

Spring 2012

FREE!

Dog Cruces

Information for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!

A cartoon illustration of a brown dog with floppy ears, wearing a white shirt and a red collar with a gold tag. It is sitting and looking towards the left. The background behind it consists of concentric green and yellow circles.

Paws on Patrol

Page 15

Border Patrol K-9s are on the front line of National Security!

Thinking Green

Page 19

Meet LIBBY, the furry face of Keep Las Cruces Beautiful.

Ick!

Page 10

Flea & Tick Season is upon us—learn how to keep these critters off your dog!

Haven on Earth

Page 21

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary is a “no-kill” oasis in the desert!

Chain of Fools

Page 12

Jess Williams shares his thoughts about life at the end of a chain.

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Spring Into Action!

Spring has sprung upon us—where did the time go? I barely remember the fall, and winter is just a frosty blur.

It seems that a lot of our pet activities taper off during the winter months, even though it's a *great* time of year for our furry friends: longer car rides in cool weather, longer walks (and not just in the early morning!) and, of course, the occasional opportunity to play in the snow.

But Spring is finally here, and it's time to emerge from hibernation and resume more human-friendly activities. I can't wait to get back to the monthly **Yappy Hours at Andeles** and quarterly **Canines and Cocktails at Hotel Encanto**, both of which took a winter hiatus but are back in action this month. It's also the perfect time for outdoor dining at pet-friendly establishments. Hopefully, you have a list of old favorites, as well as *new* places to try from our feature story in the last issue of *DogCruces*....

And if you discover a pet-friendly business we missed, or a new one that has recently opened, let us know so we can update our list in a future issue of the magazine!

I asked my friend Tom Townsend to introduce us to an exciting new project that will affect our local animal community. *DogCruces* will feature a more detailed article in our next issue, but here is a preview

of what area animal advocacy groups are working on:

"Zero in 7" and the coalition to end animal overpopulation in Doña Ana County.

From Tom Townsend, Vice President, Doña Ana County Humane Society

In July 2011, I was asked to attend a series of meetings on behalf of the Doña Ana County Humane Society. The meetings were hosted by Mayor Ken Myagishima and County Commissioner Billy Garrett and were focused on the growing problem of animal overpopulation in the City and County. The meetings were attended by every animal advocate organization in the area.

When I was confronted by the staggering numbers of animals that are annually being taken in at the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley—which can be as high as 15,000—and the resulting number of animals that are euthanized each year—about 10,000—the task of solving the problem initially seemed overwhelming. After several subsequent meetings, and after hearing the input from the attendees, County Commissioner Billy Garrett presented a strategy designed to address the problem.

The strategy has taken the form of a 12-point plan with measurable annual goals. It has

served to mobilize the various local animal welfare advocacy groups, which have now formed a coalition to solve the problem. The overall objective is to reduce the killing of healthy, and otherwise treatable, dogs and cats at the Animal Services Center to "zero in 7" years.

*While I was initially skeptical of success, after seeing the level of growing support the coalition has and the motivation within the organization that has been achieved, I am convinced we can get this done. Please watch for a formal announcement and a more detailed article about the coalition in the next issue of *DogCruces*.*

—"Zero in 7"—

Stay tuned.

Vic Villalobos

Mayor of DogCruces

Write to us at:

DogCruces Magazine
580 S. Valley Drive, suite 100
Las Cruces, NM 88005

or email us at:
Vic@DogCruces.com



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Information for the Las Cruces Dog Lover!



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DogCruces Magazine

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Doggie Dates

For a complete calendar of events, visit **DogCruces.com**

List is updated as events are announced

MARCH

Wednesday, March 21

Yappy Hour

First one of the New Year! 6-8 pm at Andele's Dog House, 1950 Calle del Norte, Mesilla. Enjoy Yappy Hour food and drink specials, door prizes, raffles, contests and more! Pooches receive free dog treats and all the attention they can handle. \$5 donation at the door. Hosted by the Spay and Neuter Action Program and DACHS.

Saturday, March 31

Semi-Annual Sidewalk Sale

At the Thrift Store, 840 El Paseo, 9 am-4 pm. Great bargains and pet adoption event. Sale benefits Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary.



Saturday, March 31

Canines & Cocktails, Lucky Dog

Happy Hour: APA

from 5 to 7 pm at the Hotel Encanto's Azul Bar Patio. APA, 575-644-0505.

APRIL

Saturday, April 7

Rio Grande Theater showing of *Beyond the Myth*

A documentary about breed discrimination, primarily against pit bull type dogs. Doors open at 5 pm, silent art auction and Q&A session. Details call 575-644-0505.

Wednesday, April 18

Yappy Hour

6-8 pm at Andele's Dog House, 1950 Calle del Norte, Mesilla. Enjoy Yappy Hour food and drink specials, \$5 donation at the door. Hosted by the SNAP and DACHS.

Thursday, April 26

Fundraiser for SHAS

Whining for the Animals, Amaro Winery, 5pm. \$25 ticket. Appetizers, raffle, silent auction, live music on the patio. More information call 575-541-4942.

Saturday & Sunday, April 28-29

DACHS Spring Pet Cemetery

Cleanup

8 a.m. until late afternoon; volunteers can choose how long they wish to work. Bring hand tools. Alicia Melgaard Memorial Pet Cemetery, Call 575-640-0634 for more information.

MAY

Wednesday, May 16

Yappy Hour

6-8 pm at Andele's Dog House, 1950 Calle del Norte, Mesilla.

Saturday, May 12

Mutt Show to benefit Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley

11am - 2pm at Young Park in Las Cruces. Call ASCMV at 575-382-0018.

