



SI

HUDIBURG +





COOL COMBO

All new 2019 Subaru Forester Sport Hudiburg Subaru I www.HudiburgSubaru.com

Be Kind to Animals Spay/Neuter Assist License Plate Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Assn. | www.OKVMA.org







Celebrating 36 Years!

1215 E. Lockheed Dr, Midwest City, OK 73110

Store 405-733-4648 Animal Clinic 405-733-4649 Grooming Salon 405-733-2238

Exclusive for OKC Pets Magazine readers \$20 OFF OUR PUPPY PACKAGE!

The Puppy Package includes Vaccinations, Heartworm and Intestinal Worm Prevention, Flea & Tick Treatment, Microchip, Free Nail Trims and Free Merrick Puppy Food!

Use Code OKCPETSPUPPY when making your appointment to take \$20 OFF!

Well, now that the ho-ho-ho is over and it's 2019,

let's usher in this new year with high hopes for all the homeless and abused animals to find comfort and safety from the world's viciousness. That is my wish for 2019, anyway. I know it's a big wish, but, hopefully, with more awareness will come positive strides.

And speaking of ho-ho-ho, OKC Pets Magazine turns 5 in March! So, wish us a big, happy birthday and for all of us a great 2019!

Once again, Nancy Gallimore outdoes herself with a humorous tale about her

Roomba vacuum Robbie and the shenanigans that ensue in a house full of dogs. I almost spit out my coffee with this one. You gotta read it!

And we're so excited to have Kim Doner, wildlife expert and rehabber extraordinaire, as a contributing writer. Her work with wildlife is immeasurable, and it's so good to know there's someone out there like Kim helping all the creatures.

I love, love, love the feature on MUTTS Club. Kaycee

Chance introduces us to a children's club in Norman whose mission is animal advocacy. These kids are learning compassion and to appreciate animals at a young age; it's such a win-win situation. Don't miss this one!

Did you know donkeys are exceptionally smart animals despite the negative stereotypes? I love the segment on AssN9 Ranch in Shawnee, and I think you will, too. This is the other side of the story you probably never knew.

So, we hope you enjoy our January 2019 issue—maybe you'll even enjoy it curled up somewhere on a chilly afternoon. But no matter where or how you read it, thank you for your support, and we look forward to presenting you with more enjoyable issues this year.







(405) 397-4310 / (918) 346-6044 Fax www.okcpetsmagazine.com

PUBLISHER

Marilyn King (405) 397-4310 mking@okcpetsmagazine.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Debra Fite

WEB MANAGER

Steve Kirkpatrick (405) 397-2740 steve@okcpetsmagazine.com

EDITOR

Anna Holton-Dean (830) 837-1662 anna.holton@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Marilyn King (405) 397-4310 mking@okcpetsmagazine.com

Steve Kirkpatrick (405) 397-2740 steve@okcpetsmagazine.com

> Nancy Harrison (405) 365-0881 baliharr49@gmail.com

> > Rosalie Childs (918) 630-5775 rfchilds@me.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

David Branch Heide Brandes Lauren Cavagnolo Kaycee Chance Kim Doner Nancy Gallimore Vickie Jenkins Shauna Struby

P.O. Box 14128 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74159-1128

©2019 All rights reserved. Volume 6, Number 1 No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher.

On the cover:

An English Setter enjoying a nice winter's day.

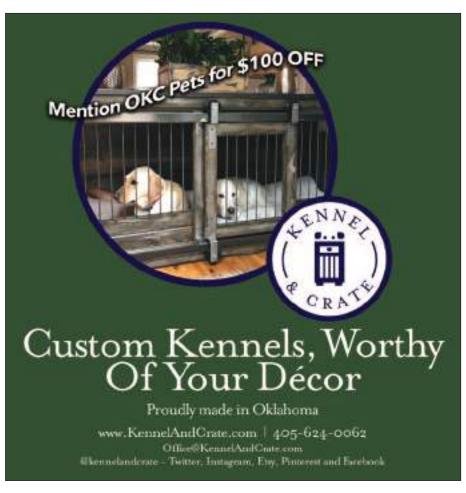


















ytebruary







contributing writers

David Branch Heide Brandes Lauren Cavagnolo Kaycee Chance Kim Doner Nancy Gallimore Vickie Jenkins Shauna Struby

PUBLISHER'S LETTER	pg 4
ASSN9 RANCH Intelligent, lovable miniature Mediterranean donkeys	pg 8
OSU-OKC'S	
PET HEROES	
When rescuers become the rescued	pg 12
ROBBIE	
THE ROOMBA	
Technology takes on the dog house	pg 15
MUTTS CLUB	
Teens helping animals and their community	pg 18
ALL ABOUT	
GUINEA PIGS	
The 411 from an owner's perspective	pg 20
GLOBAL RESCUE	- 4 OC
Helping animals regardless of their place in the world	pg 26
WINIER	
WILDLIFE	
AWARENESS	
Protecting eagles and raptors	pg 34
DIRECTORY Local products, services and friends of pets	pg 36
K9ELITE	
DOG TRAINING	
Educating owners and pets	pg 38







15220 N. Western Ave., Suite E2 Edmond, OK (405) 348-6888



708 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK (405) 842-5590



Your Pet's Nutritionist

335 S. Mustang Rd., Suite E Yukon, OK (405) 265-2950

360 24th Ave. NW, Suite 10 Normon, OK 73069 (405) 310-2549



10600 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 15 Oklahoma City, OK 73170 (405) 703-3838

SMART AS A DONKEY

ASSN9 RANCH'S TITLE-WINNING MINIATURE MEDITERRANEAN DONKEYS PROVE THE STEREOTYPES WRONG

Stubborn, stupid, lazy or slow might just be some of the words that come to mind when you hear the word donkey. From the depiction of donkeys in movies like "Dumbo" and "Shrek" to expressions like "making an ass out of yourself," donkeys have gotten a bad rap.

"A lot of people think that donkeys are stupid or stubborn, but they have a lot more self-preservation than a horse. They are not a flight animal like a horse," explains Kim Winton, who, along with her husband Jim Speck, raises miniature Mediterranean donkeys. "They are really very intelligent."

Winton and Speck, who own AssN9 Ranch in Shawnee, breed, raise and train award-winning miniature Mediterranean donkeys. They currently have about 30 donkeys and operate under the motto "pretty, performance, perfection," a far cry from the stereotype.

Winton says she has always been around and owned horses. After moving back to Oklahoma, she and her husband had some issues with dogs chasing their colt.

Winton had always heard that donkeys were good watch animals and a natural enemy to coyotes or dogs.

"And so we got a standard size donkey. Sure enough, those dogs would run out there, but they would never cross that fence," Winton said.

Thinking their donkey might like to have a friend, Winton and Speck bought a miniature donkey that incidentally turned out to be pregnant. Winton recalled the day the miniature donkey gave birth. "Oh my gosh, I'm pretty tough for a girl, but that little baby hit the ground, and I just boo-hooed. It was the cutest thing I'd ever seen in my whole life."

Shortly after, Winton and Speck attended an expo to learn more about donkeys: how to groom, feed and show them.

"We thought it kind of looked like fun, and it was something neither one of us knew much about. So, it was something to learn about together," Winton said. "Long story short, we got more involved and bought some, really studied a lot, started buying high quality stock, and we are now one of the leading breeders in the business—especially when you talk about performance animals.



We are in it for the performance aspect, not just to breed a pretty donkey.

Unlike miniature horses that have been bred down, miniature donkeys are naturally occurring and stand between 30 to 36 inches high through the hip. Originating from the Mediterranean area, they were imported to the United States in the 1930s and can live to be up to 40 years old.

The classic colors for the coat are gray and brown, but after years of breeding, miniature donkeys can now also be found in several shades of red or even have spots.

Winton and Speck say they sell their donkeys for anywhere from \$1,000 to \$6,000, depending on if it is a pet quality animal or a title-holding show animal.

Breeding for Competition

The couple has plenty of title-holding show animals. In 2017, Winton and Speck's donkeys swept the National Miniature Donkey Association year-end high point awards, taking the top spots for jacks, jennets and geldings.

"They were all animals that we had raised," Winton added. "Those three were the epitome of what we do try to breed for. With that particular three, I've won grand champion jack, grand champion gelding and grand champion

Winton said it has taken about six to eight years to really see the results of their breeding

'Ultimately, what we have tried to do is breed nice performance, our high-end performance animal back to a halter donkey," Winton explained. "We are at a point now, I compete very well in halter as well as performance, but that took quite a while.

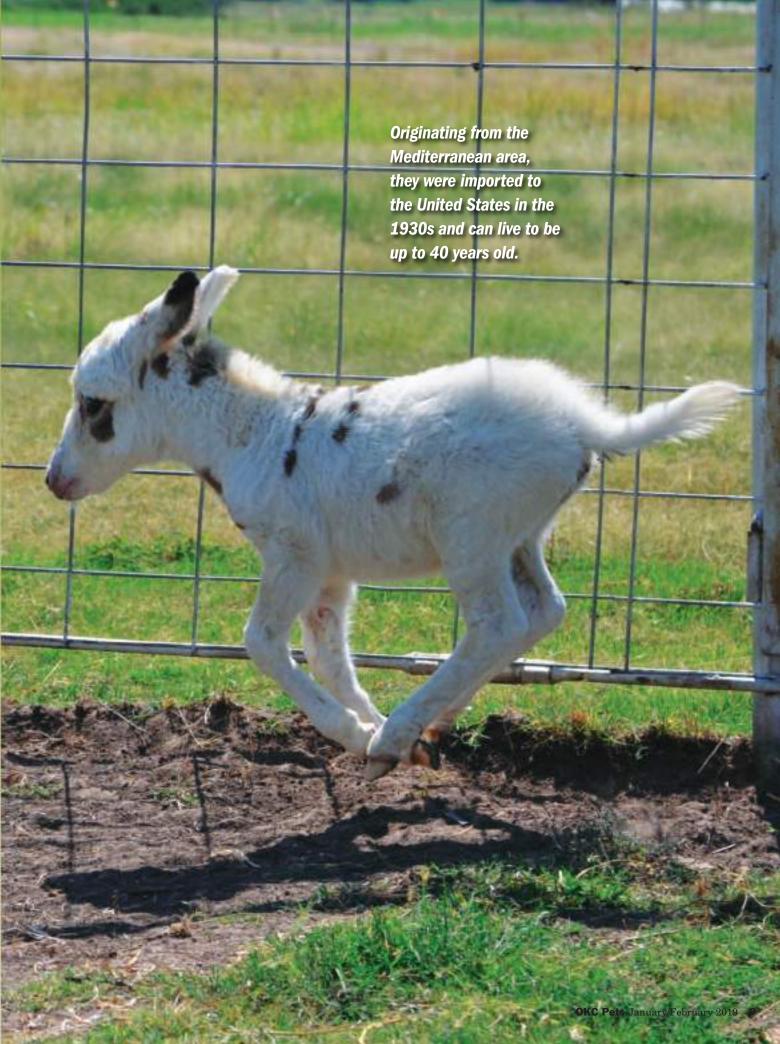
"The halter competition is judged by how well the donkey's body conforms to breed standards. A performance donkey has a little bit longer body; the hips may be a little higher than their shoulders, and their heads are a little bit bigger.

