

Summer 2014

FREE!

# Doo'Cruses

Information for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!

## Leash-Free and Lovin' It!

Take your pooch to the Las Cruces Dog Park, and let him go naked!

Page 21

## The Dog Days of Summer

Walter "Wingman" Dubbin explains the origin of this phrase, and offers PAWSome summer recipes to help you cope once you know.

Page 28

## Doggie Bonding 1-0-1

NMSU offers an academic program on the scientific study of companion animals.

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PAGE NO. 15

# PENCILS...PAPER... ACTION!!!

You'll laugh, you'll cry—at the LCHS AP Language Students' TV- and Movie-themed essays.

PLUS...What would Jess do if he won the lottery?...Why is Vic playing with a "toad"?...LOTS of doggie photos...and more!



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# 21 in Dog Years!

Greetings, fellow Dog'Cruces! Thanks to you, our little magazine is celebrating its third anniversary. Whether you've been with us from issue #1 or have just picked up your first Dog'Cruces, we thank you and hope to be able to serve you for a long time to come.

After last quarter's cat-coup, it's good to be back in full doggie mode....

Kevin Armstrong takes us to the Las Cruces Dog Park—where pups have been having a leash-free good time for five years now.

Did you know NMSU offers a Companion Animal emphasis within the Animal and Range Sciences Department? I didn't—until I read Dr. Gaylene Fasenko's introduction to the program in our "Workin' Like a Dog" section. Very cool!

And our tradition continues of Las Cruces High School's AP Language students writing dog-themed essays for our summer cover story! Phyllis Wright's assignment for this year's class was TV/Movie parodies. Check out the center spread for the results.

Even though I'm Mayor of Dog'Cruces, I've never really been involved in local politics. But I did recently attend my first Las Cruces City Council workshop. Discussion of a Feline Trap-Neuter-Release program for the City was on the schedule, and Charissa and I wanted to be in the audience to hear the debate. Anyone can go, and I encourage everyone to do so at least once.

Because this was my first Council meeting, I wasn't sure what to expect. But now that I've seen the sausage being made, I have one word...**seriously?**!

I could not believe some of the words and ideas coming out these elected officials' mouths. I sat in the back—quietly at first—but eventually I actually laughed out loud at the things I was hearing. If I told you everything that went on and some of the ideas they had...well, let's just say it would take most of the pages in this magazine. I'm still trying to figure out if I was more entertained by the show (yes, I'm calling it a show) or appalled by the fact that these folks are elected into office and are actually making decisions that affect all of us.

Let me give you one horrifying example of what I witnessed....

A large group of people had shown up to advocate for a TNR (trap neuter release) program for feral cats in the City—nothing outrageous, right? We already have one in the County. These citizens want to try and solve a problem we have in our community. Good for them!

The Mayor (not me—Mayor Miyagishima) asked for ideas or further discussion from the City Councilors who oppose the TNR idea. The first councilor to speak (let's call him "Mr. Big") was OK with "trap," fine with "spay/neuter," but when it came to "release," he had a whole different idea. "Mr. Big" thought we should create a 30-acre enclosure into which we would release all the feral felines collected in the City—and this was supposed to eliminate the nuisance of stray cats. The Mayor (again—not me) immediately understood the implication of throwing thousands of wild cats together in an "arena" (his word) and called for other ideas.

Unbelievably, another of "Mr. Big's" fellow Council Members (we'll call him "The Borg")

agreed that this enclosure was a good idea, and doable. He tried to offer a successful example he'd found on the internet—but that turned out to be a *BIG* cat sanctuary in Florida. Lions and tigers and bears...oh, my!

Meanwhile, I could not get the image of a feral cat arena out of my mind...what a great TV show that would be! *Beyond Dander Dome*, or *Catopocalypse*, or maybe we just call it *Last Cat Standing* because it would be one of the bloodiest reality shows of all time. Oooo—the *Real House Cats of Las Cruces*! This is one of the worst ideas I have ever heard, but it was seriously proposed and endorsed by TWO council members. Yikes! I appreciate and applaud Mayor Miyagishima for pointing out absurdity and keeping the meeting on track. I think I'll stick with being Mayor of Dog'Cruces.

Speaking of that—and because I want to end on an "up" note—please check out Ross Burkhardt's poem on page 31. It is sure to make you smile....

## Vic Villalobos

Mayor of Dog'Cruces

*Write to us at:*

**Dog'Cruces Magazine**  
**580 S. Valley Drive, suite 100**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88005**

*or email us at:*  
**Vic@DogCruces.com**

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## Dog'Cruces Magazine

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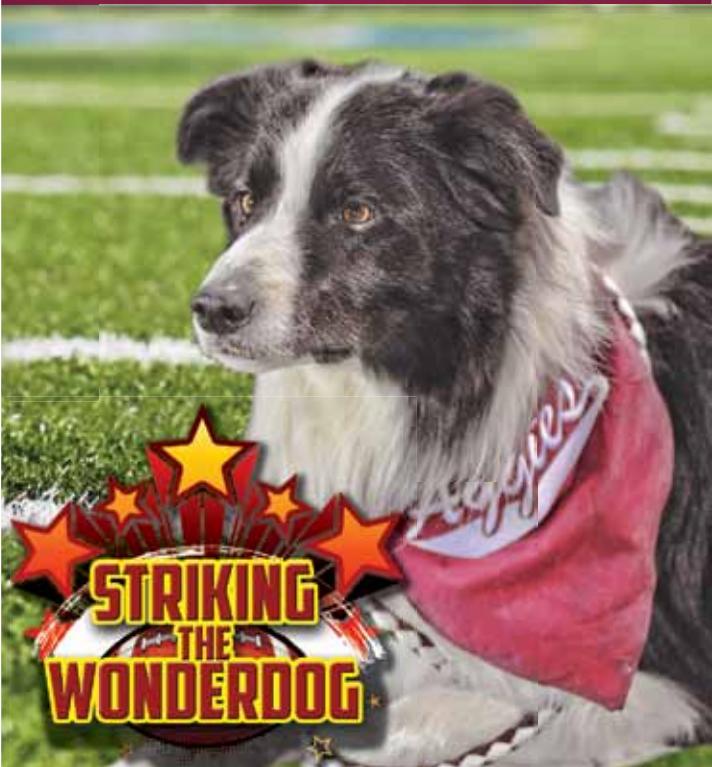
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- Thur., Aug. 28**    **CAL POLY**  
**Sat., Sept. 20**    **NEW MEXICO (I-25 Rivalry Game)**  
**Sat., Oct. 4**    **GEORGIA SOUTHERN**  
*(Tough Enough to Wear Pink)*  
**Sat., Nov. 1**    **TEXAS STATE (Military Appreciation)**  
**Sat., Nov. 8**    **LOUISIANA (Homecoming)**  
**Sat., Nov. 22**    **UL MONROE**



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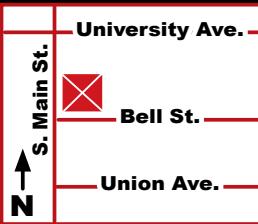
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### Fat Cat Cash Raffle Fundraiser

Benefitting Spay Neuter Action Program (SNAP). Tickets \$10, grand prize \$500. Drawing will be held September 20, 2014. Tickets are available at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho, and at Better Life Pet Foods, 365 Avenida de Mesilla.

### Spay/Neuter Clinics

Pre-registration required at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave. Tuesday-Friday 11am-3pm. Call 575-524-9265 for more information. Clinic dates are: July 19th, August 16th, September 20th & October 18th.

### Red Brick Pizza Fundraiser for HSSNM

The last Thursday every month. Mention "HSSNM" when placing your take-out or dine-in order, and 15% will be donated to HSSNM from 11am-9pm at Red Brick Pizza, 2808 N. Telshor. Dates for these

fundraisers are: July 31st, August 28th, September 25th, and October 30th.

### APA Furrever Home Adoption & Education Center

800 W. Picacho. Open Tuesday thru Saturday 12noon-5pm.

### Big Kitty Fix Quilt Raffle Fundraiser

Tickets \$1. Drawing September 13th. Quilt on display and tickets available at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave.

### Big Kitty Fix Spay/Neuter Clinic.

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## JULY

### Saturday, July 26

SNAP Voucher & Vaccination Clinics. SNAP will be issuing spay/neuter vouchers. Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic will be available for low cost shots 11am-6pm at PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman. Info: 575-405-2195 or 575-524-9265.

