

December 2008

United States Of
America
Coton de Tulear Club
founded 1993



Volume I, Issue III

Holiday Hazards
Christmas Cotons
Bells?
For the Love of a pet
Third time's a charm

www.usactc.com

Coton Monthly



"Are those reindeer tracks?" Sirius puppies



Windsong's foxy lady singing Christmas carols

Club Update

As the holidays loom everyday, it is hard to believe that another year has passed by so quickly. The holidays are a time to give thanks and to reflect on the past year, as well as being a time to look forward to a new year and the new beginnings it brings. This past year has been an active one for the club. 2008 was the 15th Anniversary of the club; we initiated the CHIP program; we tightened requirements to become a COE breeder, and the USACTC Coton Monthly online newsletter was started in October as a companion to the Coton Courier. In addition to this, we had two wonderful show specialties in March and November. Catie Williams joined us along with Jan Weiner to help with agility, obedience and community outreach. We welcome any ideas you may have.

The membership renewals for 2009 have all gone out and hopefully you have already renewed your membership for next year. If you did not receive a renewal package or have not renewed for any reason please call or email your board rep or our Secretary, Pam Osborne.

2008-2010 Committees

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rando149@bellsouth.net
Ruth Weidrick - Vice Chair
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Judy Halbrooks - Chair
blujubean@yahoo.com

Community Outreach Committee
Jan Weiner - Chair
jlw1012@yahoo.com

Agility & Obedience Coordinator
Catie Williams - Chair
wonderdogsx4@verizon.net

Looking ahead to the New Year we really want to reach out and involve everyone in the club in some way but especially the owners that don't show or breed. The Coton world is a big family and we want to involve everyone in our family in some way. From shows, agility, and doggie dancing to therapy, our wonderful Cotons can do any or all of these things. However, as the days get colder it really reminds me what a wonderful companion they are and the smiles they bring to all of us on a daily basis.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous holiday season and wonderful New Year. I want all our members to know that the board and I are here to serve the entire membership and encourage all members to get involved and know the board is here for you.

Happy Holidays,
Bob Ramsthal
Vice President USACTC



If you would like information on serving on any of our committees please contact the appropriate chair person. We greatly appreciate your help and participation!



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Deadlines:
The deadline for submission of information and articles is the 15th of each month.

Contact the Coton Monthly Editor:
juli@coton.cc

The Sandi Ramsthal Coton de Tulear Health and Education Trust

In April 2007, the Coton world and the USACTC lost a devoted member, Sandi Ramsthal, unexpectedly. In her memory, this 501c3 Trust was formed to help fund the USACTC health and education programs as well as other breed related projects focused in these areas. If you would like to make a contribution to further advance these health and educational programs for the Coton de Tulear, please send your tax deductible donation payable to:

Sandi Ramsthal Coton Trust
149 Southwood Drive
Burleson, TX 76028



For The Love of a Pet

In these uncertain financial times, many individuals, feeling the cash crunch, may not be able to care for their pets and feel that they have nowhere to turn for help. One group of concerned individuals formed an organization intended to help in these specific situations. Founded with the intent of helping individuals keep their pets - and hopefully one day have these individuals "pay it forward" when they are on firmer financial ground, they are reaching out through their local community and are beginning to see the results of their labor of love.

For The Love Of A Pet, Inc. is dedicated to helping pet owners and pets stay together through times of economic difficulties. They will provide low/no cost food and supplies to pet owners in need, and encourage them to volunteer their time or skills to the pantry in order to help other owners in need. Their goals are to help keep pet owners from having to surrender their pets to shelters (or worse), to enable them to adequately provide for their pets, and to be able to feel good about themselves while helping others in need of our services.

For more information you can view their website at <http://www.fortheloveofapet.org/>

Enterprising Coton Enthusiasts may be interested in starting something like this in their local area.

Please support your local shelter with food donations or financial contributions. Most shelters also have ongoing needs of blankets, bedding and toys along with being in desperate need of volunteers to help socialize and care for relinquished or abandoned pets. You can make a difference!