JUNE

Friday, June 22

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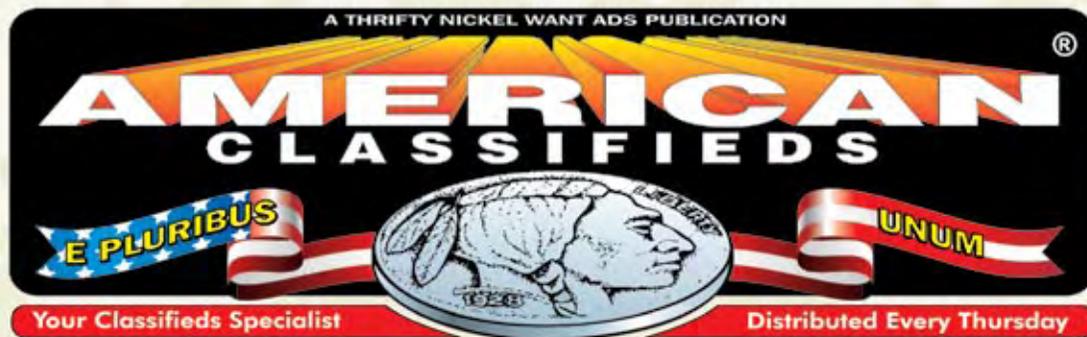
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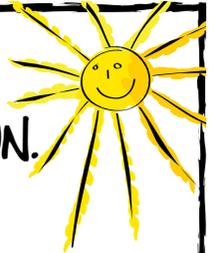
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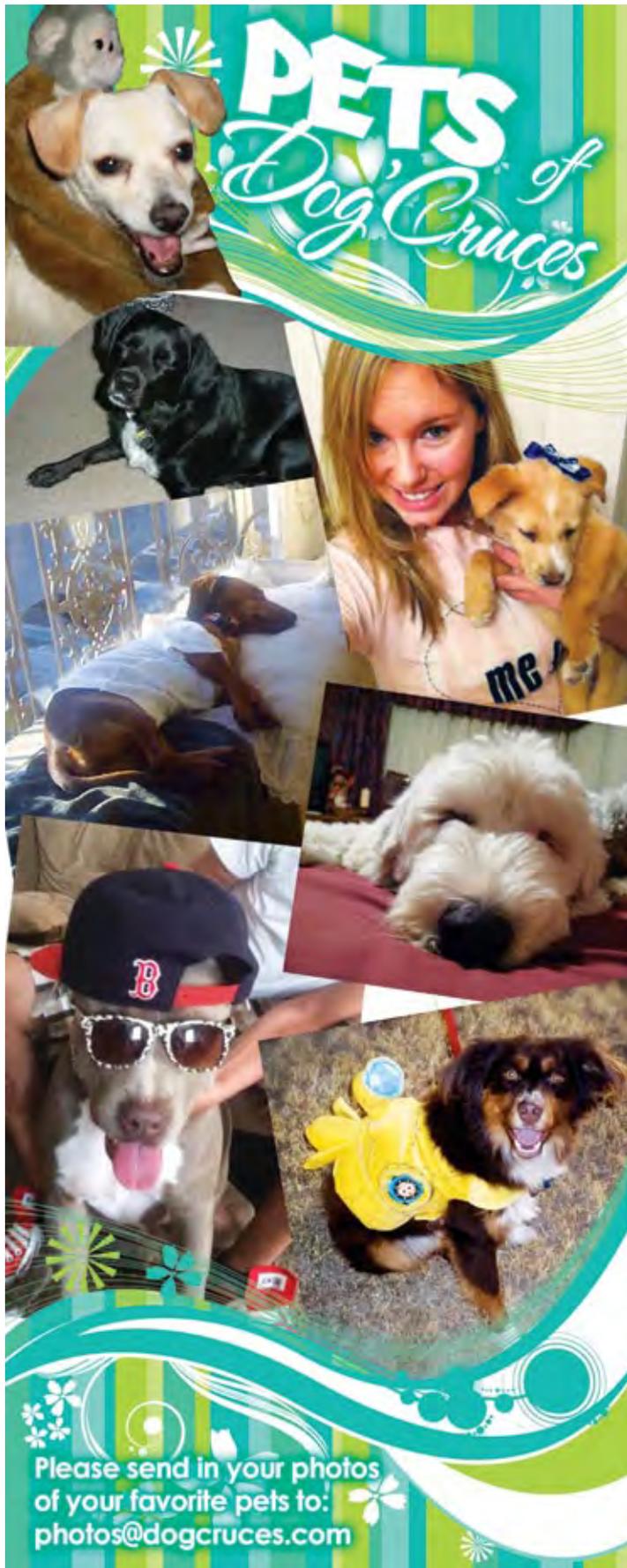
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Warmer Weather Makes Your

While it might be uncomfortable for us to think about, our four-legged family members can carry a vast array of creepy-crawly critters on their skin, in their intestinal tract, and even in their heart. With the warmer weather of springtime approaching, now seems like a great time to discuss the parasites that can affect our dogs, and how to best prevent and treat them.

Parasites are usually discussed in two main groups: **ectoparasites** are those parasites that affect the outside of your dog, namely the hair and skin; **endoparasites** are those that live internally in the organs inside of the dog. Because there are a significant number of different parasites and complexities to their life cycles and treatment/prevention, we'll separate them out into two different articles. For detailed information regarding your dog and how to best deal with these infestations, always seek the advice of your veterinarian. Nobody is more qualified to make recommendations regarding proper treatment options for your pet.

In this issue we'll confine our discussion to ectoparasites, the ones that live on the outside of your dog. The two main external parasite groups are fleas and ticks. Other less commonly encountered ectoparasites include several species of mites and, rarely, lice.

Nationwide, fleas probably represent the most common parasite on the skin of dogs, and are the single greatest contributor to allergic skin disease in dogs. These small, active parasites live most of their life cycle on the skin of the dog. Fleas bite your dog, and the blood on which they feed is used to fuel their reproductive cycle. A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day, and 500 in her lifetime under ideal circumstances. These eggs can stay in your dog's coat, or may fall off into the environment. Places your pet sleeps or lies down for long periods of time will have heavy concentrations of eggs, or the next stages of the flea life cycle – larvae and pupae. Flea eggs hatch within a few days to become small, wormlike larvae. These larvae feed on dried blood, skin cells and environmental debris, and after another week or two they spin cocoons to become pupae. This stage in the flea life cycle is extremely tough and resistant to chemical treatments, and they do not die or freeze

in cold weather. They can lie dormant for long periods of time waiting for a signal to emerge from their protective cocoon. Proper stimulation – body heat, carbon dioxide, or vibrations – can rouse these sleeping young adults from their cocoons in a matter of *seconds*. The newly-hatched adults can then quickly infest your pet and complete the flea life cycle. Because each stage in the flea life cycle is unique, the best flea treatments target all stages of the cycle.

One simple tool to treat fleas is a vacuum cleaner. The vibrations of the vacuum can stimulate the pupae to hatch, making them more susceptible to chemical treatments. The vacuum will also remove a large number of the flea eggs, larva and pupae from the environment.

Seal the vacuum cleaner bag in a plastic garbage bag and throw it away after use.

Environmental treatments can be used around the house and yard. These include chemical sprays and foggers, or in some cases more "natural" treatments such as diatomaceous earth may be employed. Consult a professional exterminator for these environmental treatments; or, if you use a commercially available product, follow all instructions very carefully to ensure the safety of you, your family, and your pets.

The single biggest group of products for treating fleas are those that you apply to your pet. These include collars, sprays, drops, shampoos, dips, and even oral medications. All flea products are not created equal. Some are much safer than others, while the better products may include chemicals to kill adults in addition to breaking the flea life cycle by inhibiting the growth and development of the eggs and larva. These insect growth regulators (IGR) are an important addition to the better flea control products. Because there is so much money to be made in the control and treatment of fleas, hundreds of different brands and products are on the market. Be sure to *always* follow directions carefully, and **never combine multiple products at the same time**. It is important to understand that some flea and tick products for dogs are not safe for cats. The best source for a safe, high quality and effective flea-control program is your veterinarian.

As you can see from this very brief discussion, the flea life cycle is complex. It's unrealistic to think a



The Vet's View

by
Dr. Scott Pirtle, DVM

Dog a Paradise for Parasites!

collar purchased at the grocery store is going to be adequate to control this hardy parasite.

