

# urbanpaws

DOG CULTURE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2012

*Meet Luna!*

GETTING TO  
THE ROOT OF  
THE SCOOT

TRAINING & BEHAVIOR  
Dogs Really Are Simple Animals

plus: CHEW ON THIS, BODY & SOUL, NUTRITION

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# Paw Prints pet photography Jamie by Fincher

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CALLING

ALL

DOG LOVERS!

Submit your unique story for a chance to be published in an upcoming issue of Urban Paws Magazine!

If we pay close attention to their pets, we realize that we can learn just as much from them as they can from us, if not more. Our pets can teach us so much, all we have to do is pay attention to the lessons. Some of the lessons can be invaluable.

Do you have an inspiring story to share with us? If so, we'd love to read it! See submission guidelines below.

Word count: 150 to 300 words; ideal if accompanied by high-quality images.

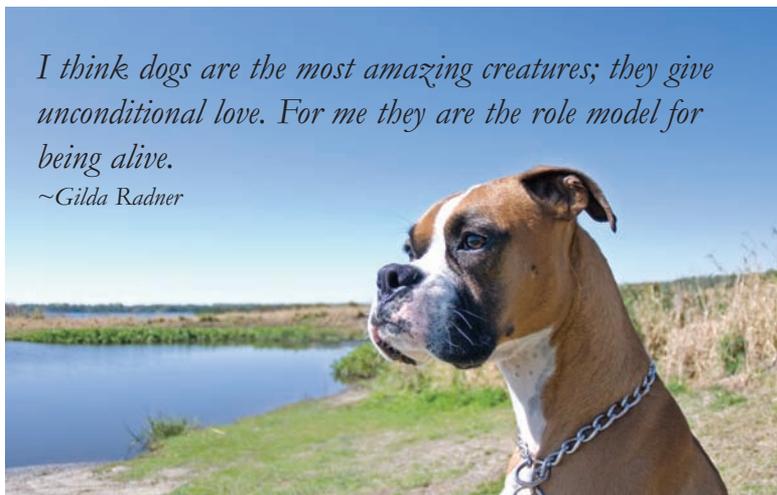
Email submissions to [info@urbanpawsmagazine.com](mailto:info@urbanpawsmagazine.com).

Submissions must be received by July 14th, 2012.

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Meet the Adoptable Dogs from South Texas Aussie Rescue

*I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.*

*~Gilda Radner*



**T**oday, the role dogs play in our lives and societies has changed. Gone are the days when that “mean dog down the street” is accepted as just that. Now there are complaints, fines and legal issues if a dog were to bite someone. It is our responsibility, as dog owners to be sure that our best friend has the skills fit in our homes and communities. Having a well trained dog is not only convenient, but often times expected.

In this issue, Bob Williams of Bark Busters Home Dog Training, shares with us how simple dogs really are and teaches us that dog training boils down to two simple things. To learn what these two things are, turn to page 18.

Also in this issue, we feature an article on the dreaded scoot. Not only is it unsightly and embarrassing, it can indicate that there is a prob-

lem with your dog.

Our newest columnist is Darlene Frudakis of PetAg.com. This month, she shares with us the importance of health pet digestion. We welcome Darlene to our pack!

A big thank you to Paw Prints by Jamie for capturing the beauty of Luna, an adoptable Australian Shepherd. To read about Luna and other adoptable dogs available through South Texas Aussie Rescue, turn to page 24.

Summer is now in full force so be sure to keep your pets cool, hydrated and safe!

*Jennifer Kitchens-Street*

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## On the Cover



Photo by Paw Prints by Jamie

### URBAN PAWS MAGAZINE

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**June 2012 Events**

For a full listing of events, visit:  
[www.urbanpawsmagazine.com/events](http://www.urbanpawsmagazine.com/events)

**JUNE 2**

**Second Annual Wild West Wienerfest**

Pasadena Rodeo Arena from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Races begin at noon. This will be a fun day out for all the family with concessions, vendors, demonstrations, and wiener dog races! All proceeds will benefit Dachshund Rescue of Houston Dachshund. For more information, visit [www.wildwestwienerfest.com](http://www.wildwestwienerfest.com).