All of our local shelters exist on contributions and gifts made throughout the year by thoughtful friends of abandoned animals.

At this time of year we all have giving in our hearts. If you can, please donate to your local shelter. As you shop for yourself, if it is within your budget, toss a few extra items into your cart such as: dish washing detergent, paper towels, disinfectant, dog/cat shampoo, leashes, collars, towels, dog/cat food, toys, bowls, etc. Shelters use these items on a daily basis. For those who are more fortunate, please give to those less so. Remember, your contribution is a tax deduction. Help make Christmas a special time for these neglected creatures as well as for you and your family.

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Contact the USACTC Coton Monthly Editor: juli@coton.cc

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Cotonnerie Zack



Lil' Miss Hollywood Of Tara



Cotonnerie Troubadour

Remember to send us photos of your Birthday Coton!



Uletide du domaine de la Rouviere

Good Dog Christmas Cookies

INGREDIENTS

You will need a bone shaped cookie cutter

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 3/4 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cubes beef bouillon cube
- 3/4 cup boiling water
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Lightly grease one cookie sheet.
2. Dissolve bouillon cubes in boiling water and allow to cool.
3. Combine the flour, dry milk, egg, oil, beef broth and brown sugar. Mix well and knead dough for 1 minute.
4. On a floured surface roll out dough to about 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out bones and place on cookie sheet.
5. Bake for 30 minutes and allow to cool



“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.” - Dale Evans Rogers

third time's a charm... a LUCKY charm that is!



For the 3rd straight year in a row, Multi Ch. Bar-ken's Happy Go Lucky will be the recipient of the Happy Go Lucky Award! On December 13-14, 2008 Lucky competed and was the top Coton at the AKC Eukanuba Agility Invitational in Long Beach, CA. Five Cotons from across the country qualified and were invited to compete, although one of these was a no show.

In the 8" obstacle height class in which the Cotons were competing, there were 99 dogs running the Trials. Lucky had four perfect, clean runs, and four qualifying times. Lucky took first place in the Coton group. Lucky did not make the final twelve this year as he did in previous year(s), but we are very proud of the great job he did with beautiful, clean runs! He placed 22nd out of 99 this year, making it into the top quarter of all breeds competing in his class. This is all the more incredible as Lucky just turned 9 years old on December 2nd!

Congratulations to Lucky, owner Brenda Magnon, handler/trainer Ileana Nadal, and breeder Barbara Adcock.



Simply Grand Nutcracker Prince

WHEN I GOT MY DOG submitted by Jan Weiner

I asked for strength that I might rear him perfectly;
I was given weakness that I might feed him more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;
I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.

I asked for compliance so I might feel masterful;
I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything I need.

Anonymous

Christmas cotons



Happy Hearts puppies



CasaBlanca's Sarafina



Diamond Liberty of Lily Hill



Renaissance cuties



Anastasia of Willow Bend



Cotton Blossom babies



Kaili and Cynthia



Miko and Delilah of Windcrest



Windcrest puppies



Christmas at Majik



Happy Hearts

Holiday Hazards

By Dr. John Koehm
Community Animal Hospital, Reno, NV

Keeping the holidays happy for the entire family

Most of us are looking forward to the holiday season, which is just around the corner! The time has come to pull out heirloom decorations, organize gatherings with friends and family, prepare the household for winter, and get ready for piles of thick, rich food. But while spending time with our loved ones we must remember our special family members: our dear pets. The holidays are exciting to them as well, and unfortunately they do not always know right from wrong! It is our responsibility to ensure their safety and to be aware of several potential dangers to their health.

Food of the Holidays

The most obvious concern is food. With irresistible smells wafting out of the kitchen, Fluffy and Sylvester most likely want to be part of the celebration! We must take care to prevent their access to people food and leftovers. Special times aside, the best meal for our beloved pets is their own - that is, their normal food. If Fluffy and Sylvester decide to ignore their own dinner in lieu of yours, and the pleading puppy dog or kitty cat eyes are too much for your guilt, feed the critters ahead of time. Begging habits may persist after the holidays as well, so don't encourage the habit now.

