



ruff DRAFTS

Summer 2018

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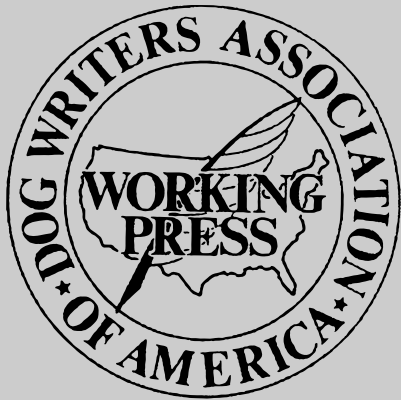
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President's

COLUMN

By **Jen Reeder**

Four days ago, my husband Bryan and I moved from a little mountain town in Southwest Colorado to the big city of Denver. Of course, our biggest concern was/is how the dogs will do. Our beloved dog Rio spent the first eight years of his life hiking three miles off-leash every single day. How would he adjust to leashed walks in an urban setting? Would the move be too stressful?

So far, so good. It's become clear that so long as Rio is with us, he's home – no matter where that might be. He seems to be enjoying meeting so many more dogs and people on our neighborhood strolls, and little Peach has an extra pep in her step – she's a poodle, so she likes to strut her stuff for as large an audience as possible.

In preparation for the move, I read a lot of articles about moving with pets, as well as **Dr. Marty Becker's** latest book, *From Fearful to Fear Free*, which has valuable tips for reducing fear, stress and anxiety for dogs in a variety of situations. It made me more confident about our move, and reminded me how important our work as dog writers is – we truly do help dogs and the people who love them.

If you've written a book or article that offers advice for pet owners or that celebrates man's best friend, I hope you'll consider entering DWAA's annual writing competition, which opens July 9. There are lots of regular award categories as well as around \$14,000 up for grabs in the special awards (we're still confirming and recruiting at press time).



Jen Reeder, President of the DWAA

We'll announce the winners at our annual DWAA Awards Banquet the evening of Sunday, February 10, 2019 at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. We're delighted that NBC correspondent **Jill Rappaport** and host of Animal Planet's "Dog Bowl" and **Steve Dale** of Steve Dale's Pet World will be giving keynote speeches that evening. It's going to be a terrific event – please save the date!

The DWAA officers and Board of Governors are all volunteers, so we are incredibly grateful to all the members who responded to our recent call for volunteers, including **Kristin Avery, Susan Willett, Kate Kuligowski, Amy Hempe, Loren Spiotta-DiMare, Babette Haggerty, Lisa Begin-Kruysman** (who already helps with social

See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN pg 7

By **Merrie Meyers**

Hello from the Blue Ridge Mountains! Like many of you, I am on the road this summer visiting family and friends.

According to a recent Gallup poll, most Americans plan on traveling this summer – and for many of us, that travel will include the family pet(s). While the show circuit often includes extensive participant and handler/owner travel, more often than not, family travel plans typically remained a two-legged member event. Not anymore! Increasing numbers of family trips are pet-centric. The travel industry has taken note of this change and increased services and accommodations. Many of the stories and tips in this issue, submitted by you, our members, demonstrate the varied ways our dogs join us on our leisure pursuits.

For me, driving with the dogs, without incident (nausea, accidents, incessant barking) is a major achievement. I once had a Collie who drooled so badly, the kids wore blankets over their legs so that they could arrive at our destination with dry clothes.

Luckily, traveling with Sunny and Simone has become uneventful. They are used to the routine and quickly hop in the car, settle in and go to sleep. Well, not exactly. Simone goes to sleep, but occasionally, Sunny will stand up and lean against the center console to see if I need help driving.

Many of the places here in the mountains are pet friendly. Outdoor venues encourage pet participation, offer water bowls and rest stations. It's not usual to see a large dog shopping along side its owner in Lowe's Hardware, the auto



Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts

parts store, or even seated under a stool in a local bar.

But this part of the country is not unique. A Travel & Leisure magazine survey of 1,423 pet owners found only 1 in 5 pet owners had difficulty finding pet-friendly accommodations. Hotels.com says that a quarter of its 325,000 listing hotels worldwide allow people to check in with their pets. A study by dogvacay.com found that pet owners report the cost of traveling with your pet is about half of the cost of boarding. High-end hotels may have a "pet concierge" on staff, and offer a pet room service menu.

Forecasts for pet-related travel indicate continued growth. With so many pets traveling, it seemed like a good idea to focus on travel in this summer issue.

I hope your summer is restful and memorable. 🐾

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ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, March 1
Summer, June 1
Fall, September 1
Winter, December 1

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As the Wheels Turn

Lonely Roads & Wandering Hands

Posted By **Laura Reeves**, PHA in
LEARN! THE SCENE
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FROM BEST IN SHOW DAILY

One of the things we almost never talk about is the personal safety of our exhibitors. We are constantly “On The Road Again,” flying into strange cities, driving to new locations. Some of these journeys, and even show sites, are in sketchy areas, at best. A significant number of us are traveling alone through all of it.

Our sport also features a unique mix of ages, genders and positions of power that have been known to be abused.

With that in mind, we offer our “Five Best Tips for Safety” while traveling. And, as a bonus, “Best Practices for Handling Inappropriate Advances.” Obviously, much of this advice applies anywhere, anytime.

Ray Helmken, retired from the Honolulu Police Department and Akita fancier; along with GWP lover Guy Miner, owner of GMM Defense, who offers self-defense courses for small groups, provide these insights.

1. STAY ALERT AND AWARE.

Pay attention to your surroundings. If you want to check Facebook or send a text, do it from the safety of your locked vehicle. Wandering aimlessly into a rest area bathroom while staring at your phone sets you up for someone to take advantage of your distraction. Body posture has a lot to do with how the bad guys choose victims. Head up and watchful, shoulders back, strong core and purposeful movement is our first line of defense.

2. STAY IN WELL-LIGHTED, POPULATED AREAS.

Dim parking lots, deserted (or seemingly so) rest areas with no other people around leaves the predators amongst us with too many places to lurk. “Situational awareness,” Miner says, “is critical. Know what’s going on around you. Avoiding conflict is vastly better than fighting.”

3. KEEP KEYS AND CELL PHONES WITH YOU.

Calling for help in a bad situation isn’t possible if you left your phone in the vehicle while you ran in to pee or exercise a dog or grab a bite to eat. Your car’s key fob also may have an alarm option that you can push which will set up enough racket for people to look up and see a problem. In an absolute worst case, keys wedged between your fingers, with your hand in a fist, make an adequate weapon. Aim for eyes or throat and make it count. Male attackers will always expect and be prepared for a kick to the genitals. “If you must fight, cheat!” says Miner. “Win. Defend yourself.”

4. STAY IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS.

Someone should always know your route, intended destination and ETA. Always have a travel buddy you check in with when you stop for the night. This sets up a built in alarm system — if you don’t check in, your buddy should check up on you.

5. MAKE USE OF AVAILABLE NON-LETHAL SELF-DEFENSE AND DETERRENT OPTIONS.

Pepper spray, whistles, self-defense alarms and barking dogs all work. Keep in mind that most attackers are looking

for targets of opportunity. They don’t want to get caught. “The more noise you make,” Helmken says, “the more the individual will divert, go a different direction.”

***DON’T* TOUCH THIS....** As disappointing and upsetting as it is, inappropriate touching or advances are not confined to billionaires and Hollywood starlets. From copping a cheap feel to offering hotel room keys, and worse, it does happen, even in our sport. Helmken says, “If somebody touches or grabs at you without your approval, step back. Get space between you. Get loud and verbal. This is not a time to avoid making a scene.”

FROM THE “SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS” FILES:

- Your momma was right when she told you to make good decisions and use your common sense.
- Gracefully extricating oneself from an awkward or even ugly situation is much more difficult than avoiding it in the first place.
- There is safety in numbers. Don’t allow yourself to be singled out of a group in social settings.
- Everyone has a slightly different comfort level of what is “harmless” and what is not. Be true to yourself.
- While it’s pretty to think that in today’s society people know the boundaries of what is and is not acceptable, each and every one of us need to be able and willing to say, “Back off” if a line is crossed.
- In the Year of Living Well, stay safe, stay aware and stand strong. As always, this is JMHO. 🐾

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See NEW MEMBERS pg 7



Amber Drake

Amber Drake

Amber L. Drake is a Canine Behaviorist/Journalist and owner of Canine Companions headquartered approximately one hour south of Buffalo, NY. Drake has been featured on ABC, NBC, Fox, and several other platforms. She has two books published, *Dog Talk* and *Dog Talk: The Full Edition*. In addition to book writing, she has published hundreds of articles for large corporations, rescue organizations and pet insurance companies. She holds a Doctor of Education (ABD), a Master of Arts in Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. To learn more about Amber's credentials, visit www.AmberLDrake.org. Her company's blog can be found at www.dogbehaviorblog.org.

