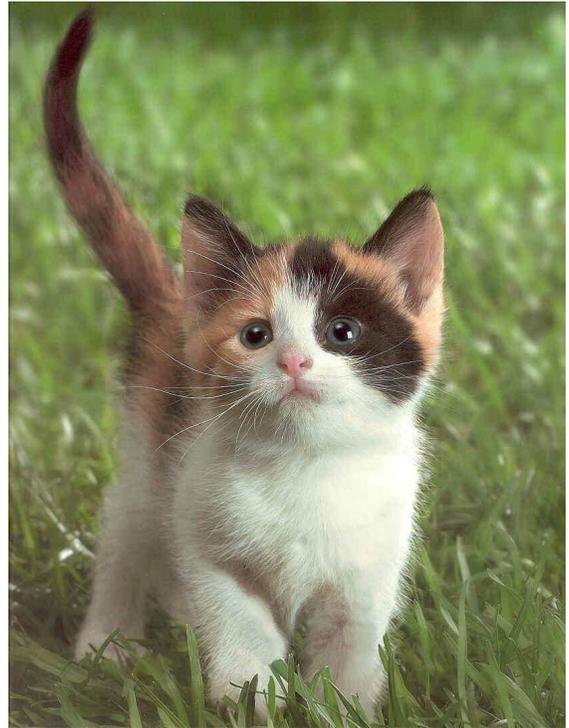


## New On NCRAOA Website

**Brochures & Handouts:** New one page flyer *Animal Rights vs Animal Welfare* has been added to the flyers and handouts in the download/brochure area of our website.

**Alerts Page:** We are carrying links to various news articles and editorials concerning the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Also linked are the NC Department of Agriculture FAQ and the USDA/APHIS NAIS homepage. NAIS is an identification system designed by USDA to track livestock in order to prevent the spread of diseases such as avian flu and mad cow disease. Farms will be registered, animals will be tagged and all movement will be reported to the USDA. The information will be stored in a national database. Reporting to the NC Department of Agriculture is now voluntary in North Carolina. Once in full swing and mandatory, it is estimated that 50,000 animal owners in NC – even children who raise animals for 4-H projects – will be affected. Controversy continues to grow over the necessity of such widespread tracking.



## Pet Spending Continues to Grow

According to American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), pet spending has more than doubled from \$17 billion in 1994 to an estimated \$38.4 billion in 2006. Spending is not limited to the basics. APPMA’s National Pet Owners Survey shows 27 percent of dog owners and 13 percent of cat owners buy their pets birthday presents, and 55 percent of dog owners and 37 percent of cat owners buy their pet holiday presents. The largest percentage (32.3%) of pet owners are aged 45 to 54. Innovative new services continue to increase U.S. market penetration with pet spas and hotels, grooming, pet therapy and related services. Veterinarians are being trained to provide highly specialized medical services ranging from canine dialysis, brain surgery, hip replacements, cancer treatments, teeth correction with braces and cataract surgery. 63 percent of U.S. households own a pet; that means 69.1 million homes, 45 percent of which own more than one pet.

### 2006 Projected Spending

- \$15.2 billion for food
- \$9.3 billion for supplies and over-the-counter medications
- \$9.4 billion for veterinarian care
- \$1.8 billion for live animal purchases
- \$2.7 billion for other services

There are 73 million dogs and 90 million cats, plus a variety of fish, birds, and small animals sharing our homes.

Nutritional supplements and medications for pets are also becoming more widely used. APPMA’s 2005-2006 National Pet Owners Survey notes that 52 percent of dogs, 24 percent of cats, 36 percent of saltwater fish, 15 percent of freshwater fish 5 percent of birds, 11 percent of small animals and 8 percent of reptiles are given medications and/or drugs.

