

PetGazette

Asheville Area

June-July 2012

Volume 1 - Issue 1

NEW

FUN

- Agility –
A Team Workout

HEALTH

- Help with Heartworms
- Fighting cat parasites

AQUARIUM EXPERT VENTS

- Fishy tales tanked

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Adoption Days
- Shows
- Competitions
- Fundraising Golf

BOOK REVIEW

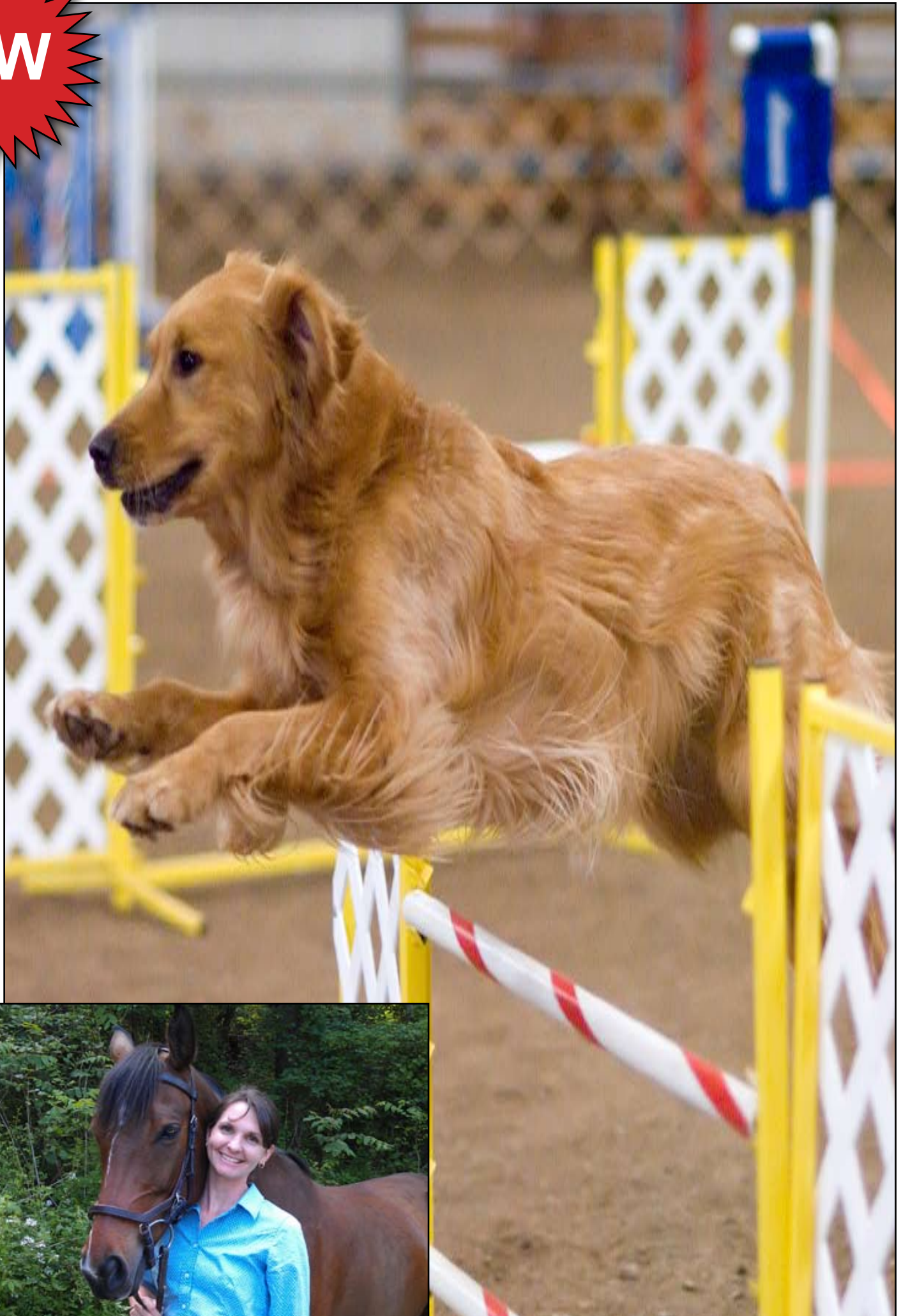
- “Coming Home” - Finding
peace when pets die

REMEMBRANCE

- A Loving Farewell to Nick

WNC HORSE CORRAL

- *Hope for Horses* offers
classes
- Vet on “floating” horse’s
teeth
- From track to treasure



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed., Sat., Sun. – BW – 10am. The Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at the shelter to take dogs to great hiking spots. Great 1½ hour enrichment activity. Contact volunteer@bwar.org for details.

