



PAWPRINTS



CLAUDIA'S PLACE

A young fellow named Steve was working at the shelter for us. He installed the baseboards which really make the rooms look finished. We only need to do a little touch up here and there. Once this is done we can really begin to move into the building. At this time the “moving date” is December 15th as our phone can be installed then.

Our storage shelving is now in the shelter storage area thanks to Bill Cook, Gary Marsden and Dave Fowler for getting them there. They helped unload the shelves with help from Vicki and Lee. We only need to have them assembled so we can begin to use them.

PET PROFILE

Vinnie is a 3 year old purebred American Cocker Spaniel. He will soon be finished his vet work and can be placed for adoption once his health has been assessed. Vinnie is red and white and is very gentle. He loves to play with the kitten who is staying at his foster home. They run all over the house to the disgust of some of the resident dogs. Vinnie is good on leash and loves car rides.

DOGS and CATS and BIRDS Oh My!!

Nikki has recently come into PAWS. She has some major health issues which we are trying to resolve to make her more comfortable. Once again we have a very gentle quiet dog as is expected with a yellow lab mix. She is about 8 or more years old and has not had a great start to her life. We would like her remaining years to be much healthier and happier.

Spitz is a fluffy, playful kitten who thinks she is a dog boss. This pint sized tabby loves dogs and kids as well as adult people.

Shylo is being trained as a service dog and soon will begin her work.

HAPPY TAILS

Both **Amy** and **Mimitea** have homes waiting for them. If all goes well they will soon be on their way to their very own homes and their very own families.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Santa Pet Pictures were held at Morris Greenhouse on December 6th. It was well attended by dogs, cats and kids all wanting to see the Jolly old man in red. We made \$687.75. Many thanks to Morris Greenhouse for the space, Montana Cull for her photography skills and to Lawrence Ward for his all important appearance. Thanks also to everyone who came out and made this our usual successful event.

Christmas Bake Sale was held at Overwaitea on December 10th and 11th. The two day event brought in a grand total of \$1671.40 !! Many thanks to our usual crew of wonderful bakers and the patient ones who tended the table.

DID YOU KNOW?

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

Christmas is a BAD time to get a puppy.

The stress of putting a puppy into a new environment is already overwhelming. It is hard on the dog and on the new owners. Bringing home a puppy Christmas Day just compounds the stress. You have children wound up about the big day and house guests adding to the chaos. A puppy needs to be the focus of attention, not just another part of the holiday season spectacle.

There are also increased safety concerns during this time of the year. Someone leaves their prescription in reach of a curious pup; someone trips on that little fur ball on the stairs; a door to the dangerous outside world is accidentally left open; candies are left on low tables; paper, tape, cards, etc. can all be "Potential Puppy Killers" – not forgetting the electric cords within puppy teeth reach. A puppy left unsupervised for any amount of time is a puppy just a few seconds away from disaster.

The dreaded Impulse Buy – too many Christmas puppies are purchased with little or no forethought. Hard as it is to wait and think the purchase through – it is much better for the new owner as well as the puppy to wait until the time and the puppy is right.

Getting a puppy from a dubious source can leave you with a sick dog you're emotionally committed to while the financial implications are appalling.

Give some thought to what happens when the holidays are over and kids are back in school and grownups are back at work. The puppy still wants the usual attention and can't understand why no one is there to give it to him.

Suggestions to give the hopeful owner in place of a Christmas time puppy:

- Dog training book
- Collar and leash for later use
- Visit to a breeder of their choice or a visit to a dog show to view breeds
- Books with breed specific information
- IOU to be redeemed when more thought has been given to the long-term consequences of a living breathing, pooping present.

In the meantime give your children a plush pooch and commit to educating the kids about what you'll expect of them when the real thing arrives. Remember that you, as the parent, must take ultimate responsibility for the dog's well-being.

Be smart where you get a puppy. A pet store is not the right place to acquire a new family member.

Take the time to choose the right breed and breeder and don't forget to check rescue groups for that perfect companion.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

A very Happy Birthday wish to Pete Harris for his recent birthday. Pete has been one of the main volunteers with the original building of the shelter.

SIT - STAY

It is relatively easy to teach a kitten to walk with a leash or lead. It's not recommended to use a dog collar and leash but rather a full body harness as their physiology and muscle structure is different from a dog's. First, start by letting your kitten wear the harness without the leash for five minutes a day in the house. Let the kitten play with the harness and leash and reward it with a treat. Next clip on the leash and let the kitten wander around with it dragging. Next, pick up the leash and follow the kitten wherever it wants to go without directing it. Finally have the kitten walk by your side without dragging or pulling the leash and reward it with a treat when it walks properly.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

PAWS is taking the month of December off so our members can enjoy Christmas. Of course the usual pet help will continue and the office will be manned as usual. There are no general meetings and no "events" planned until January 2010.

We wish all humans a peaceful Christmas season. We wish all pets a warm, dry bed, good food and an abundance of love and health for the season.

