



# The Splash !

The Official Newsletter of The Association of Canine Water Therapy

*Dedicated to and Inspired by the Dogs in our Lives*

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fall 2007

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## Looie the Wonderdog!

*By Heavenly Spa  
Fall City, WA*



Looie started out life as a puppy that was used for bait in dog fighting. Craig Mosher was a policeman trying to catch the scoundrels who were breeding the puppies for bait and making money off the fights. When Craig and his partner busted in, two of the bad guys took off on a run with Looie and his sister – they wanted to take the puppies because they were

evidence. Looie was eventually dumped in the chase, but fortunately he was dumped in a veterinarians office yard. Looie was found in bad shape. The vet went to work patching him together again through an amazing circumstance - Craig adopted him! Craig and his partner didn't catch all of the bad guys, but they were able to convict at least two of the crooks associated with the ring. Craig and Looie became best buddies. Craig is a devoted dog father and takes wonderful care of Looie.

Our therapist, Carol Swindaman, was so touched by this story that she wanted to invite Craig and Looie to visit the spa to have Looie get some therapy courtesy of the Heavenly Spa Fund. There was only one slight problem, Craig and Looie live in Spokane.

Craig (and Looie) are all about overcoming obstacles. So, with just a little coordination on hotels, dates and times, we were able to host Craig and Looie in the spa in the early part of July. Craig drove over from Spokane and checked into the Motel 6 in Issaquah. After dropping off his luggage, he and Looie headed to Fall City for their first swim session on Thursday. Carol expertly guided Looie into the pool and gave him a great workout.

Carol shares the experience with us: "It was a thrill to meet Craig and Looie when they came to swim. I also have a dog with paralysis issues and I could relate to all that Craig and his dog have gone through and were doing every day. When I saw the story on King 5, I had to have him come swim with me.

Looie was a natural swimmer. I put a vest on him, put him in my lap and

*(Continued on page 3)*



# The Splash !

## President's Message

**We are listening to you!!!**

As we wrap up our 3rd successful year of business here at the Association of Canine Water Therapy, we are well over 100 members strong... and we are dedicated to you....

We have been listening to the requests of members to lower the renewal rates and I am pleased to announce that the size of our membership now allows this. When you open your renewal dues statement this year, most of you will notice a reduction in the renewal rates.... And we all thank you for your continued support.

We have also been listening to your requests for a PRINTED NEWSLETTER that would be mailed to ALL members... and starting with this issue, we have done just that! From now on, at no extra charge, all levels of membership will not only have access to an online PDF version of the newsletter as you always have, but you will also receive a printed newsletter in the mail. In order to make this possible, we will be publishing the newsletter only 3 times each year instead of 4... but it will be bigger, better and in full color print ... so keep an eye on your mail box!

We are proud to announce that another big goal of the ACWT has become a reality. We are now the first place most people go to find a pool. We are being broadcast on National TV, Radio and supporting websites as the place to go to find a pool/therapist who is dedicated to the safe practices of canine warm water therapy....Wow.

Member Benefits and Discounts keep getting more and more exciting. This month we are thrilled to announce that the Northwest School of Animal Massage has joined our Association and is offering generous discounts on their well known educational programs. Read more about this on page 22.

As we grow, we also continue to change with the needs of our members. Please continue to write in and express your needs and share your stories.

Have a blessed holiday season and may 2008 be the best ever!!!

*Cindy*

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**The Association of Canine Water Therapy**

325 E. Washington Street ~ #237

Sequim, WA 98382

[www.caninewatertherapy.com](http://www.caninewatertherapy.com)



*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](http://www.browneyesgallery)*

## Looie the Wonderdog! cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

away he went. Looie's upper body is fully muscled and overdeveloped so he had no problem swimming the



length of the pool smiling the whole time happy that he was on another new adventure. From all of the walking and running on his track, he is in great cardio condition as well. I did get him to stop and rest for some massage and range of motion work which he enjoyed. While swimming, I worked with his rear legs and spine which he could move forward ever so slightly. Pat Cool and I both worked on him for 10 minutes together in an attempt to soften some of the tightness over his shoulders and back.



*Pat Cool (left) and Carol Swindaman (right) of Heavenly Spa with Looie*

Craig and Looie are just one example of what humans can do to fix what

other humans destroy. Looie is a poster dog for the great dogs this breed can be. Working with Craig and Looie was a special privilege and one I will never forget."

Here is the full story as told by his devoted Dad, Craig Mosher. Craig is retired from the US Army, a retired police officer, and a two-time purple heart recipient.

**I**t was, I think, January 2001. I was driving around on patrol in Pacific Grove, California on midnight shift when my then-wife called me and



*Craig Mosher (left) with Looie and family friends*

said "You have to see this little Angel". She told me she had just seen the KSBW news SPCA piece on rescue's and this particular dog caught her eye. She said he looked like a Pit bull about 14 weeks old. We did not know the circumstances of his short life but were going to find out the hard way.

The next day we found out where the little guy was staying and it was in Pacific Grove - go figure! We called the rescue caregiver and asked if we could come over and see the little guy they had named "Ahab".

We went inside her house and were asked to sit down. She was very nice as she was telling us that Ahab was thought to be used as "bait" in a Pit Bull fight several weeks earlier in Seaside, California. I thought to myself - could this be one of the dogs we could not find after assisting other officers on a mutual aid call several weeks earlier? That would be too much of a coincidence.

The caregiver asked us to wait while she went to get "Ahab". All of a sudden, we heard nails on the hardwood floor and he ran around the corner with a plastic tube sticking out of his neck! The caregiver said it was for drainage. Ahab (aka Looie) had an eight inch wound around his neck, which had been ripped open by two intact males during a dog fight. His left shoulder had been ripped open to the bone and he had numerous stitches. His left eye lid was torn and he had cuts on his face.

We took him home and he became a best friend not only to us but also to our other Pit Bull, Hank. We slowly nursed him back to health, even after numerous other surgeries for infection and knee problems. I had never seen an animal in such pain. He would wimper to the point of shaking during the night. We would stay up with him to let him know we were there for him, no matter what. He was on his way to a good life.

After my retirement in 2002, we moved to Nine Mile Falls, Washington. We had Looie, Hank, and had picked up a beautiful Rottwieler puppy and named her "Sara" because

*(Continued on page 4)*



# The Splash !

## Looie the Wonderdog! cont.

(Continued from page 3)

it just fit her. All went fine until January 2004. The dogs were playing in the back yard when we heard a yelp. Looie was limping and his hind end was low to the ground. He was having a problem walking for some reason. After taking him to our vet we learned he had blown his left knee out and had a possible spine injury. Oh God no - after all he had been through already? Why would this happen now?

I drove him to Washington State University for the knee surgery because our vet said he had other problems he could not fix and needed

to have an MRI on his spine. The Neurosurgeon said Looie had an extra vertebrae and he had been in pain "all his life" but did not show it because of the pack animal mentality of weakness. He said he would remove the vertebrae and, after recovery, do the knee surgery. I agreed and said "Do what you have to". Looie was well worth it. I left him at WSU and drove home with my stomach in knots. The surgery was the next day. Our boy was going to be fine we thought. Good as new.

I was in the back yard when I heard my wife scream at me "Its the Vet at WSU, Looie is paralyzed!" She fell to her knees and started crying uncontrollably. I took the phone and was told by the Doctor, who was in tears, that during the surgery he was removing a bone around the spine and the bone broke. He said he touched the spinal cord and did not know if it did any damage or not but that Looie

could be paralyzed. I told him I would be down the next day.

Looie did not recover after a month at WSU and putting him down was NOT an option for us. It was NOT his fault. His hind legs were now useless but his love was not. He seemed to accept that he could not walk and

*I was in the back yard when I heard my wife scream at me... "Its the Vet at WSU, Looie is paralyzed!"*

began to compensate for his disability. He had to be voided at least four times a day along with other things. We made a strict schedule for him and did not waiver from it. He was our boy and that was it.

In July of 2005, my wife and I separated and she took Hank and Sara the Rottie with her. I thought to myself, "Now what do I do? I have a paraplegic dog, a rescue Burro (that's another story altogether), a rescue goat and other animals." I told myself I will just do what it takes and that is what I have to do.

Now that I was alone with the most kind, loving and gentle soul I had ever known, Looie Armstrong Mosher, I slowly began putting my life and his back together. Looie's schedule is strict. At 4:00am, get up and void his bladder, etc.; again at about 9am; and again at around 3:30pm and finally at about 8:30pm or so. He is the first thing I see in the morning and the last thing I see at night.

