

the Animal Insider

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM ANIMAL OUTREACH • SUMMER 2008



Life in the Animal ER

By Renae Hamrick, RVJ

"I need a gurney to the front, stat!" "Oh no, Fluffy just vomited on my shoe!" "Wow! You can see the bone through that bite wound!" "Give me some puppy breath kisses!" "I need help! This dog is coding!" "Thank you so much for saving my cat." "You were my best friend, and I will always remember you..."

These are the words heard during a night of work in the animal emergency room. I am a veterinary technician. I love animals, I love medicine, and I love an adventure. Therefore, I love my job. Every work night is a mystery—what will walk (or be carried) through the door next? Will that pet's story have a happy ending?

A typical, busy night in the ER goes like this:

It's 4:00 pm. I walk through the employee entrance of the hospital and hear a beeping IV pump, a whining dog, and the shuffle of working technicians. In the air hangs the scent of bleach and a hint of the unmistakable aroma of Parvo—my heart sinks a bit.

The evening commences with patient "rounds." During rounds the incoming staff learn about the hospitalized patients. I relish this moment of relaxed conversation, for I can tell the night will be demanding. We have four patients staying with us tonight.

Dancing happily in a run as if nothing has happened to him is Buddy, a Labrador Retriever who had surgery to remove a dishrag from his intestines. In ICU is Freddie, a Jack Russell Terrier who ate a block of rat poison and is now receiving life-saving blood transfusions. Curled up in a cage next to him is Doodle, a domestic short-haired cat, who is experiencing a diabetic crisis called Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). Finally, trembling in isolation is a 5-month-old mixed breed puppy with Parvo. Her name is Lucy, and I am in love with her already.

Parvoviral Enteritis (Parvo for short) is a viral disease that causes severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea in dogs, especially young puppies. Although the virus is contagious to other dogs and can live in extreme environmental conditions for long periods of time, it is actually very preventable with proper vaccinations from a veterinarian. Parvo is usually fatal in untreated dogs. Even dogs given the highest degree of medical care can succumb to this terrible disease.

Because Parvo is highly infectious, I am Lucy's dedicated technician. I cannot touch any other puppies, unvaccinated dogs, or dogs with compromised immune systems. Treating Parvo requires an extraordinary amount of nursing care. I will probably spend much of the evening in the small room, which, over the years, has earned the name ParvoLand.

A couple hours of patient treatments pass. I've donned my blue protective gown and latex gloves multiple times to check in on sweet Lucy. Her cage sheet is filling up with my notations as I track each episode of vomiting, diarrhea, and urination. Keeping a Parvo puppy clean is an endless battle. Buddy is feeling fantastic, and he's keeping us busy by tangling himself in his IV

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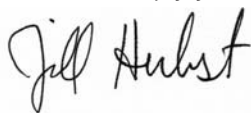
From the Editor:

If there is a theme for this issue, it is being prepared. Although we didn't plan our content around the idea of being prepared, each article in this issue addresses the need to be prepared in one way or another. I don't know about you, but for me being prepared and taking the time to plan eliminates (or at least greatly reduces) the amount of stress I feel in any given situation. Who doesn't want to reduce stress in their lives? Yet in many cases, it is our lack of preparation or time to plan that causes the biggest headaches!

As we were developing story ideas for this issue the idea of summer fun and travel was one of the first to come up. As our list of topics grew and grew, we realized just how many things there are to think about when it comes to our pets and the season of vacations and outdoor play. We decided to devote a large segment of this issue to some common concerns and practical advice to make summer with your pets the summer to remember. Of course, a little planning and preparation can go a long way to ensure the safety and comfort of your companions!

Another highlight of this issue is our cover story, written by Renae Hamrick, a registered veterinary technician who works the night shift in the emergency room of a local animal hospital. Although having to take our beloved pets to the emergency room is something we all hope we never have to do, Renae's story emphasizes the need to be prepared for the unexpected if the situation should arise. The worst thing to have to consider during a crisis with your pet is whether you are financially able to do what it takes to save their life.

