



PAWPRINTS

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Welcome to the second year of PAWPRINTS. I am grateful to our sponsor, Merial, and also to the American Veterinary Medical Association for the ongoing determined commitment to reach people who have pets. I hope you find PAWPRINTS interesting and informative.

Our PAWPRINTS guarantee: *Love your pets, and they will love you back*

About the Editors

Steve Dale – Editor-in-Chief. The 2002 AVMA Humane Award winner, Steve is the contributing editor for pets at *USA Weekend*, and host of syndicated radio show *Steve Dale's Pet World* and *Pet Central* at WGN Radio, Chicago. (www.wgnradio.com) He authors a twice weekly syndicated newspaper column, and has appeared on TV segments on various Animal Planet shows, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *National Geographic Explorer* and others. Steve lives with his Devon rex cat Roxy; Lucy, a miniature Australian shepherd, a Brittany named Chaser and Cosette, the blue-tongue skink.

Margaret H. Bonham – Editor. An award winning pet book author, her current titles include *The Complete Guide to Mutts*, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Labrador Retrievers* and *Introduction to Dog Agility*. She lives in Colorado, where she's 'owned' by several Alaskan Malamutes, Alaskan Huskies, a German Shepherd dog and a cat. Margaret's website: www.shadowhelm.net

Diane Keaton's Wish Is Have A Heart



By Steve Dale

Diane Keaton. "And we're always so much better for adopting them."

Keaton is positively jubilant about the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, CA and their campaign "IAMS Have A Heart: Home 4 The Holidays." Originally a local effort (beginning in 1999), now a sweeping national campaign which includes more than 1,800 shelters around the country, and led to the adoption of 313,123 animals this holiday season.

"Our goal has always been to give orphan animals a chance," says Mike Arms, president of the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

That's exactly what Keaton has done. Her current dog, Red, was a dumped dog. The actress was

making a movie in Austin, TX, and Red ambled up to her.

Keaton says, "I thought, 'I've gotta get rid of this dog.' I had another dog at the time, a dog named Jonesy who had been with me about 12 years. I tried to get somebody else to take Red. I offered incentives to people on the set, like, you know, money, cash. No one took Red. I'm so glad they never did. I love Red dearly; he was just the found dog no one wanted."

Red is likely a shepherd/corgi mix, according to Keaton. "Okay, he's a horrible looking dog. I know that. He has the body of a shepherd and the legs of a corgi," she begins to laugh.

Red is a senior citizen canine. Keaton says she has a thing for older dogs. "They're least likely to find a home, and frankly I love them. They're dogs who frequently have been at homes; they've done nothing wrong — their owners have maybe passed on or moved. It breaks my heart."

Now 60 years old, critics

thought Keaton was likely too old to win an Academy Award last year (for *Something's Gotta Give*). Is the way we view age in our society detrimental to older people as well as senior pets?



A puppy kisses Diane Keaton

"Yes," she says. "I don't have to be the star, but I'm moving onto playing older people. Well, I mean I won't go gently into the dark night. I mean you have to fight all the way in your life for things that matter." She continues. "Look what I gained from my old dog, Jonesy. I was given Jonesy as a gift. No, she was not the dog I had in mind. But I fell in love with Jonesy. I learned a lot about my capacity for love from Jonesy."

She even credits the confidence she gained by caring for Jonesy for prompting her to make the leap to become a parent late in life, adopting when she was in her 50's.



The Top Dog: Carlee, German Shorthaired Pointer winning the Westminster Dog Show. She didn't go to Disneyland. But she appeared on *Late Night with David Letterman*.

Continued on page 2



MERIAL MUSINGS

Your Cat Won't Get Stuck

It's not clear if cats really cringe at the sight of needles, but most of us do. Now, your cat can get vaccinated with the PUREVAX® Recombinant Leukemia vaccine.

Feline Leukemia is a devastating disease, leading to immune suppression and possibly death. This disease tends to strike youngest cats the hardest, so your veterinarian may recommend your new kitten to be tested and then vaccinated, depending on your cat's lifestyle. Those cats most at risk, and who may require the vaccine live in a multi-cat household (like mine!), particularly if new cats are coming and going all the time, or if kitty freely goes outdoors. Indoor-only cats in more stable households may not require the vaccine.

Merial recently introduced this cutting-edge vaccine. Tests demonstrated very high efficacy, or in other words, success at preventing the Feline Leukemia Virus infection. The vaccine is touted to be:

—Rapid, strong immune response and protection

—Adjuvant-free! Adjuvants are ingredients added to some types of vaccines, like a "special

sauce." It's this "special sauce" which gives them a sort of kick the PUREVAX® Recombinant Leukemia vaccine via the same



You can now protect your cat against FeLV without needles — Photo by Stacey Leonard.

to the immune system of your pet, and makes the vaccines work better. However, some veterinary researchers have implicated adjuvants having some pretty serious side effects. While researchers continue to investigate, it's clear - if there are no adjuvants — such side effects are not an issue.

