

# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

## FEATURES



**Face of a Flower, Heart of a Lion**  
In a royal palace or city apartment, the Shih Tzu is a perfect companion.



**A Chance to Change**  
Dogs Matter helps pet owners facing addiction recover by providing free foster care.



**Your Dog Has Cancer ... Now What?**  
Commonsense tips can help you decide whether to treat or not to treat.



**Her Fluffy Muse**  
Through a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, a young girl finds a voice and success as a fiction author.

## COLUMNS & DEPARTMENTS



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Sweater Weather



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# Where Your Dog Is the Star

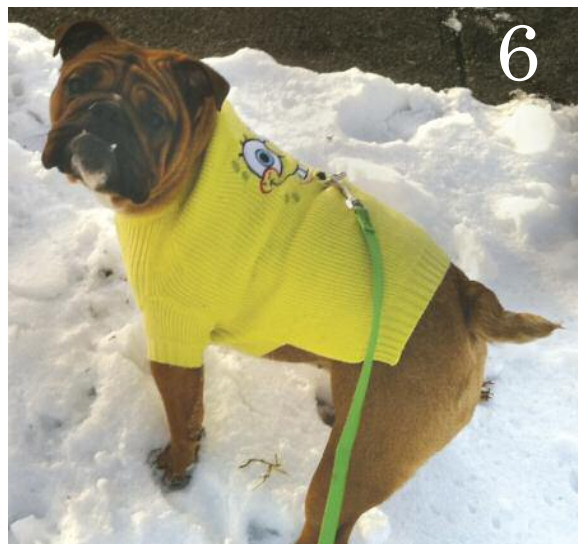


## Sweater Weather

There's a nip in the air, meaning that these dogs get to model their best winter wear.







1. **ROSCOE** Crossville, TN
2. **RHINO ACE & TIGER NASH** Rockaway, NJ
3. **MAGGIE** Wheatland, WY
4. **STELLA** Kalamazoo, MI
5. **RYLEY** Hemet, CA

6. **MAGGIEMAE** Georgetown, KY
7. **LILYBELLE** Capitola, CA
8. **DIESEL** Greer, AZ
9. **TALLULAH** Valley Stream, NY

### Send Us Your Snaps!

We'd love to see *your* family dog. E-mail your digital photos (high-resolution, please) to [familydog@akc.org](mailto:familydog@akc.org). Please include "Your Family Dog Photo" in the subject line, and your name and address, as well as your dog's name and breed, if applicable.




• Only previously unpublished photos will be selected for publication • All photos become the property of the American Kennel Club and will not be returned. The AKC reserves the right to use the photos for any other purpose without compensation.

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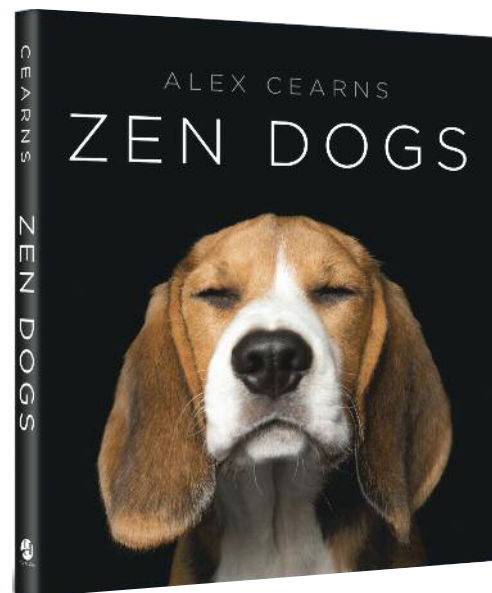
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## Nirvana Found



Suzi, SHAR-PEI

**T**he hectic holiday season is upon us, meaning that it could do us all a bit of good to pause, enjoy a few deep breaths, and take a page from *Zen Dogs*. This new photography book, released October 25, features 80 photographs of seemingly blissed-out pups, complemented by words of wisdom from the Buddha, Gandhi, and other inspiring figures. Photographer Alex Cearns, who runs [Houndstooth Studio](#), in Perth, Australia, was inspired to create this series after capturing what she called a “lucky shot” of a Shar-Pei with her eyes closed and wearing a serene “smile.” Since then, she’s perfected her ability to catch a dog relaxed and mid-blink for a meditative effect. Order the book on [Amazon.com](#).

## Insta-Flashback

Every day is a #TBT day on the AKC’s newest Instagram account, [@AKCLibrary](#). Get a glimpse inside the New York office’s archives, with photos of historical pictures, statues, and even the occasional four-legged researcher.



[WHAT WE RUV]

## Making Their Mark

While Simone Biles and Michael Phelps were making Olympic history, ambitious canines and their owners were working to set some records of their own. Recently, Smurf, a Parson Russell Terrier, was recorded by Guinness World Records as performing the most tricks by a dog in a minute. The 6-year-old dog from the United Kingdom managed an impressive 32 moves.

Meanwhile, Chicago baseball fans came out en masse with their dogs to achieve the “most dogs to attend a sporting event.” With 1,122 canine fans in attendance, they set a record other sports teams would be hard-pressed to beat.



[RECIPE]

## Thanksgiving Treats For Dogs

'Tis the season for indulging. Unfortunately, the turkey, pumpkin pie, and mashed potatoes you're serving up aren't all that great for your four-legged family members. Instead, whip up a batch of these cookies from a recipe by blogger Erin Browne of [BrownieBites.net](http://BrownieBites.net). Her Corgi, Dexter, often featured on the blog and shown below, gave the treats two paws up. The best part? They're only five ingredients (plus water).



### Fruity Oatmeal Dog Treats

#### Ingredients

- 1 banana, ripe
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- ¼ cup unsweetened apple sauce
- ⅛ cup water
- 1½ cups whole-wheat flour (substitute if your dog doesn't eat wheat)
- 1 cup oats

#### Instructions

Preheat your oven to 350 F.

Mash the carrots with the banana, then add applesauce and water.

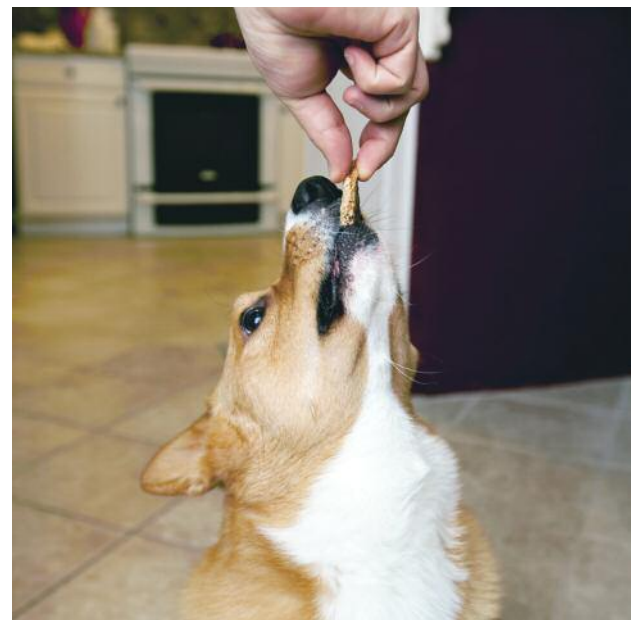
Fold in the oats and gradually

add the flour until a dough is formed.

Lightly sprinkle a countertop with some whole-wheat flour and roll out the dough to about ½ inch thick.

Use a small biscuit cutter (or a seasonal cutter of your choice) and place treats on a lightly sprayed cookie sheet.

Bake for 25 minutes, and then turn off the oven and let the treats stay inside for an additional 2–3 hours. This will dehydrate them



further, creating a chewy (or crunchy, depending on how long you let them dehydrate) treat with a longer shelf life.

## Oh, Christmas Tree

A symbol of the holiday season for those who celebrate Christmas, pine trees—and the accessories we deck them with—come with a few risks to pets:

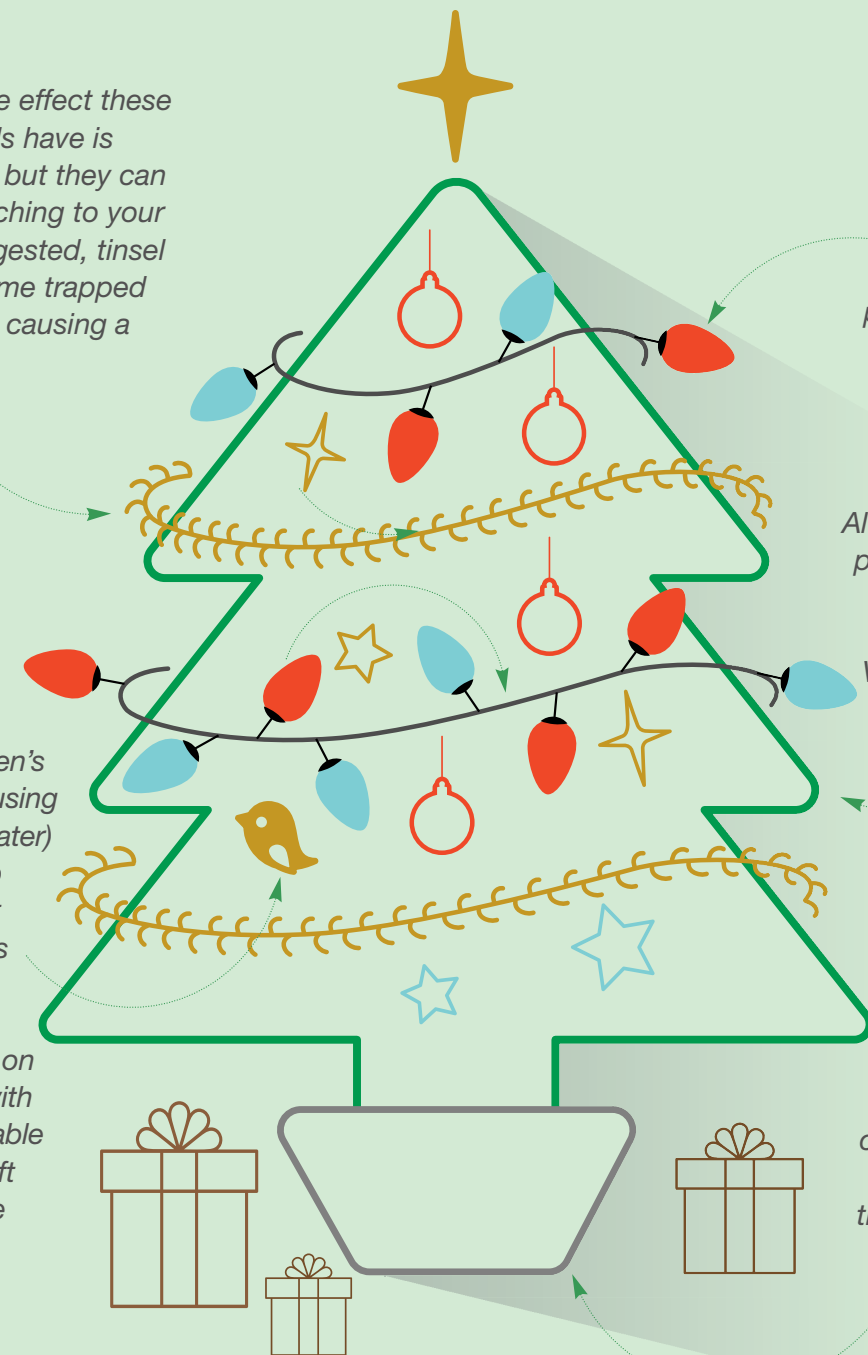
**Tinsel:** Sure, the effect these shimmering shreds have is a dramatic one, but they can also be eye-catching to your dog or cat. If ingested, tinsel can easily become trapped in the intestines causing a life-threatening obstruction.

**Light strings:** If you have a puppy or a dog who likes to chew, string lights can be a dangerous decoration choice, putting pets at risk of burns and electrical shock.

**Pine needles:** Although not deadly to pets, these can cause stomach upset and irritate the mouth. Vacuum frequently or block the tree off using baby gates.

**Hold the salt:** Salt ornaments (a popular children's crafting project using flour, salt, and water) can be deadly to dogs who ingest them. If your kids make these at school, better to place them high on the tree (along with any easily breakable ornaments) or gift them to dog-free homes.

**Water, water everywhere:** Fertilizers used in tree water (and the bacteria it attracts) can be harmful to dogs and cats who sip it. Either go with an artificial tree or use a tree skirt to cover the water.







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## paw prints

[GEEK BRIEF]

# Tell Me No Lies

Telling your dog he's a "good boy" may not be enough, a new study reveals. You have to mean it, too.