Another result of feeding people food can actually be very dangerous: pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can be the result of the ingestion of high-fat foods, triggering the release of digestive enzymes into the abdominal cavity, which finally can cause serious damage



and possibly death. Chronic diarrhea is also often a result of eating too much rich food. Please keep this in mind when handing down those leftovers. Speaking of leftovers, what about uneaten food, napkins, utensils, bones, and garbage? Keep those trash cans secure! Contrary to popular opinion bones are not okay for dogs (or cats) to have. Poultry bones can easily splinter, perforating or obstructing the intestines. Larger bones such as steak bones are a common cause of fractured teeth. And any trash item, especially if the scent of food lingers on it, may be greedily gulped. Be mindful of aluminum foil, plastic wraps and bags, plastic utensils, paper plates, plastic cups, and twist ties. Remember: just because we may not be able to smell food doesn't mean that Fido's sensitive nose misses it. Don't let your pet develop serious and possibly lethal gastrointestinal problems!

Specific foods to watch out for are chocolate, grapes and raisins, and bread dough. Chocolate contains a toxin called theobromine that can cause hyperexcitability, nervousness, vomiting, cardiac problems, and death. It is true that unsweetened baker's chocolate is the worst offender, but even ingestion



of milk chocolate can cause these same disorders. Grapes and raisins can be hazardous by leading to kidney failure. And seemingly innocent bread dough can actually rise in the pet's stomach because the yeast has been activated by body heat! This can result in gastric dilatation (bloat).

Holiday Decorating

Christmas calls for all of the trimmings: the tree, the ornaments, the tinsel, the poinsettia laden with big bows. But consider the holiday world from a pet's point of view: lots of new, big, sparkling, smelly things to explore inside and out!

Decorations pose several potential dangers. Cats tend to see everything as a toy, from the giant cat tree (Christmas tree) to bouncy ribbons. Be sure to anchor your tree securely with a wide, flat base, and take further precautions by tying it to the wall or drapery rods with fishing line. Ornaments themselves are attractive to pets in all of the shapes, sizes, and colors. They may be broken and eaten, especially if they are glass. Cats are excellent at knocking glass balls off trees. Look out for tinsel, ribbon, and popcorn strings. Any string can get caught in the intestinal tract, requiring surgery, and in some cases, mandate the removal of part of the intestine. After all presents are unwrapped, please be certain to securely dispose of ribbon and wrappings. Angel

hair (spun glass) can cause irritation to the eyes, skin, and gastrointestinal tract.

Metal ornament hooks can be extremely dangerous! I once had to surgically remove a cluster of hooks from a cocker spaniel's stomach. Why he decided to eat them is still a mystery to me. To be safe, replace hooks with tightly knotted fabric, quarter-inch ribbon, lightweight twine, or yarn to slip easily over tree branches. If you have a string-chewing cat you may need to tie ornaments tightly to the branches and trim loose ends.

Bubbling electric holiday lights contain methylene chloride, the fluid that actually bubbles. Depending on how much is inhaled or ingested, it can be toxic or actually lethal.

Don't forget about Christmas tree water. It can harbor bacteria and preservatives. If you do use preservatives, make sure they are pet-friendly. Ideally use a tree stand designed to prevent pet access to the water.

Holiday plants, although pretty, are not always friendly to our pets. Ivy, holly, and mistletoe are all quite toxic when eaten. Hibiscus and poinsettia also have levels of toxicity. In general, lilies are extremely toxic to cats. Low-toxicity plants include balsam, juniper, cedar, fir, and pine, but pine needles, due to their shape, are very irritating if ingested.

Outdoor Hazards

Outside dangers are no less concerning. Watch out for the salt you apply to your driveway



and sidewalks for ice and snow removal. The salt can be harmful if ingested and can irritate the foot pads. Wipe your pet's feet off with a towel after any exposure.

Winter weather can chill us to the bone, and our pets are not excluded from this! Pets will be instinctively drawn to any available heat source to maintain normal body temperature. Cats in particular like to climb up under car hoods and nestle in the heat of warm engines. When a driver unknowingly starts the engine with its stowaway passenger, the fan or fan belt causes devastating damage to the kitty. Prevent these terrible tragedies by banging on or looking under your car hood before starting up your engine.