"I have some halter donkeys that can move well, but they have to have a good mind," Winton continued. "They have to have the willingness; they have to have the disposition. That's not to say that all halter donkeys aren't willing to learn. Our particular bloodline, we are not just focusing on the body; we are focusing on building a very trainable, willing

Depending on the show, there might be anywhere from eight to 15 different classes, ranging from performance driving to in hand races to game classes with names like Hurry Scurry, Scramble and Pleasure Driving.

Obstacle courses can be as straightforward as maneuvering through cones and around barrels or as complicated as jumps of varying heights, backing into a small garage, opening a mailbox and retrieving mail or getting on a

"You might do lead line race, that means just get the donkey in your hand and run as fast as you can. It's a timed event, down around the cone and back," Winton said. "That sounds easy, but frequently it is a drag race. Or you get down halfway, and the donkey says, 'Hmmm, no, I don't really want to go around that cone.' Or the donkey gets going faster than you, and you do a flip in



front of everybody. I've done all of that," Winton said with a laugh.

Sometimes, props are used to distract the animals from the task at hand.

"One of the shows we go to, they have a taxidermy wild pig. You don't have to do anything to the pig, but you have to execute an obstacle by it, and a lot of times the donkeys are afraid of it," Winton said.

"It really comes down to a lot of the trainability of the animal and the trust that the animal has in you," Winton said.

Outside of competitions over the last several years, Winton and Speck have also participated in Remington Park's Extreme Racing Day charity event. Their miniature donkeys race other donkeys to raise money for a variety of charities. Camels, zebras, pigs

purchase the animals want them for pets, Winton said.

"A lot of people buy them for kids, and they are extremely tolerant of kids," Winton said. "These are really like a Golden Retriever with hooves. A horse will come up and see if you have anything good to eat and then leave. The donkeys really want to be up in your business: 'Oh, you're fixing the fence?







Let me help you fix the fence. Oh, you're moving some hay? Let me help you move that hay."

Winton says when she walks out on her property, she looks like the Pied Piper of donkeys: "I'll have a trail of 30 donkeys walking behind me."

In addition to wanting to be around people, they also want to be around each other.

"They are herd animals. They interact with each other a lot, they talk to each other, they groom each other, they play and they chase," Winton said.

That being the case, money is not incentive enough for Winton to sell a donkey if it is going to be by itself. And though the donkeys will acclimate to dogs that belong on the property, a dog is not a substitute for companionship, though the two animals do have their similarities.

"Every one of their brays is different. Just like you have dogs and know which dog is

barking," Winton said. "They make a lot of different noises."

Winton says training a donkey is extremely similar to training a dog.

"Most of them are pretty food driven, but more than anything, it's just the praise, scratch on the shoulder, attaboy," Winton remarked. "And they all have their own personalities. My two

favorite jennets, they just know when I get up in the morning, and by the time I get my coffee and sit in the sunroom, they are there waiting for me."

To learn more about AssN9 Ranch, visit their website at www.AssN9ranch.com.

and ostriches are also included in the event with charities assigned to different animals. The winning animal raises money for its assigned charity.

Golden Retrievers With Hooves

Though the couple focuses on breeding donkeys for competition, a lot of the people who

Winton says for the cart classes, she competes with a specific type of cart called a sulky.

"It is much shorter, therefore, my donkeys, when they come around a barrel, they will

In the cart classes, people are pulled in

"Most people have kind of a fancy little

carts behind the donkeys. For the Pleasure

Driving category, contestants dress the part.

cart or, at a minimum, a cart they keep very

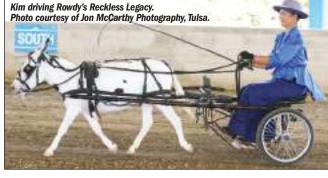
neat and very clean; you're dressed up like

you are going to church. So, most of the

women have the big fancy hats," Winton

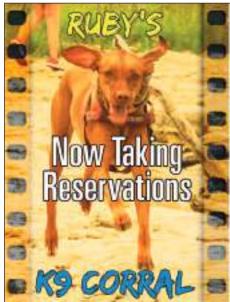
cross their front and back legs; I can cut a lot closer to the barrel. In that sulky, I can almost touch the barrel all the way around it." Winton explained.

Ultimately, however, success in competition is all about the relationship between the donkey and trainer.



elaborated.





- · Five ster ladging for your day
- Supervised playtime
- · Fenced play areas
- If edicine dog discounts
- Discount packages available
- Som steller
- Dwner lives on premises
- Individual care for your dog
- Serving the Iri-City area



infacendysk9corral com www.rubysk9corral.com





The friendliest pets in Oklahoma **VOLUNTEER** for Valir HosPets Program!



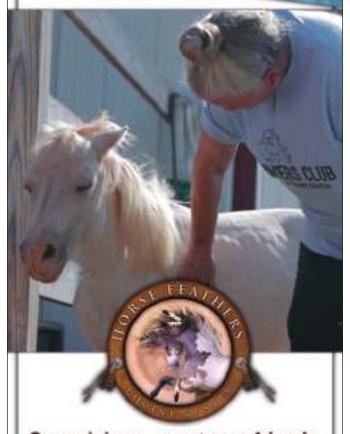
(405) 609.3636 | valir.com

Join Our Ole' Timers

Wednesdays 10-1 join us for our Seniors' Program, the Ole Timers Club! Refreshments provided! Come help groom on some horses or donkeys. There are many ways you can help here even if you aren't a horse person, so don't let that stop you!

Come socialize with other Ole Timers! T-shirts are available and you can even donate to give a senior their own shirt! Contact us for details plainswindrdr@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook:

Horse Feathers OleTimers Club



Come join us, meet new friends, help some horses!

www.horsefeathersequinecenter.org. (405) 260-7281



EARLY LAST SUMMER, staff at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City were kneedeep in organizing Paint This Town Orange, the school's festive biennial scholarship fundraiser. While the fundraising team was busy coordinating myriad details for the event, they also were tasked with highlighting the school's popular Veterinary Technology program.

Why did Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City leaders want to shine a light on the Veterinary Technology program? First, if you're a pet owner, you probably know that Americans are in love with their pets. No matter where American pet owners live, their age or ethnicity, or how deeply divided they

are on political issues, studies show that they stand united in believing that pets make a positive contribution to their lives.

Second, all that pet love is growing. According to the 2017-18 National Pet Owners Survey, 68 percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet. This is up from 56 percent of U.S. households in 1988, the first year of the survey. And, as any devoted pet owner knows, in addition to collars, leashes, carriers, pet beds and food, you want and need professional veterinary care for your beloved furry family member.

Third, licensed veterinary technicians are critical to a veterinary practice and are in demand. In 2017, the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development listed veterinary technicians as one of Oklahoma's critical occupations. The Veterinary Technology program at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC) plays a vital role in filling that need by educating and training veterinary technicians.

Fourth, salaries for veterinary technicians are in the low to moderate range, which makes scholarships for veterinary technician students extremely important.

"Students in the Veterinary Technology program at OSU-OKC provide a range of services to the greater Oklahoma City metro community," said Amber Hefner, head of the Business and Agriculture Technologies Division at OSU-OKC. "As part of their training, the students in our program treat animals from partnership animal shelters and rescue organizations under the supervision of licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. Our students also learn to work with a variety of animals, including companion animals, large animals and exotic species."

The challenge OSU-OKC's fundraising team faced was how to help people connect the need for licensed veterinary technicians to the heart of the cause—those special animal friends that walk, fly and slither into our lives.

Pet Heroes:

PEOPLE WHO SAVE ANIMALS, ANIMALS WHO SAVE PEOPLE, THEY'RE THE LUCKIEST IN THE WORLD

By Shauna Struby

OSU-OKC President Brad Williams saw an opportunity to make the connection.

"Social media presents countless stories and videos about animals saving people and vice versa," Williams said. "Our team wanted to find those kinds of stories in our community and share them to highlight people making a difference. Our first Pet Hero contest was the result."

OSU-OKC's inaugural Pet Hero contest solicited stories about rescued pets from pet owners who later realized their rescued pet had rescued them. Advertised through OSU-OKC's social media channels and open to OSU-OKC students and the public, the contest ran June through August of 2018.

"We received so many compelling submissions, it was difficult to narrow the field," Williams said. "In the end, we selected the two stories we felt illustrated the strong bond between humans and animals and how that relationship was beneficial."

The two winning stories were submitted

by OSU-OKC students Dawn Croteau, of Guthrie, a substance abuse counseling major; and Emily Haastrup, of Oklahoma City, a nursing major.

"The stories of Luke, the dog, and Sphynx, the cat, are great examples of the indelible role animals play in our lives," Williams said. COMPASSION SAVES A LIFE, COURAGE AND LOVE RETURN THE FAVOR

One morning in May of 2011, Dawn Croteau decided to survey the new dock her family recently built on the shoreline of their neighborhood lake. Little did she know she was about to perform a life-saving act of compassion that would profoundly impact her life just two years later. Croteau, 51, recalls that dramatic morning.