**JUNE 2**

**Puppy Class at My Family Vet**

Bob Williams of Bark Busters Home Dog Training offers puppy classes for patients of My Family Vet. For times and additional dates, please visit [www.myfamilyvet.com](http://www.myfamilyvet.com).

**JUNE 4 (dates vary)**

**Houston SPCA Summer Critter Camp**

Kids can spend a week with their favorite critters! Camp hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. Registration fee is \$295 and includes all craft materials, camp t-shirt and afternoon snack and drink. To register, visit [www.houstonspca.org](http://www.houstonspca.org).

**JUNE 4**

**New Location Opens for NHVS**

North Houston Vet Specialists' new location will open in Spring. Ask your primary vet for a referral. For more information, visit [www.nhvetspecialists.com](http://www.nhvetspecialists.com).

**JUNE 9**

**Burroughs Dog Park Grand Opening**

Dogs and their owners are invited to the grand opening of Burroughs Park Dog Park with Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 9738

Hufsmith Road in Tomball. Pet related businesses will be on hand to join the celebration. Giveaways and raffle drawing at 10:45 a.m.

**JUNE 10**

**Yappy Hour with Houston Beagle Rescue**

Meet the adoptable beagles at Barker Street Gourmet Dog Bakery in The Woodlands. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.houstonbeaglerescue.org](http://www.houstonbeaglerescue.org).

**JUNE 22**

**National Take Your Dog to Work Day**

On this day, thousands of pet owners will work with their dogs to celebrate the 14th annual TYDTWDay. For more information, visit [www.takeyourdog.com](http://www.takeyourdog.com).

**JUNE 22-24**

**Dock Dogs at Discovery Green**

This competition showcases four-legged athletes from across Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana as they compete in high-jump, long-jump and speed retrieve events. Pet-friendly vendors, dog training demonstrations and animal adoptions. Don't miss out on the Haute Dog costume contest on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and the Dog-gone Talented pet trick contest on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com) for times and additional information.

**JUNE 1-30**

**Adopt a Shelter Cat Month**

Visit your local animal shelter or rescue organization to find your new furry feline friend.

**TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK DAY® CELEBRATES DOGS AND PROMOTES THEIR ADOPTION**

Take your dog to work on Friday, June 22nd.



First celebrated in 1999, Pet Sitters International's Take Your Dog To Work Day® was created to celebrate the great companions dogs make and to encourage their

adoption from humane societies, animal shelters and breed rescue clubs. This annual event asks pet lovers to celebrate the humane-canine bond and promote pet adoption by encouraging their employers to support TYDWTDay. Employers are encouraged to open their workplace to employees' four-legged friends on this one special day.

Your business can participate in this fun and worthwhile event. But, please celebrate the right way: Focus on the fun employees and employers have, celebrate the value of pets in the workplace, and encourage pet adoptions. To download an action pack, visit [www.takeyourdog.com](http://www.takeyourdog.com).

**ANIMAL SHELTER FACES TOUGH DECISIONS AS OVERCROWDING THREATENS THE LIVES OF DOGS AND CATS**

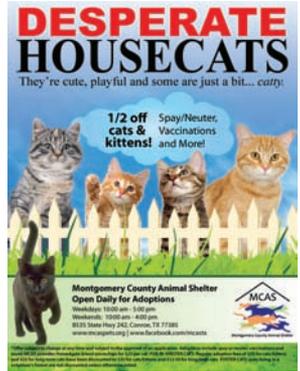
The Montgomery County Animal Shelter is experiencing high intake rates, this coupled with the shelter's goal of keeping dogs and cats for as long as it takes for them to find homes, leaves the staff with tough decisions. Staff and volunteers are asking themselves, "Which ones can I save?" and "Do I remain committed to a dog that has been housed at the shelter since February or focus my attention on the Australian Heeler puppies that just walked

through the door?"

In an effort to alleviate the need to make such decisions, the shelter has aggressively courted adopters with adoption specials including half-price cats and kittens and half-price dogs.