Eric O'Grey

Eric O'Grey is Director Philanthropy with Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and also an inspirational speaker with a B.S. degree from San Jose State University and a Doctor of Law degree from Emory University. Eric's personal story of recovery and redemption went viral with the Internet film "[Eric & Peety](http://ericandpeety.com)" and his recent book *Walking with Peety, the Dog Who Saved My Life*. Eric is passionate about animal kindness and especially enjoys long distance running with his dog Jake and spending time with his wife Jaye. For more information about Eric and his initiatives, please visit his website at ericandpeety.com.



Eric O'Grey with Jake

NEW MEMBERS are encouraged to share a photo and a bit of background information, so we can get to know you! Please email our editor at merrie.meyers@gmail.com.

PACKING

with Pets

By **Lauren Kramer-Theuerkauf**

I loved attending my very first BlogPaws conference in Kansas City, Missouri! My husband and I took our tripawd pooch, Penny, along. She loves to travel.

To me, planning ahead is crucial to having a successful and stress-free trip. There is nothing worse than realizing halfway into the trip that you have forgotten something important.

Below are my top five tips for packing with pets:

1. INVEST IN A COLLAPSIBLE WATER DISH.

Not only will this save room in your suitcase, but the dishes are lightweight and portable, making them the perfect solution for both indoor and outdoor use. Many even come with a carabineer that you can clip onto your dog's leash or even your belt. My husband and I are very wary about allowing our pups to drink from communal water bowls. While I'm sure that those who provide such bowls have the best of intentions, these can quickly become a breeding ground for diseases. You won't know how often the bowl is being cleaned or if the other pooches who are partaking are up to date on their vaccinations. Play it safe and bring your own dish.

2. PACK ENOUGH OF YOUR PET'S FOOD TO LAST FOR THE DURATION OF THE TRIP.

Many hotels boast that they offer five-star dining for our furry companions. The problem? Suddenly switching

up a dog's food can wreak havoc on their tiny tummies. My husband and I experienced this firsthand. We were changing foods and despite my best efforts, Matt was convinced that if he just started feeding our pack the new food, everything would be fine. Most of our pups handled the sudden change with ease. But not our Dachshund, Hope. I came home from work to find 12 different spots of doggy diarrhea throughout our house. And this lasted for several days. If you are looking to change your pet's food, be sure to slowly mix in the new food with the old over the course of several weeks until your pet's tummy has had a chance to adjust. You don't want to have diarrhea in your car while traveling!

3. SPEAKING OF POO, DON'T FORGET THE POOP BAGS!

I can't tell you how many times I've seen fellow pet parents allow their dogs to poo in a public place and then walk away leaving a very unpleasant surprise for someone else to discover later. Not only is this rude (and messy to clean up when it gets on your shoes), but it is very unsanitary. Some pups like to snack on poo. Imagine what would happen if your dog found a "snack" at a rest stop along your travels. This could lead to a host of health issues if the pooping pooch is not current on vaccinations as well as heart worm preventatives. Skip the trip to the animal hospital and pick up that poo.



Penny helps pack



Day before BlogPaws

4. DON'T FORGET THE PET SUNSCREEN!

Whether you plan to spend most of your time at the beach or on hiking trails, your furry companion is just as susceptible to sunburn as you are. On both cats and dogs, their snouts as well as their ears are most likely to feel the burn. My husband and I found a pet sunscreen that comes in stick form, almost like lip balm. And don't forget about your pet's paw pads. This tender area of the foot can also be scorched by the searing sun. Beat the heat and enjoy cooling off with a treat.

Continued on next page

5. ALWAYS PACK A COPY OF YOUR PET'S MOST RECENT MEDICAL RECORDS.

Some pet-friendly events even make this a requirement for your pets to be granted access to the event. Rabies tags alone are not always deemed as valid proof of your pet's good health. Since my husband and I have a rather large pack, I keep two separate binders filled with their medical records: one for the dogs and one for the cats. Each section is labeled with the pet's name so that I can locate the records quickly. Having a copy of the most recent records on hand will be especially useful if (heaven forbid) your pet should become sick while on the road. This will save the new vet precious time that would be spent calling your vet's office for the same information. Be sure that the records include proof of a health examination as well as rabies and other booster vaccinations.

Safe travels and remember to enjoy the journey! 🐾

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Continued from pg 5

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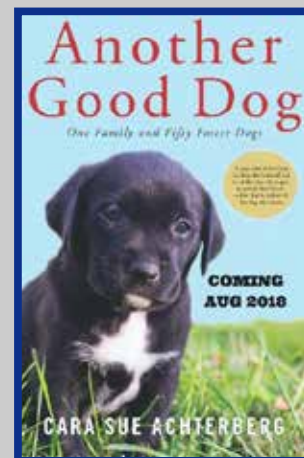
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MEMBER NEWS

Another Good Dog: One Family and Fifty Foster Dogs

A warm and entertaining memoir about what happens when you foster fifty dogs in less than two years – and how the dogs save you as much as you save them.

What started as a search for a good dog, led to an epiphany that there wasn't just one that could fill the hole in Cara's heart – she could (and did) save dozens along the way. The stories of these remarkable dogs – including a 75-pound coonhound who sang arias for the neighbors to a 3-pound bouncing Chiweenie – and the joy they bring to Cara and her family (along with a few chewed sofa cushions) fill the pages of this touching and inspiring new book that reveals the wonderful rewards of fostering.



Filled with humanity and hope, *Another Good Dog* will take the reader on a journey of smiles, laughs, and tears – and lead us to wonder how many other good dogs are out there and what we can do to help.

For more information (and to discover the blog that chronicles all the other good dogs that follow this book), visit CaraWrites.com. A portion of all sales will go towards rescuing more dogs. *Another Good Dog* will be released from Pegasus Books on August 7, 2018, but is available for preorder now.

President's Column

Continued from pg 7

media!) and **Amy Tokic**, who is bringing a silent auction to the banquet. Thank you all so much!

More good news...Germinder & Associates renewed their contract as DWAA's Agency of Record, and **Lea-Ann Germinder** is also chairing the new Sponsorship Committee. **Laur-Ann Darr** has stepped up to be Contest Chair (yes, I did a happy dance when I heard the news). **Jodi Helmer** shared three terrific "Successful Queries"

for the Members Only section of the DWAA website – be sure to check them out if you haven't read them yet! **Mara Bovsun** has been mentoring children under 18 in Young Writers on the Web, and the first posts have gone up. Soon we'll be asking professional members to volunteer as contest judges, so please consider helping out again or for the first time – as noted above, we're thrilled for any help you can offer. The more, the merrier!


Thank you so much for being a member of the Dog Writers Association of America. Enjoy having summer adventures with your dogs! 🐾



Celebrations

By **Barbara E. Magera**, MD, PharmD, MMM

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T o d a y is the 4th of July. Outside the white picket fence that runs around our house, crowds of people gather waiting for the parade to begin. A marching fife and drum corps can be heard in the distance. I run to the perimeter of our fence. I jump and place my paws on the top of the crisp white fence posts hoping to get a glimpse of the peach queen riding in a 57 Chevy. She is beautiful. When her eyes lock onto mine, her face brightens. Her smile widens. We interact for a microsecond as her winged chartreuse roadster passes by me. Someone reaches out to scratch behind my ears and pat me lovingly on the head. "What a beautiful Cavalier" he comments then walks on to watch the parade. Inspired by the rhythm of the marching band, I jump down from the fence post. My paws are moving to the staccato tempo of the drums as I march around the perimeter of our front yard. For a moment, I am transformed into a military canine.

A team of jugglers immediately follows the fife and drum corps. They nimbly toss their colorful mallets in the air and catch them with precision. I stretch my neck to see how high they

send their missiles in the air. I am inspired to do back jumps on our front lawn. I hurl myself into the air seeing the ground and its contents whirling around me. Suddenly everything appears upside down before my eyes. As I land upright gently on the soft grass, I see smiling faces staring at me. They are clapping and whistling. "What an amazing athlete" I hear someone shout my way. "A natural born artist" someone comments. Inspired, I lift my front paws and place all my weight on my back legs. I run swiftly towards them on my hind legs. Their laughter and cheers are thunderous admiration for my antics. I then hop across our front lawn on my hind paws. I do this in tempo with the high school marching band blasting out the tunes of Yankee Doodle Dandy.

At the end of the parade, a regal troupe of palomino horses enters. They are impeccably groomed and dressed in ornamental regalia. Seasoned riders beam with pride atop their stallions as they gracefully trot through the city's historic streets.

Smells of grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and sweet corn cooked in the husk permeate the summer breeze. After the parade, a gastronomic celebration starts in our backyard. On the gingham tablecloth are platters of home grown

cut tomatoes, baked beans, deviled eggs, delicacies cooked on the grill, freshly squeezed lemonade and sweet ice tea. Our human guests with their Cavaliers arrive for our holiday celebration. Like their parents, the Cavaliers are of all shapes, sizes and temperaments.

In our back yard is a lawn sprinkler with an oscillating head. The canines nimbly jump and run through the sprays of cool water. In the safe confines of our backyard, several Cavaliers race around playfully. My Ruby sister is flirting with a beautiful male Blenheim. They run as fast as possible along our backyard picket fence. After their exhausting jaunt, they collapse on the soft grass. They stretch their torsos and fall fast asleep under the canopy of Spanish moss hanging from an old oak tree.