She looked across the lake and, in the distance, saw a man throw a plastic bag into the water. Thinking the man was littering their beautiful lake, Croteau and her daughter, Alisha Cook, used the family's inflatable boat to quickly row across the water.

As they rowed, the bag slipped beneath the surface. Arriving where the bag disappeared, Croteau and her daughter splashed into the murky, waist-deep water and, feeling the floor of the lake with their feet, found and lifted the bag to the surface. Whatever was inside the bag was heavy, moving around and was certainly not trash.

Croteau and her daughter carefully pried the bag open with a stick. Inside were three squirming puppies, approximately 8 weeks old.

Croteau took the puppies to her home and later found foster homes for the two female puppies. She kept the lone male to replace their recently deceased farm dog and named him Luke.

Luke was smart and readily took to learning tricks and obedience training. When he outgrew the Croteaus' house, he reveled in his new position as the family farm dog, faithfully patrolling the Croteaus' three-acre farm.

Some two years later, after working late one night, Croteau returned home as usual,

continued on page 32



WHAT'S Let people knoplanned. Folks they don't know Submit your grand what to explored by the state of the st

Let people know what your business or organization has planned. Folks can't participate and share the experience if they don't know about your upcoming events.

Submit your group's event information along with a photo and what to expect.

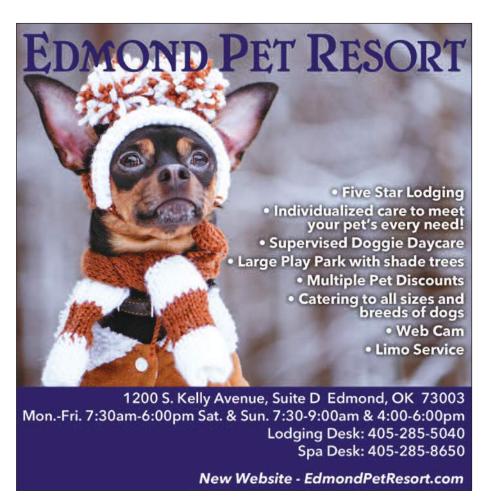
It's easy! Select "Submit Event" straight from the Calendar!



Take advantage of these offers made to you by our advertisers

COUPONS DISCOUNTS SALES SPECIALS

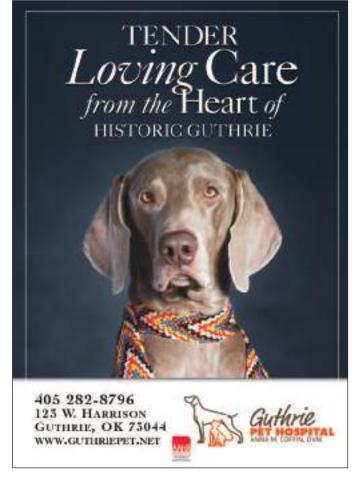
CLICK HERE













I can't find Robbie anywhere.

I don't hear a peep from her; she doesn't come when I call.

TECHNOLOGY TAKES ON THE DOG HOUSE

By Nancy Gallimore, CPDT-KA

Now, before you start telling me to make posters and spread the word on every social media avenue available, you should know that Robbie is not our pet. She is our devoted household assistant. Robbie is our iRobot Roomba 695.

I remember when the Roombas first hit the stores. I sat with Jim, my partner in this crazy life, and giggled at the prospect of watching one of the little robots trying to navigate our very dog-centric home. We reasoned that the fine folks at iRobot should probably send us one for free as an extreme product testing experiment. Because trust me, no one can dish out better challenges and obstacles for a Roomba than we can.

By we, I mean me, Jim and the 20-someodd dogs that are currently residing with us at Tails You Win Farm. No, we are not destined to be the next episode on A&E's "Hoarders." We run a home-based rescue for Dalmatians and other dogs that find themselves in need of a place to stay for a few weeks, months or a lifetime, depending on the situation. Ours is a revolving door filled with wagging tails and muddy paws.

The answer to the question that just popped into your head is yes. They do all live in the house (right where they are supposed to be!). And here's the answer to the next question you're about to ask. Yes, it does present a housekeeping challenge to have so many dogs running in, out, and about our home. Dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping—heck, we even own a commercial floor scrubber-are just daily activities

So, the idea that a little robot friend was ready, willing and able to help us keep up with the dirt and hair that combine to carpet our floors seemed too good to be true. And we laughed the idea off repeatedly... until the day I saw Roomba on sale at Target. ON SALE.

I smuggled my little robot into the house and had her sitting on the charger before Jim could tell me I was a crazy person. When Jim did notice my prize purchase, he simply asked how soon it would be charged and then sat nearby, phone on video mode in great anticipation of the hilarity that was sure to ensue. If nothing else, perhaps we could make a fortune with a viral dogs vs. Roomba video, winning the big money on "America's Funniest Home Videos."

The moment Robbie's little battery light clicked to green (and I assumed that meant ready-to-roll because, heaven forbid, I actually read the instructions), I hit the start button, and she made the cutest beep-beepbeep noise like a teeny delivery truck warning everyone she was backing up. Once clear of her charging station, Robbie whirled around and was off!

Of course, that beep-beep-beep also served to alert every dog in the house, and the herd rushed in to see what the heck was going on. This was the moment of truth for Robbie.

Experience with remote control cars (No, we don't have kids. Yes, we have remote control cars. What?) has taught us that sometimes the dogs like to pounce on small motorized aliens that speed through the house. In fact, sometimes they like to attempt to destroy them. At this point, Robbie was somewhat on her own, running the gauntlet with her spinning brushes and the determined whir of her little motor.

Amazingly, after several curious sniffs and a bit of stalking, the dogs decided Robbie was not very interesting and left her to do her thing. So much for winning big bucks with a video classic. But hey, chalk one up in the survived-the-dogs column of our amateur product testing spreadsheet.

One of the features that iRobot touts is that your Roomba is intelligent and will map and remember the layout of your furnishings as she explores her new territory. However, I don't think the product development team planned for a house full of moving "furnishings." At every turn, it seems Robbie bounces off another dog butt. Sometimes, the dogs move out of her way. Sometimes, they just give her a little side-eye and ignore her persistent bumps. And so, Robbie moves through our house in a constant state of confusion like the silver ball pinging about in a pinball machine.

I feel for her, but I applaud her tenacity. She keeps trying. I guess that's another checkmark in the positive column for our little test subject.

Then, within days of welcoming Robbie into our home, she hit the biggest challenge of her young career. And I do mean hit. You see, when you take in a lot of rescued dogs, you are pretty much always house training someone. I'm going to let that sink in for just a second.

There it is. You get the picture.

So yeah, despite my best efforts to watch for and prevent this HUGE disaster, I turned my back for a few moments—a few horrifying, oh-dear-dog moments.

I appreciate her willingness to go places that are hard for me to reach without some major furniture shoving.

Robbie scoots willingly under the bed to keep dust bunnies at bay and, bonus, she often shoves long-lost dog toys back into the light of day. There's a green checkmark I bet the engineers at iRobot didn't see coming.

She also easily glides under our couches and weaves her way through the dining room table and chair legs. She's extremely good at sweeping along baseboards where dog hair loves to congregate. And when the early morning light causes the little white Dalmatian hairs to glisten on our floor, it's gratifying to see Robbie's path cutting to and fro, sucking those little demons away.

Obviously, Robbie does not have a huge collection bin tucked away in there, but I am impressed at just how much dog hair and dust she can compress into her small receptacle. I am equally impressed that she can tell me when she's full. Holy moly, Robbie talks!

I found this out by total accident. I was home alone when I heard a woman's voice in the other room. Yes, I was slightly freaked out. Then I heard the voice again and recog-

Robbie moves through our house in a constant state of confusion like the silver ball pinging about in a pinball machine."

I smelled the problem before I found the problem. I'll spare you the specific details, but let's just say I am now intimately familiar with all of Robbie's inner workings and how easily her brushes and wheels come off for thorough cleaning. We're going to have to put a big red X in the "detects and avoids dog poop" column, but I will put a green checkmark in the "fairly easy to disassemble and clean" column.

For the record, Robbie and I have agreed we shall never speak of this tragedy again.

This was also the moment we learned we cannot take advantage of Robbie's feature that allows you to program her to run while you are not home. Oh no. We will not subject Robbie or ourselves to the prospect of having her run through this minefield unattended.

Following the event-that-shall-not-be-discussed, things went pretty well for our little robot assistant. Oh sure, there's no way in hell she can possibly keep up with all the floor cleaning needs this house presents, but nized it as the same female voice that apparently makes every single automated recording ever made. Seriously, it's the same voice. That woman with the patient, monotone speech has quite a gig.

This time the voice was coming from Robbie, and she was requesting assistance. Once again that user manual I'm pretty sure I threw away would have come in really handy as Robbie repeatedly referred to a specific error code.

Fortunately, it didn't take a genius to decide to flip Robbie on her back to take a look at her brushes. Or where her brushes were supposed to be. The only thing visible was a giant mat of dog hair. Hey, I bet that isn't supposed to look like that. Brushes and wheels cleared, dirt receptacle emptied, and Robbie was good to go.

We continued to hear calm messages from Robbie from time to time. Sometimes, it was because she was stuck somewhere and needed a little boost. More often than not it was because she was clogged. Then, after a few weeks, it seemed as though Robbie's messages changed. Maybe there was an air of desperation in her tone? At times, it seemed as though she was actually gasping or even screaming.

I guess these robots are intelligent because Robbie seems to be realizing her plight. She is fighting an impossible battle around here. Admittedly, there are days she can't seem to face reality. Just yesterday, I punched her start button, she spun in one small circle as if to survey the damage, then placed herself right back on her base.

"Not today. I have a migraine," I imagined the now-tired voice mumbling.

But now she's just gone. Not a word. No note. No trail of bread crumbs to follow. I think she packed her little iRobot suitcase and moved out.