Perhaps the biggest "wow factor" of the new vaccine is the VetJet™ transdermal vaccination system, an FDA-approved medical device which delivers

transdermal technology that's been successfully used for years in human medicine for the administration of insulin and other medications.

As with all vaccinations, see your veterinary professional to determine if vaccinating your pet is a good idea.

— Scott Vande Griend DVM

Diane Keaton Continued from page 1

"If you open your hearts and let them in, animals can do a lot," she adds. "We can all learn from them. What's so heart-breaking is that so many are in need of homes. Give yourself or your family the gift of love."

Firehouse Dogs

When firefighters were called to a fire in England, Dalmatians proved useful, running alongside carriages barking an alarm. Dalmatians were employed, in part, because they were bred as stable dogs and got along great with the horses. Firehouse dogs were a staple in the U.S. for decades, as dependable as the firefighters themselves.

In recent years, the tradition has faded, in part, due to concerns about liability. Chicago, however, still understands the value of these dogs, both for community public relations and for the morale of the firefighters who love having a dog at the office. They are no longer all Dalmatians, in fact most are adopted strays.

Trevor Orsinger, co-author of *The Firefighter's Best Friend: Lives and Legends of Chicago*

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LESTER HOLT AT WESTMINSTER

Lester Holt says people hollered out "What are you doing here?" as if he was lost. Holt was at the Westminster Dog Show at Madison Square Garden, where he shared broadcast duties with venerable dog show announcer David Frei on the USA Network. For the sometimes host of "The Today Show," and new anchor on MSNBC announcing a dog was, well, different. In fact, he had never even been to a dog show. But

that's not to say he doesn't love dogs; he has two of his own: an old English sheepdog named Rubert and a mutt named Millie.

"Millie is great, and I always want to tell people her story. We come here, and we celebrate the pure breeds, and they are gorgeous," says Holt. "But don't overlook those dogs in the pound (Millie is from PAWS in Chicago). Rescued dogs, some-

how, get it; they know they've been rescued."

Holt adds, "I thought I had done everything in news, politics, war and terror. And now I've gone to the dogs.

— Steve Dale

FROM THE AVMA

AVMA Provides Tips for National Dog Bite Prevention



Along with daffodils and longer days, spring brings with it an increase in the number of dog bites. Dog bite injuries increase April through September with the peak occurring in July. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, as many as 800,000 people require medical attention for dog bites annually. Of those, 368,245 are treated in hospital emergency departments and about a dozen die annually from dog bite injuries.

“As veterinarians we know there are nearly 62 million good dogs in the United States that serve as wonderful companions,” says Dr. Bonnie V. Beaver, DVM, DACVB, MS, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Many bites could have been prevented. National Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 16 through 22.

AVMA Safety Tips for Dog Owners

—Before getting a dog, seek the advice of a veterinarian about which dog is right for your family and your lifestyle.

—Socialize your dog so it feels at ease around people and other animals.

—Don't allow your dog to be in situations where it may feel threatened or be teased.

—Follow leash laws. Don't let your dog roam freely.

—Train your dog to obey basic commands such as "stay," "sit," and "come."

—Keep your dog healthy with regular check-ups and a vaccination program tailored to your dog's needs.

—See a veterinarian promptly if your dog is sick or injured. Illness and pain can make a dog more likely to bite.

—Don't play aggressive games with your dog.

—Spay or neuter your dog.

—Confine your dog in a secured fenced yard or dog run, or even better, the dog should be indoors.

Safety Tips for Adults and Children

—Never approach an unfamiliar dog.

—If approached by an unfamiliar dog, stand still like a tree.

—Never run from a dog and never scream around a dog.

—If a dog knocks you over, roll into a ball, cover your face and stay still.

—Children should never play with dogs unless supervised by an adult.

—Children should tell an adult if they see a stray dog or a dog acting strangely.

—Don't make direct eye contact.

—Don't disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.

—Don't play with a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first. Children should never approach a dog unless supervised by an adult.

—Adults should never leave an infant or young child alone with any dog, not even the family pet.

If Bitten

—Seek medical attention immediately.

—Control bleeding and wash the area of the bite with soap and water.

—Report the bite to your local public health department, animal control agency, or police.

—Provide authorities with an accurate description of the dog, the circumstances surrounding the bite, and the dog owner's identity, if known.



Teach your children not to approach strange dogs

—If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle.

Educational Resources for Dog Bite Prevention from AVMA : www.avma.org/publth/dogbite/default.asp

FIREHOUSE DOGS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Firehouse Dogs (Lake Claremont Press), talked to Steve Dale on his WGN Radio Show, *Pet Central*, and mentioned firefighters could use financial help for their dogs. Dale contacted the Iams pet food company, and they responded with a year of free dog food, and also Savory Sauce for each of the city's firehouse dogs.