The culmination of our holiday feast is homemade peach ice cream! The refreshing dessert provides a cool relief from the sweltering July heat.

As the afternoon sun moves across the cloudless sky, sleepiness sets in. Our guests settle into canvas hammocks or sprawl across cotton blankets outstretched on the lawn. Everyone grabs a short nap while dusk approaches.

See CELEBRATE pg 24

Lizzy Talk

Top Ten Travel Tips for Dogs

By **Ted Slupik**

AS TOLD BY LIZZY, THE LONG
HAired CHIHUAHUA

When I turned nine years old and my Collie sister Sophie turned one, we were given a special dog vacation from our family to celebrate my recovery from a severe orthopedic issue and Sophie's recovery from an illness. We did not know what to think about going on a vacation. Usually, when our family went on vacation, we were left behind in the care of a pet sitter to wait for our family's return. However, during our illness, it looked like I might not survive but through alternative medicine, I recovered and was able to lead a healthy, active life for 7 1/2 more years! Our family was so happy that they decided to plan a trip that us dogs could enjoy.

When Sophie came into our family, my family purchased a large SUV so we all had enough room to ride comfortably and look out the windows. I sat on the front console in a cat bed (because I was so small) and Sophie rode in the back with all the seats down and folded flat so she could enjoy the view from all the windows. By arranging our seating in this manner, we both had a 360-degree view of our travels.

Now we were ready to go on our first dog friendly vacation! Our family planned our trip around places and events that allowed dogs. They found a house for rent in Sheboygan, Wisconsin that allowed dogs to stay with their owners. What a treat! The house was on the beach on Lake Michigan so we could take long walks each day. It also had a hammock in the shade for me to relax on. We also did many other activi-

ties and almost everyone concentrated on being able to include dogs.

Our family was special to us; maybe even a little crazy for doing this. Sophie and I explored, sniffed, and observed something new each day. We had fun together as a family. Although I was an excellent car rider and traveler before Sophie joined our family, Sophie needed some practice before our big excursion. Here are my top ten tips for making travel and a dog vacation enjoyable for the whole family!

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

1. Making car riding enjoyable for me requires practice. Start with short trips and build up to several hours at a time.
2. Give rewards for good behavior. When Sophie and I behaved in the car, we got a nice treat when we got out. It didn't take me long to get Sophie to go along with this program! Also, my humans would practice leaving us in the car for a brief period when the weather was cool and walk away out of our sight and watch us. If we behaved in the car, did not bark at each other or people outside our car, they would come back and praise us and reward us with a treat.
3. In cooler weather, it's okay to leave us in the car with the windows slightly open for a few minutes while you shop. This builds our confidence.
4. Beware of motion alarms in newer cars that set off blaring sirens. I could not set it off but Sophie sure could!
5. If your family has two or more dogs, take us on trips together. This makes the trip less stressful for each of us.



Lizzy



Sophie and the goats

6. If one of us had a vet appointment, we both went. This not only gave us car riding experience, but we became better buddies and were a support system for each other. We no longer feared the vet.
7. With a little internet research on your part, you can probably find a lot of pet-friendly places to take us dogs.
8. When you are driving, stop every 2-3 hours for a break. Don't travel more than 8 hours in a day as that is probably too tough on you humans!
9. You might be surprised at some of the places that pets would enjoy vis-

See TRAVEL TIPS pg 11

Young Writers on the Web

DWAA is encouraging the next generation of dog writers with our new program Young Writers on the Web. Writers who are under 18 years old are encouraged to submit stories about dogs for publication on a special section of the DWAA website, and potentially in our newsletter Ruff Drafts as space allows.

We're thrilled that Mara Bovsun, features editor at AKC Family Dog, is editing submissions and working with young writers to help polish their work for publication. The chance to work with a professional of Mara's caliber is a fantastic opportunity for budding writers!

As a bonus, articles published by the program will be eligible as entries for DWAA's annual writing competition. This is great news since Karen Petit, a prolific author of children's books, sponsors a special award just for writers under 18 years old. It's a wonderful chance to receive recognition and win \$400!

DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by Karen Petit, an author of children's books, for writers under 18 years of age. This award is to recognize and encourage young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics. Award: \$400 cash grant, DWAA Maxwell Medalion and lapel pin.

So if you know of a young person, teacher or parent who might be interested in learning more, please invite them to visit:
dogwriters.org/youngwriters/



Rosebud and her pal, Daly

Full Circle

By **Daly Dodsworth**

PUBLISHED AS PART OF THE
DWAA'S YOUNG WRITERS ON THE
WEB PROGRAM

My name is Daly Dodsworth, and I am thirteen years old. Three and a half years ago, I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, an incurable disease caused by the failure of the pancreas by the immune system.

Upon being diagnosed, I was in the hospital for three days. I was scared and away from my friends and siblings. My parents alternated spending time with me. As you would expect, I watched TV for the duration of my stay, which can be boring. However, when I look back on the days that I was in the hospital, I don't think of the times I know that I cried, or the pain from IVs and shots. I think about the things that brightened my day, one of them being therapy dogs visiting my room.

One particular dog came into my room on the second day of my hospital stay, which is the one I remember most, a rough coated collie named Sophie. This dog was one in a million. She was gentle, and like a human, picked up on my social cues. Of course, I wasn't afraid of dogs, but I wasn't in a great mood either. It brightened my mood immensely and made my day.

As I grew older I graduated from elementary to middle school. Towards the end of sixth grade, we prepared for a special presentation. Ted Slupik, author of *Sophie, Best Friends Are Forever*, talked to us about writing his book and the power of volunteering. He explained how he had trained Sophie to make hospital visits. I immediately recognized Ted as the man with the collie who visited me. Although Sophie had passed, Ted was there with his new dog,

Continued on next page

“ Although Sophie had passed, Ted was there with his new dog, Rosebud, who is continuing Sophie's kind work. ”

Rosebud, who is continuing Sophie's kind work.

At the end of his presentation, Ted offered any student the opportunity to see Rosebud work at a nursing home. After his presentation, I made sure to tell him I remembered Sophie and him, which made me want to see Rosebud in action.

My friends, Natalie, Blanca, and I set a time with him and were anxious to have the opportunity become a reality. The day arrived, and we pulled up to the nursing home. As we reunited with the Slupiks and Rosebud, I knew I was ready to go inside and be a part of the visits.

As we walked in, the faces in the lobby lit up, just like mine had when I had been the one receiving the visit. We walked the halls with Rosebud, getting the opportunity to meet many new faces, all with new personalities. One unforgettable visit was the one with Wally, a World War II veteran. I had recently learned about World War II making it easy to ask questions about his experiences. Natalie, Blanca and I chatted and asked questions to get to know the hero. As we talked, I could see the expression on his face soften and his mood lighten. We ended our visit by asking if we could take a picture with Wally, and he gladly accepted. We did not know that Wally had not seen any faces as young as ours in a long time.

Sadly, Wally passed away only days after our visit, but it was told to us that he kept repeating the fact he loved our visit, one of his last happy memories. Hearing this as a thirteen year old and knowing that I made someone feel so good felt more than amazing. I don't have enough time in the world to explain each patient that we met, or more

importantly, how each of them personally touched my heart.

After the visit to the nursing home I got to thinking. Ted gets to feel this feeling every week, and I felt it only a couple times, changing me for the better. I wondered if his hospital visit with me three years ago made him feel the same way I had when I was able to visit these patients.

Just a short year later, Ted returned to our school. He asked the girls and me to help him present to the sixth graders. Again, the feeling I had felt when at the nursing home returned. Ted let us in on a secret he had used to remember who of the girls was who. He called us the “BDN Girls,” using the first initial of our names. B, for Blanca, meant bold. D, for Daly, meant dynamic. Finally, N, for Natalie, meant nice. This may seem like a little thing to you, but to us it was everything. It meant that he had remembered our visit. Also, that our visit had meant as much to him as it did to us.

Isn't it amazing how the world spins in circles? How when something is done for you, you want to return the favor? My story with Sophie, Rosebud, the Slupik's, Natalie, and Blanca, ended up going in a circle. This showed me how one action, one thought, or one feeling can be spread or returned. Helping others is so rewarding. Volunteer! And, have fun with it! 🐾

Daly is a student at Madison Junior High in Naperville District 203. She is an active teen who loves playing sports and hanging with friends. She also enjoys opportunities to volunteer and continues to seek ways to help others. Her future plans include going into the medical field, perhaps to become a surgeon.

Travel Tips

Continued from pg 9

iting. A few of the best things that Sophie and I did and enjoyed seeing were:

- A visit to a small zoo that allowed pets.
- A ferry ride to an island in northern Wisconsin. The ferry was fun as we had the wind in our faces. Once we landed, we walked all over the island and saw lots of fun things.
- We had breakfast with some goats. Our humans found a Swedish restaurant in Sister Bay, Wisconsin that had goats that we watched eating on the grass roof of the restaurant. We got to visit the goats when they were off the roof.
- Spending time with each other and our humans; relaxing, napping, and chilling out.

