or follow her @GratefulDogB.









# Lyme Disease Prevention:

What You Should Know

Bv Ann McDonald

pring will soon be here, bringing with it warmer temperatures and hopefully lots of time outside exploring CLE with your dogs. As temperatures begin to rise, many dog owners turn their attention to protecting their dogs from ticks. But did you know that protecting your dog should be a year-round focus?

According to Dr. Jason Lamb, a veterinarian at the Avon Lake Animal Clinic, the Blacklegged tick (also known as the Deer tick) can be present all year round. As he explains, the life cycle of a tick consists of a larva, nymph and adult. While larval feeding is most active July-October, nymph feeding is most active April-November and adult feeding is most active September-December. The tick can even be present in the winter when temperatures rise.

"It is important to understand that the tick can live through the winter, and when we get increases in temperatures, the tick becomes mobile," Dr. Lamb says. "So, it is important to keep our canine pets on preventatives year-round. This is true for all sizes and lifestyles of our canine friends. All stages of the Blacklegged tick feed on mammals."

It is much easier to prevent the disease than treat it, Dr. Lamb explains. Once a dog is infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, the dog becomes a carrier its whole life; it's just a matter of whether the disease will become active or not. The symptoms of Lyme disease, which include fever, lameness and/or swollen joints, can take weeks or even months to develop.

Once a dog receives treatment, full recovery can usually be expected, or the disease can be managed well. Dr. Lamb says that only about 5% of cases develop into Lyme Nephritis, which is a terminal kidney disease that typically progresses over four to six weeks. Golden Retrievers, in particular, seem to be most susceptible to this, he says.

Prevention is also key, since treating Lyme disease can be very expensive. Clevelandbased pet insurance provider, Embrace Pet Insurance, had over \$50,000 in claims related to Lyme disease in 2017. Although none were in Ohio, nearby states New York and Pennsylvania had high claims numbers.

"On average, the cost to treat Lyme disease in dogs is between \$530-\$745," says Jenna Mahan, registered veterinary technician and the claims director at Embrace. "This includes an exam fee, blood test, a four-week course of antibiotics and more, depending on the diagnosis."

Preventatives can range from oral and topical medications to collars. Dr. Lamb says he recommends oral preventatives, in particular, Nexgard. Dog owners should also consider the Lyme disease vaccination, especially for pets that frequent wooded and grassy areas such as the Metroparks or fields. The Lyme disease vaccine helps to prevent disease caused by Borrelia burgdorferi, the Lyme disease organism.

"Tick preventative only controls the tick. The goal is to kill the tick prior to the injection/transmission of the Lyme bacteria. If there is any product failure, it is best to have a good immune system ready to attack the bacteria. This is achieved through vaccination," Dr. Lamb says.

It's a good idea to discuss with your vet what tick and Lyme disease prevention options are best for your dog based on your lifestyle and where you live. Currently, Dr. Lamb says that Ohio is a mild-to-moderate risk for Lyme disease, but many of the surrounding states are high risk.

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 dogsinthecle.com.

### **AROUND TOWN**

# DOGS IN #CITY

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

#### **EASTER EGG HUNTS**

This year, Easter is on Sunday April 1st (no joke!), so March will be filled with Easter events for dogs. There are many kid Easter egg hunts, but you can also take your dog to one, too! Last year, I took Bella to a K9 Easter Egg Hunt at Jefferson Park in Cleveland. At one end of the park, many eggs were laid out with dog treats inside for your dog to



Bella enjoyed last year's K9 Easter Egg Hunt at Jefferson Park.

find. Bella easily learned to open up the eggs to get the treats. I plan to attend this event again this year with both Mia and Bella! We are also helping to coordinate this event, but unfortunately, a date wasn't confirmed before our deadline. Check our Dog Life in CLE Facebook page for updates! You can also do your own Easter egg hunt at home with your dogs! It's a fun activity for them to do, and gives them something special for the holiday.

