



The Splash !

The Official Newsletter of The Association of Canine Water Therapy

Dedicated to and Inspired by the Dogs in our Lives

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2008

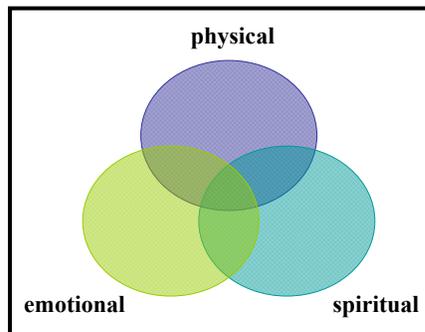
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Canine Hydrotherapy: Health Benefits of Swimming for Dogs

by Cindy Horsfall
www.lapawspa.com



When someone recently asked me to write this article on the health benefits of canine hydrotherapy, my mind tried to embrace what that article would actually say... as water therapy is so much deeper than what people usually think. To me, it was as if someone had just asked me to write about the size of outer space... i.e. vast... endless... almost too big for

words.... But I'll give it a try...

The main reason why most people seek out canine hydrotherapy is usually to help the physical body of their dog in some fashion so we'll start there.

The Physical Benefits of Canine Hydrotherapy

The benefits of swimming and moving in water on the physical body are well known and have been used for centuries. Because of the increased resistance to movement, a 5 minute swim is equivalent to about a 5 mile run. The buoyancy of water supports and lessens stress on the joints, encourages freer movement and provides a safe environment for exercise. A client will seek canine hydrotherapy for reasons that include geriatrics and arthritis, paralysis and other mobility issues, pre and post surgical rehabilitation, injury prevention and rehabilitation, helping obesity, dysplasia, increasing body awareness, balance, and coordination and to just plain help fitness and muscle tone.

*Water both stimulates and relaxes
and can effect all systems of the body on the physical level.*

Integumentary System:

This system speaks of our skin, the largest organ of the body which wraps

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President's Message

I know it really has nothing to do with canine water therapy but this last year, I got the chance to experience an IRS AUDIT and I wanted to share something that made me laugh...

So there I was sitting across from this very large scary auditor and she was leafing page by page through my return slowly. As she came to my listing of expenses for my business, she paused... the room got very quiet for what seemed like a long, long time....

and then she looked up at me and said in a low voice....

"Ms Horsfall, you have a line item here on your expenses called 'Floating Dog Toys'...."

I nodded... and then proceeded to spend the next hour telling her about this profession we've all fallen in love with... about how dogs chew holes in toys which render them useless as floating toys and hence the large number on my return ... we talked about how sometimes they get unstuffed, stop floating and just plain sink...

When I was done, she just shook her head and checked it off as "a legitimate tax deductible item"....

It was the highlight of the audit and I kept snickering the rest of the day.

It is March and once again it is time to look at our taxes and think about this stuff. And once again, I proudly get to declare all the dog toys I bought in 2007!

I just love this profession!

Cindy

2008 SPLASH SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Volume 4, Issue 2: June 15, 2008

Volume 4, Issue 3: October 15, 2008

Submit your stories, testimonials, photos, product reviews, etc to:
newsletter@caninewatertherapy.com

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Dedicated to and Inspired by the Dogs in our Lives!

Mission Statement:

The Association of Canine Water Therapy is dedicated to advancing the safe practices of canine water therapy through education, establishing industry standards and building a network of support.

Vision Statement:

To be an Association that inspires us all to come together as a profession, to build standards for our work and to bring opportunities to further our skills.

Photo by Nancy Levine ~ www.browneyesgallery



Canine Hydrotherapy: Health Benefits of Swimming for Dogs cont.

(Continued from page 1)

and protects our entire being. Water increases circulation which can help skin and coat condition and can help stimulate all the touch receptors.

Muscular System:

Water increases relaxation which can help pain and spasms. When moving in water, the resistance is 15 – 20 times that of moving in air so muscles are being used without the stresses of weight bearing. An efficient and safe way to exercise and build muscle.

Nervous System:

Water can calm and sooth the nervous system, decrease stress. Water can stimulate the sensations of joint position and re-establish sensation channels.

Circulatory System:

Warm water can increase body temperature, causing blood vessels to dilate and increase circulation and detoxification, delivering nutrients and oxygen and carrying away wastes. Buoyancy and hydrostatic pressure counters the effects of gravity, increases return from lower extremities, increases blood volume centralization. Soft tissue is compressed which increases circulation, lymph movement, oxygen in the blood and respiration.

Endocrine System:

Water can increase metabolic functions and hormones which regulate many processes in the body.

Lymphatic System:

Water can increase lymph drainage, decrease inflammation and improve

the immune system.

Respiratory System:

Water can increase the depth of respiration through pressure on the lungs. Providing oxygen and disposing of carbon dioxide.

Digestive System:

Water can increase smooth muscle activity (digestion) which provides nutrients to cells and eliminates through the feces.

Urinary System:

Water can increase blood flow through the kidneys (which filters the blood), ridding the body of toxins (including anesthetic) and removing waste products. This process can help regulate and balance water and electrolytes in the body.

Reproductive System:

Water and its stimulating effects on the body can help enhance the role of hormones which influence all other systems of the body.

Skeletal System:

The skeletal system supports the body and moves one in space via a framework, it also protects internal organs. Water can decrease inflammation, increase circulation and in its safe and supportive ways, increase range of motion as the non-gravity environment can enhance stretches and movement.

The Emotional Benefits of Canine Hydrotherapy

The whole body approach to healing and the importance of the emotions are finally getting recognition in the world of medicine and science. John Hopkins recently released a list of

thing to do that would help keep cancer from taking hold in the body and this list included trying to live a stress-free life. There are numerous books and studies out now on how our emotions can help create dis-ease in our bodies. The healing potential of immersion in water on the emotional body is profound.



Anyone who is in pain knows how soothing it is to slip into warm water. A sense of well-being flows over the body and the mind begins to relax. We were all (canines too) held in warm fluids for the first part of our lives. This was a time of safety and being taken care of. The influences at the cellular level of being held in warm water are intensely profound on the emotional body.

Back to canine water therapy, there are 2 sets of emotions involved here. We have our canine friend who may be getting older, loosing mobility, has become disabled in some fashion, has some fear or pain around recent surgical or medical procedures, etc... and then, just as important, we have that dog's guardian - their person who is seeking options for help for their best friend who is in need. The bond that usually exists between a dog and their person can be beyond words and any pain or dis-ease can bring up fear and emotional pain for the person.

There is a scientist named Masaro Emoto who has done some recent

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Canine Hydrotherapy: Health Benefits of Swimming for Dogs cont.

(Continued from page 3)

studies into how the molecular structure of water changes with emotion. He has photographed molecules of water which have been infused with an emotion and his photographs show how water is alive and highly responsive to every one of our emotions and thoughts and takes on its environment.



A Water molecule infused with the emotion of THANKYOU



A Water molecule infused with the emotion of ANGER

When you consider that the human body is made up of over 60% water, the potential effects on physical body from the emotional are indeed baffling. Add to this the watery environment of the spa and the pool you are working in – and that’s a lot of water molecules to be mindful of.

As a therapist in water therapy, I can not change someone’s emotions but I can create an environment to help facilitate a change in their emotions, an environment that encourages

thankfulness, joy and reduces stress.

It is at the top of my list of priorities in a hydro-therapy session that the dog in my arms feels safe. I am also aware of this dog’s person at poolside and I am mindful of being respectful and nurturing to their emotions as well. Finally, I take special care of my pool water in a respectful way so that it can partner with me on my mission to do what I can to help restore health.

I was reading a study the other day on the therapeutic effects of being in water for blind people. In the safety of water, these people were able to move fearlessly without the thought of colliding into something. Water gave them a real sense of freedom. Various body positions were performed bravely and there was much laughter in the safety and freedom of this fluid environment.

...and so it is with our canine friends...

...if my canine client leaves their hydrotherapy session with a sense of well being and their person has experienced some relief or peace or gained some insight that will help in their unique situation, then my session has been successful and in line with the path for health.

The Spiritual Benefits of Canine Hydrotherapy

I guess I call this part the bigger picture of the work, the part we can not define, the gifts inherent in the

process.



When a paralyzed dog now comes to me in spa, I realize that ‘healing’ might mean that this dog will walk again – or it might mean that their person learn how to embrace and take care of the disability or dying process.

There are many gifts in being able to take care of our dogs as they age... as there are many gifts in taking care of our other loved ones and even ourselves as we have disabilities or aging.

“I take special care of my pool water in a respectful way so that it can partner with me on my mission to do what I can to help restore health.”

We live in a society that praises success and ability and progress. It is sometimes a reach to be also thankful in gracefully aging or the hidden beauty and gifts in slowing down.

In the watery safe environment of canine hydrotherapy, with all of our emotions feeling safe, with our physical bodies feeling taken care of, there is often an awakening of a greater knowing, a bigger picture in all of this. 🐾

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ACWT Business Meeting

Next ACWT Meeting

When:

Monday, March 31, 2008

5:30-6:00 pm ~ Social Time

6:00-7:00 pm ~ Essential Oils by Carolyn Anderson

7:00 pm ~ Pizza and Business

Where:

Heavenly Spa in Fall City, WA

For directions, go to: www.allpetsgotoheaven.com

Who:

Members of all levels are invited to join in

Meeting Agenda:

5:30 pm – Social hour begins! Please bring your own desired beverages.

6:00 pm – A one hour presentation on Essential Oils by Carolyn Anderson. Did you know that aromatherapy can have profound health benefits besides just smelling good? Carolyn will be arriving to Heavenly Spa with a bunch of fun oils for us to sniff and experience.

7:00 pm – Pizza and Business! We'll be discussing the direction of the ACWT and enjoying pizza! Please bring your comments and questions. For those of you who can not attend or are out of state, please email us your concerns, questions and thoughts at cindy@caninewatertherapy.com and together we will address everyone's needs and goals and see how the ACWT can work for you. There is an opportunity for everyone to get involved in building the ACWT. We have tasks, large and small, that can help build our membership and our website content.

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By Carol Swindeman
of Heavenly Spa and
Redwood Animal Hospital



I work at Redwood Animal Hospital in Redmond WA. Anyone who works at an animal hospital knows that there is always an opportunity

to adopt a new pet due to a variety of circumstances.

In the fall of 2000, Trooper came to us by way of Pasado's Safe Haven, an animal rescue group based in Sultan, Washington. He was taken from a high kill shelter where he was certain to die. He was very thin and had a badly damaged left front leg. The story was that he had been roaming a neighborhood for 10 days or more with the damaged front leg, someone finally called and animal control brought him in to the shelter.

At Redwood he was cared for as though he had an owner - Pasado's was his owner until he was healthy again and could be placed in a new home. He had been at the emergency hospital where his leg was wrapped and stabilized. He came to Redwood the next morning. Besides the damaged leg, he had cracked teeth, gravel in his ears and various scrapes. I looked at this sweet beautiful chocolate colored dog with huge soft ears and big brown eyes and hoped we

could make him better. I know this sounds real goofy, but something happened that day when I looked at him in that cage. Our eyes met for a few seconds as I stood there in front of his cage, some kind of connection happened. I was not thinking about adopting him just making him feel better.

Dr Karen West was the surgeon on duty that day. After her exam and x-rays, It was determined that his leg was so badly shattered and had gone so long without treatment that amputation was necessary. His left front leg was amputated; he was neutered, cleaned up and the gravel removed from his ears where we could. The teeth would wait until he was healed and stronger. He was probably hit by a car or truck or fell out of a truck, we will never really know.