10. Relax and enjoy your travels with us! We enjoy the special attention that we get from you while on a vacation. Remember, every day is a gift! 🐾

Lizzy was a long haired Chihuahua that lived a rich 16-1/2 years after getting a second chance at age 9. Lizzy's Fund provides all vet, lab, grooming, dental and even the adoption fees for seniors, aged 7 and older. Find out more or make a donation at lizzysfund.org. You can also follow or like her on Facebook or Instagram.



We have arrived...everyone in the pool!

Big Pink and Cheetah Ann

By **Tom Shelby**

The movie "Easy Rider" was the original inspiration. It was the early 70s and a bunch of us were living together in a house in Queens, N.Y., fondly referred to as "Animal House." No, the house wasn't filthy. We just had a lot of pets: three dogs, a cat, gerbils, snakes, two salt water fish tanks and doves. We also had motorcycles, and after the movie we decided that a motorcycle trip around the country was in order. After surviving 2 1/2 months, 10,000 miles and lots of adventures seeing, feeling and smelling the country, the travel bug was ingrained in me.

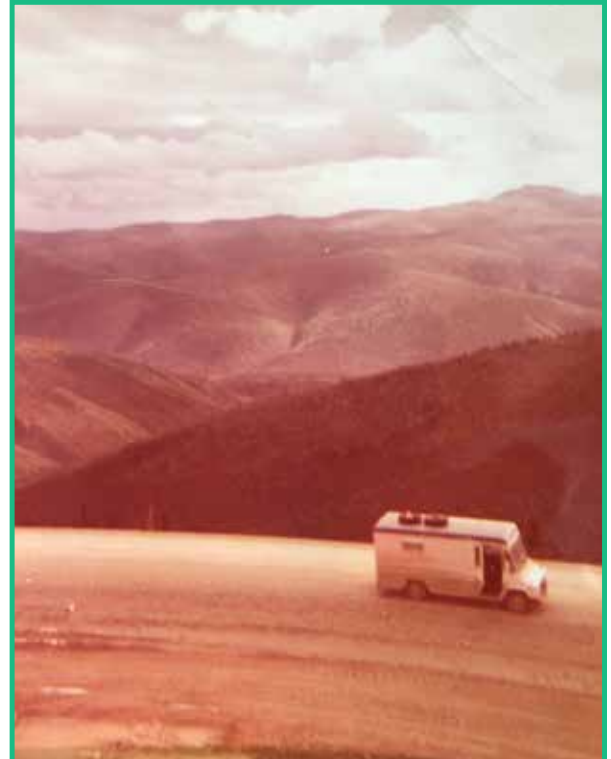
The next summer, I announced to my girlfriend Jaye that it was time for another trip. She made it clear that accommodations needed to be greatly enhanced so I purchased a used laundry truck. Renovations started by ripping out the seats and welding in two MG bucket seats scavenged from a junk yard, followed by a visit to the Salvation Army for some small bureaus which we bolted to the interior. Rugs, curtains and other "luxury" items were handled by Jaye. Next, we cut a hole in each side and installed storm windows. The truck desperately needed a paint job and the creative genius in me decided that the color had to be pink. Thus, our home for the next two months, and to this day, is referred to as Big Pink. The remaining decision was where to go. That was easy-- Alaska or bust. As for bringing our 11-month-old Pharaoh Hound Cheetah Ann, Jaye loved the idea that nobody could ever sneak up on us.

We decided to go directly to Niagara Falls and head west from there, driving through Canada. Not ones to get an early start, we left promptly at about noon at the end of June. I realized with

some mild consternation that we didn't have a map with us. Jaye reminded me of my ludicrous response when she wanted to buy some maps at a gas station: "Don't need maps. Just keep heading toward the setting sun."

One time, Jaye left Big Pink to relieve herself behind a bush. Cheets stood in the truck at the door, growling. As Jaye was about to step back into Big Pink, Cheets' growl became ferocious. Standing next to the bush Jaye had just left was a huge black bear standing on its hind legs. Cheets was smart enough to stay inside and yell at the bear, as opposed to confronting it, while Jaye called, "Nice bear," slamming the door shut as I left rubber popping the clutch.

Over the course of our travels, we picked up hitchhikers a lot. Near Banff National Park in Alberta, we stopped at a gas station and agreed to give a ride to a guy who was on the other side of the road, clearly looking for a ride in the opposite direction. When asked why he switched directions, he said, "It doesn't really matter, I have good friends in either direction who can put us all up." It seemed strange, but possible. For the next three or so hours, he told us stories that were such obvious lies that Jaye and I were getting uncomfortable. Plus, every time he went to pet Cheets, she responded with a low throaty growl. So when he asked me to pull over so he could pee, I agreed. As soon as he left, Jaye declared, "He's not coming back in this truck, take off now!!" He ran after the truck, cursing at us as we took



Big Pink in the Yukon.
Courtesy of Tom Shelby.

off and Jaye threw his backpack out the door.

After 1500 hundred miles of a rocky, muddy, dirt road called the Alaskan Highway, we stopped at a gas station 90 miles out of Anchorage at about 7 p.m. We were debating whether to find a spot to camp or go on to the city and get a hotel room for a shower and a real bed. I wanted the hotel, but Jaye being tougher than me wanted to camp. We were having this discussion while walking Cheets in a nearby field when a kid, maybe 18, approached us, asked if we were going to Anchorage and could we give him a ride. My vibe told me he was OK, but my eyes saw a questionable kid. He wasn't carrying anything – no pack, nothing. He was wearing a dirty, ripped shirt and stained pants. His hair was disheveled. He appeared exhausted. I looked him up and down, letting him

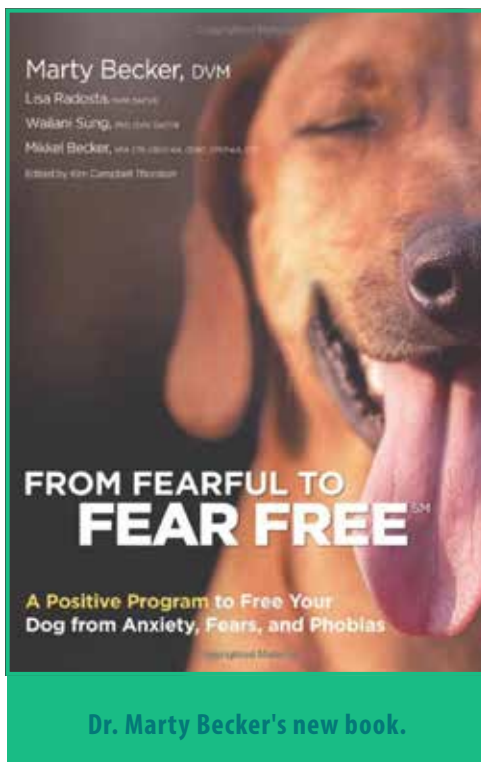
See BIG PINK pg 13

Dr. Marty Becker's Latest Book Is Out!

It's no secret that Dr. Marty Becker is a great friend of the Dog Writers Association of America. He generously sponsors two Fear Free awards – worth \$2,000 each to the lucky winners! – and inspired us with his rousing keynote address at DWAA's Awards Banquet earlier this year.

Now he's inspiring readers with his new book, *From Fearful to Fear Free: A Positive Program to Free Your Dog From Anxieties, Fears, and Phobias*. Here's more information he shared with us in case you'd like to check it out (and if you like it, leave an Amazon or Goodreads review):

Almost every dog owner has a pet who suffers from fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS). They are the underlying cause of many concerning behaviors such as excessive barking, aggression, destructive behaviors, and house-soiling.



They are also the source for deterioration of the human-animal bond, and can make a trip to the veterinarian, pet groomer, or boarding facility miserable for pet and owner alike. Left untreated, these negative experiences can lead to devastating consequences and permanent damage for the pets in our lives.

Unfortunately, many well-meaning owners misinterpret or overlook the often subtle signs of emotional injury and turmoil, or think that the pet will simply "outgrow" it. This leads to unnecessary trauma and suffering.

From Fearful to Fear Free is based on the groundbreaking Fear Free program embraced by tens of thousands of veterinary healthcare professionals and hundreds of thousands of pet owners (fearfreepets.com and fearfreehappyhomes.com).

This is the first and most authoritative book on the subject of reducing FAS and increasing "happy and calm" in dogs. Since pets communicate nonverbally, this book will help dog owners recognize if their pet is suffering from FAS. By understanding their dog's body language, vocalizations, and changes in normal habits, their veterinarian will be able to make an accurate diagnosis, and work with the pet owner to take action to prevent triggers, or treat the fallout if they do happen.

The three veterinary co-authors (two are boarded veterinary behaviorists) and one highly respected pet trainer have a combined 88 years of experience in the trenches of veterinary medicine and training. The information we share in this book can help pets live a happier, healthier, and fuller life. 🐾

Big Pink

Continued from pg 12

know I was not oblivious to his "state" and insisted, "What's your rap?"