#### **PACKING FOR EVENTS**

With all the events the girls and I do, I'm often asked what I pack up for them before heading off to dog-friendly places and events. I always have a totebag with a tennis ball, treats, doggie bags and a collapsible water dish. These are my dogs' essentials for

an outing. Tennis balls are Bella's favorite, and besides keeping her occupied, they're great for getting her to pose for a photo. A bag of treats are good for rewarding and also for taking photos. When dogs have to go, you have to pick up after them. Poop bags are essential, as you never know if the places you visit wll have them. Many dog-friendly places and dog-related events do have community water bowls, but it's always good to have your own. A collapsible bowl makes it easy to stuff in your bag. I don't bring dog food or chews when we're out and about to prevent any troubles with other dogs with food-possession instincts.













### t's already past quitting time

when the call comes in: two suspects charging people, causing a disturbance in a Lorain neighborhood. The police officer pulls up and sees one of the suspects in the driveway. He gets out of his patrol car and starts walking up to the perp. Someone yells, "There's another one in the bushes," just as the second suspect barrels toward

the officer. The officer tells him to "sit," which he does, and he throws him a treat. He escorts the accused to his vehicle, and returns to apprehend the original suspect in a similar fashion. Eventually, both perps are safely captured and returned to their home through the open back door, which is how they escaped to being with.

Just another day in the life of Lorain Police Officer Rick "Doc" Broz. Since 2014, when he officially became humane officer and dog warden for the Lorain Police Department, the former Navy medic has humanely captured over 2,000 Lorain dogs. Officer Broz said "aggressive" dogs were shot by officers an average of two or more a month. Since he began his assignment, only four dogs have had to be shot by police in 3 1/2 years.

"It's no different than officers being assigned to the detective bureau, traffic, narcotics or other specialty units," Officer Broz says. "I specialize in enforcing the state and city animal laws, but I still can investigate and enforce any city or state law during my duty day," says Officer Broz.

The former medic for the Lorain Police SWAT Team always had a reputation for being able to capture the dogs he and other members of the department encountered during their day-to-day police work. Many of these pooches were in the Pit Bull Terrier family, which Broz says are the "easiest to catch due to their natural affinity to humans."

His weapon of choice? Pup-Peroni.

"Pup-Peroni is the 'Twinkies' of dog treats, and everyone loves Twinkies," says Officer Broz.

He also tells his fellow officers that he has "animal magnetism."

That guick wit is what has made the Lorain resident a fan favorite on

Facebook--he has 5,000 friends--where he shares daily posts of his canine captures. But when it comes to advocating for animals, he's all business.

He successfully presented an anti-tethering ordinance--along with updating several other Lorain City Ordinances involving animals--to the Lorain City Council, and convinced them to pass it and the other

> ordinances, including removing the definition of Pit Bulls as "vicious dogs." Officer Broz worked with Greg Willey of Friendship APL in Elyria and animal rights attorney Lindsay Zehel on these ordinances.

> "I've never understood the concept of 'outside dogs.' It's not a pet; it's not security if it's outside the house and tethered. Dogs tend to get aggressive from lack of social contact with humans and frustration from being restrained. A dog's place in on the couch in my book," Officer Broz says.

> This "canine cop" also took care of Herbie, a horribly abused and abandoned dog he found while working. Herbie's story went viral, unifying dog lovers from around the world, helping to pass Nitro's Law and Goddard's Law. Deservedly so, Officer Broz is also a former Friendship APL Volunteer of the Year awardee.

> Officer Broz is dog dad to Skeeter, a 6-year-old Shar Pei, St. Bernard, German Shepard and Pit Bull mix who was surrendered to Friendship APL at one year of age.

> "He was so cage aggressive, he could never be put up for adoption. He even bit me the first time we met, although it was my fault entirely. I pushed too hard, too fast. Eventually we bonded, but he never lost his cage aggression. Greg Willey and I decided Skeeter would come home with me."



One of the 2,000+ dogs Officer Broz has assisted.

Officer Broz and Skeeter on the job.

Since then, Officer Broz says Skeeter has become a social butterfly, and loves riding in his dad's Jeep Wrangler. He also loves daily walks and exploring the various Metro Parks, "when he's not hanging out at Quaker Steak & Lube, schmoozing and mooching French fries." Dad brags that Skeeter also enjoys the many bands who play at the Sheffield watering hole.

"He has this funny habit of barking at the end of each song, and many of the local bands consider him their biggest fan, and his picture can be found on their Facebook pages, "Officer Broz shares.

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Skeeter also has two Russian Blue cat sisters who he likes, but they could do without him.

So what does this divorced, "happily single" pet parent of three do in his spare time?

