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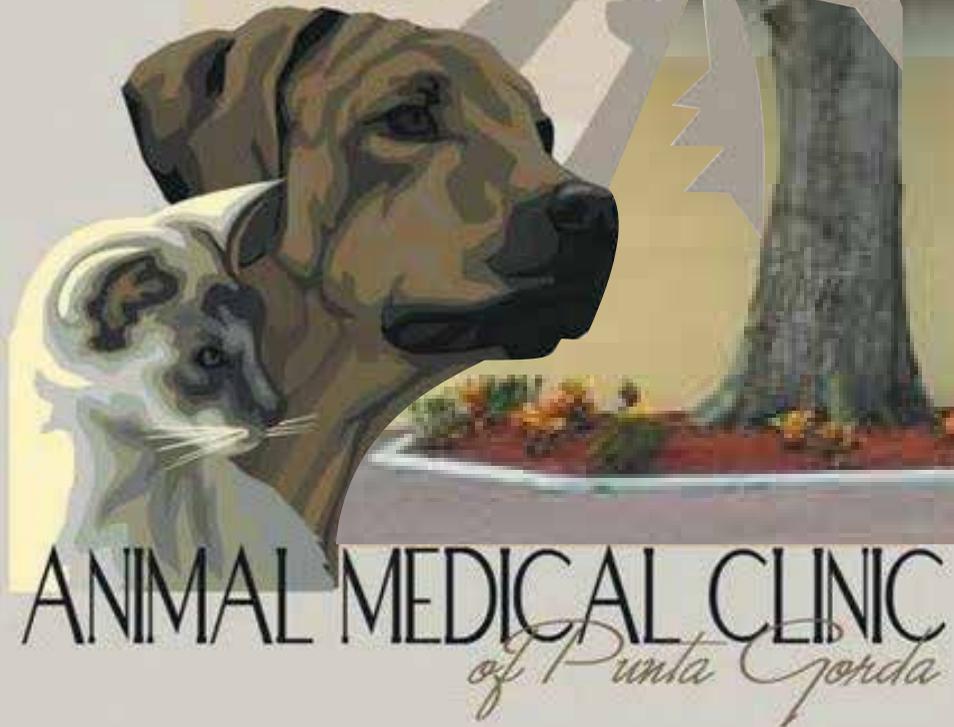
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

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Flight of Fancy



Fostering Hope

by Kathie Lynch

I've always felt the need to rescue animals. My childhood was filled with baby birds, rabbits, and stray dogs. However, in adulthood, I've settled for rescuing my permanent animal companions. Currently, I have three cats and one dog adopted through my Massachusetts Pet Gazette's Adoption Center. My other dog, an Australian Shepherd came from St. Louis Aussie Rescue. I've never taken in a foster, or volunteered at a shelter. My publication's Adoption Center has been my way of contributing.

Two weeks ago, things changed. Two dogs turned over to an east coast shelter were scheduled to be euthanized if fosters did not step forward. I volunteered. One dog came to me; the other to a wonderful home in Apollo Beach. I named my girl Hope.

Hope is about a year old. She arrived smelly and covered in dead fleas, ticks and dirt. The next morning she got a bath and has since been professionally groomed... finally beautifully clean and huggable.



The rescue's doctor discovered that Hope was heartworm positive, so I am medicating her and keeping her quiet as she goes through her therapy. I worry. It can be a dangerous process.

Hope is a big dog, probably part lab, but she arrived weighing 40 pounds, all ribs, backbone and hips. Small, frequent feedings were recommended, about a quarter cup six times each day. I feed her puppy food, building quantity a bit at a time. She eats well and she's put on a few pounds.

Another surprise... Hope was not house trained. For the first several days I mopped floors, despite her being walked and let loose in my fenced yard. Gentle instruction worked wonders, and since the first few days, there hasn't been a single accident.

Hope's sorry physical state attested to the fact that she had been neglected, if not abused. She and her sister, Grace, were dumped at the shelter from the back of a pickup loaded with trash. Still, with kindness and reassurance, she's bonded quickly. Her head bumps my arm as I type, an indication that she wants pats.

My own dogs have had mixed reactions to Hope's joining the pack. Sadie, my 15-year-old Border mix, is up and around quite a bit more. She and Hope take turns sniffing and following. It's a good distraction and I'm happy to see Sadie's interest. Roo, my male Aussie, is seriously concerned. He expects to be the light of my life and worries about being usurped. He ignores Hope in my presence but plays with her when I'm in the other room. She's accepted him as Alpha, and he likes that. He leads her around... and she's happy to follow.

Hope has no interest in my cats. Even if they join her in eating out of her dish, she ignores them. Perhaps she lived with a bunch of feral cats? It's a mystery.

Another mystery is how I am going to remain affectionate yet detached... a caregiver also willing to give her away when the time comes. I see the trust she has developed, the sense of belonging that has settled her, and I worry about disrupting all of that... sending her to a new home with new people.

Hope and I are in this together, each of us learning, each of us letting go of feelings past, looking to the future. What will that future be?

Kathie Lynch

Kathie Lynch
Publisher

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RUDY'S TOP 10

Songs To Listen To While Reading The Pet Gazette

10. Pet Sounds – The Beach Boys
9. My Dog and Me – Little Milton
8. Stray Cat Strut – The Stray Cats
7. Three Little Birds – Bob Marley and the Wailers
6. Hey Bulldog – The Beatles
5. White Rabbit – The Jefferson Airplane
4. Three Cool Cats – The Coasters
3. Horses – Rickie Lee Jones
2. Walking the Dog – Aerosmith
1. Mary Had a Little Lamb – Stevie Ray Vaughn



Bonus Tracks:

- a. Alligator Eatin' Dog – Clarence Gatemouth Brown
- b. I Wanna Be Your Dog – Iggy Pop and The Stooges
- c. Wild Horses – The Rolling Stones



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In Fine Fettle



Explaining Flea and Tick Preparations

by Dr. Andrea Bivens

A friend asked me the difference between all the brands of flea and tick medications, and I thought that would make a great article. There are so many flea and tick preparations on the market, it is hard as a pet owner to know which is right for your pet. Therefore, this month, I will hopefully sort and clarify the differences and similarities between these products.

Knowing which product is appropriate to use in which situation, as well as proper application methods, is daunting. No recommendation is right for every house and every pet. All factors must be considered. How many dogs and cats do you have? Do you live very close to other houses where fleas and ticks may not be controlled? Are you feeding stray cats on your front porch? Does your pet have food allergies? Do you travel? Do you show your pet? Does your pet swim? Your veterinarian will guide you in choosing which product or combination of products best suits your pet's health and lifestyle needs.