Now let's talk briefly about ticks. Ticks are extremely tough, blood-sucking parasites, much larger and more visible than fleas. Unlike fleas, ticks live most of their life cycle off of the dog. They attach vigorously to the dog's skin with strong mouthparts and draw blood to provide nutrition for their reproduction. After a few hours to days, they will release and fall off into the environment

where they lay huge numbers of eggs. These eggs hatch and then go through multiple life stages as larvae and nymphs. Completion of this life cycle can take many months, and these nymphs and adult ticks may live for very long periods of time without feeding. Reproduction and activity are greatly reduced during colder weather, but ticks can easily survive through the winter, only to become active and start feeding again as the weather warms up. Finding a tick on your dog is an indicator of a large number of these parasites in the environment.

Good tick control is incredibly important. Yes, ticks are disgusting to see on your dog, but more importantly, they can carry a number of diseases harmful to both your dog and to you. Lyme disease is the most recognized tick-borne disease of humans and canines. The Brown Dog Tick that is prevalent in our area is the reservoir for an organism called

Ehrlichia canis. Ehrlichiosis, the disease caused by this organism, can cause a multitude of symptoms. Diagnosis is sometimes challenging, and treatment can be difficult and prolonged, with death as a possibility in some cases.

One simple tool to treat fleas is a vacuum cleaner. The vibrations of the vacuum can stimulate the pupae to hatch, making them more susceptible to chemical treatments.

Since the majority of the tick life cycle occurs off of the dog, environmental control is extremely important to manage tick populations. An experienced exterminator is an important ally in your battle to defeat ticks. A large number of topical products are available to treat ticks on your dog. Many products may be labeled to treat fleas and ticks both. Again, it is important not to combine multiple flea/tick products unless your veterinarian has approved it. One significant frustration in treating ticks is finding live ticks on your pet after application of a tick treatment. Tick products will not prevent new ticks from infesting your dog from a contaminated environment, but with a quality tick control product, many of these ticks will only stay on the dog for a short time before falling off to die, and many will never attach to feed. As always, your veterinarian is the best place to turn for advice and proper treatment of tick infestations on your dog.

In the next issue of *DogCruces* we will address internal parasites – the worms and protozoa that can live on the inside of our four-legged friends.



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BREAK THE CHAIN!



You've had those stir-crazy days. You're waiting for some service technician to show up sometime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and your house closes in on you like a cell.

Even if you have Internet, Cable TV, a Smart Phone, a Wii, a Play Station, a Salad Shooter, a popcorn popper or a deck of cards, the distractions only last so long before the sheer confinement of your situation gnaws at your guts and gives you angst. You're stir-crazy and BORED, looking at the clock every eight minutes and periodically putting in new batteries to make sure the damn thing is running correctly. Stir crazy.

Now look outside at your dog. On his chain.

Perspective, amigo.

A chained dog is a life force grounded by gravity and suffering in silence. His world has a six- or eight- or 10-foot radius. He knows every square inch of it, and none of the scents or scenery ever change. He has to step over his own crap several times a day. He sometimes wraps his leg in the chain or snares it on the rope. Or he sweeps the tether under his water bowl, and the water spills and the dirt soaks it up, and that's that until someone shows up to refill it. Hello sun. Hello heat. Even the cold comfort of a slurp of water is taken away.

Dogs are social animals. Dogs are curious animals. Dogs are territorial animals. Even a small fenced yard is a dog's heaven, if it has shade and shelter and food and fresh water and a tiny modicum of freedom of movement unhindered by a weight around the neck and the bone-shattering jerk that comes when a chain reaches its end.

Dogs on chains are more likely to get mean. Dogs on chains are more likely to go absolutely wild on the occasions when they happen to break free. A dog on a chain is deprived of his dog-ness and evolves – quickly – into something other than the loving, social creature he was born to be.

Some people say they chain the dog because they can't afford fencing. My first question becomes: What makes you think you can afford a dog? And my second question becomes: Can you at least afford two poles 20 feet (or more!) apart with a moving tether that allows meaningful movement and no weight on the dog's neck?

Some people say they chain the animal precisely to make him mean, to make him a guard dog, to cement his loyalty to a small group of people who feed him and change his water and offer him the occasional pat on the head. My question becomes: How can he protect you and your property if he can't even get to the bad guy? He's on a chain, remember?

Still other people say, "It's just a dog." I will never understand these people.

I was assigned to write this article. For a publication titled *DogCruces*. It occurs to me as I write that I'm preaching to the choir. The people who read this are dog people, like me. They never call their dog an "it." Your dog has a gender, a name, a place in the family, and probably a Christmas stocking and birthday treats.

And you have the power to make a difference in the lives of dogs you see on chains. In

Las Cruces there is a remarkable woman named Michel Meunier. Michel and I don't agree on some things, but every time I have called her to talk about dogs on chains, she is responsive and action-oriented.

Michel is the founder of the Las Cruces chapter of **Dogs Deserve Better**. She has amassed a collection of resources designed to educate people about why chaining a dog is bad for the dog and the people around the dog. When the deadline

for this article was looming, I asked her for websites to which I could point people. She answered my email in less than three minutes.

Those websites are as follows:

unchainyourdog.org

dogsdeservebetter.org

newmexicodogsdeservebetter.org

humanesociety.org/issues/chaining_tethering/facts/chaining_tethering_facts.html

apnm.org/campaigns/cwwhaining/index.php

The resources found at these sites are amazingly comprehensive. If you want to educate yourself, a neighbor or even a stranger about the realities of chaining, everything you need to know is here. I'm immensely grateful to Michel for providing these to our community.

When I was a kid – probably 10 or so – I had a friend named Jimmy G who lived up the block. The G family had a German Shepherd, a beautiful animal who was always friendly to me. He lived on a chain in the back yard. One day, Jimmy's dad told him to feed the dog. I followed Jimmy as he went to fill the bowl, and in a blur of activity, the dog burst past Jimmy and lunged at me. He bit deep into my leg and held on and shook. I screamed. Jimmy screamed. Dog food went flying everywhere. Blood was staining the ground. My blood.

When Jimmy's Dad finally got me away from the dog, he told me, "He doesn't like strangers around his food. That chain is his world, boy."

In my dazed, bitten state, I somehow retained that information. Those two disparate sentences eventually aligned themselves in my brain, and stuck there. The bite healed, but the scars remain. To this day, when I think of those terrifying moments, I remember that I was ultimately free to walk away into the afternoon, out of sight of that dog whose world was so utterly restricted and small. Looking back, I don't blame the dog. I blame the chain.

That dog spent his life stir crazy. He deserved better. All dogs do.

Jess Williams is president of the Doña Ana County Humane Society and serves on the Board of Directors of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley. He is a Las Cruces native, and he still lives about a block away from where Jimmy's dog taught him a lifelong lesson or two all those years ago.





PETS of Dog Cruces

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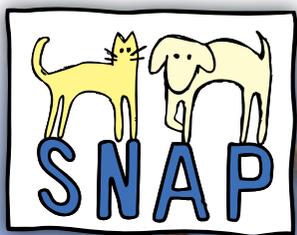
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Border Patrol K-9 Kay alerts Agent José Rivera to a contraband smell at the I-10 Checkpoint.

BORDERLINE

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT A BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINT...

...SO when the *Batmobile* rolled through on the back of a Universal Studios flatbed, everybody was impressed. Everybody, that is, except Kay— Agent José Rivera's German Shepherd. We figured Batman must be as clean as his image—because Kay would certainly have alerted to anything fishy, no matter whose vehicle it was!