Every Wed., Sat. – BW – PetSmart Adoption Events with many cats and kittens, some dogs and puppies. Times vary. Call.

Sundays – FF - 10:30am - 6pm. Adoption days at SuperPetz on Brevard Road.

June

Fri., June 1 - Sun., June 3 PBR Rodeo. WNC Agricultural Center.

Sat., June 2 - 9am-4pm. HFH car show with NC Stangs, a WNC Mustang car that supports HFH. Show at West Asheville K-Mart at 1001 Patton Avenue.

9am. FFA English Horse Show, Madison County Fairgrounds. Free admission.

Thu., June 7 - 6-8:30pm. ACN Doggie Ice Cream Social at The Hop Ice Cream Café, 640 Merrimon Avenue. (Held first Thursday of every month.)

Fri., June 8 - Sun. June 10 - Christy Anderson Walking Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center. CAN - Brew City Trop Rock Festival, Crowne Plaza

Sat., June 9 - 12pm. BW Mast General Store Adoption Event

Sat., June 9 - Sun. June 10 - 8am-6pm. AKC All Breed Dog Show at WNC Agricultural Center. \$5 parking, free admission, free judging program. Meet handlers, breeders, dogs.

8pm. Circle R Rodeo. Madison County Fairgrounds. Gate open at 6pm.

Mon., June 11 - Wed. June 13 - 4-H Horse Show Clinic. WNC Agricultural Center.

Thu., June 21 – Sun. June 24 - Piedmont Paso Fino Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center.

Fri., June 22 - 1-5pm. ACN Putts for Mutts Golf Tournament, Broadmoor Golf Links.

Golf with cart, prizes, food, beer. Call ACN for information, reservations

Sat., June 23 - 12pm BW Mast General Store Adoption Event

8pm. Circle R Rodeo. Madison County Fairgrounds. Gate open 6pm.

Fri., June 29 – Sun. July 1 - Dixieland Miniature Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center.

July

Tu., July 3 - 7pm. MVFD Annual Independence Day Rodeo. Madison County Fairgrounds. \$10 adults, \$5 children. New concessions, vendors, family food and fun. Through Wed., July 4

Wed., July 4 - 7pm. MVFD Annual Independence Day Rodeo. Madison County Fairgrounds

Fri., July 6 – Sun. July 8 Gypsy Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center.

Sat., July 7 - 12pm. BW Mast General Store Adoption Event

Fri., July 13 – Sun. July 15 NC Barrel Horse Racing Finals. WNC Agricultural Center.

Fri., July 20-Sat., July 21 - Asheville International Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center.

Sat., July 21 - 12pm. BW Mast General Store Adoption Event

8pm. Circle R Rodeo, Madison County Fairgrounds. Gate opens 6pm.

Tu., July 24-Sat., July 28 - Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show. WNC Agricultural Center.

Sat. August 4 - 12pm. BW Mast General Store Adoption Event

Legend

A=ASPCA **ACN**=Animal Compassion Network **ACGS**=All Creatures Great and Small **AHA**=Animal Haven of Asheville **AHS** = Asheville Humane Society

AKC=Asheville Kennel Club **BW**=Brother Wolf **FF**=FurEver Friends **HFH**=Hope for Horses **WNCBR**=WNC Boxer Rescue

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WELCOME TO PetGazette

Welcome to the premier issue of Asheville's PetGazette! We want to thank all of our readers and advertisers who have so enthusiastically embraced the idea of PetGazette.

Just like Asheville's people, Asheville's pets are a diverse lot. Dogs, cats, horses, small furry critters, birds, fish, - even city chickens - all are welcome in PetGazette. Did we leave your pet out? Email the Editor!

How we interact with our pets, how we feel about them, and how we care for them will all be included in PetGazette.

Our mission is to make PetGazette the print home in which Asheville's pet lovers and pet experts can share their expertise, opinions, experience, ideas, information, and stories. And then find what they need to enjoy their pets as the articles suggest, from the stores and services advertising in these pages.

Our advertisers play a big role in contributing to the usefulness of PG. If you are enjoying this paper, please support them as they have supported us. We would not be here without them.

