



The Splash !

The Official Newsletter of The Association of Canine Water Therapy

Dedicated to and Inspired by the Dogs in our Lives

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Somewhere Over The Rainbow

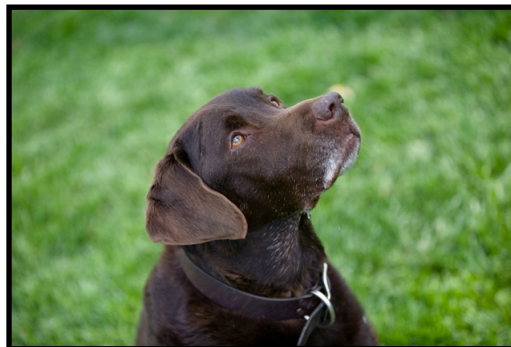
By Laurie Duperier

www.gunnysrainbow.com



I imagine that many of you reading this have had "the one". THAT dog. The one that is different from the others. The one who without ever speaking a word talks to you, understands you, loves you unconditionally, knows what you're thinking -- and you know what he is thinking, too. The one that you love with your whole heart and soul. Your soul mate in a hair suit.

It is easy to think that YOUR "one" is the ONLY "one". That no one has ever experienced what you experience, and that he or she is the most special dog in the whole world. But if you meet enough dogs and enough dog people, you know that there are other "ones" out there, looking for opportunities to teach their person, their family, their veterinarians and random people they meet important lessons.



My "one" is named Ganimedes -- Gunny for short -- a big golden-eyed handsome chocolate Labrador Retriever who looks right through your eyes and into your soul any time he feels like it. Indeed, he gives new meaning to the phrase "undressing someone with your eyes."

Gunny was my wedding present from my husband over 12 years ago. He was a beautiful, feisty, intelligent and incredibly stubborn little ball of

(Continued on page 8)

**The ACWT and the IAAMB
are merging on January 1, 2010!
Get more details starting on page 3!**



The Splash !

President's Message

To the wonderful and dedicated members of the ACWT

This will be my last message to you as your President. Sometimes we have to let go in order for things to grow... and such is the path of the ACWT today as we enter a new exciting adventure together in this merge with the IAAMB.

I remember our first meeting when ten pools in the northwest gathered together for the first time. What started in 2003 as a circle of friends in a pool in Fall City has grown to nearly 150 members.

Sandy Fisher came on board a year after we had started the ACWT and started producing these wonderful Splash Newsletters that we all have grown to love and will miss. Many of you have stepped forward to help in so many ways to grow our Association into what it is today.

Our merger now with the International Association of Animal Massage & Bodywork (IAAMB) is a great step for the continued growth of our profession.

We will continue to network on their forums and we will get to enjoy the expanded IAAMB/ACWT newsletter. We will continue to share our stories and we will continue to grow.

So please join me as we make a big SPLASH with the IAAMB !!! As a fellow member of the IAAMB/ACWT, I look forward to many more years of networking together and supporting each other in our common endeavors.

With much love and with deep gratitude,

Cindy

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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



The Splash !

ACWT to Merge with the IAAMB

After completing another successful International Association of Animal Massage and Bodywork (IAAMB) conference in Seattle, Jonathan Rudinger (founder of the IAAMB) and his wife Anastasia came to Sequim, Washington to spend two action packed days with Cindy Horsfall, founder of the Association of Canine Water Therapy (ACWT).

The discussions started months ago in email form as these two pioneers discussed how close their visions were with their respective Associations and how possibly the ACWT could grow stronger under the info structure that was in place for the IAAMB.



*Jonathan Rudinger,
IAAMB founder (left)
and*

*Cindy Horsfall,
ACWT founder (right).*

*Photo was taken on
September 9th, 2009 in Sequim, WA
after a successful meeting
regarding the future of the ACWT.*

The ACWT has become very successful and is growing with new members each month. Many of our members have asked about adding educational opportunities, an annual conference and insurance options – things that the IAAMB already has in place.

We are excited to announce to you that a plan was put into place and agreements were made to move the ACWT into a division of the IAAMB as of January 1, 2010. This union will make more things possible.

Our website will remain active until December 31, 2009. After that date, the web address of www.caninewatertherapy.com will redirect to the new ACWT section on the IAAMB website. Our ACWT members will not only have their directory listings in the IAAMB directories but also in the new water therapy directories of the IAAMB/ACWT.

Our logos will remain the same and you will have be able to use them in your marketing materials. After the Fall 2009 issue, the SPLASH newsletter will become a section in the IAAMB newsletter which is sent out quarterly so you will enjoy continued and expanded services there. We will still want your stories, testimonials and new product listings to share.

Your membership in 2010 will include increased benefits and more educational opportunities.

The dues and membership categories will shift a bit. Members of the ACWT who have paid for memberships into 2010 will receive a refund from the current ACWT structure and we will assist you through the steps to transfer your membership to the IAAMB/ACWT structure by January 1, 2010.

This is a powerful move of growth and opportunity. Our goal is that this transition be as seamless as possible so that we can all move forward into this new exciting and expanded structure for the ACWT.

Jonathan is dedicated to world vision, growth and is dedicated to you. His own story for the IAAMB can be found on page 6.

We are all so thrilled with these new plans for 2010 - giving us all more opportunity for growth, education and support. 🐾

*Sincerely,
Cindy Horsfall ,
Lynda Coote, &
Sandy Fisher,
Your ACWT Board of Directors*

Disclaimer

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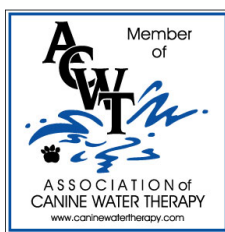
The Splash !

FAQ's Regarding the IAAMB / ACWT Merger

Here are some of the exciting details and answers to your questions regarding our upcoming merger with the International Association of Animal Massage & Bodywork (IAAMB).

What is remaining unchanged:

- * Remaining unchanged is that you will proudly be able to say you are a member of the ACWT.
- * Remaining unchanged is that you will be able to enjoy displaying our two logos (below) on your websites and marketing materials.



- * Remaining unchanged is that you can continue to make reference to our website address as www.caninewatertherapy.com.

When does this happen?

- * This merger officially takes place on January 1, 2010. All of your dues are paid through December 31, 2009.
- * For those of you who have paid dues into 2010, you will be refunded. The refund checks have been mailed to your address on file.
- * Our Member Directories, as you know them, will be removed on January 1, 2010. The ACWT website will forward to the new ACWT Member pages at the IAAMB website which are dedicated to you. You will want to get on these new directories as soon as possible. Applications are

being taken now for this process at www.iaamb.org (see procedures below)

Who can join the ACWT?

- * Membership will be for Facilities and Therapists worldwide.
- * At this time, the IAAMB will be ending membership opportunities for the Supporting Levels of Membership (Veterinarian, Business and Friend).

How much will our DUES be?

- * Dues will be \$124.50 annually and will be due after you submit your application. This will cover the \$94.50 portion for your membership in the IAAMB plus an additional \$30.00 for your membership in the ACWT. You will be a member of both Associations and you will be included in both of these widely published directories. You will also enjoy all the benefits you have come to love plus more!
- * For those who are already members of the IAAMB, Sue Morrissey at the IAAMB will give you a prorated amount due for the \$30.00 ACWT dues portion to bring you up to your IAAMB anniversary/renewal date.

What is the process of joining the IAAMB/ACWT?

- * To find out more information on the IAAMB, please visit their website at www.iaamb.org.
- * To enroll for membership in our merged associations, please click on the **Membership Application** link on the left hand side of the home page or go directly to the following page:

<http://www.iaamb.org/members-application.php>.