Let's back up: Some time ago, members of the Mesilla Valley Search & Rescue team had the opportunity to take the U.S. Border Patrol Line Tour with Border Patrol Agent José Romero. We rode with him along the US/Mexico border for a first-hand look at what these brave and dedicated agents experience every day. It was an eye-opening experience for us—but that's not the purpose of *this* story. After seeing the many aspects of what these human agents do, we became curious about Border Patrol K-9s, and this is *their* story!

To get the whole picture, we followed Border Patrol K-9 trainers and agents from the El Paso Sector (which includes all of New Mexico and the westernmost tip of Texas), observing K-9 training, watching the dogs in action, and attempting to get as much information as we could from our escorts, Supervisory Canine Instructor Pedro Reyes and Agent Lorena Apodaca.

Before continuing, we need to explain something. We would never write about anything that could jeopardize an agent or a K-9, or, of course, national security. So you may find our story to be a little vague or non-descriptive in places. This is because safety and security can't be compromised. Drug trafficking criminals often live across the international divide, making them more

difficult to prosecute and, therefore, more dangerous. So, while many of our questions couldn't be answered, we have lots to share about the training, itself, and the dogs in action! OK, let's get started!

Our first stop was the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Canine Headquarters/Canine Center El Paso, located in El Paso, Texas. There are only two facilities in the United States that train CBP and Border Patrol K-9s. The two facilities are located in Front Royal, Virginia and El Paso, Texas. The state-of-the-art Canine Center El Paso facility has been open since 1993. Even before we were greeted by Agent Clay Thomas, we knew we were about to witness some of the most rigorous K-9 training in the world.

The Training Center sits on a large tract of land, and everywhere you look, you see a different kind of vehicle. The dogs are trained to search not only cars, but also trucks, buses, boats, RVs, mobile homes—any and every vehicle they might encounter in the field. Once they graduate, these dogs can find pretty much anything, pretty much anywhere, but it's a long road from the beginning to that stage.

The dogs are initially purchased in lots, from American vendors who

have brought them here from specialized training and breeding centers all over the world, including Germany, Holland, and Mexico. The pre-named young dogs arrive with few skills and must be tested to determine if, as agent Reyes phrased it, "they have what it takes." According to Agent Thomas, "with the selection test, you look at their courage, you look at their confidence...and the main things you look for are the requisite drives necessary to complete the mission."

If a dog fails to show potential on the selection test, he or she is returned to the vendor. But those who do make the grade spend the next five weeks at the Training Center, working in the disciplines for which the testing has indicated they will be best qualified. Disciplines in constant rotation include search and rescue, narcotics and concealed human detection, tracking and trailing, human remains detection, currency detection, firearms



There are only two facilities in the United States that train Border Patrol K-9s, and the state-of-the-art El Paso facility...serves as Headquarters for all K-9 training in the US.



Supervisory Canine Instructor Pedro Reyes.

AMAZING

Canine instructors employ proven scientific methods of training—but the dogs are just having a great time!



detection, and patrol. Even then, though, the dogs are just getting started!

Dogs who excel in their first five weeks of training are introduced to their new Border Patrol handlers, with whom they continue to train for another seven weeks. The agents told us “the way our course works [is]...we start out with green dogs; we go through five weeks, and train up all these dogs [then]...when the handlers get here, we pair a green handler with a trained dog, a *fully* trained dog.” Altogether, the new dogs receive 12 weeks of training, during which they progress from basically zero to 100% ready for their Border Patrol duties.

If you’ve ever taught, or even attended, an obedience class, you know that positive reinforcement is the most effective way to get good results and build a great relationship with your dog. Well, Border Patrol Agents get it! We expected positive reinforcement, but the way the trainers use effusive positive reinforcement is simply amazing.

Picture this: You have eight Border Patrol K-9s going through the training process with eight trainers—not handlers, but actual trainers. As each dog is taught detection skills, he or she is first shown a cylindrical toy. The trainers hide it, and when the dog finds it and alerts, he or she is praised. By praised, we’re not talking about a quick pat on the head. We’re talking about all eight Border

Patrol Trainers surrounding one dog, making high-pitched praising sounds, and telling it enthusiastically that it’s a really good boy or a really good girl! The dogs are in training heaven! Who wouldn’t be? This level of reinforcement—*eight* trainers to *one* dog—continues through every step of each dog’s training. As Agent Thomas puts it in the understatement of the day, “Praise is a pretty common theme around here.” It was exhilarating to walk around the facility and hear the praise coming from around every corner. These were truly happy K-9s, having a great time as they developed their skills.

What’s the appeal of the cylindrical objects? They can be filled with whatever scent the dog is training to find. The tubes are interchangeable—PVC, aluminum, rubber—but the odors being used stay the same. So the dogs are “looking for the reward, but associating the reward with the actual odors [not the object].” Agent Thomas explained they use the principles of modular progression: moving from a visible tube to a partially visible tube, to a tube that’s completely out of sight. He told us that the whole training process also borrows a lot from the *Schutzhund*, a German dog sport involving trait identification, and the KNPV, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Politiehond Vereniging* or Royal Dutch Police Association Trials.

The Border Patrol trains K-9s in a variety of disciplines: search & rescue, narcotics & concealed human detection, tracking & trailing, human remains detection, currency detection, firearms detection, and patrol.

The training is intense, but not relentless. Agent Thomas explained that using the German model *Hunde aus Laufen*, or “Dogs Out Running,” there are lots of opportunities for healthy exercise, and the K-9s use the Center’s grounds to “go be a dog for awhile” whenever they need a break.

There is a “scientific knowledge base to everything we do,” stresses Agent Thomas, including the ways they incorporate classical conditioning into the training regimen; that includes the strategies of renown behavioral psychologists like Edward Thorndike and B.F. Skinner, as well as Ivan Pavlov. And every approach depends on “repetition, repetition, repetition.”

So, how often are these no-nonsense, federal agents cheering at the top of their lungs? All day

When asked how the dogs distinguish among many odors, Agent Thomas said “the whole snout is filled with... ‘turbinates,’ which are able to identify each molecule of scent that comes out.” To illustrate how vastly superior the dog’s sense of smell is to our own, he used the example of a stew. We smell the whole stew, but the dog smells every ingredient, from the carrots to the celery to the dried rosemary.



long. And what about at the Checkpoints—does the over-the-top praise end with a dog’s certification? Not a chance. Remember:

“repetition, repetition, repetition.” Agent Thomas confesses that “we accepted a long time ago—when we got into the canine program—that we get no ‘cool points.’ So if I’m at the Checkpoint with Pete...and his dog hits...I’m gonna be out there hooting and hollering and screaming and sounding ridiculous. The public can think I’m as weird as they want, because it’s all about the dogs.”

It is all about the dogs, and Agent Thomas worked with one of the best: *Jacko*. “He was 14 years old before he died, and the last time he found narcotics, he was as [excited] as he was when he was young.” *Jacko* won the national **Paws to Recognize Award** in 2005 and was named the top working dog in the country.