With the participation of readers and advertisers alike, we'll be here serving the pet community for a long, long time, getting better and better with each issue. So be in touch! We welcome your calls to **828-633-1348** or email:

Jim Marks, Editor

petgazette@gmail.com

Carol Marks, Publisher

Publisher.petgazette@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS

The Bark For Life event on May 12th at Highland Brewing, raised \$10,824.12 for the American Cancer Society to help save lives! Top teams were: You Work, I'll Play Dog Daycare, Hamburg Crossing Pooches, and All Pets Animal Hospital and Rehabilitation Center. Top participants were Fern Chadwick, Jill Lydic, and Terry Natwick. See www.acsevents.org for all the details.

New Horse Management Course: Encore Stables in Candler is offering a comprehensive course starting June 5, with plans to hold a second course this summer. The cost is only \$75. Trainers, vets, farriers will share their expertise. Call Encore at 828-665-0790 for more information. 🐾

PetGazette

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Agility Sport Requires Two Athletes

Everyone involved will tell you the same thing: It takes two to crawl, walk, run, jump and weave competitively in the sport of dog agility. Lone wolves need not apply.

Gail Hubbard, of A Good Dogs Life in Asheville, knows this as well as anyone. She and her partner conduct about 15 dog agility training sessions a week. Their clients range in age from their twenties to their seventies. “We’re actually training people,” Gail says. “Agility is definitely a team sport.”

Richard Jedwill agrees. He competes in agility regularly with his Border Collie, Switch. They train almost every day. Sometimes it’s at a special facility, but most often it’s on the equipment Jedwill has set up in their yard. “She enjoys it,” he says. “But I honestly think she’s doing it more for me than for herself.”

Switch is Jedwill’s second agility teammate. He started in agility in 2002 with Dulcie, an Australian Shepherd who was also a therapy dog while she was competing in agility. She is now retired from both careers, but reportedly still likes to run around a bit, though not as agilely as she one did. “First and foremost,” Jedwill says, “Dulcie and Switch are family pets – even members.”

When competing in agility, these family members have to run through courses that require them to negotiate A frames, teeter totters, chutes, tunnels, dog walks, weaves and jumps of all kinds. Even though it takes about a year and a half for dog and owner to gain enough proficiency at running a course to be ready for competition, most of those who start in dog agility stay with it. “It’s addicting,”



Kay Loveland of Asheville and her partner Misha take the jumps at Camp Unleashed

Hubbard says.

Agility training is also a great way for person and dog to bond. Kay Loveland, clinical psychologist and Director at Camp Unleashed, a four-day camp for dogs and owners in Hendersonville, believes in agility’s value in strengthening the owner-dog relationship. She has made agility training one of the major activities available, although the focus is not on preparation for competitive events. As the web site says, “the emphasis at Camp Unleashed is on partnership with your dog and learning about your dog.”

Agility competitions are held in three ability levels – starter, open and excellent. Within

each ability level, dogs compete within groups according to their height. The classification measurement, from the ground to the top of the withers (shoulder), is taken with the front feet on the ground. At the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) competitions, dogs in the championship division must be able to jump their height or higher. For example, 12” and 16” dogs must just their own height, while 21” dogs must jump 22”, and dogs over 21” must jump 26” or higher.

The winners in agility events are those with the fastest time through a course without faults, such as missing an obstacle entirely, knocking down a fence rail, etc. During the dog’s off-leash run, handlers are not allowed to touch either animal or obstacle, nor can they offer rewards as incentives. The dogs must respond only to voice commands, hand signals or body language from the handler, so good communication is critical to successful teamwork.

While the majority of agility competitors are purebreds, the American Kennel Club (AKC) supports having mixed breeds in sanctioned events. Dogs from the herding group tend to stand out in agility, probably because they have been bred from the inception to work with people. Think German Shepherds, Border Collies, Corgis. Sporting dogs, perhaps because they’ve also been bred to work with people, are also often successful at agility. And speaking of successful...

Ernie Bott, of Asheville, has been successfully competing with his Standard Poodle, Beau, for nine years at events all around America. The two work out often at Asheville’s Companion Dog Training School. President Carol Renton says that about a third of the school’s customers are there for agility training, which the school has been providing since the early ‘90s.