- * You have the option to apply online or print and mail in your application. Once you apply, you will have access to your own directory listings and you can modify your information at any time. Once you pay for your membership, your directory listing will be published on the website.
- * You can apply at any time...you do not have to wait until January 1st. However, the Member Directories at the current ACWT website will no longer be online as of January 1st, so you should be prepared and get your listing ready now. Remember, you can get your application in NOW, get your directory listing formatted NOW and pay when you would like your directory listing to be published!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!!!

We have put together a team to help you if you have any questions and to help you get on board by January 1, 2010. Feel free to contact any of us.

Cindy Horsfall at
Cindy@caninewatertherapy.com

Sandy Fisher at
Sandy@caninewatertherapy.com

Loie Lindner at
Loie@caninewatertherapy.com

Thank you for your continued support and we all look forward to many more years of supporting each other in this wonderful world of animal health care. 🐾



The Splash !

Responses Regarding the IAAMB / ACWT Merger

Question: I am a therapist paying \$45 per year to be a member of the ACWT and this is an astronomical increase in membership fees and one that I may not be able to afford. Make sure you don't price yourself out of the market. The fees are payable in US currency, I presume. Perhaps you would like to offer a payment plan, taking the total and offering it in three month installments.

Answer: The IAAMB has been in existence for several years with annual dues of \$94.50 per year. They offer more on a professional level than the ACWT and we've had members pushing us into this direction for a while... this seemed like a logical solution to merge and combine forces.

Dues for the ACWT are actually much less than ever before... whether you are a pool paying \$120.00 annually or a therapist paying \$45.00 annually – the dues to join the ACWT will only be \$30.00.

The IAAMB annual dues remain unchanged at \$94.50 and you do need to be a member of the IAAMB in order to join the ACWT... so yes, when you combine these two memberships together, it probably 'feels' like an increase in dues. But it's not... you're just joining two International Associations here... and doubling your exposure to your clients by being in both of these directories.

We aren't in control of the IAAMB. We are releasing all the reins and ownership of the ACWT to the IAAMB, which is an entirely different entity.

You would need to talk to Jonathan or Sue – over at the IAAMB – about the option of payments. They are eager to please their new members and would love to hear your concerns.

Thank you again for your support and let me know if you have any other concerns or questions. *Cindy*

Comment: I just want to thank you for starting the ACWT and getting it to this point and knowing when to pass it over to someone who can take it further at this point. It will be good to be a part of the IAAMB, I already have their insurance and they have annual educational seminars and etc.. this was a smart move guys! Thanks!

Response: Thank you so much for your comments here. This has always been just a volunteer organization for all of us who have made this our work and so many people have come forward and made the ACWT what it is today... we have you all to thank !!!

Comment: What arrogance!!! Previously I was appreciated for being a "Supporting Friend" and paid \$30.00 a year to be included in your organization. With the "questionable merger" with the IAAMB, I am now "TRASH". What a wonderful presentation after the ACWT utilized my membership fee to only be "Dumped". But I guess that's "Big Business". I'm sorry that my support is so minuscule in "Your Big Picture".


Response: I am truly heart broken that you are so upset. We must have presented this merger to you in a way that didn't handle this well. I am so sorry if you ever felt unappreciated or undervalued.

The dues for "friends" are \$30.00 per year and that only covers the mailed full color newsletter that runs about \$10.00 per issue to print and mail. We wanted to offer a breakeven level for those, like you, who want to be involved but weren't working in the profession. There has never been any 'profit' at the ACWT – all of us work as volunteers to make this a reality and we've worked hard to build this network of support for those who work in this industry.

Our professional members have been asking for more than what we can do however... insurance options, more of a legal presence in this growing field, etc... and that is why we have chosen to hand the reins over to the IAAMB, an Association that is older than us and has more of an administrative force to handle the growing needs of our members.

This is a big move for the IAAMB and their administrative expenses are quite high to bring us on board. Since they don't have the structure to honor business or friend memberships, it was their decision to wait on these levels.

The IAAMB is fully dedicated to animals and they have a great newsletter with dynamic speakers and writers and they offer professional seminars for continuing education. This field of animal health care has also been subject to legal challenges and the IAAMB has the forces in order to handle this aspect. They are the right leaders for the ACWT at this time. Thank you so much for your past support.

Warmest Regards, Cindy 



The Splash !

Welcome to the IAAMB / ACWT



Hello ACWT, now IAAMB member!

As president of The International Association of Animal Massage and Bodywork, I am thrilled to welcome the members of the ACWT into the IAAMB family. The IAAMB, established in 2000, is a forum for animal massage and bodywork professionals to network and support each other. It was created to form a community that would work to promote integrity, respect, recognition, accreditation and communication for and within our profession

This is the IAAMB Mission Statement:

We are a professional community of people who share the goal of providing holistic, loving support for animals that extends internationally. We gentle animal bodyworkers, with confidence and compassion, assist others to develop their talents by teaching and providing our specific, uniquely personal techniques.

The IAAMB provides a platform for professional development by hosting national and regional educational conferences. We encourage you to participate in them so that you too, can enhance your professional development by being a presenter, an organizer, or simply participating in our open exchange of ideas, information and experience. Our 6th Annual IAAMB Educational Conference in

Seattle, held earlier this month, for example, included a three hour open discussion session that allowed members to share their concerns and thoughts about working with strong animals, aggressive animals, animals that elicit fear, dying animals, and the near-future development of a library for case studies and research. It was a time and place for IAAMB members to share their wide range of skills, experience levels, and wisdoms with each other. Even the most seasoned practitioners, myself included, had inspirational "aha" moments.

The IAAMB publishes quarterly newsletters, available on-line and hard copy. Cindy Horsfall has accepted the invitation to be a regular contributor to the IAAMB Newsletter. Look for her "Splash" feature in each newsletter. We invite you to submit your articles as well. We are always looking for well written case studies, full-out research studies, and fresh ideas that will spur creativity in your fellow members.

The www.IAAMB.org website:

- * lists association members in a regional referral guide
- * provides school listings
- * advertises continuing education courses
- * offers free reciprocal links for members and schools
- * publishes legal requirements and limitations by state and country, online, as available.
- * publishes IAAMB newsletters
- * publishes educational articles and stories
- * and provides a secure, members-only chat room

Each ACWT member creates his/her own profile page that will be in our general membership directory and maps. Yours will also be in the special "ACWT Splash" section. Your profile page will display only the information that you would like on it and will offer a direct link to your website or email. The instructions are on the website and are easy to follow. Go to www.iaamb.org, "Welcome," click on "Join IAAMB Now," fill out the form, save it and send it. Sue Morrissey, our IAAMB coordinator, will check it for spelling and contact you if she has any questions. Within a couple of days, your information will be up, out, attracting new clients and be a resource for your returning clients.

Sue will also be your source for liability insurance and any and all questions or concerns you may have about the IAAMB. Please feel comfortable contacting her at info@iaamb.org or calling 800-903-9350. Outside the US, please dial 419-464-8922.

Our goal is to support and promote you, the professional who shares the goal of ensuring the highest quality of care for animals, through networking, internet exposure, and continuing education. Welcome to the International Association of Animal Massage and Bodywork.

Staying in "touch,"

Jonathan Rudinger
President IAAMB 



The Splash !

History of the IAAMB

The IAAMB was created in 2000 when Jonathan Rudinger, the founder of PetMassage, Ltd. heard about one animal massage school making disparaging comments about another. At that time there were very few schools teaching animal massage and bodywork and only a few hundred practitioners. He understood that referring to any colleague in negative terms demonstrates disrespect to a significant percentage of the whole, and ultimately diminishes the one who makes the comments. As a new and burgeoning profession, there is more than enough opposition and misunderstanding from the uneducated or the threatened without adding to it from within our ranks. With over 75 million dogs and 100 million animal owners in the US alone, there are abundant potential clients and students for all practices and schools. The concept of “competition” for students and clients does not apply. The first tenant for the association was to “consciously speak kindly of our colleagues.”

