11 Great Events to Enjoy With Your Pet For October

Victoria Osteen

PLUS+
Other Notable Houstonians and Their Pets

Also Inside
Learn About Houston's Humane Orgs They Need Your Support

Museum of Fine Arts It's The Best In Show Exhibit
Dear Dorothy and Toto,

You won’t believe how much has happened while you were away!

Our 2005 Gala was a tremendous success, and we’re looking forward to an even greater celebration this year. All of the proceeds from the Gala go towards CAP’s operating expenses such as food, shelter and medical expenses for homeless animals. Join the festivities and learn about our other cause for celebration.

I am excited and pleased to tell you that CAP has located a wonderful parcel of land, 3.5 acres at Barker Clodine road and I-10. This site will be the future home for a desperately needed new CAP shelter. Generous friends have already contributed a million dollars towards the purchase of this land. We need to raise $500,000 more to make this phase of our capital campaign a success.

We are calling on everyone reading this letter to help make our long-time dream a near-future reality! Friends can help us "buy some dirt" by sending their donations to CAP at 11925 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079, attention Capital Campaign. The animals are counting on all of us. Thank you for caring!

Sincerely,

KAPPY MUNZER,
CITIZENS FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CITIZENS FOR
ANIMAL PROTECTION
11925 KATY FREeway,
HOUSTON, TX 77079
PHONE 281-497-0591
Editorial

The one element of PetTalk that I always work to maintain is our focus on the Houston community. Some of the most pertinent and useful information is in our own backyard. Readers gain knowledge from local veterinarians, trainers, kennel owners, etc. because these resources are accessible.

With an eye on the community focus, PetTalk is highlighting several notable Houstonians and their pets. We selected a cross-section of prominent folks including a pastor, philanthropist, news anchor, tv star/animal activist, photographer and entrepreneur. Be sure to view a bio of these Houstonians and find out what their pet thinks about them on page 12.

An important aspect of the Houston pet community is our animal shelters that work hard to adopt out animals and educate the public on spay and neuter as well as responsible pet ownership. We are blessed to have so many humane organizations all working toward the goal of a better quality of life for animals. I suppose it's a good thing that there are too many to mention! Although space doesn't allow us to highlight all of these dedicated groups, PetTalk extends a “thank you” for all you do. To learn more about local humane organizations, see page 8.

October and November are considered the “high season” for galas that provide a major source of fundraising for our humane organizations. Please think about attending one of these fabulous events that are highlighted in our calendar. Grab a date and go have great food, drink, dancing and tons of fun bidding on the silent and live auction items. You’ll be doing a great favor to an animal in need!

Houston is in for a real treat with the start of the Museum of Fine Arts “Best In Show” exhibition of the dog in art from the Renaissance to today. Known as man’s best friend, dogs have been captured in many forms including paintings, sculptures and drawings. Be sure to view this famed exhibit including additional artworks borrowed from private collections and museums around the world, on view in the Beck European Galleries starting October 1, 2006.

Michelle Mantor
October 2006

Events

October 1 & 7, 2006
Golden Retriever Rescue of Houston Meet and Greet Days at the Orvis flagship store in The Woodlands during Orvis Days - Sunday, October 1st, noon to 2:30 and Saturday, October 7, 11-2pm

October 6
Rick Springfield will be live in Concert at the Stafford Centre. Proceeds from this performance will benefit PAWS Houston and the Ronald McDonald House. Information and tickets are available at www.rock-for-life.org, Stafford Centre Box Office and Ticketmaster.

October 14 & 15
PET FEST 2006 - Old Town Spring, Texas. The event is scheduled to have 50 rescue groups, microchipping, Blessing of the Animals, costume contests, fashion shows and more!!

October 21
11:30AM-4PM “Molly’s Mutt House-Heights” GRAND OPENING/HALLOWEEN Costume Party. Join us in celebrating our second location at 1726 W 23rd St. Dress up your pooch and yourself in costume and have a blast with a raffle, costume contest for the dogs and their people, games and food.

October 27
Golf fundraiser for Houston Humane Society at Sienna Plantations Golf Club. Join Jan Jeffcoat, the morning anchor for FOX 26, for a great day of golf and fun. For more info, visit www.houstonhumane.org

October 28
Montgomery County Humane Society’s 12th annual Mutt Strutt and Dog Day Afternoon fundraiser, 9:00am-4:00pm. at The Woodlands Town Green Park.

October 28
Poodle Rescue of Houston annual garage sale 8am-5pm. Bring donated items to the sale site before Saturday, come visit the poodles and shop. Prestonwood Kennels, 13302 Schroeder Road. www.prestonwoodkennels.com.