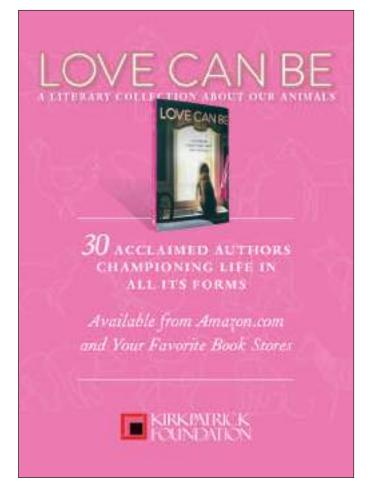
It's also possible there is something so unspeakable under my bed that she is trapped and cowering in some dark corner. I'll try to find her. I'll apologize. I'll give her a good cleaning and a few days off. Then maybe I'll get a couple more Roombas. Maybe she just needs her own little army to tackle this mess we call home.

Stay tuned. It will either be a great idea, or the robots will take over Tails You Win Farm in a revolt that would make George Orwell proud. In that case, Jim, Nancy and 20-someodd dogs may need a place to stay.













NEVER MISS AN ISSUE

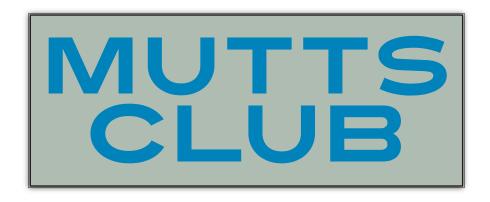
Would you like OKC Pets Magazine delivered to your home or business?

Visit us online now and subscribe!

In January / February 2019 OKC Pets Magazine will deliver to these 300+ locations

Agape Pet Clinic - OKC	7401 NW 23rd	(405) 787-2285	Oath
	1102 1111 2010	1403) 101-2203	Bethany
Aurbyn's Bark 'n Beauty's Dog Grooming	7403 NW 23rd	(405) 651-0223	Bethany
Bethany Animal Hospital	4312 N Council Rd	(405) 384-1105	Bethany
Bethany Animal Shelter/Animal Control	5100 N. College	(405) 789-3431	Bethany
Bethany Country Store	3401 N Rockwell Ave	(405) 789-5645	Bethany
Canine Clips	6733 NW 50th St	(405) 495-8339	Bethany
Council Veterinary Hospital - OKC	7930 NW 23rd	(405) 787-1001	Bethany
Passion 4 Paws	3219 N. College Ave	(405) 205-4045	Bethany
Wiley Post Airport	5915 Philip J Rhoads Ave	(405) 316-4061	Bethany
Ruby's K-9 Corral	902 Pendergraft Road	(405) 999-5822	Blanchard
Nicoma Park Feed	11338 NE 23rd St	(405) 769-2711	Choctaw
Diamond Dog Salon - Del City	5529 SE 15th #D		Del City
Dunkin Donuts - Del City	1600 S Sunnylane Rd	(405) 672-4919	Del City
Shelly's Grooming OKC	4330 SE 29th St, Ste 3003	(405) 672-2883	Del City
Abri Animal Clinic - Edmond	3720 E 2nd St	(405) 705-2444	Edmond
Acre View Pet Hospital & Laser Center	1900 S Bryant Ave	(405) 348-0808	Edmond
All Fur Paws	15220 N. Western Avenue Suite E2	(405) 348-6888	Edmond
Animal Medical Center I-35 - Edmond	3800 E 2nd Suite A	(405) 359-6301	Edmond
Azani Pro Training and Boarding	14815 Bristol Park Boulevard	(405) 562-8708	Edmond
Camp Bow Wow - Edmond	801 Centennial Blvd.	(405) 359-7297	Edmond
Circle E Inc - Edmond	125 W Waterloo Rd	(405) 340-5425	Edmond
Danforth Animal Hospital - Edmond	800 East Danforth Road	(405) 896-3081	Edmond
Deer Creek Animal Clinic - Edmond	17919 N Portland Ave	(405) 509-6891	Edmond
Delmar Smith Kennels	3509 E. Memorial Rd	(405) 478-1171	Edmond
Edmond Animal Welfare	2424 Old Timbers Dr.	(405) 216-7615	Edmond
Edmond East Animal Hospital	5825E Covell Rd.	(405) 701-9000	Edmond
Edmond Pet Resort	1200 S. Kelly Ave., Suite D	(405) 285-5040	Edmond
Family Pet Hospital - Edmond	2228 NW 164th	(405) 216-5200	Edmond
Free to Live	808 S Kelly Ave 73003.	(405) 282-8617	Edmond
Gentle Care Animal Hospital - Edmond	2301 NW 178th Street	(405) 285-9663	Edmond
Golden Poodle Grooming	3131 E. Waterloo Road, Suite B	(405) 657-2001	Edmond
Hollywood Feed - Edmond	1200 W Covell Rd Suite 116	(405) 471-5518	Edmond
Janice Winchester - Churchill-Brown	1901 W. 33rd. St. Suite 100	(405) 330-2626	Edmond
JC's Funky Hair Ranch	22 E. 3rd	(405) 340-4140	Edmond
Jimmy's Egg - Bryant	1715 E. 2nd St.		Edmond

CLICK TO SEE COMPLETE LIST



MOTIVATED, UNDERSTANDING, THOUGHTFUL TEENAGE STUDENTS MAKING AN IMPACT FOR PETS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

By Kaycee Chance

"THE MOST REWARDING IMPACT is that the students take what they learn back to their families, friends and schools and educate others," explains MUTTS Club Coordinator Kim Fairbanks when asked about the overall impact of the group of students she oversees once a month.

Seemingly, this idea of continued education and sharing learned information is one of the central focuses of the club, which consists of middle school and high school students and adult mentors who truly care about animal welfare and humane education in the state of Oklahoma. The group, which is under the direction of Hands Helping Paws in Norman, Oklahoma, was officially started in 2017 but has roots all the way back to 2014 when the organization began visiting schools.

"In 2014, Hands Helping Paws began visiting schools with our ambassador cat, Weaver," Fairbanks explains. Weaver is a handsome black and white cat who visits schools and hospitals and promotes pet education and the importance of spaying and neutering as well.

"We use the Mutt-i-grees curriculum developed by Yale University and coordinated through North Shore Animal League," says Fairbanks. The curriculum is quite innovative and incorporates material for students from Pre-K through high school. The goal of the curriculum is to develop "calm, confident, caring kids" and to "create a more humane future for all through social emotional learning," Fairbanks explains.

After seeing the impact on students in schools, Hands Helping Paws decided to create the group in February of 2017. "Hands Helping Paws wanted the students to have hands-on activities with shelter pets," says Fairbanks. "So HHP implemented our MUTTS Club (Motivated, Understanding, Thoughtful Teenage Students), which meets once a month at our local shelter."

Fairbanks explains the group meets on the first Saturday of each month at Norman Animal Welfare, and there are typically between 10 to 25 students that attend. The group hosts students from surrounding areas of Norman, Moore, Noble, Lexington and

Little Axe, and Fairbanks oversees the group with the help of adult mentors who work as animal welfare trainers and social workers, all providing an important perspective for the students.

Fairbanks breaks down the goals of the MUTTS Club to four major areas: 1) for students to learn about animal welfare and how they can impact their community directly by taking what they learn and sharing it with family and friends; 2) to help shelter pets get adopted through creating social media content featuring different animals; 3) to advocate for the importance of spaying and neutering pets; and 4) to encourage pet owners to properly microchip and tag their pets. Each month the group focuses on a different lesson and activity that ties in with these major goals.

The group will usually split their time between classroom time and hands-on time. During classroom time, the group will go over new topics and lessons and review safety procedures before interacting with the animals.

continued on page 22





By David Branch

As per the commercials we've all seen, guinea pigs are not from Guinea nor are they pigs. They are actually from Peru, the land of the Incas. They have always been a food source, but when hunters' children fell for them, some were kept as pets.

Today, as social companion animals, guinea pigs make great pets. They can be kept in same-sex pairs, "Otherwise, keep adult guinea pigs housed separately. Different types of small animals should not be housed together." cautions Petco.com. It is not advisable to breed them either, as most females die after giving birth.

Feeding

The initial cost of purchase is minimal; however, keeping them well fed and healthy is not. First, they need fresh, filtered water daily. I suggest searching online for a quality water



bottle that is leak-proof.

A well-balanced diet should contain highquality guinea pig food (Oxbow is my brand of choice), Timothy hay (available at all times) and limited amounts of vegetables and fruits. They require 30 to 50 mg of vitamin C daily, either from food or supplements. Never feed them chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as those may cause serious medical conditions, along with sugar and high-fat treats, advises Petco's care sheet.

Housing

Get set up before you buy; my favorite cage is the Guinea Pig Habitat Plus. It is easy to clean and maintain (ideally, once a week). It also features a bridge to each side that easily becomes a divider for separating pairs. While mine have never fought, it's a nice feature to have the built-in option. You want to acclimate them to your lifestyle. Since we bought our pair, Brindles and Peaches, they have had light music playing in their room 24/7. They can be ideal apartment pets after they get accustomed to sounds via the TV or radio. Then they will not be freaked out by noises, such as fire alarm tests, etc.



From experience, I suggest getting a carrier larger than you think you currently need, as our females have doubled in size.

Next, you'll need 1 to 2 inches of bedding in the habitat. Proper bedding includes high-quality paper bedding, crumbled paper bedding or hardwood shavings, according to Petco. Never use cedar chips, which are hard on their respiratory system.

Behavior & Routine

With the proper food and housing, your little creatures should be cozy and comfortable, and, in turn, they will be loving and trusting. Note that they prefer routine and will benefit from a structured schedule for playing, feeding and resting each day.

With their teeth as their only defense, they will use them if threatened or if you play too roughly. Teeth, which grow continuously, need to be maintained with chew sticks or mineral chews.

They love to be petted on the head, and the sounds they make are delightful! They may iump or "popcorn" into the air when happy. Out of our pair, one loves to chatter and the other softly coos. Never ever use aggression with these small creatures.

It's best to keep them somewhat contained when you let them "run." Do not put them in a hamster rolling ball or wheel. It will damage their spines; instead they like all four feet on the floor and to travel fast. Use common sense and watch them at all times out of the cage, particularly watching for dangers such as electrical cords, carpet to chew, etc. Poo pads also come in handy. Pet beds lined with a poo pad and a towel are great for your lap time. And when you put them to bed for the night, they like to be covered with a security blanket of sorts.