"I'll tell why I need the ride, but first I'm also telling you that if you bring me home, my mother's gonna be extremely grateful, she'll love you, and put you up, and feed you! That's the truth man!" He confessed that he and some guys had grown a crop of pot next to this cabin in the woods. "All of a sudden, three days ago, there's the sound of a helicopter above as cop cars come flying down toward us. I went out a window and have been traveling through the woods and along the road, hiding when cars go by. I've heard cops will stop locals, telling them to report hikers. You have New York plates so I figure you're safe. I'm tellin' you the truth man, and I'm not kidding, my Mom will love you!" The whole time, he was petting Cheetah, who was relaxed with a slow wagging tail. "Wait over there," I said pointing to a lone tree, while Jaye and I stepped away. "My kind of guy," I said.

"Cheets likes him," Jaye remarked. I walked over to him, "got in his face," and said, "I'm from New York. If you're lying or &%?>@ with us, I'm gonna hurt you!" Intimidated, he replied, "I swear, it's the truth!"

It was the truth. His mother treated us like royalty.

The moral of the story? If you can travel harmoniously in a truck with a girlfriend for two months, marry her, which I did, 46 years ago. Also, trust your dog. 🐾

Tom Shelby is an expert dog trainer with a specialty in search and rescue dogs and is the author of *Dog Training Diaries - Proven Expert Tips & Tricks to Live in Harmony with Your Dog* and the *ASK THE DOGCHARMER* column for the *Martha's Vineyard Times*.



Writing Competition Opens July 9, 2018

Can you believe the DWAA writing competition opens this month? Time flies when you're having fun writing about dogs! Here are a few pointers:

Entries must have been written between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018. Submit entries between Monday, July 9 and Friday, September 7, 2018.

All the information you will need can be found in the list of rules on the website, as well as on the entry forms themselves, but the following suggestions will make sorting and judging your entries easier on us and on the judges. All our judges are volunteers, so please make it easy for them to access and read your work.

If you are entering online, send ONE link for an entire article. Don't send a separate link for each page of the article. If the link is for the entire magazine, at least include the page number of your article on your entry form. Don't make a judge have to search the entire magazine for your piece! If this isn't possible, consider printing the article and sending a hard copy.

If you are sending a link, make sure it is not going to expire before the piece is judged.

If possible, send hard copies of books, rather than online links. Reading an entire book online is not fun. Some judges won't do it, and without our judges, there's no contest.

If possible, when sending copies of articles, use 8 ½ x 11 paper instead of legal.

Do not staple your entry form to your entry. Use a paperclip.

If you are sending in multiple entries, put the amount paid for each individual entry on the entry form, and NOT the total amount sent for all the entries.

Don't forget to enter regular awards as well as the special awards – there's nearly \$16,000 up for grabs!

Good luck! 🐾

Editor's note: Many thanks to former contest chair Su Ewing for passing along so many helpful tips.

DWAA SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES

Our generous sponsors are offering \$15,950 in prizes!

AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is for the best article in a national, regional or local AKC club publication in magazine or newsletter format. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.

AKC Reunite Microchip Awareness Award

Sponsored by AKC Reunite for the best article on how microchips can be used in pet recovery. Articles can include recovery stories of how dogs were identified or returned to owners, permanent identification in cases of theft, uses of microchips to confirm identity of dogs in competition, etc. The award is a \$1,000 cash grant. For information about actual recovery stories, writers can contact AKC Reunite at microchip@akcreunite.org.

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award goes to the writer of a print or online feature article that best educates pet owners about responsible dog ownership. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant. To enter, submit one article, which must also be entered in this year's contest in one of the regular categories.

The Canine Scribbles Award

Sponsored by Canine Scribbles, LLC, this is awarded for the best article that promotes the reasons to own a purebred canine. The fiction or nonfiction article of 1000 to 1500 words must be published in a print or online publication. The focus

of the article should exemplify the virtues of owning a specific purebred dog. A high-resolution .jpeg (at least 300 dpi) should accompany the article that depicts the canine about which the article is written. The article should be clearly and succinctly written, and should outline the advantages of purebred dog ownership, with a unique journalistic voice. \$350 cash grant.

The Captain William Lewis Judy Award

Sponsored by American Legion Post #348, Brick Township, N.J. and Lisa Begin-Kruysman. For a submission in any form of media that educates the public about the important role our military dogs play in our Armed Forces, including issues affecting their emotional and physical care during their training, active service and retirement. The award consists of a \$350 cash grant.

The Ceva Heartworm Prevention Award

Sponsored by Ceva Animal Health, this award is for the best article that educates the public about heartworm awareness and prevention tips. The winner will receive a \$1,500 grant.

DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by Karen Petit, an author of children's books, for writers under 18 years of age. This award is to recognize and encourage young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics. Award: \$400 cash grant, DWAA Maxwell Medallion and lapel pin.

DWAA Robert H. McKowen Memorial Friends of Rescue Award

Sponsored by his family and friends. For the best article describing the rescue process: adoption, fostering, transporting, home visits or other aspects of rescue. \$300 cash grant.

Continued on next page

The Fear Free Pets Award

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, this is awarded for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates the importance and benefits of taking a dog to a Fear Free certified veterinary professional. This may also include how a dog's emotional well-being can play a role in all aspects of its life and health, including veterinary care, how decreasing fear, anxiety, and stress is beneficial to the patient and owner both during the veterinary visit and at home, a focus on Fear Free applications pre- and post-veterinary visit, successful case studies/stories of how a dog went from fearful to Fear Free during or throughout the course of a single or series of veterinary visits, positive experiences working with a Fear Free certified veterinary professional or anything that highlights how Fear Free and what it stands for is all around better for staff, patients, and clients. This award consists of a \$2,000 cash grant and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

Fear Free Dog Enrichment Award

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, this is awarded for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media formats that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates how enrichment activities (exercise, food puzzles, scent training, etc.) can benefit a dog's emotional—not just physical—well-being and the role that has in their overall health. This may also include topics relating to how the resulting benefits of such enrichment to the dog's emotional well-being can help set them up for more successful veterinary visits in the future, thus living a happier, healthier life. This award consists of a \$2,000 cash grant and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

The Harrison Stephens Inspirational Feature Award

Named in honor of Harrison Stephens, a newspaper editor who wrote thought-provoking features marked by journalistic integrity and humor until his death just before his 100th birthday. This award is for a feature article that highlights the human-canine bond and leaves the reader with a smile. Potential topics include working dogs (or a lazy dog with a winning personality), or dog-centric nonprofits that promote positive outcomes for pets and people. The award is sponsored by Sally and Tom Reeder and consists of a \$300 grant.

James Colasanti, Jr. Poetry Award

For the poem/poetry which best exemplifies the unconditional love of a dog. Sponsored by James Colasanti Jr. The award is a \$200 cash grant.

The Pet Fashion Guild Pet Fashion Award

Sponsored by the Pet Fashion Guild, this award is for a submission in any form of media that demonstrates the enhanced bonds and connections between humans and their dog(s) through pet fashion. This award consists of a \$350 cash grant.

The PSI Professional Pet Care Award

Sponsored by Pet Sitters International (PSI), this award is presented to the entry that best educates pet owners about the benefits of using professional pet sitters. Qualifying online or print entries include newspaper or magazine articles and blog posts. This award consists of a \$300 cash prize.

The Take Your Dog Award

Sponsored by Take Your Dog To Work Day® creator Pet Sitters International, this award is presented to the entry that best highlights the special human-canine bond and importance of pet adoptions. Qualifying print or online entries include newspaper or magazine articles, blog posts and personal essays. The award consists of a \$300 cash prize.

The Walter R. Fletcher Memorial Award

Sponsored by The Westminster Kennel Club in memory of legendary dog show reporter Walter Fletcher, this annual award goes to the reporter who best exemplifies continued press coverage of dog shows in America. The writer must have written a bylined article in a print or online general interest publication about a dog show (or shows). The winner will be honored with a reserved seat in the Walter Fletcher Memorial Chair for both nights of the 2018 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The chair is located at the end of the front row, in the working press section, on the arena floor of Madison Square Garden. The winner will also receive \$300.

Dogwise Best Book Award

Sponsored by Dogwise Publishing. \$500 to the author of the best book. The winner will be chosen by the president of DWAA from the winners of all the book categories. The award is a \$500 cash grant. *Do not apply for this award.*

DWAA Distinguished Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, exemplary conduct, public communication and professional excellence, best promotes the interest of the sport of dogs. The award consists of a plaque and a \$1,000 cash grant. *Do not apply for this award.*

Continued on next page

NEW SPECIAL AWARDS

Eligibility for this year's writing competition is for work published between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018, so there's still time to write articles that could qualify for special awards! Here are a few new awards this year to keep in mind – plus one in which the cash prize doubled!

The Heroes for Healthy Pets Award

Sponsored by Merck Animal Health, this award is open to all forms of media that cover topics on infectious diseases that affect dogs. The winner will receive a plaque and a \$1,500 cash grant.