October 28
The Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, Inc. (SNAP) Snap-A-Go-Go concert event starring Felix Cavaliere’s Rascals, www.snapus.org or contact us at 713.862.3863.

October 29
Museum of Fine Arts sponsors Family Day and Pooches on Parade, Cullen Sculpture Garden, 1pm-4pm. Dogs must be on leash. Discover the many different breeds of dogs in the exhibition Best in Show: The Dog in Art from Renaissance to Today. Bring your dog and make a “Picasso” with paws, design your own dog mask, take photos with your dog and more.

UPCOMING:

November 4
Citizens For Animal Protection’s annual CELEBRITY PAWS GALA at Hilton Americas. For more information, call 281-497-0591 or visit www.cap4pets.org

November 4
Bay Area SPCA “Woofstock” 11am-4pm. It will be held at C. D. “Cap” Landolt Pavilion in Clear Lake Park. Features holiday shopping, psychic pet readings, live music, games and more. Visit www.bayareaspca.org.

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Spotted

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For your pet to appear in Spotted, e-mail us a digital picture of your pet along with its name, breed and owners name to info@houstonpettalk.com.

Unknown but Cute!

Unknown submission but very cute dog.

Sunny

Breed: Golden Retriever
Proud Owners: Tom and Jayne H.

Harley

Breed: Lab/Beagle Mix
Proud Owner: Becky B.

Tia

Breed: Toy Poodle
Proud Owner: Marie O.

Henrietta on Houston

Speaking her mind...

I think I’m having a mid-life crisis. Ok, I know I’m only three...but that’s 21 in human years. Ok...still not a mid-life crisis...we’ll just call it a twentysomething-still-trying-to-figure-out-who-I-am-identity-crisis.

I know what you’re thinking...that I’m too young to be so serious minded and thinking so deeply about my future. You’re right, I am too young. I made the same point to mom in the middle of the it’s-time-to-do-something-with-yourself-Henrietta-so-get-a-job “chat” we had just the other night. I explained to her that I was perfectly happy with my current routine...waking, eating, playing, eating, napping, eating, tv watching, eating, bedtime. This loving, nurturing, kind-hearted, devoted person that birthed me actually looked at me and said, “exactly my point, Henrietta!”. Hmmm. I may have to re-evaluate the kind-hearted part of my description.

Ok, fine. If I have to get a job, it needs to be fabulous!...high salary, 6 weeks vacation, donuts every morning, my own staff of mildly qualified but very good looking twenty-somethings, company car (a Hummer will suffice), Rover Oaks Country Club membership, stock options backdated to give me the best possible deal, use of the company jet for personal trips, a personal body guard (something macho like a German Shephard or Doberman will do), liver treats in all of my suit pockets and my own indoor toilet....

Now, you would think that my mom would appreciate the deep thought I put into my career aspirations. I spent an entire afternoon under a park bench conjuring up the mental picture of my dream job. But when I told her my ideas, all she said was “Henrietta, you’re too late. That job has already come and gone...Enruff Corporation is out of business”. 
Best in Show

Museum of Fine Arts Houston Exhibition, Best in Show, Presents ‘Man’s Best Friend’ through the Centuries

Best in Show: The Dog in Art from the Renaissance to Today, organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Bruce Museum of Arts & Science, Greenwich, Connecticut, examines the depictions of this most favored and domesticated of all creatures throughout the history of Western art. The exhibition opened at the Bruce Museum on May 13, and then travels to the MFAH, where it expands to include additional artworks borrowed from private collections and museums around the world, and will be on view in the Beck European Galleries starting October 1, 2006 – January 1, 2007. A fully illustrated catalogue, Best in Show: The Dog in Art from the Renaissance to Today, accompanies the exhibition.

Best in Show features approximately 75 of the most significant and provocative paintings, sculptures, and photographs of man’s best friend by distinguished and renowned painters, sculptors, and photographers, as well as exceptional works by lesser-known but equally inspired artists.

“The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is pleased to present this exhibition which celebrates the loyalty and devotion between humans and their canine companions,” said Peter C. Marzio, MFAH director. “Visitors will be able to trace how the depiction of dogs in art mirrors the prevalent styles and techniques throughout different periods in Western art history.”

Presented chronologically, Best in Show explores the use of dog imagery to illustrate major cultural and social concerns in Western culture. Through the nobility and drama of the hounds of the hunt depicted by Renaissance and Baroque artists; the cozy domesticity of Dutch mutts and the pampered luxury of French Rococo and Impressionist lapdogs; the studied modernity of the spoiled pet of the impressionists; and finally the wit and irony of the canines of Pop and Post-Modernism, dogs have always taken their place beside and often in place of people.