Choosing your pet

Have fun picking your babies! All major pet stores have scheduled deliveries, and they come in both female and male varieties. Variations in coat and color add to the fun of choosing your new pet. Watch how they interact with the others, and pick the ones that speak to you.

While the life span of guinea pigs ranges from 4 to 8 years on average, the oldest on record was just under 15 years! My babies are nearly 3, and I don't regret a minute of having them or caring for them. Every morning when I uncover them, they are ready for love and, of course, a treat!

These creatures of habit will make you so happy to have them.

DOCTORS' HOURS: Monday through Friday 8:00am-11:30am, 1:30pm-4:30pm Saturday 8:00am-10:30am

2826 West Britton Road Oklahoma City, OK 73120

(405) 751-8007

www.brittonroadveterinaryclinic.com







"Each month's learning is different as we follow the animal welfare month themes," Fairbanks explains. For example, "during Adopt a Senior Cat Month, we would have a lesson on senior pets and then create an adoption video that features a senior shelter cat in need of a home."

as well. The students have participated in making winter shelters for feral cats in the area, and they assist in Hands Helping Paws' outreach events such as low-cost spay and neuter clinics and Pets for Life.

"We are also doing something new to help the community, at the shelter for our meet-





Gracie & Olivia bottle feeding a kitten

ings, we are now offering free engraved pet

One activity that is beneficial for the students and the animals (and just so happens to be a student favorite) is the Shelter Reading Buddy program, in which students sit and read to the dogs in the shelter.

"Reading to the dogs helps bring comfort to them and reduces anxiety," says Fairbanks. "Reading to the shelter pets also nurtures empathy in children as well as improves their reading skills. Usually within five minutes of reading, the dogs will settle down in their kennels."

Other activities that students participate in at the shelter are stuffing Peanut Butter into Kong toys so the dogs have fun enrichment activities or helping to decorate the shelter for events like Home for the Holidays or the Kitten Bowl.

The group has an impressive list of projects under its belt already, and it's obvious that the intent of the group is not only to help the animals in the shelter but to spread that support to the surrounding community

ings, we are now offering free engraved pet tags for anyone that may need one," says Fairbanks.

While the impact on the animals of the Norman Shelter and the surrounding communities is evident, it's also important to focus on the positive impact on the students involved in the MUTTS Club. Fairbanks explains that one of the most important takeaways for the students is that they continue to share what they've learned from the group with their friends and families, but she has also seen students experience change on a more personal level.

"The students are more confident and have developed relationships with others outside of their schools," Fairbanks says. "I have seen extremely shy kids enter our program, and within the first few hours, they are smiling, talking to others and having fun." This is a fundamental part of social emotional learning, as students gain more confidence in themselves through the



knowledge gained about the animals and the positive impact they are making on the animals as well.

The MUTTS Club has two student ambassadors, Gracie Burnside and Olivia Casey of Curtis Inge Middle School in Noble, Oklahoma; both are serving as ambassadors for their second year. An impressive presentation from Burnside and Casey highlights some of the important activities and lessons from the past year with topics ranging from caring for hospice pets, to the consequences of abandoning an animal, to bite prevention and bottle-feeding kittens. While the list of topics includes some heavy subject matter, the students are able to directly see how the animals are affected and how they can make an impact.

For example, under the direction of Fairbanks, the students were involved in helping rescue an injured cat named Angel by fundraising for her lifesaving care, and they have adopted a senior dog named Harley to be their MUTTS Club mascot.

The MUTTS Club organization is making a big impact on local communities in the area. From directly helping animals in need in the Norman Animal Shelter to helping students learn important life skills and lessons



about social emotional learning, there is no doubt that the MUTTS Club is making Oklahoma a safer place for animals for years to come, and it is so encouraging for all animal lovers to know the great work the group is doing. What students learn in the club will be passed on to their families and friends, creating a hub of information about the importance of animal welfare. For students or parents interested in learning more about getting involved in the MUTTS Club, the organization can be contacted through its Facebook page @muttsclub.









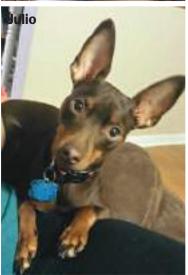
PETS ABOUT TOWN

Have a photo of your pet that's too cute not to share? Send it to us, and we'll include him or her in our next Pets About Town. Simply send a high-res jpeg photo to petpics@okcpetsmagazine.com along with your pet's name. And don't forget to look for your photogenic fur baby in the next issue!





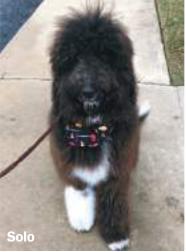










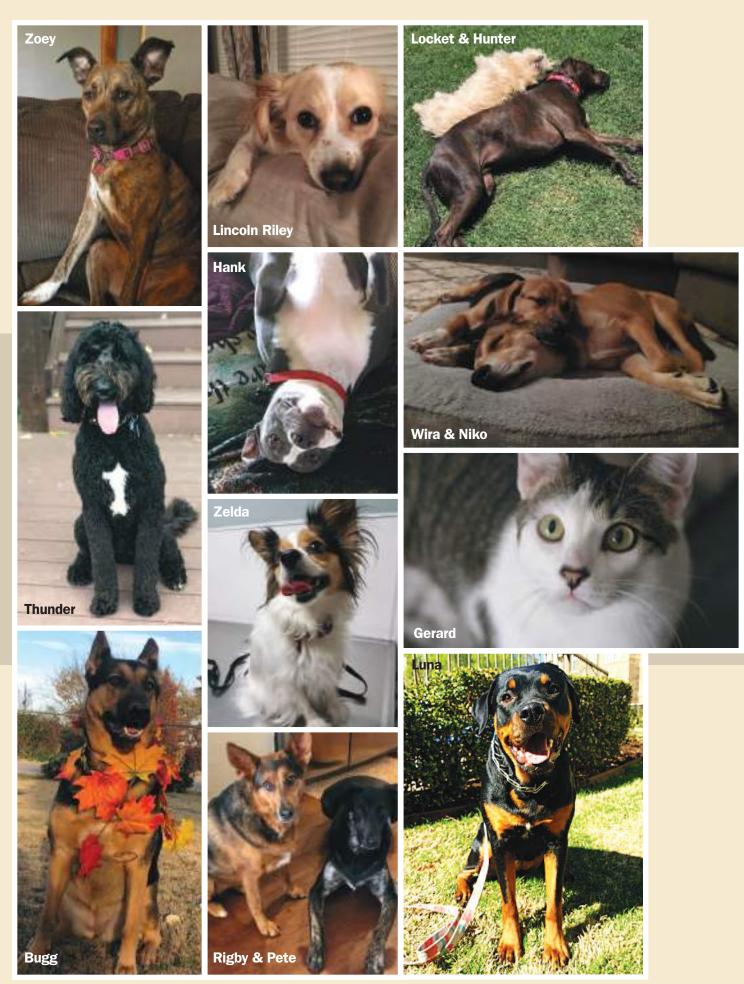














GLOBALLY, ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS MAKE THE WORLD SMALLER THROUGH COMPASSION

BY HEIDE BRANDES

The family fled Damascus in Syria at the height of the civil war, leaving not only their livelihood, their home and their way of life but also their beloved dog.

Fleeing as refugees to Montreal, the woman and her two sons had nothing and knew no one. While they led successful lives in business and in university in Syria, now they started from scratch, picking up the pieces of a ruined life.

And all they wanted was their dog. With all they had lost, leaving their pet behind was the most traumatic.

"They turned to SPCA and said they wanted to get their dog out of Damascus," said SPCA International Executive Director Meredith Ayan. "We said, 'We don't know how, but we will try."

Working through Syrian Association for Rescuing Animals, a pet rescue organization formed at the height of the Syrian war, SPCA International brought together multiple organizations from Lebanon, Syria, Canada and other countries to bring home a beloved pet.

SARA bought black market gas to take the dog to the border at night, a Lebanese animal rescue took the dog, and another organization flew to Lebanon and arranged to have the dog flown to Montreal.

"This family's entire lives were uprooted, but they were focused on getting their dog out," said Ayan. "It took a few months and partners from around the world to help this family, which proves that helping animals despite location is really about helping people."

In Oklahoma and around the world, pet rescue operations are toiling daily to rescue abandoned, abused or neglected animals. It's a mission that supersedes political differences, cultural differences and geographical differences, and many organizations work together to accomplish the mission.

On a local, national and global scale, animal rescue and compassion know no borders, no politics and no cultural barriers.

CLOSE TO HOME

Most days see Dana Huckabee, founder of Pet Angels Rescue in Logan County, driving to the farthest rural reaches of Oklahoma to take in dogs and cats that are on "death row." Because of outdated state laws and statutes, many rural shelters do not have the county population to be able to appropriate money to run shelters, thus leaving them in the posi-



tion of having to euthanize healthy animals.

The mission of Pet Angels Rescue is to save the lives of as many homeless animals as possible while raising awareness of the thousands of dogs and cats killed every day in Oklahoma rural shelters. The mission is largely accomplished by pulling dogs and cats out of kill shelters and placing them into Pet Angels' no-kill rescue where they are carefully prepared for adoption and placed in devoted homes.

"We worked with 55 rural shelters in 2018 alone, and since our founding in 2000, we've rehomed 7,000 animals and spayed and neutered 8,500," said Tiffany Smith, advocate and volunteer at Pet Angels Rescue. "Only three counties in Oklahoma have the population to appropriate funding for shelters, so the other counties have to come up with their own money. They simply don't have the funding to keep animals. But a study done by (Oklahoma's) Kirkpatrick Foundation shows that it costs less to spay and neuter and release an animal than it does to euthanize them."

Pet Angels Rescue is located just five miles north of Edmond and hosts adoption days every weekend. Oftentimes, the shelter takes in rural animals with medical needs or injuries.

Finn was one of those dogs. He had been chained to a tree for a year and eight months of his life, and when his owner finally surrendered him, the dog was skin and bones and had lost most of his hair.