As always, I hope you find this issue informative and thought-provoking. Feel free to send us your feedback and insight. Until the next issue... enjoy your summer!



We want to hear from you! We have extended the deadline for our "Best of" Reader Survey. If you haven't completed the survey yet, please visit our website: www.Animal-Insider.org and click on the survey link. All respondents will be entered into a drawing to win a \$20 PetPeople gift card. Help us recognize our local pet-friendly businesses and organizations. All survey responses must be received by July 31, 2008. *Ohio residents only, please.*

"Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."

~ George Eliot

Thank you for picking up the *Animal Insider*! We hope you find it interesting and informative. We would like to recognize the following individuals who have helped make this issue possible!

Kimmer & Victoria Callahan
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If you would like to invest in the *Animal Insider*, complete the contribution form on the back cover and designate your gift to the *Animal Insider*. All supporters will have their names listed in the issue(s) they sponsor! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and organizations.

Call (614) 523-9244 or email Jill.Herbst@Animal-Outreach.org for more information.

the
Animal Insider

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Managing Editor: Jill Herbst

Calendar Editor: Christina Radi

Animal Insider Committee: Victoria Callahan, Kimmer Callahan, Laura D'Aveta, Carla D'Errico, Chris Griffin, Jill Herbst, Christina Radi

Contributing Writers: Renae Hamrick, Greg Schneider, Bobb Frecker

Production Assistant: Chris Griffin

The next issue of the *Animal Insider* will be published September 2008.

Event listings may be submitted by email to Calendar@Animal-Outreach.org or online at www.Animal-Outreach.org

The *Animal Insider* is published by Animal Outreach, Inc.

The mission of Animal Outreach is to help end pet overpopulation by encouraging responsible pet ownership; promoting spay/neuter programs; and uniting the efforts of rescue groups, animal control agencies, traditional shelters, veterinarians and other concerned individuals.

Animal Outreach also operates a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) which helps cover the cost of spay and neuter surgeries for those who are unable to afford it.

Animal Outreach is an all volunteer 501(c)3 organization. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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THE PET RESOURCE PEOPLE

P. O. Box 892
Westerville, Ohio 43086
(614) 523-WAGG (9244)
www.Animal-Outreach.org
www.Animal-Insider.org
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lines. Freddie is finishing his blood transfusion and is looking a bit brighter. Doodle is tired of being bothered for her regular blood glucose checks, and she is hissing and swatting with disgust... a hassle for the technicians, but a good sign for Doodle.

Incoming

At 7:00 pm, the receptionist pages the treatment area and tells us we need to bring the gurney out to a client's car. Daisy, a 120 pound Mastiff, lies, struggling to breathe, on the floor of her owner's van. Without even introducing ourselves, another technician and I leap into the owner's van to help the dying dog. This is when teamwork and adrenaline come together and give us "super powers." Somehow we heave this giant out from between the two seats, over a stack of papers on the van floor, and onto the gurney. Now huffing and puffing ourselves, we rush the dog into the building.

While the veterinarian works to stabilize Daisy, I talk to the owner and learn that Daisy spent a couple hours outdoors in the 90 degree heat of the summer sun. The dog was panting hard and eventually collapsed. The owner wants us to do what we can to save her best friend. With this valuable information, I go to help the ER team.

Daisy's temperature was measured at 109 degrees, dangerously high. We begin to hose her down with cool water, being careful

not to harm her further by cooling her too quickly. She is given oxygen, we draw her blood, and I place an IV catheter. Daisy is swarmed by the doctor and technicians monitoring her vital signs and working to save her life. As this scene unfolds, I hear whimpers from Lucy's cage followed by a scent that tells me I'm needed in ParvoLand. With Daisy's catheter securely in place, I'm off to help Lucy.

