

CREATING MEMORIES

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2



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The Extraordinary Stabyhoun

Photography by: Kathryn Weese



Anja being coy for the camera

If you frequent the dog walking areas in Victoria you might be lucky enough to come across Anja while out for her daily exercise with her owner. Why lucky? Anja is a rare dog, one of two Stabyhouns on Vancouver Island and one of about 250 in North America.

A Stabyhoun (pronounced sta-BAY-hoon) is a Dutch dog breed, originating in Friesland, a province in the northwestern part of the Netherlands. It is thought the breed may have originated from spaniels, which were brought to the Netherlands

during the Spanish Occupation from 1568-1648. It wasn't until 1942 that the Stabyhoun breed was officially acknowledged in Holland. The American Stabyhoun Association (ASA) is the North American breed group with direct links to the original Dutch Staby and Wetterhoun Association founded in Holland in 1947.

Stabys, as they are affectionately known, are a versatile breed that was originally used as both a watchdog and hunter. Historically, Dutch farmers, who could generally only afford

'Tis the Season for gratefulness . . .



Little did I know when I moved to Victoria that it would feel like I had finally come 'home.' I have so much to be grateful for and this holiday season marks my third year in this wonderful city!

The pet community has embraced me with their trust and support and I am blessed to have met so many wonderful pet families.

The many friends I have made through paddling on the Gorge and cycling the trails have enriched my life in more ways than one – thank you all for opening up your hearts.

May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you & your loved ones throughout the coming year.

Happy Holidays!! ■

Jocelyne Monette
Founder
Pet Loss Care





John with his beloved companion

and herds us to be together!” Increasingly Stabys are being used as companion dogs, particularly for people who like to be out-of-doors. As well as their hunting and watchdog capabilities, they also make excellent agility dogs and are easily trained to play fly ball or Frisbee.

Physically, Stabys are a medium sized breed, with males ideally being 21 inches tall at the withers and typically weighing around 55 lbs. Their coat is long and sleek, except at the hind end where it may wave. The fur on the head is short, while on the back of the forelegs and breeches it tends to be bushy as opposed to feathered. The ears are trowel shaped with feathering. Stabyhouns are generally black or brown with white markings. Sometimes spots and/or roan are mixed with the white areas. Most Stabys have a solid black or brown head. Their sleek coats repel dirt with brushing only required on a weekly basis, except during their twice-yearly sheds. The average life expectancy is about 13 – 14 years.

Given the rarity of the breed – there are only about 5000 worldwide – the breeding of Stabyhouns is carefully regulated. Great care is being taken to ensure temperament and health standards are maintained. Because of the limited gene pool, the Ameri-Can Stabyhoun Association has set strict standards regarding the breeding of related dogs. As John explains, “We

are very careful in our Association to maintain healthy, happy dogs with loving temperaments because owning a well adjusted pet comes first for our members. Before we are allowed to breed, our dogs are evaluated for conformation and temperament by both our Breed Advisory Committee and an FCI Judge qualified specifically for the Stabyhoun breed. The hips and elbows must be checked for signs of dysplasia and any health risks in the line are researched. The appropriate mate must be a good complement physically and have no similar health risks. With a limited gene pool, the breeders are lucky to have such great resources available to help us with these decisions.”

.....
*“Anya loves all animals
and people and herds
us to be together!”*
—John Dammeyer

Individuals seeking a puppy will be directed to the ASA where the request will be processed. At this point, the Association is generally looking for owners who are willing to further the development of the breed and work with their Stabys. The cost of the puppies is in line with other pure-bred breeds, but patience is essential as it can take up to a year to receive a puppy. But it will be worth the wait. ■

a single dog, tended to own Stabys because of their tolerance toward livestock, friendliness with children and ability to protect the property without having to worry about viciousness. Hunters appreciate their soft-mouthed retriever and pointer capabilities both on land and in water. They are sharp-eyed, have a good sense of smell, working both fast and efficiently. Stabyhouns are obedient, gentle and patient dogs, with a strong desire to please. They are happiest when in the company of their owner. Highly intelligent and easily trained, Stabys need consistency, as they may occasionally be willful and stubborn. They are active dogs, but calm indoors, providing they have a moderate amount of daily exercise and mental stimulation to satisfy their need to have a function or purpose.