Throughout the summer, Montgomery County Animal Shelter is offering up discounted adoption rates with special adoption promotions. All felines are half-off during the "Desperate Housecats" promo. Or take home two cats or kittens for the price of one! Cats and kittens who are regularly \$70 can be adopted for just \$35, while long-term cats can be yours for just \$12.50.

The shelter is located at 8353 State Highway 242 in Conroe and is open daily for adoptions: Weekdays from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and weekends from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information about the shelter, visit [www.mcaspets.org](http://www.mcaspets.org).



**FIRST MEMBERS-ONLY DAILY DEALS SITE FOR PETS LAUNCHED**

On May 22nd, LeLePets launched its daily



sales on May 22nd. It's the first members-only

daily deals site dedicated exclusively to pets. Through its exclusive 72 hour sales, LeLePets offers a carefully curated selection of pet goods at up to 70% off retail. Membership to the site is free and is by invitation only. Once a member of the LeLePets community, you are given full access to daily deals featuring high quality, design inspired, unique and oftentimes boutique quality pet goods.

LeLePets gives back to the community by donating 1% of its annual net sales to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). LeLePets is strongly against animal cruelty and are committed to being part of the solution.

### **NEW TEST PREVENTS OVER VACCINATION OF DOGS**

The Canine VacciCheck kit is a single diagnostic test that evaluates the presence or absence of antibodies to three core vaccines, eliminating the possibility of over vaccination. Within 21 minutes, VacciCheck measures the current vaccine antibody levels of canine parvo virus, distemper and infectious hepatitis-adenovirus type 2 viruses, to determine if a booster is required.

VacciCheck's unique technology makes it a quick, simple and affordable test to check for all three core vaccines. This is carried out as a single test in a vet clinic, veterinary lab, animal shelter or boarding facility and can provide results while the patient is present.

In addition to preventing over vaccination, VacciCheck can help determine the vaccination

status of a dog with an unknown history. Similarly, it may be utilized to determine if puppies have received adequate immunity from vaccination protocol as well as those with genetic predisposition to immunity.

For more information about VacciCheck, please visit [www.vaccicheck.com](http://www.vaccicheck.com).

### **NORTH HOUSTON VETERINARY SPECIALISTS OPENS NEW LOCATION IN SPRING, TEXAS**

North Houston Veterinary Specialists (NHVS), a multi-specialty referral practice is opening a new location in Spring. The new, larger facility will be conveniently located at 1646 Spring Cypress Road in Suite 100. NHVS board certified veterinarians specialize in surgery, internal medicine, oncology, ophthalmology, radiology and critical care. NHVS is a referral only practice and cannot accept patients without a referral from their primary care veterinarian. For more information, visit [www.nhvetspecialists.com](http://www.nhvetspecialists.com).

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** & **TWITTER** for the most up-to-date information, news and events!

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## Getting to the Root of the Scoot

**Y**ou know it's coming when Rover sits, lifts his feet up, and with his front paws, scoots his little bum across the floor.

Aside from the unpleasant carpet stains, scooting can be an indication of an anal gland problem.

Both dogs and cats have anal sacs that may become impacted or infected if not emptying properly. This causes itching, scooting, bad odor and sometimes pain. Severe cases may abscess and rupture.

At one time or another, we've all witnessed a pet scooting, or dragging his hind end on the carpet, grass, or your favorite rug. Scooting is more common in mid to smaller sized dogs, but is occasionally seen with larger dogs or cats. Scooting is also common with overweight pets, as they have less muscle tone and sometimes additional fat tissue in the way of proper emptying of the sacs.

Pets often scoot because their anal sacs are bothering them. Anal sacs should empty regularly (and unnoticed) with normal bowel movements. If they aren't emptied regularly, they can become impacted, infected and possibly rupture.

Other possible causes for scooting or anal discomfort can include: An infected perianal tumor, irritation due to diarrhea, parasites or matted hair. A scooting pet should be examined by your vet to rule out any potential problems. Most often, it is due to inflammation, infection, or impaction of the anal sacs.