Hungarian researchers, lead by Attila Andics, of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, conducted a study of the brain activity of 13 dogs who were trained to lie still in an fMRI brain-scan machine. While monitoring the reward system of the brain, the trainers praised the dogs in both a neutral voice and with a higher intonation. They also gave the dogs words they did not know in both neutral and "praise" intonations.

The scans showed that the dog's reward center was activated only when the trainers used praise words known to the dogs in a praising intonation. This, the scientists concluded in the journal *Science*, showed that the animals used both sides of the brain to understand the words that were being spoken and interpret the emotion behind them.

"[Dogs] not only tell apart what we say and how we say it, but they can also combine the two, for a correct interpretation of what those words really meant," says Andics. "[This] is very similar to what human brains do."

## Ruh Roh!

We neglected to include a credit for the photograph of surfing Dalmatian Kaylee in the "Surf's Pup" article that ran in our July/August issue. This stunning image was taken by Dale and Karen Photography ([drhphotos.photostockplus.com](http://drhphotos.photostockplus.com)). We apologize for the error.

3 / 3 | AKC FAMILYDOG



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# Holiday Gift Guide 2016

**SiberianArt** is a unique jewelry boutique founded out of a passion and love for dogs and other animals. Surprise the purebred dog lover in your life with a handmade necklace, brooch, or earrings, all crafted with special attention to the characteristics and proportions of each breed, down to the smallest details. Select from more than 250 dog breeds, and show off the special bond you have with your pet. [siberianartjewelry.etsy.com](http://siberianartjewelry.etsy.com), [siberianart.com](http://siberianart.com)



**Arcadia Home's Dog Breed Ornaments** make unique gifts for dog lovers. Hand-knitted with care by a women-led artisan collective, these charming decorations are made from an ultra soft and sustainably sourced alpaca fiber blend. There are currently 40 breeds in the line—plenty for a dog-themed tree! Made to last a lifetime, these ornaments will delight each year. [arcadiahomeinc.com](http://arcadiahomeinc.com)

Spread the holiday cheer by surprising the dog lover in your life with one of these special gift items.

## All I Want



**Acadia All Natural Dog Soap** is made from the finest, organic (when possible) ingredients. This easy-to-use bar soap comes with a mesh bag, which prevents dog hair from sticking to the soap and makes it simple to hang and dry after use. Each purchase includes a reusable drying towel that is soft to the touch and highly absorbent (simply wring out and hang to dry). [acadiaantlers.com](http://acadiaantlers.com)



Pet travel is a breeze with the **Sleepypod Atom Carrier**. It features a trolley pocket for attaching to a luggage handle, ultra-plush bedding that's machine washable, and pockets for stowing essentials. This versatile carrier fits under a wide range of airline seats and does double duty as a crash-tested car seat. [sleepypod.com](http://sleepypod.com)



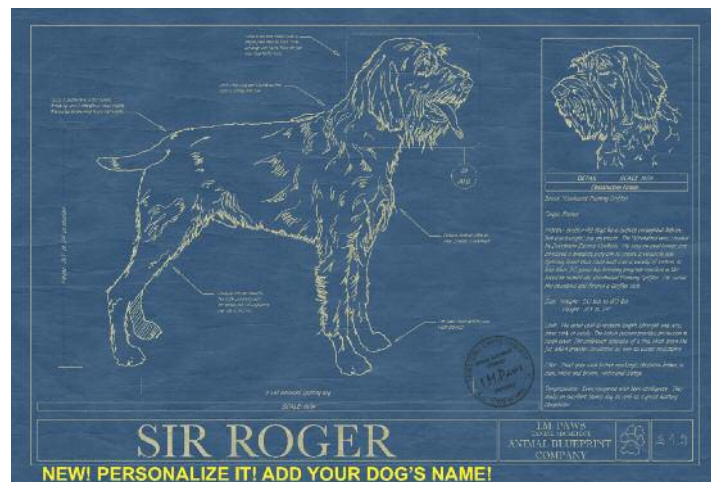
**Pet Acoustics Ultra Calmer** is a canine stress-relief sonic collar that provides a solution for dogs who suffer from acute anxiety triggered by thunderstorms, fireworks, and environmental noise. This collar device is centered between the dog's ears and focuses acute hearing on calming music, masking the agitating sounds and diminishing anxiety. Comes in sizes S, M, and L. The product is water resistant and includes a USB charger. [petacoustics.com](http://petacoustics.com), 860-459-8000





# Holiday Gift Guide 2016

**The Animal Blueprint Company** is the purveyor of stylized dog portraits created in the image of a 1950s blueprint, complete with schematics and design notes calling out the special features of each breed. Featuring a distressed finish to give them the look and feel of working blueprints used by architects, engineers, and construction supervisors in the mid-20th century, the classic renderings are perfect for dog lovers or those who want to combine style, design, and nostalgia. A new feature allows owners to add their dog's name for a personal effect. [animalblueprintcompany.com](http://animalblueprintcompany.com), [robert@animalblueprintcompany.com](mailto:robert@animalblueprintcompany.com)



## FetchFuel ACTIVE

gives dogs the highest quality joint support in a convenient and delicious way. One squeeze of the nutrition-packed sauce on top of a dog's food gives a daily dose of important nutrients to provide additional support for dogs' joints, coat, and overall health. FetchFuel is produced in the USA with human-grade ingredients and is available in an 8oz bottle for \$18.95 and an 18oz bottle for \$31.95. [fetchfuel.com](http://fetchfuel.com)



## Lennypads

have reinvented the dog potty pad with an economical and environmental alternative that can be washed and reused hundreds of times. Each Lennypad is made of four quality layers providing an ultra-absorbent, leak-proof, and durable pad. Customers include everyone from new puppy owners to professional breeders. Sizes range from 18"x24" to 4ftx6ft pad. [lennypads.com](http://lennypads.com), 865-315-2172



Traveling for the holidays? Packing Fido's food for a trip is easy with the adorable **Food Drawstring Storage Bag by Metzger's Designs**. Add up to 14 cups of dry dog food, cinch it closed, and go. This perfect travel accessory is made with durable, non-toxic fabric to keep food safe. After use, the bag wipes completely clean. \$12.99 [petjetsetter.com](http://petjetsetter.com), 678-358-5603



Mary Oswald founded **Collier Leeds** after being inspired to borrow the idea from history that collars are a celebration of a beloved dog. Each one of her creations is carefully custom-fitted and made-to-order with materials sourced in America. The featured "Twiggy" collar comes in four color choices, and a portion of the proceeds will go to bee conservation efforts. [collierleeds.com](http://collierleeds.com)



The weather outside is frightful, but you can snuggle up with your four-legged loved one under an ultra-warm and super-plush **Territory Fleece-and-Sherpa Blanket**. This double-sided blanket features a chic print that matches any home décor. Whether staying in for a cozy evening or lounging after a refreshing walk, this blanket is sure to bring comfort home. Shop for the Territory blanket at Petco or [Target.com](http://Target.com). [originalterritory.com](http://originalterritory.com)





The ultimate connectivity device for dog owners, the **LINK AKC** smart collar provides more than just GPS tracking to avoid losing your dog. It's a way to stay connected to them through daily activity monitoring, adventures, and more. Reserve your collar today to lock in a *special holiday price* of \$149 using *FDGIFT* at checkout. You'll be one of the first to experience what LINK AKC can do for you and your best friend.

[linkakc.com](http://linkakc.com)



The new **PawSponge** is a handy way to keep your dog's paws from tracking dirt and germs into your home or vehicle. A perfect holiday stocking stuffer, this product is great for use after dog walks and outdoor play—simply slip it over your dog's paw and gently squeeze as you rotate it across the foot. It can be used wet or dry, and is convenient to carry and store.

[pawsponge.com](http://pawsponge.com)



**Acadia Antlers** are America's favorite long-lasting dog chews made from naturally shed Maine moose antlers. The perfect gift for all of your four-legged friends this holiday season, this treat will be a constant companion when winter weather keeps everyone indoors. Acadia Antlers are non-splintering, all-natural, hypoallergenic, and mess free. Proud to be both made and sourced in America and cruelty free. [acadiaantlers.com](http://acadiaantlers.com)



The new 3D technology makes it possible to create a custom 3" ornament replica of your pet with **Fur-ever 3D's Fotos to Figurines**. These ornaments and figurines make fantastic holiday gifts and are a unique way to memorialize a pet who has crossed the rainbow bridge. Simply snap a few shots of your dog and upload the pictures (see the website for instructions). Figurines are available in 3", 5", and 7". [furever3d.com](http://furever3d.com), [furever3d@gmail.com](mailto:furever3d@gmail.com), 888.962.4665



**Tinkle Turf** from Prevue Pet Products creates a designated place for your dog to relieve himself when going outdoors is not an option. It makes an ideal training tool for puppies or a convenient area for older dogs. Tinkle Turf is lightweight and portable and has a flow-through, pet-safe synthetic turf that is easy to clean. Three sizes available, and replacement turf sold separately. Shop for the TinkleTurf on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [prevuepet.com](http://prevuepet.com), 800-243-3624.



Protect your pets with the **Pawdentify Pet ID System**, which makes a great stocking stuffer for pet lovers. These tags are easier to read and more durable than engraved metal varieties, and Links-It makes changing tags and collars easy. Made with Kevlar and a patented locking mechanism, Links-It keeps tags securely attached. Select from two sizes and more than 100 designs. This quality-guaranteed product is made in the USA. [pawdentify.com](http://pawdentify.com), [info@pawdentify.com](mailto:info@pawdentify.com)



# Believe It, Achieve It

*A new goal for the New Year*

**W**e're reaching the end of the year, which means it's time to look forward and make plans for the future. So, how about declaring 2017 the year that you and your dog will train for and achieve one of the three AKC Canine Good Citizen titles?



Before you have a chance to think “my dog could never pass,” let me say that I’ve been an evaluator for the CGC program since its inception, and have seen dogs of all sizes, breeds, ages, and temperaments pass the test with flying colors. Even some dogs who were rescued from Michael Vick’s dog-fighting ring were able to be rehabilitated and successfully earn their CGCs. I encourage all of my students to work with their dogs on achieving the titles, which prove that your pet can be polite and well-behaved while in public (or in the case of the Urban CGC title, in a big city). Oh, and you get a certificate to show off, too.

Below, Mary Burch, the director of the CGC program, answers some common questions owners have about the various titles.

**KS: How has the program evolved since its start?**

**MB:** It was started in 1989 as a way to recognize dogs with good manners at home and in the community. That year, we were thrilled when 1,300 dogs took the test. Currently, more than 60,000 dogs a year earn the CGC title. We recently added two levels to the program, AKC Community Canine (advanced CGC) and AKC Urban CGC. This decision is the result of frequent, ongoing requests from owners whose dogs have earned their CGC to have additional titles

so that they could continue training their dogs in practical skills for a fun program.

**KS: What’s the biggest misconception about the tests?**

**MB:** If there’s one common misconception, it’s someone thinking, “My dog could never do that.” In fact, our data show that in the hands of a qualified instructor, almost all dogs can learn the skills to pass the basic test if they go to class once a week for six weeks and train for 15 minutes a day.

## How to Begin Training for CGC

Ready to get started? Here’s how:

1. Read over the test items for each title (these can be found [by clicking here](#)).
2. Evaluate your dog’s ability to perform each of them, using these categories: “Ready,” “Needs Work,” “Need to Teach This.”
3. Find a dog-training class that you can attend weekly, and commit to 15 minutes of practice at least five days a week. A list of local evaluators can be found on the [AKC website](#).
4. A few weeks before the test, do a practice “run through,” and take notes on which areas need more work.
5. On the day of the test, remember that it’s normal to feel nervous, but try to stay relaxed and remember to have fun.





*Working toward a Canine Good Citizen certificate will help your dog learn social skills.*

**KS:** What makes the test relevant for the real world?

**MB:** Behaviors a dog needs to demonstrate to earn a CGC title, such as “meet a friendly stranger,” “react acceptably to distractions,” and “behave appropriately around another dog,” are important skills needed for a dog to function in society. In the real world, dogs must be able to meet people, pass other dogs on the sidewalk, and tolerate distractions such as noises and motions. Dogs who pass the CGC test have the basic skills that make a dog a joy to live with. Also, the title is recognized in our communities by insurance agents, property managers, therapy-

dog groups, and other organizations. I say that one of the very best reasons for doing CGC is that your dog deserves it.

**KS:** How do the owners benefit by training their dog for the title?

**MB:** Obviously, dogs don’t know when they have a title. But dog owners value formal recognition of achievements they have acquired with their dogs. In addition, training builds a bond like no other, and there are tremendous unseen rewards that come from training.