"I also enjoy landscaping and growing Bonsai trees, but in the last few years, my life seems to have gone to the dogs. But that's okay as long as I at least get my lawn mowed every week," Officer Broz says.

From searching for a stray in sub-zero temperatures, to removing dogs during narcotic raids, Officer Broz serves and protects to keep 2- and 4-legged civilians safe.

### Dog owner at a glance

RICK "DOC" BROZ, DOG DAD TO SKEETER, THE SHAR PEI, ST. BERNARD, GERMAN SHEPARD AND PIT BULL MIX, AGE 6.

Breeder or Shelter/Rescue? Shelter/rescue. Skeeter is actually a designer dog....a St. Sharshepbullnard. Designed by whatever jumped over the fence!

Flexi or Web Leashes? Rope leashes are actually my favorite. Easier on the hands.

**Regular or Raw Feeding?** Regular, and of course, table scraps. Don't judge me.

Free Feeding or Fixed Meal Schedule? Free Feeding. He eats when he wants to; I just control the amount to which he has access to each day.

Your Bed or Dog Bed? My bed along with one or two cats.

Dog Park or Metro Park? Metro Park or neighborhood walk. We've had a few bad experiences at the dog parks.

Doggie Daycare or Daily Walk? Daily walk. I don't think doggie daycare could handle him.

Trainer or Homeschool? Skeeter is a Friendship APL Prison Program Graduate, but the rest of his training was at home.

Pet Sitter or Boarding? Neither. If Skeeter can't come, I don't go.

Purebred or Mix? All-American Mutt.





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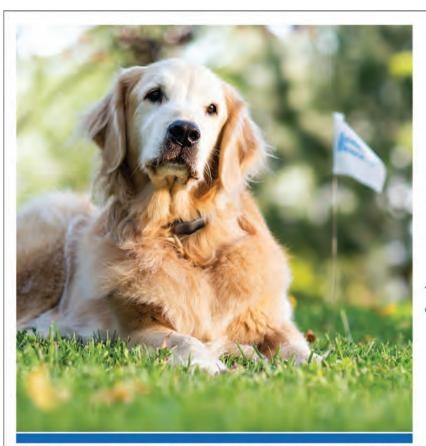
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# ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

Dogs Have a Lot to Say: We Just Need to Listen

By Skye Bar

The idea of talking animals has fascinated the human race for millennia, appearing everywhere from Aesop's Fables to popular video games. The reality is a little different, but no less compelling. Animals communicate with each other to find mates and food, warn of predators and to mark their territory. Since humans are very social creatures, it's only natural for us to want to communicate with our pets, but interspecific communication is, unfortunately, not as simple as fairy tales would have you believe.

Most of us communicate with our pets on a daily basis by giving our dogs commands, praise or just talking to them. They have different ways of expressing their feelings to us, too, but we must be receptive enough to notice them. A dog bringing his owner his favorite toy with a wagging tail and a pleading look in his eyes is clearly an invitation to play, but later on he may hold his tail between his legs and avoid eye contact to express submission.

From the day you bring a new puppy home, you'll want to communicate with it first to train it, and to scold it occasionally, and then to express companionship and love. Eventually, our pets have to cross the rainbow bridge, leaving us with holes in our hearts and, all too often, words left unspoken. That's where professional animal communicators like Rev. Liz Madsen come in.

Madsen is blessed with the ability to speak with animals, living and on

the other side, and to bring some closure to surviving pet parents. Madsen is a natural healer, reiki practitioner and pet psychic. After struggling with her own health issues, she discovered natural health practices, and now works with multiple modalities herself. She has been communicating with animals since 2009, and offers her services to pet owners hoping to gain insight and a closer bond with their living pets, or to get closure after a pet has passed on.

> Liz communicates telepathically with animals, sometimes even hearing the tones of their voices. Often she will make house calls to meet with the pet, although she is able to work remotely, as well. On speaking with animals, she says "When I talk to them, it is just like me talking to a person." If a dog has a behavioral issue, she can urge him to stop that behavior or ask him why he is misbehaving in the first place, helping the owner to work with the pooch.

So, what do our dogs want us to know? "The thing that I Madsen and her dog Maddie hear most is that they love their people," Liz responds. Whether they're acting out, feeling sick or they're on the other side, our pets love us as just much as we love them, if not more.