The anal sacs secrete an oily substance that is thought by many to be a means of territorial marking or communication between dogs and cats. The exact purpose isn't known



for sure. Skunks also have this type of gland, and they use the secretion for defense.

Normally a bowel movement is sufficient enough to express the anal sacs. If the animal is sick, however, the sacs do not get emptied as they normally would. Dietary changes that produce a looser stool than normal can also be a cause.

If your pet is scooting, make an appointment with your vet. It's best to rule out other potential causes. Some pets express their anal sacs by scooting or grooming themselves, but if left untreated, a simple irritation can lead to infection, impaction, and ultimately rupture! Anal sac

infections are very painful for the pet, and more uncomfortable and expensive to treat in later stages.

In most cases, pets can take care of themselves, however, some pets have recurring problems with the anal sacs not properly emptying. If this is the case with your pet, ask your veterinarian to show you the proper technique for safe restraint and expression at home to prevent problems.

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DR. JIM AMYX

## Mogie Brings Joy and Cheer to the Ronald McDonald House in Houston



**H**e is hypoallergenic and doesn't shed, so he can be around ill children. He is tender, fluffy and loving, he feels like a stuffed animal, but he is alive. His name is Mogie, a labradoodle and a family pet in the Ronald McDonald House in Houston.

Mogie is now three years old. He was born in Texas and was given to the Ronald McDonald House when he was only eight weeks old. The breeder donated him in memory of her son who died of cancer and loved labradoodles. Mogie is now close to 30 pounds, 25 inches tall and 40 inches long from nose to tail. He has dark brown eyes and light brown hair.

Mogie is a family pet for the families in the Ronald McDonald House. Mogie is not a therapy dog, he is a family pet for everyone in the House – 50 children have ownership of him and he is perfectly happy with that! Connecting with children, families, staff and volunteers at the House is just so natural for him. He seems to instinctively know when a child can or can't play and run or throw a ball. And when a child can't do those things he just lies down close by.

Mogie's presence has a calming effect that helps children and families with the healing process. When families come in the House they are still trying to understand how they got there. They went to the doctor and the doctor said "your child has cancer and you must go to Houston to be treated." So when families come in the House, the parents and children are apprehensive, scared, lost. But when they see Mogie the energy changes. Mogie greets them, licks their hands, the child pets him, and the parents relax.



Mogie brings a sense of home and normalcy and a calming effect to the entire family.

What Mogie means to the children in the House. “I like to play with him,” “He makes me smile,” “I can talk to him” in other words, Mogie is their friend. For ill children, their siblings and parents, Mogie really makes a difference, he makes them feel at home.

Mogie and everything else inside our Houses is put together so that nothing else matters for families when they are focused on healing their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. We believe that when a child is



hospitalized the love and support of family and friends like Mogie is as powerful as the strongest medicine prescribed.

## WHAT DOES YOUR DOG NEED?

Search for nearby parks, emergency veterinary care, routine supplies or the unusual dog toy.

[www.wetnoseguide.com](http://www.wetnoseguide.com)



# Wet Nose Guide

MAKING LIFE EASIER FOR DOG OWNERS

# Genesis Revisited

Many of the past Solid Gold articles talked about our new dog food, Solid Gold SunDancer dry dog food with curcumin and chia to control gas, also tapioca and quinoa, SunDancer has no grains and no gluten.

Today's focus is on our Solid Gold SeaMeal powder supplement, which has 19 types of sea vegetation, and only one type of kelp. Dogs are 11% trace minerals and only 4% vitamins. Without the trace minerals the vitamins don't work. SeaMeal activates the hormone, enzymes and immune systems of the body.

These systems grow coats, for tear staining, for ear infections, helps to prevent allergies, and aids in preventing bladder stones. SeaMeal is especially for Oriental and Arctic dogs and dogs developed in England, Scotland and Ireland for hundreds of years, (Terriers, Spaniels, retrievers, water dogs, poodles, white, near white and light colored dogs). If you don't feed a fish-based dog food and sea vegetation to these types of dogs, you are not supporting the DNA of the body and you will have problems.