Recognizing the need for practitioners to stand united, he saw the need to create a community of people and

schools with the common goals of helping animals find greater quality of life through complementary, alternative and holistic practices. The association has become a forum in which practitioners of many disciplines could interact, network and support each other. It is now a forum for more experienced practitioners to train and mentor others in their specialties. As more and more, pet owners seek answers and methods outside the traditional veterinary vision, IAAMB members’ practices provide resources that support the work of veterinarians. They are never intended to be replacements or substitutes for competent veterinary care.

The IAAMB was created to meet the need for an organization that establishes professionalism within animal massage and bodywork practices, with scopes of practice and codes of conduct, setting the standard for responsible, professional behavior. It fulfills a need for the place where people interested in learning about

specific practices and the legalities affecting them can go for assistance, support and guidance. The IAAMB is an organization that was created to stay aware of and help in bringing reasonableness to impending restrictive local and national legislation affecting our members’ practices.

The first tenant for the association was to “consciously speak kindly of our colleagues.”

Growth
The association grew slowly at first. By 2002 it had only 45 members. By 2003, it

had 100. In 2004-05 it more than doubled in membership to close to 250. Currently we have more than 400 members. Encouraging in these numbers is the percentage of members who derive enough value in their memberships to choose to renew; over 90%!

2009 accomplishments include optimizing our IAAMB.org website making it easier for members to update their profiles and contact information. 🐾





The Splash !

Somewhere Over The Rainbow cont.

(Continued from page 1)

chocolate fur who chewed through anything in his path and ate like a horse. We didn't really hit it off at first (if two whole years actually qualifies as "at first"). It was a battle of wills every day – and usually he won. For example, at four months old he would sit at the end of the dining room table and glare at us, daring us NOT to give him some of the food we were eating. He even exasperated the dog trainer, who proclaimed him the most stubborn dog he had ever met. Eventually, we found some balance and peace. Gunny got his way a lot of the time, and I got my way every now and then. When he was about 3 years old, I was offered a job in Hong Kong as a lawyer for an international company, so we packed up our belongings, got Gunny an extra large crate, and flew halfway around the world to live in a very different place. While there, Gunny was bitten by a tick infected with babesia and ehrlichia parasites, and got very very sick. Luckily he recovered – or so we thought at the time.

To make a very long story short, a few years later I was transferred to Switzerland and there, after undergo-

ing a relatively minor surgery, those horrid parasites came back more ferociously than the first time. His body was destroying his own platelets and red blood cells and I was told by the hospital staff: "Madame Duperier, you need to accept that your dog is not going home." I did not "accept" it. I selfishly told Gunny, who was very tired and very sick, that he wasn't allowed to leave me and that it wasn't his time. Perhaps most importantly, I asked everyone I knew all over the world, of all different religions and cultures, to please imagine he was making platelets and to pray for him.

His wonderful Swiss osteopath, Dr. Piguat, said to me one day when Gunny was teetering on the edge from bleeding in so many parts of his body:

"Madame Duperier, I know that it is very hard for you to see this right now because you are so scared and he is so sick, but the energy of all of these people all around the world who don't even know each other praying

for Ganimedes, if you could see it from above the earth, makes a beautiful rainbow. Gunny made that."

I never forgot her or what she said to me that day. And Gunny survived.

"...the energy of all of these people all around the world who don't even know each other praying for Ganimedes, if you could see it from above the earth, makes a beautiful rainbow. Gunny made that."

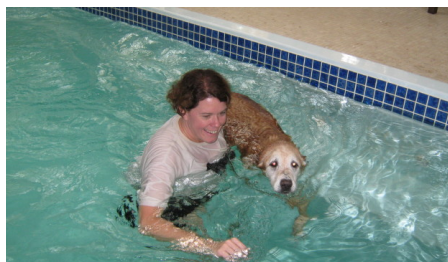
Slowly but surely, taking care of him, laughing with him, playing with him and being exasperated by him became the most important thing that I did on any given day. Being a lawyer started to feel more like a burden and my big "important" job was,

in my view, probably going to kill me one way or another from all the stress. In any event, it seemed much less important than being with Gunny. I was a very logical pointy headed lawyer, and a good one. But I came to feel that the thing I was best at in the whole world was taking care of Gunny.

"What on earth does all this have to do with water therapy??" you must be asking!

(Continued on page 9)

"What's not to love about Max? Thrown from a car in West Virginia and was on his own for months, adopted 3 years ago at 8 years old by a fabulous woman. His left hip is permanently out of socket (for 3 years), his right elbow is a total wreck' his right paw is like concrete from arthritis, he has various auto-immune and infection crises in other joints, and a few other unmentionables. But he loves to swim, loves to retrieve, and loves to give kisses. What a guy!" Laurie and Max are pictured below.





The Splash !

Somewhere Over The Rainbow cont.

(Continued from page 8)

Well, at about 8 years old Gunny started to have trouble walking and eventually lost all the muscle in his right hind leg, most likely due to a neurological problem. When his vet said "he needs to swim," I said, "okay, where?" I did not get a long list of options in response.

There are few places in Maryland that provide swim facilities for dogs, and most are at least an hour away from me and require vaccinations, which he cannot have due to his previous auto-immune problems. So, I quit my job, took Cindy Horsfall's Level I and Level II canine water therapy classes, and embarked on a mission to build Gunny's Rainbow, LLC -- a swim facility in my home a couple of miles outside of Washington, DC, to help Gunny and other dogs with mobility problems.



My mission started almost two years ago. My hair is a lot grayer, Gunny is lot older, I have a lot less money and I am just NOW open for business in the past month with a small but loyal clientele. (I am limited to no more than 20 clients a week because I am in a residential neighborhood.) The construction problems, pool problems, etc. that I encountered are too long to list. Each city is different and each place has its challenges, and

however hard you work to identify the issues before you start trying to open a pool, I guarantee you 10 more will pop up before you are through. And I promise it will cost more money than you thought or could even imagine.

BUT, I don't regret my decision. When you send out a request to the Universe, it can bring amazing things back to you. My request was simple: I want to make sick dogs feel better. The dogs (and their people) who have responded to my request are just amazing. Most all of them are "the one".

I am privileged to share time in my pool with some of the most fabulous beings on the planet and participate in their healing while they participate in mine. I have incredibly spiritual dogs who prefer very quiet and intimate sessions that make me feel alive, at peace and whole. And I have "throw the ball again PLEEEEEEEZ because I don't EVER want to stop swimming while you laugh with me" dogs who put a spring in my step when I get out of the pool just thinking about how much fun we had. Mostly, what I have are a bunch of professors! In return, I get to help their joints stop aching or their hips stop hurting for at least a little while as they swim, receive a reiki treatment from me or I hold them in my arms in the water and we just co-exist for a while.

Gunny, as it turns out, doesn't like the pool and doesn't want to swim. We recently identified some physical reasons why he was probably uncomfortable in the pool and have hopefully fixed them. So, we'll keep trying and see if he comes to accept it. It is

very hard to try to figure out how I could have quit my job, bought a new house and built a pool for Gunny, spent most of my money on a crazy scheme to swim dogs and have my orthopedically challenged Labrador Retriever basically refuse to swim. (That stubbornness has never waned.)