“But despite the constants of the various roles dogs can play in our lives, the restless changes in Western thought and emotions also meant that at different times in history, artists and their patrons would emphasize different aspects of those dogs with whom they lived and hunted,” says art historian Robert Rosenblum, in his catalogue essay.

“And since dogs have always provided Rorschach tests for their owners and their admirers, appearing to be joyous or melancholy, innocent or naughty, rich or poor, lonely or sociable, they continue to accommodate, as no animal could, the most flexible scenarios invented for them by their human friends.”

For more information about the exhibit or hours of operation, visit www.mfah.org.
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Houston Humane Organizations

Houston is no different than any other city with our share of homeless animals facing death unless they find a home. Thanks to many compassionate people, humane organizations of varying size and type exist within our city to help reduce the number of unwanted animals. Although PetTalk would love to profile every humane organization in the Bayou City and surrounding areas, space only permits us to highlight a few shelters. Please view the inset on page 10 for an additional listing of organizations that offer pets for adoption and need your support. Also, be sure to read our Animal Welfare column each month that is contributed by various humane organizations.

Citizens for Animal Protection (www.cap4pets.org) was founded in 1972 for benevolent, charitable and educational purposes for the protection of homeless animals. CAP’s adoption stories are the pinnacle of its success, but the true success remains the focus on the individual animal. We believe that every time we help an animal, we are helping the people in our community through our services and programs by:

- Accepting animals no longer wanted as well as strays and unwanted litters.
- Adopting pets to people thereby teaching lessons of compassion, unconditional love, proper pet care and responsibility.
- Visiting children at schools to teach them empathy and respect for all living creatures.
- Visiting hospitals or convalescent homes to improve their daily lives and/or their mental and physical condition.
- Offering advice to people concerning pet behavior issues and basic pet care.

- Providing pets to become service dogs (hearing, drug detections, etc.).
- Providing trap/neuter/release services for feral cats enabling them to live a healthy and happy life without reproducing countless offspring.

Houston Humane Society, through generous donations, cares for more than 30,000 animals annually. HHS offers pet adoptions, $30 Spay/Neuter Clinic and low-cost vaccinations for the general public, microchipping, and RAIDER, Houston’s only animal cruelty investigation team staffed by police officers. HHS has also pioneered “Burnies Buddies,” offering safe keeping for the pets of domestic abuse victims and “Pawprints,” working with the Houston Aids Foundation to care for the pets of AIDS patients.

Throughout the year, the HHS encourages Houston residents to get involved in our activities supporting the homeless pet population. On October 27th we’ll be hosting our annual golf tournament at Sienna Plantation, on November 10th we’re inviting wine-lovers and their dogs to the Tasting Room in Midtown for a wine tasting. November 18th and December 9th we’ll be taking pictures of your pets with “Santa Paws.” Most importantly, we’ll be opening up our brand new shelter building in early 2007, doubling our capacity to house homeless pets! Visit us at www.houstonhumane.org.

Houston SPCA exists to promote respect for all animals and free them from suffering and abuse. One way we accomplish this mission is to accept all animals in need. The doors of the Houston SPCA are always open and no animal is ever turned away.

-Continued on page 10.

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Houston PetTalk Magazine 09
The majority of the animals we receive every year are lost, homeless, and unwanted. Many people think we shelter only dogs and cats, but small mammals like guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits, as well as horses, cows, goats, and pigs also find haven. In addition, we accept wildlife and work closely with reputable rehabilitation specialists to return these animals to their original habitats when possible.

The Houston SPCA is the only shelter in the area with the ability to provide shelter to big cats and other exotic animals. Many of these spend up to six months at the shelter waiting for placement.

To learn more about the Houston SPCA and our programs, visit us at www.houstonspca.org

The Homeless Pet Placement League (HPPL) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that provides for the rehabilitation and adoption of stray and abandoned dogs and cats. The HPPL does not operate a shelter; animals are cared for in the homes of those who rescue them. The rescuer serves as the foster parent until the animal is adopted into a permanent home. This cooperative effort between HPPL and the foster home helps animals that would not fit the criteria allowing them to be placed for adoption at an animal shelter; these include animals with skin problems such as mange or ringworm, heartworm positive dogs, and injured or seriously malnourished strays.

