



Winter 2010

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Dates to Remember!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 18<sup>th</sup> (Shelter closed)

February is Responsible Pet Owner's Month

Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup>

President's Day February 15<sup>th</sup>

Spay Day USA February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 15<sup>th</sup>

Spring Break March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>

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# Forever Friends Newsletter

A Publication of the Marion County Dog Shelter

## Dogs Help With Success of New Year's Resolutions

By Jolene Bray

As we herald in the New Year, most of us have identified *something* we want to work on in 2010. If it's health-related, such as exercising, losing weight, or quitting smoking, believe it or not, a dog can help you be successful.

### Trimming Down & Getting In Shape

Just like us, most dogs aren't out chasing rabbits and hunting mastodons for their survival anymore. Instead, while we kick back in our recliners, they're asleep in the backyard or lounging with the kids in front of the TV. And, just like us, the extra pounds and lack of exercise are taking a toll on their health.

A study published in November found that when people and their dogs were put on a diet and exercise plan together, both were able to lose weight and keep it off. In the study, dogs became a major source of motivation and accountability for their owners. This helped keep them on track with their fitness goals, says Dr. Robert Kushner, professor of medicine at Northwestern University Medical School, who led the research. As many of the human participants found, it's hard to say no to a four-legged friend eagerly waiting at the front door for a walk or run each night.



"It got a lot of people off the couch and out the door because the dog was there helping them," says Kushner.

In addition, having a canine buddy added variety and helped reduce the hum drum of a standard fitness routine. "Across the board, people who exercised with their dogs found it rewarding, fun, and an opportunity to bond with their dog more than they ever did before," says Kushner.

### Smoking Cessation

Of all the compelling reasons to quit smoking, this one should make pet lovers sit up and take notice: there's ample scientific evidence to suggest that secondhand cigarette smoke can cause cancer in companion animals.

Your furry friends don't just inhale smoke; the smoke particles are also trapped in their fur and ingested when they groom themselves with their tongues. A study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology found that dogs in smoking households had a 60 percent greater risk of lung cancer. A different study published in the same journal showed that long-nosed dogs, such as collies or greyhounds, were twice as likely to develop nasal cancer if they lived with smokers. In short, if you don't quit for yourself, do it for your dog!

### Buddy Up

If you have a canine companion, you're good to go. But say you're ready to make a change but you don't have a dog. Well, Marion County Dog Shelter can help! We have a variety of dogs available for adoption and our trained shelter staff will help you chose a dog that fits your lifestyle. You can view our adoptable dogs by visiting our shelter or taking a look at our website at [www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net). Come see us today!



# Shelter Manager's Update

By Allison Barrows, Shelter Manager

**Happy New Year!** It always amazes me how fast the time flies by. We have had a great year at the Marion County Dog Shelter and we've had the pleasure of welcoming many new volunteers and some new foster parents.

We have seen 2060 dogs at the shelter this year and are happy to find our **return to owner percentage is 40%**. Of the remaining dogs, adoptions, rescues, and transfers were 31% and euthanasia cases were 29%. When comparing our numbers to the national average for shelters similar to ours, **we are above the standard**. Working at a dog shelter is not an easy task and I just want to say thank you to our wonderful staff. Without their strength, dedication, and love for dogs, this place would not be running.

Our faithful volunteers continue to attend community outreach events nearly every weekend. These events are at various stores and organizations that support our dog shelter. The volunteers take a dog or two to the outreach events and provide the public with information about our shelter. We have had many successful adoptions for dogs that have met their new families at an outreach. From the staff and the dogs, **thank you to the volunteers** who take time out of their weekends to help spread the word about the dog shelter.

**Dog Fest**, held on September 12, 2009, was a great day, except for the heat! We had wonderful demonstrations from the **Marion County Sheriff's Department**

and **Keizer Police Department's K-9 Units, Joys of Living Assistance Dogs, and Oregon Search and Rescue**, just to name a few. We had nearly 30 vendors offering various dog-related items and services. The event was held at **Chemeketa Community College** and the layout was great. Chemeketa's **Blue Moon**

**Café** provided food, which was delicious and very affordable. Our plan is to change the date of Dog Fest to late June in hopes of better weather and increased participation from the public.