PET PANTRY

PEANUT BUTTER DOG BISCUITS

1½ cups water	½ cup oil	2 eggs
3 tbs peanut butter	2 tsp vanilla	2 cups flour
½ cup cornmeal	½ cup oats	

Mix liquid ingredients. Whisk dry ingredients together. Mix into wet mix to form a ball of dough. Roll out and shape as desired. Put onto a non-stick cookie tray.

Bake at 400' for 20 minutes. Turn off oven and let biscuits cool in oven until crisp and hard.

TRIVIA and TIDBITS

The Unofficial Dogs' Guide to Humans (Part one)

No dog should be without this valuable resource when searching for the ideal owner!

It's all very well and good to be a human being in quest of the perfect pet. All you need to do is refer to any of a number of registries, or the directory of breed clubs listed every month in *Dogs in Canada*.

But pity the poor dog engaged in the search for a relationship with the ideal owner! Never has there been a directory published, an all-breed human show held or an informational web site launched to help those poor canines desperately seeking that harmonious humanoid matchup. Never, that is, 'til now.

Pooches and their people, you'll read it here first: *The Unofficial Dogs' Guide to Humans*.

THE WORKING BREEDS

For the industrious dog, any of these human breeds will make for an energetic – if occasionally exhausting – companion.

1. **The Hard-wired Fax Terror** – No-nonsense, alert and ambitious, this breed is capable of firing off dozens of e-mails an hour, keeping any number of clients at bay on call waiting, and generating a veritable flurry of phone facsimiles to all and sundry.
2. **The Writ-filer** – Burly, sometimes block-headed and ultra-Teutonic, this wary watchdog has acquired a reputation for ferocity, due to his almost dogged determination to protect those whom he represents.
3. **The Oughta Hound** – This willing performer has only one serious flaw: A constant sense of guilt, that no matter how hard he/she works or how many hours are devoted to the job, he or she ought to be busier, more devoted and in the office even longer.
4. **The Dot.Kom.Ondor** – An instantaneously responsive and highly communicative breed. However, on the downside, can seem impersonal, as well as susceptible to viruses.
5. **The Bearded Colleague** – Comfortable, companionable, and never so happy as when shepherding students or puttering about the study in an old sweater. But, be warned: This breed is alarmingly absent-minded about mealtimes and a trifle detached.
6. **The Jerry Springer** – Whoa! Whas-sup? High energy, aggressive, inquisitive to a fault and unable to take "Good God, no!" for an answer. This jumped-up breed constantly transgresses the bounds of decorum, and is recommended as a companion only for canines experienced in exerting authority and setting limits.

PET POINTS

What is the chance that a dog will develop any form of cancer in his lifetime?

Cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs and cats over the age of ten years. It is the second leading cause of death in any adult animal, second only to trauma. With improved preventative care and leash laws etc., pets enjoy healthy lives into old age. Cancer is a common disease of middle to older aged pets, as it is also in people.

How common is bone cancer in dogs?

It is one of the most common cancers affecting large and giant breed dogs.

Generally speaking, what is the survival rate after diagnosis?

The survival rate depends on what treatments are instituted. If nothing is done aside from pain medication, the average survival time is about 3 months. If we perform an amputation and give chemotherapy, we can prolong survival to between 10-16 months on average. About 10% of dogs are cured. Dogs receiving chemotherapy and amputation have an excellent quality of life in most cases and owners are often pleasantly surprised at how well dogs handle treatment. For example, they don't typically lose their hair during chemotherapy and experience very few unpleasant side effects. Since dogs are quadrupeds they can ambulate very well on three legs and they don't experience the psychosocial trauma of losing a leg. As long as they are not in pain they can lead active, happy lives.

What are some of the treatment options?

The standard of care for bone cancer in dogs is amputation followed by chemotherapy. There are also alternatives to amputation (limb-sparing operation) in select cases.

Do most dogs recover well from amputation surgery (running, leading normal lives, etc.)?

Most dogs recover extremely well from amputation. We are able to keep them very comfortable after surgery using modern pain control medications. They are usually able to go for short walks the evening of surgery and typically are released from the hospital the day following surgery. The typical dog is pulling us down the hallway the day after surgery to greet their owner at discharge. After the sutures are removed and the incision is healed, amputees can swim, run and play as they did before.

TAIL END

Important Links:

Creston Vet Hospital – 428-9494

Cranbrook SPCA – 250-426-6751

Nelson 2nd Chance – 250-352-2228

PAWS office – 428-7297

Trail SPCA – 250-368-5910

Animal Control (Town of Creston only) – 428-2214

If you are interested in adopting a new companion, need to re-home one or have found a pet or lost one – please check out our ***Weekly Wag and Meow Mart*** which is posted at the Vet Clinic, Sunset Seed and Lil' Mutt Grooming. Or check with PAWS - 1420 Northwest Boulevard - or check our website.

Everyone is invited to participate in PAWS events, projects, meetings and fund raisers.
If you are interested in volunteering, fostering or becoming a member please contact us.

CRESTON PET ADOPTION & WELFARE SOCIETY

2805 Lower Wynndel Road, Creston, BC V0B 1G8

Phone: 250-428-7297 (428-PAWS)

Email: paws@kootenay.com Website: www.paws-crestonbc.org