Training continues *after* the K-9s and their handlers graduate, as well—16 hours per month for the duration of their careers. Agent Reyes says that “if they don’t attend their 16 hours a month, they are decertified, even if their career lasts 30 years...[because] when [agents] are out in the field, they have to maintain that same level of handling skills.” Let’s do the math: that’s almost 200 hours of training every year *in addition to* their on-the-job experience. On top of that, both Agents and

their K-9s must recertify annually and pass with an 80% or better rating. If the handler fails, the dog gets another handler. If the dog fails, he’s retired. Agent Reyes says “that’s one of the reasons our certification is as good as it is.”

Another principle that contributes to this kind of success is limiting the size of the training groups to eight handlers at the Center. Agent Thomas noted that “it’s an old-school principle—would you rather have one teacher with 20 kids or 40 kids?” Certified instructors are assigned to the training facility for 12 weeks (depending on which discipline the K-9 class is focusing on), while other instructors are assigned to the facility full-time.

After the tour of the Training Center, we stopped to get a bite to eat while bombarding our hosts with questions. Most of the answers were confidential, and our notes ended up looking like this: Question: “How many dogs are currently in Las Cruces?” Answer “classified.” Question: “How many agents have K-9s in Las Cruces?” Answer: “off the record.” We can’t emphasize enough how important security is to the agents’ ability to do their jobs while keeping themselves and their K-9 partners safe.

Our afternoon was spent at the Checkpoint on I-10. We’re all familiar with the routine of driving through a Border Patrol Checkpoint: roll down the window, smile at the agent, and confirm you are a US citizen or show appropriate documentation. Maybe you’ve noticed a K-9 standing just to the side of your car. Well, he’s not just standing there—he’s looking for the toy, the reward! The dogs all had very different styles, but each was

working harder than we’ll ever see from our vehicles—and they don’t miss a thing! Nothing!

If one of the Border Patrol K-9s alerts to your vehicle at the checkpoint, you will be asked to pull onto a side lane where they will conduct a more a thorough inspection of your vehicle. We were surprised at how quickly people were willing to share the fact that they’d gotten high in their car

the night before, and that the jacket they were wearing had been in the back seat, or that “yes, I have marijuana in my car, but it’s “not much.” Once the K-9 detected, most people

found it simpler to just give up than to be caught anyway after their vehicle has been dismantled.

We realize and respect that our readers may have different ideas about border issues, but there’s little doubt we all share an interest in the men and women who serve our great nation with the help of their specialized K-9 partners.

So, while we were gawking at the *Batmobile* movie prop as it rolled through the Checkpoint, we were very aware of being surrounded by *real* heroes on the ground.

For the Border Patrol K-9s, it’s all part of the job they love so much: sniffing, scanning, braving the traffic, the noise, the heat and the cold, and the proximity of huge tires and tons of steel just to find the “toy” and receive the praise they thrive on. For the Border Patrol Agents, it is literally a matter of national security that they and their dogs “have what it takes” to carry out the Border Patrol’s mission of serving “the American public with vigilance, integrity, and professionalism.”

“The public can think I’m as weird as they want, because it’s all about the dogs.”

Agents and their dogs are at the center of activity at Border Patrol Checkpoints throughout the Southwest.



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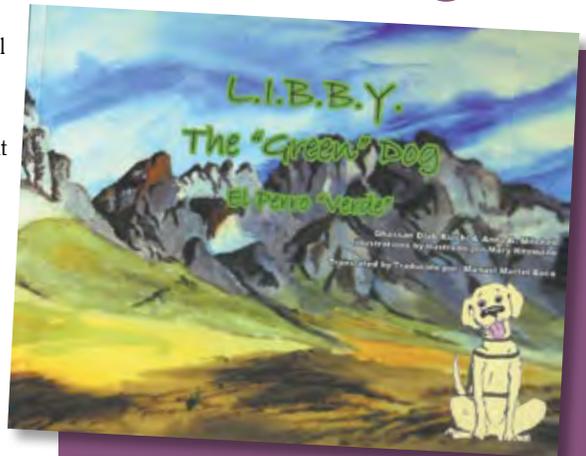
What, exactly, is a "green" dog? Old frankfurter gone bad? Obscure Dr. Suess character? Irish Setter?

None of the above! The City of Las Cruces' "green" dog is a 3-year-old yellow lab named LIBBY who, along with her partner, Codes Enforcement Officer Javier Ontiveros, are the faces of *Keep Las Cruces Beautiful*. KLCB unites citizens, businesses and local government to help reduce waste, prevent littering and beautify Las Cruces and surrounding areas. The program is needed now more than ever because of our expanding population and the increased strain on environmental resources.

LIBBY (an acronym for **L**as Cruces **I**s **B**eautiful **B**ecause of **Y**ou) and Officer Ontiveros are KLCB's ambassadors to schools in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, Mesilla, Hatch and Gadsden. They visit a school each week and engage an assembly of third graders with a presentation about recycling, energy conservation, graffiti, litter, illegal dumping and other environmental

issues. They also take part in Recycle Pep Assemblies, anti-Graffiti skits and after-school programs, and visit with other organizations that want to learn more about LIBBY's mission. The duo encourages kids to take pride in their community by taking action to keep it clean and beautiful.

A new teaching resource is the locally-produced, bilingual book, *L.I.B.B.Y. The "Green" Dog (El Perro "Verde")*, which will be distributed to all area third graders and is available for purchase at rjipublishing.com and, soon, at local retail locations. The book follows LIBBY and her fictional partner, Officer Green, through a week on the job—during which they demonstrate ways in which kids can become environmentally aware and active. The youngsters can take the book home, share what they've learned from LIBBY and Officer Ontiveros with their friends and families, and hopefully spread the message throughout the community.



MISSION Statement:

Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (KLCB) focuses on the 3 E's: Education, Eradication and Enforcement. Our program is dedicated to keeping our city beautiful through litter and weed control; graffiti eradication and prevention activities; community recycling efforts; and neighborhood and community-wide beautification projects. Community involvement is a key component of our program, empowering the citizens of Las Cruces to take action in their neighborhoods.



LIBBY revels in the attention she receives from school children, and succeeds in drawing their attention to environmental issues.

LIBBY lives with Officer Ontiveros, who is her handler, and is trained by Animal Control Officer Juan Valles. She is comfortable around the children and has embraced her status as a role model. The kids are eager to interact with LIBBY and are encouraged to ask lots of questions. She has proven to be an excellent "spokesperson" for *Keep Las Cruces Beautiful* within the public school system.

LIBBY's role in environmental education outreach is the brainchild of KLCB Coordinator Craig Fenske and an advisory group of neighborhood associations, schools and other community members. And it's working! In the past two years, school recycling programs have expanded from just six local schools to 37 now. Through the LIBBY "Green" Campaign, kids have gained a better understanding of why recycling is important and have actively started practicing what LIBBY preaches.

It's a good start, and with the continued efforts of the good people in Codes Enforcement and *Keep Las Cruces Beautiful*—as well as LIBBY's star power—young Las Cruces will be able to protect and enjoy our beautiful surroundings for generations to come.

Chief of Codes Alma Cortez, Officer Javier Ontiveros, LIBBY, KLCB Coordinator Craig Fenske and NMSU Volunteer Josh Stroller



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In 1995, an enterprising animal-lover named Juanita Fisher came up with the concept of Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary. After a trip to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, the country's largest "no kill" facility, she envisioned a similar concept for a sanctuary in Las Cruces. The rest, as they say, is history. Safe Haven took root and has been growing and meeting the needs of the area's unwanted pets for the past 17 years.