Looie has been to the University of North Carolina twice for experimental spinal surgery. It did not work, but I have learned a lot in the process. I

keep going with this precious angel at my side. He is my very best friend and licks my face off at every opportunity. It's like he is saying "Thanks Dad for helping me make it every day". He is and has been a joy to be around. After our divorce, he was and is my rock.

In March of this year I contacted the Spokesman Review Newspaper and asked if they would be interested in doing a "human" interest story. I told a capsule of Looie's story. I got a quick response and a reporter was sent to my house several days later. I wanted to leave a legacy about Looie and this was one way of doing it. He is worth remembering and respecting. He never gives up. Never stops trying. See Looie's video at: <http://www.spokesmanreview.com/blogs/video/archive.asp?postID=238>.

After this video aired, I was getting e-mail from as far away as Canada and New York. I got a call from a Joanna Chong from King 5 News in Seattle about a month or so later. She had seen the video and wished to do another story on Looie. She actually drove all the way from Seattle with a video journalist. The piece aired and I was flooded with e-mail. Looie's legacy was set!

I received one special e-mail from a place I had never heard of, in a city I had never heard of: Fall City, Washington. It was called Heavenly Spa. "Spa?" I thought. I made contact with a wonderful woman named Carol Swindaman. She invited Looie and I over for a therapy session at the spa facility in Fall City.

(Continued on page 5)



# The Splash !

## Looie the Wonderdog! cont.

(Continued from page 4)

I wanted Looie to have some fun so I booked the session for July 6th and 8th and off we went. Looie had never traveled that far in a car or truck so I was taking a chance. The trip was not only worth the time but it was a pleasure to be at Heavenly Spa.

Good positive energy was all over the facility. Looie swam for the first time thanks to Carol. He was like a motor boat! He felt more than comfortable with Carol who was so gentle and kind and professional. I wish I was a dog. Looie and I enjoyed the experience so much that we are going back in November for a training class.



Looie and Carol

Driving from Spokane to Fall City? I would not do this if I did not feel comfortable and welcome.

With the recent headlines involving Michael Vick, Looie is a constant reminder of just how cowardly, cruel

and despicable humans can be to defenseless animals who would give their life for you. From being used as a piece of meat (bait) for a dog fight, lying outside a Vet clinic alongside his dead sister for God knows how long bleeding to death, numerous surgeries to repair damage to his neck, eye and shoulder, knee surgeries on top of that and then being paralyzed, he is still kind, gentle, loving and trusting. I would not trade our life for anything and would do it again. What a privilege and an honor it is to take care of a true HERO: Loois Armstrong Mosher. My BEST friend.

## Handy Hints



Keep the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center toll-free emergency number and website address handy with your free magnet or static cling. They are the only center in North America with the specialized expertise your very special pet deserves. Visit [www.aspc.org/freemagnet](http://www.aspc.org/freemagnet)

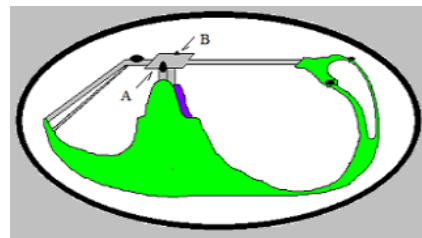
*This Handy Hint submitted by ACWT Member Karen Theusen.*



In the last issue we talked about options for urinary incontinence and Duffy (pictured at left) wanted to show off his solution...

**Tinkle Trousers**  
[www.tinkletrousers.com](http://www.tinkletrousers.com)

Tinkle Trousers are dog diapers that are made of a waterproof nylon fabric, and are used in conjunction with a disposable baby diaper/pad.



### **A note from our President, Cindy Horsfall:**

"I was thrilled when I saw Duffy in his Tinkle Trousers (who makes up these cute names anyway???). The reason why I was thrilled is that last year I had a client who used the conventional diaper on her dog and then spent an hour each day making suspenders out of duct tape and now here we have it!!! The TINKLE TROUSER with suspenders !!! I think this product really addresses the challenge of keeping the diapers on. A friend of Duffy has actually used these (a smaller size) on her CAT. It has made all the difference and allows her kitty to be involved in the house and in the pack as he can no longer spray with his trousers on."





# The Splash !

## August 2007 ACWT Summer BBQ Highlights

**Held on August 19, 2007 at Happy Tails Resort & Spa in Auburn, WA**

**Members in Attendance:** Beth Meyer (owner of Happy Tails Resort & Spa), Cindy Hickman, Sandy Fisher, Doris Kopp, Heidi Hague, Cassie Sawyer, Joyce Biethan, Erin Hopkins and Bri Baarstad.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr. Kimo Jow of Auburn Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Diane Driscoll of Twin Lakes Veterinary Hospital in Federal Way

**Agenda:** The Benefits of Magnetic Therapy for Dogs by Dr. Kimo Jow, the Benefits of Canine Acupuncture by Dr. Diane Driscoll and a display of various mobility aids and products that can be useful to our industry.

The BBQ got started around noon on a rainy Pacific Northwest Day. Happy Tails Resort & Spa is located just south of Seattle, Washington next to Flaming Geyser State Park. It is

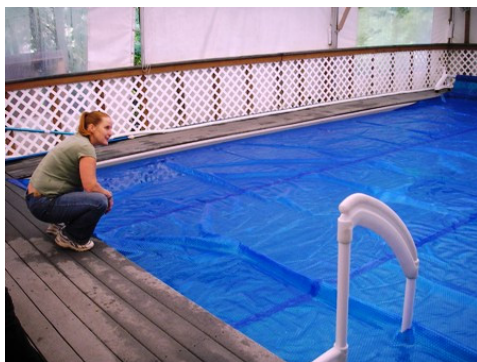


located on several acres and is a gorgeous locale.



Everyone enjoyed a delicious Salmon BBQ with lots of yummy dishes brought by members. The desserts were incredible!

After lunch, Beth gave everyone a tour of the pool (see below).

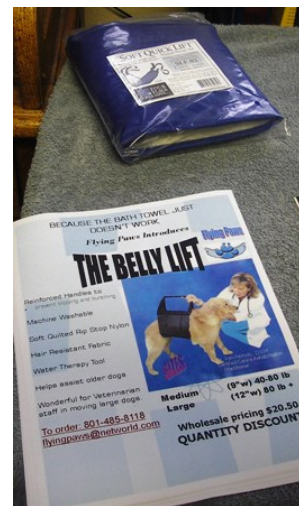


There were lots of sample products for everyone to view and see in person. Many of our members who distribute products provided a sample that we could display. Beth and Sandy

also displayed many of their personal items as well so everyone could see what is available on the market for our industry.



*The Animal Suspension Technology Support Suit (ACWT Member Discount Item)*



*The Belly Lift and Quick Lift*

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### Disclaimer

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# The Splash!

## August 2007 ACWT Summer BBQ Highlights cont.

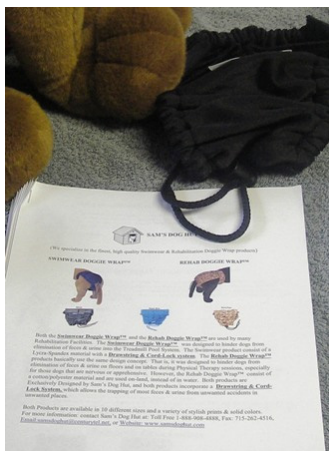
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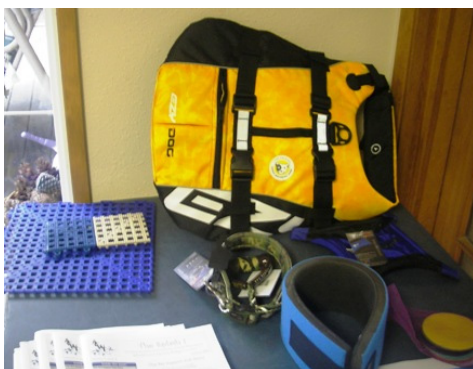
K9 Carts



Gold Canyon Candles  
(Amy North is an ACWT Member and provides candles for our raffle prizes)



Sam's Dog Hut Swimwear Wraps  
(ACWT Member Discount Item)



Various other products were on display, including life vests, flooring, WATSU floats, neoprene collars and toys



K-9 Kozy Pool Wrap  
(ACWT Member Discount Item)

dogs. He displayed various products which can be used in treating injuries and can aid in fighting disease. Beth also shared some remarkable stories as she is very familiar with using various magnetic tools along with water therapy. Visit [www.niken.com](http://www.niken.com) for more information and to view products available.