I emerge from isolation and find Daisy resting in a run with IV fluids, oxygen, and a technician by her side. She will be monitored closely tonight for potentially fatal heat stroke complications. Again, the sounds of a very angry Doodle fill our ears as a treatment is administered. Meanwhile, Spud, a cat who is vomiting and straining to urinate, has arrived.

After an exam by the veterinarian and a diagnosis of urinary blockage (a relatively common, and very dangerous problem amongst male cats), I present Spud's family with an estimate for bloodwork, IV fluids, an unblocking procedure and a urinary catheter, medications, and several days hospitalization. The estimate comes as a shock to the distressed owners. Spud's medical problem has happened at a bad time for his family, and, unfor-

tunately, finances are a concern. Herein lies the most difficult part of my job.

The cost of medical care often makes the medical staff appear cold and, sadly, causes the owner to feel helpless. We absolutely wish money didn't have to be a factor in having us save an animal's life. If I could give advice to all the pet parents in the world, I would tell them to plan for the unexpected—a major medical problem—and have pet insurance and/or an unused credit card ready for such circumstances. In the case of Spud, his family was not prepared, and they chose to euthanize him.

Spud's family was present for his euthanasia. Their tears fell upon his fur as they said their good-byes. They shared stories of his kittenhood and his crazy cat antics. More than anything, he loved early morning games of pouncing on his owners' feet under the covers. As I left the exam room with Spud's body, I felt a tear roll down my cheek. I made his family a clay impression of his paw and arranged his body for them to take home and bury.

At Night's End

With less than an hour left in my shift, I check in on Daisy and find her sitting up and wagging her tail. It looks like she will be a success story. My spirit is lifted. I head back into ParvoLand just as a Chihuahua arrives in the treatment area. She is struggling to deliver a litter of puppies. I smile as I watch the technicians gather her vital signs and imagine the adorable, squealing puppies which will soon be delivered by c-section.

As she battles the Parvo Virus, Lucy's belly tenses with pain. I give her some drugs to ease the discomfort and the nausea. She sighs and rests her nose atop her paws. Before I exit isolation for the final time that evening, I scratch Lucy's head, run my finger down the white stripe on her nose, and tell her I love her. In the depths of my thoughts, I hope she will still be with us tomorrow. She gives me hope with a tiny kiss on my gloved hand. This simple gesture is the perfect end to my evening.

As I drive home, my body feels the strain of lifting a massive dog, and my mind feels the strain of an emotional evening. I will use this quiet time to clear my thoughts, for tomorrow I must do it all again. And when I am home, I will embrace my own pets and be grateful for their health and the precious time I have with them.

Renae Hamrick is a registered veterinary technician who works in a central Ohio emergency and referral practice. When she's not working, she enjoys (and de-stresses with) running, bowling, animal-assisted therapy, and art. Her family includes her husband, Dave; Doberman, Ed; Golden Retriever mix, Buddy; and cat, Elsie.



Summer to Remember:

Make this year's travel and outdoor season the best one yet...

By Laura D'Aveta

We've all imagined it: You're out on the open road, the wind warm on your face, the sun shining like a spotlight on the empty miles stretching out before you, and your best friend curled up on the seat next to you, glancing at you with complete adoration and trust.

We've all experienced it: the 80 pound German Shepherd who somehow does not lose her voice after six hours of incessant barking, or the tears in the fabric on the roof of your car from where the cat decided hanging upside down would ease her nausea.

Traveling with your pet during the summer can be the ultimate test of your patience and sanity—not to mention the stress it puts on the animal. Your best weapon (short of leaving the pet at a boarding facility or hiring a pet sitter) is to be prepared. Allow yourself plenty of time to plan, and you'll discover that a pleasant vacation with your pet is possible!

GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

- Do your research. There are many resources available that offer information regarding airlines, hotels, and other services related to traveling with a pet. Websites such as www.PetsWelcome.com, www.PetTravel.com, and www.PetVacations.com are a good place to start. Remember, however, that this information is subject to human error and change; be sure to contact airlines and hotels directly to double check their current policy.
- Visit your vet. From sedatives and anti-nausea medication to health and rabies certificates, there are many items that may need to be addressed by your vet prior to traveling with your pet. Schedule your appointment well in advance and prepare a list of all items you need to discuss with your vet.
- Plan for the unexpected. While we never expect anything bad to happen while on vacation, sometimes pets get ill. Be sure to have a list of emergency veterinary clinics near your destination. Do what you can to prevent illness by bringing your pet's normal food and water; changing food will often upset your pet's digestive system. Note that your pet's eating habits may change during travel; observe your pets carefully.
- Practice! Give your pet time to adjust to his carrier/kennel. Take short trips to see how your pet reacts to riding in the car. You will be better prepared if you know what to expect from your pet on your journey.

FLYING

- Each airline has its own policy regarding traveling with pets; be sure to check with the airline prior to purchasing your tickets. Contact the airline early to notify them you will be bringing a pet, as airlines have the right to refuse travel if there are already too many pets on board.
- Whether traveling with you in the cabin or as checked luggage in the cargo area (this will be determined by size), your pet must be contained in a kennel. Make sure to purchase the proper size kennel (the pet must be able to sit, stand, turn around, and lie down), and be sure there is nothing protruding inside the kennel on which your pet could injure themselves.
- Give your pet time to adjust to the kennel prior to flying (the same goes for driving); the day of your trip is NOT the time to first put the pet in the kennel. Make trial runs in the days and weeks before your trip, and be sure to include a few comfort items such as a favorite toy or blanket in the kennel.

Protect Your Pet from the Sun's Rays

The heat of a summer day poses obvious risks to your pet, such as heat stroke and exhaustion. Did you know the sun's UV rays can also be a threat to your pet's skin, even on a cool day? Like humans, pets can get sunburns and skin cancer!

The tips of your pet's ears, his nose, and around his lips are areas which are especially sensitive to the sun. Light haired and hairless animals are at the highest risk. If your pet has spent an extended period outdoors in the sun and you notice very red, leathery, or even white patches of skin, call your veterinarian. Some burns are severe enough to need medical treatment.

To prevent sunburns in your dog or cat, avoid exposure to the summer sun during peak hours. Fido and Fluffy can also benefit from sunscreen applied to the top of the nose, the ears, around the lips, and any other problem areas. Be sure to rub the lotion in well, as many pets (especially cats) may try to lick it off, which could cause drooling due to the undesirable taste. There are also sunscreens formulated specially for dogs, which can be conveniently sprayed over the dog's body.

Sunburns in pets are not necessarily a simple short-lived nuisance; damage from the sun increases your pet's chances of skin cancer. Before your pet basks away this summer in the comforting heat of the sun, consider some protection for his skin and his long-term health.

— Renae Hamrick, RVT



for both you and your animal companion!

- Include identification tags both on your pet and on the kennel that list your pet's name, home address and phone number.
- Many airlines require a health and rabies certificate issued no earlier than 10 days prior to departure; be sure to schedule an appointment with your vet to obtain the necessary documentation.
- Talk to your vet about the dangers of sedating your pet during flight, as high altitudes can be a risk. Also discuss the potential harms to your pet from pests at your intended destination.



DRIVING

- Consider keeping your pet in a kennel while in the car, or purchasing a harness to secure them to a seat. Not only can a loose pet be a distraction, but if you have to suddenly stop, there is the risk of injury to that pet. Open windows present a risk of eye injury to your pets, as well as the opportunity for escape if your pet does not enjoy car rides.
- Heat stroke is a very real danger for pets left in cars, especially during the summer months. If you absolutely must leave your pet unattended, be sure to open two windows for cross ventilation. There are also solar-powered fans available to fit in your window; they will not drain your car's battery and they will help with air circulation. Do not park your car in direct sunlight as it will cause the temperature in the car to rise more quickly.
- Use caution when opening your doors. Even the most well-behaved pet may take advantage of this opportunity to escape. Make sure that your pet is wearing ID tags with the information necessary to find you while you are traveling. Consider having your pet microchipped.
- Stop often for breaks and exercise, and be sure to clean up after your pet.