Safe Haven serves as Doña Ana County's only "no kill" shelter, and demand for their services far exceeds capacity. Sitting on three acres of land on the east mesa at the corner of El Centro and Eagle Road, the sanctuary accommodates around 40 dogs and about 30 cats. The dogs are housed in large outdoor fenced pens where they have plenty of room to play. There is also a dog park where they are taken for additional exercise and training. The cats live in a communal cattery that affords them an indoor/outdoor experience.

The sanctuary has a new infirmary and isolation unit where dogs are kept when they arrive with no known history. The unit is also used to house pets recovering from surgery or who need to be carefully monitored for a period of time.



Around 220 animals are adopted from Safe Haven each year, including irresistible puppies and cats.



It takes a strong team to keep the sanctuary running. The well-being of the dogs and cats comes under the watchful eye of resident manager, Jeff Barker and his assistant, Ruthie Jimerson. Jeff can often be found transporting pets to their veterinary appointments, running after much-needed supplies or taking animals to off-site adoptions — all between appointments with people seeking to adopt a pet. The rest of the help at the sanctuary is a group of very dedicated volunteers. At any given time they'll be cleaning pens or in the cattery, grooming, carrying out maintenance projects, cleaning the visitors' center, helping with the landscaping, walking dogs, training dogs and working as adoption counselors.

Safe Haven operates as a 501(C)3 corporation and relies solely on donations from the public and from grant monies and fundraising events. They do not receive any government funding. Pets come to the sanctuary from many diverse circumstances. Often a family is moving and is unable to

take their pet with them; others are simply unable financially to provide for the pet. There are sad circumstances that force people to relinquish their pets, while others may have found a stray animal and helped give that pet a second chance at life. Animals coming to Safe Haven will be adopted into new, loving homes or will live out their lives there surrounded by caring and loving people.

There is a focused effort this year to engage more foster families and to build the overall volunteer base. Foster homes can provide a temporary shelter for cats and dogs when there is no available space at Safe Haven. Some fostered pets may have behavioral traits that need to be remedied to make them more adoptable, while others just need a place to stay for awhile. One volunteer, Judy Miller, took in a young female dog that had been abandoned by her owner and left pregnant and

without food or water. Judy took the dog into her home, along with her own cats and dogs, and two days later, the dog gave birth to ten puppies.

The puppies and the mother were all adopted into new homes shortly thereafter. Judy and others have fostered many animals for Safe Haven over the years; it is a wonderful way of providing love and comfort for an animal without taking on the lifetime commitment of pet ownership.



Safe Haven's Thrift Store is a great place to find bargains, and always welcomes donations and volunteers!

The Thrift Store, located at 840 El Paseo, is a major source of funding for the animal sanctuary. Every item donated or purchased helps support the Safe Haven mission. Store Manager Ismael Lujan is always thinking of new ways to increase sales and to make the store (which is one of the more attractive thrift stores in Las Cruces) even better. He relies on volunteers to sort, price and display donated items, and to serve as cashiers and sales associates in the store.

Next time you clean out the closets or replace furniture or appliances in the home, please keep the Thrift Store in mind for those gently used items. The store is able to pick up larger items by appointment and can be reached at (575)541-4942.

For further information on Safe Haven and for volunteer opportunities, call (575)527-4544. To adopt a pet call (575)805-5338.

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by Vic Villalobos



Our California Gold(en) Rush

California here we come! After reading Steve and Nancy's article on RVing with their pets (*DogCruces*, Winter 2011), my wife and I decided to give it a shot. Truth be told, we had decided before the article came out, but they were definitely our inspiration! Since we got our RV, everyone tells me, "I always wanted to do that" or "Yeah, someday we're going to do that." We all seem to have a fascination with hitting the open road and seeing the sights, yet we all want to bring everything from home with us. We were lucky—a friend of ours who had an RV he didn't use was looking for a Jeep, and we happened to have a nice, big, rock-crawling Jeep that we didn't use any more. A little test driving and swapping of titles, and voilà!, we own an RV!

Before our first big adventure, we took a few long weekend trips to work out the kinks of having three dogs and two people in an RV—or so we thought! I followed my packing-routine from previous trips in our family vehicle, just up-scaling the amounts. For the most part, this worked out, but I'm pretty sure we stopped at a Walmart every day to pick up something else we needed.

Here was the "plan." Pack the RV Friday night so we could leave bright and early Saturday morning. "Done and Done." Drive to Tucson and spend the night. Yes, Tucson. We set the bar low for the first day—didn't want to overdo it—and stayed at Catalina State Park on north side of Tucson. Lesson one: when you reserve an RV space at a State Park online, be sure to click on the button that says "need hookups." This means you want things like water and electricity available. I didn't click it! So our first night was like tent camping with a really big tent and TV but no way to turn it on. (We had a generator, but figured the folks in the tent next to us wouldn't appreciate the noise.) I learned from others that this is referred to as dry camping. Nevertheless, Catalina State Park had some great trails for walking and was a very clean and nice place to stay.

On to California! Or as I like to call it, Plan B: get sick and stay another night in Arizona.

The dogs got to run around and play while I complained in the RV with no power. But if I hadn't gotten sick we would never have spent our second night of vacation at a great little KOA between Tucson and Phoenix. At least we were an hour closer to California!

Upon entering the Picacho/Tucson KOA, we were greeted by a friendly staff and escorted to our spot that—lo and behold—had electricity and water! We told them we had the three girls (our Golden Retrievers) in the RV, so they put us near the dog park. This enclosure was the nicest we saw on our entire trip. It was securely fenced, had agility equipment for

the girls to play on, and poop bags! They loved it, and were thrilled to let loose and play. By the next morning I was feeling better, and we were ready to hit the road again. Very ready! Remember, it was already Monday, and we were still only 300 miles from home.

We arrived in Banning CA, late Monday and decided on another KOA. It was closed when we arrived, but they have a great after-hours check-in system and map of the grounds, and I found another spot only a few yards from the dog park. You may be asking yourself, "Isn't this story supposed to be about dogs and traveling?" Let me tell you how this works. I drive. Three Golden and one human sleep in

the back, and every once in a while someone looks up to see where we are. Luckily, I enjoy the drive, but this was without a doubt the most comfortable trip we have ever taken!

On to our final destination—Jalama Beach County Park, about an hour south of Lompoc, CA. It's a secluded beach with RV camping directly on the beach. No Internet, no phones (except an emergency pay phone), just sand and surf and a family-owned beach store (home of the *world famous* Jalama Burger—mmmmmm was it good!).

There were maybe a dozen RVs in the area. Beach rules say that dogs must be on leash, but a short walk around the cove revealed dogs aplenty playing and running freely. Our dogs love to swim, but had never been to the ocean, so we had some concerns they might go out too far (and I've seen *Jaws* too many times to go in the water much more than knee deep). Turns out we had nothing to worry about; the girls didn't understand the concept of waves and wanted nothing to do with anything that was more than paw deep. Besides, there was a dead seal right down the beach that promised even more fun than swimming in the ocean. Basically, we had driven for three days so they could do the same thing they do back home: find something dead and roll in it!