We had another fun event for those who like to shop. **Woodburn Company Stores' Shopping Extravaganza** was November 7, 2009. This is a great fundraiser for several local nonprofit organizations. This is the second year we were

able to participate and not only was it a ton of fun, we received **\$5,797** from the raffles ticket sales and entry ticket sales! We plan to use this money to get some better supplies for our outreach events, such as a flag and/or tent with our name and/or logo and more! Watch for this event next year and be ready to buy raffle tickets. There are tons of prizes and it is just a fun day of shopping with incredible deals.

We have also partnered with **Capitol Community Television (CCTV)** to promote the shelter and our services to the public. We've become quite talented in front of and behind the video cameras, and have also learned the fine art of video editing. In the coming year please stay tuned to the "Same Dog Time, Same Dog Channel" and thank you for your support!



## Volunteer News

By Jolene Bray

We've had a great 2009 and are looking forward to an even better New Year with our amazing volunteers. During the past three months, our volunteers have staffed outreach events every Saturday, which resulted in the adoption of several shelter dogs. They also stepped up to make **Dog Fest '09, Shopping Extravaganza, and Salem Holiday Market** huge successes.

I'd also like to welcome ten new volunteers to the shelter: **Angelina, Anne, Debbie, Eric, Joshua, Lindsey, Marcus, Melissa, Rafael, and Whisper**. Welcome! And bravo to each of you for stepping up to help homeless dogs!

Marion County Dog Shelter now has their own page on Facebook®, which is maintained by volunteers **Kat** and **Liz**. The page is loaded with information and great pictures of the dogs we don't normally see. This is another great tool to increase adoptions. Thank you to you both!

In 2010, the shelter will be holding volunteer orientations the first Saturday of each month (except July) at 9:00 a.m. at the shelter. If you or someone you know is interested, please have them call Sonya Heard at 503-566-6966 or visit our website at [www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net) and click "Volunteers" for more information.

Shelter staff appreciates the generosity of time and spirit of all our volunteers and invite you to join us.



# Another Happily-Ever-After Tale

By Brenda Phillips

My husband David and I adopted a dog from the Marion County Dog Shelter in mid-November and wanted to thank the shelter staff for a very positive adoption experience.

David and I are dog people. At one point we shared our home with six dogs, most of them rescue dogs. Our oldest, a terrier mix, passed in early 2009 at age 16 and our 14-year-old Chihuahua passed in late October following a massive seizure. Both were rescue dogs. Although we had four dogs at home, our house seemed too quiet. Given that people are abandoning pets in record numbers or, worse yet, leaving them to fend for themselves on the street, we decided to venture to the dog shelter and see if anyone "clicked" and wanted to join our family.

We arrived at the shelter mid-afternoon on Friday and were greeted by happy dogs on display in the main lobby. The first thing I noticed was the shelter facility was well lit and each kennel was clean and bright. We stepped on the towel in the doorway to the kennels to disinfect our shoes and entered the main kennel area where the dogs greeted us with wagging tails and licking tongues. We walked from kennel to kennel greeting each dog and then we saw him – a little black Chihuahua mix. He was dancing on his hind legs and pawing at us with his front feet. My husband and I looked at each other and knew that was the one!

This lovable, year-old bundle of energy is named Gromit and we promptly fell in love with him. He had us wrapped around his tiny black paws the second we met him.

We completed some paperwork so the shelter staff could get a feel for who we are as pet owners and whether we have realistic expectations of pet ownership. How many of us are in our household? What other pets do we have? How long have we had them? How much do we expect to pay for veterinary care?

Gromit then greeted us in a private room, where he sniffed the trails of dogs that met their forever families there. After lots of dog kisses and some get-acquainted time, an adoption counselor joined us and asked about our home life. Do we have a fenced yard? Do we leave our dogs inside or outside when we're gone? How many hours are we home each day? What do we feed the dogs? She told us that Gromit likes to sneak out and reminded us to be extra vigilant when we open our door. She also said we would need to take our dog family to the shelter so they and Gromit could meet and so shelter staff could ensure it was a good match.