He went back to Pasado's Safe Haven to recover and find a foster home or maybe someone to take him for his forever home. Trooper learned to walk missing that leg but it was not easy. He weighed about 90 pounds and is tall with a long body. He developed a funny sort of dipping gate that could cover ground pretty fast. Running was easier for him than walking.

Pasado's placed him in a foster home in November and in January he was back at Redwood with severe neck pain. Things did not look good so a neurologist was called, who at the time was teaching at Washington State University. There was a huge snow storm in the pass so he could not travel for a week. We waited and kept Trooper comfortable with medication. I was worried that they might give up.

Dr Harrington made it to the hospital and determined that Trooper needed spinal surgery to repair the vertebrae in his neck. Surgery was done the next day and Trooper was on his way to recovery.

Pasado's was concerned that finding a home for a dog like Trooper would be difficult as he was a special needs dog and may have problems in the future.

I took Trooper home on February 1, 2002. We made that day his birthday and guessed his age to be about 3 or 4 years old. He got his name from Craig, one of the veterinary technicians at Redwood who thought it suited him and his continuous positive attitude through everything. Our wonderful rescued Cat, Zora, met Trooper face to face on his first steps in his new home. They sniffed and both went about their business. I had been telling Zora about him and that he was coming home to live with us and that she must be nice. The first day Trooper spent alone in the house in his crate. Zora slept close by on his big bed. She continues to be curious about him and often sniffs his nose, and sometimes sleeps close to him on the end of his bed.



That year we had a February snow in Seattle, which thrilled Trooper as

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The Splash !

Trooper's Story cont.

(Continued from page 6)

much as much as us as we watched him play in the snow. With his neck shaved and a hobbled walk he was finally safe and having fun. Trooper continued to thrive and get stronger.



We took him to beginning and advanced obedience and tried a beginning agility and tricks class. Trooper loved to do things, he learned fast and even though he could not do some of the agility equipment – we worked on things he could do. The tall A-Frame was his favorite, but was a bit scary to hear and watch as he pounded up the frame and down the other side.

The final test for the advanced class involved placing the dogs in a down stay; placing a hamburger about a foot in front of each and having all owners leave the arena!! Trooper was amazing, drooling profusely but never made a move until released. Then we all ate the hamburgers with our dogs.

It was just one of the proud special moments I have spent with him since he came into our lives.

He loved to run in the park fetching a Kong toy and rolling on his back in the leaves, frosty grass or snow. He loves squeaky toys,



balls and Kongs with peanut butter and carrots.

Trooper is a smiling dog. If he is ever doing something he should not and gets reminded of it, he smiles and snorts and sneezes. He loves to sleep on his back, rolling and wiggling until he gets comfortable then falling asleep with a smile on his face, his front leg sticking up in the air.

Several years ago Pascal and I noticed that his joints in his front leg were swelling and painful. After having joint taps done he was diagnosed with immune mediated poly arthritis. His joints were sore for a while, medication helped and he was back on his feet but much slower and stiffer when he walked. During this time frame I decided to learn what I could to help him feel better and heal no matter what the future held for him.

We took him to water therapy at La Paw Spa. I met a wonderful therapist and soon to be veterinary student at WSU, Tracy Romsland, who opened my eyes to what I could do with my work and position at Redwood Animal Hospital. With Dr. Ken Jacobsen's approval and support I enrolled in the Northwest School of Animal Massage (NWSAM) and the rest as they say is history. I became a

Small Animal Massage Practitioner

(SAMP) and I was hired by Teri Sahm at Heavenly Spa to swim dogs in July of 2004. I practiced my work at the hospital and continued my education by watching surgery and finishing the 300 level small animal massage and rehabilitation program at the NWSAM. Trooper was my teacher then and has continued to be every day.

Two years ago it became apparent that he was really having difficulty walking. We decided to purchase a custom Quad cart for him from K-9 Carts so he could learn to walk with support. We had an MRI done in January of 2005 which revealed more problems with the disks in his back. Surgery was not an option. We opted



for all kinds of treatment from acupuncture to swimming. In June of 2006, Trooper quit walking altogether. He could not get up or coordinate his limbs. We worried and wondered what to do?? We decided

to give him some time and see what would happen. When he first quit walking, he could barely move anything except his head and he was depressed. His amazing spirit and resilience kept him and us going. After a month he could move more and as time went by he could move all of his legs, sit up, and then he could roll over. Each week he seemed to gain more movement. He was still the goofy, happy sweet dog, the same dog but he just could not walk. Medically he was fine - everything else worked...just not his spine. We

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The Splash !

Trooper's Story cont.

(Continued from page 7)

developed ways to drag him around the house. We bought a soft stretcher and one with wheels; we built a ramp down the back step; we took him out



in his cart; we took him to Heavenly Spa, a dog therapy pool, to swim and float. He had learned to swim when we first got him and was strong enough to not use a float. He needs a vest now but loves the water and the special ball he gets to play with.

We have done just about everything you can think of to help him walk again; Supplements, Chinese herbs, acupuncture, physical therapy, massage, swimming, and Chiropractic. I learned physical therapy techniques, purchased physio rolls – exercise balls so Trooper could sit up right and feel his weight.



I found Animal Suspension Technology (AST) in Bellingham, WA that made Trooper a custom coat he could

wear and be suspended so his paws could touch the ground. From a wonderful pool client, Craig and his dog Looie, we learned about a way to suspend Trooper from the ceiling of our shop on a track that slides so if he could he would move down the track.



Much of my research has been in the human field of spinal injuries as most people are not equipped to keep a dog like Trooper, so not much research or techniques have been developed to help dogs.

To date, Trooper is a normal healthy dog that cannot walk. He is not in pain, not incontinent and is a most amazing boy. We recently installed the track and bungee system in our shop so that with his new custom made AST Pet Support Suit he can stand suspended from the ceiling.

We take him for cart walks where one of us or both pull him along and he moves is legs and tail as I run in front of him to motivate him along. It is quite a workout pulling a 90 pound

dog so we both benefit.

Living with Trooper day in and day out is a lot of work. Our days are planned around his schedule and vacations together are not something we can do. We do it all for love, for the promise I made to him when I first took him home that he would never be left or hurt or abandoned again. We play ball, and hide the toy under the pillow. His favorite spot is in the kitchen especially when Pascal is cooking. Food seems to just fly his direction which makes him very happy. We are considering another drug protocol – one used in human spinal cord injuries. I am always researching, looking for another doctor, therapy or protocol that will help him.

Trooper has taught us more than any class or book or human could teach. We always have hope. You cannot look in his eyes and not have hope. When we get tired or frustrated or sad I just think of how short the time is he

will spend with us compared to all he has given us. You cannot help but smile when you look at him. Kids cannot keep their hands off of his ears and he is always teaching as I tell his story wherever we go. Trooper has not given up so how can we? 

"We do it all for love...for the promise I made to him when I first took him home that he would never be left or hurt or abandoned again."

For more information on the Animal Suspension Technology Pet Support Suit, visit: www.petsupportsuit.com

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It's All About The Pee (Part II)

By Kathy Notenboom

In the Summer 2007 issue of Splash I discussed managing male canine incontinence using belly bands and feminine hygiene products, of which there are seemingly endless variations. With wings, without, extra long, super, I think we tried them all.

Since then, our old corgi Guido has become even less capable of controlling his pee, and we've tried a couple new products.

A friend recommended using pads meant for human incontinence. We tried Poise, as that's what Costco usually carries. Wow! They are far more absorbent than the pads we were using before. They're so absorbent that we cut them in two for daytime use, and use a full-length one at night. We're not hesitant to change the pad even when it has what might be only a little pee in it, though it's really quite surprising when occasionally we take off the belly band, and the pad is so full that it lands on the ground with a splash. Anyone watching from a distance would no doubt laugh as we jump out of the way to avoid being hit by the flying pee.

Now, if only I could get over squirming with embarrassment every time we stock up on Poise. I keep wanting to tell everyone close to my shopping cart that they're for my dog, not me, really. Why do I think they wouldn't believe me? After all, how many people are crazy enough to buy Poise pads for their dogs? Apparently, at least two people are!

We also tried a new kind of belly-band hailed as better fitting the canine belly. It was slightly V-shaped and wider at the most crucial point. We

ordered a couple and then waited. And waited some more. Two months or so later, they finally arrived. We put them on Guido. None of us were overly impressed. They didn't really seem any better than the bands we'd already been using. The worst part was, they shrunk so badly the first time we washed them that they're now unusable. From now on we're sticking to the bellybands we ordered from www.PekeATzuRescue.com. They're soft, and don't shrink when washed repeatedly. Proceeds from them go to support rescue efforts for Pekinese and Shih Tzu dogs, an added bonus we like.

To prevent irritation to Guido's sensitive groin, we clean him with baby wipes every time we change his pad. Urine burn is not something the poor guy needs to deal with. Occasional Gold Bold Medicated Powder is good for helping soothe irritated skin, and zinc oxide applied to the sore area after clipping the fur also helps soothe irritated skin and provides a moisture barrier. For odor control, we've got PureAyre Odor Eliminator Plus Fabric and Air Freshener on hand. If needed, it can safely be spritzed right onto Guido. He might not be minty fresh, but he's good enough.

Keeping Guido hydrated enough to pee a healthy amount has been a challenge. He doesn't like plain water, so we give him diluted, low-sodium V-8 several times a day. We can also add water to his food if we need to get more liquids down him, or dilute a little bit of canned food with water. In a pinch we've even diluted a little bit of fruit juice for him, although no doubt he'd prefer beer or a mocha frappuccino. Have I mentioned, he LOVES the Starbuck's Drive-Thru?!

Let's not forget, it's not just all about the pee, it's all about the poo, too. To help keep Guido regular and non-cranky, he gets oat bran on his food in the morning, and a dollop of canned pumpkin (NOT pumpkin pie filling) on his food at night. When we have oatmeal for breakfast, he gets an extra spoonful of that too. He also gets fresh vegetables and fruit several times a week. If he's unable to go by himself, we've learned to help him along with some gentle rectal stimulation; gloved, of course. It's not nearly as horrific as it sounds, and everyone is honestly much happier for it.

Since we've already protected Guido's bedding, our bedding and the areas he frequents with waterproof sheets or pads, his giving us extra "presents" hasn't been a big deal. We merely use a couple of Kleenex or a paper towel to pick up the pieces, so to speak, and flush them. A quick wipe for him, hand wash for us, and we're all done. It's easier than changing a baby's diaper.