Anya’s owners, John and Linda Dammeyer, like to think of their 2-year old female as a combination of many traits. “Anya can be everything from an independent pointer on the trail of a mole, rabbit or deer to a couch-potato/lap dog all within minutes. She is alert to all changes in her environment, loves all animals and people



To see Anja’s entire image gallery - please follow this link:
<http://www.petmemorialcenter.ca/news/article/34/The-Extraordinary-Stabyhoun/>

Channeling Basil Fawlty

Photography courtesy of the Howard family



Basil is a champagne coloured Burmese cat who has grown into his namesake: Basil Fawlty. Like the character on the 70's British sit-com, *Fawlty Towers*, Basil's antics and intensity generally bring on troubles, much to the amusement of his owner, Malcolm Howard.

While training with Canada's national rowing team in 2007, Malcolm was living with his mother, here in Victoria, when the idea of getting a cat came up. Jake Weitzel, a national teammate, put Malcolm in contact with the breeder where he had already picked up a cat. Not surprisingly, "As soon as we saw the kittens we knew we were going to get one," states Malcolm.



Initially Basil was meant to be the family pet, however, things didn't work out that way. "My Mom's a big knitter and Basil and my Mom have not always gotten along very well because of the whole knitting thing." Basil had more contact with Malcolm than anyone else, so their bond grew very strong. "Then I met my wife, Erika, and he just adores her too," which helps.

Malcolm's family had both a cat and a dog while he was growing up here on the Island. Given the demands of competitive rowing, when it came time for him to select a pet, Malcolm felt a cat was the most appropriate choice. "You're so busy, so much going on, you don't have the time to exercise the animal. Whereas with a cat it just works a little bit better with the lifestyle. He is very excited when you come home; he comes and spends some time with you, sits on your lap and is happy there. But, he is also quite happy to spend time on his own, as well." And Basil has had to adapt. Not just to Malcolm's absences while rowing for Canada's Olympic

gold medal in Beijing and silver medal in London, but also when Malcolm recently relocated to London to study at Oxford. A move Malcolm feels Basil has adapted to "super fast".

Malcolm depicts Basil as affectionate, very playful and rambunctious. He is an indoor cat because "he'd get into way too much trouble if we let him outside." Basil's favorite toy is a string he managed to remove from the hood of one of Malcolm's sweatshirts when he was just a kitten. Several years later it remains his favorite and no other string will do. "He'll even play fetch with it, if he is in the mood."

Basil has other toys, including a huge tree house/scratching post that is 5-6' tall. He also likes to leap between the tops of two 6' tall wardrobes that are about 4 1/2 feet apart. But it is the racing antics that endear Basil to Malcolm. For some reason Basil likes to do laps in the apartment around the time his owners decide to go to bed. Malcolm describes one incident, "We don't know where he is and my wife and I are brushing our teeth and all of a sudden we hear this running cat and he sprints into the bathroom, jumps behind us, full speed, expecting to land on the laundry hamper. The only trouble, he didn't realize the lid of the laundry hamper was open. Straight into the laundry hamper, slams it shut, right in there. Then you just hear this little meow from inside."

Just like the TV character, when frustrated, Basil reacts. While living in Victoria, and told not to jump on a lap as the Howards ate dinner, Basil's reaction was to "Talk back to us as most Burmese do. Then we'd hear him sprint away, and jump in the bathtub. Then he'd do a circuit of the bathtub and so you could hear him running along the wall and then he'd sprint back downstairs."

Sometimes that affectionate side of Basil's personality and the love it generates comes in handy.



As Malcolm explains, "He is allowed to sleep with us. The other night, I don't know if he was jet lagged or what, but he decided he was going to jump across us on the bed and misjudged it and jumped right onto my face. I was sound asleep. I think he was as shocked as I was." No doubt, Malcolm was digging deep into his reservoir of affection for Basil that night.

For Basil every day brings new adventures and Malcolm gets great enjoyment out of being around Basil, anticipating his mayhem and knowing "we'll have him for a long, long time."

■

Contest

**Don't forget to submit your
Best Picture Ever &
Best Story Ever entries!**

Send your photos to:
photos@petmemorialcenter.ca

Send your stories to:
editor@petmemorialcenter.ca

Who knew ?