Dr. Diane Driscoll made a presentation on the benefits of acupuncture for dogs. Acupuncture is a very safe treatment option that can help manage pain resulting from surgical procedures, musculoskeletal disorders, cancer along with many other conditions.



Bri, Erin, Cassie, Cindy and Joyce

Raffle tickets were distributed and winning tickets drawn: Beth won a Gold Canyon votive candle with holder and a scented bookmark provided by Amy North. Cassie won a dog toy (provided by Sandy Fisher of K9 Aquatics). Joyce won an ACWT tank top (provided by Cindy Horsfall of LaPawSpa) and Bri won the gift basket which included some ear and eye drops, doggie spray, a tennis ball and a Gold Canyon car scent (provide by Sandy Fisher of K9 Aquatics).

Thanks to Dr. Jow and Dr. Driscoll for spending their Sunday afternoon with us. Thanks to everyone that ventured out into the rain to join us for our BBQ. And thank you most of all to Beth for hosting us! It was a fun and fascinating day.



Dr. Kimo Jow made a presentation on the benefits of magnetic therapy for



# The Splash !

## ★ New Member Spotlight: Raintree Enterprises LLC ★

By Barry Vanslager, BS, MS

The Rear Booster was created out of necessity. My boy Jonah, a Newfoundland, injured his ACL while



Jonah and Emmy Lou

learning to swim. The poor boy was so dense, that he would sink butt-first into the lake. Providing him with some lift in his rear, the Rear Booster was born.

However, because he tore his ACL from walking on the bottom of the lake hyper-extended, he would twist to return to shore with his ball. Over two summers, he tore his ACL.

Knowing this from previous experiences with my first Newf, I knew what had to be done and knew the orthopedic surgeon to contact.

Using a prototype of the first Rear Booster to haul Jonah in for an exam,

my orthopedic surgeon wanted to know "Where I got that" (pointing to the sling). When I told him that I made it, he said that he had never seen anything like that in his 40 years of orthopedic surgery and said that "There is a need in the veterinary field for this device and that I should develop it further". He also had a company and distributors in place that would be able to help should I decide to manufacture this sling.

As a result, I began to experiment with techniques in construction, design, product feasibility, suppliers, cost factors, trademarks, lawyers, shipping and markets. I believed that by sending out samples, I would get my answers regarding the feasibility of this device. My local veterinarian also said I should pursue selling the Rear Booster and asked if I would build her one.

As a humanitarian gesture, I sent free samples to several universities. It was quite a surprise when several CRT's (Certified Rehabilitation Technicians) told me that my device was a wonderful rehabilitation sling when used in conjunction with underwater treadmill systems. This is the bright side of the story regarding the development of my sling.

However, there is also the dark side on how it was used on Jonah... the necessity, the emotional pain, the daily worrying, time factor, lost days of work, depression, cost factor and hopelessness!

Jonah's immune system attacked his implants...all of them. This included, wire, stitches, plates, screws... everything! He had 6 operations over a 10 month period of time...all on the same knee. Each round trip to his orthopedic specialists was 300 miles. There were 23 trips. Jonah weighed 166 pounds and lost 25pounds over the course of a year. The atrophy in his right leg diminished it in circumference by 50%. I drove over 3,500 miles; sometimes making 2 round trips during the work week. I sometimes went without sleep and rest. The initial cost of his operations pushed \$5,000+ at which time, Jonah's surgeon said that we "had suffered enough and that he was picking up the cost from here on out"!

He picked up at least an additional \$13,000 in total cost, including medications (\$3,500), X-rays (\$700), compression wraps (\$100 each) and free medical exams. By any pet owner's book, he is a saint!!

*"Jonah's immune system attacked his implants... all of them. This included, wire, stitches, plates, screws... everything!"*

Jonah's operations included CCL surgeries (2), an infection, a TPLO & an MPL (medial patellar luxation). However, between the draining for 3-4 months and changing his water bed sheets twice a day, everyday,

using the Rear Booster saved him from tearing out his opposite knee because of the terrific strain that he exerted on it 6-8 times a day! I dedicated all my time, energy & money to get him well, to say the least!

*(Continued on page 9)*



## ★ New Member Spotlight: Raintree Enterprises LLC ★

*(Continued from page 8)*

Lastly, because his immune system rejected all the implants, what went in, had to be taken out. As a result, there was always another operation on his knee to take out what was implanted. It was a never-ending plight of having a sick feeling in your stomach 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week, wondering if he will ever return to normal. At the time, he was only 2 years old!

Today, he is fine. Having nearly fully recovered, he is 4 years old and is pictured in the Rear Booster brochure with me.



You can only imagine how happy my wife and I are to be able to say that.

Now, with the pain gone, we are able to research and develop our Rear Booster in the hope that it will help other pet owners, CRT's and Vet Technicians who handle post-surgical dogs and other rehab canine water pool and pet owners who need some-

thing like this. Maybe that is why Jonah & I had to go through what we did because maybe, just maybe, the Rear Booster might never have been invented!

Lastly, the name of the "Saint" who operated on Jonah and was responsible for his well being first without regard to financial gain is Dr. Timothy Lee, DVM, owner of Northwood Animal Emergency Referral Hospital in Anderson, Indiana. In a small way, mentioning his name and clinic would be, in part, the least I can for him to show my thanks and gratitude in saving Jonah's life. Assisting him with the TPLO & MPL was Dr. Jacqueline Mair, DVM, M.B.A.

### The Many Uses of the Rear Booster

Special offer for ACWT Members...See page 22 for details!



*For breeds that are low to the ground like this 70 lb. Bassett Hound, the Rear Booster was a great aid in getting her off the ground even when lying down. The Rear Booster solved a mobility problem for the owner because her Bassett would not want to maneuver the steps to the front door and would not go inside on command!*

## Canine Anatomy: Patella

The patella or knee cap is a small bone buried in the tendon of the extensor muscles (the quadriceps muscles) of the thigh. The patella normally rides in a femoral groove within the stifle (Figure 1a). The patellar tendon attaches on the tibial crest, a bony prominence located on the tibia, just below the knee. The quadriceps muscle, the patella and its tendon form the “extensor mechanism” and are normally well-aligned with each other. Patellar luxation is a condition where the knee cap rides outside the femoral groove when the stifle is flexed (Figure 1b). It can be further characterized as medial or lateral, depending on whether the knee cap rides on the inner or on the outer aspect of the stifle.



*Figure 1. Anatomy of the canine knee: a- Normal position of the knee cap (patella) viewed from the outer aspect of the knee. b- Medial patella luxation viewed from the front of the knee: the knee cap*

*rides out of the femoral groove and the attachment of the patella tendon on the tibia is displaced.*

### ***Incidence of Patellar Luxation***

Patellar luxation has recently been described as the most common congenital anomaly in dogs, diagnosed in 7% of puppies. Patellar luxation affects both knees in 50% of all cases, resulting in discomfort and bilateral lameness. In most studies, small-breed dogs are 10 times more commonly affected than large dogs, especially the Boston Terrier, Chihuahua, Pomeranian, miniature poodle and Yorkshire terrier. A recent study of breed susceptibility for developmental orthopedic diseases found a predisposition for patellar luxation in 32 breeds, including larger dogs such as Chinese Shar Pei, flat-coated Retriever, Akita and Great Pyrenees.

### ***Epidemiology of patella luxation***

- ◆ Dogs with patellar luxation are born with the disease (congenital) in 82% of cases
- ◆ Both knees are affected in 50% of all cases
- ◆ The luxation is medial in 98% of small dogs, around 80% in medium and large-breed dogs and 67% of giant-breed dogs

- ◆ Females are 1.5 times more likely to be affected than males.

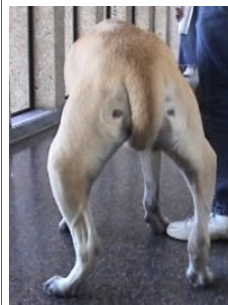
### ***Causes***

Although the cause of patellar luxation remains unclear, early diagnosis of bilateral diseases in the absence of trauma and breed predisposition are suggestive of a congenital or developmental misalignment of the extensor mechanism.

