

# Pet Gazette

## Get Fit With Your Pet

The time has come! Animal Care Center Inc. is hosting our second annual "Get Fit with Your Pet Walk". On October 28, 2007 at Starkey Park in the Corral area, the festivities will start at 10:00am We will have a variety of activities and booths for your family's education and enjoyment. These activities will include:

- Costume contest for your pets; 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> prizes will be awarded!!
- "How Much Should I Really be Feeding My Pet." Trade in your regular dog food scoop or big gulp cup you have been using to measure the amount of food you feed your pets! We will give you a dry measuring cup so you can correctly measure your pets food and a tape measure so you can record your weight loss progress
- "Canine Chemotherapy" find out more about canine chemotherapy from Country Oaks Technician, Jolene
- Premier Booth: Behavior technician, Amanda can PROPERLY fit Gentle Leaders and Easy Walk Harnesses. Purchase Busy Buddies at a discounted price.
- Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians has an informational booth.
- Adopt a kitten at adoption alley (will not be available to take home day of pet walk for safety reasons)
- Purchase pet walk t-shirts for \$10.00
- Human food available for purchase at our Leaky Cauldron concession stand.
- Raffle tickets available at welcome center as well as give away bags for the first 150 people
- Photo Booth, an opportunity to include your pet in your family fall portrait for \$5.00

All proceeds go towards the development of the Animal Care Center Inc. DART team. DART or disaster animal response team, is an organized group of people that will be equipped to be first responders for animals in case of a disaster in our area, and other areas.

Please sign up to attend at one of our three clinics or send an e-mail to [joeflower@countryoaksah.com](mailto:joeflower@countryoaksah.com). Hope to see you and your canine friend at the corral!!

## What Not to Feed Your Pet

Trick or treat! This is what we all said when we were going door to door as children asking for friends and neighbors to give us yummy candy and treats. Well, our dogs do the same thing; they look at us with those big loving eyes and say "trick or treat". What do we do? We say ok here you go, yummy steak, fried chicken or even some Halloween treats. But dog and cats can become very sick if they eat food other than their regular pet food. Human food can cause vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. In severe cases, pets may have to stay at a veterinary hospital and receive medical care to control vomiting and diarrhea. Human food is highly discouraged unless recommended by your family veterinarian. But your pet can still enjoy Halloween! There are a number of different treats and toys that your pet can have during Halloween. Busy Buddies and Kong toys can be filled with your pet's favorite treat and there are also pet bakeries that make homemade specialty treats just for dogs and cats. Remember, all treats should be given in moderation; pets can have upset stomachs from eating too many treats. If you have any questions regarding your pets diet or need ideas on different treats or toys, please call one of our three animal hospitals.



## Pet Super Star

### DID YOU KNOW?

1. At the pet walk you can have your dog's body condition scored.
2. Chocolate is toxic to dogs.
3. There are organizations designed to help animals during a disaster.



Buck Mack, Animal Care Center

We were fortunate enough to adopt this beautiful Yellow Lab from a shelter in Pinellas County after the year of the four hurricanes. From the moment my son walked into the cage area - this big loud demanding to be recognized - brute of a Lab was ecstatic & jumping up & down as if to say "Oh my God - there you are - I thought you'd never get here, Please take me home - Right NOW!!!" My son looked at the attendants & they said - he's been waiting for you & every day he's watched that door - as if he KNEW you were coming. He has been polite to others who walked through looking for their dog but never like this! We are all crazy about him - even though he's buck toothed & pigeon toed & oh so loud!

His name is Buck. He was found in the Mulberry area & his paws were full of glass & he had wasted away to barely 70 pounds. He was almost too weak to wag that big old tail when the rescuers found him. He kissed the hand of the one who held his head & helped him drink that sweet water. He had all but given up hope of ever tasting it again - as they whispered to him - you will be ok now boy - don't you worry.

He had survived all four hurricanes. His family did not fare as well. His computer chip gave information as to name address & phone number - & his date of birth & that he had been neutered. But the house no longer existed so the letter came back to the shelter as undeliverable. The phone number was gone with the house & there was no other contact listed in the chip data bank.

When I questioned the chip information company they refused to give me any information at all - except for his name & d.o.b. He had turned one year old the previous January. They claimed all other information was confidential!!!