Visit the HPPL web site for adoption days at area PetsMart locations, www.hppl.org

HOUSTON HUMANE ORGANIZATIONS:

Homeless Pet Placement League, www.hppl.org, 713.862.7387
Saving Animals Across Borders, www.savinganimals.org, 713.527.4490
Homeless & Orphaned Pets Endeavor (Hope), www.homelesspets.net, 713.622.4673
Wildlife Rehab & Education, 713.643.9453
Greyhound Pets of America, www.greyhoundpets.org, 713.667.3804
Pal’s For Pooches, www.palsforpooches.com, 281.548.7166
Bunny Buddies, www.bunnybuddies.org
Spay and Neuter Assistance Program, www.snapus.org, 713.522.2337
Humane Ranch of Texas (horses), 713.270.7346
Noah’s Ark Animal Sanctuary, www.noahs-ark-sanctuary.org, 281.351.6624
Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC), 713.247.5124
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Notable Houstonians and Their Furry Companions

A t first glance, one might wander what a co-pastor of one of the nation’s largest churches, a news anchor, a financial services CEO, a publishing CEO, an Animal Cops Houston TV star turned animal adoption manager and a celebrated photographer have in common. Other than their status as prominent Houstonians, they share a love of animals. Here is a peek at life with their pets:

**Name:** Victoria Osteen  
**Occupation:** Co-pastor, along with husband Joel Osteen, of Lakewood Church  
**Favorite Jewelry Store:** Iloff Jewelers (owned by Victoria’s family!)  
**Favorite Food:** Italian  
**What she loves most about Spirit:** She’s so amenable...she goes along with everything and she’s just so polite!  
**Favorite Place:** Any place with a change of season...it refreshes me  
**Favorite Thing To Do:** Spending time with God and making memories with my family  
**Hobbies:** enjoying the outdoors and exercising  
**Interesting Fact:** She has traveled on numerous mission trips to some of the most impoverished parts of the globe, including a dozen visits to India

**Name:** Spirit  
**Claim to fame:** From the backyard, I can hear cheese being unwrapped in the kitchen and can be there in two seconds flat  
**Favorite game:** Even though I’m not a retriever, I still love a great game of “fetch the ball”  
**Nickname:** Shadow...although I love my whole family (even Joel’s cute dimples), I never leave mom’s side  
**Favorite part of the day:** Evening walks through the neighborhood  
**What she loves most about Victoria:** She cooks chicken for me  
**Unique habit:** I go to church  
**How to know you’re really an Osteen:** I have great hair!
Name: Frank DeLape  
Occupation: CEO of Benchmark Equity Group and Philanthropist  
Biggest Accomplishment: Philanthropic works that benefit children and animals. “I’m dedicated to giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves...I want to make sure they have help”  
Humane Organizations Supported: Citizens For Animal Protection, Spay and Neuter Assistance Program  
Little Known Fact: Sleeps with three poodles...Jaques, Gigi and ZiaZia  
Well Known Fact: Has one of the most beautiful women in Houston as a wife...Kimberly DeLape  
What Frank Likes Best About Nola: She loves to sit in his lap and give kisses

Name: Nola  
Breed: Labrador/Pit Bull Mix  
Trademark: Great Kisser  
Favorite Pastime: Chasing people on jet skis along the bulkhead of her waterfront property and swimming in the lake 
Other Siblings: Tommy the Rottweiler, Maggie the Boxer/Pit Bull mix, Spike the Jack Russell and The Fabulous Poodle Trio (Jaques, Zia Zia and Gigi)  
Unique Skill: Sings  
What Nola Loves About Frank: He kisses her back.  
Well Known Fact: She’s the boss of the property!

Name: Laurette Veres  
Occupation: Publishing Magnate (Editor in Chief of H Texas Magazine, CEO of Quality Publishing, Producer of the Bridal Extravaganza)  
Big News: Recently engaged and as producer of the Bridal Extravaganza, can’t decide on the details of her own wedding!  
Favorite Food: Mexican 
Passion: Travel writing...“I’ve spent my whole life preparing to be a travel writer...I’ve traveled a lot and I love it”  
Little Known Fact: Afraid of dogs from a childhood dog bite but was “rehabilitated” by a roommate’s dog  
How Prepaid got his name: He’s named after Laurette’s prepaid phone card magazine called InteleCardNEWS  
What she loves most about Prepaid: He’s a great party dog...“For Christmas he wears a Santa costume and at Halloween he dresses as an M&M candy”  
Self Proclaimed Nickname: Houdini...I can escape anything  
Proudest of: My criminal record. “I was falsely accused and imprisoned for a biting incident. I was innocent and humiliated but I know the experience made me stronger”  
What Prepaid loves most about Laurette: She throws great parties!
Name: Lisa Foronda  
Occupation: Anchors KHOU-TV newscast...and blogs for animals at http://www.beloblog.com/KHOU_Animal_Attraction.  
Humane organizations supported: CAP, SNAP, HSPCA, Animal Alliance of Galveston, HHS  
Where she and Findlay met: Golden Beginnings Rescue  
What she loves about Findlay: He's a happy dog...even if I've had a bad day, he always greets me with a great attitude  
Favorite Food: Mac and Cheese  
Life Philosophy: “What does not kill me will make me stronger”, Friedrich Nietzsche  
Findlay’s cutest moment: He lays his head on the side of the bed every morning and stares at me until I get up...he’s my alarm clock!