Another wintertime danger related to automobiles is antifreeze poisoning. The toxic component in antifreeze is ethylene glycol, which has an irresistibly sweet taste to dogs and cats. Pets commonly ingest antifreeze in the spring and autumn when people are changing their radiator fluid. Unfortunately incorrect disposal of antifreeze may

consist of pouring into a street drain or left to sit in an open bucket with open access. Since antifreeze is not often left in obvious view, most people do not witness ingestion and may not even know their pet has ethylene glycol poisoning until the final stage of the toxicity. By this time the unfortunate pet is usually suffering from renal failure and is extremely difficult to successfully treat. If toxicity is noticed sooner than later, the pet may still show signs of weakness, lethargy, and even staggering as if in a drunken state. Should you witness antifreeze ingestion, get your pet to your veterinarian as quickly as possible. Vomiting needs to immediately be induced, then activated charcoal given orally to help absorb any remaining toxin. Additional treatment depends on which stage of the disease the animal is in and how much antifreeze was ingested. There is a relatively new product (Sierra is the trade name) that claims to be safer than other brands of antifreeze. The active ingredient is propylene glycol, which may still cause nervous system injury and can lead to staggering and possibly seizures, but does not cause fatal kidney damage. Any antifreeze ingestion is always an emergency! Even small children are at a risk because of the sweet taste.

The holidays are a special time for friends and family.



Baci and Bisou



Cedarwood's Dark Star of Berengaria

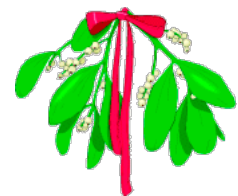
Mistletoe Traditions hail from Norse Mythology

Although many sources say that kissing under the mistletoe is a purely English custom, there's another, more charming explanation for its origin that extends back into Norse mythology. It's the story of a loving, if overprotective, mother.

The Norse god Balder was the best loved of all the gods. His mother was Frigga, goddess of love and beauty. She loved her son so much that she wanted to make sure no harm would come to him. So she went through the world, securing promises from everything that sprang from the four elements--fire, water, air, and earth--that they would not harm her beloved Balder.

Leave it to Loki, a sly, evil spirit, to find the loophole. The loophole was mistletoe. He made an arrow from its wood. To make the prank even nastier, he took the arrow to Hoder, Balder's brother, who was blind. Guiding Holder's hand, Loki directed the arrow at Balder's heart, and he fell dead.

Frigga's tears became the mistletoe's white berries. In the version of the story with a happy ending, Balder is restored to life, and Frigga is so grateful that she reverses the reputation of the offending plant--making it a symbol of love and promising to bestow a kiss upon anyone who passes under it.



Don't forget about all of your beloved family members. Keep pets safe and secure during the holidays will bring a joyous time to all.

Dr. John Koehm is co-owner of Community Animal Hospital, a six-doctor hospital providing services in general medicine and surgery, advanced dentistry, advanced ultrasonography, endoscopy, and laser surgery. Our hospital also treats exotic species with medicine and surgery specialized to their unique needs. Dr. Koehm is a Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry and his professional activities are limited to dentistry and oral surgery.

Coton Corner Round Table Discussion

Last month : What Christmas Plants are poisonous to dogs?

The Christmas season is a joyful time that also has dangers for our Canine family members. The best way to protect our beloved Cotons is to control their exposure to anything poisonous. In reality, the busy holiday times can lead to distractions which can then expose our Cotons to toxins. If your Coton ingests or even chews on toxic plants and berries, the best thing to do is to call your local poison control for animals. My first advice to any pet owner who sees their pet chewing or eating any plant or, berry, is, "When in doubt, check it out." So do not hesitate to give your local poison control a call. Keep their phone number in a place that will allow you ready access. The poison control will have more information than your vet when it involves determining what is poisonous as well as the treatment protocol.