The Bott-Beau team has been together since Bott got Beau as a puppy from a Hendersonville breeder. Since then, they have traveled to events as far away as Scottsdale, Arizona. Beau travels in the car with Bott, not in a cage. And he doesn’t fly. Although Bott is retired after 26 years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and a subsequent career flying and managing private aircraft, he doesn’t want to put Beau in a cage in a cargo hold. And when they travel to events, Beau stays with Bott in a pet friendly motel. Just as in all-human sports, dog agility teammates stick together. 🐾

AKC ALL-BREED DOG SHOW June 9-10

Dogs, owners, handlers and judges from all across America will descend on Asheville for the annual All-Breed show of the Asheville Kennel Club, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

Show Chairperson Barbara Finch of Flat Rock said last year’s show included over 140 breeds recognized by the AKC, and more dogs might compete this year. At PetGazette press time, the list of entries was far from complete, as was the scheduling of the judging of breeds and groups. Finch suggested that interested people should check www.ashevillekennelclub.com closer to the show days for up-to-date information.

“One thing I do know now,” Finch said, “is that the show is a great place for people to find breeders.” Show visitors can wander the facility, meet animals, learn which breeders will have puppies available when, and hear about the puppies’ lineage. There will be “Supported Entries” for several breeds, including Golden Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Newfoundlands, Dandy Dinmonts, and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Entry to the show at the air-conditioned Expo center is free, but there is a \$5 parking fee at the Ag Center. All visitors can get a free judging program, and show catalogs will be available for purchase. Potential participants or vendors can request a Premium List, including information and entry forms, by email to mbf@infodog.com 🐾



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A VET SPEAKS ON HEARTWORM

by Dr. James E. Guenther, DVM

Here are some basic facts regarding heartworms.

- Heartworms have been diagnosed in more than 30 Species of animals (coyotes, foxes, wolves, domestic cats, ferrets, sea lions, etc.)
- Mosquitoes are the means of transmission of heartworms. Please remember mosquitoes can be found in your house as well as in the out doors.
- Microfilariae (the immature heartworm) entering into a host via a mosquito can take up to six to seven months to reach maturity, and produce offspring .
- Male heartworms are approximately 4-6 inches in length while the females can be nearly a foot in length.
- Heartworms have been found in all 50 states, with the highest infection percentage for dogs found within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.
- The onset and severity of disease in the dog is mainly a reflection of the number of adult heartworms present, the age of the infection and the level of activity of the dog. Dogs with higher numbers of worms are generally found to have more severe heart and lung disease changes. Until the

number of mature heartworms exceeds 50 in a 25-kg dog (approximately 55 pounds), nearly all of the heartworms reside in the lower pulmonary arteries (the arteries of the lower lung lobes).

The American Heartworm Society has a very informative website discussing heartworms in dogs and cats. Please visit www.heartwormsociety.org for a more complete understanding of heartworms and the importance of prevention versus treatment.

There are many monthly heartworm preventatives available through your veterinarian, all highly effective in preventing heartworm disease! I urge you to contact your veterinarian and discuss annual testing of your pets for heartworms as well as making sure you maintain them on year round heartworm prevention.

Dr. Guenther of Biltmore Veterinary Clinic, earned his DVM at Ohio state University. He moved to Asheville in 1973 and established an equine/companion animal practice. While earning his MBA/MHA in the 1990's, he laid the foundation for the REACH Animal Hospital. 🐾



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Hope for Horses Offers Course

Whitney Wright, Director of Hope for Horses, has announced the development of a course to educate animal control officers and other concerned individuals on body scoring a horse to determine how at-risk they may be. The course also covers basic equine nutritional needs, minimum safe-farm standards and the safe handling of horses.

The course was developed with the help of Dr. Ted Wright, (no relation), of Appalachian Animal Hospital; Brenda

Sears, Animal Services Supervisor for Asheville; and Eric Shupe of Purina. The body scoring section of the course focuses on the Heinneke score, a scale of 1-10 covering many aspects of a horse's appearance, with a score of 5 being optimum.

For example, if a horse's neck has easily visible bone structure, that would be considered poor, and earn a one on the Heinneke scale. On the other hand, if the horse had noticeable thickening of the

neck, it might be rated eight, showing that it was tending toward obesity.

Wright said that the course could give well-intentioned people who might not work with horses on a day-to-day basis, an objective test to identify the true state of a horse's health. In this way the appropriate response level can be made. "We really don't want to seize animals," she said.