LODGING

- Research in advance to determine pet-friendly hotels not only at your destination, but at points in between should you need to take additional time to arrive.
- Be respectful of other guests and the staff. Clean up after your pet, and keep your pet as quiet as possible.
- Do not leave your pet unattended; many pets will cry incessantly or destroy property when left alone in a strange place.
- Remember that your actions have an impact on other guests traveling with pets. One bad experience may result in the hotel changing its policy.



As long as you plan well ahead and prepare yourself as much as possible, your pet should be able to enjoy your trip as much as you do!

Pesticides, Herbicides & Fertilizers

Many lawn care products, such as herbicides and fertilizers are not toxic to your pets when applied appropriately to your lawn, preferably by lawn care professionals. However, some pets do experience skin irritations after playing in a treated yard. Serious toxicities are most common when the pet directly consumes the concentrated form of the product. When using such products, it is best to follow the recommendations stated on the product's packaging, and do not allow pets on the lawn until the allotted time has passed.

Particularly dangerous pesticides include rodenticides and baits (vermin, snail, slug, fly, etc.) which can be fatal even when consumed in small portions. Flea and tick products, some of the most common insecticides, used in a way not specified by the label can be extremely dangerous. A common error with many flea and tick products is using one specified for dogs on a cat. Even using a small amount of the dog product on your cat is often fatal!

If you are ever concerned about a pesticide, herbicide, or fertilizer which your pet has contacted, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control immediately! Keep this number handy: (888) 426-4435

— Renae Hamrick, RVT

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Jacqueline Gordon #1037, Jaime Urban #1190,
Heather Blazer #1155, Pam Johnson #1189,
Nancy Morris #1302, Christina Smith #1485,
Kelly Snider #1565, Virginia Grossen #1666,
Danielle Stewart #1996



First & Third Sunday,

Mingle With Our Mutts, come to the Franklin County Dog Shelter for a chance to make some new friends! Lots of dogs & puppies, cats and kittens too! 12 to 2 pm at 1731 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus
www.MingleWithOurMutts.org

Second Sunday,

Mingle With Our Mutts, 12 to 2 pm at the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center, 6790 Webster Street, Dayton
www.MingleWithOurMutts.org

June

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month!

- 1 6th Annual Community Open House at Cat Welfare**, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, 741 Wetmore Rd. in Columbus www.CatWelfareOhio.com
- 7 Pup-A-Palooza!** Friends of the Alum Creek Dog Park present the 2nd Annual Pup-A-Palooza, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Alum Creek Dog Park. Stop by for live music, giveaways, vendors, silent auction and more! www.AlumCreekDogPark.com
- 13 Inaugural Hand Me Down Dobes Golf Outing!** Tee time is 1 pm at Rolling Meadows Golf Club.
www.HandMeDownDobes.org
- 14 Animal Outreach Dogwash!** Animal Outreach is once again ready to "clean up" at their summer dogwash fundraisers! Stop by Starbucks, 1315 W Lane Ave., Cols from noon till 4 pm. Washes are a \$10 donation, nail trims are \$5.
www.Animal-Outreach.org
- Par for Pets Golf Outing**, to benefit Citizen's For Humane Action at Oakhaven Golf Club, 2871 North US-23 in Delaware. Registration begins at 1 pm, golfing starts at 2. Awards banquet & silent auction end the evening. www.CHAAAnimalShelter.org

SOS Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, The Capital Area Humane Society is sponsoring a spay/neuter clinic for cats by appointment only. To schedule, call (614) 777-7387 x298
www.cahs-pets.org