The symptoms of reactions to toxins will be as follows:

Excessive salivation

Vomiting

Convulsions

Paralysis

Slight to profuse diarrhea

Rapid Labored breathing

Teeth grinding

Death from cardiovascular collapse

The following list contains the most common poisonous plants that our pets are exposed to at this time of year:

Cyclamen

Christmas Berry

Christmas Cactus

All Christmas trees

Christmas tree water

Holly Berries

Hyacinth Bulbs

Mistletoe/Mistletoe Berries

Narcissus Bulbs

Pine Needles

Also keep in mind that many decorations can cause serious problems if ingested.

Tinsel can become entangled in the intestines which can lead to serious surgery or even death. Some decorative lights contain lead in the wiring or in the plastics.

If our dogs eat our Christmas treats that contain chocolate or raisins we are also putting them at serious risk.

If you keep a watchful eye on your Coton and make sound decisions regarding the plants that come into your home, you will make it through the season with a happy, healthy Coton. Many toxic plants taste delicious to our canines, so remember they depend on us for keeping them safe.

Christmas gift suggestions:

"To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."

Oren Arnold

New Question:

Can you describe the differences among the Coton coats? Some seem softer, coarser, smoother, etc. And how does one choose the best products for handling these differences?

send your replies to:
juli@coton.cc



Dashing through the snow...
Sande's puppies



STORK DELIVERIES

NOV. & DEC. 2008

Breeder: Cotons of Lake Jem
Website: <http://www.cotonoflakejem.com>
DOB: November 25, 2008
Litter: 2M, 1F
Sire: Casey of Lake Jem
Dam: Doughy of Grevenway

DOB: November 25, 2008
Litter: 1M, 2F
Sire: Casey of Lake Jem
Dam: Lake Jems Cricket

DOB: November 26, 2008
Litter: 1F
Sire: Casey of Lake Jem
Dam: Calli of Lake Jem

DOB: November 27, 2008
Litter: 1M, 2F
Sire: Casey of Lake Jem
Dam: Lake Jems Izzy

DOB: December 7, 2008
Litter: 1M, 2F
Sire: Cody of Lake Jem
Dam: Lake Jems Dee Dee
Contact: Anita Jones
352.385.0026
adjones@mpinet.net

Breeder: HRH Regal Cotons
DOB: Nov.11th 2008
Litter: 2M, 2F
Sire: Simply Grand As Good As It Gets
Dam: Cotonnerie Diva's HRH Delphine
Contact: Jennifer Hermes
909.981.3242
bhermes1@yahoo.com

Breeder: Cowboy Cotons
Website: <http://www.cowboycotons.net>
DOB: December 8, 2008
Litter: 1M, 2F
Sire: Mi-Toi's Tonka Toy of Sirius
Dam: Bar-Ken's Tiffany Blue
Contact: Brenda Magnon
813.982.0461
luckymagnon@earthlink.net

Breeder: Cedarwood Cotons
Website: www.starcottage.com
DOB: December 4, 2008
Litter: 2M, 3F
Sire: Cotonnerie Mathis at Helmvine
Dam: Cedarwood's Dark Star of Berengaria
Contact: Aisha Cameron
802.533.2458
CedarwoodCotons@wildblue.net

Each month we will feature all litters reported to us from our USACTC Code of Ethics Breeders. To be included in this listing, please provide us with the following full litter information:
Kennel Name, Sire/Dam, Website URL, Telephone, Email, Puppy Info (1m/2f)



Delilah's Diary



Dear Delilah

Hi. I'm b a a a ck! I got a little worried when I read about your whap whap tail. I was afraid I didn't have one & it sounded like a good kind to have. When I asked my mom she said "you don't have a whelping box so you might not hear it going whap whap". Then she watched me run down the hall chasing a ball & told me I really do have a good whap whap tail. Now I don't have to worry about that. Some times something tickles my back & I look back & see it is my tail doing the tickling. Sometimes I grab it in my mouth & pull it 'round & 'round

A couple of weeks ago we went to a big fair-grounds. I have my rally advanced title, and I was supposed to earn a leg or two for my excel-lent title. There were sooo many yummy 'licious smells that I just had to check out that I didn't do very well. Mom said maybe I should just rest on my laurels. Well, I looked down at myself and around the room and I didn't see any of those things (whatever they are), so I guess I will just rest on my little patukus or my little tum tum.