Guido may not be able to control his nether regions, but a little experimentation has proved that it's easily dealt with by his adoring humans. It just takes a little extra work, a little extra laundry, and a little investment in various human products. Man's and woman's best friend is easily worth it. 🐾

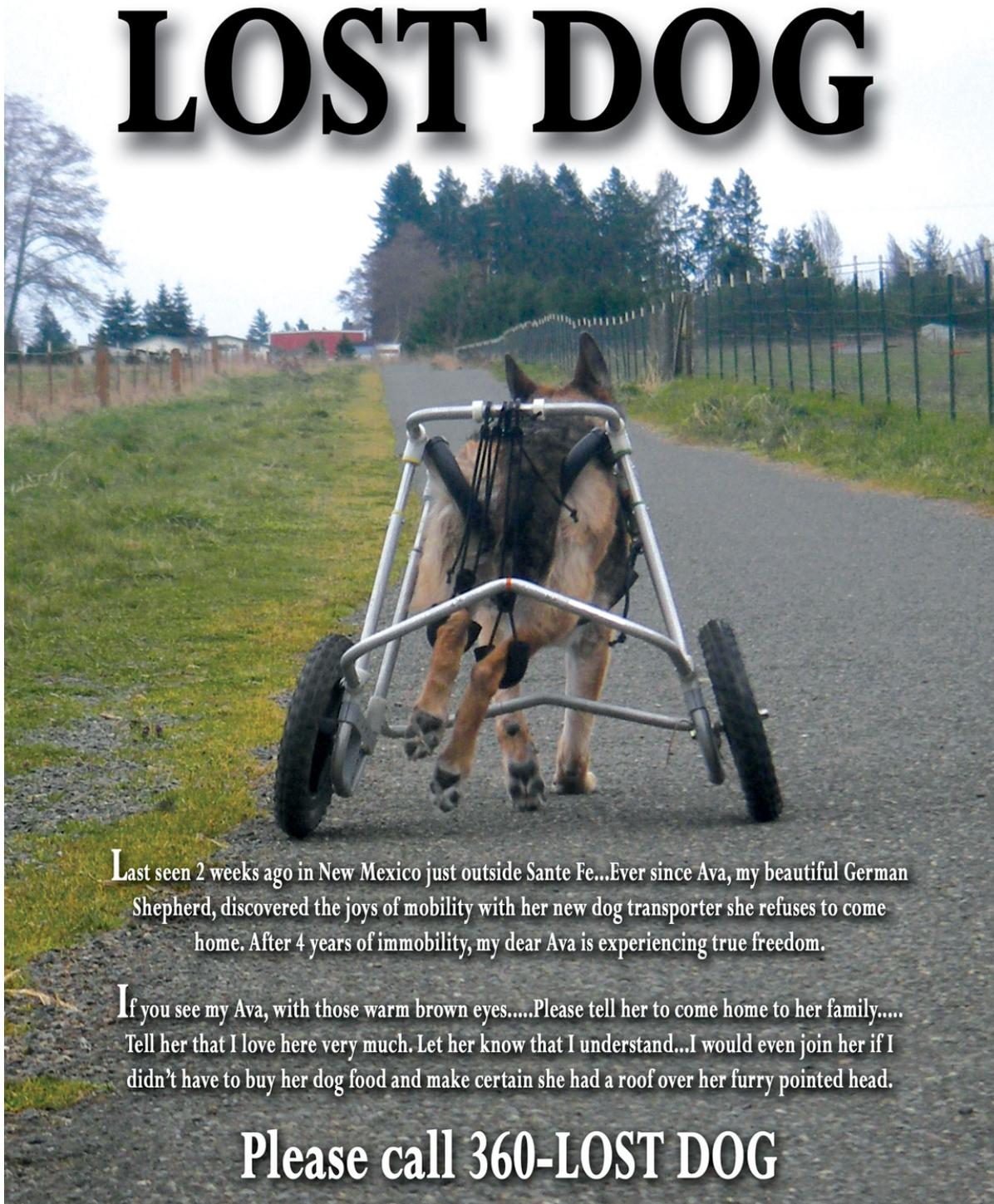




The Splash !

This poster and note was submitted by Cindy Horsfall, ACWT President: "A friend of mine laughed when I told him about the day Ava got her wheels and took off running. I ran after her – reminding her that we were connected and depended on each other and I'll never forget the look she gave me as she went flying off with her new found freedom. He later made me this LOST DOG POSTER as a joke. I promise you she was never lost! But it makes a cute point and nearly every dog I have known who has lost their mobility – just LOVES their wheels..."

LOST DOG



Last seen 2 weeks ago in New Mexico just outside Sante Fe...Ever since Ava, my beautiful German Shepherd, discovered the joys of mobility with her new dog transporter she refuses to come home. After 4 years of immobility, my dear Ava is experiencing true freedom.

If you see my Ava, with those warm brown eyes.....Please tell her to come home to her family..... Tell her that I love here very much. Let her know that I understand...I would even join her if I didn't have to buy her dog food and make certain she had a roof over her furry pointed head.

Please call 360-LOST DOG

Beyond Animal Massage

By Lola Michelin
of Northwest School
of Animal Massage



During a recent seminar I was teaching at a national convention for dog groomers, I was reminded how far the pet health care industry has

come in such a short time. The group assembled included seasoned business owners, a few “groomers-to-the-stars” and many young groomers embarking on their career. I was there to talk to them about how to add complementary health services to their service menus.

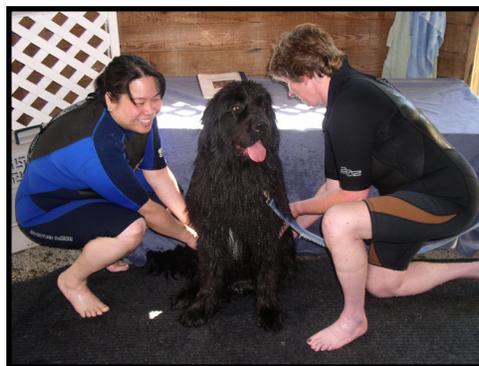
To my surprise and pleasure, I was barraged with questions. How effective is massage therapy? How can I replace the current products in my salon with safer essential oils and green products? What is Reiki and will it help me with my more challenging clients? How do I expose my clients to other health care providers for their pets?

There seems to be no end to the curiosity of those in the animal health care industry or in the demand by pet owners for their services. It is exciting to talk with pet owners today whose dogs have regularly seen the inside of a chiropractor’s office, recovered in the warm waters of a hydrotherapy center and who

wouldn’t dream of missing their standing appointment with their massage therapist.

Today’s pet care professional is wise to stay in step with the increasing variety of educational opportunities if they intend to best serve their clients needs. Furthermore, having a wide range of services to offer ensures a better financial forecast and lends variety to each day. Whether your primary goal is to provide hydrotherapy or massage, there are many other additional services you can learn to add diversity and quality to your practice.

At the Northwest School of Animal Massage alone, students can not only take vocational courses in Maintenance Massage, Performance Massage and Rehabilitation Massage; but they can also explore Aromatherapy, Reiki, Acupressure and Nutrition through workshops. In response to requests by our graduates, we have also added a series of Skill Camps designed to foster business practices such as marketing and basic book-keeping for those in animal-related businesses. There are many other



schools offering fun and interactive classes as well. An internet search on animal therapies can put you in touch with a wide range of resources.

For hydro-therapists in particular, training in Reiki and Animal Communication can vastly improve the quality of the work. Classes on canine behavior or seminars on specific conditions can inform on another level and raise the perception of the industry-wide standard of service. Although no current continuing education requirements exist for our profession, the dedi-

cation to continued learning is no less a necessary step to successful practice. In the next two issues of this newsletter, we will take a closer look at modalities like these and how they specifically impact massage and hydrotherapy. 🐾

“For hydro-therapists in particular, training in Reiki and Animal Communication can vastly improve the quality of the work.”



Lola Michelin, owner of the Northwest School of Animal Massage, has been a force in the field of animal massage for over 20 years. For more information about Lola

and the Northwest School of Animal Massage, visit www.nwsam.com or call toll-free 877.836.3703.

Editor’s Note: See page 29 for more information on the Member Benefits that are available from the NWSAM!



The Splash !

SPIRITS *in Transition*

*Following Their Path –
All The Way...
SPIRITS in Transition
(A Weekend Seminar)*

*Preparing for a time of challenge:
Practical and spiritual considerations
for providing end-of-life care for our
animal companions with Ella Bittel,
Holistic Veterinarian*

Many of us feel immeasurably gifted by the presence of the animal companions in our lives. Our readiness to do what is best for them when it comes to the last phases of life includes our willingness to let them go as well as investing the extra effort to maintain their comfort for a little longer.

During this very special time of its' life, an animal often develops needs distinctly different from what we are familiar with.

*The weekend seminar
SPIRITS in Transition
is designed to give tools
to people who are interested
in providing end-of-life care
for their animal friend...
whenever that time may arrive.*

The search for what is best for our animal companions tends to bring on a multitude of questions, many of these are of a practical nature. Answers are often not easy to find and not all veterinarians offer hospice care, or if they do, treatment may be limited to traditional western medicine.

In the unique program *SPIRITS in Transition*, we explore a variety of ways that allow us to be of greatest possible support to our animal loved

one when it comes closer to its departure. The seminar provides a rich resource to draw upon, as you can:

- Become familiar with different situations commonly encountered when providing hospice care
- Gain knowledge of holistic approaches to pain relief
- Learn about the different stages of the natural dying process and how to support your four-legged friend through the last phases of physical life
- Discover how to create an environment conducive to a peaceful transition, whether death occurs naturally or through euthanasia

Expand the contents of your toolbox to help support yourself and grieving

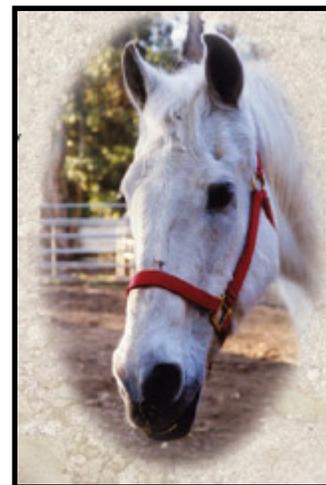


animal family members
Fudge and Ella

We will also review the current top reasons why people choose euthanasia for their pets, and re-evaluate those from an expanded viewpoint. This can greatly influence our choice if we are to face the question of when to end our animals' physical life.

To reflect on this in advance, while our animals are still well, is one of the greatest gifts we can give them and ourselves. It can prevent us from later on making far reaching decisions

while in an emotionally upset state and profoundly alter our experience of a life ending, bringing clarity and peace to it.



Pepper

The seminar also addresses issues that may arise in the phases of life preceding hospice care:

- Common geriatric conditions and possibilities of support
- Reducing the chance of cancer developing in our animals

Besides considerations applying to the daily care, our exploration will also take us to realms far beyond.

The withdrawal from the physical body with its intricate energy systems, such as meridians and chakras, is a highly complex and significant process studied by Shamans, Sages and Masters since ancient times.

What can we learn from the knowledge gained by these practitioners, and does it still apply today?

During the *SPIRITS in Transition* seminar it will be demonstrated how

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SPIRITS *in Transition* cont.

(Continued from page 12)

ancient wisdom, illuminated by modern scientific investigation, can lead to an understanding of when the actual dying process is concluded, distinctly different from what is currently considered the end of physical life.

This exploration opens up ways to support the transition process far beyond the scope of the existing norm.

Participation in the seminar SPIRITS *in Transition* also provides a safe environment in which to genuinely face common fears and notions about dying, thus creating an opening that allows us to let go of what we recognize as no longer truly serving us, or our animal friends.

A PowerPoint presentation is part of the program, outlining insightful findings and illustrating practical aspects. It also includes images of animals in transition, intimate moments rarely captured.

Participants will receive thoughtfully prepared printed material that can serve as a valuable reference source.

It might come as a pleasant surprise that this weekend's inquiry is also interspersed with humorous images of everyday life that seem to reveal a different message when viewed from a wider perspective.

Dying remains one of the most mysterious endeavors ever undertaken. *It is an intricate part of life that deserves preparing for, as how and when it happens to our animal companions often ends up in our hands.* Our role in this process can significantly benefit our beloved traveler.

SPIRITS *in Transition* pursues a depth of inquiry that, by its very nature, is out of the ordinary - as are our animal friends and the process of dying.



TomCat

This profound topic is enormous in its potential to leave the ones ready to embrace it with a heightened sense of gratitude for the gift that all of life is.

About The Presenter



Born in Germany, Ella Bittel followed her childhood desire to "help animals" by becoming a veterinarian. She has specialized in holistic modalities for over 20 years, among them veterinary acupuncture and chiropractic, cranio-sacral work and homeopathy. Taught by Linda Tellington-Jones, for whom she also assisted, Ella integrates TTEAM / TTouch into her work, and encourages its use in animal care. Ella also adapts energy medicine techniques from Donna Eden, to support animals

through their aura, chakras and other aspects of their subtle energy systems.