## A Tale Of Two Doctors – and Research Hope

A CBS Evening News report aired this week reached millions of viewers with a vital illustration of the validity of comparative medicine. Correspondent Richard Schlesinger reported that Dr. Ross Wilkins and Dr. Stephen Withrow are both fighting the same disease, but treating different kinds of patients. Dr. Wilkins, a bone cancer specialist, and Dr. Withrow, a veterinary oncologist, have formed a collaboration that has great benefits for both humans and animals.

One success story is Albion, a 6-year-old an English mastiff, who suffered from bone cancer. Dr. Withrow discovered a new way to focus radiation on Albion's cancer, which might soon be used in human cancer patients.

By sharing treatment strategies, Wilkins has been able to raise the survival rate of his human patients from 70 to 92 percent while Withrow says his canine patients are living four times longer. "[Our collaboration is] a win-win for biology, it's a win-win for mammals," says Wilkins.

CBS Evening News , April 18, "Cancer Treatments Span Species"

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/04/18/eveningnews/main1510409.shtml>

## Cats and Clawing

**Why do cats claw?** Besides the practical purpose of helping them shed the outer layer of their nails, clawing is a form of marking. Cats leave olfactory and visual signals on the surfaces of whatever material they choose to claw. However, the significance of what these marks mean to other cats is not understood.

Does your cat ignore the new scratching post and shred the legs on your coffee table instead?

You need to pay attention to your cat's preferences and provide similar alternatives. Here are some tips from Pamela Perry, DVM, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine:

- ❁ Physical punishment is rarely successful for inappropriate behavior. Eventually, the cat just learns to claw when you aren't around
- ❁ Make whatever your cat is scratching less desirable and provide her with something more desirable
- ❁ If the cat claws the couch and you put a cover over it, put a scratching object next to it so the cat can use it
- ❁ Some cats prefer to claw vertical surfaces, while some prefer horizontal or sloped
- ❁ To make surfaces less desirable for clawing, try attaching double-sided tape, which cats don't like to feel on their paws
- ❁ To encourage your cat to use the post, spray it with catnip scent,
- ❁ Don't take your cat to a scratching post and make her scratch on it; cats don't want to be forced
- ❁ If your cat does not like a scratching post, try carpet remnants, a piece of wood, something she can sink her nails into

## **Canine Urinary Incontinence**

No one likes the messy clean up and the lingering scent of urine. Urinary incontinence affects many pets but often goes ignored and untreated. First the owner must determine if this is a behavior issue, incontinence or other medical problem.

The most common presentation is a female, spayed, middle-aged dog that has begun urinating in the house. This is a dog that had been previously housebroken and often exhibits the behavior when the owner is home.

The inappropriate urination often occurs when the animal is sleeping or in an extremely relaxed state. Owners commonly report that nighttime is when most of the problems are seen. When the dog gets up from a nap there is a puddle in that spot or a wet spot on the carpet. Dogs with urinary incontinence can release a small or large amount of urine. Owners often notice that their dogs seem to be dripping or dribbling urine. In addition dogs with incontinence may lick or clean their genital area excessively.

The exact cause of urinary incontinence in dogs remains unknown. At the bottom of the bladder is a urinary sphincter. Muscles around the sphincter are squeezed tight to keep urine in the bladder where it belongs until the signal is given to relax and allow urine to flow out of the body. Urinary incontinence may be the result of urine pooling on the wrong side of the sphincter, outside the bladder, or it may be due to loss of sphincter muscle tone.

If your dog is urinating inappropriately in the house, it needs to be examined by a veterinarian. Your veterinarian can determine whether the issue is behavioral or there are underlying physiological or medical causes. The first step in most cases is a urinalysis.

A urinalysis can detect a urinary tract infection, which may be the cause of the problem. Female dogs, due to the anatomy of their urinary tracts, are prone to low-grade urinary tract infections. Inappropriate urination caused by an infection will resolve with antibiotics. If the urinalysis is normal, the next step may be to do blood work and perhaps other diagnostic tests, such as radiographs (X rays) and ultrasound examinations. These tests will rule out other medical conditions, an important precaution before administering any medications.