I said I would tell you a little of the mischief I got into when I was itty bitty. Mom always gave me lots of things to chew, but once I tried a table leg. The next time I tried it, I said YUK! did that taste bitter. Mom usually left shoes lying about, but I knew they were hers & not mine. Then one day there was a new box on the closet floor. Did it ever smell good! It didn't smell like Mom, so I figured it must be mine. I carefully lifted one of them out & carried it to the living room sofa where I munched away. Guess what? I didn't do that again. I'd better go take a nap now. All this writing just wore me out.

Love from your friend Kaili

HEALTH HINT

Have your dog stand, sit, or lie down next to you so you are close to the ear in which you are planning to put medication. Pet your dog and talk to her reassuringly and calmly.

Being extremely gentle, stretch your dog's ear flap away from her head. This will make your dog's ear canal straighten so the medication will travel better through the ear.

Hold the medicine container above the opening of your dog's ear canal, and re-lease the proper dose of medication into the opening of your dog's ear canal. Never stick the medication container into your dog's ear canal as it could damage the in-side of your dog's ear.

Massage the base of your dog's ear to help spread the medication.

ear medication



Kaili and her toys!

bells...do you hear what I hear?

<http://www.poochie-pets.net/>



As with any training method, results depend on the consistency and effort put into training your dog. This system is based on the great psychologist Ivan Pavlov's discovery, that one form of learning is a result of repeated stimulus. By ringing the bells each and every time the dog is to go outside (creating a stimulus), your dog will learn to associate the stimulus of the bells with the ability to go outside. No dog is too old to learn this behavior.

Step 1

Hang the loop of the Poochie-Bells on the inside doorknob (or hook) of the door(s) that your dog typically exits the house. Your Poochie-Bells will hang down approximately 25 inches. Each unit is made to accommodate both small and large breeds. Your dog only needs to nudge any part of the Poochie-Bells unit in order to make the bells ring. Poochie-Bells should stay on the door at all times so that your dog can access them whenever they need to.



Step 2

Every time you take your pooch outside to potty, state a simple command phrase. We suggest "Outside...Ring the Bells". Get your family involved! All members of your household should be consistent and use the same wording and actions with your dog.

Step 3

After stating your command phrase, ring your Poochie-Bells in front of the dog. The dog should see AND hear the bells.

Step 4

After ringing the bells and saying the command, follow through with praise and allow your dog to go outside. It is important that you NOT reward your dog with a food treat, as they will associate the ringing the bells with receiving food. Also, we suggest that you not use that time to play with your dog outside so they don't associate ring time with playtime. The dog will eventually associate ringing the bells with going and the praise they receive from their favorite person, you, is reward enough! **DO THIS EACH TIME YOUR DOG IS TO GO OUTSIDE. CONSISTENCY IS KEY!**

Step 5

After several weeks of this conditioning, continue to say the phrase you've been using each time your dog wants to exit the house. Tell them "Outside...Ring the Bells" and point to the Poochie-Bells. Praise them once they ring the bells and allow the dog to go out. If the dog does NOT ring the bells, you ring the bells, restate your command phrase and then allow the dog outside.

Step 6

Each following week, repeat this conditioning until your dog starts to ring the bells on their own. It is critical that you praise your dog on his newly learned behavior to reinforce this action.

Remember to always listen for the bells, even if you are in a different part of the house from where you've hung your Poochie-Bells. When you hear them ring... let your dog out!! Your dog can now communicate without barking, whining or having accidents.



Dear Santa:

I'm being such a good boy posing for pictures wearing this silly red hat, won't you please leave me a lot of bully sticks to chew on for Christmas? I'm really the world's most loving Coton (or so my mommy tells me) and am mostly a very good boy all year round.