> Madsen offers her animal communication services starting at \$40 for a 15-20 minute reading, with a reasonable extra charge for her travel time, if necessary. For more information, vist her website revlizmadsencnhprmt.vpweb.com

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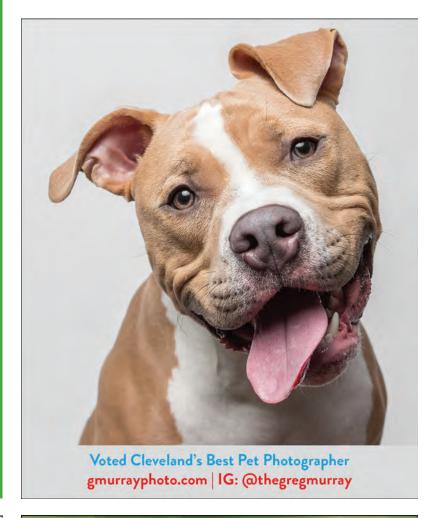
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- Glenn of Imaal Terrier This short-statured, intelligent dog is a vermin-hunting expert hailing from County Wicklow.
- Irish Lurcher Emerging in the 14th century, this sighthound is popular with hunters.
- Irish Red and White Setter Similar to the "regular" Irish Setter, this • Irish Setter breed has spots of mahogany. Clergyman Noble Huston saved the breed from extinction in the early 1900s.
- Irish Terrier A lean, powerful dog with a harsh red coat, they require action and activity.
- Irish Toy Collie "Collie" is a Celtic term for "useful dog," • Wheaten Terrier and this breed's lineage includes the Shetland Sheepdog.

- Irish Water Spaniel
  These water-loving and retrieving dogs
  first appeared in Ireland in the early 19th century.
- Irish Wolfhound This gentle giant came to Ireland over 5,000 years ago. This breed has the shortest of all canine life expectancies.
- Beauty, brains and personality are included in this breed. They enjoy affection and activity.
- Kerry Blue Terrier The breed emerged in the 1700s in County Kerry. The coat has a very distinctive color and texture.
- An athletic and playful breed that doesn't like the heat, they often excel at obedience activities.









# Being Prepared

By Linda Slusser

The words of *Dog Love* author and Harvard University professor Marjorie Garber remind us that "... to get a dog is to open yourself to profound joy and, prospectively, to equally profound sadness." When you welcome a new canine companion into your life, you're focused on the wonderful times you will share, and seldom think about the end of that pet's life.

But before that inevitable loss occurs, it might be wise to know about some choices for making your pet's final arrangements, and for dealing with the accompanying grief.

#### **Making Final Arrangements**

Pet Cremation Services, Inc., has been serving Columbus pet owners for the last 21 years, and opened a Cleveland office last year. Gary Reynolds, corporate operations manager, says a basic package includes the cremation and the dog's ashes, with a half-heart token (right) in a decorative metal tin; the other token half is placed into a remembrance card for the owner. For a small additional fee, an ink paw print, fur clipping or wooden box with an engraved nameplate can be provided. Prices are provided through the vet or to the owner. Pet Cremation Services also offers a large selection of custom urns in metal, stone, wood or ceramic, petcremationcolumbus.com.

According to owner Dave McComb, Suburban Pet Cremation Services, has been serving pet owners for 30 years, and tries to accommodate the level of involvement each family wants. The cost for cremation, a certificate of passing and the dog's ashes in a velvet pouch and cloth tote bag (left) begins at \$90 for a dog up to 20 pounds, and increases with the dog's weight. Extras such as a clay paw print, nose print or an urn are also

available. Owners may choose to view the initial stage of the cremation process or have a small memorial service. Suburban also offers a free online guestbook, where the dog's family and friends can post tributes, suburbanpetcremation.com.

> DeJohn Pet Services in Willoughby Hills opened in 2010. Pet Care Specialist Sherri DiPietro says their services for pets mirror those provided by DeJohn's funeral home for humans. The basic package includes pet pick up, cremation, visitation, a paw print and fur clipping, a packet of grief information and family support calls, and an urn. The cost for a pet up to 50 pounds is \$345. DiPietro works with each family to meet their wishes, whether to put a special toy with their dog or to have a memorial service, dejohnpetservices.com.