For more information on both tests, visit [akc.org](http://akc.org). 🐾

## Still Think Your Dog Can’t Pass?

Don’t quit before you start. Read about these tough cases, who now are all Canine Good Citizens.

**Jiff** had a rough start. When she was found abandoned at a gas station, she had a broken leg and was skittish and frightful. Nicole Martyn of Somerset, New Jersey, gave her a home and worked slowly and steadily with the mixed-breed, helping her heal, exert her energy through exercise and training, and trust people again. Eventually she passed her Canine Good Citizen test. “The CGC represents a milestone for us. It is external proof of how far she has progressed and acknowledges that all her hard work was worth the effort,” says Martyn.

**Audie** was one of the dogs rescued from Bad Newz Kennels, the dog-fighting ring associated with Michael Vick. When he went to live with Linda Chwistek, he was unsocialized, unable to walk up stairs, and terrified of strange people and dogs. Not only did Chwistek lead Audie through CGC training, but the team has also competed in agility. “We go to trials with 300 or 400 entries, and we walk through crowds of dogs, and he’s fine,” Chwistek says. Together, they were featured in a FAMILY DOG article, “She Caught a Chuting Star,” in 2013.

When **Monte**, a harlequin Great Dane, showed up with owner Lisa Connors at one of AKC’s Canine Good Citizen Meetup events in 2013 and easily passed the 10-step test, AKC staff were surprised to learn that getting to that point was a bit of a journey. Connors took Monte in when he was 4 years old. He didn’t know how to sit and was rambunctious on a leash. After a year and a half of positive reinforcement and clicker training, Monte became the well-behaved gentle giant we were honored to meet. “Getting the CGC meant so much to me,” says Connors. “It’s an affirmation of what a good dog Monte is and the relationship we’ve built with him.”





# Food for Thought

*Is it possible that certain ingredients can make our dogs smarter?*

**“E**at your fish—it’s brain food.” That’s what I was taught growing up. “Because, you know, fish are so smart,” I used to scoff. But it turns out that mother knew best. Research has shown if you want a smart dog, you may need to start feeding him the magic component in fish—and it’s even better if you can start before he’s born.

That magic component is a type of polyunsaturated fat, particularly the long-chain omega-3 fatty acids vital to the integrity of the brain’s fat-rich cell membranes. These cell membranes need a constant supply of fatty acids to renew themselves and to forge new connections between nerve cells during learning. The high concentration of a type of omega-3 fatty acid called docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in the brain led researchers to investigate its role in behavior and vision well over a decade ago. They found that too little DHA in the developing brain of several mammalian species leads to signs of de-

creased learning. And a deficiency in omega-3 fatty acids causes changes in the metabolism of certain neurotransmitters in the brains of piglets and rodents. One of those neurotransmitters, dopamine, is im-

portant in early learning in children, as well as in attention and motivation. Comparisons of human infants fed diets with and without DHA found that infants supplemented with DHA score higher in problem-solving tests



*In pet foods, sources of DHA include fish, fish meal, and fish oil.*

and information-processing speed than those not supplemented.

## FROM PUPPYHOOD

DHA is particularly important during early development, partly because the mammalian brain is developing so quickly during this time. Puppies acquire 70 percent of their adult brain mass by 6 weeks of age and 90 percent by 12 weeks. But puppies are limited in the amount of DHA they can produce themselves, so they must obtain it from their mother (prenatally and when nursing) and from food once eating on their own. Common dietary DHA sources include fish such as salmon, sardines, and tuna, as well as eggs and chicken. In commercial pet foods, sources of DHA include fish, fish meal, and fish oil.



So back to the idea of “brain foods”: Can feeding puppies a diet supplemented with DHA produce smarter dogs? In a well-publicized 2004 report, researchers compared Beagle puppies from 28 litters who were similar genetically and environmentally except for DHA supplementation. All dams were fed a complete and balanced diet, but beginning before they were bred, they were given one of the following: no DHA supplementation, a moderate level of supplementation, or a high level of supplementation. They continued on these diets throughout pregnancy and lactation, and the puppies continued on it once weaned and throughout testing.

At 9 weeks of age, the puppies were trained over a period of a week in a simple T-maze. The number of puppies from the high DHA group who passed at least one test was more than double that of the puppies who received no supplemental DHA. The percentage of puppies achieving at least one success was more than 50 percent for the puppies with supplemented DHA and less than 50 percent for those without DHA supplementation. There was no overlap between the two groups.

A 2005 study found that young puppies fed long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids had more blood-plasma DHA and improved visual performance compared to those that were not fed them. Because the retina is essentially an outcropping of the brain, this is another indication that overall neural activ-

ity may be improved by DHA. And a 2008 study found that aggressive dogs had lower blood-plasma DHA concentrations and a higher omega-6 to omega-3 ratio than did non-aggressive dogs. Similar results had been previously reported in some aggressive humans.

Now almost all premium (and many non-premium) puppy and even adult foods include DHA. I’ve fed it to my puppies—and they are the smartest puppies around! At least in my opinion.

### TO OLD AGE

What about the other end of the age spectrum? As our dogs age, their cognitive abilities sometimes seem to decline, sometimes dramatically in what is known as cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS). Several supplements may be helpful for dogs with cognitive dysfunction. These include:

**S-adenosyl-L-methionine** (SAMe: Virbac), which may help maintain receptor function, regulate neurotransmitter levels, and increase glutathione

**Apoaequorin** (Neutricks), a protein found in jellyfish that has improved learning and attention in human trials

**Senilife**, which has shown to be effective in improving cognition in both laboratory and clinical studies in dogs. It contains a membrane phospholipid called phosphatidylserine as well as Gingko biloba, vitamins E and B6, and resveratrol.

**Aktivait** (Vet Plus Ltd), which contains

*Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish and supplements can help with brain function.*

phosphatidylserine, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins E and C, L-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid, coenzyme Q, and selenium. It’s shown to improve clinical signs of CDS significantly.

These supplements can be used together and with drug therapy and diet to possibly further help combat CDS.

An increasing number of diets are available aimed at combating CDS. [Hill’s Prescription Diet b/d](#) is supplemented with fatty acids, antioxidants (vitamins C and E, beta carotene, selenium, flavonoids, carotenoids), and DL-alpha-lipoic diet and L-carnitine, all of which are intended to enhance mitochondrial function. Dogs fed this diet for two years performed significantly better than those on a control diet on tests of cognitive function. Best results were obtained when combining the diet with environmental enrichment.

[Royal Canin](#), known for its lines of specialized foods, has formulas for mature and for aging dogs in specific size categories, all of which contain a balanced complex of antioxidants to help support healthy aging by neu-

tralizing free radicals, protecting against cell aging, and supporting brain function in older dogs.

[Purina Bright Mind](#) has also shown significant results using a model based on the fact that around age 7, a dog’s glucose metabolism in the brain starts to change. Since the brain relies on glucose to function, that can lead to impaired memory, learning, awareness and decision-making. Purina researchers found that fatty acids derived from botanical oils, called medium chain triglycerides, can be used in addition to glucose as an energy source for the brain. Studies showed that when given to dogs as their daily diet it promoted memory, attention, and trainability. Visible results were evident within 30 days of use.

So, yes, brain food seems to work, and fortunately, I can avoid having a dog with fish breath by choosing a food already formulated to make, and keep, my little geniuses smart! 🐾

Caroline Coile is the author of more than 30 books about dogs and is a two-time AKC Canine Health Foundation Award winner.





# Mouthing Off

*Solutions for a piggy Poodle and a tongue-happy toy.*

**W**hen you live with and care for a dog, you naturally have questions about his health, well-being, and preventive care. Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald has answers.

**Q** My standard Poodle puppy swallows his food whole. We've tried feeding him one kibble at a time to slow him down, but he always reverts to practically inhaling his whole meal. What can I do?

When dealing with and assessing feeding concerns, you must first determine if the diet is nutritionally balanced and if adequate calories are being provided.

If these conditions were being met appropriately, we would next consider the possibility of ingestive disorders caused by a medical problem. This could include endocrine disease, such as diabetes mellitus; gastrointestinal upsets; increased appetite as a side effect to certain corticosteroids or

other forms of hyperadrenocorticism; and abnormal behavior such as pica (ingestion of non-food objects).

It could also just be an evolutionary trait. Domestic dogs and cats are not that far re-

moved from their wild cousins. Unlike cats, who hunt and stash small prey and eat many small meals a day, wild dogs spend an enormous amount of energy exploring, hunting, scavenging, and chasing down



*Many compulsive behaviors are results of anxiety, boredom, frustration, or conflict.*

their prey. To meet these increased energy demands, wild dogs typically hunt larger prey. But wild canids are not successful in hunting attempts a large proportion of the time and may not eat at all for a number of days before they are successful in capturing a meal. As a result, wild canines subsist on one large meal every few days. On account of this, it has been theorized that dogs tend to gorge whenever they can.

Assuming your dog is on a well-balanced food and has no underlying medical problem causing the wolfing down of food you describe, it might be a matter of making dinnertime more interesting to your dog. Consider using search games that require



your dog to find his food, providing feeders and toys that require manipulation and some degree of problem solving to release the food, and training him to receive pieces of food as a reinforcement for some desirable behavior. Furthermore, stuffing food in toys, freezing it, and wetting it can also increase the work required to obtain food.

It's important to note, too, that gorging, although not a clear-cut hazard, can lead to obesity, ingestion of non-food objects that may become obstructed, and in severe cases, cause or predispose an animal to bloat (a deadly condition requiring immediate veterinary attention). Your veterinarian can help to counsel you on this problem and may direct you to a behaviorist.

**Q My Yorkie is an obsessive licker. He licks everything from us to our furniture. What is causing this behavior and what can we do to stop it?**

This may be a behavior problem, like a compulsive disorder, but before confirming that, your veterinarian will want to rule out any underlying medical condition. For example, gastrointestinal disorders like irritable bowel syndrome, giardiasis, pancreatitis, a food allergy, delayed gastric emptying, foreign bodies, cancer, and presence of lymphocytes and eosinophils into the GI tract have been shown to be present in 50 percent of dogs with excessive licking of household surfaces (and people).

Your veterinarian may prescribe some trials with different drugs, such as GI protectants, antihistamines, proton pump inhibitors, or antianxiety drugs. In addition,



your veterinarian may suggest a special diet to rule out a specific GI cause. Often a diagnosis is arrived at by exclusion.

If no physical medical problem is found, you may be looking at a behavior issue. Your vet may suggest you closely supervise your dog to make sure he's engaged in desirable, appropriate behaviors. If he starts to lick, distract him by using a favorite toy or removing him from the area he's licking. Increasing oral stimulation by stuffing or freezing dog toys containing food can help. Toys that require manipulation to obtain each piece of food can distract the dog from the problem licking. Also, allowing him to chew on foods and toys that stimulate the mouth (like dental treats) can reduce the amount of unwanted licking. Many of the stereotypic and repeating compulsive behaviors are caused by anxiety and arise from situations of boredom, frustration, or conflict where the dog does not have an effective coping

If you have a question for Dr. Fitzgerald to answer in this column, e-mail it to us at [AskTheVet@akc.org](mailto:AskTheVet@akc.org).

mechanism to deal with the issue. Every effort must be made in an attempt to identify the underlying cause. Your veterinarian can help you to identify the source of your animal's oral fixation and help you treat it.

Boredom has been identified as a leading factor in compulsive licking. The whole family needs to focus on increasing environmental enrichment (toys, walks, increased one-on-one time), and attempting to identify particular stimuli or situations that might incite the licking behavior. Also, it's important for everyone in the household to work on reducing conflict, stress, and anxiety that may be affecting the family pet.

For compulsive lickers with no underlying health problem, anti-anxiety drugs may be required. This medication should be employed only after all possible medical causes of the behavior have been explored.

For too long, veterinarians swept behavioral problems in pets under the rug. Dogs are intelligent creatures, and their behavior is a complex mixture produced by their genetics, experience, and current environment. Thanks to decades of observation and clinical trials concerning behavioral issues, a better idea of what makes dogs tick, and how to treat such problems, is emerging. 🐾

Kevin Fitzgerald is a staff veterinarian at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital in Denver and is featured on Animal Planet's *E-Vet Interns*.



# A Brief History of Dog Grooming

*Learn about the first days of the grooming industry and how it has evolved over time.*

**L**et's assume people did not groom the earliest domesticated dogs. They had bigger worries, like survival. It wasn't really until dogs took on a greater role in peoples' lives that the function or beauty of their coats mattered much.

From hunting dogs who can't be bogged down by too much coat when wet to dogs primped for a royal court, artwork sometimes gives us glimpses of dogs that appear to be deliberately groomed.