Possible causes include:

- ◆ Abnormal conformation of the hip joint, such as hip dysplasia;
- ◆ Malformation of the femur, with angulation and torsion (Figure 2);
- ◆ Malformation of the tibia;
- ◆ Deviation of the tibial crest, the bony prominence onto which the patella tendon attaches below the knee;
- ◆ Tightness/atrophy of the quadriceps muscles, acting as a bowstring;
- ◆ A patellar tendon that may be too long or too short

Although the femoral groove into which the knee cap normally rides is shallow (Figure 5, pg. 12) or absent in a majority of cases, patellar luxation is no longer considered an isolated disease of the knee.



*Figure 2. “Bow-legged” appearance of a dog with hip dysplasia, malformed femurs and severe medial patellar luxation.*

### ***Signs and Symptoms***

Clinical signs associated with patella luxation vary greatly with the severity of the disease: this condition may be an incidental finding detected by your veterinarian on a routine physical examination or may cause your pet to carry the affected limb up all the time. Most dogs affected by this disease will suddenly carry the limb up for a few steps, and may be seen shaking or extending the leg prior to regaining its full use. As the disease progresses in duration and severity, this lameness becomes more frequent

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Canine Anatomy: Patella cont.

(Continued from page 10)

and eventually becomes continuous. In young puppies with severe patella luxation, the rear legs often present a “bow-legged” appearance that worsens with growth (Figure 2).

### **When to Seek Veterinary Advice**

You should seek veterinary surgical advice if you have any concern about the gait of your pet or if your primary veterinarian advises you to do so. The severity of patella luxation has been graded on a scale of 0 to 4, based on orthopedic examination of the knee. Surgical treatment is typically considered in grades 2 and over:

- ◆ Grade I: Can be luxated, but reduces without manipulation
- ◆ Grade II: Can be reduced by manipulation
- ◆ Grade III: Spontaneous luxation found at least once in standing - Reducible
- ◆ Grade IV: Irreducible luxation.

Your regular veterinarian may wish to refer you to a surgeon specializing in orthopedic disease for treatment of patellar luxation if it requires surgery. To find an ACVS certified surgeon in your area, visit [www.acvs.org](http://www.acvs.org).

### **Exam, Screening Tests, and Imaging**

The diagnosis of patella luxation is essentially based on palpation of an unstable knee cap on orthopedic examination. Additional tests are often required to diagnose conditions often associated with patella luxation:

- ◆ Palpation to assess damage to ligaments;
- ◆ Radiographs of the pelvis, knee and occasionally tibias to evaluate the shape of the bones in the rear leg and rule out hip dysplasia (Figure 3);
- ◆ 3-dimensional computed tomography provides an image of the skeleton of the entire rear legs; this advanced imaging technique helps the surgeon plan surgery in cases where the shape of the femur or tibia needs to be corrected (Figure 4);
- ◆ Blood work and urine analysis are usually recommended prior to anesthesia.

### **What Will Happen If Patella Luxation is Left Untreated?**

Every time the knee cap rides out of its groove, cartilage (the normal lining of bones within joints) is damaged, leading to osteoarthritis and associated pain. The knee cap



Figure 3 (left). Pre-operative radiographs of a Cavalier King Charles with hip dysplasia and bilateral patella luxation. The knee cap can be visualized on the inner aspect of the knee on one side (arrow).



Figure 4 (right). Pre-operative computed tomographic evaluation of a dog with severe patella luxation (block arrow), internal rotation of the tibia and cranial cruciate rupture. Because the tibia is turning inward, the hock is displaced outward (arrow).

may ride more and more often out of its normal groove, eventually exposing areas of bone. In puppies, the abnormal alignment of the patella may also aggravate the shallowness of the femoral groove and lead to serous deformation of the leg. In all dogs, the abnormal position of the knee cap destabilizes the knee and predisposes affected dogs to rupture their cranial cruciate ligament, at which point they typically stop using the limb.

### **What Options are Available for Treating Patellar Luxation?**

Patellar luxations that do not cause any clinical sign should be monitored but do not typically warrant surgical correction, especially in small dogs. Surgery is considered in grades 2 and over. One or several of the following strategies may be required to correct patella luxation:

- ◆ Reconstruction of soft tissues surrounding the knee cap to loosen the side toward which the patella is riding and tighten the opposite side;
- ◆ Deepening of the femoral groove so that the knee cap can seat deeply in its normal position (Figure 5);
- ◆ Transposing the tibial crest, bony prominence onto which the tendon of the patella attaches below the knee (Figure 5). This will help realign the quadriceps, the

(Continued on page 12)

## Canine Anatomy: Patella cont.

(Continued from page 11)

patella and its tendon.

- ◆ Correction of abnormally shaped femurs is occasionally required in cases where the knee cap rides outside of its groove most or all the time. This procedure involves cutting the bone, correcting its deformation and immobilizing it with a bone plate (Figure 6).

The procedures that will best address the problem are selected on an individual basis.

### Postoperative Care

Pain medications may be prescribed for a week after surgery. Physical therapy, with compresses and gentle, passive flexion and extension of the knee may be recom-

Figure 5.

a- Skyline view of a normal canine knee: the patella rides in the femoral groove.

b-Pre-operative view: Shallow femoral groove with a knee cap riding outside of its groove.

c- Post-operative view: The femoral groove has been deepened so that the knee cap now appears well-seated. The tibial crest has been moved toward the outer aspect of the knee to restore the alignment of the patella tendon and thigh muscles. Wires (arrow) have been inserted into the tibia to immobilize the tibial crest in its new position.

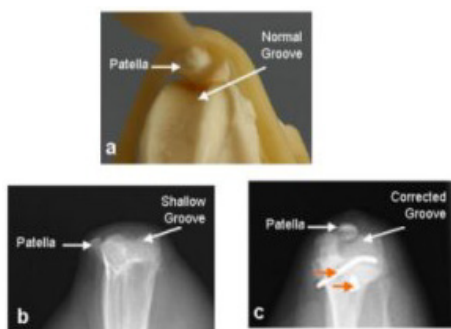


Figure 6. Radiographs obtained 6 weeks after correction of a malformed femur and severe medial patella luxation in a young German shepherd. The femur has been cut, straightened and repaired with a bone plate and screws. The tibial crest has also been transposed toward the outer aspect of the leg.

mended shortly after surgery. Exercise is typically limited to leash walks for 6 weeks depending on the procedures performed and factors affecting the healing capacities of your pet. Radiographs may be repeated at regular intervals to monitor healing.

### Prognosis

Over 90% of owners are satisfied by the progress of their dog after surgery.

### Complications

Osteoarthritis is expected to progress on radiographs. However, this does not necessarily mean that your dog will suffer or be lame as a result. Keeping your pet trim and encouraging swimming/walking rather than jumping/running will help prevent or minimize clinical signs of osteoarthritis. Some degree of knee cap instability will persist in up to 50% of cases. This does not cause further lameness in the majority of cases. Migration or breakage of surgical implants used to maintain bones in position occurs occasionally. Infection is a rare complication.

### Prevention

Because some breeds are predisposed to this condition, dogs diagnosed with patella luxation should not be bred.



Founded in 1965, the American College of Veterinary Surgeons is the American Veterinary Medical Association specialty board which sets the standards for advanced professionalism in veterinary surgery. Following the 2007 certification examination, the ACVS includes more than 1,290 Diplomates. Approximately 60 veterinarians earn their Diplomate credentials every year. The ACVS defines the standards of surgical excellence for the profession, promotes advancements in veterinary surgery, and provides the latest in surgical educational programs. By fostering the highest standards of excellence in veterinary surgery, the ACVS is helping the veterinary profession achieve its goals of providing outstanding service to the public and care to animals.

**For more information, visit:**

**[www.acvs.org](http://www.acvs.org)**



# The Splash !

## Dog Dreams



On the dog lists, there is frequently a new owner who cries for help:

"I think my dog is having seizures. When he is sound asleep he will twitch his legs and his eyes roll around and he yelps in pain. What do I do?"

Ah, dog dreams. This morning - technically it was, I suppose, the middle of the night, three or four AM - Very Old Dog had repositioned himself from *our* determination of "his spot" on the bottom of our bed, to *his* determination of "his spot" on my pillow between Bill and me. He had kindly but firmly reminded me of the clause in his contract where in:

3(c). Human Servant shall at all hours, immediately awaken and raise bedsheets to allow access to Canine for snuggling under covers.