The reasons most flea and tick medications are sold through veterinarians are to ensure safe application and to make sure the medications your pet receives are the right ones for his or her situation.

Oral Flea Medications

There are essentially two oral flea preparations: Capstar and Comfortis. Capstar is a tablet that provides a short-term, quick fix solution by killing fleas for 48 hours on both dogs and cats. It begins working within 30 minutes of ingestion, so it is very good when you need something to kill fleas fast. The downside to Capstar is that it only lasts 48 hours, so you need a longer-acting product to continue flea management when the Capstar wears off.

Comfortis is the other oral flea medication. It also can be used in dogs or cats, 14 weeks or older. Comfortis also provides a very fast kill, beginning in 30 minutes; however, it continues to kill fleas

for thirty days. Comfortis is a prescription drug typically purchased at your local veterinarian's office. Comfortis should be given with some food, or it can cause a pet to vomit.

Oral flea medications are especially useful for pets who require medicated baths regularly or those who swim a lot. They are also great for pets who find the topicals (medicines squirted on the skin) uncomfortable and those that lose hair at the site of application of topical products.

Topical Flea Medications

Frontline Plus is probably the best-known topical flea medication. It has an ingredient which kills both fleas and ticks as well as one which stops flea eggs from maturing. There are many generics following in the path of Frontline Plus. However, my experience has been that Frontline is far superior to the generics because of the ingredient they use to spread the product along the pet's skin.

Advantage is the next best known topical flea medication; it is a good flea killer, but it has no action against ticks. Fleas die within 12 hours of application.

Advantix also is applied to the skin, and it is labeled to kill and repel ticks, fleas, and mosquitoes, and can be applied from seven weeks of age and up. The product cannot be applied to cats.

Certifect is a newer topical flea and tick medication, which also kills lice and Scabies. Certifect should not be applied any further back than the shoulder area, as the dog should not lick the product. In my hands, I find Certifect to be the most effective topical medication for killing ticks. However, because it can make a pet sleepy for a day or so, I only use Certifect in cases where ticks are already a problem. *Neither Certifect nor Advantix are safe in cats.*

Other topical flea and tick preparations include Vectra 3D, Vectra for dogs and puppies, and Vectra for cats and kittens. The 3D preparation has a label for fleas, ticks, mites, and mosquitoes. The

other two Vectra products control only fleas.

Once again, I must emphasize, the products which are labeled for dogs, especially the store brands, often have an ingredient in them known as a Permethrin. *The products are unsafe to use in cats.* Therefore, if you are a cat owner, use only the products labeled for cats, unless your veterinarian has specifically told you to do otherwise.

Many topical products state that they are waterproof and that your pet can bathe and swim. While this may be true for the occasional bather or swimmer, I have not seen any topical persist 30 days on a pet that requires frequent medicated baths or a dog that spends hours in a lake or pool each day. Should your pet fall into this category, you should either discuss different application strategies with your veterinarian or consider a different method of flea and tick control.

Flea Collars

I have never been a fan of the flea collar. I have been watching fleas crawl all over pets with flea collars for 19 years. However, we now have three collars worthy of mention. The first is the Preventic collar. It does not kill fleas; however, it is very effective at killing ticks on dogs. It should not be used with Certifect, and it must not be used on cats. Scalibor is a similar dog-only collar, labeled for fleas and ticks that lasts six months.

The newest collar on the market is a product called Seresto. Seresto is a flea and tick killing collar which lasts 8 months on both dogs and cats. This product is unique in that the medications are impregnated into the collar itself instead of just coating the collar.

Heartworm Prevention

The following products are flea and tick preparations which include heartworm prevention as well. They are all by prescription only, because of the heartworm prevention.

Trifexis is an oral heartworm and flea combination for dogs. It prevents heartworms, kills hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, and fleas. Hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms, are all intestinal worms. Trifexis is essentially Comfortis, the oral flea tablet, combined with Milbemycin, an oral heartworm preventative. Unfortunately, it has no label for ticks.

Sentinel is a once-a-month tablet, like Trifexis. Both use the same heartworm ingredient, Milbemycin. The difference is that Sentinel stops fleas from laying eggs with good shells. The eggs dry up and never hatch. The downside is that it does not kill adult fleas. If one pet in the household is not on the product, a flea can bite that pet, and lay perfectly viable eggs that bite all the other pets. Additionally, if you remove your pet from its home

CONTINUED to Page 12

Flea Products

Product	Canine	Feline	Fleas	Ticks	Minimum age/weight	Duration of action	Average \$/mo.
Capstar	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4 weeks/2 lbs.	48 hours	\$50 (if used as sole flea control)
Comfortis	Yes	Yes	Yes!!	No	14 weeks	30 days	\$17/month
Frontline Plus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8 weeks	30 days	\$14/month
Advantage	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Dog 7 weeks; Cat 8 weeks	30 days	\$11/month
Activyl for Dogs and Puppies	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	8 weeks	30 days	\$16/month
Activyl Cat	No	Yes	Yes	No	8 weeks	30 days	\$16/month
Certifect	Yes	*NO*	Yes	Yes!!	8 weeks	30 days ticks; longer fleas	\$16-20/month
Advantix	Yes	*NO*	Yes	Fair	7 weeks	30 days	\$12/month
Sentinel*	Yes	No	Prevents eggs hatching	No	4 weeks/ 2 lbs	30 days	\$10/ month
Advantage* Multi	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Dog 7 weeks/ Cat 9 weeks	30 days	\$17/month
Revolution*	Yes	Yes	Yes	One species	Dog 6 weeks/ Cat 8 weeks	30 days	\$19/month
Trifexis*	Yes	No	Yes!!	No	8 weeks	30 days	\$20/month
Scalibor	Yes	*NO*	Yes	Yes	12 weeks	6 months	\$7.50/month
Preventic	Yes	*NO*	No	Yes	12 weeks	3 months	\$6.75 month
Seresto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dog 7 weeks/ Cat 10 weeks	8 months	\$9/month

* denotes products which include Heartworm Prevention as well. When comparing costs, please factor in addition of heartworm preventative to those that do not have an asterisk.