## Saturday, July 26

Adoption Event for ACTion Program for Animals (APA). Sam's Club, 2711 N. Telshor, 10am-3pm.

## AUGUST

### Friday, August 1

Happy DOGust!

DOGust Universal Birthday for rescued/shelter animals whose birthdays are unknown.

### Sunday, August 3rd and 16th

SNAP Voucher & Vaccination Clinics. SNAP will be issuing spay/neuter vouchers. Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic will be available for low cost shots 11am-6pm at PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman. Info: 575-405-2195 or 575-524-9265.

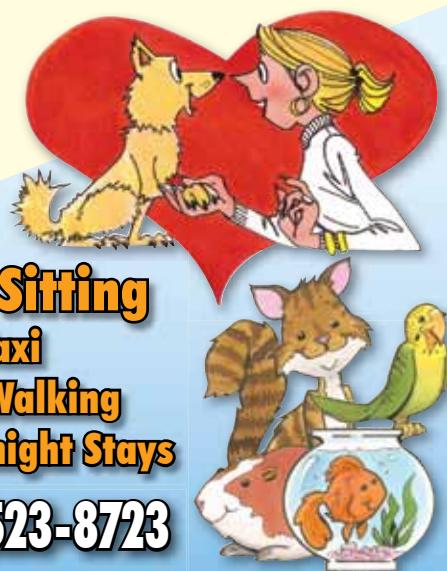
### Saturday, August 2nd & 9th

Summer Saturdays at Safe Haven. Adoption event at SHAS. For directions, visit [shaspets.com](http://shaspets.com) or call 575-805-5338.

### Thursday, August 7th

Cruces Canines "Dogust August."

People and pet social to celebrate dog birthday month, from 5:30pm-8pm at Andele's Dog House. \$5 admission, benefits HSSNM.



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# Dates

## Wednesday, August 13th

### *Yappy Hour*

Food, drinks, door prizes, raffles and more! Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcomed! St. Clair Winery, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla. Info: 575-642-2648.

## Saturday, August 16th

### *"Bow Wow Swim Luau."*

Well-behaved dogs can enjoy swimming with their humans from 12noon-6pm at the Desert Hills Pool, 5800 La Reina. Please bring your own towels and folding chairs. Admission is \$10. Proceeds benefit HSSNM. Info: 575-382-9508 or 575-522-2529.

## Saturday, August 30th

Adoption event for ACTion Program for Animals (APA).

Sam's Club, 2711 N. Telshor Blvd. from 10am-3pm.

## SEPTEMBER

### Thursday, September 4th

#### *Cruces Canines "September Smiles."*

Pet Smiles Month, from 5:30pm-8pm at Andele's Dog House (1983 Calle del Norte, Old Mesilla). \$5 admission, benefits HSSNM.

## Saturday, September 6th & 13th

### *Summer Saturdays at Safe Haven.*

Adoption event at SHAS. For directions, visit shaspets.com or call 575-805-5338.

## Wednesday, September 17th

### *Yappy Hour*

Food, drinks, door prizes, raffles and more! Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcomed! St. Clair Winery, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla. Info: 575-642-2648.

## Sunday, September 28th

### *World Rabies Day.*

## OCTOBER

### *Adopt a Shelter Dog Month*

## Thursday, October 2nd

### *Cruces Canines "Howling Halloween"*

People and pet social to celebrate dog birthday month, from 5:30pm-8pm at Andele's Dog House. \$5 admission, benefits HSSNM.

## Saturday, October 4th

### *5th Annual Cruisin for Critters.*

Motorcycle Run. Benefitting ACTion Programs for Animals. Details to come at [www.dogcruces.com](http://www.dogcruces.com).

## Sunday, October 12th

### *Open House/Adoption Event*

Annual Open House and Adoption Event for Safe Haven (SHAS) at 6890 Eagle Road, 12pm-4pm.

## Wednesday, October 15th

### *Yappy Hour*

Food, drinks, door prizes, raffles and more! Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcomed! St. Clair Winery, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla. Info: 575-642-2648.

## Saturday, October 25th

### *Pits for Peace, 3rd Annual Event.*

Event is held in conjunction with National Pit Bull Awareness Day. A day of appreciation and education designed to change perceptions and stereotypes about pit bulls and their responsible owner. Event details to follow on [dogcruces.com](http://dogcruces.com).

**For a complete  
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*List is updated as events are announced*

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Ladies of Picacho with puppies



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Dog'Cruces

Summer 2014

# What if Fido Needs a

You may be aware of just how quickly information and knowledge is growing these days. No doubt, the pace of technological advances is evident in everyday life. Many estimates put the pace of medical knowledge as doubling every seven to ten years—and some estimates are as short as every two years! Any way you look at it, the amount of information available for all of us to grasp is expanding rapidly.

As I look at the stack of unread journals on my desk, I know I'll never read every word of every one of them. Granted, much of the information does not have clinical relevance to what I do on a daily basis, but I remain daunted by the challenge to stay current in the practice of small animal medicine! This is compounded by the fact that a veterinarian has to wear multiple hats—internist, dermatologist, surgeon, radiologist, pathologist, ophthalmologist, and anesthesiologist—just to name a few. It is a testament to our veterinary training that we are able to juggle knowledge and skill in so many areas, but let's face it—nobody can stay on the cutting edge in all areas of medicine. Thankfully, specialization has become commonplace in veterinary medicine.

Although our smaller metropolitan area hasn't yet attracted a large number of veterinary spe-

cialists, nearby cities now have an assortment of talented and highly-trained doctors with skills in highly-focused areas of veterinary medicine. These doctors have gone beyond the normal eight years of training required to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, often investing an additional three to four years to gain Board Certification in specialized medical areas.

*...I remain daunted  
by the challenge to stay current  
in the practice of  
small animal medicine!*

The advantage of this is clear—as a General Practitioner, I now have the option to refer complicated or difficult cases to someone with far more skill and knowledge in that specific area than I have. There isn't a week

that goes by now that our practice doesn't send patients to see one of these amazingly talented doctors. So how does all this work, you might ask? And when would you take your dog to see a specialist?

The majority of the time your veterinarian is perfectly qualified to care for your dog. Referral certainly isn't something you will need very often—and to be quite honest, if you ever do seek specialty care for your pet, you need to be prepared for some very high level medical care that will come with an equally impressive price tag. This level of training, equipment, and skill doesn't come cheap. In many instances, we have clients that would seek referral care, but



# The Vet's View

by  
Dr. Scott Pirtle, DVM

## Specialist?

the costs are a burden. Making a realistic assessment of your family's ability to absorb the financial commitment is very important. In addition, travel could be required. There are now some Board Certified specialists that visit the El Paso-Las Cruces area on a regular basis. But for many specialty needs, a drive to Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Tucson or Phoenix may be necessary. This often requires hotel stays and time off from work—another barrier for some people.

What would be an appropriate situation for referral to a specialist? Any time your regular veterinarian suggests seeking a specialty opinion for a complicated medical issue! Commonly referred problems include ophthalmologic conditions, cancer, difficult internal medical problems, bizarre neurologic cases, or unusual dermatologic issues. Another major reason for



**Although our smaller metropolitan area hasn't yet attracted a large number of veterinary specialists, nearby cities now have an assortment of talented and highly-trained doctors with skills in highly-focused areas of veterinary medicine.**

referral is to seek surgical treatment for complex problems—especially orthopedic issues such as fractures, joint disease, or neurologic problems like a ruptured intervertebral disc with spinal cord compression.

In some situations, a complicated medical case may need surgical treatment as well. Luckily, many specialists are part of a group practice which includes doctors with a variety of expertise in multiple fields. Your dog can have an ultrasound, consult with an internist and cardiologist, and then have a surgical procedure performed, all within the same hospital—and all by Board Certified specialty veterinarians.

Hopefully, your dog will live a healthy life with very few medical issues with which to contend. But should the day come when a complicated medical or surgical issue develops, don't be surprised if your veterinarian suggests going to see one of our nearby specialists. They partner with us to provide your pet the best care available.

Your veterinarian will contact the appropriate doctor and arrange a referral, much like your doctor sending you to see a specialist. Once your pet has been treated, the specialist will return you to your regular veterinarian for the majority of the follow-up care. This partnership can greatly enhance the level of care your dog receives.

As a generalist, I find it nice to have these talented, specialist doctors to back me up in my daily efforts to keep my patients healthy. I'm sure your veterinarian does too.