Ella's spiritual journey is inseparably interwoven with her experience with companion animals and their passing. This has led her to appreciate the profound and far more than physical transformational power of the dying process. Ella perceives dying and supporting the ones dying as a sacred, precious art. From her perspective, to consciously support the transition of our beloved animal companions means to accept an exceptional opportunity for growth of all involved. This allows us to receive yet another gift of transcending beauty from the animal kingdom.

This presentation is a result of the heartfelt connection between Ella and her companion in dog suit for 17 years, Momo, who transitioned in 2001.

What people are saying...

"Ella's work provides a gateway for hospice care to become an integral part of the journey with our animals. Her profound perception of the transition - commonly referred to as death - provides precious guidance for us to understand this process and support our beloved through this deeply meaningful season of life."

Linda Tellington-Jones, Founder of Tellington TTouch Method

"This seminar is long overdue and my colleague Ella is superbly qualified to help us learn to see our beloved companions through this most important step in life's journey."

Dr. Diana Bochenski, D.V.M.,
Certified Veterinary Homeopath

(Continued on page 14)



The Splash !

SPIRITS in Transition cont.

(Continued from page 13)

“When Fudge, my 14 yr. old Chocolate Lab, went through the last stages of his physical life, Ella was so valuable in teaching the way to calmly care for him, always sensitive to his changing needs. This process was one of the most moving and serene experiences I have ever been part of.”

Karen Adler,
Fudge’s companion

“Ella Bittel’s Spirits in Transition seminar is a truly refreshing approach to caring for our animal friends at the

end of their lives – deeply compassionate and thoroughly respectful to the individual animal spirit through every stage of the natural death process, lovingly guiding us through a profound and conscious learning experience.”

Ria Bacigalupa,
Animal Reiki Practitioner

If you are interested in attending the weekend seminar SPIRITS in Transition, would like to receive email notices about upcoming events, or host one in your area, please contact: spiritsintransition@verizon.net

visit: www.spiritsintransition.org or call Bunny Morrow at (805) 598-6496

SPIRITS in Transition 2008 Dates:	
May 16-18	Sequim, WA*
June 6-8	Minneapolis, MN
June 27-29	Ashland, OR
July 18-20	Rochester area, NY
September 5-7	Nashville, TN

*Hosted by Cindy Horsfall of La Paw Spa and Cindy Hickman of Aquadog Spa 

The First International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care University of California at Davis, Davis, California, USA ~ March 28-30, 2008

The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets (www.pethospice.org) and the Assisi International Animal Institute (www.assisianimals.org) are proud sponsors of the First International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care, to be held at the University of California at Davis, on March 28-30, 2008. The symposium is being hosted by the School of Veterinary Medicine—home to the largest public veterinary program in the country.

Symposium Overview: The First International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care is a veritable historical event (first of its kind) and marks the culmination of a ten-year dream for *The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets (The NHFP)*. In 2004, *The NHFP* joined forces with the *Assisi International Animal Institute (AIAI)* in order to make this symposium a reality. Through their joint efforts, world-renowned practitioners of veterinary hospice, human hospice professionals, and other well-known experts will be coming together to discuss a fascinating and emerging field that is quietly revolutionizing the face of veterinary medicine. Based on human hospice models, veterinary hospice addresses the needs of people who wish to care for their dying animals in the comfort of their own homes—under the guidance and assistance of veterinarians and a professional, qualified staff. By training caregivers to provide comforting palliation for their pets and by offering extensive support services as well as effective pain management, veterinary hospice gives dying animals and their people the opportunity to spend meaningful, quality time together before the pet’s final journey. By compassionately closing the “circle of care,” veterinary hospice honors the human-animal bond, never losing sight of either the companion animal or its caregiver in the total equation—and ultimately serving both in the best possible manner.

Symposium Topics: Some of the topics that will be covered by our speakers include: The relevance of human hospice to veterinary hospice care; The mobile hospice veterinarian; Pharmacological protocols in veterinary hospice care; Setting up a veterinary hospice facility; The value of holistic medicine in veterinary hospice care; The role of pet nutrition in veterinary hospice care; Working with grieving and dying companion animals

Who Should Attend: For veterinarians, holistic veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students, hospice and nursing personnel, medical staff, psychologists, grief counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, shelter and SPCA staff, animal communicators, pet massage therapists, and the general public.

For further info and to register, please click on the link below to go directly to the symposium website.
<http://conferences.ucdavis.edu/ISVHC>



SPIRITS *in* Transition: A Review

By Cindy Hickman
of Aquadog Spa in Kent, WA

I used to look at euthanasia as the inevitable end for my loving canine and feline companions. It was the only option that my vets offered. I always felt that either I needed to be completely onboard with all the tests, medications and procedures or else I should opt for euthanasia. After finding holistic veterinary care, I felt much more comfortable with the options I had for my senior companions. I saw the benefits that Traditional Chinese Medicine, including acupuncture and herbs, as well as good nutrition provided for my animals. This revelation occurred about the same time I discovered massage and hydrotherapy for my dogs, so the combination of all these modalities was astounding! I was amazed at how well my animals were doing. But I still felt that at some point I would have that decision to make...when to end their lives.

About a year ago, two of my clients changed my way of thinking. The first was a client who contacted me about her paralyzed dog. She said her dog no longer had any movement in her limbs and was even losing the ability to lift her head. The dog had to be fed with pureed food through a syringe. Her vets were not sure what had caused this situation, but said it was similar to ALS in people. The dog's muscles were atrophying and the owner thought that the warm water and massage might feel good to her. Although I had no idea if I could help this dog, the love and compassion in the owner's voice prompted me to try. When I met this dog, I could see that her spirit and personality were intact,

even if her body had failed. We got in the pool together, and this dog loved it! We floated together as I massaged her and gently stretched her limbs. Over the months they came for their sessions, I got to know and respect her owner. The owner had worked in human hospice care and felt that animals should also live out their natural lives, a concept I had truly never considered for my animals. This dog lived several more months before passing away peacefully at her owner's side.

About the same time I was working with a dog that had lost a leg due to osteosarcoma, and the owner was aware that the cancer had probably metastasized to the lungs. The dog did well for quite a while, and then suddenly took a turn for the worse. The owner decided on euthanasia and asked me to go with her as she was alone and had never experienced an animal's euthanasia. I agreed. I won't go into detail, but it was the most horrific experience I have ever been through. I still grieve for that dog, and feel so horrible that his owner's last memories of him are so heart wrenching.

Soon after these experiences I heard of the SPIRITS in Transition seminar on animal hospice. I attended that first seminar in Ashland, OR and the information that Ella Bittel presented had a profound impact on me. I think the most important idea was that the option to let an animal live out their natural life is indeed a viable alternative to either full blown medical intervention or euthanasia. Ella's teach-

ings are based on ancient traditions, scientific knowledge, and the inherent value of the animal's life. Dying is an important part of this life. Included in these teachings is the distinction between hospice care and geriatric care.

In our profession, we have all seen geriatric animals. They have slowed down, may have arthritis, weak hind ends, incontinence issues or other problems. They have become more fragile. During this stage, which can last quite a long time, we are still doing all we can to keep them happy and healthy. It's the stage when alternative modalities become so important as they offer great benefit with

far less side effects than conventional medicine. That stomach upset caused by an antibiotic may not be a big deal in a younger dog, but can be life threatening in a geriatric dog. There is no doubt that geriatric care can be a lot of work, but I also find it very rewarding.

The transition to hospice care, which is provided during the animal's natural dying process, can be hard to define. Sometimes while providing hospice care, the animal may rebound and have many more happy months of life. While this is not the goal of hospice care, it certainly is a fantastic side effect! What I learned in the SPIRITS in Transition seminar has helped me understand the stages of the dying process and has helped me be more prepared to face this time with my animals. I feel confident that in the future I can make decisions based on knowledge and knowing

"I believe we can learn a great deal from the way that animals deal with life and death."

(Continued on page 16)



The Splash !

SPIRITS *in* Transition: A Review cont.

(Continued from page 15)

what my companion wants, rather than fear and avoidance. While my vet is giving their professional opinion, I know that all decisions are ultimately mine and I want to be the voice for my animal companion during this sacred time. I am also able to discuss hospice care with my clients, and I encourage them to really tune in to their animals and trust that they know their companion better than anyone else.

I believe we can learn a great deal from the way that animals deal with

life and death. A geriatric animal that can no longer participate in activities that he once found enjoyable doesn't sit around and mope about his lost youth or worry about his future, he lives in the moment. He doesn't look at a quality of life scale and decide it's time to check out if he doesn't reach an acceptable number. If I would have used the quality of life scale for my senior Dalmatian, Susanne, last winter, I would have concluded that it was time to euthanize her. Thankfully, we kept going and this year she is doing great! Yes, we know our animal companion is going to die eventually, but what a

gift to our animals and ourselves if we can embrace that process and not try to make it fit into our own timelines and hurried lifestyles. We may have to slow down and spend more time at home, not such a bad idea, or ask friends for help. 🐾

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Animal Hospice References

www.pethospice.org ~ ph. (707) 557-8595 ~ The site of The Nikki Hospice Foundation. Allows to search by state for veterinarians specialized in providing hospice support (click on "Veterinary Hospice care", then on "Hospice veterinarians").

www.bitsweet.org ~ ph. (415) 760-9462 ~ BitterSweet Animal Hospice and Grief Recovery. Offer animal hospice consultations via phone and e-mail Promoting a positive link between families, animals, and the veterinary community by providing education, practical support, and grief recovery services. Located in Marin County, California, offer in-person consultation also in Sonoma county.

www.brighthaven.org ~ ph. (707) 578-4800 ~ Animal sanctuary in Sebastopol, CA. Offer (non-vet) phone or e-mail consultations on hospice.

www.blessingthebridge.com ~ A site to accompany the book of the same name. The author Rita Reynolds is the founder of an animal sanctuary in Virginia, is establishing a community animal hospice program, and provides individual consulting.

http://members.aol.com/guyh7/hospice.htm ~ The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. A nice explanation of hospice for animals, as well as an extensive list of links to Human End-of-Life Internet Sites.

www.apeacefuljourneyforanimals.com ~ Christy Johnston offers support for animals in "making transitions with grace and peace", including Reiki and respite care for animals and their families. A long time volunteer with Brighthaven Sanctuary, she has extensive experience working with senior and special needs animals. Site includes tips on how to feed a cat with little appetite, followed by the subject of "suffering".

www.angelsgate.org ~ ph. (631) 269-7641 ~ In an awe inspiring act of compassion Susan Marino created a home for close to 200 animals at a time in her residence in New York state. Now a not-for-profit organization, she takes in free of charge animals with lifelong disabilities or terminally ill, providing for all their needs with the help of volunteers.

www.kindredspiritsnm.org ~ ph. (505) 471-5366 ~ Another angel in human form dedicated to assisting many old and dying animals in a residential setting, Ulla Pedersen founded the Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary in New Mexico.



The Splash !

The 60K Dog

By Lauren Slater (www.laurenslater.org)

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Introduction: *When I first read this article, I was in my naturopath's waiting room. Admittedly, I found it somewhat embarrassing - reading Oprah - and beginning to cry there in the waiting room. This article speaks so poignantly to what we face, as well as what may help us, when making decisions for our companion animals surrounding quality of life - something I'm often called upon to do when consulting and providing counsel with clients in my work as a small animal housecall veterinarian.*

At the time, my beloved Lillie, a 15- 1/2 year old Yellow Lab, was under hospice care, and in her final weeks. We had been going to warm water therapy for more than a year for Lillie's arthritis and other mobility issues; because she loved to swim and to just be in the water, and now this was the only way this delight could happen for her. So relaxing, non weight-bearing, and soothing. A healing getaway time for both of us.