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Guiding With Love

Crystal... At Your Service

by Kathie Lynch

Punta Gorda residents Sue Reeves and her husband Paul don't like to cook, so they enjoy visiting their favorite restaurant, OPUS, a few times each week for dinner. Recently, they've added a third seat at the



Crystal is off duty during dinner.

table, so to speak. Crystal, a beautiful two-year-old Yellow Lab/Golden Retriever pup has joined the family. OPUS is a pet-friendly restaurant in downtown Punta Gorda, but while other canines may lounge at the patio tables outdoors, Crystal is a welcome guest indoors. She is a Service Dog.

Sue was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 23 years ago and had



Paul and Sue with Crystal at OPUS.

long toyed with the idea of getting a service dog. A late-night bathroom fall last June knocked her unconscious and put her in the hospital for several days. That's when Paul said they had to get serious, so after much research Sue got in touch

with New Horizons Service Dogs in Orange City, Florida.

New Horizons is a Florida-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. They provide professionally trained and certified service dogs to persons with disabilities and provide ongoing support to their clients. Their puppies are raised in homes with volunteers who train and socialize them with weekly obedience classes



Good girl, Crystal!

and public outings. After that, professional trainers take over to teach them the high-level commands needed for their recipients. Only then do the dogs get matched up with their "charges" and they train together.

Sue went through the New Horizons application process, and a year later, after a personal-needs interview, she entered the program. On May 27 of this year, she began two weeks of training in Sanford, Florida, and met her dog Crystal the very first day.

Classes included a dozen people learning the basic 77 service-dog commands, along with other commands specific to various disabilities. Lectures covered many areas, including service dog handling, etiquette, and going out in public. Trainees were tested regularly and expected to practice with their dogs daily. Training was extensive. Two soldiers with PTSD agreed that it was "every bit as bad as bootcamp." Still, it was doable for two mothers and their four-year-old autistic children who worked with their own dogs.

People and dogs were matched according to personality and mobility/activity levels, and

"connection." Sue and Crystal bonded immediately. They were meant for each other. So other commands were added. "Brace" is their most commonly used. Crystal goes rigid, providing support for Sue when she gets up or gets wobbly.

On the third day of training, Crystal accompanied Sue back to her hotel. The official bonding had begun. On June 8 Crystal and Sue went home to Punta Gorda, beginning their new life together.

When asked what Crystal had done for her, Sue laughs, "Raised my blood pressure! She still has puppy traits, she's not a perfect dog... yet." Joking aside, she considers Crystal a blessing, helping every day and allowing her a measure of freedom she did not formerly have. Special commands include "Go get Paul," and Crystal gets Paul. She will also get the phone, pick up Sue's cane, and move with her so she's always available to assist. They practice all 77-plus commands each day. "Behind" instructs Crystal to walk behind Sue when passing through a doorway, and "tug" tells her to pull a walker to Sue. Another very important command is "Go get Kay." Crystal runs to their neighbor's house to "get Kay" in case of emergency.

Sue now feels more comfortable getting around, and Paul, a retired corporate pilot who volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol, has peace of mind while away from home.



Lovely appetizers to start the meal.

It's a pleasure for them to dine at OPUS. Jim Lawson, OPUS owner, "really helps facilitate that, and the staff all love Crystal. They give her attention, then she settles down and is quiet," Sue says. Whether they sit at the bar and have a light meal of a few appetizers, or settle in at their favorite out-of-the-way table for a fine dinner, Crystal waits quietly.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sue, Paul and Crystal at OPUS recently. After being released from her duties by Sue's command, Crystal greeted me with a few licks and wags. She's still a puppy at heart, but a very well-trained puppy. While working,



OPUS Manager, Yolanda Báez stops to visit.

her demeanor was that of a very well-trained dog, and Sue was always her focus. It was a bit of a shock, afterward, to come home to my own unruly pack. Hmm... maybe some refresher training is in our future.

New Horizons Service Dogs, Inc., does all their own breeding to ensure quality. Crystal is from their first mixed brood, The Rivers. She is named for Crystal River in Florida, while one brother, Hudson, is named for that river in New York. Crystal is a beautiful dog, and smart. She has to be, for Sue and Paul to put their faith in her.

Anyone with a disability who could benefit from a service dog should get in touch with New Horizons. Although it is estimated to cost \$20,000 to train a service dog, they are provided free of charge to those who meet their criteria. After that, New Horizons only asks that their clients "pay a little forward" by being visible in their community and, at some point, doing some fund raising for the non-profit group. Visit the New Horizons website at www.newhorizonsservicedogs.org.

Kathie Lynch is Publisher of *The Pet Gazette*. You can reach her at kathie@floridapet.net.



Sue and Crystal at OPUS.



Dear Tabby

Nails and Feathery Tails

by Tabby

Dear Tabby,
Why do cats like to claw the furniture?

Ragged in Rotonda

Dear Ragged,

Cats that are sharpening their claws are really taking part in a very important grooming process. This behavior is an inborn instinct to keep nails healthy. A new nail is always growing under the old dead shell. By digging into a textured object such as a tree trunk, a rug, or your new sofa, the outer shell will come off when we pull back, thereby giving the new nail room to grow.

A human's nails are always growing as are ours. Since no one has heard of a feline nail salon, we must take care of the need ourselves.

By instinct, we know that our nails are a vital part of our defense system, and we feel we must keep them lethally sharp! So when your Tabby starts clawing at the furniture or your antique oriental rug, don't despair. Try to give her something equally pleasing that meets the need but is more appropriate for nail grooming. There are many such products available at your local pet supply store... from scratching posts to cardboard scratch pads.

With patience, we can be trained to scratch only in the right places, but we must have the right materials. Some of us like the corrugated cardboard trays in a cardboard holder that have catnip embedded in them, while others prefer a scratching post.



Dear Tabby,
My cat doesn't seem to play much, even though I buy her all of the newest toys.

Neglected in North Fort Myers

Dear Neglected,

Most cats over the age of two years old don't take the initiative to play by themselves like they did when they were kittens, although

toys with catnip in them, or those scented with catnip, are usually a big favorite. If you overdo the catnip scent, however, it loses its appeal after a while. Many older cats prefer interactive play, although a lot of adult humans are just too tired most of the time (because they don't take enough cat naps) to pull a string around the house for their feline companion. However, we can get the job done.

Make or buy a fishing pole style of toy which is a big favorite among my feline friends. It is also energy-saving for humans! This toy is a stiff,



thin (pencil or pen diameter), long pole with a string attached to one end that holds either feathers or sparkling metallic, long ribbons. The human can sit and relax while slowly dragging the feathers or ribbons across the floor. The cat gets all the exercise, but everyone enjoys the fun! This toy is just about guaranteed to work with all of us. Even if we only start by extending a paw, soon we'll be leaping and running. Don't forget to let your Tabby catch it occasionally or she will lose interest in the game.