Ever wonder what the ten most popular breeds and names are for our canine friends in the Victoria area?

SAANICH (7500 licensed dogs)

Popular Breeds	Male Names	Female Names
Labrador/Labrador X	Charlie	Molly
German Shepherd/German Shepherd X	Max	Charlie
Golden Retriever	Buddy	Bella
Border Collie/Border Collie X	Jack	Maggie
Bichon Frise/Bichon Frise X	Sam	Lucy
Jack Russell	Toby	Sophie
Cocker Spaniel	Jake	Abbey
Terrier X	Tucker	Bailey
Rottweiler	Cooper	Daisy
Chihuahua	Riley	Roxy

CITY OF VICTORIA, OAK BAY & ESQUIMALT (5490 licensed dogs)

Popular Breeds (includes mixes of primary breed)	Names (both sexes combined)	
Labrador	1. Charlie	11. Coco
Shih Tzu	2. Lucy	12. Abbey
German Shepherd	3. Molly	13. Lily
Chihuahua	4. Bella	14. Lola
Border Collie	5. Max	15. Buddy
Golden Retriever	6. Bailey	16. Teddy
Yorkshire Terrier	7. Maggie	17. Sadie
Jack Russell	8. Daisy	18. Ruby
Pug	9. Sophie	19. Toby
Pitbull	10. Zoey	20. Jack

Information drawn from licensing records as of September 2012 and shown in descending order of popularity. Thanks to the City of Saanich and Victoria Animal Control for providing the analysis.

At this time, the CRD is unable to provide similar information, although with a new software system being installed soon, it will be possible in the future. ■



A Golden Tribute

Photography by: Kathryn Weese



The sun still shines on Macci.

Pacificgold's Caramel Macchiato, known as Macci, was a CKC champion Golden Retriever, winner of the Good Neighbour award, as well as several other distinctions. His father was the well-known champion, Brooks.

Macci was a confident, calm, fun, ball obsessed boy who shared his home with his owner, Cynthia Reid, and two other Golden Retrievers, nephew Rocket, and Rocket's nephew, Linus. Macci's idea of the perfect day was to head off to Thetis Lake where "He would scour the shore from the second I let him out of the car and find old balls, noodles, volleyballs, soccer balls, kongs, bathing suits, you name it, he came out of the bush with it and was very happy." As Reid summarizes "He was a ball dog. He was the ultimate. He used to lay downstairs and look lovingly at his ball launcher."

Macci's life came to an unexpected end during the holiday season in 2011.

Reid thought Macci's stomach area seemed just a little rounder than usual and, as a precaution, took him to the vet Christmas Day. She expected the diagnosis to reveal, at most, some minor health issue. Instead she discovered Macci had metastatic cancer and he would not live to see the New Year. He was 10 years old.

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"People need to know there are alternatives to just keeping ashes around."

As the owner of many Golden Retrievers over the years, Reid knew exactly how she wanted to handle Macci's final few days. He was brought home, coddled, and when it was time, the vet came to Reid's home to perform the euthanasia. It was important for Reid to provide an opportunity for Rocket and Linus to say good-bye, in order to ease their mourning.

It was while making arrangements for Macci's remains that Reid saw, in a display case, a series of glass objects – one of which was a glass tennis ball.

She immediately recognized the objects for what they were and realized how the ball would perfectly represent all that was her beloved boy. Macci's ashes would be used in the creation of a glass tennis ball. The cost was no more expensive than many of the personalized urns. As Reid states "People need to know there are alternatives to just keeping ashes around."

The ball is larger than a regular tennis ball and quite striking. It is bright yellow in colour because Macci loved his Planet Dog balls, the ones that whistle when thrown. No real tennis balls for Macci, as the fiberglass covering is known to wear down teeth.

When Reid picks the glass ball up, she gets a wistful smile on her face. It is pretty obvious the ball brings back many wonderful memories for Reid.

As she states "It is Macci. It feels good in your hand." Other dog lovers who have seen the ball think it is a beautiful tribute.

During his life, Macci saved the lives of eight to ten dogs as a blood donor for the Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital. He continues to live on through that generosity. Reid has taken up

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"It is Macci. It feels good in your hand."