There are several drugs on the market now labeled for use in treating urinary incontinence in dogs. The dose is entirely dependant upon the dog and the severity of the problem. Some dogs may need to be treated for life. Other dogs may experience an occasional bout with incontinence. Dogs with incontinence often are more likely to have urinary tract infections, both because of the bacteria from saliva when the dog licks the area and because pooled urine is prime ground for bacterial colonies.

## **National Pet Week May 7-13, 2006**

Pets have profound affects on the lives of their human owners. They provide us with love, endless hours of companionship, and wonderful relationships that help fill our lives. National Pet Week is a celebration of those relationships.

Visit the National Pet Week website <http://www.petweek.org/index.cfm>

# Evaluating Aptitude and Temperament

By Barbara Axel

## **PUPPY LITTER EVALUATIONS**

Puppy litter evaluations aka Puppy Aptitude Tests (PAT) help the breeder and future puppy owner tell something concerning the pup's innate personality and the way each individual pup learns and responds to people. It is not a temperament test and there is no pass or fail.

The careful evaluation enables an experienced evaluator to more accurately profile the pup's potential adult personality than just by casual breeder observation in a group in an informal setting. Because pups at two months of age have a strongly developed pack instinct they can best be evaluated individually in an enclosed area that is new to them, out of sight and hearing of their dam and the rest of their littermates. Pups that have had a more stimulating environment individually can stand on their own and interact with the tester quite well even at this young age. It becomes obvious when a litter has been coddled, for they all hang back. Thus the breeder quickly learns at this critical time what to do to improve his pups' environment. PAT performed correctly is another tool the breeder can utilize to his pups' benefit.

If you have read the research of Scott and Fuller published in "Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog," "The new Knowledge of Dog Behavior" by Clarence Pfaffenberger, and "Behavior Problems in Dogs" by William Campbell, you know that most pups reach the full capacity for learning by the time they are between seven weeks to two months of age.

Clarence Pfaffenberger who worked with war dogs, subsequently was the top administrator for the Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California where he established a testing procedure to determine which pups would most likely succeed as guide dogs. William Campbell devised a test that indicates which dogs have a greater compatibility with a home environment. Wendy Volhard combined material from both these authors to devise an evaluation called Puppy Aptitude Testing. It is not called Temperament Testing. The test does tell something about the personality of a pup, and shows the breeder and potential owner areas where help can be beneficial.

## **TEMPERAMENT TESTS**

Temperament tests are administered to adult dogs only, by accredited agencies and by experienced dog people who have knowledge of dog behavior and can determine what a dog is communicating by his body language. It is up to shelter personnel to educate themselves so they are familiar enough with different types of accredited testing procedures and can determine a tester's credentials before allowing him to have access to their shelter dogs.

Some groups that have established formal temperament tests are American Temperament Test Society, and the USA Schutzhund clubs. The AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate program tests the dog's learned behavior and manners in a number of different situations, and is not actually a temperament test.

## **OTHER STRUCTURED TESTS**

Government K-9 agents go to larger shelters throughout the country to discover dogs that might be useful to detect bombs, drugs, and other substances. The dogs they choose are usually compulsive retrievers. Service dogs and hearing ear dogs are often tested by accredited groups to find if the dog has the potential ability to be trained for that activity. The testing is not harsh and has proven quite accurate. Training is expensive and it is a waste of time and money to try to train dogs that will eventually have to be discarded.

Always find out the credentials of the tester. Ask for references. Familiarize yourself with the testing organizations and ask for a copy of their standardized procedures. Charlatans come in all shapes and sizes. It is up to the breeder and owner to protect the pets they own from harm or exploitation.

## **Fluffy the war hero loving life in the U.S.**

By **Lisa Hoffman** Scripps Howard News Service

In war, there are few winners whose lives are changed wholly for the good. Fluffy the "commando dog" is one of them.