Dogs as pets, as we'd recognize the relationship today, became more common in the 1700s or 1800s, primarily with the very rich. What do we know for sure before then? Details are sketchy, but here's what we found.

## THE ROMAN EMPIRE

A Roman coin, dating to c. 112–111 B.C., features what Poodle historians call a “proto-Poodle” clipped in a working Continental pattern—with shorter areas and longer areas

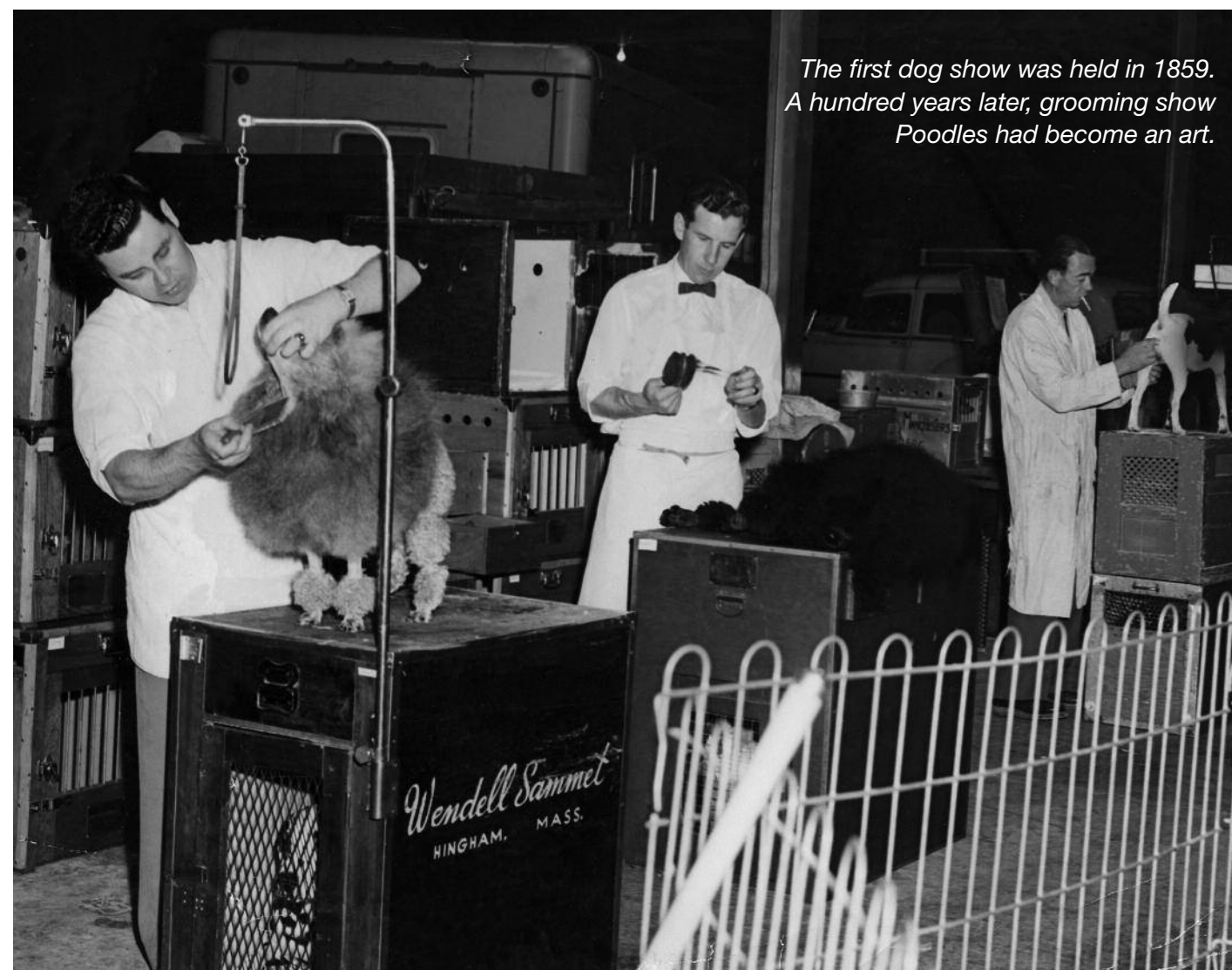
well defined. Classicists who study the Roman period caution against making any assumptions about what the animal figure really is, and as the Poodle Club of America's historian Delbert Dahl cautions, it's difficult to pinpoint the precise origin of the breed, but it sure looks like a Poodle to us, including the leg bands.

## THE FIRST KNOWN DOG SHOW

AKC Archivist Brynn White tells us that a 1974 article in *The New York Times* refers to a dog show mentioned in a Czechoslovakian magazine. The Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II, it seems, hosted some sort of dog gathering in 1603.

However, White explains, “It is in common agreement that the first organized dog show was in June 1859 at Newcastle upon Tyne, in the Town Hall. There is no solidly formulated or evidenced consensus on what came before. It's rational to assume that informal gatherings occurred in England

throughout the 19th century, and that in the centuries proceeding, royalty and perhaps other classes probably hosted events vaguely resembling dog shows or field trials. Unfortunately, it is rarely a topic that draws much attention from serious historians.”



*The first dog show was held in 1859. A hundred years later, grooming show Poodles had become an art.*



## GROOMING AS A JOB IS BORN

With dog shows in the 1800s comes grooming, surely, so we start to find references to people who at least bathed other peoples' dogs in tubs on the street or even in nearby rivers.

A magazine article from 1900 called "The Dogs' Toilet Club" explains early dog barbers, and in the 1930s and 1940s more canine grooming shops began cropping up.

It wasn't until 1969 that the National Dog Grooming Association was founded. Typically, if there is a professional association for a certain career or job, then it has reached a critical mass of sorts. For comparison, here is when other dog-related associations first started:

- 1884 [American Kennel Club](#)
- 1863 [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- 1933 [American Animal Hospital Association](#)
- 1993 [Association of Professional Dog Trainers](#)

## FUNCTION AND STYLE

References to dog grooming in history books tend to begin with husbandry issues that affect the wellness and function of a particular dog breed, including the following:

- Keeping the coat and skin clean
- Preventing or removing debris or parasites
- Allowing the coat to function properly

for warmth and protection

- Finding a coat length and style that allows the dog (of any breed) to do its primary job

For example, how much coat is enough for keeping a water dog warm, without making it a huge chore to swim effectively or dry efficiently? And what on earth do you do with the coats of dogs who don't really shed?

As with many things, function soon gave

way to a sense of style or fashion, so to speak. According to the Professional Groomers' History Project, dog-grooming competitions began in the early 1970s, but unusual styles such as dyeing dogs different colors date back to at least the 1950s.

## DAILY STYLES FOR DOGS

As dogs became more integrated into our lives, our families, and our homes, the need for dogs to be at least close to clean grew.



Nobody wants a big, stinky dog sharing their pillow!

In daily life, then, how your individual dog is groomed has a lot to do with your lifestyle. Groomers strongly recommend against shaving dogs down for convenience, especially dogs with double coats, so it's really more about finding a balance between what's best for your dog and how much dog hair and regular grooming you can tolerate.

How often you bathe or brush your dog, how frequently your dog visits a professional groomer, and how fancy (or not) you keep your dog's coat is really up to you and what's needed in your dog's life. Dogs competing in conformation shows or living with people who have allergies get groomed or bathed a lot more than others. Dogs doing agility need their paws trimmed back enough that the coat doesn't get caught in the crossbars of contact obstacles. Dogs who enjoy dock diving need their coats to dry in a reasonable amount of time.

Most dogs don't need anything too fancy for their daily lives. Healthy, happy, and relatively clean is probably good enough. 🐾

Roxanne Hawn is a journalist and award-winning dog blogger based in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. She specializes in veterinary and pet-care topics. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, Bankrate.com, WebMD, and many other outlets. She is the author of *Heart Dog: Surviving the Loss of Your Canine Soul Mate* (#1 Amazon Best Seller – Pet Loss)



# Do Dogs Feel Jealousy?

*Research reveals whether dogs are capable such a complex emotion.*

**F**eelings of envy and jealousy are common in social settings. You might say it's the art of counting the other person's blessings instead of your own. Some scientists don't believe that dogs can feel these emotions.

A different view came from a dog-sled racer I met outside of Dawson City in Canada. He was getting ready to harness his team and they were milling around in a friendly excited manner. I reached over to pet a handsome blue-eyed Siberian Husky, but the musher warned me off saying, "If you pet one, you have to pet them all. They get really jealous. If they think that one of them is getting more of anything—affection, food, or whatever—they turn into green-eyed monsters."

In all social situations there are inequities, and some individuals come out better than others when it comes to rewards. Scientists tend to separate emotions into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary emotions, such as fear, anger, disgust, joy, and surprise, are considered to be universal. Secondary emotions, such as guilt, shame, jealousy, and envy, are thought to require more

complex cognitive processes. For example, in the case of envy you have to actively pay attention to what the other individual is getting and compare it to what you are getting for your efforts. Although there are observations of clear cases of jealousy and envy in primates, such as chimpanzees and baboons, the argument has been made that it would be unlikely to find it in an animal like the dog because it involves self awareness at a level which, until recently, was doubted in dogs. However, people who live around dogs often observe it in their pets.

One commonly observed situation where jealousy seems to appear in dogs comes about because of the complex relationship between a mother dog, her puppies, and her owner. Unlike humans, a canine mother does not maintain the maternal instinct for her children for the remainder of her life. As soon as the puppies are able to survive on



their own, her maternal instinct for the current litter wanes and is certainly lost by the time she goes into heat again. Young puppies, of course, are very cute and cuddly, so it is natural for them to receive a lot of affection from the people in the house. More knowledgeable owners may try to treat all of the dogs in the household with equal care and attention, but usually this is to no avail. The mother dog sees her owner's attention being diverted away from her toward the puppies and becomes jealous. She may begin ignoring the pups and trying to exclude them from the maternal nest.

It is strange that behavioral scientists often ignore such commonplace observations. However, some investigators are rethinking these social emotions. They accept the fact

that dogs have a broad range of emotions. They then go on to note that dogs are certainly social animals, and jealousy and envy are triggered by social interactions. Furthermore, we now know that dogs also have the hormone oxytocin, which has been shown to be involved in expressing both love and jealousy in research involving humans.

Friederike Range, of the University of Vienna, decided to see if dogs do show envy or jealousy in an experimental situation where two dogs perform the same task, but one gets rewarded while the other does not. Both dogs learned the simple trick of "shaking hands" by extending a paw and putting it in a person's hand. For the test, the dogs were arranged in pairs, seated beside one another. Both dogs in each pair were individually



*Dogs have the hormone oxytocin, which is involved in expressing love and jealousy.*

commanded to “shake hands,” but only one dog received a reward. It was expected that if dogs experience jealousy or envy, the unrewarded dog might respond to this unfair distribution of rewards by refusing to continue to obey the command. That is exactly what happened. The dog that was not getting treats for performing soon stopped doing the task. Furthermore, the dog that was not rewarded showed clear signs of stress or annoyance when his partner got the reward.

Some people might protest that this does not really show envy or jealousy. It might well be the case that the dog who was not being rewarded stopped responding simply due to the fact that all unrewarded behaviors eventually tend to disappear because of the process learning theorists call “extinction.” To make sure that it was the interaction between the dogs that was important, rather than just the frustration of not being rewarded, a similar experiment was conducted where the dogs performed the task without a partner, but also without any rewards for his exertions. Under these circumstances the dog continued to present its paw for a much longer time, and did not show the same signs of frustration and annoyance.

One conclusion that emerged from these

studies was that jealousy and envy in dogs are not quite as complex as in human beings. When human beings are involved in competitive social situations, every aspect of the reward is carefully scrutinized to try to determine who is getting the best outcome. Dogs do not view this situation under the same kind of microscope. This can be seen when the experimenters changed the situation in a subtle way: Now, again, we have two dogs sitting in front of the experimenter, each being asked in turn to place their paws in her hand. Both dogs are being rewarded for this activity, but one dog gets a very desirable treat (a piece of chicken) while the other dog gets a less desirable treat (a piece of bread). Unlike what might be seen in humans put in the same circumstance, both dogs continue to work and seem to be quite happy with the situation. This means that dogs are sensitive to “fairness” (whether everyone is being rewarded for their efforts) but not “equity” (whether all of the rewards are equal). 🐾

Stanley Coren, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia and a writer for *Psychology Today*.

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# Meet the ACE Class of 2016

*Here are five heroes who will make you proud to be a dog lover.*

**W**e are pleased to introduce you to the winners of the 17th AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). The awards honor dogs who have made a significant impact on the lives of their owners and communities.