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# Powerball Dreams and Nine-Iron Wishes

by Jess Williams

I often fantasize about winning the lottery, so that I could buy a ranch the size of which would make Ted Turner envious.

On my ranch there would be no cattle or sheep, but there would be lots and lots of dogs. *Toby* and I would ride around from section to section in a Jeep, towing a trailer dispensing Greenies and Milk Bones, followed by hounds and Pitties, Yorkies and Chihuahuas, mutts and mongrels of every size, all smiling happily.

Every day would be an adventure in dog fun, and people could only visit on Thursdays. The dogs would drink from streams and ponds, they'd sleep in the shade of big, beautiful trees, and they'd shelter in climate-controlled enclosures dotting the landscape. Naturally, there would be a staff veterinarian.

Out on one corner of the ranch (the corner closest to town), *Dog'Cruces* would have a vast headquarters for publication, printing and

marketing, with the goal of worldwide circulation whetted by scintillating centerfolds featuring naked dogs. *Toby* would have a weekly opinion column.

*Toby* would have strong opinions about chaining (it's always bad), the humane management

of feral-cat colonies (he's all for it), proper grooming (he'd give

shout-outs to Zack at Better Life Pet Foods) and tasty nutrition (he'd send his loving regards to the folks at Horse 'N' Hound).

On Saturdays at the ranch, I'd walk the east fence line armed with a nine iron, and I'd practice my golf swing while pitching poop over the fence onto the neighboring ranch, whose owners don't like dogs. I would giggle fiercely (and wear Kevlar, just in case).

There would be a drive-in theater somewhere on the ranch, but the speakers would all be located low to the ground, and there would be evening features of *Lassie*, *Lady and The Tramp*, *Old Yeller* and various mouth-watering dog-food commercials. The snack counter would sell Greenies at an approximate 422% markup, payable in moon howls and face licks.

*Toby* would not be allowed to frequent the drive-in, because he has never demonstrated even the slightest bit of tolerance for the TV at home. Any time a dog appears on the screen, he leaps from my lap, barking like a banshee, and runs at the TV as if to protect me from the two-dimensional enemies he creates in his opinionated imagination.

I can yell at him to shut up, but I might as well be talking to the neighboring rancher about the merits of dog ownership. *Toby* will not rest until the TV dog is replaced by a non-threatening visual, such as the Doctor with blue eyes who can't produce tears properly and tells me about it with painful regularity despite my (quiet) protestations that I just don't need to

know. Don't get me started on the Cialis commercials. Anyway, no theater for *Toby*; he'd be a disruption to the other canine patrons of the cinematic arts.

Every year in early October, Jimmy Buffett and The Coral Reefer Band would be flown in for a benefit concert, with all proceeds going to benefit the animal-advocacy organizations of Doña Ana County. Jimmy would close every show with "Death of An Unpopular Poet," (which you should look up and listen to on **You Tube**). Opening acts would vary from year to year, but I'd definitely keep Jim Hoehn, Keith Sykes, Michael Miller, John Frinzi and Jimmy Parrish on speed dial. They've all played in Las Cruces for the benefit of the critters, and they are goooooooooood.

My ranch would also have a lush hill overlooking a beautiful valley. On the hill would be one bench. The bench would look out over all the little gravesites of the dogs who have crossed The Rainbow Bridge. Closest to the bench would be the plot reserved for *Toby* when his time comes, so that I could sit close to him as my own years roll past, remembering his bark, and his smile, and his damned TV behavior. I can't think about that any more just now.

I think I'll revise the Thursday rule and let dog people visit whenever they want. Bring your own nine iron (and Kevlar). If you come in early October, wear a coconut bra and feathers in your hat. Stay away from the TV room in the main house if *Toby* is in there.

Do you have your lottery ticket? I have mine.

Jess Williams is chairman of the board of directors of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley. *Toby* is an 8-year-old Yorkshire terrier who is only slightly spoiled (in the same sense that rain is only slightly wet). Ted Turner owns most of the American West. Jimmy Buffett has managed to write the soundtrack to the life of Jess Williams, who has not yet won the lottery. A lottery ticket is either a tax on people who are bad at math or a License to Dream. A nine iron is an excellent dog-poop launching device. Dog'Cruces is a fine publication even without naked-dog centerfolds, but it should probably be more judicious about choosing its contributing writers. (**We're delighted with our choices in contributing writers—The Editors**).

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# Now Showing

**The Concept:** Movie or TV Parodies!

**Setting the Stage:** To get us started, we came up with lots of potential titles, as in *Dog of Thrones*, *The Barking Dead*, *How I Met Your Mutt*, *Barks and Recreation*, *Top Dog*, *Dognado*, *Zero Dog Thirty*, and *No Country for Old Dogs*.

**Exposition:** Many students researched their audience by happily reading numerous editions of *Dog'Cruces*.

**Initial Incident:** Students contemplated the connections among movie or TV titles and their own dogs' stories.

**Rising Action:** First drafts—students chose to write creative stories or personal narratives.

**More Rising Action:** Rewrites and conferences and more rewrites and more conferences introduced students to real world expectations.

**Climax:** *Dog'Cruces* editors chose three favorites out of many great stories.

**Falling Action:** Congratulations to all—and more re-writes and conferences for Angelica, Annie, and Fred.

**Denouement:** Thank-you, *Dog'Cruces* readers, for three years of support!

—Phyllis Wright



## PAWS & ORDER Canine Rescue Unit

Director: Annie Stout

## MEAN GRRRS

Director: Angelica Jones

## DAWN of the DOG

Director: Frederick Hansen

# Paws & Order: Canine Rescue Unit

by Annie Stout

Every dog has a story, and our beautiful Golden Retriever's story began one random day in the desert of New Mexico. It was a smoldering Las Cruces summer day when my mom decided to take our visitors from Denver on a hike up A-mountain. The gang included my ten-year old sister Maria, my mom, my mom's friend Jill, her three young sons Jake, Adam, and Luke, and me. I was eight. We desert dwellers thought it'd be fun to give the boys a taste of our sun and sand. The sun was high and the sky a crystal clear blue with a light breeze to cool us, the perfect day to experience New Mexico at its finest. All seven of us piled tightly into our Ford Excursion, and we drove to the base of the mountain to start our hike. It was a calm and pleasant day...until we saw a wild, malnourished, matted Golden Retriever flying through the dirt and ocotillo, desperate to reach us. At the sight of the mangy pup, there were squeals of terror and exclamations of excitement. Things got hectic incredibly fast with five kids and a wild dog running around. My mom and Jill were opening and slamming doors, rushing everyone into the car, and as we sat behind closed doors, we watched my mom slowly approach this spastic dog and give it water to soothe it. This mess of a Golden attached herself to my mom after gulping down two bottles of water, and we knew my mom could never leave her behind.

Some quick background: my family now has five rescue dogs, from situations exactly like these, so taking home a "wild" dog was old news for us. However, for our Denver guests, this was an entirely new, incredibly unpleasant encounter. When my mom announced her decision to take the dog home, you would have thought by the looks on the boys' faces that we had decided keep a live 20-foot python, and that they were to be the appetizer, entrée, and dessert!

So, we had eight seats in the Excursion, but in order to accommodate the Golden, we had to put down the back row of seats and smoosh five little kids into three seats. Easier said than done with three absolutely horrified boys and two extremely ecstatic girls all trying to sit together in peace! We squeezed in tight, my sister and I perched over the seat so we could pet and admire our new puppy, and the three little boys glued to the front seats, terrified of the mangy beast in the back. There we were, seven people and a pup driving back to Las Cruces, when all of a sudden the excitement of being around humans and the relief of air conditioning triggered this Golden Retriever to go crazy for love.

With absolutely no warning, the Golden lunged halfway over the seat, pawing and jumping, attempting to get over the seat back. Slobber and hair were flying everywhere as this big ol' hunk of a dog was trying her hardest to join the party in the kids' seat. Maria and I were more than happy to have our excited new dog in the seat with us, but the boys flipped. They screamed bloody hell when the "beast" flew over the seat, and—Lord Almighty!—a tiger may as well have been loose in the car, given the fervor in which the boys tried to escape.