We used to import our kelp from Norway. But in 1985, the Russian nuclear disaster at Chernobyl spread. Now, we get our kelp from New Zealand. When a dog is eating allergic dog food, his front legs may become inflamed and this acid condition causes his feet to swell and burn. He licks his feet because saliva is an alkali.

An acid-based ingredient is white rice (listed as rice). Solid Gold uses brown rice, an alkali. Other acid ingredients are corn, wheat, soybeans, sugar beet pulp (companies forget to list it as sugar), and peanuts or peanut butter. Solid Gold doesn't use these acids. These acids may cause normal dog's cells to become abnormal and produce malignant cellulose cells that do not correspond with the immune system and may cause leukemia or cancer.

Excess acidity in the blood causes white cells to increase and red cells to decrease - causing liver, kidney, epilepsy and diabetes. Arthritis may also occur. See book by Herman Aihara, Acid / Alkali Balance of the Well-being Ranch in Harper, TX.

All of our Solid Gold dog foods are fish-based. Fish is the best food for people and dogs. Big fish eat smaller fish, who eat little fish, who feed upon sea algae. Algae color is very important. The red algae supports the blood circulation and immune system. During the Japanese tsunami/ radiation disaster, the U.S. sent tons of red sea algae to Japan. Brown algae is for bones and the support system. Green algae with chlorophyll, makes healthy, new cells and lungs. Blue/Green algae can be a mixed blessing. Some are good, but others grow so fast that it clogs up waterways, so that the ships can't get through.

## ***Now for GENESIS REVISITED***

Prior to Noah's Ark, people lived to be 900 years or more. Adam lived to be 903 years, Enoch 905 years (see foot note about Enoch), Cain 910, Methuselah 969 and Noah 950. After God brought the flood to destroy mankind, except for Noah and his family, mankind died at a younger age. After the flood, the waters receded with an almost total erosion of the earth's crust. This in turn, washed the mineral rich top surfaces to the bottom of the ocean, which became fish food algae.

By taking away the minerals, man's life was dramatically shortened.

You can replace your dog's shortage of minerals with Solid Gold SeaMeal. People ask us why we don't put the SeaMeal in with our SunDancer and other dog foods. We mix pro biotic digestive enzymes with our SeaMeal. Probiotic's are killed at 120°. Dog food is cooked at around 300°. All the digesters would be destroyed.

Other dog food companies list lines of probiotics in their ingredients lists. Guess they didn't do their homework. Why are you paying for something you are not getting. These companies may say that they lower the temperatures and spray the enzymes on. Don't believe it! When you lower the temperature, the oils cool and don't hold the trace minerals and enzymes. How do we know? Because we tried it. If it didn't work for us, it doesn't work for them.

### Now for the Story

In 325 AD, the Council of Churches met on the island of Nicea and threw out 67 books of the Bible - including Adam Part I and Part II. They left in Genesis, but threw out Enoch I and II, Jubilee, etc. In the New Testameant, they threw out the books of Philip, Thomas, Judah and the five books of Mary. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, the missing books were found.

*Ask your local pet store for free catalogue. If they don't have a Sun-Dancer catalogue, call us at (619)258-7356, M-F, 10am to 5pm Pacific time. Or e-mail us at [sarah@solidgoldholistic.com](mailto:sarah@solidgoldholistic.com), you can also visit our website at [www.solidgoldholistic.com](http://www.solidgoldholistic.com).*



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## AAR's Paws for a Cause Dog Walk and Cat Capers

**H** Abandoned Animal Rescue's Paws for a Cause Dog Fun Walk was held on April 21st at Juergen's Park in Tomball. The pledge drive helped to raise funds for the shelter.

The American Fido Dog Talent show was a great success. Shelter dogs competed with walk participants in various contests.

The Klein FFA students and the Dynamo Girl's Soccer team were there early in the morning to help set up. They enthusiastically hauled cages, water bottles, and treats out to the Paws Rest Stops and loved on all the dogs.



AAR volunteer and top pledge producer, Holly and her dog Ziggy with Kelly and Pat



Kick off time for the dog fun walk



American Fido contestants line up for audience judging



Participants take part in the dog fun walk



It's always fun to make new friends!