Rocket (L) and Linus (R)

the fight against the scourge that is cancer and so rampant in our pets. She recently organized a walk for the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund, a part of the Ontario Veterinary College's Pet Trust.

And Reid has the glass tennis ball to remind her of the happy times with her ball obsessed, beloved Macci. ■

Editor's Note: Pet Loss Care Memorial Center offers a range of commemorative keepsakes, including glass tennis balls.



Macci's last day

To see Macci's image gallery - please follow this link: <http://www.petmemorialcenter.ca/news/article/36/A-Golden-Tribute/>

Attention Breeders!

We're looking for unusual stories that have arisen in your work as a breeder of either cats or dogs. It could be about the pregnancy, delivery or mothering of the litter. It may involve outside threats. Problem puppies or kittens. Problem clients. The key being the story is non-routine.

Please contact Fran Wallace with a summary of your experience at: editor@petmemorialcenter.ca



'We Rise Again' .. Silly Sally Ride and Her Christmas Miracle

Story and photos courtesy of Susan Williams, SCAATYCAT Cattery, Victoria BC



I want to tell you about our Christmas present in 2008 from, 'Silly Sally Ride', officially known as Prairiecats Solar Flare. Her father was Supreme Grand Champion Madame Nu's Sun-stroke and mother, Grand Champion Lake Hycos Deep River Women. Sally was our beautiful red tabby Persian who, while living in Calgary, was accidentally electrocuted by stepping on a computer cord when she was 5 months old. She had excellent veterinary care after the trauma, and apart from, an 'oddly stilted gait', she has had no external lingering effects. For about 4 weeks, she was paralyzed from the mid back down. Her breeders and vets did hydro-therapy, cortisone and antibiotic treatments, and massage therapy, all to save her life. SHE IS ONE TOUGH COOKIE!!

Sally's line was developed with the intention of becoming, an intrinsic part of, a serious chocolate and lilac-breeding program. Her pedigree is impeccable and rare, boasting unrelated parents, as well as many admirable temperament and show standard qualities, all of which were sadly lacking in our chocolate bloodlines. We needed this cat in our in our pedigrees. DESPERATELY! She cycled at 12 months and, after a breeding, she produced no kittens. With each following heat, we attempted to breed her. Her second birthday passed, and our vet started wondering if, the huge amounts of trauma and medication given to her during

her accident, had taken a toll on Sally's reproductive organs.

We started to seriously think that this kitty would be spayed, and petted out. In the spring of 2008, Sally was now coming up on 3 years. The next few times she cycled, we attempted yet again, to breed her, to no avail. The idea of spaying this great cat was becoming a serious reality.

We had even started looking for a new home for Silly Sally. Our vet, Dr. Liz Dysen, never lost hope. She kept saying, "Don't jump the gun!" Late in the spring of 2008, after a very short heat, something very interesting happened! SHOCK! Silly Sally Ride was showing signs of pregnancy. And she had a wonderful happy pregnancy with no issues. She ate like a horse. She was round, and happy to show off her ever extending girth, to anyone who would take notice. Sally went into labor on her 66th day. She managed to deliver one dead baby. She labored for a very long time. It looked to us, like she was unable to have a normal labor pain. Her straining was sporadic and appeared to be very, weak and shallow. That afternoon, we had to deliver three little babies by emergency C-section. All were dead. THEN everything changed.

While still in surgery, my vet jumped into action. During the C-section, we had discussed spaying this wonderful cat. After carefully examining the uterus, she suggested to me that she would gently place it back into position, and let Sally try again. This time we would do a 'timed C-section'. WHEW, I had never thought about this idea! Dr. Dysen also felt that Sally might not survive a second natural delivery. Her muscle tissue around her pelvis appeared to have been severely compromised, and she was also still being affected by the damage that was done to her spine

during the electrocution. Then the situation went from 'worse to worse', when in Fall of 2008, Sally's mother had to be spayed after a C-section, leaving Sally as the only heir to the line. Sally was THE ONLY BREEDABLE CAT left from this wonderful family. If we could not breed Sally, the lineage would be lost FOREVER!!