ACEs are given in the categories of Uniformed Service K-9, Service, Therapy, Search and Rescue, and Exemplary Companion. “The heartwarming stories of the five ACE winners exemplify the loyalty, commitment, and companionship dogs give us,” AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo says. “Whether providing comfort or saving lives, each of these dogs has in some way improved the lives of others.”

ACE winners receive \$1,000 to be awarded to a pet-related charity of their choice, a pet-insurance policy from Pet Partners, Inc., and an engraved sterling-

silver medallion to be presented in December at the [AKC National Championship](#)



Presented by [Royal Canin](#).

Please say hello to our heroes:

## UNIFORMED SERVICE K-9

**Radar (Bloodhound)**

**Handler: Frank Hurst of Kiowa, Colorado**

K-9 deputy Radar is a 4-year-old Bloodhound serving Elbert County, Colorado, who has worked cases with more than 30 law-enforcement agencies, including the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the FBI. He has assisted with cases for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Radar is among just a handful of Bloodhounds assisting NecroSearch International, a group that solves cold-case homicides.

In March, Radar helped bring a suspect to justice in the Laurie Teter murder case, which had baffled authorities in Morgan County, Colorado, for six months.

**Bonus point:** Radar once cracked a murder case by scenting a single drop of blood in the trunk of a car.

## SERVICE DOG

**Teddie (Labrador Retriever)**

**Owner: Krystal Greco of North East, Maryland**

Five-year-old Teddie is certified by Canine Partners for Life. He is the service dog for Krystal, whose legs have been paralyzed since the age of 14. Unable to attend school regularly, the housebound



teenager was depressed and lonely until Teddie came into her life.

Teddie does everything from opening and closing doors to alerting Krystal, who cannot feel anything below the waist, when she might need to use the bathroom.

With Teddie's help, Krystal has earned three college associates degrees, works a part time job, and travels as a spokesperson and demonstrator for Canine Partners for Life. Teddie is now by Krystal's side as she works toward a baccalaureate degree from Maryland University College.

**Bonus point:** “The bond Greco and Teddie share surpasses that of most people and their pets. Teddie knows, for example, when Greco is about to get one of her piercing, 30-second migraines, and will act up when she senses it coming.”—[cecildaily.com](#)

PHOTOS COURTESY OWNERS





### THERAPY DOG

**Jackie (Sussex Spaniel)**

**Owner: Jan Hepper of San Francisco**

As GCh. Riverotter's Little Jackie Paper, RA, THD, CGC, she was a top show champion. As just plain Jackie, the 8-year-old Sussex is a therapy dog certified by San Francisco SPCA Animal Assisted Therapy. Since 2013, Jackie has been pioneering a new form of therapy work: airport comfort dog.

As part of the Wag Brigade, the soulful Sussex and her owner roam San Francisco International Airport, lowering stress levels for passengers and airport workers alike. Thanks to the eye-catching beauty and friendly disposition typical of her breed, Jackie quickly became the brigade's leading lady. In a time of heightened security that can make an airport a stressful place, the Wag Brigade has made a delightful difference.

When Jackie is not busy soothing strained

nerves at the airport, she visits Stanford University and San Francisco State to help students relax at exam time.

**Bonus point:** The alphabet soup attached to Jackie's registered name indicates that she is an AKC show-ring Grand Champion (retired) and has earned Rally Advanced, Therapy Dog, and Canine Good Citizen titles.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

**Bodie (Belgian Malinois)**

**Owner-handler: Amy Lavoie of Santee, California**

Bodie is among the elite search-and-rescue dogs trained and certified in three distinct disciplines: article search, trailing, and human-remains detection.

The 8-year-old Mal and his handler, affili-



ated with Southwest Search Dogs, have assisted local and federal law-enforcement in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah for seven years.

Whether working in sweltering deserts or in bustling cities, they keep busy, averaging 20 searches a year plus long hours of training.

"He has quite the reputation for all the kisses he gives," his nominator, California dog fancier Randy Thomsen, says, "and there have been many officers that have finished their shift with Bodie fur on their uniforms from the loving lean he does whenever he meets someone."

**Bonus point:** "We use our own money to buy supplies and pay for gas to get to training and to searches. You get into search and rescue because you love working and training your dog, and enjoy helping people."—Amy Lavoie

### EXEMPLARY COMPANION

**Haus (German Shepherd Dog)**

**Owner: Donya DeLuca of Tampa, Florida**

Haus became a media sensation after he protected Donya's daughter, 7-year-old Molly, from a rattlesnake bite. Haus was in the backyard with Molly and her grandmother when the 2-year-old Shepherd came between Molly and the deadly rattler. Haus was left bitten, bleeding, limping, and crying by the encounter, but he held his ground and kept his young charge from danger.



Veterinarians found three snakebites on Haus—highly unusual, as dogs usually flee after just one bite. There was so much venom in Haus's system that he required a steady drip of antivenin, instead of the more common one to two doses.

With Haus in intensive care and his life hanging in the balance, ABC News, the Associated Press, Fox, and other national outlets began reporting his story. A GoFundMe campaign was set up to raise \$28,000 to cover Haus's long and extensive treatment.

**Bonus point:** The GoFundMe campaign raised nearly double the hoped-for amount. The surplus was donated to charity. 🐾



# Title Recognition

*There are more ways than ever to put a title on your AKC purebred or mixed-breed athlete.*

**D**og-sport competitors know that after devoting all the time and effort it takes to excel, adding a title to your dog's official AKC record can be truly gratifying.

In recent years, the AKC has greatly expanded the scope of its titling programs. Never before have so many owners known the thrill of dog-sport achievement. A popular innovation on this front is the Title Recognition Program, in which dogs competing in sports outside the AKC events realm can have their titles recognized by the AKC.

Three of the nation's fastest-growing dog sports—Barn Hunt, dock diving, and fly-ball—fall into this category. Unlike agility, obedience, or rally, for instance, the AKC does not govern these events. Rather, the AKC has agreed to recognize competition titles awarded by the organizations that

sanction and regulate these sports.

This is a diverse group of activities, appealing to dogs of every temperament and physical description. What binds them together is that they are open to all dogs, purebred and mixed-breed; they can result in performance titles recognized by the AKC; and each in its unique way is a whole lot of fun.

## BARN HUNT

**Governing body:** Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

**Backstory:** Once upon a time, itinerant rat catchers and their dogs roamed the countryside offering their services to farmers plagued with rat infestations that could wipe out grain stores and carry disease. City dwellers, too, often relied on professional rat-catching dogs. Barn Hunt tests the instincts and skills that enabled dogs to perform this vital service.

**The Sport:** “Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility, and surefootedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground vermin



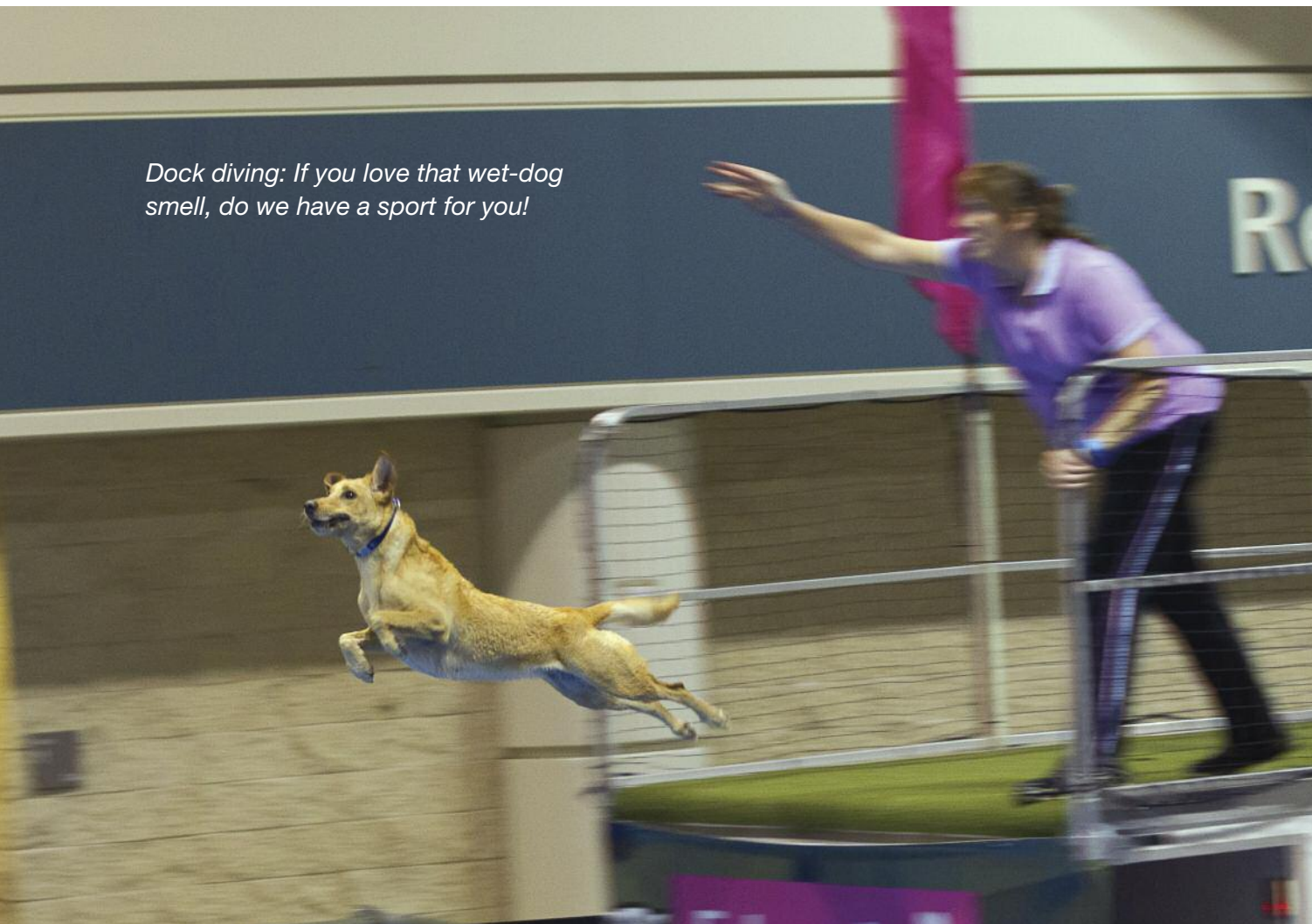
hunting,” BHA founder Robin Nuttall says. Dogs and handlers work as a team to locate and mark rats (safe in aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales. Dogs earn legs, or qualifying scores, toward titles by completing the course within maximum course time. The degree of difficulty is increased by the addition of obstacles, diversions, and more rats to find. Barn Hunt is a noncompetitive event, and teams do not

have to defeat other dogs to title.

**Fun Fact:** A group of New York City terrier owners assemble weekly to test their dogs' instincts by hunting rats among the trash bags piled in alleys. Barn Hunt provides the same opportunity, but it's safer and it smells a whole lot better.

**Quote:** “As a Rat Wrangler (RW) you will be helping to make sure all rats are treated humanely. There will also be a Chief Rat





Dock diving: If you love that wet-dog smell, do we have a sport for you!

Wrangler, but you still should speak up if you feel the rat needs a rest. You need to be nimble and quick. If speed isn't your thing, then RW is probably not your job." —Rat Wrangler guidelines at [barnhunt.com](http://barnhunt.com)

#### DOCK DIVING

**Governing body:** North America Diving Dogs (NADD)

**Backstory:** The sport of dock diving made its first big splash at the

ESPN 2000 Great Outdoors Games, where it was an instant sensation with spectators. NADD was formed in 2014. "North America Diving Dogs strives to promote the sport of canine dock diving in a setting that is convenient, safe and enjoyable for all dogs and owners," NADD president Debbie Markwardt says.

**The Sport:** A dock 35 to 40 feet long extends two feet above a large pool of water at least four feet deep. Dogs get a running

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start on the dock and dive forward either to achieve the longest distance or to grab a bumper suspended four feet above the water. In Distance Jumping, there are two classes: Open (for dogs of any size) and Lap (for dogs under 16 inches tall). In Air Retrieve, a dog earns one qualifying “grab” toward a division title based on their longest grab.

In both classes, a division title is earned by accumulating five qualifying jumps or grabs within one division, and there are five divisions ranging from Novice to Elite.

**Fun Fact:** In June, a mixed-breed named Augie set a new NADD record in the Air Retrieve competition: 26 feet!

**Quote:** “It’s all fun and games until somebody gets wet—*then it’s epic!*”—seen on a dock-diving T-shirt

## FLYBALL

**Governing body:** North American Flyball Association (NFA)

**Backstory:** Flyball was invented in the late 1960s/early ’70s when, the NFA’s official history says, “a group of dog trainers in Southern California created scent-discrimination hurdle racing, then put a guy at the end to throw tennis balls to the dogs ... It didn’t take long for the group to decide to build some sort of tennis ball-launching apparatus, and the first flyball box was born.”