OK, so I was a little sketchy on the "awaken" part, but I had managed to lift up our covers and enjoy the warmth and closeness of Very Old Dog. Unfortunately, Bill was fulfilling another clause in the contract:

3(f). Human shall move to the very edge of the bed, taking up no more than six (6) inches of mattress space, and shall uncomplainingly endure doggy toenails digging into all parts of Human's body, including but not limited to chest, back, face, rump, and private parts.

You get the picture: Bill clinging for dear life to remain on his own bed, me feeling warm and snugly with Very Old Dog, and said Very Old Dog entering his deepest REM phase of sleep.

This dog was so full of fun in his youth and middle age. He was a dog who would run butt tuck zoomies in figure eights just for the sheer enjoyment of the running. He would play ball until he dropped. He would chase squirrels up a tree and then jump ten feet up the trunk for fun. He still tries - hard - to join when the youngsters now do zoomies and leapies, scaring the living bejesus out of his Servant. He's got some bad discs in his neck, and his legs go all wobbly, and zoomies and leapies are life threatening events. So his Servant, sadly, must do everything in her power to curtail such activities.

But not when he's dreaming. I watch with delight as my darling Very Old Dog paddles madly in his sleep. I imagine him running through autumn crisp gold fields of oat straw, zigging and zagging and leaping to get a better view, just because he can, and just to afford me the thrill. I see my torpid dog's tail thumping on my bed, and I picture him racing by me in his dream, sporting a devilishly delighted grin as he skims past my vulnerable shins, accelerating as he goes by, gaily wagging his pleasure. His eyes, blinking and unseeing in his sleep, sparkle with life and joy and boundless energy in his dream. He purely winks at me as he runs by. And when I hear the quiet, "Yip, yip, rahr, ruhr," of his sleeping voice I translate that into battle cries of the hunt. Oh is there no more beautiful music than that of a hound in full tongue? Or the barks of a joyful reunion? The woof of anticipation at the soon-to-be-thrown toy or ball? The "whuhhhhh" as water sprays in a million happy directions, to the percussion of ears flapping on neck and head, neck and head, and the drenching, drying shake continues to the very tip of the elated tail.

I know my Very Old Dog's dreams are full of pleasure. They allow him the pure canine thrills which now elude him. Perhaps that's why he sleeps so much more these days.

I hope I am a part, even a small one, of his dreams. I hope I was a good enough Servant to be included in remembered good times. I hold him close and I feel the dream melt away. He sighs, snuggles into the pillow, and waits for the next dream to take him back to his glory days.

Every day is a gift. Every day is a treasure.

Dream on.

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# The Splash !

## Using Animal Communication to Convey a Sense of Safety



©Polly Klein

**Tonglen Healing Arts for Animals**  
[www.tonglenhealingarts.com](http://www.tonglenhealingarts.com)

As a professional animal communicator, it's not uncommon for me to see a dog showing signs of being worried and stressed the first time I meet them in my office. Understandably, they can be confused and feel unsafe simply because they are out of their home environment. Sometimes dogs are stressed because they are injured or have spent too many car rides going to the vet's office. In cases such as these, by the time they reach my door they may be panting or trembling. Some may want to stay glued to their person for fear of being hurt again.

In your practice, you may be facing

the same thing. By using animal communication techniques, you can convey to a worried dog that you are a safe person and they will be safe with you. The first thing I suggest is to remain as calm as possible and to simply sit quietly with the animal. Sit still, breathe deeply a few times to help let go of stress in your body while allowing a peaceful feeling to fill your body.

After you have a sense of calm, form a mental image of the dog and yourself in the current setting. (This may mean an image of you sitting by the pool with the dog.) In this mental image, show yourself being calm and the animal relaxed and content. You might create an image in your mind of the dog breathing out a deep sigh or resting in a comfortable position.

Allow your body to be relaxed and calm while holding this image in your mind. Your intent is to send peaceful feelings and a mental image of being a safe person for the dog to be near.

You want the animal to look at you and sense that your thoughts, feelings and actions match. The message here is, "even in this strange new setting, the pool, I'm here and will keep you safe."

It is critically important to maintain a consistent message even if you see the animal is worried, stressed or anxious in any way. A mistake many people make is to get caught up with what the animal is physically presenting. If the animal shows physical signs of anxiety and you start to worry about it, the message you send gets combined with your worried feelings. This can make the situation worse when what you really want is to be the grounding force that the animal can count on to be calm.

Calmly presenting images and feelings is the best way to communicate with your canine clients that you are a safe person and they will be safe with you.



Polly Klein, owner of Tonglen Healing Arts for Animals, is a nationally recognized animal communicator and healer. After completing her degree at Antioch University in Psychology with an emphasis on the connection between mind, body, spirit and health, Polly continued her training at Bastyr University for CranioSacral Therapy and later received her certification as an Animal CranioSacral Therapist with Dr. Nancy Soliven. She received animal communication training from Mary Getton, Jeri Ryan of the Assisi Institute, and completed advanced training with Penelope Smith in Point Reyes, California. She is a Reiki Master Teacher, conducts small group Reiki training classes, and practices Reiki with large and small animals. She has been interviewed by the Seattle Times, and on Conscious Talk Radio and

Contact Radio. Polly's writings have been published in Puget Sound Pet, on-line as MSN's Dog Central and in the anthology, *HorseDreams: The Meaning of Horses in Women's Lives*. Polly is also a consultant to veterinarians, and in addition to her private practice she currently teaches Reiki and Animal Communication classes. She also teaches animal communication at Bastyr University, one of the nations leading naturopathic medical schools.

Polly's earliest therapeutic practice was counseling families, where she focused her work on children living with cancer. Bringing this knowledge and training from her human counseling practice into her current healing work, Polly assists animals and their people with understanding and resolving the emotional and energetic components of their behavioral and health issues. Tonglen Healing Arts for Animals is based in Issaquah, Washington, where Polly lives with her three dogs, two cats, parrot, pond of goldfish, daughter, son and husband.



# The Splash !

## A Fond Farewell

By Carrie Smith of  
Pawsitively Pooched, Ltd.

Tonight had to have been the most important and most memorable nights I have ever had and probably will ever have as a water therapist. Tonight, my water companion was euthanized at Pawsitively Pooched surrounded by her friends and family.

Sage was a 14 and a half year old Keeshond who had been coming to me since October 22nd, 2006. She



was crippled with arthritis, basically just skin and bones. Every Tuesday and Thursday for the last six months, Sage and I would 'twirl' in the water and I would sing her songs that were playing on the radio. After her half hour session, Rachael, would always greet us out of the pool with a little blanket bed for Sage, where she would then scoop her up and bring her to her grooming table where her and Tracy would fuss over Sage. Sage had such a short attention span and was stubborn as hell. She would scream and the girls would run. I laughed because she had the girls so well trained. Our time was always about floating and swirling around in the water. She never demanded anything from me, nor did I expect anything from her.

After being dried off, Amara would feed her. Her appetite was incredible after swimming and so was her stamina. She would get up...well actually scream for one of the girls to help her up, and she would begin her trek around the daycare, straight legged and hunched over. But that didn't stop her. She started trying to follow the dogs and she started following us around, especially my voice (must have been the singing..haha). Over the last two weeks she had started to deteriorate, and very badly. She fell one day at home and broke her tooth which caused a major ulcer on the side of her face. She stopped eating. I talked to Dana, her owner, and told her that Sage needed to come everyday to be in the water since it was the only thing taking her pain away. Due to being attacked by a dog when she was nine, she was on steroids and unable to go on any pain medication. She was in so much pain. It tore my heart apart. But at least she had the water, the Reiki and the massages.

Dana asked about euthanasia and Brenda and I told her all about it and what her options were. She decided the time was soon. I told Dana that I would do a private session for her and Sage. She came in for an hour swim one night and Dana was able to swim with her dog in the pool. I had candles everywhere, tulips and played Enya. She said it was the first time she was able to bond with Sage in over two years because of Sage's dementia. She bawled. So tonight was the night that Dana said it was time for her to let Sage go.

Rachael and I spent most of the day preparing the pool area. Tulips, candles, mini drying beds, a slide-show, and her favorite cologne spray

(well Dana's favorite cologne spray for dogs). Dana and her family arrived at 7:15 pm tonight. Dana, Rachael, Tracey and I brought Sage into the pool where we all held her, talked to her, massaged her and said our good-byes. Dana spent the last twenty minutes in the water with her before

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

the vet arrived. It was so beautiful. The candles, the flowers all over the deck, the music, the tears, a few jokes. But most importantly it gave back to Dana what she had felt she had lost years ago and was able to have that all back to night plus more...it allowed her to say good-bye.