Malnourished, abused and missing teeth, Fluffy was rescued from his miserable existence in Iraq by a U.S. Army Special Forces team early in the war. Serving as a makeshift sentry and guard in the northern reaches of the country, the raggedy German shepherd saved the soldiers' lives more than once.

When it came time to come home, Sgt. 1st Class Russell Joyce — who gave the dog his irreverent name, doted him with TLC and molded him into a first-rate protector — couldn't bear to leave Fluffy behind.



"Commando dog" Fluffy

After a full-bore effort to bend bureaucratic rules by Vietnam War veterans, a handful of U.S. lawmakers, and countless animal lovers nationwide, Fluffy made it to America and a new life with Joyce's family in North Carolina in June 2003.

In the three years since, Fluffy — via his adoptive humans — has himself become a force for good. He's helped raise money for the U.S. War Dog Association, a nonprofit outfit of former Vietnam War dog handlers and others who are establishing a memorial to the thousands of canines who have served — and died — alongside GIs in more than 80 years of U.S. wars, Joyce said. "Russell and Fluffy have been a real boost to our organization," said Ron Aiello, president of the group and a Vietnam vet.

Fluffy was also awarded honorary U.S. Military Working Dog status by the military, had dog treats named after him by a manufacturer, secured a spot in the Fort Benning, Ga., National Infantry Museum, and was featured on "America's Top Dog" on the A&E Network.

He donated a lifetime supply of dog food bestowed on him by the IAMS pet-care company to the offspring of the late Bear, a golden retriever search dog who, during 18-hour days in the rubble of the World Trade Center, found more remains than any other canine.

Now, Fluffy is the star of a children's book created by the Joyce family, who took out a five-figure loan and shelled out more from their savings to bring "Fluffy's Journey" to print. Joyce's daughter Samantha, 14, wrote the text, with some help from her mother, Caroline, a special-education teacher. Daughter Elise, 8, drew the portraits that close the book. It is a story of the ups and downs of Fluffy's odyssey to America and the friends he made along the way. The \$19 book features cheerful illustrations of Humvees, Iraqi villages and the mountains of northern Iraq. The war is not to be seen.

Joyce, 38, and a soldier for 15 years, said the book's purpose is to help raise money for the war-dog association, animal shelters, rescue groups and others. Since the book was published last summer, interest in it — and the causes it promotes — has mushroomed.

School libraries and military base exchanges have ordered hundreds of the books, and a roster of celebrities — comedian Robin Williams, actor Gary Sinise and unconventional physician Patch Adams — have signed on in support. "It's been a lot of fun," Joyce said. He and his family intend to publish two more Fluffy books in coming years.

The first, with its story of hardship overcome in the quest for a new life, has resonated with elementary-school children routed from their Louisiana homes by Hurricane Katrina. Audrey Rivers, who uses her PetShare nonprofit group to help at-risk kids in Houston, gave the book to each Katrina evacuee in an after-school program, and was amazed at the reaction. "I was surprised how the kids really made a connection to Fluffy and his story as it related to theirs," Rivers said. One little boy cried when he read the book — the first time he had let his emotions out in front of others. "It really helped the kids to open up," she said.

Fluffy, of course, is oblivious to all the good he is doing. Now an estimated 5 years old, he sleeps not in a dusty street in a country where dogs are generally disliked (or worse) but on a red-white-and-blue quilt sewn specially for him by a fan. He's been showered with chew toys and dog treats from far and wide.

When Joyce first saw him, Fluffy was kept close to a baker's cart by a chain so heavy and short that the dog had trouble holding his head up. His job was to keep thieves away. Joyce and his commando comrades bought him for a pittance.

Fluffy proved to be ferociously protective — a trait that has mellowed some since he came to the United States but still surfaces enough that Joyce must be careful to keep the dog out of situations that could trigger that impulse. Otherwise, Fluffy has adjusted well to his new life.