I have recently seen some toys in "cat-alogues" that are motorized, either by remote control or batteries. They might be a lot of fun, too!

Dear Tabby dictates this column to her human, who scarcely has time for vacations! Send your questions to deartabby@floridapet.net.



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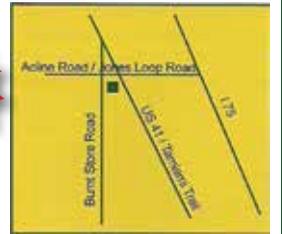
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The ART of the Matter

The Art of George Rodrigue

by Kathie Lynch

We're delighted to bring you a very famous personality on this month's cover... Blue Dog, who appears to be looking for a beach house. Could he be sitting on Sanibel, or Boca Grande? Or, perhaps, Fort Myers Beach?

Whatever the location, those expressive yellow eyes convey all sorts of messages, depending on your interpretation. I always see my late, beloved Aussie Shadow with his



Artist George Rodrigue.

the loup-garou, inspired the famous Blue Dog series. George's own dog, Tiffany, was used as the model, she is not Blue Dog. Blue Dog came to life through George's own imagination which created this strong, whimsical personality.

Rodrigue has painted Presidents Reagan, H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. His Blue Dog has graced the wall of the famous coffee house in the TV smash hit "Friends," and he has been the spokes-dog for Absolut Vodka, among other things. Personally, I like him best when he graces the cover of The Pet Gazette.

Rodrigue has three galleries, The Rodrigue Studio, in New Orleans and Lafayette, Louisiana, and in Carmel, California. To learn more about the art of George Rodrigue and Blue Dog, visit www.georgerodrigue.com.

GRFA

The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts was founded in 2009 by George Rodrigue, providing financial assistance in the arts and other areas in a time of continuing state and federal cutbacks. The artist believes that personal growth benefits from creative expression and sees the importance of artistic accomplishment in developing self-esteem. His primary focus is to expose children to education in the visual arts, hoping to inspire in others an early and on-going creative passion similar to his own. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.georgerodriguefoundation.org.

"Oops! Maybe I shouldn't have done that" look. He's a charmer, that Blue Dog... a far cry from the Cajun myth he was born out of... the scary loup-garou, a werewolf or ghost dog said to haunt bad children.

Artist George Rodrigue was raised in the heart of Cajun country and discovered his love of art at an early age. He studied at the University of Southwest Louisiana followed by graduate school at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles.

He has a unique style, his perception of Louisiana's spiritual and cultural identity. Oak trees are prominent in his works, as are Cajun traditions and myths, one of which,



New Orleans Gallery.



Good Dog!

Update on Our New Puppy

by Carol Tollini

A few weeks have passed. I want to let you know our puppy, who remains nameless, is doing very well with socialization (we take the pup everywhere), house training, and beginning obedience. Our vet reports he is in excellent health.

It's time to look into a puppy kindergarten class. Although I don't know why, the pup can already do "sit" and "down." We hold a treat in our right hand just over his nose, pushing the treat back toward his

to teach them this behavior, but I think they have it now. Good dog parents! I like the chasing game I taught them. When they call me, I wait until they reach for me and then I run as fast as I can. Oh, stay? I don't think so! I have a feeling after my last chase game (which I think was great fun) this puppy is going to puppy kindergarten.

My parents say they can't think of a good name for me. I didn't like the one they called me after my last



eyes, command "Sit" and he does! Using a treat in the right hand, we make a downward motion toward the floor, command "Down" and he will down! Anything puppy climbs or jumps on, an "Off" command is given. This teaches him to keep his four paws on the floor. We are having difficulty with "Stay," and when we call him he sometimes runs away. What's that about? Maybe we do need puppy kindergarten.

Pup's View

You should see what I have trained my human parents to do! They each get a treat and I have them place it over my nose. When my head goes up, my behind sits on the floor, and I get the treat. It took me a while

chase game. I'll just say it wasn't very nice! I will recall better if I have a name. Can you help them, please? I'm non-gender specific so you can select a female or male name. E-mail your name choice to: carol@floridapet.net.

Licks and Wags,
Carol and Puppy

Carol Tollini is owner of Pleasant Run Dog Training, Grooming, and Boarding, located in south Punta Gorda. In addition to dog training, boarding, grooming, and puppy kindergarten, Pleasant Run also offers agility classes from September through May. You may email Carol at carol@floridapet.net.

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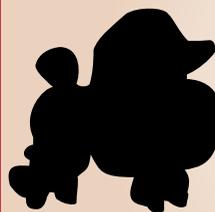
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A Keys Vacation...Whe

by Kathie Lynch

A while back I found myself in need of a quiet vacation... a getaway... but where to go?



Another guest.

I wanted beachfront, but low key. I wanted the option of eating in but also convenient dining. I definitely wanted to bring the dogs.

I scanned the internet for pet-friendly accommodations in the Keys. Not Key West... too busy. Islamorada? I'd never stayed there but heard great things, so I decided to give it a try.

After looking at numerous hotel and motel sites, I came across White Gate Court. It sounded too good to be true, yet when I called for more information, I was astounded. Pet friendly? Absolutely!

I made reservations for a week, deciding to leave the cats in the very capable hands of Lesley and Greg Baber, owners of Fur to Feathers Pet



Sadie loves the beach.

Sitting Service. Then I headed for Islamorada, Sadie and Roo in tow.

It was my first trip across Alligator Alley, and I was surprised to find it an easy crossing. The time passed quickly and in four hours we arrived on the island. I stopped at a quaint but upscale grocery for provisions and continued down the road to our destination. Yes, a white gate marked the spot.

Our little cottage was the first in line as we left the Overseas Highway (US 1) and entered through the gate. It was set among large shade trees and flowering vines, with a large parklike area across the lane... actually, a manicured drive perfect for bare feet, human and canine. The beach was approximately 400 feet down the lane with beach chairs and umbrella tables, and a nice dock if you happened to bring your boat. Couldn't wait to investigate.