"We took him in, and in just three months, Finn is so much better. It's amazing to see his transformation, and he's going to be such a beautiful dog," Smith said.

Pet Angels Rescue also reached out to other animal advocate programs throughout the nation for help organizing their first fundraiser this past October, which raised \$50,000 for the organization.

"We are a no-kill shelter. No one's time is ever up," said Smith. "But we work with rural shelters across Oklahoma and with shelters nationwide to make this happen."

Visit www.petangelsrescue.org for more information.

BEYOND OUR STATE

On a hot Wisconsin day, the dogs came running to the fence in full excited bark mode, and their doggie wheelchairs didn't slow them down at all.

Goofy, a caramel ball of fluff, bounced up and down on his two front good legs. He lost the use of his back legs when he was crushed inside a truck illegally hauling dogs for meat in Thailand, and the Soi Dog Foundation knew he would never be adopted out.

In the next cage, Raha from Iran was just excited to see visitors. His tongue lolled out the right side of his face as he ran happily in circles, despite the fact that the entire left side of his face was gone, burned away when thugs taped firecrackers in his mouth.

Raha and Goofy are just two of the 235 dogs and cats at Home For Life in Wisconsin,

continued on page 30





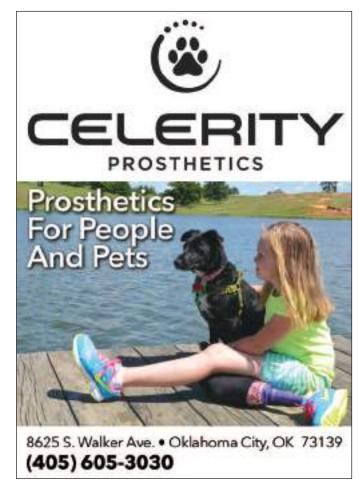














Globally, Animal Rescue Organizations continued from page 27

a singularly unique sanctuary for unadoptable, terminal or forgotten dogs and cats. The only sanctuary of its kind, Home For Life provides a "forever home" for animals that are disfigured, terminally injured, unadoptable or just overlooked.

"The animals who come to Home For Life could not be helped by any other option but a care for life sanctuary," said Founder Lisa LaVerdiere. "And once at Home For Life, our animals are not offered for adoption. Once an animal comes to us, it truly has a home for life. Through our example, we hope to discourage an acceptance of euthanasia for animals who can still live a quality life."



The nonprofit sanctuary has powerful supporters as well, including "The Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan and Jane Goodall, who spoke in 2017 at the annual fundraiser, urging for support for a place that is among the only one of its kind in the nation. In 2018, actress Ashley Judd spoke at the gala.

Home For Life also partners with the Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand and the Vafa Animal Shelter in Iran to rescue dogs that have been abused or disfigured.

"It's hard to remember Raha's desperate condition on the day we met him. Some sadistic people had attempted to blow his head off. They put firecrackers in his mouth,



taped his muzzle shut and then lit the fuse," LaVerdiere said in a post.

"Miraculously, the firecrackers did not explode, but they still did plenty of damagetheir intense heat seared away Raha's gums, cracked his teeth, and even burned into the bones of his face and jaw. His injuries left him unable to open his mouth more than a centimeter. By the time we met him, he was slowly starving to death."

Disfigured and starving, he wandered around for two weeks. Finally, townspeople who had witnessed the attack called the Vafa Animal Shelter for help, and representatives came to his rescue. Vafa took Raha in, but they knew he would need more medical care and reached out to Home For Life to help with

Today, Raha is a success story for Home For Life. He's happy, healthy and loved, despite his disfigured face, as are all the animals taken in.

"This is our mission. We partner with organizations throughout the nation and the world to provide a home for animals that would otherwise be euthanized or die," said LaVerdiere.

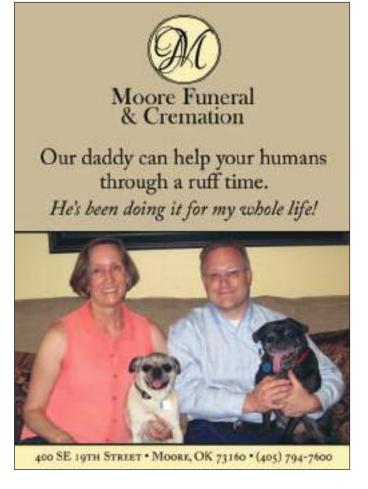
Visit www.homeforlife.org for more information.

GLOBALLY

SPCA International works with close to 1,000 partner animal rescue or welfare organizations around the world in places like Asia, Africa, the U.S., South America and Europe. Since 2007, the organization, which also has a chapter in Oklahoma, has given more than \$1.6 million in direct grants to shelters worldwide, focusing on educational programs, shelter operations and spay and neutering programs.

"In many of these countries, access to spay and neuter programs is not always possible for some of the populations," said Ayan. "For instance, in Guatemala, an American expat has been running a shelter for 30 years to help the stray dog population there. In Africa, we did a spay and neuter and rabies project, and people there who love their dogs came with wires around the dogs' necks as a leash. We are able to give out supplies like bowls or leashes, things we take for granted that other people don't have."







In addition to programming grants, SPCA International also gives out \$7 million annually in veterinary supplies and common items like dog beds and leashes. They also have military support with Operation Baghdad Pups, which was formed in 2008 to help bring dogs from Baghdad that soldiers adopted to the U.S.

"We hit our 1,000 dog mark on rescuing animals through that program. We handle the logistics and cost of bringing those dogs back to the U.S. to live with the soldier or their families," said Ayan.

Despite the global efforts for humane treatment of animals, Ayan knows there's plenty of work left to be done. In countries like South Korea, where dogs are often used as meat, using diplomacy and communication to change a practice is a test of patience.

"Yes, they eat dogs, but there are good people trying to fight that practice," she said. "But you have to be respectful of other cultures, too. It takes a lot of diplomacy; you can't just run in there screaming."

Visit www.spcai.org for more information on SPCA International.

A SMALLER WORLD

While Pet Angels in Oklahoma takes in rural, abandoned and stray



dogs, Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand undergoes operations to intercept illegal black market dog meat trade. In Iran, normal, everyday people are working to end cruelty often shown to stray animals. In Guatemala, an American woman still runs a shelter that takes in hundreds of stray dogs every year.

"Animals don't know borders, and there is nothing that keeps one animal from being more important than another," said Ayan. "I think our organizations exist to make the world smaller and help animals regardless of their place in the world. Having more compassion in our world is never a bad thing, and it brings us all together in a very compassionate way."





and Luke was waiting to greet her in the driveway. But when Croteau tried to exit her car, Luke pushed so hard against the door she couldn't open it.

"Luke was so big and strong I couldn't force the door open," Croteau said. "After about 10 minutes, he finally moved, so I got out. But then he almost knocked me to the ground trying to keep me away from the gate."

"We received so many compelling submissions, it was difficult to narrow the field," Williams said.

Croteau persevered toward the gate and just before she reached it, saw a 3-foot rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. She screamed, Luke jumped in between, and the snake lunged forward like lightning, striking Luke twice.

"I was freaking out and crying and remember being terrified Luke would die," Croteau said.

The Croteaus rushed Luke to an emergency pet hospital in Oklahoma City, where he was treated with anti-venom and, after resting for a few days, recovered fully from his wounds.

"Today, Luke is a 187-pound ball of love, like a big teddy bear," said Croteau. "He's a beloved member of our family. Luke literally saved my life that day. I am forever in his debt."

THE CAT WHO SAVED THE NIGHT

During a record-setting heat wave in the summer of 2012, Emily Haastrup, 18 at the time, wasn't thinking about black cats or bad luck when she and her mother spied what she thought was just a black lump in the middle of the road in their Tulsa neighborhood.

Haastrup, now 23, and her mother, Earnestine, had gone out for a bite to eat and were returning home, sweating even though the air conditioning was blasting on high. Haastrup saw the black lump in the road tilt over and fall and asked her mother to stop the car. The lump turned out to be a tiny black kitten in obvious distress. The cat hissed weakly when Haastrup approached.

"It was so hot we thought the kitten probably had heat exhaustion," Haastrup said. "If we'd left him out there, he probably would have died. Since he hissed, I just waited, and in a few seconds, he wobbled toward me and walked right into my hands."

Haastrup and her mother rushed the kitten home, nursed him back to health, and helped him acclimate to their two dogs, who were very interested in the newest family member.





members wouldn't hear her mother in time to help her. The day Haastrup left for college, she made a point of

The day Haastrup left for college, she made a point of saying goodbye to each family member. When she came to Sphynx, Haastrup pulled him close and whispered in his ear, telling him to watch over her mom when she slept.

"About a month and a half later, I was talking with my mom on the phone, and she says Sphynx is waking her up when she has nightmares," Haastrup said. "He crawled on her chest and put his nose to her face to wake her up."

human, Dawn

provided by Daw

Relieved Sphynx was watching over her mother, Haastrup reflected on what she learned.

"Some people don't understand why we chose to keep a black cat. They think black cats are bad luck," Haastrup said. "I tell them Sphynx proves that superstition is wrong. I tell them what Sphynx does for mom; I tell them everyone deserves to be loved, and I share the lesson Sphynx gave us: don't judge anyone by their appearance."

"Sphynx was so tiny, he fit in the palm of your hand and looked like a puff ball with huge eyes," Haastrup said. "I think my mother fell in love with him first, but the whole family grew to love him."

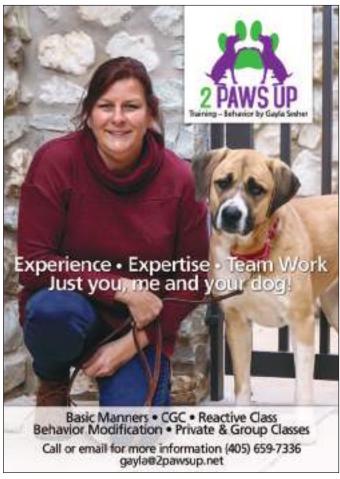
About a year later, Haastrup had graduated from high school and was preparing to move to Norman to attend the University of Oklahoma but was worried about leaving her mother. The two were close, and Haastrup's mother suffered from frequent nightmares that disturbed her sleep and often left her feeling unsettled.