What reached out and spoke to me most personally was this:.... "I call her mine not because I own her but because I love her. I call her mine as I call mine my children, my husband, my self. She is mine for as long as she is Lila....."

Dr. Tina Ellenbogen
Mobile Veterinary Services
Animal HomeCare & Hospice
Bothell, WA

MY DOG LILA IS 40 POUNDS PACKED WITH muscle and grit. Her hide is as rough as the rind of a cantaloupe, covered with coarse hair that is nevertheless somehow soft to the touch. She is a dumb dog in the sense that all dogs are dumb; driven by genes and status, she will willingly fight any mammal that threatens her alpha position, and she delights in bones, big greasy bones she can crunch in her curved canines and then swallow, splinters and all.

My husband disparages Lila, and, to his credit, there is much there to disparage. She lacks the capacity for critical thought; she has deposited in our yard an estimated 4,000 pounds of feces during her ten-year tenure with us; her urine has bleached our green grass so the lawn is now a bright yellow-lime, the same shade as the world seen through a pair of poorly tinted sunglasses. Lila farts and howls. Lila sheds and drools. Lila, in the past year or so, has cost us more to maintain than does the oil to heat our home. There is her food, her vaccinations, her grooming, the four times yearly palpating of her anal glands, her heartworm medications, her eye medications, her chew toys, her city leash, her second, country retractable leash, the dog bed, the emergency veterinary visits, the maintenance veterinary visits for eye pressure checks, the sheer time it takes to walk her (my husband estimates the value of my time at 50 bucks an hour, which I personally

think is a little low for someone of my age and experience, but there you have it). Picture him, my husband, at night, the children tucked in bed, punching the keys on the calculator. Picture Lila, unsuspecting (and this is why she charms us, is it not?), draped across his feet, dreaming of deer and

"I call her mine not because I own her but because I love her."

rivers as he figures the cost of her existence meshed with ours. He presses "=" and announces the price he claims is right: \$60,000. I look out the window. The sky above the lawn she's bleached is as dark as a blackboard, scrawled with stars the weight of which I cannot calculate.

I love my husband. I love Lila, too.

There are by some estimates two million tons of dog feces deposited annually on American sidewalks and lawns and in American parks. The volume of the canine liquid in this country has been estimated at four billion gallons, which, writes author Stephen Budiansky in his book *The Truth About Dogs*, "could fill all the wine bottles from a full year's output of the vineyards in France, Italy, Spain, and the United States combined." Dogs are the carriers of more than 65 diseases they can pass to their human counterparts: Some of the more well-known ones are rabies, tuberculosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Each year about a dozen people in the United States die from dog bites, and about 386,000 are

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The 60K Dog cont.

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injured enough to require a visit to the emergency room. Seems a no-brainer, right? Knowing these facts, you would have to be as dumb as a dog to have a dog in your home.

My own dogs were puppies when we got them, puppies like my husband and me. Now, 12 years later, I've begun to read the obituaries in the paper, I worry about osteoporosis, I experience occasional sciatica.

Musashi, the elder of our canines, appears blessed with youthful genes, but Lila, like me, is going gray, her hips eroding, clumps of fur falling from her hide.

Until recently, I viewed Lila's decline as I do my own, an unfortunate inconvenience auguring a foreboding future that was still a way off. Then, a few months ago (it was spring then, a beautiful soft May day), I came downstairs to find my feisty dog crouched by the front door, her eyes squinted shut, her breath hot and fast. I called to her. She struggled toward me, then keeled sideways. I rushed her to the 24-hour veterinary hospital located ten miles from our house. Why, I thought, as I waited at a series of interminable red lights, my dog panting in pain, why are there no ambulances for animals? While an ambulance for animals may strike some as absurd, it is likely no more ridiculous than a pet ER would have seemed to the general public 100 years ago.

Perhaps of all the 20th century's advances, veterinary medicine ranks among the greatest, not too far behind

the combustible gas-powered engine. As barnyard animals disappeared from mainstream American life, so too did the barnyard vet, his primitive tools replaced with the antiseptic power-driven appliances that characterize so much of modern medicine, his sheep and goats and chickens now shampooed lap-dogs and fine-boned huskies with bead-blue eyes and soap-white coats. And whereas in the 19th century "vets" had minimal education if any at all, they now are

required to slog through four years of training more intense than an ordinary doctor's owing to the sheer quantity of species whose structures and metabolisms they need to master. And yet despite the difficulties of a veterinary education, the fact is that the number of vets and veterinary hospitals

have, over the course of the 20th century, exponentially increased. Experts seem to agree that this increase reflects the pet's phenomenal rise in status, from a lowly creature consigned to the outhouse or no-house to honored family member with her own Eddie Bauer bed.

Or her own hospital bed, as the case may be. The hospital we arrived at that day is a 25 "bed" facility, a piece of prime real estate amid a row of biotechnology companies on a tony road just off the highway. I carried my panting puppy in through the pneumatic doors. A Burmese mountain dog lying sideways on a stretcher was whisked past me by two masked attendants. On the wall above the reception desk hung pictures of the vets, each coiffed and poised, below gold plaques inscribed with

their specialties: neurology, oncology, pediatrics, psychology. The Burmese mountain dog was stalled outside the OR doors. He lay on his side, his front paws politely, precisely, crossed. His yellow eyes met mine. I had the distinct feeling he was from a fairy tale, a prince put under a spell, his carcass canine, his mind man.

A doctor ushered me into a small examination room. With thumb and forefinger she peeled back Lila's clamped lids, and I could see it then, how her normally amber eyes were filled with milk, glinting a dull bluish color, all opaque. Her eyes were oozing, and when I touched the fluid dampening her fur, it felt gluey

The doctor called in the staff ophthalmologist, who brought in a huge machine and pressed its probe right up against Lila's pupil in a way that made me wince. "Seventy-five," the ophthalmologist said. The two doctors looked at each other grimly. Lila had gone still, stunned or dead I could not tell. They peeled back her other eye and again pressed the probe right to its center. "Eighty-three," the ophthalmologist said again. They turned to me. "Your dog has glaucoma," the ophthalmologist said. "The pressure in her eyes has risen well beyond normal."

Glaucoma. I had heard of that before. It did not seem so bad, I thought. I was wrong. In people glaucoma is manageable. In dogs it's devastating. The pounding pressure winches the canine's much smaller skull, causing a migraine well beyond what humans can conceive. Lila lay rigid with agony, her snout and fur hot to the touch. "The pressure has gone so high," the ophthalmologist said, "it

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*"... it isn't
always about
the swimming.
It is about
the being,
the loving and
the believing."*



The 60K Dog cont.

(Continued from page 18)

has crushed both optic nerves. Lila is permanently blind."

I left Lila at the hospital that day--and for two days following. I left distraught. On my way out, the receptionist presented me with the first half of my bill: \$1,400--money we didn't have. I looked again. My eyes, after all, were working. Fourteen hundred dollars for the ER visit, the emergency ophthalmology consult, the 48-hour boarding fee. The projected costs were on the second page. The only one I recall is the \$1,800 charge for some advanced interventions that might be necessary. "Does everyone pay these charges?" I asked. "What happens if people don't have the money?"

"That hardly ever happens," she said. "People find a way to pay."

OWNING A DOG OR A CAT was relatively rare up through the 17th century. Now, however, 63 percent of American families own pets, while, according to a survey by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 72 percent of childless couples under 45 have companion animals in their households. Sociologists hypothesize that the rise in companion animals is due to the phenomenon so well described by Robert Putnam in his book *Bowling Alone*, discussing the decline of community in the United States during the 20th century. Pets, it seems, are filling a vacant space in our society, a space that used to be occupied by people in relation to one another and is now occupied by people petting pugs. Still, we could

think of this another way. It could be that pets have risen in status for reasons rooted not in decline but rather in progress--in this case progress toward a more sophisticated understanding of ethics and the relative value of life. Traditionally, we have held human life to be of utmost comparative worth, but who's to say that stance is right, or even productive for our planet? A shifting ethos is reflected in the fact that the term "pet owner" has become disagreeable to enough people that it has been virtually banned in a number of jurisdictions as well as the entire state of Rhode Island and replaced by the phrase "animal guardian." According to a 2006 Purina survey, 73 percent of cat owners said they went to a doctor only when very sick or injured, while 96 percent said they would call or

visit a vet immediately at any sign of their pet's ill health. Since Katrina, animal activists have succeeded in getting legislation passed that requires rescue personnel to include companion animals in disaster planning. And stories of devoted (or insane--this, the core question) pet

owners spending tens of thousands of dollars to fund advanced cancer care for Spot are becoming ever more common.

I DROVE HOME. MY DOG WAS NEITHER dying nor dead, but the fact of her pain was almost beyond what I could bear. And what would her life become once the pain subsided? A blind dog. How could she understand what was happening to her? It was late in the day, the clouds like cataracts spreading. Inside the house, my

7-year-old daughter was riding her scooter in our hallway. "Lila has gone blind," I said to her. I started to cry. I told my husband when he returned from work. I did not mention the veterinary bill. Instead, I called the bank, cashed in a CD, paid the penalty.

Two days later, I drove back to the hospital. The final bill was \$3,338. I figured this was a onetime cost that my liquidated CD could cover. They brought Lila to me. She did not come out on a leash. She came out carried, and when they set her in my lap I could see, immediately, that a dog can be devastated. The medications had brought the pressure down, so her eyes were open, but they were thickened, blank, like opaque sea glass, reflective but not receptive. "Lila, Lila," I whispered. She moved her whole head in the direction of my voice, but gave not the tiniest tail wag, not the slightest ear prick.

Back at home, I set Lila on the floor of our living room, but even here, amid familiar scents, she would not move. Musashi bounded forward in his typical greeting style, but something, some smell, stopped him short. He skidded to a bunched halt, then cautiously extended his snout to sniff his companion of 11 years--where had she been all these days? Lila stayed stone-still. Musashi backed away, then clattered, fast, up the steps. "Lila, Lila," I called, my daughter called, even my husband called, but the dog was too terrified, or despairing, to move. At last I picked her up, carried her to our bed. I slept with her for one week straight, my face buried in her fur, her pee soaking the sheets, her eyes weeping pus and drops.

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"... it isn't always about the swimming. It is about the being, the loving and the believing."



The 60K Dog cont.

(Continued from page 19)

I ORDERED A BOOK ABOUT BLIND dogs. I watched a video that demonstrated training techniques. I stroked Lila's skull, moved my fingers through her dense fur, sent my husband to the pharmacy to fill the prescriptions, four tiny tubes of glaucoma drops. "Four hundred dollars," he said when he returned, holding the paper bag. "Four hundred dollars for a month's supply of this stuff." What choice did we have? While the medication would not restore a single stripe of sight to Lila's world, it would prevent the pain of the pressure crushing her head.

"Maybe," my husband said, "we should put Lila down."

"Put Lila down," I repeated mechanically. "Put her down."

"She's had 11 good years," my husband said. "Look at her now."

Yes, look at her now Lying in a puddle of pee on our marital bed.

I called the ophthalmologist. "Lila's depressed," I said. "She won't move."

"Put her on her leash," the doctor said. "Take her out. Do not baby her. I've seen blind dogs climb mountains. If you teach them toughness, they'll be tough."

I brought Lila outside. I made a Hansel and Gretel path through the woods by our home, using beef instead of bread crumbs. That got her going. She found the shreds of roast, tasted baked blood, and remembered the meaning of life.

Slowly, over the weeks, Lila began to make her way.