20 10th Annual Take Your Pet to Work Day! Take Your Dog To Work Day was created to celebrate the great companions dogs make and to encourage their adoption from humane societies, animal shelters and breed rescue clubs. This annual event encourages employers to experience the value of pets in their workplace for this one special day to promote pet adoptions.
www.TakeYourDog.com

28 3rd Annual Kitten Shower! Stop by the Knox County Humane Society with a shower gift from their online wishlist, visit their fabulous felines and learn about volunteering and fostering opportunities. 400 Columbus Rd. in Mt. Vernon.
www.KnoxHumaneSociety.org

29 Summer Microchip Clinic (Akron) Heaven Can Wait house, 51 Vesper St. in Akron from noon to 2p.m.
www.Heaven-Can-Wait.com

July

July is Adopt a Shelter Rabbit Month!

- 4 Independence Day**, Keep your pets in mind while you celebrate! During the excitement, loud noises or excitement can spook your pet into running away, even a pet you consider to be relaxed or laid back!

Calendar of Events

June through
August 2008

10 Defend Your Friend 5K Run/Walk Capital Area Humane Society is holding their second annual run/walk at Homestead Park in Hilliard to benefit animal cruelty

investigations and their second chance program. Register in advance or day of. Registration is at 6 pm. Race starts at 7.
www.cahs-pets.org

12 SOS Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, For cats, by appointment only. To schedule, call (614) 777-7387 x298
www.cahs-pets.org

Animal Outreach Dogwash! Starbucks, 1315 W Lane Ave., Cols from noon till 4 pm. Washes are a \$10 donation, nail trims are \$5.
www.Animal-Outreach.org

August

9 Animal Outreach Dogwash! Starbucks, 1315 W Lane Ave., Cols from noon till 4 pm. Washes are a \$10 donation, nail trims are \$5.
www.Animal-Outreach.org

SOS Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, For cats, by appointment only. To schedule, call (614) 777-7387 x298
www.cahs-pets.org

16 International Homeless Animals Day www.isaronline.org

15&16 Pets Without Parents 8th Annual Yard Sale!
www.PetsWithoutParents.net

23 WagFest, is one of Central Ohio's premier dog-friendly events, where attendees will find a full day of activities and treats for the entire family! From educational advice to live entertainment, WAG! is a FREE, fun, dog-friendly and convenient way for you to learn about what's new, what's popular and what's best when it comes to your canine companions. WagFest runs from 11 am to 5 pm at Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Visit the event website for more info. www.WagFest.com

We want to know about your events! Visit www.Animal-Outreach.org/Ohio.html to submit yours! Be sure to include the date, time, location and other relevant details.

Did you know donations and sponsorships to the Animal Insider are tax deductible? For more information on page sponsorships contact Jill Herbst at (614) 593-9244 or email Jill.Herbst@Animal-Outreach.org.



Homeward Bound: Adoptable Animals

New Beginnings Animal Shelter

...because every animal deserves a new beginning!

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New Beginnings Animal Shelter will contribute to the growing effort of creating a "No More Homeless Pet Society" for cats and dogs.

To educate the community on the importance of spay/neutering all animals as it relates to pet overpopulation and health of each animal. To work with humane societies and other rescues for the common goal of humane treatment for all animals.

Taylor

My friends and I were rescued from a house where there were lots of animals. We were taken to a vet and everything checked out great. I'm about 3 years old. I love to play with fuzzy mice. They are my favorite! I like to be close to my person and snuggle. I'm a very happy girl except for one thing. I want a forever home with my own person. I don't mind if other cats are there too. So how about it?



Coconut

Some kids were being real mean to me. A nice lady called New Beginnings to see if they could help me find a new home. Now I have a clean bill of health and my wounds are all healed. I am a very happy guy who loves to be around other cats. I love to cuddle. I'll even keep you warm. I want a home of my own forever. I'll even bring my own scratching pad!

Shyann & Shiloh

We are brother and sister. They say we are very laid back. I guess that means we have fun with other dogs, and cats too! We really do. Shyann loves to be brushed and I just love a good doggie wash. Neither one of us are crazy about that nail clipping thing. We don't have any bad habits and we think that everyone should pet us. We are looking for a forever loving home. Can we lay under your kitchen table?