The Rio Award

Sponsored by Jen Reeder and Bryan Fryklund in honor of their beloved Labrador retriever mix, Rio, this award is for an article, book or essay that profiles a dog who changed someone's life in a profoundly positive way. The award consists of a \$300 cash prize.

The Sleepypod Pet Safety Award

Sponsored by Sleepypod, this award is for the best article or book that shares tips for pet safety during travel and/or anecdotes of dogs helped by owners who take safety precautions. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant.



The AKC Family Dog Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is for the best writing (including books, articles and blog posts) about any or all of the good manners programs under the AKC Family Dog umbrella, including AKC Therapy Dog, AKC Trick Dog, AKC Canine Good Citizen, AKC Community Canine, Urban CGC and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. While participating in these activities that are fun for both dogs and people, dogs become well-socialized and develop a lifelong bond with their owners. This award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

The GNFP Digital Canine Companion Award

Sponsored by GNFP Digital, this award is for the best digital story – online video, blog post or online article with photography that best demonstrates the bond between people and their canine companions. The content must be demonstrated as having been shared through digital media. The winner will receive a \$1,000 grant and a special gift.

Dog-Centric Travel

By **Susan M. Ewing**

We don't always plan our vacations around a dog-related event, but if we discover such an event, we try to get to it. Years ago, a trip to Burbank, California meant an unplanned side trip to a dog show.

In 2008, however, the trip was specifically for a major dog event. The 2008 World Sheep Dog Trials were held in Wales, and an acquaintance was on the United States team.

I enjoy watching any breed of dog do what it was bred to do, but I love watching Border Collies work, and I got my fill at the World Sheep Dog Trials where 242 Border Collies from 22 different countries competed over four days.

The trials were held on the grounds of Dinefwr Castle, with plenty of room for the trials, parking, and over a hundred vendors. These lovely grounds are just outside the Welsh village of Llandeilo, which is pronounced cLAN-DYE-LO. That double "L" gets this gargly "cl" sound. It's not something I do particularly well.

In the semi-finals, handlers and dogs had 15 minutes to complete the course, which included bringing the sheep in from 400 yards away, herding, or driving, the five sheep through two separate gates, shedding, or separating two uncollared sheep, then penning all five sheep, releasing the sheep, and singling, or removing one collared sheep from the five.

All scores for the competitors were posted at the International Sheep Dog Society tent, but the area was generally packed with people, so I gave up trying to keep track of all the Americans. I did notice that a couple of them had "retired" after their names, so I asked Angie Driscoll, the woman responsible for the Trial website, what would make a

handler retire, or leave the field, since if you retire you get no points. Obviously, you'd retire if your dog was injured, but why else? Angie explained that handlers would rather retire if their dog wasn't listening to them, rather than teach the dog it was all right not to listen at a trial.

This amazed me, because Border Collies seem so intense when they are working, that it had never occurred to me that, like any dog, they might have selective hearing. But, even at the World Trials, dogs might not listen. Angie said, "New Zealander Jim Wilson could not get his dog to cast out for his second packet of sheep properly. He asked the dog to go left, it went right. He told him to stop several times and the dog just kept going right. Nothing could change his dog's mind, and the dog would not listen to any commands."

Out of the 22 countries competing, handlers and dogs from England, Wales, New Zealand, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, and the Netherlands made it to the finals.

The distance to the sheep for the finals was only about 400 yards; generally, it's much more than that – from 600 to 800, depending on the size of the field. I can't imagine 800 yards as I could barely see the sheep that were 400 yards away. The dogs would really have to trust their handlers at that distance.

For the finals, there were twenty sheep, set out in two groups of ten each. The dog was sent out to gather ten sheep, and then, at a midway point, sent back to retrieve the remaining ten sheep. Once all twenty were gathered, the dog herded them around the handler, 200 yards away through a gate, across the field 200 yards through a second gate, and then back to a ring 40 yards across where the handler waited. Once there, it was up to

"Border Collies seem so intense when they are working, that it had never occurred to me that, like any dog, they might have selective hearing."

the handler and dog to eliminate and chase away all the sheep except for the five wearing red collars. Once they had those five, handler and dog needed to get them all into a small pen.

To their credit, every one of the 16 finalists completed the course, and most of them did it in about 20 minutes. It was truly amazing to watch handler after handler shed unmarked sheep until only the collared sheep remained in the ring. It made me appreciate the movie, "Babe," where the pig just politely asks the sheep wearing collars to step to one side! I'll bet some of the handlers wished they could make that request, especially since, if a collared sheep managed to run and join the group of shed uncollared sheep, the handler had to bring them all back into the ring and start again.

In the end, Aled Owen of Wales, and his dog, Roy, won by just one point. In second place was Ron Snoeck and Nell of the Netherlands. In third place, Stuart Davidson and Jim, Scotland. In the team competition, Wales was first, Scotland second, and Switzerland, third.

Then it was time for the formal presentations, with representatives from each country carrying their national flag onto the field. It was a lovely ending to a wonderful four days, and I'm glad we were able to see it.

Now I've discovered that many AKC dog clubs hold their national specialties at Purina Farms. What fun to see three or four nationals in a week! Time to re-search hotels in the area. 🐾

Travels with Del

By **Shelley Bueche**

Every once in a while a dog enters your life not wanting to separate from you for even five minutes. That would be my dog Del. Del was in a pack of three dogs found roaming a local creek area, and when she was discovered she was completely infested with ticks. A foster home and a transfusion, plus numerous tick baths later, Del became a permanent part of my family three years ago. I'm not sure if it was because of her early days being dumped (presumably) at a local creek, or it is just her quirky nature, but indeed she is a Velcro dog.

After adopting Del, it was no longer an issue of whether or not to board her when we traveled. Forget jumping in our suitcase, she rightfully assumed she would be accompanying us on the journey.

We live in Austin, Texas, and Del has traveled the Lone Star State with us by vehicle, she has flown on Southwest Airlines (she even has an official Southwest pet carrier) to New Orleans and Ft. Lauderdale, and this summer she will be traveling with us to Chicago. I am a recovering flight-phobe and our experience is that she is perfectly content to stay in her carrier, except for the time she escaped and started running down

the aisle only to be intercepted by a fellow passenger. All the while I am downing alcoholic beverages, clinging to my husband's hand and trying to avoid looking out the windows.

Dogs in cars? Check! Dogs on planes? Check! Dogs on trains? Not yet but slowly trains such as Amtrak are allowing dogs as passengers? Dogs on boats? Not yet, but again I predict this will happen soon. I've read that there is a pet-friendly Tiki boat in South Florida, it is on our bucket list.

And traveling with a dog in tow adds an additional layer to trip planning. Suddenly dog-friendly retail stores, dog-friendly hotels, dog-friendly parks and beaches are on our radar. If dogs aren't allowed, you can forget my patronage. Luckily in the U.S. it seems that not only is dog ownership on the rise, but dog-friendly venues are too. Gone are the days when dogs and their families were relegated to flea-infested hotel rooms overlooking the dumpster. Now my dog can share the view, sleep in a tent and expect a mint on the pillow in the evening.

There are now Fido-friendly tours of Southern California vineyards, a dog-friendly tour of movie sets in Hollywood, dog-friendly museums (just read about the UFO Museum in



Del

Roswell, New Mexico, where you and your hound can explore unidentified objects) canine ring bearers/best men and women in weddings, dog-friendly baseball games on specific days, and the list continues. In my hometown of Austin, Texas, there is a tour of outdoor landmarks for pups and their owners, and if you want to join the tour, but do not have a pet? Don't worry. The Landmark tour also features adoptable dogs from Blue Dog Rescue.

In summary, my family and I will boldly go forth with our pup at our side, sans the fear of missing out, as we all know that those without canine companions are missing out on the joy our dogs bring to us on a daily basis. 🐾

Save the Date!

The **DWAA AWARDS BANQUET** takes place the evening of Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. We'll announce the winners of the writing competition and hear inspiring speeches from Jill Rappaport, NBC correspondent and host of Animal Planet's "Dog Bowl" and Steve Dale of Steve Dale's Pet World (petworldradio.net). It will be a night to remember!



Jill Rappaport

Photo courtesy Kristin Gray



Do Not Disturb

By **Christina Potter**

Nowadays, it's not uncommon for people to travel with their pets. Eighty million families in the United States share their homes with dogs. Many homes have multiple dogs living in them, accounting for a total of 90 million dogs. Approximately 35% of those dogs regularly travel with their owners, particularly during the summer months. Consequently, dogs are welcome in more places now than ever before, including over 40,000 hotels nationwide. Hotels may or may not have restrictions, such as weight or number of dogs. But one thing is for certain, all hotels expect their four legged guests

to behave themselves. People traveling with dogs can ensure they continue to be welcome by following one simple rule; be considerate of other guests. This includes cleaning up after your dog, keeping him quiet, not letting him soil inappropriate places...basically try to go unnoticed. Easy, peasy, right?