Love & XXX JACQUES



Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy. Please bring me LOTS of treats. I have enough toys for ten Cotons... Mom says. Nympha & Petey have been good too. They would like treats too.
Love, Sir Oliver



Lakeside's Couscous

A Rescue Dog's Christmas Poem

Author Unknown

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,
Every shelter is full - we are lost but not found,
Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,
We hope every minute that someone will care,
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call,
"Come here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!
But now we sit here and think of the days..
We were treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways,
Once we were little, then we grew and we grew -
Now we're no longer young and we're no longer new.
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash,
They reacted so quickly - why were they so rash?
We "jump on the children;," "don't come when they call",
We "bark when they leave us", climb over the wall.
We should have been neutered, we should have been spayed,
Now we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.
If only they'd trained us, if only we knew..
We'd have done what they asked us and worshiped them, too.
We were left in the backyard, or worse -let to roam-
Now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.
They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye..
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."
So now here we are, all confused and alone..
In a shelter with others who long for a home.
The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,
They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer..
We know that they wonder how long we'll be here.
We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads..
Of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears --
Our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.
If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn --
Could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?
We count on your kindness each day of the year --
Can you give more than hope to everyone here?
Please make a donation to pay for the heat..
And help get us something special to eat.
The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,
And more of us will, if more people will give.

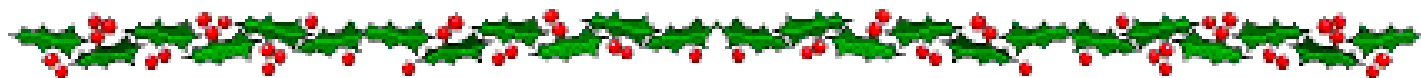
Upcoming Health Clinics Jan. 2009

www.offa.org

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|-------------------|--|
| <p>January 3</p> | <p>Virginia Terrier Association Cardiac Clinic Time: 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM Location: Colonial Downs Race Track, 10515 Colonial Downs Pkwy, New Kent, VA Cardiac Testing by Cardiologist Dr Merilee Small Auscultation only, \$35 per dog. Pre-registration is PREFERRED, but will accept day of clinic appts. Contact Liz Schmidtbauer at integrityapbts@yahoo.com or (513) 295-7940.</p> |
| <p>January 4</p> | <p>Meadowlands Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Health Clinic Clinic Time: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Eyes (CERF): Dr. Holmberg - \$30 Heart Auscultation: Drs. Sammarco & Shrope - \$35 Heart Echo-Cardiogram with Doppler and Auscultation: Drs. Sammarco & Shrope - \$235 OFA Hip X-Ray (no sedation) small dogs 20lbs. and under: Dr. Dorney - \$90 OFA Patellae: Dr. Dorney - \$30 Microchips will be available. PRE-REGISTRATION: Tuesday December 30, 2008 CONTACT INFORMATION: Brenda LaRoza, 829 Grove Street, Mamaroneck, New York 10543, 914-381-6319, btlssunshine@aol.com Houston, TX</p> |
| <p>January 10</p> | <p>GHGRC Well Dog Clinic Appointment Time: 2:00 PM TO 6:30 PM Campbell Road Veterinary Clinic 1551 Campbell Road Houston, Texas 77055 CERF Eye Clinic \$26 Heart Murmur Screening for OFA Certification \$26 Complete Thyroid Panel, for OFA Certification * \$80 Comprehensive Blood Profile, \$65 Heartworm Test, \$17 Microchips \$25 Optigen DNA Testing, 20% clinic discount Pythiosis Testing, \$35 Information and appointments: E-mail Anne McGuire at wellldog@ghgrc.org</p> |
| <p>January 11</p> | <p>Lenape Golden Retriever Club Heart, Eye & Microchip Clinic Richboro Veterinary Hospital 1096 Second Street Pike Richboro, PA Cardiac: Dr. Meg Sleeper CERF: Dr. Lionel Rubin Home Again Microchips: Dr. Meg Sleeper RESERVATIONS ARE BY PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY For more information E-mail: kalmsea@comcast.net Bonnie Rubin : 215-364-2425 Email: bonnie.rubin@comcast.net</p> |
| <p>January 24</p> | <p>Animal Medical Center All Breed Health and Wellness Clinic. Animal Medical Center of Warrenton 79 Garrett Street, Warrenton, VA 20186 Cardiac: Dr. William Tyrrell, Board Certified Cardiologist CERF: Dr. Michael Blair, DAVCO, Board Certified Ophthalmologist X-ray films: Dr. John Rethman, DVM Practitioner All procedures are by appointment ONLY. Pre-payment is required for all procedures. Pre-Registration closes with the event chairman's mail delivery on Saturday, January 10, 2009. Contact: RVMinPins@hotmail.com or Michele@AMCWarrenton.com for complete information and registration form</p> |