We arrived at the shelter first thing Saturday morning, anxious for the dogs to meet. Staff looked on as we led our pack of four into a large enclosure separated by a chain link fence. Gromit was on the other side of the fence, dancing and pawing. Our largest dog, a Border collie mix (also a stray), was the first to greet him. They sniffed each other through the fence and wagged their tails. Soon, the rest of the pack made their way to greet him. The shelter worker opened the gate a couple of minutes later and Gromit ran to greet his new family. Although smaller than the four other dogs, Gromit was un-phased by the strangers. He wiggled his way through the pack, sniffing each dog. The dogs chased each other and played for the 40 minutes we were there. Success!

There was one more important step before Gromit could come home. He made a trip to the veterinarian on Monday and was neutered and micro chipped. Following an overnight stay at the shelter, Gromit was ready to come home.

When I arrived at the shelter Tuesday morning, I met with Roxanne, a veterinary technician, who sat with me and reviewed Gromit's medical history from the time he entered the shelter. She said he had a fever and a bacterial infection upon arrival.

*Gromit Continued on Page 4*



*Gromit while at MCDS.*

## Upcoming Events

**Foster Program Orientation**, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 11am at the Marion County Dog Shelter. For more info, call Felicia Pederson at 503-566-6966.

**New Volunteer Orientation**, January 9<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 11am at the Marion County Dog Shelter. For more info, call Sonya Heard at 503-566-6966.

### **Adoption Outreaches each Saturday**

Marion County Dog Shelter holds adoption outreaches each Saturday at various local merchants. For a full schedule, check out the [scheduled events on our website](#).

## A Training Tip from LaurieLea

### An easy way to teach a dog to catch

- Use popcorn, it floats slowly.
- Get dog's attention - let him see your hand movement of tossing popcorn toward him.
- Aim for her nose, popcorn does not hurt if the catch is a fail.
- Try many times and praise your dog for any good catches.
- Soon he will be able to catch many items, even a ball!

# Winter Pet Care Tips

Keep your pets safe and warm this winter with these helpful tips.

## Antifreeze Danger

Antifreeze is toxic to your pet's kidneys and can have deadly consequences. The ethylene glycol in antifreeze is sweet tasting and appeals to cats and dogs. As little as one-half teaspoon can be toxic to a cat and just a quarter cup can kill a medium-size dog. Cats can lick enough off their paws to cause a fatal reaction.

Do not leave antifreeze unattended or allow it to spill onto the garage floor or into the street. Consider using nontoxic antifreeze with a bittering agent to discourage pet consumption. If you see your pet drinking any amount of antifreeze, take it to a veterinarian immediately. The sooner treatment is started, the better for your pet.

## Car Motors

Car motors are of particular danger to cats who sleep outside. Cats seek the warmth of car motors, and they can be severely injured or killed when caught in the fan belt of a car's engine. Make it a habit to check under the hood for animals and honk your horn before starting your car.

## Diet & Water

A high quality food with adequate protein and extra fat is required for animals that spend time in the cold. Your



veterinarian may also recommend a vitamin supplement. Remember that water may freeze outdoors. Provide fresh, warm water in a large, deep, plastic bowl throughout the day.

## Exercise

When walking smaller and older dogs, protect them with sweaters and do not stay outside longer than necessary.

## Holiday Plants & Decorations

Mistletoe and holly should be kept out of reach of pets. If eaten, poinsettia plants can cause severe gastrointestinal upset. Be careful with ornaments, tinsel, ribbon, and other small holiday decorations that your pet may try to ingest.

## Paws

If snow and ice clumps form on your dog's paws, be sure to wipe between each toe with a warm, wet cloth. De-icing salt can cause paws to dry and crack; soak or wash your dog's paws in warm water and dry them thoroughly after walks in areas where salt has been used.

## Shelter

Dogs and cats that sleep outdoors should have a snug, dry, draft-free place to sleep. The floor of the shelter should be raised off the ground to keep cold and moisture away from your pet. Ideally, the shelter should be heated, insulated, and have a door to keep the elements out. During extreme weather, pets should stay inside. If your pet is shivering and refuses to play, the animal is too cold and should come inside.

*Courtesy of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association*

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## Gromit - *Continued from Page 3*

She told me about the veterinary care he had received while in their care, provided me with a detailed record of the treatment and medications he had received, and gave me follow-up instructions regarding his surgery. She also reviewed the packet of information that comes with every dog adoption (micro chip information, discounts on dog products, a free nose to tail exam from participating veterinarians.) She answered all of my questions and said she would follow up by phone the next day, and again at two weeks and 30 days to help ensure a successful adoption.