A month passed. We needed more medication.

It was June then. School ended. My daughter's day camp was \$3,000, its high price reflecting its high quality. Now I had to choose:

Clara's camp or Lila's eyes. To my husband it was clear. To me it was not. If Clara did not go to the fancy camp, she could still enjoy her summer. If Lila did not get her medications, she would not only not enjoy her summer, she would pass it in agony

A dilemma such as this one is new in the history of pet owning. Sixty years ago, the average pet owner could expect to spend at most a couple of hundred dollars for care during the entire life span of his or her pet. Now the lifetime cost of the American pet could reach \$60,000, and this isn't due simply to inflation. As veterinary students train in specialties and subspecialties and subspecialties of those subspecialties, Fido, should he need it, can receive a kidney transplant, chemotherapy, back surgery, a titanium hip replacement, radiation, neurological correction--you name it. Add to this the fact that dogs and cats are living longer than ever before because of improved nutrition and vaccinations. In an earlier era, my Lila may very well have died before reaching old age and its complications, like glaucoma, and I would thus have been spared the difficult game of weighing the relative value of my daughter's summer camp versus my dog's comfort.

MY HUSBAND FELT I WAS being led like a blind donkey on the string of sentimentality, and that if I took a hardheaded view of things, I would

see that spending \$400 a month on a decade-old dog was wrong--wrong for our family wrong for our marriage, wrong for the world. To get the money, I took on every extra work assignment I could. According to my husband, everyone would be much better served were I to donate the monthly medication payments I was earning by working overtime to the starving continent of Africa, to the Green Party, to victims of

"... it isn't always about the swimming. It is about the being, the loving and the believing."

lymphoma. His beliefs are echoed by Dr. Bruce Alexander, professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University and the author of an upcoming book on globalization gone awry: "If Americans were to take all the money they spend on dog food, it would be enough to make a significant dent in the problem of world hunger." In other words, dog lovers are baby killers. Shame on us.

Shame on Darrell and Nina Hallett, a couple from Washington who in 2004 spent \$45,000--which included a stem cell transplant--on their dog with T-cell lymphoma. Shame on Pauline Wilson of Manhattan, who spent \$50,000 in less than half a decade in an attempt to keep her "Baby Cat" alive. Shame on families who spend more than \$4,000 for end-of-life hospice care to ensure that their pets die in more comfort and with more dignity than far too many human beings who have no one to help them through. In much of the Third World, people tend to feel that doting on one's pet is a sign of Western excess. Wrote Aleetha al-Jihani in a letter to

(Continued on page 21)



The Splash !

The 60K Dog cont.

(Continued from page 20)

Al-Madina newspaper in Saudi Arabia, "One bad habit spreading among our youths is the acquisition of dogs and showing them off in the streets and malls ... this is blind emulation of the infidels."

I know I am an infidel, in more ways than I care to mention. I can discuss my deficits, but I am not yet ready to admit to the particular one of which we are speaking, even as I state it as a possibility. Because perhaps valuing nonhuman animals as much as, if not more than, our own kind is not wrong at all. Perhaps it's in fact right. What, I have to ask, in the Darwinian theory of evolution, which has more proof to it than any holy book, posits human beings at the top of the heap? As the planet erodes, and as our role as its destroyer becomes harder and harder to deny, might we not be considering, or reconsidering, the idea that the human species is far from sacred? Might we, in losing the sense of our own importance, be better able to see our kinship with species outside of ours? A long, long time ago, Copernicus suggested the earth was

not the center of the solar system, and by doing so he shook the souls we say we have to their ethereal roots. Roger Fouts, comparative psychologist at Central Washington University, told me, "It is a fundamental misperception to think human life has more value than any other life form."

I LIKE TO TOUCH MY DOGS' PAWS. Their paws are rough, scaly, the skin cracked like quaked earth, the nails smooth and curved in their sharpness. A dog's nails can be difficult to cut because, unlike humans, they have veins, and if you snip too deeply, a bead of blood wells up and the animal winces in a way that is hard to bear. I did this to Lila once, cut too close to the quick, cut the blue-violet vein that threads the nacreous nail of this beautiful beast I call mine. I call her mine not because I own her but because I love her. I call her mine as I call mine my children, my husband, my self. She is mine for as long as she is Lila, which amounts to no more than a nanosecond of time in the scheme of things, and when that second passes, she, like us all, will undergo the phenomenal

changing of categories that we call death. But until she does, I will care for her with everything I have. I will struggle to divide up my limited resources in the best way I can. I will admire her daily, as I do all those I love. And why? That is the question I have not answered here, the question my husband always asks. He no longer asks if it is right to so love a dog, because he knows how I will answer. "Yes, it is right," or "Someone has yet to offer me any scientific proof that animals mean less than we do, so it is certainly not wrong." His question for me now is simply, why?

Why? I don't know. What I do know is that when I look into Lila's blind eyes, I see amazing things. I see the wildness of the wolf; I see humans finding fire, the Pliocene plains, millions of molecules, the softest snout, a single cell split. I see an animal walk out of the water; I see the engine of evolution, and if I listen closely, I think I can hear it, too, a low continuous hum--a sound that doesn't stop, I must believe, even if, or when, we do. 

Upcoming Training Opportunities

LA PAW SPA Training Opportunities in Washington State

The Heart of Canine Water Therapy ~ Level 1 ~ Instructor: Cindy Horsfall, LMP, SAMP, CWP

April 26-May 1, 2008 ~ in Fall City, WA (**SOLD OUT**)

May 3-May 8, 2008 ~ in Fall City, WA (**SOLD OUT**)

November 8-13, 2008 ~ in Fall City, WA

SPIRITS in Transition ~ Instructor: Ella Bittel

May 16-18, 2008 ~ in Sequim, WA

Animal Acupressure ~ Tallgrass Animal Acupressure Institute ~ Instructor: Kim Bauer

June 7-8, 2008 ~ in Sequim, WA

Visit www.lapawspa.com for more information.



The Splash !

Ask The Pool Guru!

Ask The Pool Guru

Got questions about water quality, chemistry, or equipment?

Email Karen Hunter at:

poolguru@caninewatertherapy.com

SIZE DOES MATTER!

Q: I want to build a pool. What do you think is the best size ?

A: There is probably no “best size”, but here are some things to think about that might help you make a decision.

First, what type of clients do you hope to attract ? A typical 800 gallon spa would be fine if your business is limited to providing massage therapy. There’s not much room for swimming, but there are many tubs to choose from and you should be able to find one with the ideal configuration for your practice.

On the other end of the scale are full sized pools. For comparison purposes, an average recreational pool (like you might find at a gym) is around 50,000 to 80,000 gallons, while many backyard pools are around 30,000 gallons. With a pool this size, you could offer parties or open swims for multiple clients.

A good in-between option would be a lap pool or swim spa. These typically run in the 2,000 to 4,000 gallon range.

When you get quotes for a pool, you may come to the conclusion that bigger is better. For example, you may find that a 30,000 party-sized pool is “only” twice as much as a 3,000 gallon swim spa. Who wouldn’t want ten times as much for twice the price?

HOWEVER, the initial cost is only part of the equation. You will proba-

bly find that heating the pool is your biggest monthly expense. Your heating costs will definitely be proportional to the size of the pool, so be prepared to spend ten times as much to keep the water warm. You’ll also need bigger systems for circulation (more electricity) and more chemicals for keeping the water chemistry in balance. Regular water changes are still needed, so your water and sewer bills will rise. The dollars add up in a hurry.



There are many options for size and shape of a dog pool including a full size pool, an 8' x 20' swim spa and even a bone shaped pool.

One more thing to consider when you think bigger is better: What happens

when a client defecates in the pool? Draining, disinfecting, refilling, and reheating an 800 gallon spa is a pain, but can be accomplished in around 4 hours with minimal loss of business. Doing the same thing to a full sized pool will probably mean at least 2 days of down-time, not to mention a significant expense. Are you prepared for that?

Good luck with your project !

Q: How big a pump do I need for my pool ?

A: Here is a case where bigger probably IS better.

There are generally two uses for pumps in a pool. Jet pumps are used to create a current to swim against and/or to massage aching muscles. These are generally separate from the circulation pumps, which are used to move water through the filter, heater, and sanitizing systems. We’ll talk about the latter.

The typical rule of thumb for circulation pumps is that they should “turn over” all the water at least four times a day, or once every six hours. So, if you have a 3,000 gallon pool, you would need a pump that would move 500 gallons per hour (500 gallons/ hour x 6 hours = 3,000 gallons).

Unfortunately, the rule of thumb for human pools doesn’t apply to canine pools. We have loads more hair to deal with, not to mention the dirt and dander.

I recommend a *minimum* of one turn every 3 hours, and more definitely is better. My pool turns over in less than an hour. This means that if I get a

(Continued on page 23)



The Splash!

Ask The Pool Guru! cont.

(Continued from page 22)

particularly “dirty dog” client who leaves the pool water looking a bit cloudy, it will be clear and clean again in no time.

The tricky part about choosing a pump is that they are usually listed as having a particular horsepower (HP), but this doesn’t really tell you how much water they will move. This is because a pump’s capacity depends on many factors, one of which is how hard it has to work to move the water. This is impacted by such things as the type of filter, how clogged it is, the

size of the pipes, and how high the water outlet is above the inlet. All of these factors are added together to calculate what is called the **head**. Head is expressed in feet, and it comes from the amount of energy it takes to raise a column of water one foot high.

This is where a knowledgeable pool technician is helpful. They can look at your system and make a pretty good determination of what the head is likely to be. They should then consult the **pump performance curve** to determine which pump will operate

both effectively and efficiently for your setup. Depending on the design and efficiency of the pump, a ¾ horsepower model may move more water than a 1 horsepower model, and will require less electricity to do it! 🐾

Karen Hunter
Mega-Dogs
 22609 102nd Ave SE
 Woodinville, WA 98077
 425 487-3078
 karen@mega-dogs.com
 www.mega-dogs.com/

Pool School 101: The Langelier Saturation Index

by Sandy Fisher, CPO of K9 Aquatics, Inc.

Stable water balance quality can be based on the proper use of this saturation index and formula. Various factors are used to calculate saturation levels (pH, total alkalinity, total hardness, total dissolved solids and temperature). When these factors are placed into the formula, the result provides the information needed to balance the pool water and correct its condition. First, all parameters of the formula must be tested with the appropriate test kits, then the applicable “factors” (see Table at right) are placed into the following formula:

Saturation Index = pH + TF + CF + AF – TDS

pH: measured from test kit

TF: temperature factor; measured at pool

CF: calcium hardness factor, measured from test kit

AF: alkalinity factor, measured from test kit

TDS: total dissolved solids factor, measured from test kit



Formula Result:

Between -0.3 and 0.3 = water is balanced

Above 0.3 = water is over-saturated (scale-forming)

Below -0.3 = water is under-saturated (corrosive)

Example: Test results are as follows:

pH reading is 7.0

Water Temperature is 84° (TF is .7 from chart)

Calcium Hardness reading is 300 ppm (CF is 2.1 from chart)

Alkalinity reading is 25 ppm (AF is 1.4 from chart)

Total Dissolved Solids is 800 (TDS is 12.1 from chart)

Saturation Index = (pH) 7.0 + (TF) 0.7 + (CF) 2.1 + (AF) 1.4 – 12.1 = **-0.9**

Since the equation solution equals -0.9, this indicates a corrosive water condition and requires correction.