When Dana was finally ready, we all brought Sage to the drying table where Dana and Tracy dried her off. The family sobbed and Dana just held her head. It was the perfect most beautiful night for Sage and Dana. And for myself. It is funny how it isn't always about the swimming. It is about the being, the loving and the believing.



# The Splash !

## Ask The Vet

### Ask The Vet

Send in your questions or ideas for topics for future issues to Dr. Tina at:

[drtina@caninewatertherapy.com](mailto:drtina@caninewatertherapy.com)

### Euthanasia: Questions to Ask Yourself



Making the decision to euthanize is often harder than dealing with the loss itself. Many people say they can accept the death and accompanying sadness, but have great difficulty with being the one who must decide when death will occur. Janice, whose 14-year-old dachshund was in steadily declining health, said, "Each night I pray that when I wake up in the morning I'll find that Buster died in his sleep. That way I won't have to make the decision I've been dreading."

Janice's admission reflects what many people feel as their animal companions struggle against all odds. As you face the painful decision about euthanizing your pet, let the following questions serve as your guide:

- ◆ Is there a reasonable chance for cure? For comfort?
- ◆ How much additional time might treatment give? What will the quality of that time be?
- ◆ Do I have the financial and emotional resources to handle long-term medical care if it is required?
- ◆ Will I have the necessary physical and emotional stamina? (Getting up during the night, preparing special food, giving injections....)
- ◆ Is the relationship with my pet changing or decreasing in quality as I anticipate this loss?
- ◆ How many of my pet's usual activities are still possible?

Make a list and review it on a regular basis (daily, weekly, monthly?)

- ◆ Is my pet suffering, or struggling, even though physical pain may not be evident?
- ◆ What do I think my pet would want?
- ◆ What would I want in my pet's place? (What are my spiritual and personal values and beliefs?)

- ◆ What is my personal bottom line - what am I unable to tolerate and or live with?

Write a contract with yourself, knowing that you can *always* renegotiate.

Project yourself ahead in time and ask, "How will I look back and remember this experience? How do I wish to remember this experience?"

When a pet is suffering or has severely diminished quality of life and you decide to euthanize, you are doing, with love, what you believe is best for your animal friend. Let that thought remain uppermost in your mind as you face your decision, and again as you look back on the action you took.

*Excerpted from:  
A Final Act of Caring:  
Ending the Life of An Animal Friend*

**Dr. Tina Ellenbogen**  
**Mobile Veterinary Services**  
**Animal HomeCare & Hospice**  
 P.O. Box 1744  
 Bothell, WA 98041  
 425-485-7387 (485-PETS)  
 DrTinaVet@aol.com  
<http://hometown.aol.com/drtinavet/myhomepage/profile.html>  
**Quality - Convenience - Compassion**



*"It is not just that animals make the world more scenic or picturesque. The lives of animals are woven into our very being - closer than our own breathing - and our soul will suffer when they are gone."*

Gary Kowalski,  
Author of *The Souls of Animals*







# The Splash !

## Quality of Life Scale... The HHHHMM Scale

From Dr. Alice Villalobos in Veterinary Sourcebook 2006

Pet caregivers can use this Quality of Life Scale to determine the success of Pawspice care.  
Using a scale of 1 to 10, patients can be scored.

| Score          | Criterion  |
|----------------|--|
| H: 0 - 10      | HURT - Adequate pain control, including breathing ability, is first and foremost on the scale. Is the pet's pain successfully managed? Is Oxygen necessary?  |
| H: 0 - 10      | HUNGER - Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the patient need soft and/or pureed food? Does the patient require a feeding tube? Do smaller, more frequent meals help?   |
| H: 0 - 10      | HYDRATION - Is the patient dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough, use subcutaneous fluids to supplement fluid intake, and/or mix water or broth(s) with food at meals, or offer separately.   |
| H: 0 - 10      | HYGIENE - The patient should be kept brushed and cleaned, particularly after elimination, avoid pressure sores and keep all wounds clean. Check frequently for skin-fold irritation/inflammation.  |
| H: 0 - 10      | HAPPINESS - Does the pet express joy and interest? Is he/she responsive to things around him (family, toys, etc)? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet's bed(s) be close to the family activities and not be isolated?  |
| M: 0 - 10      | MOBILITY - Can the patient get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g. a cart/sling/ harness)? Does he feel like going for a walk? Is he having seizures or stumbling? (Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, yet an animal who has limited mobility but is still alert and responsive can have a good quality of life as long as his caregivers are committed to helping). |
| M: 0 - 10      | MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD - When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware the end is near. The decision needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is okay.  |
| <b>*Total:</b> | <b>*A total &gt;35 points is acceptable for a good Pawspice</b>  |

*Adapted by Villalobos, A.E., Quality of Life Scale Helps Make Final Call, VPN, 09/2004, for Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology Honoring the Human-Animal Bond, by Blackwell Publishing, Table 10.1, released 2006.*



# The Splash !

## Sink or Swim!

### Rating Canine Water Toys

Brodie Fisher 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...

### ASPEN PET BOODA SOFT BITE FLOPPY DISC



Thanks to the BOODA® Soft Bite Floppy Disc®, you can say goodbye to your old, hard plastic disks! The BOODA Floppy Disc is the durable fetch toy that flies, floats and is flexible - making it both fun and safe for you dog! If you have a "Frisbee dog" the Soft Bite Floppy Disc is a must have. Take it to the park, beach, even your back yard and have hours of fun! It's easy to throw and is soft and gentle on your dog's teeth and gums. Throw it far and watch the disc as it glides through the air into your pet's mouth or watch as it floats in the water. The colors on these floppy discs are very vibrant and it would be hard for you to lose it. Oh and by the way, it folds up to fit into your pocket or your purse. So when you are out with your dog, pull out your Soft Bite Floppy Disc and let the games begin! Note: This is not a chew toy.

Available in 3 sizes: 6.5", 10" and 12"

**Brodie's Rating:** *I bought Brodie the small Soft Bite Floppy Disc and he took to it immediately. It has now become his favorite toy (I've heard that one before) and has held up extremely well in the last couple of months of use. Brodie is not easy on his toys and this shows no sign of wear what so ever. See the story on the next page for a testament to how much Brodie loves this toy!*

**Manufacturer:**  
**Aspen Pet Products**  
[www.aspenpet.com](http://www.aspenpet.com)  
303-375-1001  
**Retail price is \$6.99 to \$12.99**  
**Available in most retail and online pet stores**



Brodie rates this toy...

**SWIM!!**



*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](mailto:newsletter@caninewatertherapy.com).*



# The Splash !

## A Special Birthday Celebration!

On October 27th, Brodie celebrated his 8th birthday. He was born in 1999 so I thought a fitting present would be 99 AirDog Squeaky Tennis Balls. These are Brodie's favorite "land" toy. He loves chasing the ball in the yard, down the hallway, anywhere! I opened all the canisters and dumped them into the pool. Boy, 99 tennis balls sure don't look like much when you put them in a large body of water.

I opened the door to the spa and Brodie came charging in (which is his usual entrance as swimming is his favorite activity). He would live in the spa house if we let him! He took one look at the pool and you could tell he wasn't sure what to think. He ran around the pool to check out all the balls and he tried to get the tennis balls from the side of the pool. This is the first time he didn't just charge into the pool.



We coaxed him into the water by throwing his Soft Bite Floppy Disc toy in and he eventually did retrieve a couple of balls but mostly just wanted his floppy frisbee.

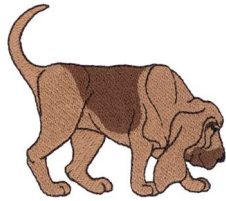


Guess we have a two year supply of "land" tennis balls toys and one very durable and enjoyed "water" frisbee toy! To see videos of Brodie's birthday celebration, visit [www.youtube.com/k9aquatics](http://www.youtube.com/k9aquatics).

Happy Birthday Brodie...Love, Mom (Sandy Fisher)

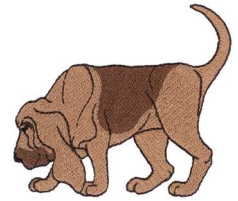


# The Splash !



## Sniff This!

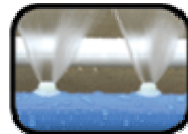
~A Look at Products NEW to our Industry~



### The Blaster™...A better way to clean cartridge filters!



THE BLASTER™ Automatic Filter Cartridge Cleaners feature a unique horizontal orientation that allows dirt and debris to fall away from the filter cartridge. This avoids the embedding and lodging of dirt that can result with vertical cleaning.