Our little yellow cottage could not have been more charming... inside



Welcome to our charming cottage!

and out... and the grounds were beautifully manicured. I dropped my bags and we headed down the lovely lane to the beach where turquoise waters awaited us. My pups are not water dogs, but they sniffed and waded, then quickly lost interest. They'd spotted two other dogs and were off to greet them. The dogs were friendly, as were their human companions, Carol and Don, and we fell into a pattern of meeting at the "Sunset Deck" (a waterside terrace) each evening for wine and hors d'oeuvres. Sunset views were spectacular. Our new Miami friends

proved to be great companions and definitely added to our sense of feeling at home.

My visit fell mid-August and it was fairly quiet at White Gate Court. There are only seven suites, accommodating from one to five



Roo sunbathing.

people. Even full up, there would have been privacy... and quiet! I had my camera along, so we spent several early mornings chasing the sunrise, but that allowed me the luxury of afternoon naps on my comfy couch and quiet reads in my cozy little cottage. Sadie was content to nap on her L.L.Bean bed while Roo, as usual, snuck up onto my bed to snooze. Our fully equipped kitchen was just big enough to cook a meal. If Goldilocks was along, she would



Our messy kitchen.

deem our cottage "just right." I spent much of my time contemplating living in such a space... and freedom



Sunset from the beach.

from the accumulated trappings of life. I'd brought along my iPad, my camera, binoculars, a few items of clothing, bathing suit, and a few other essentials. My flip flops stayed in the car. I didn't want for anything.

As it says on their website, "White Gate Court is not a motel. The property is 119,000 square feet (approx. 3 acres) filled with huge ancient trees and colorful tropical plants. The maximum occupancy is 18-20 persons. That means 5,950 square feet per person to relax in peace and privacy. The tropical park between the highway and the buildings is a natural screen that keeps out the noise of the world you left behind." I found the



Foxy Lady.

grounds to be simply lovely, a perfect counterpart to the simple beach and warm water. As an added bonus, pet waste disposal containers were strategically placed, so wandering with the dogs could be spontaneous. In the mornings, I would just open the door and stroll outside, barefoot, and wander the grounds. Frequently, I was alone with the pups... such a lovely way to start the day.

re Pets Are Welcome!

The Pet Scoop

White Gate Court is pet friendly in memory of the owners' dog Barney,



Cottage beauty.

a gentle Golden Retriever who passed away in 2007. He enjoyed his property, swimming in the sea and lounging on the patio with guests.

His humans decided, after his passing, to share this beautiful space in his memory, so others would not have to leave their pets at home when they vacationed.



In memory of Barney

Sadie and Roo really enjoyed wandering with me off-leash, and



Sadie & Roo head to the beach.

they made friends with every human and canine they encountered. Although we went adventuring off the property, and I found several pet-friendly restaurants which we frequented, they were excited to pass through the gates to their favorite vacation spot. Once out of the car, we just had to stroll down to the beach... they left me no choice!

The beach at White Gate Court is a typical, keys-style, white-sand beach, just 220' long and 30' deep, protected with sea walls and rocks. No long beach walks here, just gorgeous views and welcoming waters. The sea-bottom is soft sand and the clear water is safe for swimming and snorkeling.



Beachfront breakfast.

White Gate Court does not have a pool, but that means no cannonballs and no screaming kids. The greatest pool in the world is just offshore, the blue waters of Matecumbe Bight. I couldn't resist a dip most days, and Sadie often joined me. Roo stayed clear, guarding us from his post onshore.

I heard that night fishing from the dock is great, but I'd left my rod and reel behind, and chose to lounge with a glass of wine instead. I had all the fresh fish I could wish for at

various local restaurants. However, I did catch sight of the resident 5-foot nurse shark, a gentle creature



View from our beach.

who's part of the family at White Gate Court.

Having published The Pet Gazette in Massachusetts for many years, my

dogs and I were welcomed guests at many fine hotels and inns. While a stay at the Ritz or Four Seasons holds a certain panache, and a five-star resort in Maine dedicated a suite to my former Aussie, Shadow, I cannot say I have enjoyed a vacation more than our week at White Gate Court. As someone who is most happy with my pups by my side, I found our little cottage beyond the gates to be the perfect haven... a dog lover's dream.

Kathie Lynch is Publisher of The Pet Gazette. You can reach her at kathie@floridapet.net.

White Gate Court

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White Gate Court is located at 76010 Overseas Highway, Lower Matecumbe Key. Mail address: PO Box 1528, Islamorada, FL 33036. Call for reservations at 1-800-645-GATE but first visit their website at www.whitegatecourt.com.

You will be charmed!



Bailey, fetch!



Cozy cottage.



Ren digging up stones.



Local friend waiting for breakfast.



Kissing Manatees.



White Gate Cour Beach.

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Calendar of Events

- **August 3, 10, 17, 24** - Agility Classes - Fun Run with Chris - 1 PM to 3 PM in North Fort Myers. For details call ABC4 K9 at (239) 217-9241.
- **Aug. 10 & Sept. 14** - Low Cost Vaccination & Pet Health Clinics at Love on a Leash, 18491 N Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers. Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. Call 239-731-1001 for info.
- **August 24** - Dog Daze at The Fort Myers Miracle Baseball Game. You can call Carrie Anne Ventre at Academy Kennels for more information - 239-936-1163.
- **August 22 - 25** - Calusa Agility Club event at Turner Center in Arcadia. Check for info at CalusaDog.org or call for more info - Darlene Summer, Little Paws Bakery & Boutique, Fort Myers (239) 267-9818.
- **Oct 6** - 12:00 Noon - Blessing of the Animals - Animal Welfare League, 3519 Drance St., Port Charlotte. 941-625-6720.
- **October 19** - Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda, Annual Oktoberfest. Barktoberfest Pet Costume Contest 11 AM to 1 PM at Center Court.
- **Oct 19** - Shindig at the Shelter - 10 to 2 PM. Raffles, Food, Yard Sale, Vendors, Adoption Special, Doggie Day Spa. Animal Welfare League, 3519 Drance St., Port Charlotte. 941-625-6720. Admission \$1.00.
- **October 19** - 10AM - 2PM at The Animal Welfare League, 3519 Drance St., Pt. Charlotte. Food, raffles, yard sale, adoption special, vendors and more. Join the shelter in celebrating 50 years of serving the community. Call 941-626-6720 or visit www.awlshelter.org.
- **Nov 2** - Puppy Up! Walk to support those with cancer. Starting at Petco in The Forum, 9380 Dynasty Drive, Fort Myers. 9 AM registration, 10 AM walk. Register online at www.2MillionDogs.org.
- Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda - Muttini Mingle - A Pawtastic Yappy Hour - Bring your pooch and good spirits - the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM to 8 PM at Center Court.
- Punta Gorda Horseman's Association meets the 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 PM at 6905 Florida Street, Punta Gorda.
- Orange House Wine Bar, Punta Gorda, offers "Dog's Nite Out" the 4th Wednesday every month, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to raise funds for the Animal Welfare League. 941-625-6720.
- Angelina's Ristorante, 24041 South Tamiami Trail, and Agave Southwestern Grill and Tequila Bar, 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road, both in Bonita Springs, offering "Dog Days of Summer" every Wednesday through August 28. This Pet Food Drive benefits Lee County • Domestic Animal Services' Community Pet Pantry and The Humane Society Naples. Visit www.angelinasofbonitasprings.com or www.AgaveNaples.com for more information.
- Companion Bird Club of Charlotte County meets the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM at the GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte, 20271 Tappan Zee Drive, Port Charlotte. Bird lovers welcome.
- The Peace River Schutzhund (Elite Top German Shepherd) Club meets every Saturday at their Training Field off SR 74 (Burmont Rd.) in Punta Gorda at 10:00 AM. Tracking exercises start at 7:00 AM. Contact Noel Coward 941-628-1738.