Ideal readings for proper water balance:

pH 7.2 to 7.6; Total Alkalinity 80 to 125 ppm (parts per million); Calcium Hardness 200 to 400 ppm (parts per million)

Temperature F ° = TF	Calcium Hardness = CF	Total Alkalinity = AF
32° = 0.0	5 = 0.3	5 = 0.7
37° = 0.1	25 = 1.0	25 = 1.4
46° = 0.2	50 = 1.3	50 = 1.7
53° = 0.3	75 = 1.5	75 = 1.9
60° = 0.4	100 = 1.6	100 = 2.0
66° = 0.5	150 = 1.8	125 = 2.1
76° = 0.6	200 = 1.9	150 = 2.2
84° = 0.7	250 = 2.0	200 = 2.3
94° = 0.8	300 = 2.1	300 = 2.5
105° = 0.9	400 = 2.2	400 = 2.6
	800 = 2.5	800 = 2.9
Total Dissolved Solids = TDS Less than 1,000 ppm = 12.1 1,000 ppm or greater = 12.2		
Saturation Index = pH + TF + CF + AF – TDS		



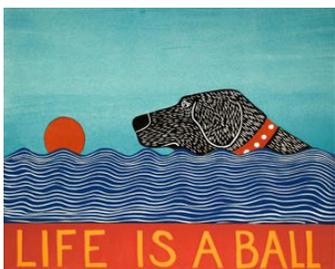
The Splash !

Sink or Swim!

Rating Canine Water Toys

Brodie Fisher is an 8 year old English Bulldog who owns Sandy Fisher, owner of K9 Aquatics in Sammamish, WA and The Splash's Editor. Brodie has been swimming since his CCL surgery in July 2003. He loves toys therefore, he will be testing a new canine water toy each quarter. In this issue, he will be reviewing the...

STEPHEN HUNECK DOG RETRIEVAL TOYS



Stephen Huneck is an eclectic Vermont folk artist, who started out whittling wooden sculptures of dogs and now specializes in dog-themed furniture, woodcut paintings and children's books. He has carved out a unique niche with his whimsical reproductions of Labrador retrievers and other dogs. His Dog Mountain studio and dog chapel -- on a picturesque 175-acre hillside farm in rural northern Vermont -- have evolved into a kind of doggy Disneyland, drawing animal lovers and their pets from all over, with some coming to mourn. To Huneck, dogs are more than man's best friend. "I really believe they're the great spirit's special gift to mankind," said Huneck. "Dogs teach us more than we teach them."



Dachshund water retrieval toy (from www.dogmt.com)

Dogs love swimming and they will love jumping to get this great Dachshund water toy! Recommended for med-large dogs.

Trout Water Retrieval Toy (from www.dogmt.com)

We've finally caught the big one! If you have a dog who loves to retrieve in the water -this trout is for you. A floating water retrieval toy that will bring you and your best friend lots of fun with it's boomerang shape. "Big Fish" measures 16" long and weighs about 22 oz. Tested in Dog Mountain's extreme conditions by our dog "employees".



Brodie's Rating: *I bought Brodie both the Dachshund and Trout toys (the only available toys...now there is a ball and Frisbee too). The Trout is extremely large, hard and heavy. More for river or lake use with a very large dog. I promptly gave it away for Christmas. The Dachshund toy is very cute. Quite long and a bit awkward. It floated nicely and is a conversation starter. It wasn't too heavy but definitely for a larger dog. I found it worked much better for a cute table decoration than a water toy.*

Manufacturer:
Stephen Huneck
www.dogmt.com
800-449-2580
Retail price is \$9.95 to \$14.95



Brodie rates this toy...

SINK!!

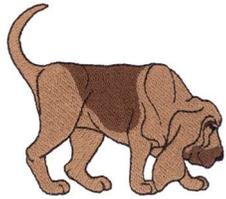


(but cute!)

Editor's Note: If you have tried out any of Brodie's Sink or Swim toys or have a new toy to rate, please send in your comments and/or pictures to me at newsletter@caninewatertherapy.com.

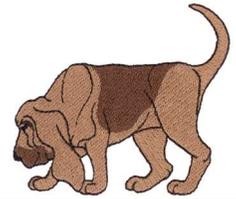


The Splash !



Sniff This!

~A Look at Products NEW to our Industry~



Aquatic Access Dog Lift



Custom Model IGRC Dog Lift In-Ground 360° Manual Rotation

- ◆ Manual 360 ° Platform Turn
- ◆ Lifts up to 200 lb. dog at 55-65 PSI*
- ◆ Powered by Water Pressure
- ◆ Cylinder partially recessed below deck
- ◆ Removable gates at ends
- ◆ Strong Polyethylene Platform Deck and Gates
- ◆ Stainless Steel Railings
- ◆ Creates a therapy platform in submerged position

**Note that the pressure requirement for a faucet or hose connection is approx. 10% higher.*

For more information, visit: <http://www.aquaticaccess.com/>



The Nolan family established Aquatic Access Inc. in 1987. Currently Linda Nolan is president, David Nolan is vice-president and chief engineer. David holds the patent on the versatile IGAT-180 design, which set a new standard for the pool lift industry, and continues to lead the way in providing access to the widest variety of swimming pool and spa designs. It is this ability to create lifts for unique situations that has made Aquatic Access an integral part of several projects for the popular, Emmy Award-winning program *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* in 2004, 2006, and 2007.

Aquatic Access offers a full line of water-powered lifts for in-ground pools and spas, above-ground pools and spas, portable spas, swim spas, and for most whirlpool, therapy, or rehabilitation tubs and pools, including those with six-foot walls.

All of the IGAT-180 models meet or exceed the pending ADA, ADA and CBC guidelines for public swimming pool access. All of these lifts work with water pressure, and there is no electricity, expensive batteries, or complicated machinery involved. The renewable, earth-friendly power of water is readily available in homes and commercial properties around the world.

ACWT President's Note: If you have safe steps up to and into the your pool, I personally feel the best way to get your client into the water is to manually ease them in...its not hard to do and a lot less stressful for the dog.



The Splash !

Product Testimonials

Both of the product testimonials below are products that are sold by ACWT Supporting Business Members. Please see page 29 of this newsletter for more information.

To find out how to receive your Member Discount, log in to the Members Area of the ACWT WEBSITE.



My husband and I own a canine fitness and training center here in northern Indiana, Joshica's Planet Canine. We have a canine salt pool where we swim dogs... a few months ago I was visited by Barry Vanslager, the creator of the **Rear Booster** (whole body support!). Barry left samples with me to try both in the water and on land. My staff and I LOVE them! This is a great tool at pool side and for the home, friendly for the dog and user friendly for their human... many of the dogs who swim at the Planet are faced with a leg issue making it difficult to maneuver, support themselves before and after a swim. The "land" booster allows us to walk the pool deck with the dog, having the confidence that when needed we are able to give body support. I see this confidence transfer to the dog and they are better able to do their work. We have rear end awareness bars with cones on the deck of our pool, used to walk over (one foot at a time) and the booster is a tremendous help there. Often getting out of the water with "sea legs", the booster keeps our dogs safe and confident.

We just sold one of Barry's boosters to a couple with a Giant Schnauzer that had front leg surgery and they are excited to use this in the home for support at his front end. We have the "water" booster from Barry - what an aid! Example: I swim a 200 lb. English Mastiff boy who has an issue with buoyancy ... before entering the water we snugly fit the booster behind his rib cage. Leo can then swim with the buoyancy provided by the booster, and can do full range of motion with nothing inhibiting his motion. I also use the booster to hang on as Leo swims in place.

The "water" and the "land" boosters are lightweight, user friendly, simple and yet effective ... at the Planet we wouldn't be without them!

Pam Mendnehall, Joshica's Planet Canine LLC ~ www.planet-canine.com



"Sam's Dog Hut swimsuits decrease the amount of accidents in the pool and ensure for a quick clean up in the event they do happen. They are stylish and owners love to pick out their pooch's bikini!"

TOPS Veterinary Rehabilitation





The Splash!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Name Date

Business Name Website Address

Type of Business

Services that you provide

Address

Email Address Phone Number(s)

Check the Level of Membership you are applying for below:
If you need additional information on any level, please visit www.caninewatertherapy.com.

Amount Enclosed:

- Facility Owner (Pools & Treadmills) in the US or Canada ~ \$150 _____
(renewal rate will be \$120)
 - For Directory purposes, check this box if you also work in the water
 - For Directory purposes, check this box if you are also a veterinarian
- Individual (Therapist/Swim Assistant/Student/International) ~ \$60 _____
(renewal rate will be \$45)
- Supporting Veterinarians ~ \$45 *(renewal rate will be \$30)* _____
- Supporting Businesses ~ \$45 *(renewal rate will be \$30)* _____
- Supporting Friends ~ \$30 *(renewal rate will be \$30)* _____

Additional Services Available (check all that apply):

- Your own email account/web-mail box ~ \$25 *(renewal rate will be \$10)*
*If you chose this option, list 2 preferences (ie: chorsfall@caninewatertherapy.com)
for your email address below:* _____

- Additional contribution to benefit our organization (any amount) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

**(while supplies last)*

Page 1 of 2

Please give this application to a friend!



The Splash !

Member Discounts & Benefits!

FLORIDA NORTH SWIM SPAS

Product: Swim Spas
Level of Membership: Facility Owners only
Discount Amount: \$500.00 off
Website: www.floridanorth.com
Contact Name: Bob and Dick

AMERIMERC POOL & SPA SUPPLIES

Product: Pool and Spa Supplies
Level of Membership: Facility Owners only
Discount Amount: 15% off
Website: www.amerimerc.com
Contact Name: Phil and Jim

EWATER.COM

Product: Innovative Health Alternatives (Etower for pools)
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: Up to 25% off
Website: www.ewater.com
Contact Name: Fred Van Liew

ALL PETS GO TO HEAVEN

Product: Pet Products for everyday & our dearly departed pets
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 10% off
Website: www.allpetsgotoheaven.com
Contact Name: Teri Sahn

HAPPY DOG HEALTHY DOG

Product: Pet bakery and retail shop
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 10% off
Website: www.happydoghealthydog.com
Contact Name: Diane Mayer

ANIMAL WELLNESS MAGAZINE

Product: Magazine devoted to natural & holistic health for animals
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: \$9.95 for 6 bi-monthly issues
Website: www.animalwellnessmagazine.com

ANIMAL SUSPENSION TECHNOLOGY

Product: AST Support Suit is a support harness for injured, weak or disabled dogs
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 10% off
Website: www.petsupportsuit.com
Contact Name: Eric and Victoria Swisher

K-9 KOZY POOL WRAP

Product: Lightweight & absorbent Pool Wrap for your dog
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 20% off
Website: www.k9kozy.com
Contact Name: Alison White of The Total Dog Spa

SAM'S DOG HUT

Product: Doggie Rehab and Doggie Swimwear Wraps
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 10% off
Website: www.samsdoghut.com
Contact Name: Sheila Palme

NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF ANIMAL MASSAGE

Product: Certification training in animal massage
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 10% off for Facility members and 5% for all other members
Website: www.nwsam.com

REAR BOOSTER

Product: Post-surgical rehabilitation sling
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: Buy 5, Get one free plus free shipping
Email: indianajonahslings@sbcglobal.net
Contact Name: Barry Vanslager

SPAW DOG ROBE

Product: Chamois dog robe for drying or cooling
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: 20% off for all members
Website: http://stores.ebay.com/Spaw-Dogs
Contact Name: Rebeca Berni of Cottage Spaw



RUFF WEAR

Product: Life Jackets, Packs, Boots, Bowls, Collars, Leashes and more for dogs on the go!
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: Pro Purchase Program usually provides a discount of about 50% (not for resale purposes)
Website: www.ruffwear.com



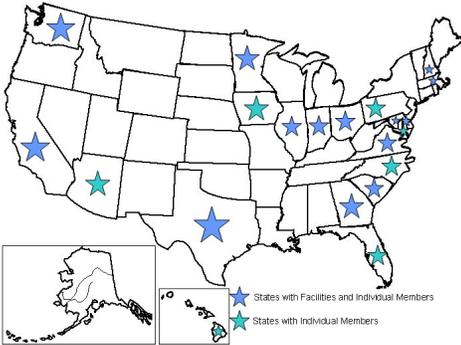


The Splash!