Powerful Spray Jets Clean Deep

The BLASTER™ is completely automatic! Just put your filter on, turn the water on, and it does the rest. It takes just a few minutes to clean most filters. A cleaner filter cartridge in less time and better water quality too!!!

Available in 3 sizes to accommodate most filter cartridges. The Blaster 1000 holds cartridges up to 20", the Blaster 2000 holds cartridges up to 27" and the Blaster 3000 holds cartridges up to 34".

#### Specifications:

FILTER CLEANING RPM: 0.8 (10" diameter), 1.1 (7" diameter), 1.8 (5" diameter)

WATER FLOW RATES: 10 GPM (recommended) and 6 GPM (minimum)

DIMENSIONS: Blaster 1000: 24" x 12" x 6", Blaster 2000: 31" x 12" x 6" and Blaster 3000: 38" x 12" x 6"

WEIGHT: Blaster 1000: 4.0 lbs, Blaster 2000: 4.6 lbs and Blaster 3000: 5.2 lbs

No installation required!!! Simply attach to a garden hose, to begin the rotating cleaning action.

Suggested Retail Price: \$129 to \$169

Manufacturer's Website: [www.neoterics.com](http://www.neoterics.com)



**Editor's Note:** After cleaning my 150 sq. ft filter the old fashioned way (garden hose) and getting soaking wet and still not getting all the dirt and dog hair out of the pleats, I knew there had to be a better way. I found and purchased a Blaster 3000 and it is wonderful. I use the Blaster to pre-rinse and then I soak the cartridge in some Filter Cleaner (not included) overnight. The cartridge goes back in the Blaster 3000 to rinse completely in about 30 minutes. No more dog hair and a really clean filter. The Blaster will more than pay for itself by extending the life of my cartridge filters. I highly recommend it!





# The Splash !

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

**The Heart of Canine Water Therapy**  
Instructor: Cindy Horsfall, LMP, SAMP, CWP

**Level 1 Training**

February 6-10, 2008 ~ in Tennessee **(SOLD OUT)**  
April 26-May 1, 2008 ~ in Washington State **(SOLD OUT)**  
November 8-13, 2008 ~ in Washington State

**Level 2 Training**

June 21-26, 2008 ~ in Washington State **(SOLD OUT)**  
August 2-8, 2008 ~ in Washington State **(SOLD OUT)**  
September 20-26, 2008 ~ in Washington State **(SOLD OUT)**

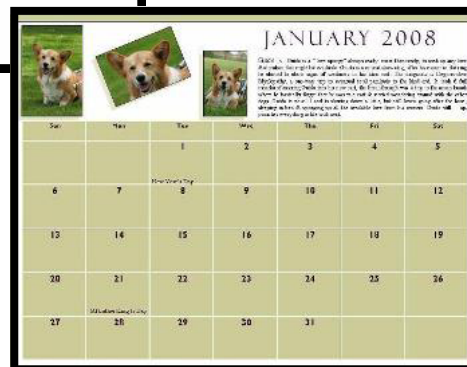
Visit [www.lapawspa.com](http://www.lapawspa.com) for more information.

## Special 2008 Calendar

The 2008 “Love Has No Limits” calendar is finalized and ready for your orders. This high quality calendar is 8.5 x 11 folded and 11 x 17 opened up. Each month features a full color photo of a very special pet. Each pet has their story of triumph and bravery of their handicap as well as their recovery and the love & loyalty from their owners.

The calendar features two ACWT Member dogs. February is Trooper (who owns Carol Swindaman) and Guido (who owns Leo and Kathy Notenboom).

Each calendar is only \$12.00 and is the perfect gift this Holiday Season. Don't miss out on this special offer as there will only be a limited order of calendars available. To order: Contact Stephanie Hamilton at 425-883-1800 or email her at [eyonnature@hotmail.com](mailto:eyonnature@hotmail.com). Also, visit Stephanie's website at [www.shamilton.photostockplus.com](http://www.shamilton.photostockplus.com).





# The Splash !

## New ACWT Member Discounts and Benefits!!!



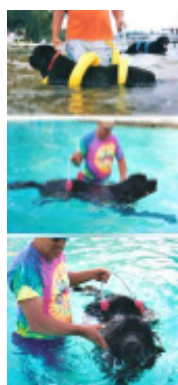
Sheila Palme of Sam's Dog Hut (an ACWT member) is offering a 10% discount to all ACWT members on the Male and Female Doggie Diaper Wraps and Doggie Rehab (pictured at left) and Doggie Swimwear Wraps (pictures at right). Their fine lines of USA made products are exclusively designed for all ages of dogs experiencing fecal and bladder incontinence. Their goal is for your companion to achieve a healthier, happier and better quality of life. They offer 10 sizes and a variety of prints and solid colors. To order and receive your 10% discount, or with any questions or comments, please contact them by phone at : (888) 908-4888 .



**NORTHWEST SCHOOL  
OF ANIMAL MASSAGE**

The Northwest School of Animal Massage supports canine hydrotherapy by offering certification training in animal massage. Our programs include Level 100 Maintenance Massage, Level 200 Performance Massage and our new Level 300 Rehabilitation Massage. Some classes include field trips and training in ACWT member canine swim facilities and spas. Our programs meet the

highest standards for education in the country. Our instructors are professionals in the industry and our classes are offered in convenient resident and distance-learning formats. Special discounts for ACWT members. Great opportunity to advance your staff training. Students can enroll in the distance-learning portion at any time. For more information and to view the NWSAM 2008 Practical Schedule visit [www.nwsam.com](http://www.nwsam.com) or call 877.836.3703 to speak with a representative.



The REAR BOOSTER is a durable, strong & sanitary post-surgical rehabilitation sling for dogs that have incontinence of bowel & bladder which can also be used for hydrotherapy in conjunction with Ferno, West Coast, Hydro Hound II, Pawwws or other underwater treadmill systems. Currently in use at a number of universities and rehab clinics across the U.S., it is recommended by orthopedic veterinarians and CRT's because of its' versatility and ease of use. For a free brochure or for more information, phone Barry Vanslager of Raintree Enterprises, LLC at 574-674-0411 or email him at [indianajonahslings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:indianajonahslings@sbcglobal.net). Barry has a special offer for ACWT Members: Order 6 Rear Boosters shipped to the same address with free Shipping and Handling and the 6th Rear Booster is free. An \$85 value! To download the brochure for ACWT Members, visit the Members Area of the ACWT website. Phone/fax or email Barry at the above address for additional information.



### Is your dog afraid of a blow dryer? Takes too long to dry? You need this dog robe made out of Chamois material.



This will keep your dog dry after swimming or going to the groomer and in the summer keep them cool. Double stitched robe, reversible, adjustable Velcro closure in neck and tummy area. made in USA. For drying your dog after moisture - put dry robe on your dog and stay on for 1 hour. Robe is reversible so when one side is wet, turn around and dry again. The robe is 2 layers of Chamois so will absorb all the water off your dog and onto the robe material. Really helps with hard to dry undercoats.



**For summer coolness- soak robe in water, then ring out so no water is dripping, will stay moist for 24 hrs.**

Robes come in 5 sizes (based on width of dog around belly) and 2 colors.- From \$25-45 depending on size. Custom orders available. See Ebay store name: SPAW DOGS or call 888-761-8626  
ACWT Member Discount: 20%





# 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](http://www.caninewatertherapy.com).

**Amount Enclosed:**

- Facility Owner (Pools & Treadmills) in the US or Canada ~ \$175 (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](mailto: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 !

## Additional Member Discounts & Benefits!

### FLORIDA NORTH SWIM SPA

This is a great pool.... And Bob and Dick at Florida North are offering members at the POOL LEVEL a \$500.00 discount on their already reasonably priced SWIM SPA!!! WOW. Check out these products at [www.floridanorth.com](http://www.floridanorth.com). Our friends Dan and Bob at Florida North are there to help you – just give them your ACWT POOL membership # and start preparing for your new pool or spa. Email or call them at 1-800-505-SWIM (7946).

### AMERIMERC POOL & SPA SUPPLIES

Call our friends Phil and Jim at Amerimerc and get a 15% discount on their already low, low prices on everything you need. These guys are dog lovers and they are so excited to help the ACWT and the world of water therapy for dogs. Check out their website at: [www.amerimerc.com](http://www.amerimerc.com). When you are ready to order call Phil at 1-877-891-7665 with your ACWT Membership # and start saving money today!!!