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Our mission at A.D.O.P.T. Pet Rescue is to rescue abandoned, neglected, abused, or otherwise homeless household animals, and place these animals into permanent, stable, and caring homes. We also strive to promote public awareness of the need to spay and neuter pets, and hope to make pet owners more aware of the importance of proper medical and nutritional care of their pets.



Shimmer

Hi! My name is Shimmer because in the right light my coat "shimmers." I am a very active little girl who likes to play and explore. I also like to cuddle and to help you do whatever you are doing. Whether it is typing or folding laundry! I'm good with other cats and am litter box trained. Won't you adopt me?

Ruby

Hi, I'm Ruby, a female Golden Retriever/Shepherd mix, about 1 1/2 years old (as of March, 2008) and I weigh 47 pounds. I'm energetic and I like to play and go on walks. I was just treated for heartworm, but the vet said I don't have any damage to my lungs or heart and in a few weeks I'll be as good as new! I'm very loving, I like to be pet, play with toys, and I give kisses. Can I come and live with you?



Roxie

I love to play fetch and give kisses! I get along well with other dogs, and older children, although my energy can startle some smaller kids. Although I haven't been around many cats, I'm a curious about them, so it may work. I'm crate trained and house trained, and looking for my perfect new home!

Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center proudly supports the Animal Insider

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ASK Greg & Bobb



"My dog, Max, gets so excited when people come to see us that he urinates all over the floor. What can we do to stop this behavior?"

—Sarah T., Upper Arlington

Greg: Bobb has pretty much the same reaction to cheeseburgers. He gets so excited he loses focus on what he should be doing.

Bobb: Right; Max is so excited that he doesn't really know how to react to your visitors. That's an opportunity for you to educate Max on good door manners. Show him what you want him to do when guests arrive so that he isn't thinking "Yippee, yippee, yipPEE someone's at the door. What do I do?" Maybe he should sit and stay while YOU greet your guests. Or maybe you want him to wait in his den until your guest is settled. Then allow Max to come greet your guest calmly.

Greg: And your guests will need some guidance, too. We should always allow dogs to come to us. Don't go to them; sometimes we "invade their space" and make them uncomfortable. Don't stare at Max or reach over his head to pet him. And we should also avoid looming over dogs.

Bobb: That shouldn't be a problem for you, Shorty. But your point is well-taken. Human manners (eye contact, standing tall and straight, and approaching head-on) are signs of dominance in the dog world. So, if your dog is timid, he may get overwhelmed by your guest and be overly submissive, which includes urination.

Greg: Finally, remember that Max is simply excited. Don't punish him, or coddle him. CALMLY educate him on where he should go and what he should do when guests arrive; and be patient. With time he'll become more confident and less nervous. So give him plenty of opportunities to practice door manners with your family and friends, rather than waiting for "real" guests.

Greg Schneider and Bobb Frecker are dog behavioral therapists and central Ohio area representatives for BarkBusters Home Dog Training. Greg is a regular contributor to the Animal Insider and has been featured on NBC's Channel 4 in Columbus. For more information on dog behavior issues, call (877) 500-BARK or visit www.barkbusters.com

Animal Outreach Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP provides a low cost spay/neuter option for individuals and families who are currently receiving public assistance in central Ohio.

Individuals interested in using the SNAP program must complete an application and submit proof of public assistance as well as the appropriate fees. SNAP is a voucher program that allows qualified individuals to have their pets altered at a designated veterinary clinic. **Currently, all vet clinics are in the Columbus area.**

For more information about SNAP, or to download an application, visit:

www.animal-outreach.org/programs/snap/snap.html

Make a Difference in the Lives of Animals!

Prevention is the key in the fight against pet overpopulation! With your support we can reduce the number of homeless pets by encouraging responsible pet ownership.



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