Not everyone may want a private (individual) cremation. For owners who do not want their pets' ashes returned, a less expensive communal (group) cremation can be requested. Pet Cremation Services scatters the ashes on private farmland and DeJohn Pet Services sprinkles the ashes in a woodland area. Suburban Pet Cremation Services does not offer communal cremations.

Although less common today, some owners still prefer the traditional option of burying their dog. Joe Pavone of Paws Awhile Pet Memorial Park in Richfield says a basic burial rite--for the dog's body or for up to six dogs' cremated remains--starts at \$750. Caskets start at \$75; headstones at \$199. Memorial services are also available. And if someone already has a dog buried in the cemetery, that person's cremains can be buried with the pet, pawsawhilepet.com.

All of these options-from the simplest to the most elaborate--strive to honor the special relationship between owners and their dogs.

# Paying Tribute

By Susan Spisak

If your treasured dog recently crossed the "Rainbow Bridge," or you're still hurting from the absence of that special canine that left a hole in your heart, know that many of us have experienced that pain, as well. Losing a pet brings with it grief and anguishhe was a family member after all, and he provided unconditional love. Keep him in your heart with positive and uplifting ways to remember him.



Glass Remembrance

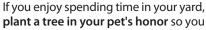
Glass Remembrance, an Ohio-based company founded by Leatrice Guttentag, creates handmade, blown-glass keepsakes containing a small portion of your pets' (or loved ones') cremains. Pieces include bracelet beads, pendants, key chains and crosses. The company also offers encasements, such as a glass orb, for leashes or other cherished items.

Guttentag is a soft-spoken gal all too familiar with loss. She barely survived the 9/11 World Trade Center attack--she worked on the 80th floor of Tower One, and escaped minutes

By James Bulloch, 252 Tattoo

before it collapsed. Searching for solace after losing many friends, she moved to Ohio, and turned to her two loves--art and her Mastiff, Dozer. When Dozer passed, Guttentag made a yellow glass flower with her cremains because the Mastiff often "trounced" through her garden. She realized her glass art could not only bring joy to others, but ease their grief. Glass Remembrance's exquisite works are sold through Pet Cremation Services, petcremationcolumbus.com. Call Pet Cremation Services' Corporate Operations Manager Gary Reynolds with questions, 614.272.6550.

If you're a fan of ink, a tattoo of your dog is a beautiful and permanent way to keep him near. There are plenty of shops in the area, including 252 TATTOO in Columbia Station and Cleveland. Owner James Bulloch and several of his artists have distinctive dog art in their portfolios, and they offer custom portrait work. If your tastes are simpler, a tattoo with your dog's name may be your thing.



can watch it grow, bloom and change seasonally. Add a garden bench and stepping stones, so in time they bring you peace. A statue can be another wonderful celebration of his life. There are plenty of options online and in garden centers, from a small cherub holding a pup, to fullsize, breed-specific metal or concrete dogs. Add a small garden flag with your dog's picture to finish off your outdoor space, flagology.com.

James Ruby, a local artist with national gallery exposure, specializes in creating oil on canvas portraits of pets from pictures. As a painter and dog lover, he understands the emotional bond we have with our animals. "My vision is to capture an image that every pet owner can connect with-the adoring face that fills us with happiness every day." If you

commission a painting for your home, this personal art allows you to remember your dog at every glance--and hopefully have a laugh at his past antics, jamesrubyworks.com.

Take to social media and share pictures, videos and memories about your pooch. This online memorial provides you with support and feedback from your network of friends and family, and their sympathy can help you



Portrait by James Ruby

Send a monetary gift to an organization in his name. If your dog passed due to a specific illness, contribute to a research institute that's working on its cure. If you rescued him, mail a check to that shelter. If your dog received extraordinary medical care from your vet, pay it forward and make a donation to a fund that helps pet owners who need veterinary

Create a memorial area in your home. Place a framed version of a meaningful poem or quote near his ashes and clay paw print. Include pictures, his collar and tags, and any books that embody his spirit (I like For Every Dog an Angel by Christine Davis). If this isn't for you, have your favorite picture blown up and hang it.

Make a scrapbook to detail his years. Try Shutterfly's Make My Book™ service. Upload pictures and instructions, and they'll design an unforgettable book for you, shutterfly.com.