So, I decided to stop trying to figure it out. For the moment, I choose to believe that as usual, Gunny is wiser than me. He knows that there is a lot of good I can do for other dogs; and I sometimes wonder if he isn't making a plan for how to get me through the minutes, hours, days and years after he leaves his chocolate Lab costume and I am left here without him. Between now and then, which hopefully is a long time from now, he will keep making beautiful rainbows and teaching anyone who will listen the lessons that he thinks they need to learn.

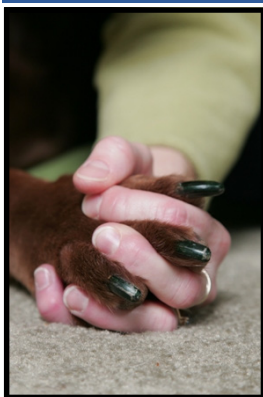
There may not be a proverbial pot of gold at the end of Gunny's Rainbow, but it is indeed a beautiful energy that I am privileged to bathe in every day. 🐾



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Massage for Lymphatic Health

**By Lola Michelin
of Northwest School
of Animal Massage**



One of my favorite aspects of massage and bodywork, and also in my opinion, one of the most overlooked, is massage for support of the lymphatic system. Over

my years in practice, I have found manual lymphatic drainage and other styles of lymphatic drainage to have tremendous impact on all species.

The body is completely dependent on the proper functioning of the lymphatic system, and yet few of us have even a rudimentary understanding of its operation. Not only does the lymphatic system fight off infection and assist in rebuilding cells and tissues that have been damaged, but it acts as a clearinghouse for the body every hour of everyday.

For those of us who practice hydrotherapy, a good analogy might be to think of the filtration system in your pool. Although small in comparison and mostly hidden in the background, it keeps the fluid in your pool circulating in a clean and healthy manner. If your filtration system fails, it isn't long before your pool is out of operation. Plus, during those times when we have to overcome large amounts of unwanted materials in our water, the filtration system has to be robust enough to handle the shock that is

necessary to restore everything to a pristine state.

Think of your lymphatic system in the same way. On a daily basis, it filters and transports materials throughout the body to feed cells, store useful building blocks for later use and remove the harmful ones. When necessary, it has tremendous capacity to work overtime to fight infection or disease. Even a minor glitch in our body's filtration system can spell trouble ahead.

Because the lymphatic system lacks its own central pump, it relies heavily on the contraction of muscles, the movement of the blood in the neighboring vessels and the movement of materials through the digestive track to pull lymphatic fluid along. Any time one or more of these systems is suppressed, you can bet that the lymphatic system will be too. A great example of this is when an animal undergoes surgery. Prior to surgery, the animal is usually fasted and may be immobilized by an injury. Following surgery, the animal may have lower appetite, lower energy levels and may be restricted in their movement. All bad for the lymphatic system at just the time when the body needs to defend itself and heal. This stage could last weeks or month depending on the nature of the surgery. Manual lymphatic drainage provides a replacement for those natural pumping mechanisms and encourages a sluggish system to return to full strength.

Almost all forms of massage support the lymph system when you really think about it. Any work that helps to circulate fluids will encourage

movement through the lymph system. However, when problems occur due to stagnation or failure in the lymphatics, specific techniques that focus on restoring function are called for.

What makes lymphatic techniques even better is that they are so easy to do and are so easily accepted by the recipient. The strokes required are done with almost no pressure and at very slow speeds. A good understanding of the anatomy of the lymph system is all that is required to learn the basic steps.

One example of the tremendous benefits of lymphatic massage occurred during a surgery on a young giraffe at a zoological park. Anesthetizing and operating on a giraffe is quite an undertaking, as you can well imagine. The attending veterinarian in this case had the foresight to request that a massage practitioner be present to massage the muscles of the neck. Giraffe have fragile specialized circulatory paths to the brain and during surgery have been known to experience spasms in the neck muscles that can cause muscle tetany in proportions that can fracture the spine.

What he didn't know was that he had a team of zookeepers that were not only trained to provide massage, but also knew massage specific to the lymph system. Five keepers worked on the giraffe throughout the two hour surgery, positioned at the neck and at each limb where they could keep the lymph fluid travelling from the hooves to the core of the body. As a result, the animal maintained normal

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The Splash !

Massage for Lymphatic Health cont.

(Continued from page 10)

oxygen levels throughout the procedure, recovered from the anesthesia rapidly and without incident, was ambulatory and eating within minutes of recovery and did not experience any of the usual side-effects associated with being incumbent for such a period of time. While it is often difficult to quantify the effects of our work visually, at least in this case we can say that the effects were, well...large.

The location and style of work used during hydrotherapy sessions would certainly seem to lend itself to lymphatic techniques. Since many animals who are going through swim



therapy are often in recovery or rehabilitative stages, this is one more technique that could add significantly to their health.

If you are curious about manual lymphatic drainage techniques, you can learn them as part of the Level 300: Rehabilitation Massage course

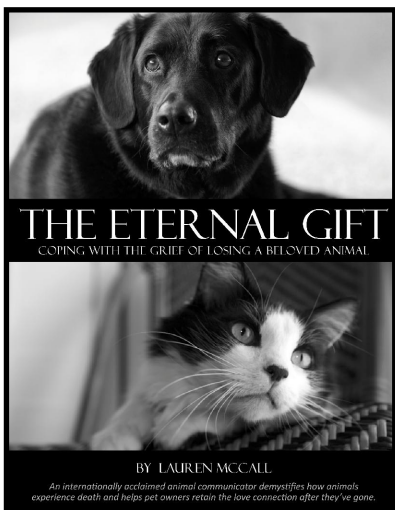
offered at the Northwest School of Animal Massage. Consider joining us to explore this subject more. Remember, as an ACWT member, you always save on education at NWSAM with your professional discount. 🐾

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.

Book Review: The Eternal Gift by Lauren McCall



The best selling pet book in Japan is now available as an eBook in English!

Lauren shares wisdom and lessons from animals who have passed to the Other Side in this comforting book. You'll hear about the life lessons of beloved animals, why they came into our lives, and how we may someday meet again. These words from the heart provide comfort, hope and meaning to animal lovers who are going through the grieving process for their animal companion. Enjoy these lessons of life, truth, wisdom and inspiration from our most loyal and loving friends and companions. This book is available in PDF format. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. \$15.00 at www.integratedanimal.com

Review from Lynda Coote (ACWT Vice President) of Gibsons, BC:

Lauren McCall, an internationally acclaimed animal communicator demystifies how animals experience death and helps their guardians retain the love connection after they have gone. She shares actual conversations from the animals themselves, touching on the Animal's Wheel of Life, the dying process, the nature of love, reincarnation, the Other Side, the eternal essence as well as coping with the grief and loss. Bushwacker explains "...the bonds of love are not limited by the difference in our species. Nor by the dimensions of space and time. Where I am now, love is boundless...".

I had the privilege of studying animal communications with Lauren and her compassionate and empathic spirit continues to shine through the pages of her new book *The Eternal Gift*. 🐾



The Splash !

Growing Puppies Can Benefit from Swimming

By Carrie Smith of
Pawsitively Pooched, Ltd.

Raiden is 5-1/2 months old now and she has been swimming since 8 weeks of age and is LOVING it!!



Originally I had started swimming for socializing her to water...it is such a safe and nurturing environment and very positive. Unlike tossing her into a river or lake and encouraging her back. Tried that with my last dog and didn't work so well! I definitely don't recommend it. So when Raiden was 10 weeks old she had a sick belly and had to go to the doctors to be checked. Luckily it was nothing but when the vet had checked her back legs it hurt her so bad she actually tried to bite him. He said she was going through growing pains. Which makes sense. Large breed puppies grow so quickly that it is painful at times and can cause problems later on in life. So she started swimming every week 2-3 times a day. We focused more on her swimming than going into daycare or off-leash parks. During her rapid growth periods I had also noticed that she would limp on her back legs and it was predominately in her back right leg. I decided it was time to do some research and find ways to help prevent problems for when she is full-grown.