Sally was deeply affected by the loss of those kittens. She was depressed, and we really worried about her. She was on pain medication and antibiotics after the operation, but this anguish she was experiencing was psychological. Thank goodness we had a very large litter of 4-week old babies at home. The other mom, Boo Monkey, was very happy to let Sally become the chief babysitter to her six little ones. Sally started to recover.



Dr. Dysen said to, let Miss Sally go through a couple of heats, before we were going to attempt this pregnancy. The third heat came during the late summer. We were to breed Sally once in the morning, and again later in the day. I was to phone Dr. Dysen and book a 'planned C-section' for the

64th day of her gestation. Miss Sally and her beau, Ompa Loompa, could not quite understand why we were so adamant about the length of time they would have for their 'little soiree'! NOW CAME THE WAIT!

Right on schedule, 18 days to the day, Sally nipples pinked up, showing us that she was likely pregnant. She started 'glowing' again. Dr. Dysen was right. This cat 'longed' to have kittens. Her appetite went off of the scales, and we knew that this was the right thing for Sally. Sally was 'showing off' that wonderful bundle of babies to everyone! Her due date was December the 10th, which would have been her 66th day of her gestation.



We called Dr. Dysen and booked a C-section for Monday December the 8th, her 64th day. We set up her bed, and she started to get very fastidious about exactly where we would place the fuzzy blankets. She would follow me everywhere. She would take both my husband & me, into the bedroom twenty times a day, just to show us that magical place that she thought was her 'baby bed'. She knew this must be very special because we had taken out the heating pads, and placed them into this box. We had no other little kittens around, and this made it very easy for us to dote on Sally. Sally has always been in full coat and she loved to be groomed. As her girth expanded, she could no longer reach around and clean herself. We would sit quietly every evening

and carefully brush Sally. As always, she loved this time together. She deserved our full attention.

On the evening of Sunday December the 7th, Josie from Dr. Dysen's office called to remind us that, we should not feed our expectant Mom, and to arrive at 8 a.m. on Monday morning for our C-section. We did not sleep well. Was our timing correct? Will Sally handle this? Will the babies be strong enough to handle the surgery? The internet said things can go wrong! WAS THIS A BIG MISTAKE??

MAN!! Your imagination can certainly mess you up! My 'gut' was still telling me that my vet was, 'spot on!' Sally has always traveled well. Usually she was very quiet. Not this morning! She was excited and she seemed to just 'sparkle!' She knew something was special about this day. It was like she had rehearsed for this event. The vet techs, Margot and Teresa, set about getting Miss Sally prepped and she was an absolute angel. She did not mind having the fur on her legs clipped for her IV. She didn't even get rattled by the needles, and the oxygen mask. She was ready! We all had our guesses as to 'how many', 'what colours', 'what gender', and 'how strong'??? We did not x-ray, or interfere with this 'very normal' pregnancy. We all had great patience, and we trust in our vet.

Dr. Dysen arrived and said, Sue... "For the last time. ARE YOU SURE OF THIS DATE?" I choked out. "ABSOLUTELY! .. Let's get this show on the road!" It's amazing how time stands still, in the middle of a Miracle! A vet's hands and fingers reach into a stretched out bit of flesh, and wake up a sleeping little body.

"We have one"... "Margot go to work" Slap, Shake, Rub, Roll..

Thirty seconds later.. Number two" "Sue take this kitten.. Start it breathing" Slap, Shake, Rub, Roll.. NOTHING. Mouth in your mouth.. Chest moves.. Toes and

feet start to paddle.. The mouth is SO PINK!! Margot squeals... "LOOK, LOOK".. It's moving.. Keep working..."

Patently behind me is a vet working methodically, to finish this incredible drama.

She quietly asks, if both babies are starting to move. She lets me know that Mom is doing very well. She reminds me that Margot has delivered thousands of tiny little beings into the world, and not to worry so much. I look into Margot's face, and I realize that she had delivered some of these kitties Great Ancestors, in 1989.

Then another baby arrives... Number three.. OH! SOVERYTINY!! Slap, Shake, Rub, Roll.. NOTHING. Head and tiny mouth in your mouth.. Chest rises.. BREATHE, BABY BREATHE... KEEP WORKING.. DO NOT STOP!! NO MATTER WHAT!!! Five minutes, ten minutes.. Mouth still pink.. No movement.. Suddenly a loud eruption, as those little lungs burst forth, and screams "I AM HERE ALREADY... NOW... LET ME SLEEP!" LOL!