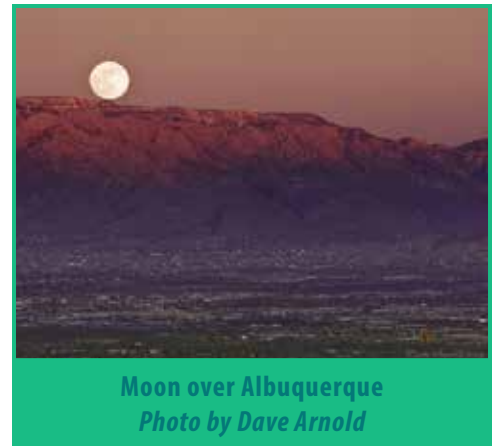
Cleaning up after your dog means picking up his poop - every time he poops. Don't leave it there for someone to step on or expect other people to pick it up for you. It is your responsibility. Many hotels even supply poop bags for your convenience. If they don't, it doesn't matter because you always carry some when traveling with

your dog, right? And if your boys have a tendency to mark their territory while indoors, consider investing in multiple bellybands and make those part of your travel kit, too. They come in all sizes and colors which will keep Fido in style, and will make accident cleanup a cinch.

Keeping a dog quiet in a hotel room can be challenging for some. All the different sounds and smells can have Cujo on high alert and in protective mode. A barking dog is a persona non grata in most public setting, especially when done incessantly or at inappropriate times. Many dogs will bark at the slightest sound coming from the hotel hallway, so it's a good idea to have the television on to muffle outside noise. You might also consider investing in a sound soother or downloading a white noise app for your smart device. The soothing sounds will also help you get undisturbed sleep and keep Cujo quiet at night.

Put your dog in a crate if you are going to leave him in the room while you go out to dinner. If your dog is trustworthy enough to leave in the room uncrated, then do so. Remember to make sure you leave the TV on. Again, you don't want him to hear the neighbors talking and feel like he needs to get in on the conversation. Let's agree on what trustworthy means. It does not only mean that Rover won't throw an alcohol-fueled party with Buster from room 211. No. "Trustworthy" means that he will not rearrange the furniture, re-do the carpet, whittle down the coffee table legs or sing an acapella version of "Who Let the Dogs Out", either.

Believe it or not, some people don't like dogs, they just don't. Let's not give those oddballs a reason to complain. Trust me, they will have a conniption over the tinniest inconvenience. So, for the sake of your canine travel companion, do not disturb. 🐾



Yondering...

By **Laura Reeves**

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FROM BEST IN SHOW DAILY

Nighttime on Interstate 40, coming in to Albuquerque from the west. It's pitch black and clear, with a full moon rising. The sky is so dark and the moon is so bright, it appears as if a halogen beam is shining through a hole drilled in ebony.

It's December and cold. Approaching single digits. I'm driving down the interstate on cruise control, steering with my knee, writing on a yellow legal pad to capture this memory.

Nearly all my recollections of travel are about the trip, the journey. Very few destinations stand out.

What I seem to remember most is tiny still photos, freeze frames in time. So poignant and beautiful, frightening or mystic, they still give me goose bumps.

Sitting beside the motorhome parked in a deserted campground in Utah beside a huge reservoir. Six German Wirehaired Pointers, all related, are sitting, heads up, ears up, eyes focused, lined up in a row. Watching and listening to the ducks and geese land at sunset, silhouetted against red-or-

ange-purple light, like endlessly repeating mirror images. The clear, crisp air. The booming silence, broken only by the bird calls. The space and towering, barren mountains.

Meandering southeast on Interstate 84 in Idaho, headed to Nebraska from the west coast. It's midday, midsummer and hot. The west wind is threatening to overturn the rig. I can see massive clouds of black smoke in the distance, but have no radio to find out what's going on. Finally, 511 gives me a road report of a grass fire just south of the junction of I-84 and I-86.

As I crest the hill before the I-86 exit, I can see the fire racing in front of the wind, sparks jumping the asphalt lanes of Interstate 84, gaining ground, headed east. Traffic is grinding to a halt ahead of me. It looks like I can make it past the fire before it crosses the narrow Y-shaped wedge of high desert, so I take a last-minute left turn and head northeast for Pocatello. I'm driving as fast as the motorhome can safely go, racing the flames. I'm in the left lane, since the fire is rapidly approaching the road on the right.

A small van is in front of me and it's obvious the driver is afraid and has slowed down, unsure what to do. I nearly rear-end the car and shamelessly tailgate, pushing it forward in a desperate race against geometry. The flames are lapping at the roadside, just 10 feet away, as I recklessly barrel forward against the creeping vehicle's rear bumper. I see flashing emergency lights screaming toward me in the west bound lanes. We roll past the worst of the blaze, and I watch in the rearview mirror as the state patrol closes the road directly behind me.

When I drove a motorhome, I often made a point of camping at deserted state and local parks on my way to and from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, California and Nevada; through Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Montana, Idaho, South Dakota and Oklahoma. Interstates 90, 80 and 70; 40, 10 and even 8; I-55, I-35, I-29, I-25, I-15 and I-5. Wandering on state highways and county roads.

See YONDERING pg 24

The Integrity of Our Words

By **Kate J. Kuligowski**

On February 2, 2017 many of America's adoptable puppies were sentenced to future suffering and abuse. The abusers, under the shroud of anonymity, were given a pass on accountability. On that February date, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) abruptly purged, without prior notice, all Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and resulting investigative and policing measures from their official Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website. Documents previously available for decades include: documented inspection reports, official warnings, enforcement records and complaints for dog breeding facilities and biomedical animal laboratories. This sudden action undermined the official records concerning the health and integrity of purebred puppies. Its removal greatly hampered the efforts of those who are committed to helping animals by accessing documented reports of animal abuse occurrences: legislators, journalists, law enforcement agencies and animal welfare agencies such as Humane Society of United States (HSUS) and Animal Welfare Institute.

Following the February website closing, journalists from *National Geographic*, *Mother Jones*, *The Hill* and *Washington Post* (among others) brought this axing of essential public information to the attention of their readers. Legal actions and lawsuits against USDA swiftly followed, initiated by HSUS, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, Animal Folks, Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), Stop Animal Exploitation NOW and Companion Ani-

mal Protection Society. Legal proceedings continue.

Citizen uproar forced this close-mouthed agency to partially re-release a small number of these files, but the majority were excluded. This release came with the suggestion that those tens of thousands remaining should be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Those requiring this public material (previously available with a tap on the keyboard) argued vehemently that their obligations to reduce animal suffering would be greatly hindered because such an action with the FOIA required months, sometimes years. Without the complete report, their information lacked integrity. Without the complete report, the heartwarming experience offered by a recently adopted tail-waggin' puppy could devolve into an emotional and fiscal heartache for its new and unsuspecting owner, not to mention fiscal and legal problems incurred by the pet store, the unsuspecting middleman.

Laws in states allowing pet stores to sell dogs (such as AZ, CT, LA, MD, NJ, OH and VA) as well many cities prohibit the sale or importation of dogs from breeding facilities without USDA inspected documentation, pertinent history available only on the USDA website.

USDA eventually agreed to re-post only those records that have been fully adjudicated, a maneuver which still shrouded of the bulk of animal abuse violations, violators and resulting punitive or legal actions.

The whys of this action have been puzzling. Because this data removal was not a political move nor did it infringe on America's businesses, most

animal welfare groups concluded that it was only beneficial to those breeders and laboratories caught callously and intentionally abusing animals and not wanting that information disclosed publicly.

Rubbing more salt into this fresh violation of the availability of public information, USDA later announced their potential plan to use private organizations, in lieu of federal inspectors, to monitor facilities regulated by AWA such as puppy breeding facilities and research laboratories. Concerned animal rights groups questioned if some of these organizations might be funded by the very industries which they were inspecting. Most continue to insist that the USDA website must be restored in its entirety.

Ann Olson, Animal Folks founder, best explained this blow to government transparency. "The animals lose when their data is hidden."

Animals also lose when needlessly exposed to possible harm in unprotected adoptive situations. In a nation that splashes its love for pets on clothing, billboards, books, magazines, movies and television programs, 6-8 million of its domesticated animals are abused yearly. An animal abuse registry, administered by local, county, state or federal trained officials, has been proven as a powerful tool to considerably lessen these shameful numbers. Very similar to sex offender and child abuse registries, it contains the compiled data base of convicted felony animal abusers to be shared with animal welfare and animal rescue institutions, pet stores, law enforcement and court officials. As a preventive document, it limits the ability of

Continued on next page

those listed to foster, adopt, purchase any animals; wild, farm or domesticated. It is not meant as a replacement for the important vetting presently in-place in many shelters and rescues. Its accuracy depends on the scheduled monitoring, data integrity, organizational accountability and regular maintenance.

Very few animal shelters and rescue groups have strictly enforced vetting policies. Even fewer have the manpower and/or budget to confirm the information requested on the potential adoptive form. And yet even fewer have the capabilities to perform regular home-checks on the care of the recently adopted pet. Without an animal abuse registry, recidivism flourishes. And, although it cannot prevent recidivism, it will greatly reduce its occurrence, thus greatly reducing the suffering of our adoptable pets.