Conditions Commonly Affecting Puppies

OCD (osteochondritis dissecans) is one common skeletal disease in growing puppies which causes lameness or limping in the front or rear legs. This is when there is a defect on the smooth cartilage surface within one or more joints. In some cases, the defect is either a flap or cartilage or crack in the cartilage end of the bone. Sometimes it can correct itself with strict rest but most commonly needs surgery. It is excruciating painful. Causes are from jumping up and down from things and chasing and stopping abruptly.

Panosteitis, also known as growing pains, may occur in more than one bone at a time and cause a shifting of lameness. It occurs in fast growing dogs and may keep recurring until rapid growth is over.

Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD) is an inflammation in the growth plates of the long bones. Symptoms include swelling and pain in the joints which may lead to fever and loss of appetite.

Elbow Dysplasia is an abnormal growth or development in the elbow joint.

Hip Dysplasia is an improper formation of the hip joints.

Luxating Patella is a condition that affects the knee. The patella or knee-cap is attached to the inner surface of the patellar ligament which sits over the middle of the knee joint and glides back and forth. A luxating patella pops out of its groove and moves to one side or another.

So how does swimming help? When puppies are growing, the growth plates are soft cartilage, not yet fully

formed. If the puppy is jumping around or playing too hard it can cause damage to these growth plates. Swimming in warm water helps to lubricate the joints, keep the pressure off the rapidly growing joints and help to realign the body, naturally! The warm water helps to relieve any pain the puppy may be experiencing and helps improve circulation. The puppies are also massaged to help relax the muscles and to release toxins. They are cuddled and loved while in the pool and encouraged to swim. The water is a safe, nurturing and an entirely new experience for them!

Since Raiden has been swimming for months now, she has had absolutely no symptoms of growing pains since she was about 4 months of age. Her gait has improved and she is in excellent body condition. She LOVES the pool. Every morning, the first thing she does is run up on the deck in hopes it is a swim day! 🐾



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Case Report: Kuvasz, FCE & Physical Therapy

By James R. Speiser, DVM
of Indianapolis
Veterinary Referral

HISTORY

This 5 year old male Kuvasz was presented to Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital on April 19, 2008 for acute onset of hind limb paralysis. An entry CBC and serum biochemical profile performed at Purdue University were within normal limits. An orthopedic and neurologic examination revealed positive superficial pain sensation to the rear limbs without voluntary motor function. The patient was incontinent and was leaking urine. A cranial nerve examination, CT scan, and CSF analysis were performed and all revealed no significant findings. A cerebrospinal fluid sample was submitted for cytopathologic analysis and was found to be normal. A urine sample showed that the patient had a urinary tract infection and a culture was submitted. The patient also had been diagnosed with otitis externa. The patient had been initiated on 1000 mg of Amoxicillin by mouth twice daily pending the culture results, and a topical ear medication consisting of Enrofloxacin. A working diagnosis of fibrocartilaginous embolism was established and the patient was referred to Indianapolis Veterinary Referral for rehabilitative evaluation and therapy.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The patient was alert, recumbent and nonpainful. Excoriation was observed bilaterally to each pinna. There was urine staining to the skin of posterior limbs and abdomen. The patient was asymmetrically recumbent with the

left rear limb extended and exhibiting posterior paralysis bilaterally. The paralysis was characterized as flaccid paralysis with weak deep pain sensation, without exhibiting superficial pain sensation to each rear limb. Palpation of the paravertebral, lumbosacral, and multifidus muscles showed no sensitivity, pain, or spasticity. Both hips palpated normally without crepitus or laxity. Each stifle exhibited mild crepitus, however, no drawer sign could be elicited to either stifle and the patella tracked normally in the trochlear groove. The tarsi palpated unremarkably.

TREATMENT GOALS

The owner's treatment goals were to return the patient to being fully ambulatory with fecal and urinary continence.

The three week treatment goals were to see significant voluntary motor to the rear limbs with superficial pain sensation, to see the start of partial weight bearing with the ability to maintain a normal sitting posture with minimal assistance, and to see significant improvement in fecal and urinary continence. The three week goals also included a weight loss of 3 lbs. and to minimize muscle atrophy by maintaining thigh girth to within 5% of the starting value.

Six week goals were to be able to stand without assistance and maintain a standing posture for 5 minutes, to be able to ambulate with 75% weight bearing in both rear limbs and to be capable of a 5 minute walk without collapse. Six week goals also included full urinary and fecal continence, a weight loss of 5 lbs., the capacity to go from a sit to a stand

within 4 seconds, and to be able to maintain a sitting posture without assistance.

The goals for 8 weeks were to be able to fully ambulate at a walk with minimal lameness or paresis, and to be able to run short distances in control without falling. Eight week goals included the ability to go from a sit to stand in less than two seconds and to see a weight loss of 7 lbs.

TREATMENT PLAN

The challenge of rehabilitating this patient was primarily related to the size of the patient and the need to build an adequate cart to suspend the patient so that effective therapy could be accomplished. The treatment plan emphasized minimizing muscle atrophy while utilizing proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation and neurodevelopmental training techniques with other modalities to bring about a functional rehabilitation.

A cart was fabricated from PVC pipe and rollers to allow for the suspension of the patient with extra large slings to allow neurodevelopmental training techniques and to allow the patient to be exercised and rehabbed without excessive strain to the rehabilitation



(Continued on page 14)

Case Report: Kuvasz, FCE & Physical Therapy cont.

(Continued from page 13)

staff and to allow normal exercise of the front limbs. The patient was alternated from side to side every four hours when recumbent and not suspended in the cart. A urinary catheter was placed with a closed collection system to prevent urine scald from incontinence. Laser treatment of the spinal cord from L1-L5 at 12 joules daily was initiated.

Electrical neuromuscular stimulation (NMES) for five minutes at 50 Hz/100 μ s with 5 second ramp, 10 seconds on and 20 seconds off to the lumbar, gluteal, quadriceps, and hamstring muscles of each rear limb was implemented (pictured below).



Muscle tapping and vibration at 50 Hz to the rear limbs and back were performed twice daily, along with limb stroking for 5 minutes.

The patient was placed in the rehabilitation cart three times daily and neurodevelopmental training and proprioceptive neurofacilitation exercises were performed to each rear limb for 25 repetitions three times daily.



The patient was walked 100 ft once daily in the cart to exercise the front limbs and thoracolumbar muscles.

The patient was placed on Amoxicillin at 1 gram/po BID for ten days for the urinary tract infection, and Baytril otic topically to each ear twice daily for otitis. Thigh girth measurements were to be taken each week to the rear limbs. The patient was boarded in the hospital for the first two weeks to allow three times daily therapy to be accomplished around the clock. Once voluntary motor was identified to the rear limbs and the urinary catheter could be removed, then water treadmill work was initiated.

RESULTS

Week One:

Remeasurement of the muscle girth of the rear limbs showed no atrophy of the muscle. A urinalysis and otic examination showed resolution to the urinary tract infection and otitis externa. The patient showed significant improvement to superficial pain sensation to the left limb, but the right

limb did not show superficial pain sensation. The patient demonstrated excellent muscle contraction on E-stimulation to each limb. The urinary catheter was removed and water treadmill work showed the patient's ability to advance and place the left rear limb with no significant movement observed to the right rear limb. Four of the five goals set for the first week were met and the patient had an excellent attitude.

Week Two:

The patient showed remarkable improvements during the second week. At the end of the second week, the patient showed excellent placement of the left rear limb with improved length of step while in the water treadmill.