The giddiness in the surgery was palpable!!



C-sections, for the most part, are usually emergency procedures and can have very different outcomes. Almost 'two months to the day' previously, Sally's beautiful and healthy mother, had lost a beautiful litter and her uterus, after having a C-section, in the same clinic. Sally had a lot riding on her. This C-section became an event

that every single staff member in the veterinary clinic was deeply involved in. We celebrated life! What a beautiful Christmas gift!

All were now moving very slowly, but they were breathing and active. All little girls. All tough and scrappy, tortishell solids! We all know just how 'strong willed', a tortie can be! LOL! 82 grams, 82 grams, and 51 grams.

At that point, I think I started to hum 'We Rise Again' by The Rankin Family.

Sally was already starting to 'pull out' of her anaesthetic. The kittens were cuddled up in their heating pads and they were twitching and paddling, like all beautiful newborns. Sally woke up and was obviously very disoriented.

After a thorough check up by Dr. Dysen, it was time to bundle up the kids, and go home. Everyone slept peacefully during the journey. .

Kerry, my husband, was waiting and ready, as we pulled up. We popped the tiny little girls into their baby bed and we lifted, a very woozy Sally, into the bed beside them. She immediately sat up and started to look around the room.

It was almost as if she was looking for the kittens' mother. She would look at

me, and then look at the kittens. Then she would get up and check out the room. I think she thought that Mom would be right back for her babies. This went on for a few hours, on into the night. When the kids started to get noisy, she would go to the bedroom door and call for the Mom. She really thought that someone had lost these kittens! By dawn, we realized that we might have a 'situation' here.

Sally was terrified that, if she lay down with these strange little kits, that some, big nasty mother cat would come and beat her up! The kittens were getting hungry. I made up a baby bottle and decided that it was time to feed them.

While I was doing this, Sally came into the box, and suddenly, she sat down. A little bit of formula dripped onto a kitten. Sally was mortified. She would never let any kitten get messy! I dribbled a bit more of the formula over all of the girls!

She frantically started to clean the sticky wet babies, and then, in a split-second, a Christmas miracle happened! Sally fell in love! They became HER BABIES!!! They tasted like HER babies! She lay down beside them, and placed her big head into the middle of the little pile of kittens.

She was listening to their heartbeats! They, in turn, started to push towards the sound of her purring, and her very familiar heartbeat. A family FINALLY started to bond!

The rest of the story turned into our little Holiday Blessing. The babies were strong and healthy weanlings. The teenie tiny little 51 gram kitten, grew into the second biggest! Sally was THE BEST MOTHER CAT. She adored her babies. Sally has now retired to her 'forever home' and living with another family on a farm in Sooke, B.C.

Galina and John Friesen of Prairiecat Cattery, gifted Sally to us with the idea that this cat, would improve chocolate type in Persians. It MOST CERTAINLY HAS...Her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren are just now entering into homes, an onto show stages all over the world.

Thanks to a great Veterinarian, Dr. Liz Dysen, and a whole lot of breeder patience, Sally's ancestors need never worry again.

PS. That littlest teeny-tiny bit of a baby, now has the PURRFECT name.. Scaatycats Dizzy Miss Lizzy .. ELIZABETH is now a mother herself and lives with us. Her kittens are all named after characters from the TV show "The Big Bang Theory": Bazinga, Sheldon, Amy, Farrah & Leslie Winkle.

The second Sally kitten, River, ended up in the country of Qatar in the Middle East.

The Third...Miss Margo, lives with a loving family in Vancouver.



Amy Farrah Fowler - Sally's granddaughter
Photography by: Kathryn Weese



Emergency 101

Photography by: Kathryn Weese

Bringing home a puppy or a kitten is a joyful time, full of expectations involving the rewarding relationship about to develop. And while pet ownership is primarily a wonderful experience, inevitably there will be a few not-so-nice moments, some of which may involve a medical emergency. Whether it is a torn dewclaw while romping with the neighbour's dog, ingesting some prescription medication that has fallen on the floor, or heatstroke, many of our pets will need first aid assistance at some point in their lives.