**The Sport:** Flyball is a team competition. Two teams of four dogs each race side-by-side over a 51-foot-long course. Each dog

*“We don’t discourage barking—that’s [the dogs’] way of saying ‘I’m having a blast!’”*

runs in relay fashion over the jumps, triggers a flyball box that releases a tennis ball, takes the ball in his mouth, and returns over the jumps. The next dog is released to run the course, but he can’t cross the start/finish line until the previous dog has returned over the jumps and reached the start/finish line. The first team to have all four dogs finish the course without error wins the heat.

**Fun Fact:** Flyball pioneer Herbert Wagner put the sport on the map by running a demonstration for Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show*.

**Quote:** “We don’t discourage barking—that’s [the dogs’] way of saying, *I’m having a blast!* The camaraderie of the sport just can’t be beat.”—Curtis Smith, a participant at last year’s North American Flyball Championships

[For more information, click here.](#)



# 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest

**Think your dog has that certain “star quality”?**

**Are you an accomplished shutterbug (or aspiring to be one)?**

Then we invite you to enter our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest. It can be an elegant portrait, an image of your dog with his best buddy (that’s you!), or a lively action shot—creativity, quality, and originality are the only parameters. Well, there are a few rules, too.

**So start snapping!**

**DEADLINE:** The 2016 AKC Photo Contest began on April 15, 2016. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2017, and received no later than February 7, 2017.

## SEND ENTRIES TO:

AKC Magazines Photo Contest  
The American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
or Email: [photocontest@akc.org](mailto:photocontest@akc.org)

## PRIZES:

First Place **\$500**  
Second Place **\$250**  
Third Place **\$150**

## CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to **residents of the United States age 18 and over except employees of the American Kennel Club, AKC-affiliated organizations, and their immediate families. Each entry may be submitted only by the original photographer.**
2. Only previously unpublished photos may be entered. Each photographer may submit only one black-and-white and/or one color photo. Those who submit more than one color and/or one black-and-white photo will be disqualified.
3. Prizes are not transferable. No substitution or transfer of a prize by a winner is permitted. All applicable federal, state, local, or other taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.
4. No official dog show “win shots” will be accepted.
5. All entrants represent and warrant that any material that he or she submits is original, has not been previously published or won an award, does not infringe upon the copyright or any other right or interest of any other person or organization, and that the entrant has not previously granted any rights to such material to any other person or organization, nor does any third party have any interest in such materials.
6. All photos become the property of the American Kennel Club and will not be returned. Winning photos may be published in AKC GAZETTE and AKC FAMILY DOG magazines and on the AKC web site at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org), as well as used in promotions of future AKC photo contests. Should any photo be republished for use other than described above at a later date, the photographer will be paid in accordance with the AKC standard photo fee schedule in effect at that time.
7. Photographers are advised to keep a copy of each entry. The American Kennel Club will not be held responsible for any entry under any circumstances.
8. Entries must be unmatted prints, from 5" x 7" (minimum) or high resolution digital photos. Color photocopies will not be accepted. Each entry must have the name, address, and phone number of the photographer, and the breed of dog(s), taped securely to the back. Entries received without this information will not be considered.
9. **NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS CONTEST. A PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING.**
10. AKC shall have the right to disqualify any entries that it deems not to meet the criteria, or due to technical, legal, or other problems, as determined by AKC at its sole discretion. Judges appointed by the American Kennel Club will select the winners based on the quality of the photograph, composition, originality, and appeal. Judges’ decisions are final and binding with respect to all matters relating to this contest. The winners will be notified by mail, or phone, or e-mail. For a list of winners, available after April 1, 2017, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to **AKC Photo Contest Winners, American Kennel Club, 260 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.** Requests must be received by June 1, 2017.



In a royal palace or city apartment, the Shih Tzu is a perfect companion.

By Jo Ann White

*Face of a Flower,*  
Heart  
*of a*  
**Lion**

LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT



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**A**lthough its precise origins are unknown, the Shih Tzu is undoubtedly descended from lion-like Tibetan holy dogs and have existed for centuries.

It evolved as a distinct breed in the court of the Dowager Empress Cixi (T'zu Hsi, 1835–1908), a world-renowned fancier of Shih Tzu, Pekingese, and Pugs.

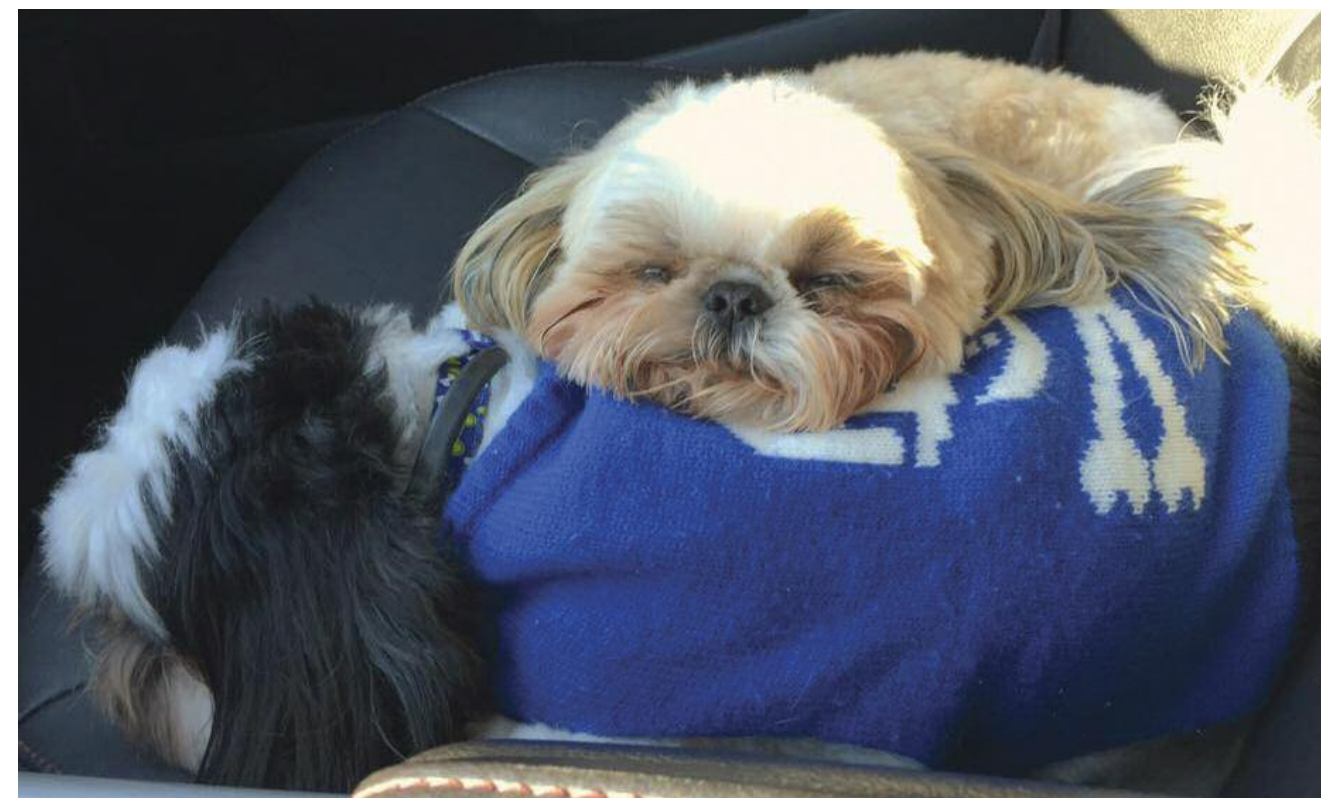
### King of Beasts, In Miniature

The Shih Tzu is one of a group of small East Asian dogs known as foo (or lion) dogs. Lions were sacred in Buddhism, which originated in India. Legend has it that Buddha rode on the back of a lion when he came to Earth.

There were no lions in China, so the Chinese used lion-like dogs to represent



Left: Empress Dowager Cixi.  
Right: Foo Dog



the much larger mythical creatures portrayed in India.

After the 1949 Communist revolution, all Shih Tzu in China were killed because of their association with wealth. Modern Shih Tzu are therefore descended from just 13 dogs imported into England and Scandinavia between 1928 and 1952, plus one other “lion dog,” a black and white Pekingese introduced—with some measure of controversy among fanciers—into the breed in England in 1952.

As befits its royal ancestry, the Shih Tzu is an elegant, sometimes arrogant breed. With a long flowing coat, meltingly expressive dark eyes, and confident attitude, they are ideally suited for lounging on a satin pillow or, despite their size, hogging your bed.

### Puffs and Petals

There are many nicknames for this expressive little creature, but one of the most unusual is “chrysanthemum-faced dog.” The hair on the face grows out in all directions, making the dogs resemble this flower, which also traces its roots to China.

All that hair must be kept away from the eyes. This is one reason for the elaborate topknots seen in the show ring. At home, a few rubber bands will do, helping the dog to see where he’s going and preventing eye injuries that may come from a stray hair.

It’s also a challenge to keep their faces tidy. Many Shih Tzu owners use specially designed free-standing water bottles to keep faces clean and floors dry after the dogs take a drink.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/PHOTOGRAPHER YU XUNLING (COURT PHOTOGRAPHER); ©JPLDESIGNS/THINKSTOCK; COURTESY MEREDITH MILLER OLIVER; COURTESY XERALANE



## Crowning Glories

Shih Tzu have hair instead of fur. This means that they shed a little bit every day, as you do, rather than losing huge quantities of hair seasonally like other breeds. It also means that they need to be brushed or combed often to keep tangles to a minimum.

Ancient scrolls depict Shih Tzu trimmed to resemble lions. Today, there are many other cute clips owners often use to minimize grooming. Long coats do act like magnets for grass and burrs and leaves. You'll probably want to shovel a potty area for your Shih Tzu after a snowfall. Pet



owners generally favor short-clipped hair-styles.

Nevertheless, there is nothing more beautiful than a Shih Tzu in full show coat! If this is what you want, be sure to get a dog with a nice sturdy coat texture, and be prepared to brush daily and bathe often. Grooming for a show, by the way, can take three hours or more: at least two hours to bathe and dry, and another hour of ring preparation. Whether your dog is a show specimen or a family companion only, every Shih Tzu needs to be trained from the time it is a small puppy to be brushed and to accept nail and hair trimming, tooth-brushing, and bathing.



*Shih Tzu make wonderful therapy dogs.*

## Born People Pleasers

Training a Shih Tzu can sometimes be challenging because these dogs have a talent for turning the tables. They are very skilled at training humans.

The Shih Tzu response to firm direction is an expression that screams, "How can you possibly be angry with me when I am so cute!" or "Please, you are hurting my feelings!" Then there are lots of kisses and tail wags. It's irresistible, and often the human forgets the command, succumbs to the charms, and ends up in helpless heap, cuddling the puppy.

Don't give in, but don't make training a battle of the wills either, because a determined Shih Tzu can be stubborn. They respond best to positive methods, which include distraction, a calm tone, persistence, and plentiful rewards for good behavior.

Luckily, Shih Tzu want most of all to please humans. They were created to serve no role except that of companion; they love everyone—including children and other dogs. It also means that they travel well and adjust easily to new homes. They don't care, as long as you are there.

No wonder they are among the most popular dogs in the United States, currently in 11th place in the AKC breed rankings.

This inborn love of people makes them ideal therapy dogs. In England, the Earls High School in the West Midlands so valued the work of one Shih Tzu, a 10-year-old reading-assistance dog named Maggie, that they made her an honorary teacher. She has her own staff badge and is paid in bacon.





### All the World's a Play Date

Toys are a “Tzu thing.” There can never be too many. If you want to play, your Shih Tzu will be eager to join you. If you are busy, he will amuse himself by killing or juggling his toys.

Their exercise requirements are modest—a whirl around the house like a furry dervish once or twice a day or a brisk walk is generally enough to keep a dog calm and in shape. This makes these dogs, members of the AKC Toy Group, perfect for apartment living. Their small size—adults are ideally between 9 and 16 pounds—is also a big advantage in

cramped urban spaces.

Many are canine athletes, competing in rally, obedience, agility, and other dog sports. In 2012 a Shih Tzu won a Coursing Ability title for the first time, and two Shih Tzu have earned Versatile Companion Dog titles by winning awards in agility, obedience, and tracking.