We spent three days at Jalama Beach (thankfully, the seal washed out to sea), just playing in the surf and relaxing. On the drive back home, my wife and I agreed that this is the best way we've ever traveled with our girls, who acclimated quickly and completely to life in the RV.



The Picacho/Tucson KOA was an unplanned stop with a wonderful dog park for the girls, and Frankie's Chuckwagon Steakhouse for us!



In the past, we've had some surprises searching the internet for vacation spots, but Jalama Beach State Park in California was everything we'd hoped for—and more!

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Llyra's Pack

a kid's perspective on
care & training

by Llyra Sarai

Treading Lightly—Indoors

Walking your dog is an enjoyable and necessary part of dog ownership, but it may not always be possible. Here in New Mexico, we have spring, with its insane winds, or summer, the extreme heat or monsoon weather. Dogs that do not get enough exercise get into trouble; they bark incessantly, dig, tear things up, or turn on each other. Letting your dog release his pent-up energy is important, and I learned this well with my energetic threesome.

One day, while we were watching a dog show, the trainer suggested that pet owners treadmill their dogs on busy days. We had a treadmill that my mom was planning to get rid of

because no one ever used it—but that was about to change.

I decided to start with Miyu, my eldest. I figured that once she learned, she could show the other dogs how it's done—

I had successfully used her as a model for our second dog, Mara, during leash training. Never underestimate the power of the pack!

At first, Miyu didn't like climbing on, but I patiently walked her off the machine and lead her back on again, until she was willing. Next, I stood in front of the treadmill and turned it on at its lowest setting. The first time, Miyu nearly went off the end, but I held the leash in place until she figured out to move forward. After that, realizing it wasn't going to eat her, she kept walking, because I was in front of her and she wanted to reach me. When she jumped off the side, I would stop the treadmill and lead her back on. Eventually, I could tie the leash to the treadmill and walk around it without her trying to jump. Mara was actually easier to teach, because Miyu showed her it was okay.

The second day, we had to start from the beginning again; but each day it got easier. Slowly, I started walking away from the tread-

mill. It took a while, but in time, I could leave the room and not have to worry. Today, Miyu and Mara hop on and look at me expectantly for the walk to begin.

I only wish teaching my third dog had been so easy. Hana, our Miniature Schnauzer, had a nervous personality from the start, and the treadmill was evil. She would completely shut down, her legs stiff, her head down; she just wouldn't move. No smell of treats or encouragement got through to her. Most people's instinct might be to shut everything off and stop, feeling sorry for the dog. To me, that seemed to be the wrong way to handle it. If we stopped, I would have taught her that it was okay to be afraid of new things and situations in her life. I didn't want that, because she had to trust me.

So I adjusted; when she began shutting down, I would pick her up and place her further up on the treadmill, next to the other two dogs. As long as she was absorbing their energy and joy in walking, she would snap out of it and start walking again. I wanted each session to end on a positive note, so after she would shut down, I would get her moving again for a few more minutes, then turn everything off and praise her. In the end, though it took longer, Hana is now just as comfortable as the other two.

My dogs love their treadmill. In fact, Mara loves the treadmill so much, she flies onto it by herself, without a leash. They aren't the only ones in our house, either. One of our cats decided the treadmill was fun, and we've caught her walking with the dogs!

When training, use whatever motivates your dog. For my pack, that motivation is being near me. If your dog is treat-responsive in strange situations, use treats as a tool to help get your dogs moving on the treadmill. If it's verbal praise, use it profusely.

I encourage you to give it a try; dust off that old treadmill or find a cheap one in American Classifieds, and teach your best friend how to do it! Be calm and patient, and eventually, your dog can get exercise and you can avoid some of that guilt when you have "no time." It doesn't replace the time you need to spend on a pack walk, but it can definitely help you and your dog feel more relaxed in your relationship.

Llyra Sarai is 17 and has three dogs. She hopes to work in a field where she can help dogs and their humans build happier and healthier relationships.

Miyu, Mara and Hana "feel the burn" as they work off some of the day's stress on their treadmill.



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BASIC DISASTER PLANNING FOR YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

STEP 1: IF IT ISN'T SAFE FOR YOU, IT ISN'T SAFE FOR YOUR PETS. Take them inside with you or if evacuating take them with you!

STEP 2: EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Pet First-Aid kit and guide book
- 3-7 days' worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food. (Make sure to rotate with fresh food every 2 months)
- Pet Feeding dishes
- Disposable litter trays with litter
- Paper towels
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Extra collar/harness as well as extra leash
- Photocopies of medical records in a water proof container with two-week supply of any medicine pet requires. (Make sure to rotate medicine as well as food)
- Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth for each person and pet (rotate out every 2 months)
- Sturdy carrier
- Flashlight
- Blanket
- Recent photo's of your pet(s)
- Chew toys



(These are only suggestions please make adjustment for additional items)

STEP 3: CHOOSE A DESIGNATED TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT CAREGIVER FOR YOUR PET.

Store emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible, make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date information (pet name, telephone number and any urgent medical needs). It is also recommended microchipping your pets. Remember to always bring pets indoors at the first warning sign of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented, frightened and may wander away from home during a crisis.

There are many websites with useful information on preparing for disaster preparedness for you and your pets with more detailed information.

You may want to do a search online for more information.

A very useful website you may want to check out is

www.Ready.gov




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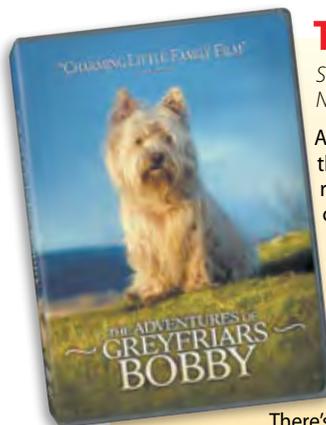
Julie Schmidt
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575.526.9109

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Media Picks

for Dog Lovers



The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby

Starring James Cosmo, Oliver Golding, Christopher Lee
Not Rated, but appropriate for the whole family

At first glance, *Greyfriars Bobby* appears to be a lot like *Hachi*: it's based on the true story of a faithful dog who loses his beloved master and lives the rest of his life grave-side, despite the fact that dogs aren't allowed in the churchyard. But this movie is larger in scope and more uplifting—with far fewer tears—as Bobby's devotion inspires the working class of mid-19th century Edinburgh, and one young boy in particular.

The Scottish accents are thick and difficult to understand at first, but the film's star is a dog, so dialogue is secondary to action anyway. Just remember that "bairns" are children and "kirk" means church, and everything else can be gleaned from context.

There's a surprisingly-epic quality to this little movie—it has tragedy, oppression, suspense, heroics and triumph (even a cross-country journey on wee doggie legs!)—and it is beautifully filmed and scored. Poetic license has *surely* added to Bobby's legend, but the result is a lovely, family-friendly film that works—whether it's mostly fact or fiction.