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## Dog Thefts on the Rise in Houston

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**D**og thefts have been on the rise in the Houston area. In fact, Houston leads the country in the number of thefts.

In December of 2011, Anne Sutherland's pug, Molly, slipped out of her fence. Sutherland's neighbors watched in horror as someone grabbed Molly and walked off with her. After five months of an extensive and viral community search, Molly is now home again safe and sound.

In February, a stranger walked away with Keri Gharagouzloo's two and a half pound teacup yorkie at a Midtown restaurant. Gharagouzloo said that a woman asked to hold Maggie and she obliged. But, when Maggie was out of Gharagouzloo's sight, she went to the woman who was last holding her who told her that she handed the dog to one of Gharagouzloo's friends. After switching hands several times, Maggie was stolen and taken to Austin. Fortunately, Gharagouzloo was reunited her dog a few days later.

In May, two people were accused of stealing a puppy from a Houston pet store. Harris County sheriff's officials arrested two suspects accused of stealing a \$3,000 English bulldog. The puppy was recovered and safely returned to the store.

While it may be assumed that small breed dogs are the most stolen, statistics say otherwise. The most commonly stolen breed is the pit bull. Also common are Labradors, chihuahuas,

yorkies, pomeranians, shih tzus, boxers bulldogs, German shepherds and huskies. Sadly, dogs are often stolen and sold as a means to make money.

There are ways to prevent pet theft. Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood that it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves. Don't leave your dog unattended in the yard and be cautious of shared information with strangers.

Collars and tags can be removed, so be sure that you have a permanent ID with a microchip. It's affordable and holds your personal information on a small chip.

If you suspect your dog has been stolen, immediately notify the police and file a police report. Canvass the neighborhood and let people know exactly where your pet went missing. It's also a good idea to post fliers with a recent photo of your dog.

Be sure to read our in-depth story next month on the recovery efforts and the reunion of Anne Sutherland and her pug, Molly.

## Dogs Really Are Simple Animals

By Bob Williams,  
*Bark Busters Home Dog Training*

**D**ogs are simple animals. Smart certainly, but simple. The Bark Buster method teaches how to deal with your dog in the simple ways that they can understand. We come to your home to train you, not your dog. In fact, we ask that you commit to working with your dog for 10 to 15 minutes each day for five weeks. The 10 to 15 minutes is based on the fact that people are busy and need to get the daily training out of the way and move on with other things. An adult dog can only stay focused for 10 to 15 minutes at a time so that is all we ask for. It takes five weeks to change a human behavior and changing your behavior is what Bark Busters is all about. Your dog is a simple animal and that won't change.

We give you the tools to change your attitude, ability and confidence that you can control your dog's behavior. Your dog already understands all of this and you will use this simple method on every dog you have the pleasure of sharing your life with for the rest of your life. That makes our method extremely inexpensive!

Dog training boils down to two simple things: How to dominate your dog and how to communicate with your dog.

I tend to try not to use the word "dominate" because of the negative connotation it brings to some people's minds, but it is what it is. Dogs are pack animals and someone must lead the pack. If you

don't lead, the dog must lead. It's how the dog's mind is wired, it is the only way they know how to think. If you have seen the movie "Eight Below" with Cuba Gooding, Jr. and the pack of Huskies, you have seen pack law in action. The pack leader can be recognized quickly because she is so aloof. To be ignored is the highest form of dominance (it works with dogs and people). Bark Busters teaches you which behaviors to ignore and which ones to correct. When we say "ignore" that's not to say that we don't give affection, we give them twice the affection. However, make sure the dog understands it is always on your terms, not theirs. It is that simple, but not an easy method to describe. That is



what we are here for, to show you.