The right rear limb now showed voluntary motor, with much improved movement and placing, although the length of the stride was short. The patient could bear 80% of his weight of the left rear limb while standing without assistance. He only showed the need for minimal assistance to achieve a sit to stand posture and showed excellent posture of the left leg on sitting. The patient could maintain a sitting position on his own without assistance. The patient had lost 2.5 lbs. while showing no

(Continued on page 15)



The Splash !

Case Report: Kuvasz, FCE & Physical Therapy cont.

(Continued from page 14)

significant muscle atrophy to the rear limbs. Most of the three week goals were met at the end of two weeks except for the weight loss being 0.5 lbs. short of the goal. The patient continued to show an excellent attitude about his treatment.

At 16 days, post-admission, the patient was ambulatory with paresis and was adequately functional for the pet owner to manage the patient at home. Bailey was discharged into his owner's care and was scheduled for twice weekly rehab therapy sessions at Indianapolis Veterinary Referral for an additional 2-3 more weeks.

A home therapy program consisting of three leg standing exercises, sit to stands, stand to sits, and assisted short walks with the sling to improve rear limb strength was initiated.

30 days post-rehab:

The patient exhibited near normal gait and showed continued rapid improvement on the right rear leg. The right rear leg showed mild weakness upon circling to the right. A minimal proprioceptive deficit was still present in the right rear limb with no neurologic deficits identified to the left rear limb. The patient could run at home and was now fully functional. The client's were extremely pleased to have their old dog back.

Discussion:

Five years ago dogs with fibrocartilaginous emboli were considered to have an extremely poor to grave prognosis. Only recently, with the advent of rehabilitative therapy have these patients been able to be fully recovered. Fibrocartilaginous embolism

(FCE) is associated with ischemic necrosis of the spinal cord parenchyma. Spinal cord arteries and veins become occluded with fibrocartilage originating from the nucleus pulposus of the intervertebral disc. FCE can occur at any age, but is most common in adult non-chondrodystrophoid breeds. FCE generally affects dogs between 1-9 years of age of large and giant breed dogs. Clinical signs of FCE usually include neurologic deficits that are asymmetrical and the clinical signs are not progressive. Affected animals do not typically show evidence of pain, although a brief painful incident may be described at the time of embolization.

Diagnosis of FCE is based on excluding other causes of acute myelopathy. Results of plain radiographs are normal, and myelography is typically normal, or shows mild spinal cord swelling at the site of the embolism. MRI evaluation may reveal spinal cord edema on T2 weighted images. Cerebral spinal fluid evaluation is usually normal, but may show mild nonspecific abnormalities including a mild increase in protein or mild pleocytosis and xanthochromia.

Treatment in the past has been primarily supportive care and corticosteroids, although evidence for the use of glucocorticoid therapy is lacking. Only recently has physical therapy been utilized to accomplish good results with fibrocartilaginous emboli. Prognosis for recovery is variable depending on the location and extent of the lesion, however, in the past a poor prognosis was given when lower motor neuron signs, or the size of the animal was excessive, causing difficulties in performing

physical therapy.

This case shows a very large breed dog with a severe fibrocartilaginous embolism which presented with no deep pain on the right and very mild deep pain to the left rear limb. The prognosis in the past would have been extremely poor to grave. Routine canine rehabilitative therapy for fibrocartilaginous embolism was utilized in this patient and afforded a complete recovery for the patient within 30 days. Similar results on several different cases of fibrocartilaginous embolism have all resulted in functional pets that were able to resume a normal lifestyle at home. These results would necessitate the need to reevaluate the poor prognosis which has been given in the past for such cases. 🐾



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Mobility and K9 Happiness

By Barbara Parkes of
K-9 Carts West



Mobility is a major factor in a pet's happiness and keeping them healthy. The ability to walk

and run around freely, being able to do what they want to do when they want to contributes immensely to K9 happiness. I have helped over 35,000 pets over the years and I wish I had kept records of how many animals recovered after using one of our carts.

Last week, a mini 3 year old dapple Dachshund named Daisy came to be fitted to a cart. She had suffered a prolapsed disc three week previously, did not have surgery and although she had feeling in her hind legs, Daisy had to drag herself around. She was sad, trembling and scared. She had been the boss of the house, keeping the other 2 dachshunds in the house in their place and now you could tell she was frightened and lost without her mobility. We fitted her to a K9 cart and as usual, the transformation was amazing. We set the height so that the paws were on the ground and she was able to walk in her cart using her rear



Daisy in her K9 Cart

legs. She walked around, tail wagging furiously and the brightness came back in her eyes. Her owners called when they got home. They had taken all their dogs for a walk and Daisy was having the time of her life back to her old self and was the boss again! There is no doubt in my mind that Daisy will shortly be back to walking without her cart.

Imagine what it must feel like for them not to be able to get up when they want to. They have no idea what has happened to them They do their best to try and struggle to their feet knowing that either they will not make it and have to drag their body along the ground or at best take a few steps and then fall. No more long walks. No more being able to get up and go! It is hard to be happy under these circumstances. They do their best but you can tell by looking into their eyes that they are sad. The tails barely wag, if at all! If they have suffered from a condition such as cervical disc disease, coon paralysis or severe strokes they may be quadriplegic so they cannot even attempt to get up but just have to lay there waiting for their owners to turn them over, bring their food to them and suffer the indignity of soiling themselves.

FUN HAS DEFINITELY DISAPPEARED FROM DAILY LIFE!

Now, imagine yourself one day being suddenly paralyzed or having difficulty walking. You would immediately seek medical help. Depending what was the cause you may have surgery followed by physical therapy and while you were recovering you would be given an aid to help you

stay mobile. It would be hard enough facing the fact that you could no longer get around on your own without the thought of being bedridden but thankfully you have been given a wheelchair, walker or crutches. If you know of anyone who has had back, knee or hip surgery you will know that they make you get up out of bed right away and encourage you to start walking. They do not recommend bed rest for weeks which would lead to muscle atrophy and other problems.

WHY IS A CART NOT IMMEDIATELY OFFERED TO OUR PETS WHEN THEY NEED HELP?

**SURELY THEY DESERVE THE
SAME CARE WE EXPECT
EUTHANASIA IS OFTEN THE
ONLY CHOICE GIVEN!**

OR

**CAGE REST FOR 6 WEEKS
AND LET'S WAIT AND SEE!**

**MOBILITY AID IS NECESSARY
FOR REHABILITATION!**

**MANY HOPELESS CASES
WILL COME BACK TO FULL
MOBILITY BUT THEY NEED A
MOBILITY AID TO HASTEN
AND HELP THE PROCESS
JUST AS WE DO!**

Last month, we fitted Kali, a 5 year old 35lb mixed breed to a fully supportive cart after she had been hit by a car and was unable to support herself in a standing position. Kali only needed a quad cart for 2 weeks and now has moved on to a 2 wheeled cart as she is able to walk and support herself with her front legs. Mobility in the cart allowed her to be in a standing position and allowed spinal

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Mobility and K9 Happiness cont.

(Continued from page 16)

healing to occur while the owners were able to encourage her to walk. Without the cart it would have been difficult to keep this dog healthy and it allowed healing to progress quickly. Let us hope that she makes a full recovery!

Chewbakka is a 13 yr old Rottweiler in the Philippines in a quad cart suffering from an embolism. He is walking in his fully supportive cart longer and longer each time and after one week is now walking unaided for a short distance!



Here is a photo right after Chewbakka did 24feet in one go all without prodding or offer of treats. That was this afternoon on

his fourth day with the K9 Cart. After his achievement he was smiling and his tail was wagging!