For more information about the HFH course, call 828 683-0160. 🐾

From Track to Treasure

PG interviews local trainer Michelle Mallonee

PG: Let's start at the beginning. How'd you get started with horses?

MM: Lisa Maxwell at the Biltmore Estate let me trade barn work for lessons when I was a kid. Then I got into Pony Club, I earned the HA designation, and starting Eventing. By then I was hooked on horses for life.

PG: Why did you choose to compete on Thoroughbreds bred for track racing?

MM: They are bred to work. And perfect for Eventing because they've got the innate ability to jump, competitive speed and obedience for dressage – that's a tremendous feat. Not to mention they're gorgeous.

PG: Do they transition from the track to a treasure quickly?

MM: NO! It takes from 6 months to a year to transition them, so this is NOT a process for beginners. "We'll learn together" is a recipe for disaster.

"We'll learn together" is a recipe for disaster.

PG: Why does it take so long?

MM: Environment. A racehorse lives 23 hours a day in a stall, separate from other horses. They don't know how to be free in a pasture- they'll actually run back to the stall. They need to learn how to be in a herd with other horses. Their body condition may be down – feet, weight, body soreness.

PG: Aren't racehorses pampered?

MM: You're thinking Kentucky Derby. These horses are from the lesser tracks and can get passed down from trainer to trainer.

PG: Do you – or should others who may be interested – go directly to a track?

MM: It may be better to research reliable organizations that take the horses, evaluate them and people, and try to make a good match. Check out the Retired Racehorse Training Project – the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation – CanterUSA.org, - just to name a few.

Submit YOUR ideas for WNC Horse Corral to editor.petgazette@gmail.com. Letters welcome. 🐾

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Horse Health Q&A

By Ted Wright, DVM

Q: My 5 year old Quarter Horse gelding has recently started tilting his head to the side and dropping most of his grain when he is fed. What's wrong?

A: It is very likely that your horse is experiencing dental pain from sharp enamel "points" that develop naturally in horses because of their unique anatomy and the way that they chew. These enamel points (think saw blade) will cut into the horse's cheeks causing extremely painful ulcers. We all know how painful it is to bite our own cheeks!

Horses in the wild will naturally grind down their teeth by consuming sand or small rocks picked up as they forage sparse landscapes. Our domestic horses dine on lush pastures and/or get thrown hay and fed grain and this does nothing to retard the continual process of razor sharp point development.

Once these points create ulcers in your horse's mouth, it cannot get relief until the sharp points are "floated". Floating is a masonry term meaning, "to smooth", and it refers to the practice of filing down the sharp enamel points on the outside edge of the upper molars and the inside edge of the lower molars. A thorough dental examination and floating will require that your horse is sedated and a full-mouth



Figure 2. Full mouth speculum used during floating.

speculum is used so that your veterinarian can safely palpate (touch) and access all aspects of your horse's molars. Depending on the age of your horse, there may be deciduous (baby) teeth, decayed teeth, or even fractured teeth that need to be extracted.

Many veterinarians feel that good dental care is the single most valuable aspect of your horse's wellness plan as it helps reduce colic and choke, increases feed efficiency, enhances performance by eliminating discomfort, and prolongs the effectiveness of the teeth thereby prolonging the lifespan of your horse.

Dr. Wright can be reached at the Appalachian Animal Hospital in Weaverville, 828-658-8989. Appalachian Equine maintains 3 fully equipped mobile units. 🐾

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Preventing Parasites in Cats

by Mary Peters, DVM

As the weather warms, cats become increasingly prone to infestation with fleas, ticks, intestinal parasites, and heartworms. These parasites are more than just a nuisance. They can sometimes cause severe illness.

Fleas can cause severe skin infections in cats that are allergic to flea bites. Fleas can also carry a blood parasite that can cause life-threatening anemia. In the Asheville area, fleas are seen year-round, and even indoor-only cats can be exposed.

Around Asheville, ticks are most active from April through July. They can cause anemia and spread infectious diseases. Cats exposed to wooded areas and yards with leaf litter and tall grass are more likely to attract ticks. Many cats are excellent at grooming away ticks, but it is best to remove any you see as soon as possible.

Intestinal parasites (roundworms and hookworms) are transmitted to cats through feces from an infected animal. Tapeworms are transmitted to cats when they swallow a

tapeworm - infected flea, or when ingesting infected raw meat. These parasites can cause gastrointestinal upset such as vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. Roundworms are transmissible to humans and are also a leading cause of preventable blindness in young children.