Of course, such a register requires earmarked and appropriate funding. Registry costs are directly related to data use and maintenance, comparatively less because reported animal abuse is currently a very small fraction of other crimes. Numbers of reported incidents are increasing, though, because in 2014 the FBI included the crime of animal abuse as a new federal category, a Group A Felony and began the reorganizing of such information in 2016. This new classification will aid courts seeking more serious sentences for animal abusers. Currently, the majority of animal cruelty cases brought to court are pled down to misdemeanors.

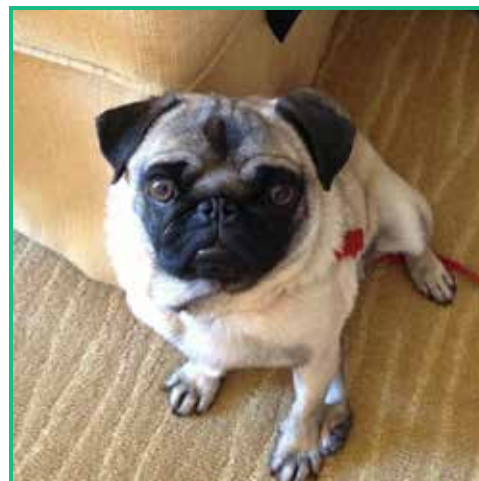
Because this new category makes animal cruelty offenses more difficult to be minimized or ignored by elected officials and their public, the National Sheriff's Association instituted this new category immediately, indicating "animal abuse" as a category on all monthly reports. Animal abuse data will be helpful in community proactive policing by

eliciting social service and law enforcement members to be aware of the possibility of abusive situations of other family members within that household.

Even though the registry was not championed by HSUS or ASPCA, Tennessee became the first state to successfully adopt ALDF's model registry. In New York City an animal abuse registry, was passed, unanimously overriding Mayor Bloomberg's veto, creating an effective city-wide registry across all 5 boroughs, assisted by an ALDF \$10,000 grant.

A pioneer in championing the need for an animal abuse registry, Animal Legal Defense Fund, is a national organization that uses our legal system to change the current "property" status and advance the lives and interests of animals. With a skilled and devoted staff hailed for their expertise in constructing and revising successful model laws for our communities and states, ALDF has devised their model of an animal abuse registry (posted online) for use by interested communities, states and the federal government. Their website explains that a national registry could include convicted felonious animal abusers without requiring states to change their existing laws. However mandated funds and overviews would require federal legislation.

I will cite an actual experience, one of many over my 70-plus years as a rescuer, which screamed for the need of an animal abuse registry. My husband Wally and I were asked by a city shelter to adopt a recent owner-surrender, an 18-month-old Pug labeled "unadoptable." We had been actively rescuing, fostering, adopting and adoring this wrinkly, affectionate breed for more than 50 years. Because this Pug was intentionally, continually and seriously harmed, he displayed none of the breed's silly and charming traits. He had suffered a 6-inch-deep stab wound, which became infected. Both



Jake-O, worth the effort

eyes had been sprayed with Clorox. He was very angry!

We didn't question his rage, which caused him to ferociously bite at everyone including the veterinarian and kennel workers entrusted with his care. Wally and I presented a new target. Even though he was small, he was strong and quick; he was relentless and vocal; his teeth were sharp as sabers. To complicate this situation, it is very difficult to muzzle Pugs because of their adorable scrunched-in nose and related breathing problems. He didn't require sharp vision to bite us; he still had a remarkable sense of smell. He definitely presented a challenge. We named him Jake-O the Mako.

The staff veterinarian cautiously loaded our handsome but hateful Jake-O, encumbered by drains, taped around and hanging from his swollen abdomen, into our travel kennel. But before we drove off from the shelter, we questioned the shelter personnel. "Did you report his owners to the authorities? For court records, would you like for us to take daily photographs and record our progress and training?"

It came as no surprise when the kennel supervisor replied, "No, we chose not to. Instead their name will be placed on our 'Do not adopt list.'"

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

"But you do share that list with the other city and 69 privately funded shelters and rescues in our area?"

"No."

One look at our badly damaged, angry puppy and hearing that accepting, "No," caused us to begin our research of the attributes of animal abuse registries. Jake-O's original owners had 18 months to inflict damage on his little body and psyche. And although we have had five years to expose him to patience, love and kindness, it is an uphill battle. His professional training and rehab sessions continue. He is still "a work in progress." Jake-O is definitely a loner, not accepted by our other 6 permanent canine rescue-residents, all suspect of his temper. But his violent tantrums are fewer and his trust is evolving, slowly.

Jake-O and others of our rescues are living examples that an animal abuse registry will serve as an exceptional tool in stopping much of this suffering from re-occurring in adopted animals. Wally and I are hopeful that Jake-O will continue to become less fearful and more accepting of his world, thus a calmer, happier guy.

As members of DWAA, we are indeed fortunate. We have been given the skills to express the unequalled love and companionship that dogs provide and to expose their needless sufferings. We are considered by many to be the elite in the field of canine journalism. That opinion places us in a unique position: to act on what we write and believe, to strive actively for the welfare of dogs and, at the same time, to inspire other dog lovers to help us to lessen the cur-

rent abuses of our dogs, such as those mentioned above in our nation's puppy mills and in our shelters. Acting on our beliefs is the unspoken test of integrity in our writings. Heighten your sense of responsibility, fine tune your investigative skills and sharpen your pencil. Research the voting records of your elected officials. Provide them with the background and facts to better understand pending animal welfare legislation. Without the proper data and programs, our animals lose. Use your gift with words to help them win.

Focusing on reinstating the USDA website and establishing an animal abuse registry would halt some of the unimaginable cruelties to our beloved canines. Without a doubt, this is our charge...for the love of the breed, for the love of the dog. 🐾

Yondering

Continued from pg 24

Wherever the mood struck me, I'd stop and spend the night. Little slideshows flit through my memory of grassy swales, giant trees or sandy, rock-strewn soil; bubbling creeks, churning rivers or frozen ponds; limestone, sandstone and lava.

There's a lilting calliope track in my head when I think of these trips. From the Straits of Juan de Fuca to Tucumcari; Wahoo to What Cheer; Yachats to Summerduck.

I went to Disneyland once. All I can remember is that fabulous redeye cruise from Phoenix to LA with friends from college. Singing along at the top of our lungs to "Paradise By the Dashboard Light."

It's always about the drive, being "on the way" from point A to point B. Where I'm going shows up in every guide book available. It's what's in between that's interesting. 🐾

Special thanks to **Jodi Helmer** for submitting three terrific examples of "Successful Queries" for the Members Only section of the DWAA website!

If you have a query that led to an assignment you'd like to share with your fellow DWAA members, please email DWAA President Jen Reeder: jen@jenreeder.com.



VISIT

SUCCESSFUL QUERIES!

This is a members-only area of the website, so you will be directed to log in, if you haven't already.

Celebrate

Continued from pg 8

As the sun disappears on the horizon, we prepare for the firework display. Since our backyard overlooks the distant harbor, we have a perfect view of Charleston's exposition. Remote from the loud explosions, terrifying for most canines, we enjoy the spectacular event.

As we snuggle with our human companions, we remember the true meaning of July 4th....the birth of a free nation. Happy July 4th! 🐾

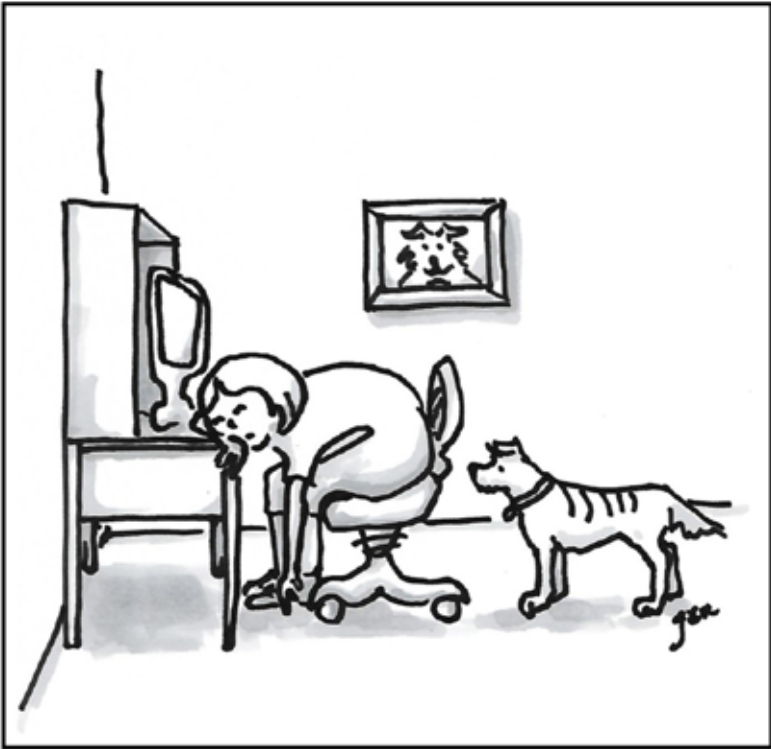
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Roxie

By Janice Biniok



I guess every book project ends with an anti-climax...