"He's having a blast," Joyce said.

## **Advocating Leash Laws**

Leash laws should be viewed as preventive measures, designed to minimize risk for both dogs and people. Free roaming dogs are at risk of being poisoned, hit by cars, and injured by property owners who have no patience for the dog trespassing. Additionally, as they wander dogs pass and contract parasites and disease from fecal matter. Roaming dogs can be attacked, killed or injured by other dogs or animals.

The absence of leash laws makes a community unsafe for people and other dogs. Reasonable and enforceable laws or ordinances are required for control of unrestrained or free roaming animals. Sensible laws should ensure that owned animals are confined to their property or kept on a leash without punishing responsible owners who have control over their dogs in public areas while training, hunting, or working.

Leash laws are also an important part of dog bite prevention. Although most dog bites occur on the property where the dog lives, unrestrained or free-roaming dogs pose a threat to the public. Control of unrestrained and free-roaming animal populations requires an adequately staffed, trained, and funded animal control agency.

Leash laws are a first line of defense against unwanted litters produced by intact roaming dogs.

Your dog has no more right to trespass or destroy another's property than you do. Be a responsible owner and good neighbor. Keep your dog at home or on a leash.

## Thumbs Down to the City of Fayetteville

Even with an animal control ordinance dozens of pages in length, the Fayetteville City Council has chosen to pass additional laws rather than making a concerted effort to enforce the myriad of laws already in place. Troubling discussions have taken place at Council meetings whether the City could totally prohibit someone from breeding animals on their private property.

Passed on April 10<sup>th</sup>, the revised ordinance makes any one who even “causes” the breeding of more than one litter of dogs or cats within a 12-month period - whether or not they are the licensed owner - a breeder, and a lawbreaker unless they purchase a permit.

Screening or fencing is now also required in the “anti-copulation” section of the revised ordinance to shield the public from viewing distasteful acts of animal breeding. We question where NC State Law empowers Fayetteville to force citizens to spend thousands of dollars for fencing or shrubs for screening to protect sensitive citizens from viewing a natural animal act.

A Fayetteville Online editorial stated “The [ad-hoc] committee met with animal-control officials from New Hanover County, whose regulations are considered a national model of effectiveness.” It is certainly regrettable that the ad-hoc committee did not scrap the revisions they were working on and take some advice from New Hanover County.

## Meet the Dogs



Representatives from North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance attended *Meet the Dogs* in Butner, North Carolina on April 22 and April 29, 2006. Meet the Dogs is a fundraiser sponsored by the Humane Society of Granville County (HSGC) to celebrate the joys, responsibilities and commitments involved with owning dogs. NCRAOA members came from as far away as New Bern. The NCRAOA table was stocked with educational materials.

The weather on April 22 was horrid - rain and more rain - but the fellowship was superb! Lots of good people shared the day with the public as they observed demos in flyball, obedience, agility as well as Granville County Sheriffs Department's drug and articles dog, "Ice."

Several rescue groups were in attendance as well as an animal artist and a wonderful photographer.

Above: "Ozzie" the Malamute was a hit with the crowd.

Right: Flyball demo  
Doggonefast flyball team



Considering the weather the turnout was surprising. Since HSGC had a rain date of April 29, we did it again that day. Again, wonderful people spent a much sunnier day sharing their experiences owning one of God's most amazing creatures.

Thanks to all who helped make the day(s) such a delightful experience.

Anyone interested in participating next year when HSGC presents Meet the Dogs in the Spring of 2007, can contact Linda Tilley through the NCRAOA web site. *Linda is a member of Humane Society of Granville County and Board Member of North Carolina Responsible Owners Alliance.*

Right: Labrador Retriever "Cody", therapy dog and owner Barbie Bailey-Smith

Below: Cane Corsos; both these dogs were wonderful, well-socialized and obedient.



Below: Mixed breed, Andy, titled Obedience dog. Owner Peggy Wilkinson



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