LETTERS FROM HAPPY CUSTOMERS

Maudie

First of all I want to thank you for giving "Maudie" our precious little Dachshund back her mobility. She took to the wheels as soon as she was buckled in. We all remarked that she was grinning from ear to ear so happy to be able to go when and where she wanted to again! She has shown signs of recovery (moving her legs and wagging her tail) our vets keep assuring us that she will be able to walk

again in the next few months. Whatever the future brings, we do want to buy the cart so that if she ever needs it again we will have it for her. Thanks again, it is a pleasure doing business with you. Note; You can bet she will be back to walking again very soon!

Scampi

My precious Scampi is now walking and running on all fours. I wanted you to know that your K9 cart was not a small part of her recovery. It reminded her how great it was to RUN again and allowed her to do that when her hind end was limp.

Stella

Stella took to her wheels like a fish to water. She had a little spin around last night when it arrived. And this morning when WE brought her wheels into the room she tried to run to them. Everyone is enjoying their old life-style again.

I could go on and on. The point is that we owe it to pets to offer them a mobility aid while they are recovering. Don't wait – you would not want to. Or in the case of pets with a debilitating condition, get them a cart when they start having problems walking so that they can be happy and enjoy the best quality of life for the time remaining to them. A pet will never stop walking because it is in a K9 cart.

REMEMBER

- * An active dog is a happy dog.
- * Mobility will keep them healthier.
- * Stress is taken off the pet's body when everything is kept in alignment, thus preventing further injuries or mal-alignment of other

limbs.

- * Many, many pets, especially young animals, will recover much faster.
- * If they never recover they will live longer and be happier.
- * Nursing care is much easier for the owner.

Rental carts for temporary mobility after surgery is recommended and will prevent further injury to other parts of the body (the non-surgical leg).



In conclusion, I urge you all to consider cart rentals together with your massage and water therapy and just watch how much happier your patients are and how quickly they will recover their mobility. Call us for information on our cart packages that will enable you to rent out carts to your patients. Several of your colleagues have done this. Please call me about this or any questions you may have. TRUST ME...MOBILITY LEADS TO K9 HAPPINESS! I see and hear about it every single day! 🐾

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Ask The Pool Guru!

So you wanna' build a dog pool?

It's pretty hard to practice canine hydrotherapy without a pool. Without your own, you either have to work for someone else or rent space from them. Wouldn't it be nice if you had your very own pool?

Most of my articles have focused on maintaining existing pools, so this time I thought I'd answer all those folks who ask me about what's needed to BUILD one. So here goes.

First on your mind is probably "how much is it going to cost?". Of course, the answer varies. You might be able to put something together for as little as \$25,000, or you could create something spectacular for \$500,000. Rather than try to cover all the options, I thought I'd tell you about what I did for my pool, which is probably a fairly good representation of a middle-of-the-road facility.

When I started the project, I had estimated and budgeted \$40,000. But I was young and naïve then.

I wanted a pool that was oriented more towards exercise, so I chose a swim spa that is 19' long, 8' wide, and 4'6" deep. We can't hold birthday parties for a dozen dogs here – in fact, we pretty much limit use to one dog at a time, or two in certain circumstances. However, the 3,000 gallon capacity means that we can do a complete water change in a single day (especially important when you have a "poop oopsie"). Cost, including delivery: \$10,000.

This cost was actually a package that included a heater, filter, and pump. However, these are seldom adequate for the needs of a dog pool. Packaged spas are normally designed to be used by one or two people for maybe an

hour a day. When you start using it 6 or more hours a day with furry occupants, you quickly overwhelm the system.

For example, most heaters are designed to maintain water temperature, but the salesmen seldom tell you how long it takes to heat it when first filled. The standard 50K BTU heater that was part of the package would have taken DAYS to heat 3,000 gallons. I upgraded to a 200K BTU gas heater, which I knew would be able to keep up with anything from a 10% top off to a complete water change. Cost: \$1,700

I needed MUCH more filtration than came with the package. I selected a Tagelus sand filter for \$700, and filled it with six bags of Zeolyte filter media for \$300.

For circulation and filtration, I needed something that could turn over the water at least once every two hours. I use (and love) my $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower Pentair WhisperFlo, which sells for around \$600.

I added two jet pumps (not included in the package) to provide a current to swim against. \$1,200 each for a total of \$2,400.

The package included a spa cover (replacement cost \$1,100), but I added cover lifters. These are helpful to both help move the covers on and off and also to hold them while the pool is in use. \$500.

One of my goals was low maintenance, and another was clean healthy water with no harsh chemicals. This led to the selection of a combination ozonator / salt water chlorination system for sanitation. The DelZone TrioPure sanitizer fit the bill for around \$1,500. The high initial cost is

offset by greatly reduced cost for chemicals (an occasional bag of salt for about \$5).

Add another \$300 for some PVC and valves to hook it up, and we're up to \$18,000 – just for the basic pool and systems.

Now, we need a place to put it. Many people make the mistake of thinking that they can just plunk it in a garage or rent space in a strip mall. You *can* do this, but you have to deal with the humidity. This can be expensive to install, but even more expensive if you don't.

Several years ago in the Seattle area we had a home featured in the Street Of Dreams that included an indoor swimming pool. The house was spectacular, with soaring ceilings, window walls, and lots of indoor plants. It was even more spectacular when it came down a few years later. Moisture had gotten into the wood frame, followed by rot and carpenter ants. The multi-million dollar house was a total loss.

It isn't sufficient to simply cover the walls with laminate or fiberglass – if it's a wood frame building, the moisture will find a way into the walls. You must either build a structure designed specifically for pools, or you must REMOVE the humidity.

A serious dehumidifier for a 20 x 30 room can run ten thousand dollars and up once you include venting and installation. I chose to purchase a pool house made entirely of aluminum, glass, and polycarbonate, so I could skip the dehumidifier. I attached it to my existing workshop, where I also placed the equipment and had a changing room built. This, plus the cost of installing the pool and deck

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The Splash!

Ask The Pool Guru! cont.

(Continued from page 18)

came to \$40,000. I also made a serious mistake in this step.



The mistake was in my selection of a contractor. He actually had done some good work in the past that I was able to view. But when he started my project he was overbooked, and I got an inexperienced crew who had no supervision. Cost (so far) to fix all the mistakes: \$15,000. We had to re-plumb most of the circulation system, rebuild the deck, re-grade the floor, and add more drains. At least he didn't take my money and run to Tahiti, although sometimes I think I might have been better off if he had. Make sure you are using a good contractor, and pay them installments as they complete each phase of the project. Hold back at least 20% until the project is complete, including occupancy permit.

This same contractor assured me that the warmth from the pool would be sufficient to heat the room. He was wrong. By this time I knew that a typical room heater wouldn't work – the small electric wall heater in my changing room was already rusting just from the dogs shaking water off their fur. Finding a heater to handle the moist, somewhat salty air was a challenge, but we finally came up with a stainless steel radiant heater made for car washes. Cost of the

heater and installation: \$3,500.

Another necessity is a pool vacuum to remove the sand and dirt that sink to the bottom. You can find hand vacuums for a couple hundred dollars, but in keeping with my "low maintenance" approach I selected a robotic model. I plunk it into the pool in the evening, and by morning it has sucked up the dirt on the bottom and scrubbed the sides of the pool. Cost was \$1,500.

NOT including the \$15,000 to fix the contractor's mistakes, the total so far is \$63,000. I also had to upgrade my electrical panel to handle the extra power requirements, run a gas line to the building, do landscaping around the new pool house, and other miscellaneous items that added up to around \$7,000. So my total to open the pool was \$70,000 – so much for my \$40,000 budget! Remember that this was built on my own property, so I didn't have any expenses for land.

Another thing you need to consider is monthly operating expenses, repairs, and maintenance.