Legs, arms, bags, and tiny bodies were flying and intertwining as Jake, Adam and Luke threw themselves into the front seats at the same time. The dog leapt back over the seat completely, trying enthusiastically to join the excitement in the front. The dog was bouncing around, smacking his tail against my sister, barking, and licking the boys in front, flying from side to side as the car rounded turns. By this time everyone was screaming. There were shouts to calm down from my mom attempting to drive with three boys, a full-grown woman and a dog all in the front two seats with her. There were screams of terror from the three little boys and their mom, and there were exclamations of pure happiness from me and my sister who thought the scene unfolding was absolutely the most entertaining thing ever.

My mom finally pulled over and resettled everybody in their places. Jill drove the gang back home while my mom sat in the very back and gave our new Golden the attention she craved so much. The boys cried the entire way home from the oh-so-vicious dog attack they had survived, and my sister and I sat contentedly with a new puppy in our lives and a funny story to tell our friends. We arrived home and, with a water hose and some Dove soap, managed to get the dog to shine a beautiful gold again, in contrast to the dull dusty brown of a dog dehydrated in the desert.

Eventually the boys warmed up to our new addition, and by the time they had to head back to Denver, they were as attached to her as we were. Dogs have a way of doing that, making even the hardest hearts melt.

Holly may have been living a different life when her story began, but since we found her—lost in the desert with no tags, severely malnourished, scared, and craving love—she has held the hearts of the Stout family in her paws every day for eight years. I think we humans could take something from what Holly went through—even when we're running crazy and lost in a desert, maybe literally, maybe metaphorically, there will be someone to run towards, someone to catch us at the end, and there will be better things after the hardships, things that will make our story joyful again. I will always love the big, excited goofball that will forever be a beautiful part of my own story.

# Mean Grrrs

## by Angelica Jones

As Cady the Corgi arrived at the at the high-end North Shore Dog Park for the first time, she was bombarded by the mass of canines, from German Shepherds to Greyhounds to Bulldogs. She felt as if she were invisible—no one bothered to even show her around, and she had to figure out the park by herself. As Cady finally decided on her first stop, she bumped into a Yorkshire terrier by the name of Ms. Yorkbury, and the terrier spilled her yogurt treats all over herself. As Cady quickly tried to recover from her embarrassment, two dogs, a friendly Siberian husky, and a really sweet giant grey Newfoundland, made their way to her to say hello.

"Is that your natural coat color?" the Newfoundland asked. As he walked up and stood next to Cady, he added, nodding to his friend, "See, this is the color I want." The Siberian husky, who was right next to him the whole time, peered at Cady and whispered to her, "Don't worry about him, he's almost too grey to function." The Husky introduced herself as Janis Ian, and her friend, the Newfoundland, as Damien. They continued to talk to Cady and make her feel welcome at the North Shore Dog Park.

At the next station in the park, the dogs headed toward the grassy area in the middle. Cady the Corgi, Janis Ian the Husky, and Damien the Newfoundland made their way onto the main area of the park, but as they did, they stopped in their tracks as a scene across the way unfolded. Cady witnessed a Pomeranian, a Shih Tzu, and a Cocker Spaniel surrounded by Greyhounds, Pitbulls, and other masculine canines at the park.

Cady turned to her two new companions and asked, "Who are they?" Janis, the Husky, answered that they are what the pair calls the "Plastics," the most popular dogs at the park. Janis also pointed out that the meanest one is the Pomeranian, whose name is Regina George. Janis also explained that the Shih Tzu's name is Karen, who is the silliest dog you will ever meet, and the Cocker Spaniel is named Gretchen Wieners. "Gretchen's father owns MilkBone treats, by the way," Damien added. As Cady was soaking up all the information about the Plastics, she stared into the distance at them, how they were basking in the glory that was their popularity.

By the middle of the afternoon, it was biscuit treat time! That was when the humans shared all kinds of yummy snacks with the dogs. As Cady was making her way out of the line to go sit with Janis and Damien across the way, her line of vision was blocked by a shadow right in front of her.

"Cady, right?" Cady looked up to see who was questioning her, and saw a pug. "Yeah, that's me," Cady answered the stranger. "I was wondering if you're willing to answer some questions," the pug continued. "Um, Okay," Cady hesitated. "Is your fur petted?" "What?" Cady stammered. "Would you like someone to pet your fur?" "I'm sorry, what?" Cady was genuinely confused.

"Is this pug bothering you?" A lighter but harsher voice spoke. Cady turned to see who was talking, and saw the Plastics only a foot away. Regina, the Pomeranian, looked at the pug and said, "Jason, why are you such a cat?" The two other dogs with her, Karen and Gretchen, let out taunting barks.

Regina looked at the pug and said, "You can go chase your tail now— bye, Jason." The pug looked startled and began to run away when Gretchen, the cocker spaniel, flirtatiously said, "Jason, you were supposed to play with me yesterday!"

Regina gave Gretchen a **look**, and Gretchen looked down, obviously ashamed. Then Regina glanced at Cady and said, "Come sit with us." "Really?" Cady was surprised at the invitation, but complied. All throughout the snack time, Cady listened to the "Plastics" and their way of life at the Dog Park. "And on Wednesdays we wear pink collars!" Gretchen finished, as the whistle blew to move on from the treats. Cady was fascinated by the Plastics' weekly routines and their stories from North Shore. Even the gossip made Cady bark out loud. Then, as all the dogs began to leave, Regina looked at Cady and requested, "Cady, I want you to sit with us for treat time for the rest of the week!" "Are you serious?" Cady exclaimed. This day was definitely getting more exciting by the second, and Cady agreed. By doing this, Cady knew she was going to be more popular.

At the last stop at North Shore, Cady was sitting behind a tan Labrador Retriever, and as the Lab turned around he said, "Is this your collar?" He scooped it up from the ground and extended his paw. Cady was hit with a feeling she never felt before. This Lab was seriously so handsome, she couldn't look away. She tried to shake out the sudden butterflies fluttering in her stomach and stumbled with her words as she answered, "Y-yes that's mine." The Lab looked at her and said, "Good, I'm glad."

The next day at treat time, as Regina waited in line ready for her all-natural blended chicken and rice snack, Cady told Karen and Gretchen all about the handsome Lab who retrieved her collar for her. "Who was he?" Gretchen asked. "His name was Aaron Samuels," Cady replied giddily. "Aaron Samuels?" Gretchen and Karen both barked. "What?" Cady yapped back, "What is it?" "That's Regina's ex dogfriend!" Gretchen stammered. "No way," Cady whispered. Then as Regina was trotting back, Gretchen said, "Don't worry, we won't tell Regina." She'll be furious! She looked at Karen to get her to agree and then whispered, "It'll be our little secret."

Cady wondered to herself how Janis could think that these Plastics were "pure evil"? Cady was sure her new friends had only her best interest at heart. That was until Regina sat down and Gretchen announced, "Cady here likes Aaron." Regina then looked at her and said, "Does she now?"

# Dawn of the Dog

## by Frederick Hansen

When the alarm clock sounded, I was shocked and confused, having gotten used to sleeping late because it was winter break. I hid under my blanket hoping to gain a few extra seconds of precious sleep while the alarm screamed at me to get up. I swayed between dreaming and consciousness under the shelter of my blanket, until eventually the blaring of my alarm clock forced me out of bed. I stumbled towards it and struggled to turn it off, still only half-awake. I stood for a moment asking why I would have done this to myself. Then I remembered—today was Christmas! Adrenaline shot through my body, and I was wide awake. I made a move towards the door hoping I hadn't missed Santa.

as I got to the door, though, I heard an unnerving scratching on the other side. I shot back, almost falling on the backpack that I hadn't moved in over two weeks. "What the heck was that?" I muttered to myself. I slowly moved toward the door to face whatever was scratching on the other side. Then I heard a loud grunt and bloodthirsty whine. I stood still in my tracks hoping to fool the thing behind the door into thinking I wasn't there, but the beast proceeded to scratch at my door once again. The creature persistently attacked the door as if excited to get into my room and devour me. I was really scared then. Tears began to form in my eyes as I backed up from the door, not wanting to provoke any conflict with the monster.

I was terrified and trapped, and even after ten minutes the monster had not lost its determination to get into my room. It was still dark outside, so I imagined the most awful beings lurking outside my door wanting to consume me. Then I remembered the zombie movie I had seen the night before in which the hero tricked the zombies into thinking he was not cornered in the room. He hid behind the door using it as a barrier between himself and the zombies and eventually was able to escape. I decided to try the same. I positioned myself behind the door, and as I turned the handle, I shifted into the corner between the wall and the door and created a small triangular shelter. I heard a slight clicking of talons as the beast entered my room. It took several steps into my room and stood still. Like water hitting the floor, a dripping noise came from beyond my shelter. I imagined a gigantic four-legged beast lurking just beyond the safety of my door. This creature with nine inch claws covered in fur and a mouth of dagger teeth still dripping blood from its last kill stood dead silent, trying to find me. I held my breath so that he couldn't hear me. Finally, I heard the beast turn around and leave the room as its petrifying clicking noise followed it.