Haastrup had learned the best way to help her mother avoid the worst effects of the nightmares was to wake her mother up as soon as she heard her whimpering in her sleep. Haastrup was concerned other family









Spreading Wintertime Wildlife Awareness Winter has a myriad of

Winter has a myriad of meanings to us. For some, it means the holidays; for some, it means time to catch up on good books. Others, however, are excited at the crisp fall weather because it means hunting season.



As a wildlife rehabilitator, I'd like to share a personal perspective on hunting. True hunters are responsible and oftentimes conservationists. They take care of their guns, they follow all safety procedures, they maintain proper licensing, and they eat what they kill. It is a sport, but also puts food on their tables.

Those who take out animal lives for the sole purpose of entertainment are killers, and that's an entirely different story. It's also not the story I'm here to discuss. So, back to hunters...

After taking office last year, one of the first changes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made was to undo the order for phasing out the use of lead in ammunition and fishing tackle on government lands.

The policy, created to stop the pointless destruction of wildlife caused through hunting and fishing, had led to a 34 percent reduction in primary and secondary lead poisoning in animals. Many may not realize it, but one lead pellet lodged under the skin of a bird will kill it; one lead pellet ingested by a goose, bass or bullfrog will trigger the cascade of brain damage, then organ failure, blindness, intestinal paralysis and, ultimately, death.

When an animal is shot, bullet fragments can lodge in the muscles around the entry. Deer shot with lead bullets can have high lead levels even after professional processing of the meat. Those levels are found in sausage, steaks and ground venison. A warning: there is no safe lead exposure level for humans, not to mention wildlife or pets.

Leaded lures can be ingested by fish, bullfrogs, ducks and geese. Their deaths are painful, but prior to dying, their symptomatic behavior often attracts predators like bobcats or hawks. Secondary poisoning is rampant from lead: opossums, raccoons and many other omnivores eat carrion (the decaying flesh of dead animals). Eagles, vultures and crows will share the toxicity. Once they die, the cycle continues as their flesh retains the lead to be ingested by the next scavenger.

There are plenty of alternatives to lead ammunition, all shown to be equally effective for hunters. At this point in the game, there is no reason to use leaded ammo for hunting or angling. None.

During the winter months, eagles in particular need protection. Beginning in early December, the bald eagles that reside along the Arkansas River have established aeries, and by late January, hatchlings might be observed. They are the first of the area raptors to breed, but the rest will follow suit as the months pass.

Considering harsh winter weather often makes food in short supply, eagles will scrounge for fish and carrion—another compelling reason to remove lead from hunting and fishing supplies. Affected birds will appear drunk as they fly or perch with hanging heads and dulled responses. Roughly 90 percent of the bald eagles admitted to facilities have elevated lead residues in their blood; a fourth of them will be euthanized.

If caught soon enough, a skilled veteri-

narian may be able to save the bird through up and over the water, easily clearing the lake fluids, hand feeding, as low-stress an environment as possible, and chelation therapy. Chelation is a series of intramuscular injections given twice daily for several days, then stopped to allow lead stored in organs and bone to surface in the blood. The chelation medication binds with lead, and the kidneys excrete it. The process is repeated for several weeks. It's extremely hard on the bird, not to mention meeting the rest of its needs, and many do not recover regardless of the efforts made.

Such needless suffering and expense is shameful. It's also preventable. But how do we get others to care? Constant rants on Facebook seldom do any good.

How about the real thing? Experiencing raptors up close, witnessing the focus of their



to settle into a tree a mile away.

He got to go home. Most don't.

I am guessing, though, that in writing this article, I may be preaching to the choir. People who pick up animal-oriented magazines are usually passionate about their pets, if not critters in general. So, I'm going to suggest a not-so-subtle way to reach those who are less-than-caring about the results of sloppy sportsmanship or out-and-out federal offenses.

Bring them with you to experience live birds.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, Tulsa Audubon Society is hosting Eagle Watch and Raptor Rally. It's free to the public. Eagle Watch will begin at 8 a.m. on the Jenks Pedestrian Bridge. Audubon members will be on hand



Beaks and talons are dangerous, even for the most skilled handler. A peregrine falcon has an eve for the camera.

gaze, discovering they can boast up to 400 PPSI (pounds per square inch) of strength in their talons' grip, then seeing those long knives on the ends of their toes—it can be pretty awesome.

A few years ago, our county game warden, Carlos Gomez, called with an emergency. A bald eagle was down and cornered by dogs near 71st and Riverside. I met other rehabilitators there, where we netted him and, with great care, transported him to Forest Trails Animal Hospital.

Veterinarian Paul Welch met us there to find a bullet had gone through the bird's wing. This animal was lucky; there were no broken bones, just mangled flesh—meaning a lot of pain but also hope. After treatment, federal papers were filed, and the bird recuperated at Grey Snow Eagle House's sanctuary, an amazing facility managed by the Iowa tribe south of Perkins, Oklahoma.

Within months, he healed and was released with great fanfare over Lake Keystone. This story has a rare happy ending; the bird soared with binoculars to share, so all ages can discover where the birds have built homes for their future offspring. There may even be fuzzy, little heads bouncing just above the aerie ridges by then!

At 9 a.m., attendees are encouraged to continue inside Jenks High School, where there will be two tracks offered: one for kids, one for adults. Presenters from Grey Snow Eagle House, Sutton Avian Research Center, the Tulsa Zoo, and Tulsa Audubon will share information about raptors. The best part: you will be able to easily view the educational birds they bring. The species varies every year, depending on what bird is best suited that day for an audience.

Ever stood within a few feet of an adult raptor, or been eve-to-eve with a peregrine falcon, or stared down by a great horned owl, or seen the wing expanse when an eagle fully extends in a stretch? Here's your chance.

The early Saturday morning chill may be daunting in January, but there are more ways than one to get the lead out.

directory

Directory listings are free of charge for advertisers; non-advertisers may be listed for a \$50 fee. For listings, please email directory@okcpetsmagazine.com.

Animal Hospitals and Veterinary Services

Britton Road Veterinary Clinic

2826 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73120 www.brittonroadveterinaryclinic.com (405) 751-8007

Eye Care Clinic for Animals

9225 S. I-35 Service Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73160 http://eyecareclinicforanimals.vetsourcecms.com/ (405) 616-3937

Great Plains Veterinary Services

210 N. Odor, #212 Arcadia, OK 73007 www.greatplainsvet.com (405) 396-5047

Guthrie Pet Hospital

123 W. Harrison Ave. Guthrie, OK 73044 www.guthriepet.net (405) 282-8796

Healing Hands Veterinary Wellness Center

1916 NW 39th Oklahoma City, OK 73118 www.healinghandsvetcenter.com (405) 525-2255

Neel Veterinary Hospital

2700 N. MacArthur Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73127 www.neelvet.com (405) 947-8387

OSU Veterinary Hospital Center for Veterinary Health Sciences

Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK 74078 www.cvhs.okstate.edu/vth (405) 744-7000

Okoboji Veterinary Hospital

1020 NW 192nd Street, Suite L Edmond, OK 73012 www.okobojivet.com (405) 513-5905

Pet-Vet Animal Clinic

1215 E. Lockheed Dr. Midwest City, OK 73110 www.pet-vetsupply.com (405) 733-4649

Sooner Veterinary Hospital

107 Vicksburg Ave. Norman, OK 73071 www.soonervet.net (405) 364-2197

Boarding Kennels and Daycare Facilities

Azani Pro Dog Training & Boarding

14815 Brisol Park Blvd. Edmond, OK 73013 www.azaniprotraining.guru/ (405) 562-8708

Camp Bow Wow

801 Centennial Blvd. Edmond, OK 73013 www.mycbw.com/edmond (405) 359-7297

Edmond Pet Resort

1200 S. Kelly Ave., Suite D Edmond, OK 73003 (405) 285-5040

Guthrie Pet Hospital

123 W. Harrison Ave. Guthrie, OK 73044 www.guthriepet.net (405) 282-8796

Ruby's K9 Corral

902 Pendergraft Road Blanchard, OK 73010 www.dogtopiak9corral.com (405) 999-5822

Vera's Posh Paws

www.verasposhpaws.com 105 Sutton Circle Moore, OK 73160 (405) 759-POSH (7674)

8533 NW Expressway (Council & NW Expressway) Oklahoma City, OK 73162 (405) 759-3647 (dogs)

CBD Products

Herban Mother Cannabis Dispensary

10717 N. May Ave., Suite D Oklahoma City, OK 73120 www.herbangardensllc.com (405) 242-2047

607 NW 28th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73103 www.herbangardensllc.com (405) 594-2383

Grooming Services

Academy of Dog Grooming Arts

5920 N.W. 38th Oklahoma City, OK 73122 www.okcdoggroomingschool.com (405) 470-5551

Arf 'n Annies

314 S.W. 89th Oklahoma City, OK 73139 (405) 634-7833

Barking in Style

9431 N. May Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73120 (405) 495-5723

Britton Road Veterinary Clinic

2826 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73120 www.brittonroadveterinaryclinic.com (405) 751-8007