Finally, heartworms are of increasing concern for cats. They are spread by infected mosquitoes and can cause heart failure, respiratory problems, and even sudden death.

Products usually protect your cat from only some parasites. However, Frontline Plus can be used safely along with Interceptor™ (an oral heartworm and intestinal parasite preventative) to protect against all of these parasites.

Prevention truly is the best medicine, and yearly vet visits will help your pet's quality of life.

Dr. Peters is a veterinarian at Charlotte Street Animal Hospital in Asheville. She has two gorgeous orange cats, Mango and Milton. 🐾

Aquarium Expert Debunks Myths

by Chip Bridges

Question: Fish tanks are beautiful and I'm thinking of getting my first one. What do I need to know?

One doesn't have to be in the aquarium hobby long to hear some strange and untrue myths repeated over and over! Many myths and wives' tales are just harmless misinformation, but there are some that can lead to failure in the hobby - or downright animal cruelty. So here are some tales not to listen to!

Myth 1: Fish only grow to the size of their tank or bowl. Would a child grow to the size of its room? If fish waste builds up to unsanitary levels, the fish will fail to thrive and grow more slowly. If provided clean water, a goldfish will grow too large to turn around. Please, never put any animal in a small container thinking that the animal will stay small. It won't.

Myth 2: Goldfish are short-lived. Goldfish have routinely been recorded living over a century. If yours they die quickly, disease or poor water conditions are the cause. Allow 50+ gallons per goldfish and with good care they should wind up in your will!

Myth 3: Your tank needs an algae eater. No. Algae can keep the fish alive in a neglected aquarium. Algae need nitrogen, which they get from fish poop. Algae pull the deadly nitrogen from your aquarium water, and they can't do that if eaten by a snail.

Please see the care sheets on my website blueridgereef.com for more information. And please send your questions there, too, and we'll try to answer them in a future issue.

Happy aquarium keeping!
Chip Bridges is the owner of Blue Ridge Reef & Pet in Black Mountain. He has over 30 years experience as an aquarium keeper and/or aquarium business owner. 🐾

*All god's critters
got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud
on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands,
or paws
Or anything they got.*

By Bill Staines.

Full version at www.rainbowbridge.com.

BOOKS: Going Home

Finding Peace When Pets Die
by John Katz

Everyone who loves their animal companions has felt heartbreak when they die, but Katz has written a help to those who grieve. He also gives a realistic perspective on the wrenching and perhaps guilt-laden decision to provide euthanasia for a suffering animal.

Then he describes a way to heal. "The loss of a beloved dog or cat or horse", he writes, "does not have to be the end of something. It can be the beginning. Every animal I have lost has been a gift"

One of the ways to find that gift, to find the beginning in the end, is to honor and memorialize our pets.

"Tell stories", Katz says. Tell stories.

Going Home is available at Malaprop's Books.



SUPPORT GROUPS

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Pet Loss Support Group
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ncgunther7@juno.com

A Story: St. Nick



It's been years since Nick died, but we still carry his gifts inside us.

Forgiveness: My niece thought he would be a good Xmas gift to mend our broken relationship. She was right. Her gift let us share a joy which was stronger than anger.

Laughter: Nick had a highly developed sense of humor. Chase him for a toy and he'd hide his face in the couch, peeking out. Ignore him and he'd parade a stream of items in front of us.

Community: On a walk, he bounded along, full of himself, greeting the neighbors. They learned his name. Then they learned ours! Those are just some of the priceless gifts the unsaintly Nick gave us. Send your pet's story to editor.petgazette@gmail.com. 🐾

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★ SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH ★ 12PM-4PM ★



Brother Wolf Animal Rescue
Adoption Center
3rd Anniversary

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION & OPEN HOUSE

Over 6,000 lives saved!



Come celebrate
with us!

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue welcomes you to the Grand Opening of our Re-Tail Store, located across the street from our Adoption Center. We carry a wide variety of products for pets and their people, with all proceeds benefiting pets in need.

In addition, our Adoption Center is turning 3 years old this June, so we're throwing a party! Tour the facility, enjoy refreshments, and meet some of the dozens of dogs, puppies, cats and kittens for adoption.

★ Refreshments ★ Raffle Prizes ★ Tours of the Facility ★ Training Tips ★
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