I slipped out from behind the door in hopes of sneaking a glance at my stalker. As I peeked my head outside my room, I saw a pair of shining eyes staring right into mine. Tricked! I stood still, mesmerized by the stare of this beast, too terrified to move. A shudder woke me from the trance, and I tried to slowly retreat into my room. Suddenly, the monster was running full speed my way. I screamed and jerked my head back into my room and tried to get the door closed, but before I could shut my door, the beast had squeezed into my room. I was now in a closed room with the monster—and it knew I was there!

I jumped to the light switch by the door hoping to expose my attacker. I flicked the switch on and was immediately blinded by the sudden shock of this bright light to my eyes. I could only hope the beast was as blinded and shocked as I was.

Shielding my eyes from the intensity of the light, I had to know—I took a deep breath and looked at the monster. It looked at me with piercing blue eyes not daring to break the stare. It had a pink nose with a few black spots. It had a pelt of black, gray, white, orange, and brown. Its tail curled above her butt, shaking slightly back and forth. Drool dripped from its mouth, leaking onto my bed sheets.

It was a puppy! This little puppy dog could not have been more than 20 pounds in weight, but still I yelled for my parents because I was so shaken and confused! The puppy jumped back in response to my shriek and lay down in my bed with its butt sticking in the air. My parents rushed into my room to see what was wrong. They saw the puppy lying on the bed and looked at each other.

"Did you forget to close the crate last night?" my mother asked my father.

"Huh, I thought I did, but I guess not," my father responded. My father then walked next to me and put his arm around me. "This is your dog now, son." I looked up at him in disbelief. He nodded his head and nudged me towards the bed. "Merry Christmas!" he said, and I embraced Maja, the best friend I've ever had.

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# Workin' Like a Dog



## Bond. Dog Bond.

**O**utside of Veterinary Medical Schools, there are fewer than a handful of academic programs in the U.S. that offer students the chance to learn about dogs and other critters that share our homes (and, for many people like me, our beds, too). In 1890, when New Mexico State University opened as the New Mexico College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, one of the missions was to educate students in the practical nutrition and care of livestock species. In 2010, I was hired in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at NMSU to develop a Companion Animal Program. NMSU had the foresight to recognize the growing importance of companion animals in the lives of people and made an investment toward continuing to fulfill the land-grant mission, but with a modern twist. While livestock species have great economic value, NMSU has recognized the importance of the emotional value that animals once called "pets" have to people. Today the term "companion" is used more regularly. The animals that humans once selectively bred to do physical jobs for us (like herding and mousing) now most often have the single modern role of being our buddies. They keep us company, cheer us up, and ultimately become part of our family.

### Why is a Companion Animal Program Needed?

Studying companion animals gives students at NMSU many career options that were not available to them in the past. For example, some students bent on a veterinary degree discover that the academic, financial, and emotional commitments needed to become a veterinarian are not for them. Students have also realized that they do not have to be veterinarians to work with companion animals; there are many other career options they can pursue. Also, just because people have companion animals does not mean that they know how to care for them. Take dogs as an example: they were the first animal species to be domesticated by humans—even before livestock animals like sheep and cattle. Current scientific evidence indicates that humans started domesticating dogs from wolves about 33,000 years ago. To put that in perspective, the pyramids in Egypt were built about 5,000 years ago.

Dogs have been part of human's lives for a very, very long time, yet we still are relinquishing them to shelters because we do not understand their natural behaviors. We are not willing to take the time to learn how to train dogs with modern, scientifically proven methods that strengthen the human-dog bond. For instance, training methods like the dominance approach (in which humans are taught to take an "alpha" role in the human-

dog relationship) have been scientifically shown to be flawed and are considered out of date by most educated dog behavior experts. Twenty years ago dominance training was the method commonly used, based on the knowledge available at the time. But, in light of the fact that dogs have been selectively bred for about 33,000 years, they are no longer wolves, and their behavior has been greatly altered from wild wolves. Recent scientific experiments show that dogs do look to us for clear, consistent guidance. Dr. Sophia Yin, D.V.M. who is an American Veterinary Medical Association Animal Behaviorist, more accurately describes the human-dog relationship when she refers to it as a dance partnership, with humans being the partner who leads. This is just one example of why we need formal university companion animal programs; to teach people about companion animals using information based on science!

### How Does the Companion Animal Program at NMSU work?

Students interested in the Companion Animal Program take six courses focused solely on Companion Animals while they are earning a Bachelor's Degree with a major in Animal Science (Companion Animals in Society; Companion Animal Management; Companion Animal Behavior and Training; Companion Animals and the Human-Animal Bond; Companion Animal Internship; and Companion Animal Health and Diseases). Because students majoring in human health and education disciplines may want to incorporate companion animals into their careers, I am aiming to get the Companion Animal Program approved as a minor at NMSU by the end of 2014. A great example of how human health professionals might incorporate companion animals into their practice is that of Melissa Winkle, an occupational therapist, who owns Dogwood Therapy in Albuquerque ([www.dogwoodtherapy.com](http://www.dogwoodtherapy.com)).

### How Can the Information Learned in the Companion Animal Program Lead to a Career?

The Companion Animal Program is still relatively new. While students do not gain a formal degree in Companion Animals, it is still an advantage to be able to include on their resume that they have taken numerous university courses focusing solely on companion animals. For students going to

### An Academic Program at NMSU That Teaches Students Scientific Information About Dogs and Other Companion Animals

Veterinary Medical School, these courses provide them with a solid foundation upon which they can build further knowledge. The first group of students to complete the program has also had success obtaining employment at animal shelters, humane societies, and national pet store chains. One of my former students has even started her



**The family that "Bonds" together...has the coolest photo albums!**  
Dr. Fasenko's daughter, Haley Turner, 11, and son, Conner Turner, 8, pose with the family's companion dogs—Score and Sebastian.

own training and pet sitting business in Las Cruces (Cloud K9 Dog Training/Pet Sitting Services—[www.cloudk9nm.com](http://www.cloudk9nm.com)).

### This section of Dog Crues is Called "Working Like a Dog"—Why Did I Choose this Career?

I can tell you that as a professor, I work long hours and there is definitely a lot of "unpaid overtime." There is little separation of home and work life in my world. Many people observe this and comment that, indeed, I "work like a dog." But, for me, the old adage "if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life" holds true. I LOVE what I do (most days!). I often jokingly view myself as Gru, the mad scientist character in the movie "Despicable Me," sending minions out into the world to change it. The difference is my minions are highly educated students who, through their knowledge, will help people better understand their companion animals and ultimately improve the health and well-being of themselves and their animal best friends.

Dr. Gaylene Fasenko, Ph.D., is Associate Professor, Companion Animals, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University ([gfasenko@nmsu.edu](mailto:gfasenko@nmsu.edu)).





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## Dogs in the Workplace

## Mesilla Valley Insurance

**T**oby the Yorkiepoo may be less than a year old and resemble a Build-A-Bear, but he has already proven to his guardian, Patricia Wood, that he is very brave.

This friendly little pup regularly jumps the fence to visit his neighbor's home, after which the neighbor reaches over the fence to place *Toby* back into his own yard. On one such occasion, a coyote came out of nowhere, leapt over the neighbor, and landed directly in front of *Toby*—in his own back yard! Tiny *Toby* bolted after the coyote and chased it away, establishing a coyote-free zone around his humans' castle.

Even with a guard dog as ferocious as *Toby*, you still need insurance—and when *Toby* isn't busy chasing off coyotes, he serves as the official greeter at Mesilla Valley Insurance. He remains quiet and close by Patricia's side most of the time—though he does go into coyote-mode when delivery trucks come to the office.

Visit *Toby* and Patricia at 545 S. Melendres, Suite C., [www.mesillavalleyinsurance.com](http://www.mesillavalleyinsurance.com).



## AAMCO

**M**eet *Daisy*—the dancing, 10-year-old Boston Terrier who spends her mornings at AAMCO. Her human, Richelle Ponder, brings her to work every day, while her sister *Holly* (another Boston Terrier) holds down the fort at home.