Upcoming Canine Seminars Jan. 2009

| Date | Location | Speaker/Description |
|---------------|--|---|
| January 10-11 | Concord, California | <p>AKC Obedience & Rally Seminar Sponsoring Club: Northern California Obedience Judges Assoc/Mt. Diablo Dog Training Club Contact Information: Stephanie Gomez - 507 Brockton Place, Rio Vista, CA 95671 Email: sgomez1119@comcast.net Phone: (925) 519-2661 This will be a 2-day seminar January 10 & 11, 2009. One day will be for Obedience and one day will be for Rally.</p> |
| January 13 | Wright Veterinary Service, 2444 Kingman Ave, Kingman, AZ | <p>AGILITY: Beginner/Novice Debby Pomeroy instructor Day of - \$100.00 2 or more dogs same family or two classes 10% discount on second dog/class For information and to pre-enter call : 928-710-0006 EMAIL: otley1@gmail.com website - http://www.turnsnwraps.com/</p> |
| January 13 | Wright Veterinary Service, 2444 Kingman Ave, Kingman, AZ | <p>OBEDIENCE: Beginner/Novice Karen Mantie instructor: - Getting handler and dog working together as a team and ready for a CGC test (canine good citizen) and Competition Novice Obedience 2 or more dogs same family or two classes 10% discount on second dog/class For information and to pre-enter call : 928-710-0006 EMAIL: otley1@gmail.com website - http://www.turnsnwraps.com/</p> |
| January 16 | Portland, Oregon | <p>Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about Dog Shows (But Were Afraid to Ask) Presenter: Michael Canalizo, Pat Hastings, Bill Shelton Sponsoring Club: Oregon Dog Judges Contact Information: Dianne Kroll Email: dianne.kroll@verizon.net or xtiesmith@comcast.net . \$25.00 per person, \$40.00 per couple</p> |



Upcoming Canine Seminars Jan. 2008

| Date | Location | Speaker/Description |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| January 16 January 25 | Norwalk, CT | <p>TellingtonTTouch™ Seminar TTouch can best be described as a specialized approach to the care and relaxation of our animal friends. Similar to animal massage (but using a much lighter touch) this method is based on cooperation, love and respect for the animal and offers a positive approach to bonding with them. TTouch can improve your pet's health, increase healing and concentration and provide positive solutions to a variety of behavior and/or physical problems such as jumping up, barking, scratching, excessive chewing or scratching, shyness and much more. In this class you will learn the primary TTouches and when to apply them. \$165/6 Classes Classes fill up fast, please sign up as soon as possible! www.doggonesmart.com Phone: (203) 838-7729</p> |
| January 31 | Cleveland, Ohio | <p>Advances in Canine Reproduction and Neonatology Presenter: Dr. Robert Hutchinson Sponsoring Club: Animal Clinic Northview Contact Information: Mary Rotkowski Phone: (440) 327-8282</p> |
| January 31 | Fishing Creek, Pennsylvania | <p>"The Winslow Way" All Breed Handling Clinic Presenter: Rose Chandless Sponsoring Club: Harrisburg Shetland Sheepdog Club Contact Information: Email: eddonmar_17370@yahoo.com Phone: (717) 773-6200 Website: www.harrisburgssc.org Participants should bring dog, crate, water bowl, fine chain show collar & lead</p> |



Beth Ramsthal's girls in their Christmas finery

Petey & Nymphaea waiting on Santa



Pretty P.T. Cruiser