The avoidance of health issues has very routine beginnings, yet many pet owners are somewhat lax in this regard. Does your pet have a safe environment – both indoors and out-of-doors? Probably. That is, until there is a spill of windshield washer fluid left on the driveway and the dog licks it up. What about a diet of quality food given in the right amounts? Admit it, too many of us over-feed our pets, supplementing meal times with leftovers and treats throughout the day. Does your pet get adequate daily exercise and the mental stimulation such activity generates? Unfortunately, too many of us look outside on a miserable day and forego that walk. "My own dog Buddy is in excellent health at the ripe old age of 14 and I attribute this to a healthy diet, regular exercise, and lots of love" says Lisa Wagner, Operations Director of Walks 'N' Wags Pet First Aid.

Yet despite all our good intentions, the reality is: accidents do happen. Some of the most common accidents involve impaled objects, abrasions, fractures and sprains, choking, and the ingestion of poisons. Basic First Aid courses are designed to give pet owners the knowledge necessary to keep pets safe and secure in a medical emergency – at least until veterinary assistance can be obtained. Wagner confirms, "One of the benefits of obtaining Pet First Aid training is the knowledge that you can stay calm and have the skills to assist your pet in a time of need. This can mean the difference between life and death".

..... A basic Animal First Aid course will also teach how to recognize signs and symptoms that may signal illness. As the owner, you know your pet, so something as subtle as a change in their demeanor or habit could indicate a problem. Changes could involve meal avoidance, more scratching, and shaking of the head. Perhaps there is a difference in their mobility or the development of lethargy. A pet's normal body temperature (rectal) should be 38.5C (+/-1). Animal panting not only happens because they are hot, but it can also be a pain indicator. Internal bleeding

How do you tell if your animal has adequate blood circulation?



Eileen Smith (r) instructing the Walks and Wags First Aid Class

generally presents with abdominal distention that feels rigid when palpitated. Often the animal will guard the abdomen because it hurts. How do you tell if your animal has adequate blood circulation? By checking the gums -- they won't have that rosy tinge associated with good health. These are only a few signs and symptoms of potentially dangerous health issues. Knowing which are significant symptoms requiring the care of a veterinarian is something First Aid training provides.

There are several organizations offering Animal First Aid courses suitable for both dogs and cats in the Greater Victoria area. Walks 'N' Wags (www.walksnwags.com) has developed a course with the assistance of veterinarians and other pet health professionals. Walks 'N' Wags courses are available across Canada and on-line for those in remote areas. Insignia College of Health & Business (www.insignia-college.com) offers a course designed by the American Red Cross. Dogsafe (www.dogsafe.ca) has a course reviewed by veterinarians, including Dr. James Lawson, Chief Animal Health Officer of the BC SPCA. A basic, one day First Aid course should cost somewhere in the range of \$100 - \$175, depending upon the provider. Courses are also available for those who already have basic first aid skills and seek more in-depth training. ■



Jeannie the ever patient mock patient



Tor sporting the latest First Aid fashion headwear

Even without first aid training, every household with an animal should have a pet first aid kit, which can be purchased through a number of suppliers. While each supplier's contents may vary, some contents might include:

1. Trauma Pads
2. Triangular Bandages
3. A Metal (foil) Emergency Blanket
4. Gauze & Gauze pads (in a variety of sizes)
5. Non-stick Pads (in a variety of sizes)
6. Tweezers
7. Rolls of Conforming Gauze
8. Waterproof Tape
9. Instant Cold Packs
10. Heat Pads
11. Medical Gloves (latex)
12. Scissors
13. A Syringe (for irrigation purposes)
14. Benzalkonium Chloride Antiseptic Towelettes
15. Extra Leash
16. Animal Restraints (to protect the first aid provider from bites & scratches)
17. Thick gloves, if there is a potential for scratches from claws
18. Nylon Stockings (to hold on bandages)
19. Bath size Towel
20. A Pocket Emergency First Aid Guide
21. Phone numbers: Veterinarian, 24 hr. vet hospital

The medical items should be available at your local pharmacy. A pocket emergency guide can generally be purchased through an Animal First Aid course provider. Whether personally assembled or a ready-made kit, they make a thoughtful gift and a tremendous way to show our love for our four-legged family members.