*Daisy* starts each work day with doggie cookies placed strategically near the coffee. She has been by Richelle's side every morning since she was a pup and has been known to throw a bit of a pouty fit when Richelle leaves *Daisy* behind to run errands. Even though the office door is opened frequently, *Daisy* remains indoors and doesn't attempt to run out until Richelle lets her know it's time to leave.

Although *Daisy* only works until noon each day (as specified in her union contract), she makes sure she is there to entertain the morning crowd. She isn't much of a cuddler, but she is willing and eager to perform tricks for treats.

This picture was taken the week *Daisy* was scheduled for surgery to remove a tumor on her leg. We wish her a full and speedy recovery so she can be back on the job soon! Check in on *Daisy* at AAMCO, 1885 W. Picacho. [www.aamcoflascruces.com](http://www.aamcoflascruces.com).



# Leash-Free is the Way to Be!!

**The Las Cruces Dog Park Celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**A**s soon as Paula Sharon turns off Solano onto Hadley, Beau starts alerting his friends that he's on his way. His deep baritone voice can be heard more clearly as his mom turns right onto Hermosa. Once out of the car, Beau passes through the gate and is surrounded by his buddies, shaking and wagging tails in friendly welcome. He's arrived at the Las Cruces Dog Park, located just behind the Meerscheidt Recreation Center.

The Dog Park opened on May 9, 2009. It is almost one full acre of wide-open space, and it boasts over two dozen young trees, a couple of shade structures, several benches and a water fountain that serves both dogs and humans. Since opening, the Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition has made improvements to the original Park, including a solar street light, several dozen plastic chairs and numerous wading pools. They've also had the City fence off a portion of the park to provide a "Special Needs" area for small, timid, new or unsocial dogs—so there's a place for everybody to have fun! Official hours are 6am to 10pm every day, but the gates are never locked, so the Park never really closes. It is one of the few parks used 365 days a year, regardless of weather. Some days more than 100 different canines will visit the Park, with up to 45 dogs there at once on especially active evenings.

The Las Cruces Dog Park has its regulars—like Scout, who whines like a baby when he hears buddy Beau approaching the gates, and Sasha, who cleverly uses the wading pools as obstacles in her games of chase, and Dwight, who seldom gets caught because of his exceptional cornering skills. New visitors are welcomed and shown the ropes, and quickly join the furry throng of happy, playful pups.

Currently, there are only five rules posted at the Dog Park: 1) Owners are responsible for their dog(s); 2) Pick up after yourself and your dog(s); 3) No food or drink in the park; 4) No children under the age of five; and 5) Immediately isolate or remove any aggressive, dominating, or over-excited dog. Common sense, common courtesy and

self-regulation are the keys to everyone having a good time. It is smart and highly recommended that your dog be up-to-date on his vaccinations before venturing into the Park, so until your puppy is fully protected, please don't take the risk of exposing him to Parvo or other potential diseases in any park or public space!

the irrigation system for the trees, and makes repairs as needed. On the last Thursday of each month, a water truck sprays the park to help keep down dust. City employees do not clean the park of dog waste or litter, nor do they mow, level, rake, line or re-line anything in the park.

The Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition is a 501(c)(3) public charity today, but it started as a group of dog lovers who just wanted a leash-free environment in which their furry friends could gather and play. Beginning in 2005, with key leadership and tenacity from Ellen Mangan, Renee Waskiewicz, Margaret Dubbin, Eli Valdez and Mary Murin, the Coalition overcame skepticism and outright opposition to finally secure state funding and the City's approval in 2008. It took another 18 months of design, planning and construction before the envisioned doggie paradise became a reality.

Individuals can become Coalition members and/or make tax-deductible donations at [www.lcdogparkers.com](http://www.lcdogparkers.com). Our

Facebook group, "Dog Parkers," has over 280 members, and is currently the largest such group that comes up in a Facebook search. Visit the page to see thousands of pictures and scores of videos taken at the Park.

The Las Cruces Dog Park is a wonderful place for dogs and their owners. Come on down and let your dog go leash-free for a while. You'll both love it!



The all-volunteer  
Las Cruces Dog Park



Coalition and park users manage the Dog Park and keep it clean. Everyone is always responsible for poo-patrol, and on the first Saturday of every month, Coalition volunteers wash all the chairs, benches, gates, posts—even the boulders!

City administrators admit the Dog Park is just about the easiest and cheapest of all the city's parks to maintain. The City restocks the supply of waste bags, empties the trash cans, maintains



Kevin Armstrong is President of the  
Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition.

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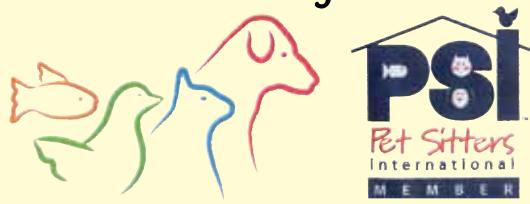
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# Traveling With Your Best Friends

by Vic Villalobos

## On the Road with the Toad

**I**t's been a while since we took a journey in the RV with The Girls. We wanted to take a winter trip, but time just never permitted. So, recently, we decided a long weekend was long overdue!

You might recall that my biggest complaint about travelling in the RV is that we *only* had the RV on the road. Let me explain—we (I) would drive up to eight hours, after which we (I) would set up the RV in seven simple steps... **1-** Get out the fencing so the dogs can exit the RV and watch me work. **2-** Set the leveling jacks to level the RV. **3-** Hook up the power (if available). **4-** Hook up the water (if available). **5-** Set up the outdoor furniture and grill. **6-** Take everything down and put it back in storage because we need to drive into town for pie (or some other dessert). **7-** Start over with Step 1.

Luckily, we (I) will never have to deal with steps 6 and 7 again, because we found a solution that makes everyone happy—including the dogs. We got a “toad!” In RV lingo, this what you call a vehicle that is towed behind your RV.

Determining the right toad for us was a months-long project, and we learned a lot in the process. Laws regarding tow vehicles vary state to state. What makes a vehicle a good toad? How much weight could our RV tow? Which makes and models can be towed? Is it really worth the expense? After doing our research, we decided it was a good idea for us—and we purchased a 2001 Chevy Tracker. Trackers are very popular

in the toad world because they're lightweight, have four doors, and are simple to hookup to tow.

It had been years since we'd been to Durango, CO, and we really like the area—so we took our toad north on its maiden voyage. At first, I was a little nervous driving with the Tracker in tow, but soon it was full steam ahead!

We stayed at the top-rated park in the area—**Alpen Rose RV Park**. One of the main reasons we choose this place is that it has a two-acre, fenced dog park. Upon arrival, we were greeted by friendly staff and shown our spot under beautiful shaded trees. I followed Steps 1-5, and we headed to the dog play area. After

The Girls had had a great time in the park, we loaded up the toad and headed to town for dinner. It was a cool 60 degrees in Durango, and the dogs enjoyed the ride with windows down and ears flapping in the cool mountain breeze.

The next morning, we took advantage of the all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at the Alpen Rose RV Park, and then went for a hike on one of the trails just behind the park. The Girls quickly managed to find the mountain stream and did what Goldens do—swim! Afterwards, we loaded up once again and headed to the nearby honey farm to enjoy some delicious treats.

One of the big attractions for us in Durango

***The highly-rated Alpen Rose RV Park in Durango, CO provides its own two-acre, enclosed dog park.***



is the **Durango Dog Park**. The park is well over five acres and has access directly to the river! Upon arrival, The Girls spotted a whole bunch of other dogs to play with—and then they noticed the water. *More swimming!!* We will definitely be back to the Durango area in the (hopefully) not-too-distant-future.

On the way home, we met up at the Albuquerque KOA with our good friends Steve and Nancy, who had just competed in an agility trial elsewhere in Colorado. Once we had set up camp (in six easy steps), it was time for dinner. But rather than walking the 5.6 miles to one of our favorite eateries (**Flying Star Café**), Steve and I hopped into the toad and in a matter of minutes were picking up take-out and heading back to the campsite. EASY AS PIE!

Our new addition gives us more freedom to explore than we had before. We can't wait to be on the road with the toad once again!