Name: Findlay  
Bad habits: I burp a lot and I throw up in mom’s car  
What Findlay likes most about Lisa: She still loves me even though I burp a lot and throw up in her car  
What Findlay likes second most about Lisa: She throws my squeaky football over and over...and she gives awesome chest scratches.... (Findlay, you just made a lot of men very envious!)  
Favorite TV show: KHOU news at 5pm and 10pm  
Unique fetish: Eating the yellow fuzz on tennis balls  
Favorite pastime: Swimming  
Proudest of: I’m a mamma’s boy!

Name: Max Mixson  
Occupation: Saving Animals Adoption Manager  
Claim To Fame: Hot star of Animal Planet’s Animal Cops Houston cruelty investigation show  
Animal Attraction: “I grew up with animals of all kinds including dogs, cats, turtles, snakes, frogs, armadillos, opossums and birds...it’s natural for me to work with them and for them too”  
Favorite Food: All... especially Mexican!  
Favorite TV Show: Anything on Discovery Channel and Houston Astros’ games  
Personal Peek: He’s single!  
Nationality: Texan To The Bone  
What he loves most about Marley: He loves people...especially me!  
Where he and Marley met: Rescued him from the Weimeraner Rescue of North Texas

Name: Marley  
Occupation: Cat Chaser  
Favorite Toy: Currently it’s Teddy Bear Sheriff but given my shredding ability, I’ll have to move on next week  
Favorite Food: Peanut Butter  
What makes him crazy: Squirrels  
Philosophical Mantra: Adopt an animal from a shelter or rescue organization... you’ll be saving a life
Name: Evin Thayer
Occupation: Photographer Extraordinaire
Reason for your fame: Status as the premier photographer for Houston PetTalk Magazine (great answer, Evin!)
Favorite drink: Margarita
Little known fact: I love to remodel houses
Humane Organizations Supported: Saving Animals, CAP and various breed rescue groups by donating my time for their fundraising efforts
Most memorable photo shoot: President Bush (the 41st President of the U.S.)
Funniest photography story: I photographed the same woman getting married three separate times...all to men named “Bill”...and she sang Will You Marry Me Bill at all three weddings!

Name: Conchita
Occupation: Home Entertainment Director
Most impressive skill: I’m bilingual
Favorite food: Peanuts, Peanuts and oh...did I say Peanuts?
Can’t live without: The theme song to the Beverly Hillbillies
Gets you going: The vacuum cleaner...I break out (or should I say “beak out”) into a fit of talking and singing
Favorite song to sing: I Left My Heart In San Francisco
Spoil factor: I love to be hand fed

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With an infectious giggle, sparkling blue eyes and a manner of confidence that even the animals respect, Darci Davenport is a modern day Alice In Wonderland. Surrounded by a menagerie of dogs, birds and even Freddie the cayman, she’s blissfully at peace.

Peace, Love, Dogs… there’s no better maxim to describe Darci’s essence other than the very apropos name of her Missouri City business, Darci’s All About Dogs. “It really is all about the dogs,” says Darci of her doggie daycare, boarding and grooming facility.

Located in southwest Houston, Darci’s All About Dogs is not only a place for dogs to be cared for or groomed in their owner’s absence, but it is truly a place of fun and joy. “The dogs are socialized and play together and it’s all included in the price,” says Darci. “Unless there is a health reason, every dog gets to play”.

Dissatisfied with the service she received when grooming and boarding her own pets, Darci opened her business from a customer’s standpoint. After repeated sessions of her dog coming home shaved rather than groomed in the style she had requested, Darci decided to take matters into her own hands. She does a large portion of the grooming and she plays with all the pups.

“Darci is truly unique in her kinship with the animals,” says Erin Hurdis, a long time customer that brings her Newfoundland and two Otter Hounds to Darci’s every week. “I can’t even mention Darci’s name in the house and they all three go crazy and are ready to go. It’s amazing!” she adds.

Making sure the dogs have fun is Darci’s number one goal. With a plethora of toys, sandboxes, kiddie pools and even a toddler bed shaped like a VW Bug, Darci’s old farmhouse is transformed into a doggie wonderland. Even the big dogs get to enjoy a large, shaded play yard.