I took Gromit home where the other dogs eagerly greeted him. Gromit and his new pack picked up where they had left off at the shelter. They played, chased and barked before sharing naptime on our couch. In his first week with us, Gromit became the center of the household, bonding



*Gromit at his forever home (in the back on right side) with his new dog buddies.*

quickly with all of the dogs. He shot through the house like a missile, the other dogs in tow. They ran and played until all were exhausted, then headed to the couch for another nap. He quickly adapted to the house rules and easily found his niche in his new pack. They taught him where to find the best toys, how to stake his claim on the piles of comfy dog beds, and they taught him that apples are good to eat.

Our home is once again filled with the sounds of a young dog, and we thank the shelter staff for taking such good care of Gromit while he was with them. We know that the jobs they do are difficult and that the environment can be emotionally painful. We also know that the work they do to ensure a good fit between dog and family is critical.

Adoption Fee: \$175

Various Dog Accessories: \$58

Lots of Gromit Love: Priceless!

# Spotlight on Dog Rescues!

By Jolene Bray, Lynnette Graves, and Debbie West

Beginning in this issue of **Forever Friends**, we are shining a spotlight on all the wonderful rescue organizations that work with Marion County Dog Shelter to help save homeless dogs. All dogs that come to our shelter are strays and some have had a very tough time in their past due to neglect and abuse. These dogs are very difficult and sometimes impossible to place for adoption and this is where animal rescue organizations are invaluable. This month we are highlighting **Luv-a-Bull Pit-bull Rescue** and **Hope's Haven Animal Rescue**, both of which have rescued animals that might not otherwise have had a future, much less a happy forever home.

**Sage** went to **Luv-a-Bull Rescue** the day before Thanksgiving, 2008. She had been found as a stray and taken to Marion County Dog Shelter where she was called Callie. The staff loved her sweet and goofy nature and asked Luv-a-Bull to take her on. Sage was a beautiful "blue brindle" girl who at about 55 lbs. still acted like a puppy!



She also had many "puppy type issues" - she was not housebroken and chewed everything. Sage also mouthed our hands much too hard when playing and had absolutely no social skills with other dogs. It took many, many hours of work and some time at a professional training facility to help Sage work through some of her issues. However, Sage's perfect temperament with people and joyful nature made everyone who met her fall in love. Sage was a huge challenge – she was adopted out three times and three times she was returned.

Although her initial issues had improved, Sage became more fearful and aggressive with other dogs as she matured. The wonderful **Katherine Heigl Foundation** in

Los Angeles donated \$500 toward training for Sage and Luv-a-Bull hired an expert. Shortly before Thanksgiving 2009, after many weeks of one-on-one help to boost her confidence and teach her better social skills with other dogs, Sage finally went to a young couple in Seattle who adore her. As Sage continues her training, she is becoming a happy, well-adjusted family dog. Sage is one of our best examples of a "diamond in the rough." [Click here for more info on Luv-a-Bull Pit Bull Rescue.](#)

**Calder** arrived at the Marion County Dog Shelter on January 7, 2009.

He was brought to the shelter as a stray after trying to get into a couple's home, presumably for the warmth. When Calder arrived at the shelter, he was an adorable dog that was sensitive, shy, fearful and underweight. Being a sensitive dog, he wasn't able to show his "true self" while at the shelter.



**Hope's Haven Dog Rescue** welcomed Calder on February 10, 2009 and his new life began. He blossomed at Hope's Haven. He learned to socialize with other dogs and soon the shy, fearful dog became confident and trusting of other dogs and humans. Everyone loved Calder and Calder eagerly returned the love.

Calder is one of the many "Happy New Beginnings" that are a result of Hope's Haven. Calder spent 5 months at Hope's Haven before his Forever Family discovered he was waiting for them. Calder now lives the good life in West Salem with a family that loves and adores him. [Click here for more info on Hope's Haven Dog Rescue.](#)



**REMINDER!**  
On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> we lose an hour of sleep when Daylight Savings Time begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

## "Forever Friends Newsletter" Winter 2010

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