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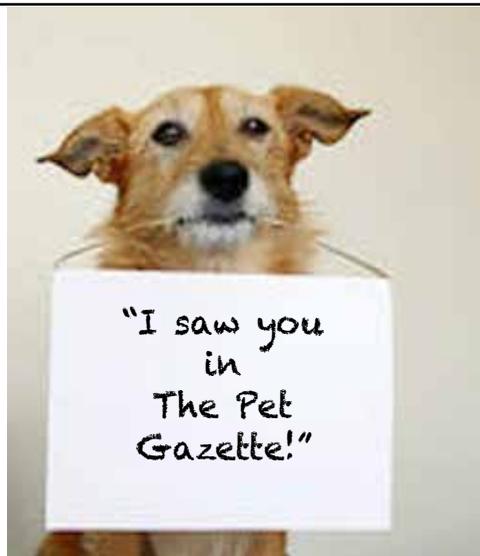
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CONTINUED from page 5

environment (i.e., take it for a walk or go to the dog park), your pet can still pick up adult fleas, and you may need to use an adulticide (medicine that kills adult fleas) to kill these hitchhiker fleas.

Combination Flea and Heartworm Products

The two topical combination flea and heartworm products are Advantage Multi and Revolution. Advantage Multi has no tick fighting action; however, it is a broad spectrum intestinal dewormer, heartworm preventative, and flea fighter. It is a good choice for a dog with food allergies, who can not take an oral heartworm/flea product. Advantage Multi is available for both dogs and cats.

The other topical combination product is Revolution. Revolution also has a dog and a cat version. The dog version has a label for fleas, heartworms, ear mites, and scabies, as well as one variety of tick. Unfortunately, that particularly tick is not endemic to Florida. Revolution Canine has no label for intestinal worms; however the feline version does.

There is no shortage of choices for flea and tick control in our canine and feline companions, and more are continually being developed. However, no matter how effective the medication is, if applied in the wrong situation, on the wrong pet, or if applied incorrectly, frustration will ensue. The best way to manage comprehensive parasite control for your pet is to visit your veterinarian and discuss all the pets on the premises, indoor and outdoor, incorporating discussions about each pet's unique needs. As a team, you and your veterinarian can best design the flea and tick control program which will work best for you.

Dr. Andrea Bivens received her doctorate from the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. She now operates a mobile veterinary clinic, Medi-Waggin'. Dr. Bivens was voted Charlotte County's best veterinarian 2010-2012. She lives in Punta Gorda with her husband, son, three dogs, three cats and two horses. You can reach Dr. Bivens at andrea@floridapet.net



Nancy with little customer Bella, a 14-week-old rescue from Miami.

Profile

Nancy Okun

by Leslie Renner

When I arranged to interview Nancy Okun of Cats N Dogs, I was expecting to visit a typical pet store. What I discovered was a first-class "pet boutique." Nancy's charming store offers an array of amusing and playful gift and decorative items as well as a variety of healthy foods and treats.

It didn't take me long to discover a sparkling collection of jewelry, for both pet owners and pets. I was particularly enchanted with a pearl dog collar with a sparkling rhinestone heart which, unfortunately, did not fit my ankle, wrist or neck... but, believe me, I tried!!

Nancy loves to talk pets, and she is a wealth of information. Cats N Dogs carries only holistic, natural foods and treats. According to Nancy, the current trend in pet foods is towards natural, grain-free products with limited ingredients. Previously, pet foods usually contained chicken or beef as the protein source, but research has shown that, over time, some animals have developed a sensitivity to these items, causing the pet food industry to look for alternative protein sources like bison and kangaroo. Who knew? Nancy pointed out that over the lifetime of a dog, better quality foods are actually cost effective because having a healthier diet can result in fewer veterinary visits, especially as your pet ages.

Nancy got into the pet business because, she says, "My cat and dog wanted me to. They wanted stuff!" She started her business several years ago with a booth at the Sun Flea Market before opening her current store.

Drawing on her background in art and design, she chooses unique items for Cats N Dogs. "I wanted to offer things not found anywhere else in the area... fun things that make you smile." She goes yearly to the Global Pet Expo in Orlando to select distinctive pet-related items from over 900 vendors.

The store's best sellers are food and dog treats and "conversation." During the season, Nancy holds

"Meet and Greets" on Sundays. People can bring a chair and their dog... on a leash, please. She offers samples of new foods and treats, but mostly the event gives pet owners a chance to meet and talk about their beloved best friends. Often the "Meet and Greets" are tied to a fund raiser for local pet adoption, rescue, and fostering. The annual Halloween Party in October is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

While browsing the store, I noticed a good selection of small dog strollers. Nancy says they are "for pet owners who can still walk around but may have doggies that can't, or for people who like to bring their small dog babies to outdoor events." I once tried out one of these strollers but, to my disappointment, my own 8 lb. Toy Poodle, Pooh Bear, would have no part of it. And my husband, who was initially mortified at the idea of owning such a tiny dog, quickly succumbed to Pooh's charms but drew the line at being seen pushing a tiny poodle in a baby stroller!!

Oh, speaking of tiny dogs, Nancy believes that the majority of dog owners in the area have small breeds, probably because they are easier to manage and eat less, making them more affordable. (They're also a LOT easier to clean up after, but I'm way too delicate to bring up this aspect of pet ownership.)