“It really gives me great joy to see the dogs at play and making friends. It may sound strange, but they actually do make friends and you can see their emotions when their friend leaves or arrives for day camp” notes Darci. Not only does Darci receive great joy in giving the dogs a fun atmosphere, she protects that element of her business with ferocity. “If dogs don’t play well with others, they don’t stay with us”, she says without reservation.

Like so many other dog enthusiasts, Darci’s love of dogs goes back to her childhood. She has also passed the “baton of love” to her daughter, Megan. As manager of Petland in Missouri City, Megan has not only inherited her mother’s affinity for furry creatures, but she also models after her mother’s focus on the animal’s welfare and customer service. “I make sure to spend time with each customer and stress the importance of proper care for their animal including nutrition, training, socializing and proper veterinary care”, says Megan.

What truly sets Darci’s All About Dogs apart from many other facilities is the attention to every detail that promotes the well-being of the dog. For instance, much thought was put into the indoor boarding arrangements. Darci insisted the dogs not feel confined so each “bedroom” is encompassed by a picket fence so the dogs can see out. Another unique feature at Darci’s is that all dogs, even the boarding dogs, are part of the “romper room” daycare venue. Lots of exercise translates to tired but happy pups!

In addition to a fun atmosphere, Darci is also mindful of health and nutrition. The “meal” at Darci’s is one of the top premium foods offered on the market, EVO by Innova. “I started feeding EVO to my dogs and the results were so good that I started feeding it at the business as well” she notes.

Darci’s All About Dogs has grown substantially over the last three years since her business was featured on the front page of the Fort Bend Sun as well as a segment on Channel 2 news. Holidays are especially crowded and require early bookings. As a testament to her devotion and love for her “charges”, Darci has a plethora of customers who have been faithful since she opened the business.

“We are all about loving the dogs, having fun, giving each dog attention and making their stay as close to home as possible,” says Darci. “It’s our belief that dogs should have a great time on their vacation too!”

Darci’s Stylist: Tiffany and Jaclyn at Milagro, 4755 Hwy 6 S
Photography: Evin Thayer Studios, 405 Avondale
Darci would like to give a special thank you to Freddie the cayman’s dad, Beau Kahla of Boaz-N-More, herpmaster@aol.com, Petland franchise owner, Brandon Beardon and Darci’s daughter Megan Prast, 6026 Hwy 6 South and It’s A Dogs Life, Sugar Land Town Center for doggie wear and Juicy Couture accessories 🦊
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Dog Knows

By: Mark Silberman D.V.M.
Southwest Animal Clinic

Safeguarding the health of your senior pet is of primary concern. Senior wellness programs allow veterinarians to help increase your pet’s lifespan through proactive preventive health care. Because many health problems cannot be identified by a physical exam, it is recommended all senior pets receive wellness screenings to permit early diagnosis of any hidden problems.

Health screenings are often the only way of obtaining an early diagnosis, as there can be a delay between the development of an internal problem and the associated symptoms. Taking advantage of inexpensive wellness screenings now can save you money and provide peace of mind concerning your pet’s health.

Normal test results are also an important factor in maintaining your pet’s health. They provide valuable information about your pet’s medical history, and are especially useful in the event he/she should get sick or injured in the future.

Please decide to invest in the long-term health of your pet by having your veterinarian perform a senior wellness screening. It is recommended to perform these diagnostic tests for your pet:

- Complete Blood Count
- Chemistry Profile
- Thyroid Hormone Assay
- Thoracic and Abdominal X-rays
- Urinalysis
- ECG
- Electrolytes

Cat Tales

By: Christie Cornelius, D.V.M.
The Cat Veterinary Clinic

Put this magazine down right now and look at your cat’s teeth. Look at ALL OF THEM, including the back molars. What do you see? If all you see is white shiny teeth and pink healthy gums, then you have a kitten. If you see anything different than this, then your cat may have dental disease. Imagine not brushing your teeth for a week, let alone several years. The degree of dental disease will vary, but if left unchecked, your cat could eventually develop a painful and infected mouth. And I’m not talking mild Anbesol pain. I’m talking about pain so severe that it can literally debilitate your cat. If you looked in the mirror and imagined having a mouth that looked like your cat’s, what would your significant other think? How long would it take you to make an emergency call to your dentist for immediate relief? Would you feel like eating hard food?

We can no longer allow our feline population to suffer in silence. And that’s exactly what cats do. They don’t believe there is anything they CAN do about the horrible pain in their mouths, so they “get used to it” and function as best as they can despite the pain.