“Of course, these dogs have become a part of

the fire house family, just as our own dogs are a part of our own families,” says Dale. “I'm grateful to Iams for helping out, even providing condiments to go with the food.”

A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book will benefit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp (www.ifsa.org).

—Steve Dale

“There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.” - Unknown

“No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens.” - Abraham Lincoln

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FEATURED WEBSITES:

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine — www.acvim.org

American Kennel Club — www.akc.org

American Veterinary Medical Association — www.avma.org

American Veterinary Medical Association’s Dog Bite Prevention Webpage — www.avma.org/pubhlth/dogbite/default.asp

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals — www.aspca.org

Fire House Dogs — www.firehousedogs.com

Good News for Pets — www.goodnewsforpets.com

Helen Woodward Animal Center — www.animalcenter.org

The Iams Company — www.iams.com

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp — www.ifsa.org

Maggie Bonham — www.shadowhelm.net

Westminster Kennel Club — www.westminsterkennelclub.org

THE GREATEST DOG SHOW ON EARTH

It’s hard to imagine that Carlee would be considered an underdog. The five-year old German Shorthaired Pointer, whose registered name is Ch. Kan-Point’s JVK Autumn Roses, wowed a sold out crowd at the 129th Westminster dog show February 15 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Carlee bested 2,851 dogs to win the Best In Show with an incredible free stack (pose for the judge). “I made my decision about three quarters of the way through,” explained judge Lynette Saltzman. “It was hard because these dogs were all so good. When it was over, that dog (Carlee) was a star among a bunch of stars.”

Angel on a Leash

The dogs are the best thing in Antonio Segui’s mind when it comes to Westminster. “They

lick and make you happy,” says 7 1/2-year old Antonio, as he hugged and petted “Josh” (Ch. Darbydale’s All Rise Pouch Cove), last year’s Westminster Best in Show winner. Josh is part of *Angel on a Leash*, Westminster’s new therapy dog program which will benefit Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian.

Antonio had a special reason to celebrate. After being born with a congenital heart condition, Antonio faced a cancerous brain tumor. Now, a year and a half after chemotherapy, Antonio was at Westminster, having fun at the greatest dog show of all.” A poster sold at the dog show raised money for Angels on a Leash.

Wallace and Gromit

Wallace and Gromit made an appearance, of sorts, at the

show. At least the promotional team for Dreamworks did to promote the upcoming feature film, *Curse of the Wererabbit Starring Wallace and Gromit*. Dreamworks spokesperson Mike Vollman explained the plot: “Wallace and Gromit work together in a company called Anti Pesto, and they protect their little village in England from pets, mainly rabbits. But what happens is that through a combination of wild scientific activities, a wererabbit is created. Like a werewolf, but a rabbit. Wallace and Gromit are the only one’s who can save the day.” The movie will be released in October.

— Margaret H. Bonham, www.shadowhelm.net, www.havingfunwithagility.com

A Dog’s Kiss

Snoopy approaches Lucy and plants a big wet one.

“Yuck. The horror. I may not live. Is there a doctor? Get me to the doctor!”

Charlie Brown’s response, “Oh good grief.”

Is getting a kiss from a dog really so bad?

Behaviorists agree that scientifically dogs are posturing when they “kiss;” it’s a signal of general submission. However, those same behaviorists agree the dogs are also communicating with fellow pack members encouraging unity, and admiration, even affection. Some behaviorists go further. After all, who’s to say our dogs don’t demonstrate their love with a big wet one?

The fact remains dogs like to kiss us. And we encourage the practice.

But, is this wise? Inevitably, there is — ugh, some sharing of saliva with another species.

“It all depends on where your dog has been,” says Dr. Peter Schantz, an epidemiologist, division of parasitic diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA. “Let’s face it, some dogs eat their own excrement. It’s possible that you don’t know what you’re dog’s been into. And you don’t want to know.”

Having said that, Schantz says his own little mutt, named Anika, likes giving kisses to his step sons. “I don’t encourage it. But I’m not worried either,” he says.

About the old adage that the average person actually has more germs than the number of germs found inside the mouth of the average dog, he says, “Well, I’ve heard that, but I haven’t seen science to document it.” Brush-

ing your dog’s teeth can help eliminate some germs, or using a product such as OraVet™.

The truth is that lots of bacteria that have a grand old time in a dog’s mouth only waste away and die inside the mouth of a person. However, that’s not always the case. “The benefits of dogs are numerous,” says Schantz. “We lived for countless generations with dogs, and they’ve been licking our face all along. People aren’t dropping in the street as a result.”

That’s all well and good, but can we make our dogs sick with our germs? “I’ve sure never heard about this being a problem,” he says and laughs. “Why? Where has your mouth been?”

Oh good grief.

— Steve Dale