***The Girls snuggled under warm blankets after their romp in the cool mountain air.***

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# PENNY for your Thoughts



by Jenifer Woods

## Dysfunction Junction

**P**enny is not an Alpha dog. Or a Beta. In fact, we could exhaust the entire Greek alphabet without reaching her level of submissiveness. Lady bugs and Gandhi are more aggressive.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing—I have never had a moment's worry about Penny snapping at a child or harming another animal. She's docile and gentle and is a silent and nearly-invisible office dog. She would be absolutely perfect if it weren't for one little thing: bitch be crazy.

Not the *fun* kind of crazy that results in amusing and delightful doggie antics—Penny's kind of crazy is a devastating fear of, well, almost **everything**, and it renders her virtually unable to function in human society.

Penny spends most days with me at the office—in her Lair of Solitude under my desk. She can be lured, grudgingly, from her happy place with food. Sometimes. (I've seen her turn down whole grilled steaks rather than abandon the safety of the Lair.) There is an assortment of treats on my desk at all times, so people can try their luck at befriending my dog. It's a humbling Treat/Retreat/Repeat process that often involves crawling on the floor beside my desk—with any positive results being very short-lived. Mayor Vic has concluded that every day with Penny is Groundhog Day—by closing time, he's made great progress toward winning Penny's affection...all of which she has forgotten by the next morning. So each day begins anew....

Penny and I take walks on the dirt road behind the building several times a day. We never know what adventures await—but they're all terrifying. She dashes past the other businesses so she won't encounter anyone arriving or leaving. A sudden noise can lead to near-strangulation as she pulls in the opposite direction, and a man at the end of the road causes paralysis. I almost lost an arm when a rogue tumbleweed took a turn toward us one blustery day.

My sweet, crazy dog almost never barks and barely makes any sound at all—during the day. Apparently this is because she's saving her voice for the evening performance. For some reason, when the sun goes down,



*Penny endures my attempts to socialize her with as much grace and good humor as she can muster.*

Penny heads for the backyard to howl and bay and bark at...what? I've gone to investigate and seen, heard, felt *nothing* out of the ordinary. So far, my neighbors haven't stormed the castle with pitchforks and torches, but I fear that day will come. And since Penny is useless as a guard dog, I'll most likely be caught by surprise when they do.

Though Penny can barely function in human society, she thrives in the canine world. She loves other dogs and literally dances when she arrives at Karen's Animal House for doggie daycare or when Nacho drops by the office. Penny beelines toward the other leashed dogs at Yappy Hour, but cowers and flees if their humans reach out to pet her. (I've never had a full glass of wine at Yappy Hour, because I'm either being yanked toward another dog or away from a human.) Penny is two completely different dogs, and while this split in her personality confounds me, I find it also allows for a glimmer of hope—she's not a *total* recluse, so maybe, just maybe, she can grow to trust and be as comfortable around people as she is with her own kind.

Of course, the opposite could also come to pass, but I don't want to think about that.

My heart breaks to see my darling little girl so awkward and fearful around humans—especially those who already love her, like her family here at work. I worry she may never overcome her anxiety and will miss out on half the fun of being a dog as a result. Now that I know her, I'm amazed that Penny bonded so instantly and completely with me a year and a half ago and am grateful she loves and trusts me. But I can't help wondering if I will be able to provide everything she needs to lead a full and well-adjusted life.

I tell my Penny she's crazy at least once a day. But every night, I hug her tightly and whisper that she is safe and she is adored. I'll never know

what happened during the first four months of Penny's life—whether her timidity is a result of trauma or simply the personality she was born with—but it's my job, and my joy, to make sure the rest of my dog's days are as secure and as happy as humanly possible.

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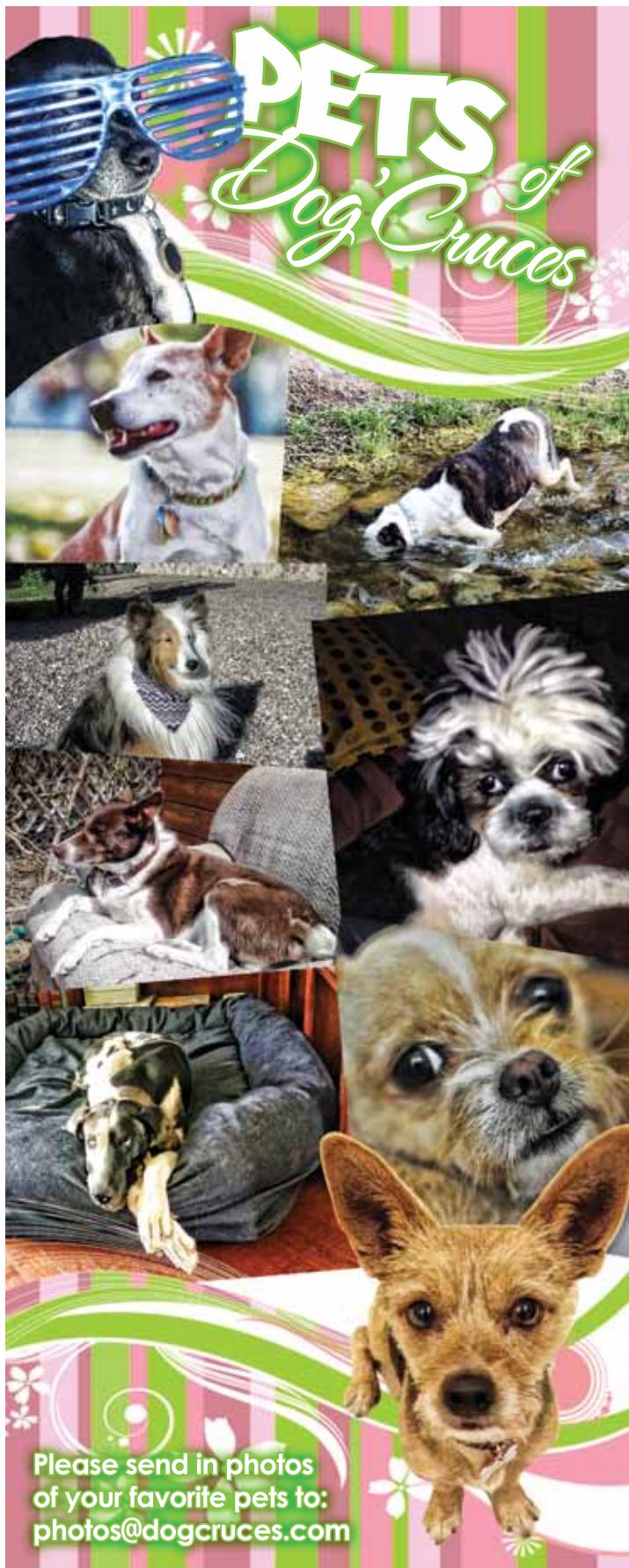
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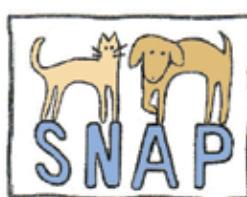


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**Dog'Cruces** **Summer 2014**

## Walter's Lunchbox

by Walter Dubbin  
(as told to Margaret Dubbin)



# The Dog Days of Summer

**S**ummer's here! It's my favorite time of the year because Mom takes me and *Butthead* on early morning runs every day now! Being a dog with a neatly trimmed canine coat, I prefer this warmer weather; but last week at the Farmers' Market the pavement was already pretty hot mid-morning, and I started to feel the burn in my paws! Mom looked at me and said, "Looks like the Dog Days of Summer are here, handsome!"

Hey, wait a minute! Shouldn't something called a "Dog Day" be the most glorious day EVER? One where we're lounging by the pool being spoon fed yummy summer treats by goddesses; rolling in cool, green grass and chasing the occasional cat or squirrel just for fun? Certainly we shouldn't be concerned with burning paws!?

After our run, Mom watered us down while we waited for breakfast to be served by our man-servant (Dad). Mom explained to me and *Butthead* the history of the Dog Days—and it's a doozy.

Apparently, a long time ago in people years, humans called "Romans" believed the nighttime stars had power. One important star called Sirius was part of a group of stars named *Canis Major* which means "large dog." Hey! I'm a large dog. They named stars after me! PAWSome! Oh wait, Mom says there's more and it's not good news. The Roman humans believed that when Sirius was angry he would make the weather really, *really* hot. So hot that it would make dogs and humans go kind of crazy! But *here's* crazy for you: in an attempt to keep the Sirius star happy, the Roman humans would sacrifice a red dog. **What?!** Maybe having a star named after me isn't so great after all! Mom looks sad just telling us the story because she hates the thought of any dogs being hurt. I sure am glad she and Dad aren't Romans!