If your cat’s mouth hasn’t been examined by a veterinarian in over 6 months, then it’s time for a checkup. Ask your veterinarian to explain what’s going on in your cat’s mouth and ask what you can do to take proper care of your cat’s teeth.

Bird Clause

By: William Dougherty
Adventures in Birds

If a talking pet appeals to you, an Amazon or African Grey might be what you’re looking for. They are some of the best talkers. They can be boisterous, clever, and very entertaining. They are very smart and will test their owners.

It’s best to consider talking a bonus rather than a requisite characteristic when choosing your pet. Choose a young, well-socialized bird and love him for his many fine qualities, whether or not talking is among them. The friendly and very vocal behavior of these domestic birds clearly stems from the fact that in the wild these are very social birds.

The African Grey Parrot has been called “the perfect mix of brains and beauty”. Much of the notoriety of this species stems from the phenomenal gift of speech Greys exhibit.

Some studies suggest that Greys and some Amazons don’t just mimic but can use words learned in new combinations to convey new wants, needs, and desires.

The three Amazons, which are known to be the best talkers, are the Yellow-Nape, Yellow-Head and the Blue Front. In addition to learning a large vocabulary, many will also whistle, sing and mimic household sounds.

The Blue-Fronted Amazon Parrot is a popular pet parrot because they are very affectionate and easy to train. Napes are excellent “talkers” and their vocabularies can be quite extensive. Singing is also a favorite past time of Yellow Napes.

Come see and compare all these babies at Adventures in Birds, 7414 Westview!
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Animal Wellness

To Vaccinate or Not To Vaccinate

That is the question that pet owners face. A few years ago, the State of Texas staged discussions in communities to consider the issue of vaccines in companion animals. There were heated debates as both sides voiced their opinions. In the end, the State of Texas actually approved 3-year boosters for the Rabies vaccine (which is the only vaccination required by law).

These are some of the questions that were discussed:

1. Are dogs and cats being over-vaccinated? Too many at one time? Too often?
2. Are vaccines harmful or helpful to their health?
3. Is the occurrence of cancer and immune related diseases linked to vaccines?
4. Do the standard vaccine protocols need to be modified?

Evaluate before you vaccinate! Consider the animal’s health, age and actual exposure to diseases. A physical exam and annual lab work is a good way to monitor a patient’s health.

Each pet owner should be informed about benefits and risks of vaccines before deciding the best course of action. Good health is always the best protection against disease. High quality diet, plenty of exercise, and living in a stress free environment are the components of maintaining a healthy, happy companion.

Enjoy every day with your pet!

Dr. Cooper graduated from Texas A & M Veterinary School in 1975. Her alternative medicine veterinary practice for small animals is located at 1136 Heights Blvd., 713 861-1155.

VACCINATION RELATED DEFINITIONS:

Vaccine Protocols – Recommended series and frequency of vaccinations by Veterinary Associations
Required by law – A vaccine required by state; varies from state to state; Rabies is the only vaccine required by the State of Texas; every three years with a 3-yr vaccine
Titer – Measurable level of immunity
Recombinant Vaccine – Contains a bacterial or fungal protein used to mount immune response (virtually no chance of the host becoming ill from the agent, since it is just a single protein, not the organism itself)
Adjuvant – An agent that stimulates (irritates) the immune system to find and react to the vaccine agent (Some adjuvants have been implicated in causing cancer in some animals over time)
Kennel Cough – Airborne virus and bacteria causing Tracheobronchitis
Zoonotic disease – Disease animals can transmit to people
Sarcomas – Slow growing tumors that may form at the site of an injection; vary by type

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Animal Welfare
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For pet owners who are suffering from a terminal or chronic illness, caring for their companion pets can be a challenge, if not impossible. PAWS Houston – Pets Are Wonderful Support is a non-profit organization that helps sustain relationships between critically ill pet owners and their pets. PAWS Houston facilitates the owner’s personal pet coming for a visit at local hospitals, hospices, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, with the goal of improving the pet owner’s physical and mental health.

Another part of the PAWS Houston program is pet-care service. For critically ill owners, PAWS Houston provides annual wellness visits, food, exercise, heartworm and flea medication, emergency boarding and foster care. PAWS Houston also provides in-home care for the patient’s pet through home visits by trained volunteers.

PAWS Houston’s “Personal Pet Visitation Policy” at Methodist Hospital is one of the first official policies in the country. Through a 4-year relationship with Methodist, PAWS Houston facilitates visits from the patient’s pet (dog or cat). The time together with these family members can mean so much. The healing power of these visits is undeniable. The “Personal Pet Visitation Program” was designed by PAWS Houston and Methodist to illicit a response, help with depression and many times for the patient to have closure at end of life.