### EWATER.COM

Innovative Health Alternatives for the water (and air) are now yours at [www.ewater.com](http://www.ewater.com). Fred Van Liew has graciously offered discounts to ALL of our MEMBERS of up to 25% on his product line. We put an Etower in all of our pools and they are AMAZING!!! Upon joining, you will have access to the Members Only area where you will find information on how to get your Member discount.

### ALL PETS GO TO HEAVEN

All Pets Go To Heaven offers high-quality products that enhance the life of our beloved pets every day. And when our pets depart from this earth, they offer a full line of unique and quality burial, urn and remembrance items that will honor our beloved pets forever. Teri Sahm of Heavenly Spa (an ACWT Member) is offering ACWT Members a 10% discount Go to [www.allpetsgotoheaven.com](http://www.allpetsgotoheaven.com) and enjoy shopping!!!

### HAPPY DOG HEALTHY DOG

Happy Dog Healthy Dog (an ACWT Member) is a full service bakery and unique retail shop. They are offering a 10% discount

to ACWT Members in their online retail store. Shop for wonderful bakery items, dog food, supplements, books, clothing for you and your dog, gift baskets of wonderful spa items and much more. Visit [www.happydoghealthydog.com](http://www.happydoghealthydog.com) today!

### ANIMAL WELLNESS MAGAZINE

Animal Wellness Magazine is the only magazine produced in North America devoted to natural & holistic health for animals. Each issue speaks to animal lovers everywhere on how to improve the quality of life of our animal companions as well as animals in the wild. Subscribe to Animal Wellness Magazine at 50% off the regular price. 6 bi-monthly issues for \$9.95. Find the special link to take advantage of this offer in the Members Area.

### ANIMAL SUSPENSION TECHNOLOGY

Eric and Victoria Swisher of Animal Suspension Technology (an ACWT Member) is offering a 10% discount to ACWT Members on their dog Support Suits. The AST Support Suit is a support harness for injured, weak or disabled dogs. This durable, easy-to-use harness is designed to provide complete support and control for dogs that need help walking. Visit [www.petsupportsuit.com](http://www.petsupportsuit.com) today for more information!

### K-9 KOZY POOL WRAP

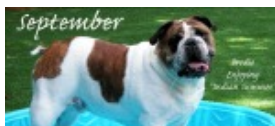
Alison White of The Total Dog Canine Swim Center (an ACWT Member) is offering ACWT Members a 20% discount on their purchase of the K-9 Kozy The first ever “Pool Wrap” for your dog! Lightweight & absorbent / Easy open & close Velcro / Allows normal movement / Easy to put on and take off / Assorted bright playful colors your dog will love! Great for: The ride home after a swim, after grooming, after a day at the beach and as a warm-me-up for cool nights and chilly mornings. Visit [www.k9kozy.com](http://www.k9kozy.com).



## ACWT Monthly Calendar!

ACWT Member Karen Theusen has volunteered to design a calendar for the ACWT. Each month, she will use a picture of a dog that has benefited from warm water therapy. You can download the monthly calendar page in pdf format by visiting the ACWT website [www.caninewatertherapy.com](http://www.caninewatertherapy.com). The link is located on the home page.

**Please submit your pictures for consideration to Karen by emailing her at [dawghouse@caninewatertherapy.com](mailto:dawghouse@caninewatertherapy.com)**





# The Splash!

## Member Directory

Please visit [www.caninewatertherapy.com](http://www.caninewatertherapy.com) for detailed informational listings for each of the members listed below

### FACILITIES—UNITED STATES



#### CALIFORNIA

**The Total Dog  
Swim & Training Center**  
*Oceanside*

#### DELEWARE

**Happy Dog Healthy Dog**  
*Wilmington*

#### GEORGIA

**Wag-N-Swim**  
*Atlanta*

#### ILLINOIS

**Sit, Stay, Swim**  
*Rockford*

#### 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*

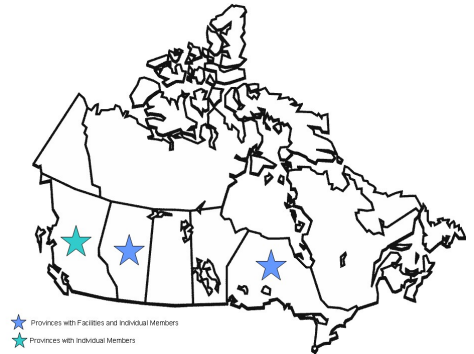
**Spawz Doggie Day Care  
& Fitness Center**  
*Seattle*

**SplashDog Spa**  
*Edmonds*

**Sumner Veterinary Hospital**  
*Sumner*

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

### FACILITIES—CANADA



#### ALBERTA

**Pawsitively Pooched Ltd.**  
*Calgary*

#### ALBERTA

**The Dogs Aqua Therapy Ltd.**  
*Edmonton*

#### ONTARIO

**K9 Common Scents**  
*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! Your listing can look like this:

**\*\*\*Canine water therapist position available at SpawZ in Seattle.**

**Join the staff or rent pool time for your clients. Contact Ann Marie for more details at [annmarie@spawzdog.com](mailto:annmarie@spawzdog.com) or call 206-525-5953.**

Email [sandy@caninewatertherapy.com](mailto:sandy@caninewatertherapy.com) to request your free listing!



# The Splash!

## Member Directory

Please visit [www.caninewatertherapy.com](http://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

Eva Gellert ~ Atlanta

##### HAWAII

Wendi-Crandall-Amidon ~ Kailua

##### IOWA

Jeanete Jurrens ~ Onawa

Michelle Moran ~ Cedar Rapids

##### ILLINOIS

Cherie Hogland ~ Rockford

##### INDIANA

Pamela Mendenhall ~ Elkhart

##### MARYLAND

Maury Chaput ~ Crownsville

##### MASSACHUSETTS

Carolyn MacDonald ~ Taunton

Pamela Tewes ~ West Roxbury

##### MINNESOTA

John Lambert ~ St. Louis Park

Joy Lewanski ~ Hastings

##### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Melody Horne ~ New Durham

##### NORTH CAROLINA

Jane Ballard ~ Durham

#### UNITED STATES

##### OHIO

Sherry Agar ~ Wyoming

Sylvia Eberlei ~ Cincinnati

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, LMP, SAMP

Tulalip

Brianna Baarstad ~ Woodinville

Rebeca Berni LMP SAMP

Woodinville

Joyce Biethan ~ Ridgefield

Adrienne Buschling ~ Olympia

Patricia Cool ~ Granite Falls & Fall City

Cindy Cornish ~ Spanaway

Tonita Fernandez ~ Enumclaw

Sandy Fisher ~ Sammamish

Vonni Goetting LMP SAMP

Woodinville & Sammamish

Cheryl Grant ~ Edmonds

J Linn Black Henline LMP SAMP

Edmonds

Cindy Hickman LMP SAMP ~ Kent

Erin Hopkins ~ Snohomish

Cindy Horsfall LMP SAMP CWP

Fall City & Edmonds

Karen Hunter ~ Woodinville

Debbie LaMonica LMP SAMP

Des Moines & Edmonds

Carrie Lane ~ Lynden

Barbara Lierson ~ Renton

#### UNITED STATES

##### WASHINGTON cont.

Beth Meyer ~ Auburn

Robin Millor ~ Olympia

Cassie Sawyer LMP SAMP

Seattle, Kent & Fall City

Rema Strauss ~ Milton

Ann Marie Shields ~ Seattle

Carol Swindaman SAMP

Redmond & Fall City

Karen Theusen

Ferndale

Linda Voelker LMP SAMP

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

K9 Common Scents ~ Ottawa

#### INTERNATIONAL

Evelyn Lee ~ United Kingdom

Cheryl Shaw ~ Australia

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

### SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

#### Gold Canyon Candle Distributor

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

#### 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

#### 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

### 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,  
Lisa Van Horn & Dugan,  
Catherine Lisa Van Camp,  
Jean & John Horsfall,  
Gretchen & Gunther,  
Sedalana Shepherds,  
Anita Gehring,  
Kathe Roat  
Lisa and Honey  
Leo, Kathy & Guido  
Ani & Mister Magoo Grudin



Please visit  
[www.caninewatertherapy.com](http://www.caninewatertherapy.com)  
for detailed informational listings  
for each of the members listed.



## ACWT Logo Available For Your Use!

Visit the Members Only section of the ACWT website.