To see Walks & Wags First Aid image gallery - please follow this link:
<http://www.petmemorialcenter.ca/news/article/35/Emergency-101/>



SHOWCASE PHOTO

Photography by: Kathryn Weese



Ferris & the Cat Door



My husband and I are not handyman types. We own four cats, and decided it was time to install a cat door into the door to the basement. We set aside a night to do it, all equipment and materials on hand.

Everything went well, until we cut into the basement door and discovered it was hollow. In order for the cat door to stay solidly in place, the basement door needed the hollow area surrounding the installation to be filled in. We decided to use foam insulation, as it would expand to fill the hollow then dry hard enough to provide the necessary support to the cat door. So, after a quick trip to the hardware store, we put some expanding insulation foam into the hollow.

All was going well, until the foam started to spread out farther than we expected, hanging over the edges of the cat door. And, before the foam had set, our cat Ferris Mewler, decided to test the cat door. Needless to say, Ferris wound up with foam all over him.

We knew we couldn't remove the foam without using acetone – not a healthy situation for Ferris.



We thought our best option was to let the foam dry then trim off the affected areas of fur. Good plan, except Ferris started to clean himself and lick the wet foam. Also not a healthy situation.



As a result we decided to trim right away, knowing because the foam was still wet; it was going to be a very messy and awkward procedure. Needless to say, two people, many scratches and four hours later we had one almost bald, angry cat. And a nice cat door to the basement.

Story and photos submitted by:

Tracy & Steve Morgan
Sidney, BC

■

“Meet Shady Sadie, a golden retriever who likes her food fresh off the vine...”



“Sadie lives in Langford with her owners Debbie & Grant Helstrom and their 3 children, Madison, Jason, and Marcus.

Sadie’s idea of the perfect day involves playing with her frisbee, hanging around with the kids and their friends, and a hike to the beach.”



BEST PHOTO EVER CONTEST RULES

All entries should be send to photos@petmemorialcenter.ca and must be received by the 15th of the preceding month of our publication dates of March 15; June 15; Sept. 15; Dec. 15. Entries must be personal photos about your current or former pet(s) and not previously published, except for personal use. Photos from service providers to pets (e.g. groomers, trainers etc.) are not eligible, nor are photos taken by professional photographers. Entrants must own the photo being submitted and have already secured the authorization of people shown in the photo. Contest winners will be notified by the Creating Memories photographer. Winners will receive a custom prize. Photos published become the property of the publisher, Pet Loss Care Memorial Center. Photos may be carried forward as contest entries for a 1-year period.



BEST STORY EVER CONTEST RULES

All entries should be sent to editor@petmemorialcenter.ca and must be received by the 15th of the preceding month of our publication dates of March 15; June 15; Sept. 15; Dec. 15. Entries must be personal stories about your current or former pet(s) and not previously published. Stories from service providers to pets (e.g. groomers, trainers etc.) are not eligible, nor are working animal stories (e.g. guide dogs, search & rescue dogs) unless outside of their service context. Contest winners will be notified by the editor of Creating Memories and the story may be edited for publication purposes. Winners will receive a custom prize. Stories published become the property of the publisher, Pet Loss Care Memorial Center. Stories may be carried forward as contest entries for a 1-year period.





Season's Greetings from the **CREATING MEMORIES** Team

Six months ago when we began Creating Memories, our vision was to provide a 'put your feet up, have a cup of coffee, and enjoy a good read' kind of newsletter. It is a celebration of the pets in our lives and our gift to you.

Yet along the way, our research, interviews and photography sessions have shown us the gift we get in return. We have met some incredibly interesting people who have generously shared their love of their pets, and animals in general. We've been invited into people's homes, cried with them as they relate difficult circumstances, and laughed at the antics of their pets. And we've fallen in love with several of the animals that have crossed our paths.

So for us, we would like to thank you for your generosity to us, and support of our efforts. The Creating Memories team wishes you and your pets a happy, safe holiday season and we look forward to providing more interesting reads for 2013.

Fran / Editor

Kathryn / Photographer

CREATING MEMORIES



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