In the last few years, my husband and I have lost three of our four Goldens. They lived good, long

lives--13, 14 1/2 and the most recent, 15+. Even though we knew each was on borrowed time at the end, saying goodbye was devastating. While we know we can never replace them, we're honoring them by rescuing a dog in need. With the adoption fee, we'll add a donation in their memory.

Once you're up to it, have a party to celebrate your best friend's life. Invite all who knew him and hash over the good, the bad and the funny. It can be a unique and stirring experience, and remind you of all the happiness and joy he brought you.



The grief felt by the absence of a beloved companion can be overwhelming. Studies and surveys have shown that many people actually feel more upset at the loss of their dog than that of a friend or relative.

This pain can be so intense because, in addition to providing structure to the day and giving a sense of security and comfort, dogs offer unconditional love. Dr. Robert Hutchison of North Ridgeville's Animal Clinic Northview explains: "Pets are not animals anymore. Pets are part of the family. You come home, it doesn't matter if you've had a good day, a bad day; your pet's always glad to see you."

It is important to realize that there is no right way to mourn the loss of a dog and no right amount of time to get over the grief. Since every relationship between a person and a dog is unique, how a person mourns will also be unique. There are many resources to help understand and cope with this grief.

Online resources such as the Rainbow Bridge Pet Loss Grief Center sponsors a Monday night candle ceremony and two pet loss chat rooms, one for adults and one monitored for teens 13-17, where individuals can share their stories and feelings with others who have lost a furry friend, rainbowsbridge.com/Grief Support. The Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement, with professionally trained volunteers, has a grief chat room and an anticipatory bereavement chat room, aplb.org. Both sites also include links and phone numbers to pet loss grief support hotlines. Print and audiovisual materials can be useful, too. A good list for adults

and children is available at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine under the Resources for Grieving heading at 2.vet.cornell.edu/aboutus/outreach/pet-loss-support-hotline.

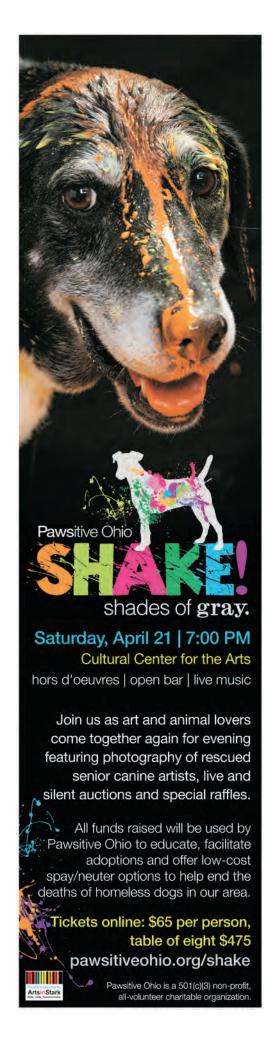
More personal help through counseling or a bereavement support group is another valuable resource. Special training in pet loss grief and years of experience qualify Tina Bulucea, MSSA, LISW, and Patty DeJohn, MA, to offer these services to Northeast Ohio residents.

Bulucea offers individual counseling sessions at \$65 per hour. She prefers to see people in their homes where they may be most comfortable and can show her things about their dog, immortalpawprints.com.

DeJohn's individual counseling sessions are \$75 per hour, and take place at the DeJohn Funeral Home in Willoughby Hills. She also facilitates a Pet Loss Bereavement Group on the third Thursday of the month from September through May at the Animal Hospital, Inc., in Willoughby Hills, PatriciaDeJohn.com.

Comfort and healing for one's grief come from memorializing a cherished dog in a manner meaningful to the individual or family. And as we have found out, there are many possibilities for honoring that

Linda lives with two Shelties in Wellington. *She enjoys writing about dogs, and has* had articles published in Heart of Ohio's Focus issue on Pets, Maine Dog Magazine and The Bark.



# MARCH

#### HOLIDAYS

If Pets Had Thumbs Day - March 3 Professional Pet Sitters Week - March 4-10

K-9 Veterans Day - March 13 National Puppy Day - March 23

EASTER PARTY AT PETVALU-Saturday, March 3, Noon-3 p.m. at PetValu in Sheffield, 5275 Detroit Road. Join Love-A-Stray for an adoption event. Come visit, do some shopping and hang out with dogs available for adoption. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for the dogs, and an Easter backdrop for you to take your own pictures with your pet! Visit loveastraydog.com for more information.

PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY-Saturday, March 3 & Sunday, March 4, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at The Bark Club in North Ridgeville, 33549 Liberty Pkwy. Bring your furry family member for a photo with the Easter Bunny, \$12 for a 4x6" framed print, plus photos posted on social media. Gift basket raffle. Hosted by Elite K911, Grateful Dog Bakery and The Bark Club. Proceeds benefit Mutts in a Rut and Fido's Companion. Call 440.353.1990 for more information.

POOCH PARTY AT PETPEOPLE-Sunday, March 4, 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 some awesome dogs available for adoption. Visit loveastraydog.com for more information.

PHOTOS WITH HOPPY PAWS-Sunday, March 4, 1-4 p.m. at Pet's General Store in Lakewood, 16821 Madison Ave. Join Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park for their annual spring fling fundraiser. Bring your pets and your peeps to pose with the super-size bunny, Hoppy Paws. No appointment needed. Photographer Martha Widdowson of Portraits by Martha will be behind the camera.

BARK MADNESS-Thursday, March 8, 6-8:30 p.m. at Boss Dog Brewing Co. in Cleveland Hts., 2179 Lee Road. Raffles, games, food, drinks and fun. \$25-\$50. Proceeds benefit PetFix Northeast Ohio. Purchase tickets at petfixnortheastohio.org.

BARK BRUNCH-Sunday, March 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Grantwood Golf Course in Solon, 38855 Aurora Road. Second annual event features Chicago Deli buffet brunch, bottomless bloody Marys and mimosas. \$25 adults, \$15 kids 12 & under. Reservations only. Proceeds benefit Doberman Underground. Tickets can be purchased at dudobes.org.

PINTS FOR PUPS CALENDAR CONTEST-Sunday, March 25, 2-4 p.m. at Railroad Brewing in Avon, 1010 Center Road. Join Love-A-Stray and Railroad Brewing for this monthly dog costume contest! On the last Sunday of each month, a winner will be chosen to be featured in the 2019 Pints for Pups calendar for that month--be creative! Winners also receive a \$25 gift card and a goody bag! A \$10 donation is requested to enter the contest, with proceeds benefiting Love-A-Stray Dog Rescue. Visit loveastraydog.com for more information.





### \*THE BARKETPLACE \*

Check out these dogcentric businesses!



















# Avon Lake Pet Health Campus

Northeast Ohio's Premier Pet Care Facility









# Let's talk about Lyme Disease

In 2017, there were 253 cases of Lyme disease in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council. Lyme disease is a bacterial illness transmitted to pets by ticks. Don't let your pet become a statistic. Use preventatives year round, and consider the Lyme disease vaccination.

#### **SYMPTOMS OF LYME DISEASE**

- Diarrhea
- Reduced energy
- Fever
- · Lameness, stiffness
- Loss of appetite

and/or swelling of joints

Avon Lake Animal Clinic is offering **free tick exams** during the month of March. Come on in, and we'll show you where to look and how. (Hint: in between toes.) Just mention CLE DOG when booking your appointment.



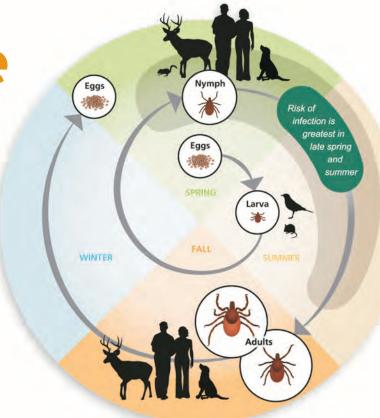
AVON LAKE
ANIMAL CLINIC

440.933.5297

Schedule your pet's annual health exam and blood test.

Share a photo of your pet on our Facebook (@avonlakeanimalclinic) and Twitter (@avonlakeanimal) pages or tag us, and you could win a

FREE TICK REMOVAL TOOL!





"The Blacklegged tick, or Deer tick, can be present all year round, so it is important to keep our canine pets on preventatives year round. Lyme disease is much easier to prevent than to treat."

- Dr. Jason Lamb, Avon Lake Animal Clinic