Now that I know all about those awful Dog Days of summer, I understand why my mom takes such good care of us. She said that dogs like me who have short, thin coats and pink skin underneath can get sunburned very easily. Ouch! Sometimes she even puts sunscreen on my light colored patches. *Butthead* is just the opposite—he has long hair and he is ALL black! He doesn't get sunburned, but he sure gets hot really fast! To help him stay cool, Mom puts a cooling vest on him, and she always makes sure both of us have plenty of water. We almost always run early in the day when the ground is not so hot, but sometimes we're out during the really hot part of the day or we are going somewhere that might have sharp rocks or maybe some broken glass, and Mom protects our pads with doggie booties. Mom can

also do the "hot" test: if she can hold her hand or bare foot on the pavement for about 30 seconds without having to take it off, then it's probably ok for us. If she can't...then it's probably going to burn our paws. No thanks!

So, you peeps keep your fur kids safe during these Dog Days of Summer and try out some of these refreshing summer treats! Enjoy!

**NOTE: ALWAYS consult with your veterinarian regarding ingredients, serving sizes and special dietary requirements prior to changing your pet's diet.**

16-year-old Kelsee Jetzel helped Walter with this article. Kelsee is home-schooled, loves to read and write, and is an Instagram Aficionado. She is a type-1 diabetic and looks forward to getting her own service dog to help alert her to blood sugar highs and lows.

### Samurai Puppy Super Sushi

- Short grain/sushi rice (cooked, a little sticky)
- Choice of Cooked Protein Strips (tuna, salmon, chicken, shrimp, or hot dogs!)
- Choice of Julienned Veggies (NO AVOCADO!)
- 1 Egg (scrambled and cooked into a thin omelet)
- 1 sheet of Nori (seaweed paper)
- Cream cheese (optional)



Place the Nori shiny side down on a sushi rolling mat. (Wrap the bamboo mat w/ plastic wrap for easy clean up.) Place the omelet on top of the Nori and, with wet hands, press a layer of rice covering approx. ½ of the Nori. Layer the protein, veggies, and cream cheese (optional) in a line down the middle of the rice layer. Wet the exposed end of the Nori with water so it will stick to itself once rolled. Using the bamboo mat, roll it all up slowly while pressing evenly across the mat. Wrap the finished roll in plastic and put in the fridge until ready to slice & serve!

### Banana Berry Yogurt PUPsicles

- 1½ C berries (fresh or frozen raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, and/or blackberries)
- 1 over-ripe banana OR 1 C sweet potato puree
- 1 C Greek yogurt (plain or vanilla)



Put berries, banana (or sweet potato), and yogurt in the blender and whirl that sucker up, adding just enough water to make a smooth consistency. Pour mixture into small paper or plastic cups, ice cube trays or freezable dog bowls. Place in the freezer overnight. Serve the PUPsicles to your fur kids for a refreshing treat on a hot summer day!

# Chronicles of Vash

by Shannon Ellison & Kat Lacy



## A Second Chance

**H**er eyes were large and round, her voice soft and gentle. Her long, bare paws felt comforting, like when Mom licked me—long gentle strokes. I felt calmer but continued to scream. My stomach felt like burning fire. The hunger pains were in full force, and I felt I would soon fade away. The great hairless thing put some white liquid in front of me. It smelled good, but I did not know how to get it into my tummy, so I sucked it in through my nostrils.

**AAARRGGHH**, sneeze, spit, cough, fall over, try again. The nostril pathway was not working, so I dunked my whole head in and finally learned to suck the sweet yummy white liquid into my mouth, without falling over. I heard a loud sucking noise and realized it was me, and then I heard a soft chortling which came from my new best friend—she was still stroking me endlessly. Everything became right with the world. I fell over and passed out.

When I opened my eyes again I was in a soft warm cloud. "Baby?" My new best mama said. I answered back with a tiny "Meow?" She started stroking me all over again, so I made my engine roar as loud as I could. She brought me a warm bottle of sweet milk, and this time it had a nipple like my long lost Mother—but it was too big for my tiny mouth. That didn't stop me. I managed to wrestle with it and force that lovely nourishing substance into my tummy and quite a few other places as well.

My new big mama started licking me all over with a warm detached tongue gripped in her hairless paws. I wrestled with that also. Seemed like the thing to do. "Baby, stop that!" her voice said as she laughed. Then I suddenly felt an urge to jump spastically sideways and pounce on an innocent bug. Big mistake! Something very large and dark came rushing towards me with great interest and big deep growls. My mama said, "No Max, leave Baby kitten alone."

I had never seen anything so big and dark before, so I spit real fast three times and scared him away. He obediently lay at my feet. I was beginning to realize I had incred-

ible powers over what became known as "The Dog."

As time passed, The Dog watched over me with scrutiny, and I would continue to spit at him until he completely obeyed my commands—"lie down and stop looking at me." Although he was 300 times bigger than me, my powers were awesome!

The Dog had a large, swaying tail that never stopped moving. On occasion I would pounce on the tail to make it STOP. The Dog would run away and hide when I did this. Sometimes my mama would sway a tail on a stick in front of me, and I gleefully played and pounced and attacked this, but The

Dog's tail was NOT a toy and had to be stopped.

Time passed. My new mama and I went for long rides in a machine with wheels. We visited with folks similar to my mama who sometimes poked me

with things and stuck me with tiny needles for no reason at all. NO REASON! I still purred my motor as loud as I could in hopes they would not poke me again.

On one of these visits The Dog came with us. My new mama left me there. The Others put me in a small cubicle all by myself. I cried loud and hard for a very long time. It became suddenly very dark. The smells were unfamiliar and strange. Memories of my first mama and my baby sister returned. I became engulfed in sadness and fear. I cried until sleep overtook me.

Sometime later the hunger pains returned and woke me from my deep slumber. The Others were hustling along outside of my enclosure, busily chatting and preparing things unknown to me. A long bare arm reached into my enclosure and snatched me up in the air. I screamed at it and wanted to bite down with my teeth but remembered that I got better results with loud motor roars instead. This technique seemed to work, because soon I had a bowl full of sweet milk and lots of gentle caresses. Things started to look a little less bleak. Then they stuck me with a needle, AGAIN, and the world went dark.

To be continued . . .

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### Featured Group

## Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue

Cherished K-9s is a non-profit group that rescues and re-homes neglected, abused and abandoned dogs (BIG OR SMALL BREEDS) in Las Cruces and surrounding communities. They depend on your generosity and volunteer time to help these animals. To donate online through the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, go to [www.cfsnm.org](http://www.cfsnm.org), click on DONORS, then click on DONATE ONLINE and enter CHERISHED K-9 ALL BREED RESCUE in the "designation" field (about half-way down the form). By mail, make checks payable to CFSNM, annotate "Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue" in the memo section, then mail to CFSNM, 301 South Church Street, Suite H, Las Cruces NM 88001. Donations are tax deductible. For information on volunteering at adoption or fundraising events, becoming a foster parent, or adopting a dog, please email [CherishedK-9s@hotmail.com](mailto:CherishedK-9s@hotmail.com).





## PETS Dog'Cruces

# DANDY DOGGEREL FOR DOG'CRUCESES

BY Ross Barkhard

Did you ever stop to contemplate man's best friend?  
Did you ever wonder why your dog is ever loyal to the end?  
Did you ever want to reach out and remove a doggie's muzzle  
So the dog could do what doggies do, which is to fondly nuzzle?

Have you been out to "The Pound" and seen the many wire cages?  
In those kennels, you can find a furry friend for all the ages,  
And if you adopt a new arrival and become an owner,  
You'll be part of the solution and no longer be a loner.

Did you ever stop and wonder about the Dog'Cruces mayor?  
Does he own a quiet dog, perhaps a barker, or a bayer  
Who might howl up at the moon from December unto June,  
Entertaining all the neighbors with some dog ditty tune?

Now, Victor Villalobos, sometimes known as *Villagatos*,  
Is the Mayor here in question – none would call him bellicose.  
Last issue he gave equal time to folks in Feline City,  
And appeared in a cartoon explaining how "To Catch a Kitty."

You see, Mayor Pro Tem Vic, at his existential core  
Is an animal person, really – nothing less and nothing more.  
So thank you, Mayor Vic Pro Tem, for canine sponsorship.  
Three cheers for our Dog'Cruces mayor – Hooray and Hip, Hip!





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