But you can expect some surprises in the Shih Tzu's performance. It's not unusual for a Shih Tzu to take a break in the middle of an agility run to greet a friend at ringside or to heel in your shadow on a hot day.



The correct pronunciation is *sheed zoo* or *sheet zoo*.

To learn more, visit the [American Shih Tzu Club](http://americanshihtzuclub.org) website [americanshihtzuclub.org](http://americanshihtzuclub.org).

### Matters of Size

Although responsible breeders may occasionally get a puppy below the preferred weight range of 9 to 16 pounds, there is no such thing as a special “imperial” gene, which some breeders are promoting. In fact, breed historians believe that the Shih Tzu in Cixi's court were much the same size as they are today. If you want a dog to cart around in a purse, the Shih Tzu is not the breed for you. Also, some breeders are promoting “designer dogs,” a mixture of the Shih Tzu and some other breed. Only well-bred, well-socialized purebred Shih Tzu, such as the one pictured at right, possess the traits that make them such ideal pets because they have been bred for these qualities for centuries. A “designer dog” is simply a mixed-breed and may just as easily inherit all of the worst features of the parents, rather than the best ones!



### Canine Clotheshorse

For some reason, many Shih Tzu owners take great pleasure in dressing their dogs in elaborate costumes, an urge that was spoofed in *Best in Show*, Christopher Guest's 2000 cinema satire on the dog show scene. Some people believe this practice is below the dignity of these descendants of royal canines, but the dogs cheerfully go along with it, no matter how silly a costume may be.

It doesn't seem to matter if they are posing on a satin pillow, strutting proudly in a show ring, or wearing pink tutus. As long as they are beside the person they love, Shih Tzu will always radiate joy. 🐾

Jo Ann White has owned and shown Shih Tzu for more than 50 years; she is past president of the American Shih Tzu Club and the author of two books and many articles on the breed.



LEFT/COURTESY BARB CUNNINGHAM; TOP RIGHT/COURTESY KATHLEEN SNYDER; CENTER/COURTESY DIANE HORNBECKER; BOTTOM/COURTESY ALEX ROLON



# Your Dog Has Cancer ...

## Now What?

Commonsense tips  
can help you decide  
whether to treat or  
not to treat.

By Mara Bovsun



Toddy

If all goes well, Toddy, a 40-pound American Staffordshire Terrier, will celebrate her 12th birthday on Christmas Eve. She will have been fighting cancer for more than half her life.

It started when she was 5, with a lump and a strange, bloody discharge from a nipple—an early-stage breast cancer, says owner, Liz Van Sickle, a South Carolina-based AKC Breeder of Merit.

After surgery to remove the tumor, Toddy was soon back to training in obedience. (She would later earn her CGC and Beginner Novice titles.)

Four years later, Toddy developed anal sac adenocarcinoma, a cancer unrelated to the first. Again, Van Sickle decided to go ahead with surgery, followed by chemotherapy and radiation. Within another year, Toddy was fighting again, this time a very aggressive breast cancer. Once again, Van Sickle chose to treat the disease.

To fund it all, Van Sickle sold T-shirts

with Toddy's image, established crowd-sourcing campaigns, and ran online auctions and yard sales of her own and donated items. "Old shoes, diamonds, frozen semen [from her prized show dogs]—you pull out whatever you can," she says.

After about \$25,000 worth of veterinary care, Toddy's still here and happy. "I thank the Lord every night and every morning



Dr. Hohenhaus has been specializing in cancer treatment for more than 30 years.



## Bubba

Tyra Valenzuela-Ray had the benefit of a background as a clinical researcher in making decisions on how to treat a mast cell cancer in her 12-year-old Boston Terrier, Bubba. “They said he had six to eight weeks to live and wanted to amputate his leg and do chemo. We decided that we wanted to go for quality of life versus length ... We opted to leave the leg on and do no treatments.” Valenzuela-Ray chose a raw diet and holistic medicine. “Bubba lived another three and a half years from his diagnosis and passed away in his sleep at 16.”

when I see her face,” Van Sickle says. Asked about whether there’s anything she’d do differently, she declares, “I don’t have one single, solitary regret.”

## Hope and Confusion

It used to be that a diagnosis of cancer was a death sentence, no questions asked. Then, around the same time doctors started using chemotherapy for humans, veterinarians took the first tentative steps with other animals, says Ann Hohenhaus, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology and Small Animal Internal Medicine), a board-certified cancer specialist at New York City’s [Animal Medical Center](#) Cancer Institute. Scientific papers on surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation in dogs date back to the 1950s.

It wasn’t until 1988, when oncology became an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine board-certified specialty, that the idea started to take off. Today, cancer in pets is routinely treated and there are organizations, such as the [Veterinary Cancer Society](#), devoted solely to the disease.

“It’s a recent explosion,” says Hohenhaus.

“But it’s been out there smoldering around for decades.”

The good news is that veterinarians can now offer some hope for what was once a hopeless situation.

The downside is that dog owners must assess a bewildering array of choices and make life-or-death decisions at a time when all they want to do is cry.

## Cancer Conundrum

No matter how much money or effort is expended, there is no guarantee that a treatment will help. That’s just the nature of the disease.

Beth Mares spent the same amount as Van Sickle trying to save Amos, a 6-year-old Bloodhound diagnosed with lymphosarcoma. An elaborate course of chemotherapy, her vet said, had the potential to buy them two years. “The cancer was back two weeks after the six-month chemo ended and he was gone in less than a month after that.” Even worse, Amos had a bad reaction to the drugs. “He was sick through the whole thing.”

Grief is unavoidable when dealing with a dog’s death, but many people whose pets had cancer also express profound guilt, no matter what they did or did not do. There are always *those* nagging questions:

“Would he have lived longer if I’d tried chemo?”

“Why didn’t I go with a more natural approach?”

“Did I add to his suffering?”

Cancer is so complicated that there are no easy answers. It’s not even one disease, but a collection of similar conditions with at least 100 forms, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Once the kind of cancer is pinned down,

there are other considerations, such as stage (how large it is and how far it has spread) and how quickly it is growing.

Then you have to look at factors beyond the disease itself, such as the condition of the dog—age or the existence of other health problems—as well as human concerns, such as money, emotional ties, and personal beliefs.

“Every cancer case is different, even if the type of neoplasia is commonplace,” notes the American Animal Hospital Association in its “2016 Oncology Guidelines for Dogs and Cats,” published in the July/August *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*. The authors



## Clyde

In July 2013, Clyde, a happy-go-lucky Kerry Blue Terrier, collapsed. A private-practice vet said the dog was dying of a ruptured spleen and referred his owner, Hope Hodson, to cancer experts at NYC’s Animal Medical Center. They discovered that Clyde had hemangiosarcoma, a fast-moving, deadly cancer. Survival is usually measured in weeks, but don’t tell that to Clyde. Three years after surgery, chemotherapy, and alternative medicine, he’s still going strong. It might be tempting to consider Clyde a statistical outlier, but Hodson has a better title—“The Astounding, Amazing Clyde Man.” Even his regular vet is filled with wonder, calling him a miracle every time she sees him.



note, “Perhaps to a greater degree than in other clinical situations, the client plays a prominent role in directing how a pet’s cancer is managed.”

“Each experience was unique. Each dog was unique,” says Samantha Fogg, who dealt with cancer in six of her dogs, everything from a tiny Pomeranian to giant Leonbergers. For some, Fogg chose the most aggressive treatment possible, for others, none at all. “I always try to respect the personality of the dog, trying to help them fight as long as they are fighting, and help them go when they are ready,” she says. “It’s a personal call.”

### Listen, Learn, and Set Limits

How can you make these difficult decisions a bit easier? Hohenhaus says several measures can help:

- **Listen carefully.** Often, when people hear the “C” word, they panic and can’t concentrate on what the vet is telling them. Hohenhaus finds this is especially true when she tries to answer what is often the first question people have—“When is my dog going to die?” Unfortunately, the best the vets can offer is a survival analysis of other dogs with the same cancer. They use a statistical value, known as the median, a point on a timeline that equally divides a population. If median survival is one year, that means that half the dogs in the group will die before a year, and half will die later. But, most of the time, Hohenhaus says, “I

don’t know whether your dog is going to be in the top or bottom half. A coin flip is probably as good as my ability to guess where your dog is going to be.” Estimates can be way off, and pet owners find that frustrating. “They say, ‘You told me he would only live six months and here, now, it’s a year later.’ And I say, ‘Good! Let’s be happy about that!’” (See sidebar on Clyde.)

- **Talk to a social worker.** Veterinarians speak the precise language of science, which a lot of us can’t understand. “I get all wrapped up in the medicine, because that’s what I do best,” says Hohenhaus. She recommends talking to a social worker who is trained to help sort through all the concerns a person may have. Many veterinary hospitals have social workers on staff. If not, look for pet-loss support groups. A good resource is [petlosshelp.org](http://petlosshelp.org).

- **Learn all you can.** There’s a lot of information out there. Read everything, but be careful about what you believe. “It’s all about reputable sources,” says Hohenhaus. Many websites are fly-by-night or commercial operations.

- **Explore clinical trials.** Researchers are constantly looking for new therapies and these are tested in experiments called clinical trials. They offer a chance to try cutting-edge treatments. (The downside is that scientists use these trials to determine if a therapy works. It may not.) The American Veterinary Medical Association has a [website](#) that lists trials.

### Gretchen

When Stephanie Yant’s Labrador Retriever mix, Gretchen, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in 1999, the treatment—amputation of the cancerous limb and chemotherapy—was about \$5,000. It meant that Yant and her husband might have to take second jobs and save less for their daughter’s college education. They asked their daughter, Cassie, then 16, for her opinion. “Teary-eyed, she flatly stated that if she had to keep a job during college to help pay for tuition, it was worth it to save Gretchen’s life,” Yant recalls. The treatment wildly exceeded expectations. Gretchen lived it up—swimming in lakes, catching squirrels, bird hunting—for more than two years. And Cassie graduated from college with excellent grades.



- **Make sure your vet is able—and willing—to handle a cancer case.** If a vet does not have the background or resources, you may do better with a specialist or large veterinary center. Some centers, like the AMC’s Cancer Institute, are modeled after human cancer hospitals and strive to offer a similar standard of care.

- **Consider the price tag.** Veterinary cancer treatments are very expensive. One reason, says Hohenhaus, is that there’s very little in the way of FDA-approved therapies for dogs. Vets must adapt human medicine and machines for pets; that runs up the costs. Make sure you understand how these treatments will affect your budget. And consider the whole family, es-

pecially if sacrifices will have to be made. (See Gretchen sidebar.)

- **Know when to say when.** Cancer is a progressive disease and owners have to make hard decisions at each stage. Having a “quit point” on paper—something like a dog refusing to eat or play—can make things a bit easier, says Hohenhaus. She had a client who decided to give her dog chemo, but only one six-month cycle. Her “quit point” was a relapse. The dog responded to therapy and enjoyed a nice remission. Then the cancer returned. Hohenhaus suggested treating again, but the woman said, ‘Remember, I said I’m not going to treat him a second time,’” recalls Hohenhaus. “It was very brave of her to do that. To keep her promise.” 🐾



# A CHANCE TO

**F**or 12 years, Stephen Knight was ruled by crystal meth. He sacrificed everything—his family, his job, his home—to feed his addiction. Now, drug-free for five years, he’s helping other addicts recover without losing their one source of unconditional love: their dogs.

Knight’s nonprofit organization, [Dogs Matter](#), provides cost-free foster care for dogs of individuals entering drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers and transitional-living facilities. Since the Texas-based program launched in December 2014, it has taken in 43 dogs and

*A former drug addict now helps others by taking care of their pets while they get treatment. By Liz Donovan*

reunited 33 of them with their newly sober owners. In addition to running the organization, Knight now works as a substance abuse counselor, which gives him access to people who may need his program most.