Cats N Dogs does special orders for customers requesting specific gift items and particular brands of pet food, and Nancy is a very good source of information if you are looking to improve your pet's diet and nutrition. Stop on by!

Cats N Dogs is located at 2826 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte. It's open seven days a week: Monday thru Saturday 11-5 and Sunday 12-4. You may visit Nancy's website at www.catndogstuff.com.

Leslie Renner is a staff writer for *The Pet Gazette*. You may contact her at leslie@floridapet.net.



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WingTips



Do You Really Want A Parrot?

by Rebecca Stockslager

Do you really want a parrot as a pet? Why? Does a friend have an awesome parrot that is the life of the party? Maybe someone sent you a YouTube video link of a dancing cockatoo.

Too often we are led to believe that birds are an easy pet; a cage, some bird seed, a couple of wood toys and you're a bona fide aviculturist! They don't even require walking or a litter box. A parrot might not be the right choice for you if you have ever said any of the following:

- "Which ones talk?"
- "I want a quiet bird that doesn't bite."
- "What's a good starter bird?"
- "I want a Beretta bird."
- "Do they bite?"
- "I work long hours, which bird is right for me?"
- "Can I keep it on my lanai?"
- "Would this cockatoo be too loud for my condo?"

While parrots are, without a doubt, one of the most engaging pets they are also one of the most demanding. That, my friend, is the problem. A parrot is not an impulse purchase. You should not be considering a parrot as a pet without a lot of homework.

The beauty, intelligence, and entertaining nature of parrots has caused a lot of grief for the uninformed. They don't pop out of the egg performing. You need to understand that it takes a lot of behavior modification and training to respond to cues. The bird you bring home will not know its name, your name, or how to whistle a tune. You are going to need a lot of time, patience, love, and education before you are ready to become a "parront." You need to honestly examine your lifestyle, learn about different types of parrots and their natural behaviors, and determine which, if any, would make a good pet in your home.

As blogger Patricia Sund proclaims at <http://parrotnation.com/>, "Parrots are cool. They are also one hell of a lot of work." You will find an honest reality check in her posts about living with parrots.

Birds are a lifetime commitment. In many cases they will outlive you, and you need to plan for that. They are noisy, and messy, and require every bit as much attention as a toddler. They need human interaction. If they want – they scream. They have good days and bad days; just like us. They need to get out of their cages and exercise. They need mental stimulation from appropriate "toys" and enrichment activities. They may or may not talk (unless you are out of the room). They eat woodwork, chew wiring, and reupholster furniture. And they poop. They poop a lot. They poop on you. They poop on your stuff. They eat keyboards. They need to be kept clean. Their cages need to be clean; their food dishes need to be clean.

Polly also wants a lot more than seed; add in some high quality pellet, lots of fresh vegetables, fruits, nuts, and protein. They need to be seen annually by a vet to ensure good health. They require bathing and grooming of wings, nails, and sometimes beaks. None of this is cheap!

If you've made it this far, and you still believe a parrot is the pet for you, congratulations! You might just be ready to bring a parrot into your life, for despite the mess, noise, and physical and emotional labor put into them, what other creature communicates with us in our own language? They will laugh with you and at you (for you will be of great entertainment to them). The trust and bond you can have with a parrot is one of the most rewarding adventures in human/pet relations.

Although I work with rescue parrots all day and enjoy them immensely, nothing compares to walking in the door and having my Congo African Grey greet me with "Mommy's Home!"

Rebecca (Becky) Stockslager is the owner of Bonnie's Birds in Port Charlotte. For questions, you may contact her at becky@floridapet.net.



Wild Things

Not Just Another Line

by Peg Albert

Picture a stunningly bright day with nothing but blue in the sky, the sun shining over the Gulf of Mexico and the bright beach sand.

That soft, warm sand massages your toes, like a day at the spa, as you stroll lazily along the beach, accompanied by the absolute euphoria that nothing but days like this engender.

Your gaze shifts from the soothing sands to the shell beds by the shore, and upward, where it comes to a nauseatingly abrupt halt. You are witness to a cormorant dangling from monofilament line tangled in its feet and caught in a tree branch.

You suddenly realize the cormorant is still alive. You quickly extract it



Kemp's radiograph.

from the tree, carry it gingerly to your car, wrap it in a towel, and drive to the nearest wildlife rehabilitation clinic. Despite exceptional efforts, the cormorant doesn't make it, and your favorite pastime of walking the beach is forever changed.

"Almost always their wounds are not survivable," says Dr. Heather Barron, Hospital Director for the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW). "It almost always requires a difficult surgery, usually because the line has caused constriction and injury to an extremity, so they're no longer getting blood flow to the foot or a wing tip."

The good news is that many groups have formed along the Florida coast to combat hazardous trash issues, from "Operation Scissors" at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, to the Tampa Bay Watch, which is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary.

"Fishing line accumulates and birds unnecessarily die," the Tampa Bay Watch website says. The site explains how discarded line easily becomes a wildlife hazard. "Careless anglers may snag their line on mangroves and discard it. Birds hooked at fishing piers or elsewhere may return to nesting colonies or roosts, trailing line that drapes over trees and ultimately endangers the lives of the residents. Birds also may weave monofilament line into their nests, threatening both the adults and their young."

Programs designed to combat hazardous debris like monofilament line are making a difference. In 2012, 503 volunteers with Tampa Bay Watch removed 4,825 pounds of debris; 104 monotubes in 52 locations helped collect 325 pounds (or three miles) of dangerous, discarded fishing line.

Individuals can also make a difference. Here's one way to help: Don't feed wildlife! When you feed shorebirds you are putting them in danger. One day you're feeding



Helen hook removal.

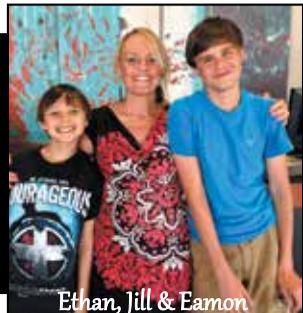
pelicans fish you caught but don't want. The next day the pier becomes a favorite pelican hangout, along with the forfeited lures, hooks and

CONTINUED to Page 18



ABOUT US

Welcome to RUFFIN IT. Our company originated in the Fall of 2010 with the imagination of my 8 year old son, Ethan. Originally called Ruff Life, changed its name to RUFFIN IT in November 2011.