Member Directory

Please visit www.caninewatertherapy.com for detailed informational listings for each of the members listed below

FACILITIES—UNITED STATES



CALIFORNIA

The Total Dog Spa
Oceanside

DELEWARE

Happy Dog Healthy Dog
Wilmington

GEORGIA

Just Pets Veterinary Hospital
Cumming
Wag-N-Swim
Atlanta

HAWAII

Nalo's Healing Arts for Animals
Kailua

ILLINOIS

Naperville Kountry Kennels, Inc.
Naperville

Sit, Stay, Swim

Roscoe

INDIANA

Joshica's Planet Canine LLC
Elkhart

MASSACHUSETTS

AquaDog, Inc.
West Roxbury

MARYLAND

Canine Fitness Center
Crownsville

MINNESOTA

K9 Hydrotherapy Inc.
St. Louis Park

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Doggie Dome Swim Spa
New Durham

OHIO

Red Dog Pet Resort & Spa
Cincinnati

SOUTH CAROLINA

Padding Paws K-9 Swim Center
Moncks Corner

TEXAS

DogWater Spa
Houston

VIRGINIA

Liberty Hill Pet Resort
Bealeton

Paws To Swim
Rockville

WASHINGTON

All Dogs Pool & Spa
Tulalip

Aquadog Spa, Inc.
Kent

Cottage S-paw
Woodinville

Doggone Day Spaw, LLC
Woodinville/Sammamish/Various

Happy Tails Resort & Spa
Auburn

Heavenly Spa
Fall City

K9 Aquatics, Inc.
Sammamish

La Paw Spa LLC
Fall City and Edmonds

Lap of Luxury
Lynden

Mega-Dogs
Woodinville

Pampered Paw Swim Spa LLC
Enumclaw

**Spawz Doggie Day Care
& Fitness Center**
Seattle

SplashDog Spa
Edmonds

Sunner Veterinary Hospital
Sunner

**Unsinkable Dogs:
K9 Warm Water Swim Center**
Ridgefield

FACILITIES—CANADA



ALBERTA

Pawsitively Pooched Ltd.
Calgary

ALBERTA

The Dogs Aqua Therapy Ltd.
Edmonton

ONTARIO

**Ottawa Canine Rehabilitation
and Aquatic Center**
Ottawa

FACILITIES—INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Dogoverboard
Adamstown, NSW

UNITED KINGDOM

Padding Paws Hydrotherapy Pool
Longton, Preston, Lancashire

Job Openings!

NEW BENEFIT FOR FACILITY OWNERS!

Are you looking for a
Massage Practitioner
or Canine Swim Specialist
for your Pool?

Post your Job Opening within your
Directory Listing on the ACWT website!

Email sandy@caninewatertherapy.com
to request your free listing!



The Splash!

Member Directory

Please visit www.caninewatertherapy.com for detailed informational listings for each of the members listed below

THERAPISTS, CANINE SWIM SPECIALISTS & STUDENTS OF THE WORK

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Lorie Allen ~ Laveen

CALIFORNIA

Trish Cohen ~ Newhall

Louisa Craviotto ~ Petaluma

Suzy Godsey ~ Santa Barbara

Penny Heer ~ Santa Barbara

Mindy Mulligan ~ Redwood City

Suzanne Samson ~ Truckee

Christy Tattersall ~ Northridge

Alison White ~ Oceanside

DELEWARE

Diane Mayer ~ Wilmington

Cathy Toner ~ Wilmington

FLORIDA

Ellen Bloome ~ Boca Raton

Suzanna Grace ~ Davie

David Lyons ~ Gulf Breeze

Julie Mistretta ~ Wesley Chapel

Claire O'Connor ~ Gulf Breeze

GEORGIA

Lou Avant, DVM ~ Cumming

Eva Gellert ~ Atlanta

HAWAII

Wendi Crandall-Amidon ~ Kailua

IOWA

Jeanete Jurrens ~ Onawa

Michelle Moran ~ Cedar Rapids

ILLINOIS

Cherie Hogland ~ Roscoe

Jean Li Petri ~ Naperville

INDIANA

Maggie Lump ~ West Lafayette

Pamela Mendenhall ~ Elkhart

MARYLAND

Maury Chaput ~ Crownsville

MASSACHUSETTS

Carolyn MacDonald ~ Taunton

Pamela Tewes ~ West Roxbury

MINNESOTA

John Lambert ~ St. Louis Park

Joy Lewanski ~ Hastings

UNITED STATES

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Melody Horne ~ New Durham

NORTH CAROLINA

Jane Ballard ~ Durham

OHIO

Sherry Agar ~ Wyoming

Sandy Hodges ~ Cincinnati

PENNSYLVANIA

Kelly Shaffer ~ State College

RHODE ISLAND

Pam Walter ~ Newport

SOUTH CAROLINA

Terri Steely, RN ~ Moncks Corner

TEXAS

Kathy Glenney ~ Houston

VIRGINIA

Peggy Conlon ~ Vienna

Joanne Fletcher ~ Midlothian

Gretchen Hager ~ Virginia Beach

Deborah Logerfo ~ Rockville

Mary Ann Robertson ~ Bealeton

WASHINGTON

Megan Anderson ~ Tulalip

Brianna Baarstad ~ Woodinville

Rebeca Berni ~ Woodinville

Joyce Biethan ~ Ridgefield

Adrienne Buschling ~ Olympia

Patricia Cool ~ Granite Falls/Fall City

Cindy Cornish ~ Spanaway

Sylvia Eberlei ~ Issaquah

Tonita Fernandez ~ Enumclaw

Sandy Fisher ~ Sammamish

Vonni Goetting ~ Woodinville/Sammamish

Cheryl Grant ~ Edmonds

Leigh Anne Hardy ~ Edmonds

J Linn Black Henline ~ Edmonds

Cindy Hickman ~ Kent

Janice Hill ~ Kingston

Erin Hopkins ~ Snohomish

Cindy Horsfall ~ Sequim/FallCity/Sammamish

Karen Hunter ~ Woodinville

Debbie LaMonica ~ Des Moines/Edmonds

Carrie Lane ~ Lynden

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON cont.

Barbara Lierson ~ Renton

Beth Meyer ~ Auburn

Robin Millor ~ Olympia

Cassie Sawyer ~ Seattle/Kent/Fall City

Rema Strauss ~ Milton

Ann Marie Shields ~ Seattle

Carol Swindaman ~ Redmond/Fall City

Karen Theusen ~ Ferndale

Linda Voelker ~ Sammamish/Woodinville

CANADA

ALBERTA

Melba Ayres ~ Edmonton

Tracy Barbet ~ Calgary

Sandy Busse ~ Edmonton

Carrie Smith ~ Calgary

Brenda Williams ~ Calgary

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Lynda Coote ~ Gibsons

Andrea Gostlin ~ Kelowna

Allison White ~ Kelowna

ONTARIO

Alex Debolt ~ Ottawa

Nancy Couillard ~ Ottawa

INTERNATIONAL

Anne Johnson ~ England

Evelyn Lee ~ United Kingdom

Cheryl Shaw ~ Australia

Anna Tong ~ Singapore

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED AT YOUR POOL? DO YOU KNOW OF A SPECIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY? WOULD YOU LIKE TO OFFER A MEMBER DISCOUNT? WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR POOL, SERVICES OR BUSINESS FEATURED? PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IT IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF THE SPLASH!



The Splash!

Member Directory

SUPPORTING VETERINARIANS

Animal Healing Center

On Staff: Dr. Larry Siegler
Business Phone: 425-885-5400
Location: Redmond, WA
Website: www.animalhealingcenter.com

Mobile Veterinary Services

On Staff: Dr. Tina Ellenbogen
Business Phone: 425-485-7387 (PETS)
Location: Bothell, WA
Email: drtina@caninewatertherapy.com
Website: http://hometown.aol.com/drtinavet/myhomepage/profile.html

Puget Sound Animal Hospital for Surgery, P.S.

On Staff: Dr. Mark Engen & Dr. Byron Misseghers
Business Phone: 425-827-5686
Location: Kirkland, WA

Sumner Veterinary Hospital

On Staff: Dr. Kathy Sheeran
Business Phone: 253-863-2258
Location: Sumner, WA
Email: mksheeran@sumnervet.com
Website: www.sumnervet.com

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Animal Suspension Technology

Owner: Eric and Victoria Swisher
Business Phone: 360-393-9891
Location: Bellingham, WA
Email: support@petsupportsuit.com
Website: www.petsupportsuit.com

Dynamite Specialty Products

Owner: Mary DeFillippo
Business Phone: 425-290-2255
Location: Snohomish, WA
Email: maryfurhaven@earthlink.net
Website: www.dynamitemarketing.com

Gold Canyon Candle Distributor

Owner: Amy North
Location: USA
Email: anorth3@cox.net

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Joyce's Dog Obedience Services Inc.

Owner: Joyce Biethan
Business Phone: 206-819-7297
Location: Snohomish, WA
Email: joycesdogs@gmail.com
Website: www.joycesdogs.com

Mystic Mountain Retreat

Owner: Cindy Hill
Business Phone: 360-794-6388
Location: Monroe, WA
Email: mysticmountainretreat@hotmail.com
Website: www.mysticmountainretreat.com

NW School of Animal Massage

Owner: Lola Michelin
Business Phone: 877-836-3703
Location: Fall City, WA
Email: info@nwsam.com
Website: www.nwsam.com

Parka's Kibble Art

Owner: Sherry Dryja
Location: USA
Email: parka@kibbleart.com
Website: www.kibbleart.com

Pawsitively Styling

Owner: Dawn Farmer & Tim Gillam
Business Phone: 360-435-5421
Location: Arlington, WA

Pension Design & Admin., Inc.

Owner: Doris Kopp
Business Phone: 425-868-1230
Location: Redmond, WA
Email: doris@pensiondesign.com
Website: www.pensiondesign.com

Raintree Enterprises, LLC

Owner: Barry Vanslager, LLC
Business Phone: 574-674-0411
Location: Granger, IN
Email: indianajonahslings@sbcglobal.net

Ruff Wear, Inc.

Business Phone: 888-783-3932
Location: Bend, OR
Email: luckydog@ruffwear.com
Website: www.ruffwear.com

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Sam's Dog Hut

Owner: Sheila Palme
Business Phone: 715-262-4566
Location: Prescott, WI
Email: samsdoghut@centurytel.net
Website: www.samsdoghut.com

Synchronicity

Owner: Charlie Comstock
Business Phone: 360-461-3155
Location: can service anyone, anywhere
Email: charliecomstock@msn.com

The Lodge at Cardiff's

Owner: Susan Von Beck
Business Phone: 425-788-8449
Location: Duvall, WA
Email: Hunterdonfarms@aol.com
Website: www.lapawspa.com/thelodge

SUPPORTING FRIENDS

Nicholas, Heidi & John
Natasha and Pavel
Catherine Lisa Van Camp
Jean & John Horsfall
Gretchen & Gunther
Scout, Ellie, Andy, Two-Bits,
Sheba and Anita Gehring
Kathe Roat
Lisa and Honey
Leo, Kathy & Guido
Ani & Mister Magoo Grudin
Kim Biethan



Please visit
the Directories at:
www.caninewatertherapy.com
for detailed informational listings
for each of the members listed.