Are you getting this picture out there? All of us who feel somewhat safe that our pets are chipped & can easily be identified & that we will surely be contacted soon to claim them & save them from neglect or abuse or worse. If you haven't taken the time to cover all the bases & made sure that the phone numbers of other friends or relatives in other states or even counties is included in your pet's data then this could be happening to you!

I was able to get Buck's chip info because I know how to get around their rules. I then called the Sheriff Department in Mulberry & all the deputies were going door to door trying to locate Buck's family. His house was blown away & no one knew what had happened to his family. Like so many other residents in this area of Florida - they just vanished. Everyone was trying so hard to help me - but to no avail.

You may ask - why? If you have ever loved your pet beyond all reason & they were lost - & you spent days & nights & did everything humanly possible to find them for weeks - as I did - then you already know why I tried so hard.

When I had exhausted every means to locate Buck's family - only then could I hold his big beautiful head in my hands & look into his eyes & say - ok big fella - it's you & me now - and I will never let you down. You own my heart & I can give it to you free & clear. He blinked as if to say - "I already knew that what took you so long?"

## Socialization, why it's important for your puppy

When we think about puppies, we think sweet little bundles of joy that love everyone. But, puppies have to be adequately socialized in order to become well-rounded bundles of joy. There is critical information that we need to know as pet owners in order to set our puppies up for success when socializing them. The most appropriate time to adopt or buy a puppy is 8 weeks of age. At eight weeks of age a puppy has had time with his mother and siblings and will have learned the basics of canine behavior. Puppies have a socialization period, which starts at 8 weeks and ends at 4 months. During this time period puppies should be introduced to everything they are expected to be "ok" with as an adult. Encouraging positive interactions during a puppy's socialization period will help prevent fear as an adult. At eight weeks of age a puppy should start to meet different people, people of all shapes, sizes and ethnicities. Puppies are usually vaccinated at this time so speak with your veterinarian before socializing your puppy with other dogs. If your veterinarian is ok with other dog socialization enroll your puppy in a socialization class that focuses on positive reinforcement. Socialization is a VERY important part of a puppy's behavior and development. If you would like help socializing your puppy please call one of our animal hospitals.



## The "C" Word

The word cancer doesn't have to be as dark and empty as the disease it defines. The true meaning of cancer is a malignant tumor that tends to spread in the body. In the past, a diagnosis of cancer for pets meant looming death. Today, with advances in medicine we have many options to put pets' cancer into remission. We can offer them continued happiness and comfort while maintaining quality of life. At our three hospitals, our doctors and nursing staff take great care to promote pain free treatments and comfortable surroundings. There are several different types of treatments that are used in veterinary medicine to treat cancer. Depending on the protocol the doctor prefers to use, normally treatments are given orally or intravenously. In some cases your pet may need to be hospitalized throughout the day while undergoing treatment.

These wonderful animals not only share our lives, our homes, and experiences, but they also share our hearts. We have shared our unconditional love and affection sometimes for many years. Therefore, we strive to find the best possible care and treatment for your pet. Cancer can be a very upsetting diagnosis.

If your pet has recently been diagnosed with some type of cancer please call one of our three facilities for more information on treatment options.

Guest author Jolene Connors  
Veterinary Technician  
Country Oaks Animal Hospital



## MEET THE STAFF

### Heather

Heather has been a receptionist at Country Oaks Animal Hospital for about a year. She enjoys making our pet patients happy with lots of treats. Dogs especially love to see her smiling face when they come in for their nail trims because she gives them lots and lots of peanut butter! Which helps make nail trims less traumatic for them. When Heather is not busy at work, she is at home with her little puppy dog Corona. Heather enjoys hanging out with her family and friends. Heather also enjoys attending line dance lessons with Jenn, her fellow receptionist.

Heather is a sweet and loving person who enjoys making clients and fellow employees happy. We love her and we're glad to have Heather as one of our star receptionists!



### Jenn

Jenn has been at Country Oaks Animal Hospital for just under 2 years. Star is one of our star receptionists. Jenn has a way with animals, they seem to know that she means them no harm and warm up to her very quickly. She is also always willing to assist wherever else she is needed. She has learned quickly and has immediately won over our clients as well as her co-workers with her vibrant personality.

Jenn has a doggie "daughter" named Riley Ray as well as two other dogs, Dozer and Cosmo. She enjoys many activities including line dancing and riding ATV'S.

Jenn has a very caring and soft personality she is a joy to work with and is definitely an asset to our team.



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