Ethan, Jill & Eamon

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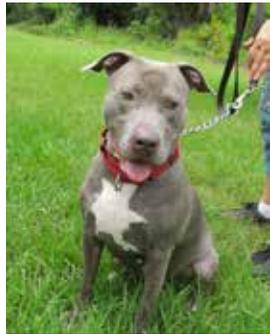
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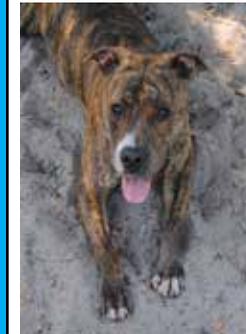
The Adoption



Alisha
 Alisha is a 2-year old female Pit Bull Terrier. She is energetic and loves to go for walks. Alisha is well-behaved and patiently waiting to meet her forever family.



Sally
 Sally is a 2-year old female Domestic Shorthair cat. She is overweight and would benefit from a healthy diet and toys for exercise. Sally has a sweet personality and loves humans.



Diesel
 Diesel is a 2-year old male Pit Bull Terrier mix. He loves car rides, toys, people, and belly rubs. Diesel is an all-around good guy who is in need of a loving family.



Charley
 Charley is a 6-year old male Domestic Shorthair cat. He is completely declawed and would make a great lap cat. Charley loves people and gets along well with other cats.



Cisco
 Cisco is a 1 1/2-year old male Hound mix. He is energetic and enjoys running and playing ball. Cisco loves to be cuddled by humans and he gets along with other dogs.



Joanie
 Joanie is a 7-year old female Domestic Shorthair cat. She can be shy so it will take her some time to get used to new surroundings. With a little love she will feel right at home.



Thor
 Thor is a 2-year-old male Staffordshire Terrier mix. Good natured with people and female dogs.



Bonnie
 Bonnie is a 9-year-old female and was rescued after Hurricane Katrina. Once again she needs a new home.



Rusty
 Rusty is a 6-year-old male Miniature Pinscher. He is an attentive companion.



Boley Boy
 Boley Boy is a 4-month-old male. Totally affectionate and a true ladies' man.



Taina
 Taina is a 7-year-old female Chihuahua mix. She loves small dogs and people.



Dorothy
 Dorothy is a 6-year-old female tabby. She is very classy and gets along with everyone.



Adoption fees are \$75 for dogs and \$65 for cats and \$6 for cats over 6 years old. Pets come fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. Dogs also come with four free training lessons at the studio of ABC 4 K9's. Pets also come with one month free pet insurance. Adoption hours are noon to 4pm Wednesdays-Sundays. The Animal Refuge Center is located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road N. Ft Myers Florida. For further information on any of our pets visit our web-site www.animalrefugecenter.com or call (239) 731-3535.

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EARS

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BOBBI AUSTIN



Mona
 Mona is a playful calico spayed female kitten who is about 4 months old. She likes to be petted and gets along well with other cats.



Puddin
 Puddin is a six-year-old spayed female with wonderful calico patches all over her body. Puddin gets along well with other cats and is very friendly.



Sampson
 Sampson is a 1½-year-old neutered male medium-long hair. Sampson is very affectionate and playful and likes other cats. He will follow you like a puppy.



Tabatha
 Tabatha is a large spayed female kitty about 3½ years old. She originally came from Fishermen's Village and has been with EARS over 2 years. She gets along well with other cats but would love a home of her own with a person to shower her with the love she craves. If you stop petting her she reaches out her paw to bring your hand back for more.



Tiggs
 Tiggs is a 19-month-old female spayed tiger kitty. Tiggs is alert, playful and gets along well with other cats. She would be a great addition to any home.



Milo
 Milo is a 6-month-old neutered black kitten that is full of mischief. He loves to play and he gets along well with other cats. All cats are a reduced adoption fee, all shots up to date and microchipped in the adopters name.



Whizzie
 Whizzie has a calm demeanor, and likes to be at the top of her kitty towers. Whizzie has a lot of love to offer and loves her kitty brushing sessions. Come spend time with Whizzie.



Abel
 Abel is a 3-year-old American Staffordshire mix with a sweet disposition. Abel loves fetch and sits on command. Abel can pirouette like a ballerina! Spend some time getting to know him and see if you're a perfect fit!



Zeus
 Zeus loves attention and is a very affectionate boy. He'll follow or sit by your side just to be near you. Zeus loves playing with cat toys, as long as you play with him.



Hercules
 Hercules is a 6-year-old Saint Bernard mix and is happy taking long walks or just keeping you company. Hercules is an easy-going best friend looking for a great home.*



Myra
 Myra is a petite kitty-cat and she takes very good care of her soft, silky fur. Myra's favorite thing to do is play with her kitty wands! Myra is a very sweet girl.



Judd
 Judd is an 8-month-old Catahoula mix, and is such a ladies man. Judd loves to play with his human and doggy friends! Come meet Judd.

Gulf Coast Humane Society
 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33916
 Tel. (239) 332 0364
www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org

*NOTE: The Pet Gazette met Hercules, and we think he's fabulous! He spent an evening at the River Ramble in downtown Ft. Myers, and he was the perfect gentleman, greeting guests and letting kids pet him. He's a medium-sized dog, not St. Bernard size, and his picture doesn't do him justice... he's a handsome boy!



The Pet Gazette Directory

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CONTINUED from page 15

accompanying monofilament line that first snagged the pilings and then the birds.

It's not just birds that get caught. Sometimes it's turtles. CROW has two in residence right now, one a Kemps-Ridley sea turtle.

The endangered Kemps-Ridley was found by a caring fisherman in the Ft. Myers Beach area. While the turtle appeared to be behaving normally, the fisherman noticed monofilament line hanging out of its mouth.

Transported to CROW, it was discovered to have ingested three fish hooks. Dr. Barron said that one hook was close enough to its mouth to be removed non-surgically. "The others were far enough down its throat to require surgery, which reduces its chances of survival."

To increase its chances, CROW transported the turtle to the Florida Veterinary Referral Center (FVRC) in Estero. The FVRC has an endoscope that made surgery unnecessary and the other hooks were removed.

The Kemps-Ridley turtle is recuperating nicely at CROW and will soon be released into its natural environment. Don't you just love happy endings? Now properly discard that fishing line and stop feeding the animals!

Peg Albert is the Executive Director of CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife.) Located on Sanibel Island, CROW is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is saving wildlife through compassion, care and education. Learn more at www.crowclinic.org. You can contact Peg at peg@floridapet.net.

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