## Helping Them Heal

The most recent success story is that of **Camille Cox and her two beloved Boxers, Harley and Rocco**. Cox spent 24

# CHANGE

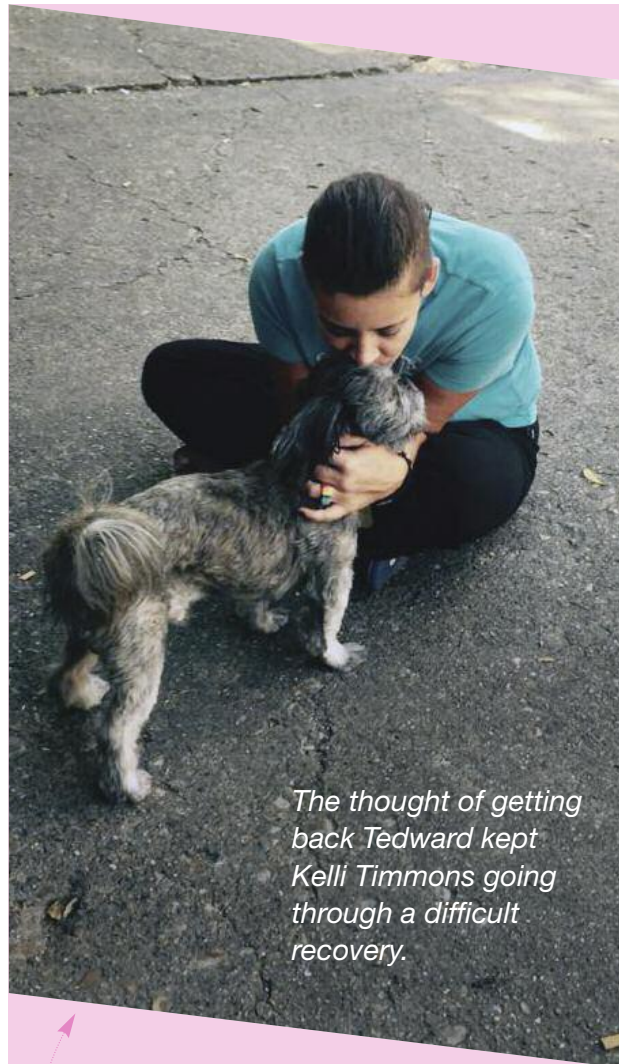


Camille Cox says being reunited with her Boxers after completing rehab made her heart whole again.



years as a drug addict and alcoholic. Her breaking point came early last year. “We were living on a goat farm in Texas and sleeping in a walk-in closet using couch cushions as a bed,” she recalls. “I realized if I kept going the way I was going, my dogs and I would never be happy.” She called her brother and her father, both of whom also overcame addictions, and they connected her with Knight.

Within weeks, Cox was in a treatment facility in California, and Harley and Rocco, a brother and sister who have never been separated, were living in foster care together. “Addiction is a horrible thing,” says Cox, “but many people are hindered from getting sober because they don’t know what to do with their pets. At the end of your addiction, your family doesn’t want anything to do with you and a lot of your friends are [lowlifes.] There’s no telling where I would be or where my dogs would be now



*The thought of getting back Tedward kept Kelli Timmons going through a difficult recovery.*

if I hadn’t found this organization.” While Cox recovered, Knight and the foster-care volunteer kept in contact with her, which she believes was a huge encouragement in completing the program. “Saying goodbye to them was the end of the world,” she recalls. “I just knew I had to get better.”

Fast-forward seven months, and Cox is now completely sober and has moved into a transitional-living facility in California. In July, she was reunited with her dogs, thanks

to Operation Roger, who arranged for a trucker to drive them from Texas to California in an 18-wheeler. “When I got them back, it was like my heart was whole again,” she says. “I could finally start my new life.”

A new life was also in store for **Kelli Timmons**, who moved to Dallas in 2015 and was struggling with alcoholism. But going to rehab meant she would have had no other option than to give up **Tedward**

**(Ted)**, her 8-year-old Shih Tzu who has been with her since he was a puppy. After taking him from the home of her ex-boyfriend, also an alcoholic, Timmons thought she found a safe place for Ted to stay with a friend. But then she learned the friend had dropped him off at a shelter. Timmons was devastated. “I didn’t have a car or any money,” she says. She had learned about Knight’s program through the grapevine and called him immediately. “I knew I had to get Ted the help he needed so I could help myself.” Wright drove Timmons to the shelter to pick up Ted and then took him in as a foster so that she could admit herself into a sober-living facility and commit to getting healthy.

Unfortunately, impatience to be with Ted again made it difficult for her to spend the time she needed to get better. For months, she was in and out of the facility, suffering occasional relapses with the money she had saved to get an apartment. “All I wanted was a place of my own and my dog,” she says.

Then, in August of 2015, after her worst relapse yet, something changed. “I finally decided I had enough,” she says. By the following February, Timmons had stopped drinking completely, had a steady job, and finally, was able to get the apartment she had been working toward. On moving day, Wright brought her Ted.

“It was pretty amazing,” she recalls. “I was sitting on my living-room floor in my new apartment with my friends and family who once told me they never wanted to see me again. And I got my dog.”

As of the writing of this article, Timmons has been sober for 13 months and maintains both a job and a healthy relationship.

“Her dog was her motivation,” Knight says. “And you could tell how happy the dog was to be with her again.”

The whole experience, Timmons explains, has made her relationship with Ted stronger. “I can tell he’s happier and much more comfortable than he ever was. At first, he seemed a little hesitant, like he was waiting to see if I was going to be present. But now I don’t think there’s a question in his mind.”

### Support to Stay Sober

Knight was inspired to start Dogs Matter after he took in the dog of a friend who had relapsed after recovery and was planning to drop off the dog, named Jayde, at a city shelter. At the time, Knight had been clean for seven or eight months so he offered to keep Jayde. Little did he know how much that decision would positively affect him.

“I later realized how important Jayde became in my recovery,” he says. The national relapse rate for drug addicts is 40 to 60 percent, according to the National Institute





Stephen Knight with Jayde and Dakota

on Drug Abuse, but Knight believes that rate is much lower if the person owns a dog. “It gives you a sense of responsibility,” he explains.

Sometimes, though, the owner isn’t able to take the dog back after going through treatment. Knight has a solution for those cases, too. Only a few months after Knight launched Dogs Matter, an owner dropped off his dog, Zippy, at a shelter in Texarkana, Texas, before entering rehab at

the Homeward Bound Treatment Center in Dallas. When the workers at the treatment center heard what happened, they contacted Knight, who was able to retrieve Zippy from the shelter and put him with a foster family. Zippy bonded so well with the family that after the owner expressed he wasn’t able to care for him, the family decided to keep him permanently. But that situation is rare—so far, Dogs Matter has had to permanently rehome only

three of the dogs in its care.

The program is a network of about eight regular foster homes, including Knight’s. Before a dog is placed in the home, Knight arranges for a veterinary appointment to ensure that the dog is healthy and to have all vaccinations updated—in many cases, the dogs haven’t been taken care of as well as they should have been, Knight explains. Veterinary care is provided throughout the dog’s time in the program as well.

### Looking to the Future

**Knight** has come a long way from where he was five years ago—living in his car and often getting arrested—and he credits much of it to **Jayde and the second dog he added later, Dakota**, for teaching him about unconditional love and helping him stay clean.

“The first year of recovery is hard because you have destroyed just about every relationship you had,” he says. “But I had this dog who I had to get up and feed and walk every morning, and waking up to that furry face made the days that were hard to get out of bed worth it. It kept me going at times when I felt very alone.”

Unfortunately Knight’s limited foster network makes him turn away as many pets as he takes in, he says. Individuals interested in volunteering or setting up a similar program in their city can con-

“The first year of recovery is hard because you have destroyed just about every relationship you had.”

tact him at 214-714-8460 or through [the website](#). He also accepts tax-deductible donations, which help pay for the care of the animals.

Knight currently operates only in the Dallas area but is hoping to soon expand to Austin and, eventually, other cities, like Los Angeles and New York.

“I hope to make Dogs Matter a movement. It’s been nothing less than a miracle for me,” he says. “I really appreciate the second chance I’ve been given.”

As for Cox, her next step is opening a transitional-living facility with her brother in California. She hopes to have Harley and Rocco serve as comfort dogs there. “If they were able to help me, I think they can



*Through a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, a young girl finds a voice and success as a fiction author.*

By Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz

# her fluffy muse

Accepting her writing-award medal and (right) preparing Copper to fly at a dock-diving competition

**m**uses come in all shapes and sizes. For Morgan Humphrey, a 17-year-old writer and dog sports fan, inspiration appeared in the form of her male Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Sir Cedric the Fluffy. It's no wonder. This short-legged canine with personality plus likes to herd sheep and bark at the toaster oven.

The long and lovable Corgi served as the model for Morgan's short fiction, *Scryer*, the 2015 Dog Writers Association of America's (DWAA) Best Fiction Award and Best Junior Writer Award. The title is an anagram of the dog's name, Cedric, with syr, the Welsh spelling of Sir.

"I began writing about dogs and fantasy



Morgan (right) and her sister, Grace, share the love.

when I was 9 years old, so naturally, I thought about our Corgi," Morgan says. "I'm into pixies, magic, and adventure, but not dark fiction, and I create strong characters and see where the story goes."

## Acting on Instinct

Like Cedric, the fictional *Scryer* has top-notch herding skills and isn't a fan of swimming, but he gets his paws wet when he thinks he should. "*Scryer* goes after a bad guy who counterfeits

money by wading across a stream," the author says. "Once in the water his back end pops up, and his body rolls over like a log, but he keeps paddling."

Morgan self-published the short story through Amazon, but a friendly local source provides sales support. "My 102-year-old great-grandmother sells copies to all her friends."

*Scryer* isn't the first book Morgan wrote about Cedric's imaginary adventures. Two years ago she noticed a red seat-like pattern on the dog's back and a fable was born. "The coloring resembled a saddle a fairy queen might sit on if she and Cedric were chasing a dragon, so I wrote *The Tale of the Fluffy Corgi* in six hours," Morgan says. "People who love Corgis like to





## Early Birds

We all know how much dogs enhance human lives, at all ages. For youngsters, the benefits can make a difference in the direction their lives will take. Participating in dog sports takes discipline, poise, ability to learn, and the kindness and empathy to work with a partner who cannot speak, at least not in words. They learn how to win graciously and overcome setbacks and losses. Such qualities will be prized as these children and teens enter the adult world. In Humphrey's case, for example, her little herding dog had guided her to early success as a writer, but there's no telling where her four-legged pals will take her in the future.

The AKC has a program—[Junior Showmanship](#)—devoted to young people who love dogs.

Cedric, but one practice session in our trainer's yard didn't go well," Morgan remembers.

"The night after

New Year's Eve, a firecracker went off in the neighborhood, and since Cedric is terrified of strange noises, he ran inside the tunnel and didn't want to come out."

Four years ago, the Humphrey family added Copper and Tempest, two Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, to the household. Morgan and her sister, Grace, took turns showing Copper in conformation, Junior Showmanship, Barn Hunt, and dock diving.

"I showed Copper in two AKC National Championships and it was a major adrenaline rush," Morgan says. "Going in the show ring helped me connect with my dog, and it was really cool to have that special experience."

The Humphrey family traveled to shows, assisted staff at the Meet the Breed booths, and helped groom the dogs. "As much fun as it was, the best part happens when Cedric brings me his toys and sits on me," Morgan explains. "With his super-long body and three inches of hair, he doesn't know he takes up my whole lap." 🐾

Dalmatian breeder Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz is an award-winning writer in Westlake Village, California.

say these dogs once carried fairies and elves, so my story seemed natural."

Morgan sent her mythological legend to the *Sunshine State Pembroke Welsh Corgi Newsletter* for publication, and it earned the young author the 2013 DWAA Best Junior Writer Award.

### Up for Action

When the talented teen isn't writing about dogs, she's training and competing in dog sports. "Most of the time Cedric

lives with my grandmother who lives 100 feet away in our guesthouse, but I groom and train him."

Morgan prepped Cedric to earn the AKC's Canine Good Citizen and Rally Novice titles. The team also tried out agility and trick training, with Cedric quickly picking up the art of waving, rolling over, and playing treibball (a game in which dogs push a giant ball with their noses).

"I especially love running agility with



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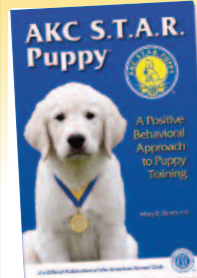
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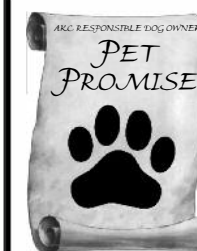
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# Woof Woof? Oui, Oui!

Lady with a Dog,  
Henri de  
Toulouse-Lautrec,  
1891, oil on  
cardboard



“There are almost 700,000 dogs in Paris, one for about every three humans, and nearly everyone here caters to them—in brasseries, bars, boutiques, restaurants, hotels and offices. Back in 1856, Paris became so crowded with dogs that a special tax was levied in an effort to discourage the people from acquiring more. The law had little effect then—and would probably have little effect today. Any talk of taxing dog-owners today would be regarded as heresy, especially in light of a recent poll showing that 85 percent of all Parisians like dogs.

“The French have an almost biological

need for dogs and pets,” said Jean-Pierre Hutin, a dog lover who produces a well-known weekly television broadcast about pets. ‘It’s in our blood and our history.’”—a dispatch from Paris, Ben Sherwood, *L.A. Times*

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