Greyfriars Bobby: The True Story of a Dog

Starring Donald Crisp, Laurence Naismith, Alex Mackenzie
Not Rated, but appropriate for the whole family

The 1961 Disney version is less ambitious than its 2005 counterpart, but feels more genuine in the treatment of its protagonist. Bobby is less of a superdog, and more in need of the combined efforts of the street urchins (oops...I mean *bairns*) to help him buck the system and become a free-roaming full citizen of Edinburgh.

Definitely worth seeing—especially *with* the newer film—but this version of Bobby's story feels dated and a little slow by comparison.



Love at First Bark

by Julie Klam

This little book is a collection of three stories about the author's real-life experiences with rescued dogs. The third of these is the most interesting, as she and her husband travel to New Orleans to visit animal advocacy groups engaged in rounding up and re-socializing the feral animal population that exploded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Not as funny as the dust jacket promised—and maybe a tad self-indulgent—it nonetheless will warm the heart of anyone who has given a dog a second chance at a happy life...and received one in return.



Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog

by Sarah Swan Miller, Illustrated by True Kelley

This is 48 pages of good, silly fun that you can, indeed, read aloud to your dog—or child. The stories are very cute and the illustrations are hilarious. Test doggie *Nacho* enjoyed all the stories except *The Bath*—which he opposes for political reasons and is actually in the sequel. That's right: *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*. Delightful!





Kat's by Kat Lacy Konver

Cat-Pocalypse Now!

Totowaki (or 'the end of the world as we know it') is rather an oxymoron for my felines since it implies I'm not providing them the perks-on-demand they are used to. Food-*now!* Yummys-*now!* Milk-*now!* Inside-*now!* Outside-*now!* Inside-*now!* Outside-*now!*—would undoubtedly still be demanded, as I learned all too well during last February's "Snowpocalypse."

Are we in a new era of transition, or is the same primitive fear imbedded in all of us just phasing to the surface again? Whether you believe a doomsday scenario will happen in your lifetime or not at all,

decision about trimming your cat's nails prior to the storm: If you *aren't* going to be in the vicinity, *don't* trim them, so kitty can get a good purchase and not blow away. If you *will be* sharing space with the cat, trimming is recommended since you are most likely what kitty will attach to. If the latter, goggles for you are also recommended.

Alien Invasion / Martial Law: Build a special underground shelter in your underground shelter so your kitty has a safe hiding place until the smoke clears. Be sure to install an in/out door so your cat can go in and out and in and out and in and out and in and out...

EMP (electromagnetic pulse): In this case, the micro-GPS unit you embedded under your cat's skin will not function, so make sure to get a neon kitty vest with reflectors to help locate your cat from far away. If you have a Geiger counter handy,

radioactive reflectors will also help with short distance locating.

Zombies!: Kitty needs a mini Boom Stick to blast away undead cats trying to eat his brain.

Nukes: See *shelter within a shelter* above, but add a lead liner. No need for food; cats aren't squeamish about cockroaches, and we know they can survive anything.

Global Warming / Ice Age: Stock up on healthy, intact mice. They will reproduce at a sufficient rate to keep your cat well fed during long freezes or dry hot spells. Your dehydrated food scraps will keep the mice well fed.

All kidding aside, when/if "The End of the World as We Know It" occurs, we can rest assured that our cats will probably fare better than we will; when cockroaches rule the world, kitty will have a never-ending food supply! But it always makes sense to make some preparations ahead of time so that all family members—including the furry ones—fare well during a crisis.

Written by Kat Lacy, Owner, Better Life Pet Foods. Edited by her daughter, Shannon Ellison. (FYI: There is a real cat food product which has a very long shelf life for your apocalyptic preparations. B.F.F. Best Feline Friend Tuna & Chicken 4EVA recipe for cats is available at Better Life Pet Foods. Other products mentioned here are most definitely not.

weather the storm. Whether it's as simple as a power outage or as intense as an electromagnetic pulse, you need to think ahead. I'm here to help you focus on one family member in particular: your cat.

Cats are skilled hunters, so you'd think they'd be capable of providing for themselves post-apocalypse. But they are also masters at training us to do their bidding, and would no doubt prefer we will still be their loyal servants far into the future. We can serve them *now* by taking steps to ensure kitty makes it through doomsday with us. If you're a cat-lover, here are a few scenarios you've almost certainly never thought about to put into action when "it" hits the fan:

Avalanche or Flood: The Kitty Hovding Airbag (look this up: www.hovding.com—it's worth it!) inflates instantly for flotation and will keep kitty's head above water or snow until you can reach him.

Pandemic: Modified no-bark spritzer collar (obviously for dogs, but no room for pride in a crisis situation), attuned to activate at a human sneeze, filled with garlic, citronella, and colloidal silver.

"Haboob" or Dust Storm: Cat goggles are a must for eye protection. You also need to make a

all of us—including our pets—should be prepared to



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Information



Volunteer Opportunities

Get Involved and Help!!

Volunteering is good for the soul, and the Las Cruces Animal Community includes many fine organizations that always need good people to join their ranks. Check out the groups below and see which one(s) would be the best fit for you!

ACTION Programs for Animals

PO Box 125
Las Cruces, NM 88004
575-644-0505
www.actionprogramsforanimals.org

Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV)

3551 Bataan Memorial West
Las Cruces, NM 88012
575-382-0018
email: pdeal@las-cruces.org
or visit www.ascmv.org

Doña Ana County Humane Society (DACHS)

PO Box 1176
Las Cruces, NM 88004
575-647-4808
www.donaanacountyhumanesocietyinc.org

Feral Cat Management Program (fCaMP)

P.O. Box 3912,
Las Cruces, NM 88003
575-639-3036
email: fcamp@nmsu.edu
www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp

Humane Society of Southern NM (HSSNM)

PO Box 13826
Las Cruces, NM 88013
575-523-8020
www.hssnm.org

Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition

PO Box 11345
Las Cruces, NM 88013
575-312-1741
www.lcdogpark.com

PetSmart/HSSNM Cat Adoption Center

Contact Evelyn at 575-650-6746
EvelynRanma52@aol.com

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary (SHAS)

If you would like to donate your time to SHAS, you may call 575-527-4544, email preciouspaws6@yahoo.com or visit SHAS website at www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net

Spay/Neuter Action Program of Southern NM (SNAP)

2405 W. Picacho
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-524-9265
www.snapnewmexico.org

Therapaws

575-524-2026
therapaws@gmail.com
www.therapydogs.com (parent organization)

If your organization has volunteer opportunities available and would like to be included in our next issue, please email us at info@dogcruces.com

Featured Group

Feral Cat Management Program (fCaMP)

FCaMP stands for Feral Cat Management Program. FCaMP is a small, not-for-profit organization which has permission from the NMSU administration to conduct a Trap and Release program on campus. FCaMP's mission is to stabilize the feral cat population here at NMSU. This goal is accomplished by spaying, neutering and vaccinating the felines; tipping their left ear to identify them as having been spayed/neutered; then returning them to campus where they will live out their life. FCaMP is always in need of volunteers to help set up and maintain feeding stations throughout the NMSU campus, and to help trap cats to be spayed/neutered and volunteers to transport them to and from veterinarian offices. Donations also accepted.

Feral Cat Management Program (fCaMP)

PO Box 3912 • Las Cruces, NM 88003 • 575-639-3036
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