My electric and gas bills doubled. The gas bill made sense, since I was using gas to heat both the water and the pool room, but the electric took me by surprise. The pumps actually draw quite a bit of power, and I run the circulation pump 24/7.

Since I sanitize 'electronically', I have a very small budget for chemicals. If you choose chlorine or bromine, you'll need to account for that. I do regular water changes, and that impacts the water bill. Utilities are higher in the winter than the summer, but on average I spend about \$400 per month for the pool.

Repairs and maintenance will add up

– I budget about \$2,000/year for this. In four years I've had to replace the pool covers, two pumps, ozone and salt cells, and the thermostat and pressure sensor in the pool heater.

Finally, don't forget that as the pool owner you will be responsible for keeping the water chemistry balanced and the systems maintained. You should probably budget around 30 minutes each day, 3 hours one day each week, and a full day once a month. Don't forget to have a plan for when you go on vacation.

I'm not trying to discourage you from building a pool. But if you're considering doing so, you should be aware of all the things that you will need. Going into this project with as much knowledge as possible will help avoid heartache later.

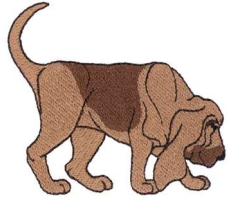
Happy swimming! 🐾

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www.mega-dogs.com

Editor's Note: I agree with Karen that an original budget is hard to stick to. There are always items that come up that add to your final bill that weren't budgeted for. We increased our budget as we learned more about the process and there were items that we upgraded to get a better result. There are times when you will need to bring in sub-contractors at an added cost in order to get a better result. Most contractors are not "do-it-all" experts and you might have to pay extra to get better results. Be sure to ask your contractor lots of questions and get a realistic expectation of the total project cost and outcome. Also, talk to and tour as many facilities as you can to get an idea for the scope of your project and what you may realistically expect.

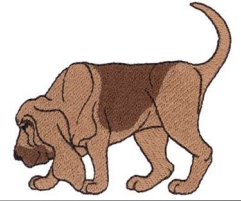


The Splash !



Sniff This!

~A Look at Products NEW to our Industry~



Canine Swim Safe Flotation Vest!

Flotation Protection for Small Breeds with Patented Anti-Roll-Over Protection!



How It Differs From Other Canine Vests

- * Protects small breed dogs whose short legs lack sufficient range of motion under water to counter roll-over and will drown unless rescued.
- * Prevents dangerous roll-over and drowning. Canine Swim Safe allows your pet to float on a flat plane and provides 360° protection with frontal, lateral and rearward flotation.
- * Made in Maine, USA in a certified facility that also manufactures for the US Military. All materials are top of the line.
- * Won't deflate and can't be punctured as other patented system may.

The Safest for Boaters!

- * Stop worrying about your small breed passenger, especially on the deck.
- * Prevents drowning by providing lateral stabilization.
- * Keeps your canine friend's head above the water.

Allays the Fears of Water-Timid Dogs!

- * Allays the fear of water-timid dogs while being introduced into the water by providing a flat plane on which to float.

Five sizes for a perfect fit for every dog.

Size	Price	Length (**)	Collar/Neck (**)	Chest (**)
XS	\$80	11 1/2	6—8	10—18
S	\$85	13 1/2	8—13	19—25
M	\$90	16	14—19	26—31
L	\$95	17 1/2	20—24	32—36
XL	\$100	20 1/2	24—28	36—42



Fynn Fisher (who owns Editor Sandy Fisher) gave the Canine Swim Safe a Paws Up!

For more information and to order, visit: www.canineswimsafe.com

ACWT Members receive a 10% discount on their order...see page 23 for more details!



"Cordelia Brown's painful, enlarged, arthritic elbow makes it hard for her to walk very far or to play. Swimming is her only option for aerobic exercise. Other flotation devices were helpful in increasing the duration of her swim sessions, but they were bulky along her sides which required her to point her elbows outward to clear the jacket. With her bad elbows, this caused her pain after her sessions. The Canine Swim Safe supports her weight in the pool while still allowing her front legs to move naturally and allows her entire body to float and swim at a normal depth and position. She likes it!" Cordelia swims at K9 Aquatics in Sammamish, WA.



The Splash !

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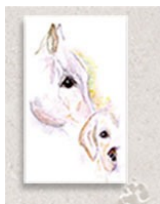
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NSPF Certified Pool/Spa Operator

Basic knowledge, techniques, and skills of pool and spa operations.

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The Splash !

Supporting Business Member Spotlight

Critters Inflatable Pet Life Jacket

Critter's Inflatable® Pet life jacket is an inflatable pet life jacket than can be used in fully automatic CO2 inflation mode or be orally inflated so as not to use up a CO2 cylinder. This inflatable life jacket can be extremely helpful in canine water training and therapy; and especially helpful for muscular breeds like the English bulldog. Critter's Inflatable® can be orally inflated to meet the buoyancy needs for customized canine water therapy. The advantage over foam life jackets is that there is buoyancy directly under the dog's neck to help keep its airway out of the water, and you can adjust the



amount of buoyancy you need by blowing into the oral inflation tube or let air out by the relief valve located on the end of this tube. Critter's Inflatable® comes in three sizes: small (for up to 15 lbs), medium (10 to 40 lbs) and large (35 to 200 lbs). **Members of the ACWT may receive a 20% service discount on all orders of Critter's Inflatable® .**

A Happy Customer's Story

Dear Critters Inflatable,

I had to write and thank you for a fantastic product! I have spent three years trying to find a suitable life jacket for my 57 lb. English bulldog, who loves to swim but of course tends to sink like a rock without flotation assistance. I bought and tried several different kinds of canine life vests. None offered this barrel-chested, compact dog the kind of support her body needs for swimming. Additionally, most standard canine life vests do not go beneath the neck and help keep the chin above water----which was the factor that caused Truly the most trouble while she swam. I am thrilled to report that Truly, now outfitted with a Critters Inflatable life jacket (with manual cap and orally inflated), is one happy pup! Instead of quickly tiring and having to continue going to shore to catch her breath and snort out nosefulls of water, Truly spent the afternoon swimming easily in her Critters Inflatable. I actually had to entice her out of the water with a bag of treats! She can easily walk and run around on shore with the jacket on, and once she hits the water, it rises up and tucks neatly around her body and beneath her chin, keeping her head and body out of the water and allowing her an easy swim. Thank you so much for your thoughtful design (the new around-the-head strap is a nice addition) and a great product. Truly and I are thrilled. Sincerely, Erin Giebink

About Truly: She is a 3-year-old female English Bulldog, loves to splash around, swim, and retrieve sticks from the water. We live in a lakeside house in Southeast South Dakota, where (when she's not swimming) she will stand for hours on the dock watching a bobber and waiting for someone to reel in a fish.



For more information and to order, visit: www.crittersinflatable.com

ACWT Logos Available For Your Use!



The ACWT logos can be used on your website and on your business publications to show your affiliation with The Association of Canine Water Therapy!



Visit the Members Only section of the ACWT website.



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

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



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



FLYING PAWS

Product: The Big Dog Belly Lift
Level of Membership: All members
Discount Amount: The Big Dog Belly Lift retails for \$39.95 but ACWT members can purchase for \$27
Website: www.flyingpaws.biz



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Product: ProCollar®
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CRITTERS INFLATABLE

Product: Critters Inflatable Life Vest
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Discount Amount: 20% off
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Product: Flotation vest with anti-rollover protection
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To Make A Splash
Over At The IAAMB!!!



See You There!!!

Please continue to write and
share your stories and inspirations!

You can send them to
sandy@k9aquatics.com or
cindy@lapawspa.com
in addition to info@iaamb.org
and we will all work to get them published.