PAWS Houston receives no funding from city, county, state or federal government. PAWS Houston’s funding comes from individual donations, corporate community support and special events.

Thanks to the Halliburton charity golf tournament, pet owners can rest a little easier. PAWS Houston was selected as one of the 13 recipient charities to share the proceeds of the tournament; PAWS Houston is the beneficiary of $25,000. This donation from Halliburton will allow PAWS Houston to provide and grow the personal pet visitation program and other programs and client services.

Be sure to view the PetTalk October calendar for our benefit concert by Rick Springfield. For more information about PAWS Houston programs and how to become involved with PAWS Houston, visit our web at www.pawshouston.org or call 713-840-7297 (PAWS).
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Choosing a training program that is right for you can be challenging, especially if you haven’t been educated about your options. Choose one of three basic programs to start and you can potentially combine programs later.

The traditional programs include:

1. **Group Lessons**
   - Puppy
   - Basic
   - Advanced

2. **Private Lessons**
   - Your location
   - Their location

3. **Board and Train**
   - Trained for you while boarding

Let’s review the three choices:

*Group Lessons* is a series of weekly training classes designed to teach you how to train and handle your dog. You must be dedicated to attend all classes and work with your dog at home. Weekly lessons are economical and give you the opportunity to train around the distractions of other dogs. You can look out for your dog’s best interest as well as take advantage of long-term structure, which in itself is a behavior modifier. Group lessons are not designed for aggressive dogs.

*Private Lessons* may seem more expensive but are more productive per lesson because the trainer is only working with you and your dog’s issues. They are recommended for behavior problems such as chewing, jumping, house training, etc. and may be combined with group or board and train programs to give you a better understanding of behavior. Private lessons offer a flexible schedule and can also help you improve your handling skills.

*Board and Train* programs are designed to limit the owner’s involvement in the actual training of the dog but should include a thorough training of the owner at the end of the program, usually two to three weeks. The success of this program relies on your knowledge and ability to handle in the end. The program is geared to accomplish its goals in a minimum amount of time. This program may not be suitable for all dogs. The program is more expensive but includes your boarding.

In theory, the best program would be if all owners could become trainers themselves. But this is not practical for everyone. Whichever program you choose, be sure to do your homework. Ask for references and credentials.

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Houston PetTalk Magazine 27
As autumn arrives, you’ll find plenty of patrons on the patio at the Italian Café in Seabrook. That’s right—ON the patio. Remember the classic scene from Disney’s Lady and the Tramp? Your puppy love can be recreated here.

Not only is owner Frank Piazza a master of unique Italian-New Orleans cuisine, he and his wife Bessilyn are gracious hosts to the canine crowd. Sure, there’s inside dining for the dog deprived, but the award-winning Italian Café is one of the area’s few restaurants that welcomes two- and four-legged creatures alike. For over 14 years, homo erectus has cherished the café for Frank’s freshly prepared creations, the unhurried European atmosphere, and the privilege of bringing his/her own bottle of wine to accompany a meal. The pooches, on the other paw, prefer the social scene of endearing dog devotees, a nap to a cappuccino, and an occasional misguided meatball. Don’t feel slighted if at first the other guests know your furry friend’s name and not yours. After a few visits, they’ll call you by name, too.

Sniff out the Italian Café at 4622 NASA Parkway. Open Tues-Sat. (281)326-1618. -Ann M. Silva 🐾
Eco-88 is a pet stain remover that removes both stains and odors. PetTalk put this stain remover to the test with three “testers” who have pets that are still “confused” about where to potty.

The benefits listed by Eco-88 include: odorless, non-staining, non-toxic, no enzymes, no bleach, environmentally safe and aids in housebreaking by removing odor, not just disguising the odor. The Eco-88 web site also makes this claim: “Eco-88 requires no scrubbing, rinsing or blotting, Just spray Eco-88 on stains and watch those stains and odors disappear like magic.”

Among our three testers, all gave thumbs up to the claim of eliminating odor and stain. I even had a friend with an excellent “smeller” to get down and sniff the carpet and it was pronounced as “no odor!” and the product is easy to use...just spray on, wait and blot. The “blotting” is where we disagreed with the web site claim. After leaving the spray on to absorb the stain, it was still necessary to work the solution (not scrub) into the carpet pile for it to reach all of the stain. As one of the testers, I must say it’s one of the only pet stain removers that ever worked for me. Available at Sasha’s Suds N Duds and Southwest Animal Clinic.

PRICE: $16.99
RATING: ★★★★★
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