Camp Bow Wow

801 Centennial Blvd. Edmond, OK 73013 www.mycbw.com/edmond (405) 359-7297

Chisolm Tails

107 S. Castle Rock Lane Mustang, OK 73064 (405) 376-4292

Dog Dynasty

5026 N. May Ave., Suite E Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405) 602-3004

Edmond Pet Resort

1200 S. Kelly Ave., Suite D Edmond, OK 73003 (405) 285-5040

Golden Poodle Grooming

3131 E. Waterloo Rd. Edmond, OK 73034 (405) 657-2001

Guthrie Pet Hospital

123 W. Harrison Ave. Guthrie, OK 73044 www.guthriepet.net (405) 282-8796

Pet-Vet Grooming Salon

1215 E. Lockheed Dr. Midwest City, OK 73110 www.pet-vetsupply.com (405) 733-4649

The Doggie Spot

12-A East Main St. Shawnee, OK 74801 www.thedoggiespot.com (405) 878-8822

Unleashed Pet Grooming School

7825 S. Walker Ave., Suite B Oklahoma City, OK 73139 www.okcunleashed.com (405) 635-8080

Vera's Posh Paws

105 Sutton Circle Moore, OK 73160 www.verasposhpaws.com (405) 759-POSH (7674)

8533 NW Expressway (Council & NW Expressway) Oklahoma City, OK 73162 (405) 759-3647 (dogs)

Obedience Trainers

2 Paws Up

Gayla@2pawsup.net (405) 659-7336

Azani Pro Dog Training & Boarding

14815 Bristol Park Blvd. Edmond, OK 73013 www.azaniprotraining.guru/ (405) 562-8708

Camp Bow Wow

801 Centennial Blvd. Edmond, OK 73013 www.mycbw.com/edmond (405) 359-7297

Canine Sports Academy

30217 Santa Fe Ave. Norman, OK 73027 www.caninesportsacademy.com (405) 288-0092

Guthrie Pet Hospital

123 W. Harrison Ave. Guthrie, OK 73044 www.guthriepet.net (405) 282-8796

The Doggie Spot

12-A East Main St. Shawnee, OK 74801 www.thedoggiespot.com (405) 878-8822

Twister Agility

Waterloo Road Edmond, OK 73025 www.twisteragility.com (405) 826-7524

Pet Mortuary and Cremation Services

Pet Memorial Gardens

17560 State Highway 9 Norman, OK 73069 (405) 387- 5737

Precious Pets Cemetery

5501 Spencer Road Spencer, OK 73084 www.preciouspetscemetery.com (405) 771-5510

Pet Retail

All Fur Paws

15220 N. Western, Suite E2 Edmond, OK 73013 www.allfurpawsok.com (405) 348-6888

Britton Feed & Seed

708 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73114 (405) 842-5590

Edmond Pet Resort

1200 S. Kelly Ave., Suite D Edmond, OK 73003 (405) 285-5040

Mann's Best Friend

10600 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 15 Oklahoma City, OK 73170 www.mannsbf.com (405) 703-3838

Pawtopia

www.pawtopia.net 335 S. Mustang Road, Suite E Yukon, OK 73099 (405) 265-2950

360 24th Ave. NW, Suite 100 Norman, OK 73069 (405) 310-2549

Pet-Vet Supply

1215 E. Lockheed Dr. Midwest City, OK 73110 www.pet-vetsupply.com (405) 733-4649

Three Dog Bakery

1380 W. Covell Rd. Edmond, OK 73034 www.threedog.com (405) 697-2868

Pet Sitting, Transportation, and Walking Services

Carey Pet & Home Care

www.careypet.com (405) 605-3355

Specialty Pet Food and Treats

All Fur Paws

15220 N. Western, Suite E2 Edmond, OK 73013 www.allfurpawsok.com (405) 348-6888

Britton Feed & Seed

708 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73114 (405) 842-5590

Earthborn Holistic Natural Pet Food

www.earthbornholisticpetfood.com

Mann's Best Friend

10600 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 15 Oklahoma City, OK 73170 www.mannsbf.com (405) 703-3838

Pawtopia

www.pawtopia.net 335 S. Mustang Road, Suite E Yukon, OK 73099 (405) 265-2950

360 24th Ave. NW, Suite 100 Norman, OK 73069 (405) 310-2549

Pet-Vet Supply

1215 E. Lockheed Dr. Midwest City, OK 73110 www.pet-vetsupply.com (405) 733-4649

Three Dog Bakery

1380 W. Covell Rd. Edmond, OK 73034 www.threedog.com (405) 697-2868

Friends of Pets

Celerity Prosthetics

8625 S. Walker Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73139 www.celerityprosthetics.com (405) 605-3030

Free to Live Animal Sanctuary

P.O. Box 5884 Edmond, OK 73083-5884 www.freetoliveok.org (405) 282-8617

Fromm

https://frommfamily.com/ https://frommfamily.com/

Horse Feathers Equine Center

6320 W. Highway 74C Guthrie, OK 73044 www.horsefeathersequinecenter.org (405) 260-7281

Hudiburg Subaru

210 E. I-240 Service Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73149 www.hudiburgsubaru.com (405) 644-3100

Janice Winchester, Realtor Churchill-Brown Real Estate

janice@chuchillbrown.com (405) 919-4830

Kennel and Crate

www.kennelandcrate.com (405) 624-0062

Kirkpatrick Foundation

www.kirkpatrickfoundation.com (405) 608-0934

Mary Westman Law

1818 W. Lindsey, Suite C-160 Norman, OK 73069 www.marywestmanlaw.com (405) 237-8737

Moore Funeral and Cremation

400 SE 19th Moore, OK 73160 www.moorefuneralcremation.com (405) 794-7600

Sani Sheen System

1226 W. Britton Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73144 www.sanisheen.com (405) 843-9644

Valir Hospice HosPets

www.valir.com (405) 609-3636 **SPOTLIGHT:**

K9Elite Dog Training

Our Success Comes *from* Educating Our Clients

BY VICKIE JENKINS PHOTOS BY LINDA EARLEY



Dogs. They come in different sizes, different breeds, different colors and, yes, different personalities. How many of us love a cute, little puppy that we can call our own? Do you remember when you welcomed your very first little bundle of fur into your home, the little doggie that you begged for? You told your parents you would take care of him, feed him and take him outside when he needed to do his duty. You loved your little puppy, didn't you?

I am sure we all remember those little incidents that seemed to happen every once in a while. Your little puppy began to get bigger. Then, he became a little aggressive with everyone that came around. Your doggie became a little more active. Uh oh, little Fido just chewed up your dad's new shoes! For anyone who can currently relate to this scenario, it sounds like it might be time to look for a professional dog trainer to adjust your dog's behavior.

Allow me to introduce you to Coty Cortez, professional dog trainer of K9Elite Dog Training. His mission is to keep dogs out of shelters and in happy, safe homes. This is achieved by educating owners and teaching puppies to respect their home.

K9Elite Dog Training is a team of canine behavioral specialists. They specialize in aggression, anxiety, fear biting, hyperactivity and many more canine personalities. They bring this specialized training to the comfort of your home, and they don't leave until the job is done. The reason their training works so well is because they apply the basic psychological factors that derive from any dog's antecedents, the wolf.

Cortez was born in Bradenton, Florida, but he was raised in Midwest City, Oklahoma. As a child, he would find stray dogs and play with them. Naturally, he began training dogs when he was 9 years old, but at an even younger age, Cortez was able to communicate with canines.

While serving in the Marines, he volunteered as a dog trainer for the Wounded Warriors Project, training service dogs. He immediately fell in love with dog training once again, and he knew that this was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

After his time in the Marine Corp., he began working as a dog trainer at Petco and soon realized his passion for working with dogs that no one else wanted. In order to save these dogs, he needed more experience, so in January of 2016, he went to work for Lorenzo's Dog Training Team. Later, he trained dogs for a national dog training company. With new confidence and extensive experience, Cortez decided to open up his own facility to ensure quality training to each dog in his care.

Cortez says he always thought of himself as "a pretty knowledgeable dog trainer," but later he realized, from his mentor, there is always more one can learn. Through his own training, he learned how to obtain a line of verbal communication and respect from the dogs with which he worked. He also learned how to effectively "train the dog owners as well." After seven years of training dogs—he trained 70 dogs in 2016 alone—he now

understands dog training more than ever and is always learning to improve himself as a trainer and leader.

Cortez says there are basic things every dog owner needs to know: "As the owner, it is your job to learn about your puppy's psychology. We will teach you everything you need to know about dog training but were afraid to ask. You need to understand your puppy. Once you understand your little four-legged bundle, we can then teach our clients wanted behaviors and which ones are unwanted. Once you establish a line of verbal communication and respect, you can then bond with your puppy on a whole new level." he says.

There are certain requirements that need to be followed before K9Elite Dog Training will accept a dog to be trained. All canines must have an up-to-date shot record and be 8 weeks of age or older.

They offer Basic Dog Obedience Training, which means your dog will go through the class while trainers help your canine companion get acclimated into your home, developing a verbal line of communication and a level of respect. You will learn to set rules and boundaries. The training also teaches you how to use these methods so you can keep your canine companions safe inside and outside the home, allowing you to enjoy your pet for years to come.

K9Elite also offers various other training: Boarding Elite, Boarding Plus, Boarding Basic, Protection Training, Service Dog Training and Retrieval Training.

Contact Coty Cortez at (405) 314-7926 for more information about K9Elite Dog Training. ■

www.PreciousPetsCemetery.com



- Largest Selection of Urns and Keepsake Mementos in the State.
- Family Owned and Operated since 1985.
- The Only Pet Cemetery in Oklahoma That is a Member of the International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories.
- With 2 Locations, You're Never Too Far Away From Your Beloved Pet.



Precious Pets Cemetery Spencer, OK PH: 405.771.5510



Pet Memorial Gardens Norman, OK PH: 405.387.5737



WHERE YOUR PET IS NEVER ALONE

OUR SERVICES

- Routine Patient Care, Wellness Exams, Vaccines, Flea / Tick / Heartworm Prevention
- 24 / 7 Emergency Care & Surgery
- Fully Staffed Intensive Care Unit & Isolation
- ► Internal Medicine Specialist
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Chamber
- Ultrasound
- Computed Tomography & Fluoroscopy (CT-Vimago Advanced Imaging)
- Endoscopy, Rhinoscopy, Cystoscopy, Gastroscopy, Colonoscopy, Otoscopy
- Digital Radiographs
- In House Laboratory Testing

- Laparoscopic Spay, Gastropexy & Exploratory Surgery
- Dental and Surgery Suites
- Orthopedic & Arthroscopy Surgery
- TPLO, TTA, Swivel Lock Procedures for Cruciate Repair
- ➤ Hemilaminectomy & CT Myelogram Surgery
- Microchipping & Health Certificates
- Exotic Animal Treatment
- Laser Therapy
- Acupuncture
- Rehabilitation with Water Treadmill
- ➤ Reproductive Services

OPEN 24/7 • NO EMERGENCY FEE!

2700 N MACARTHUR BLVD | OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73127

405 - 947 - 8387