When we communicate with our dog in our language we confuse them. Because they learn by association, they pick up on certain words and expressions that we use, but when we learn to communicate with them in their language they begin to better understand us. Dogs communicate three ways:

Through body language, growl and snap. Normally between two dogs, body language is the only communication that occurs. If the communication escalates, the dog will growl a warning and if that does not suffice, the dog will snap a threat. This is how we teach you to communicate with your dog. When you correct your dog, stand tall and stiffly. Tall because height is dominance in the canine world and stiff like when one dog dominates another jumping around like they have stilts for front legs (now you can picture it). If you need to escalate your correction (I know, it sounds silly), growl and snap. If the dog's bad behavior continues, growl and snap again and the instant the behavior changes, praise him in a high pitched tone, "good puppy!" I have a dog that is a maniacal fetcher and when she is really on her game, which is 99.98% of the time, she literally screams for me to let go of the ball. The sound that comes from her mouth is a very high frequency and I know I can't hear all of the sound. It's how dogs communicate their joy and pleasure. So when we are pleased with our dog's behavior, we need to let them know in their language, and right away.

## “Dog training boils down to two simple things: How to dominate your dog and how to communicate with your dog.”

Dogs are in and of the moment. Their short term memory is truly short, about ten seconds. One way to describe this short term memory is to picture your dog watching a squirrel or a bird. The only way your dog can stay focused on the animal is if they keep moving. If the movement stops, the dog's attention will go on to something that is moving. This is how they survive. Use this knowledge when you communicate with your dog. Be timely with your communication and watch your dog learn.

How the Bark Busters method differs from other training methods:

### Group Training

I used to hold group training classes and if you came to my group classes you would have received excellent instruction and you would see a positive change with your dog. But, because dogs learn by association, they associate what they learn with the other location, the other people, the other dogs, the trip, the lights, the sounds (long term memory). With our method, we work with the specific issues in the dog's own environment, so that they associate accurately and immediately. For example: Her reaction to the doorbell ringing in your home, the dog on the other side of your back fence, the people swimming in your neighbor's pool, jumping up on your child in this family room or being aggressive to that particular large white dog on the trail to the lake in your neighborhood.

### Clicker Training

Clicker training is food based. When the dog does the right thing he is treated and hears the click. Because dogs learn by association, they soon associate the click with the treat. You can't treat the dog every time that he does the right thing because he'll weigh a ton by the time he is trained, so you must wean him from the treats. This interferes with the dog's progress and often you have to go back to treating again. Later you have to wean the dog from the clicker so you don't have to carry it everywhere you go. Again, interference with learning. With our method, the communication never changes and it is always available – proper body language and voice tones.

### Boarding Training

Some methods require that you not see your dog while they endure this type of training. That alone means that you will not be a part of the dog's training. The dog learns to respond to and respect someone other than you and you don't know what they are doing to your dog. With our method you are the trainer and you absolutely know that it is dog friendly and totally non-harsh.

Bark Busters is different, and you can see us in action by watching a short video on how we changed the life of an Air Force dog handler. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search "Aspen's Story". You will see the same change in your dog and you make it happen. We just coach, watch and enjoy!

Bob Williams is a Master Dog Trainer and Behavioral Therapist for Bark Busters Home Dog Training. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 713.771.2275.

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- You find paw prints on your spouse's collar.
- Your spouse has frequent and unexpected "business meetings" in the same area of town as the animal shelters.

• You call your spouse at work only to have their secretary tell you that the boss just left, carrying a leash.

## **BOL!** (Barking Out Loud)



## Before You Take Me Home, Please Understand...



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**I would LIKE** to go for a WALK...

**I need to SEE THE VET** for my REGULAR CHECK-UPS...

**I LIKE DOG FOOD** NOT your LEFTOVERS...

**I DON'T WANT** to have a HOMELESS LITTER...

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## The Importance of Healthy Pet Digestion

By Darlene Frudakis,  
Owner, Pet.Ag.com

If you are a pet owner, then you know just how difficult and painful it can be to see your pet suffering from an illness or a stomach bug. Instead of chasing after their favorite toy or playing catch in the backyard with the tennis ball, they lay around the house all day, looking at you with sad eyes not knowing what is going on with their body.

And while it can be upsetting to see your pet suffering from some type of illness, it can also have an interruption and inconvenience on your own daily activities. For instance, any pet owner that has ever had a furry friend suffer from digestive problems will tell you just how motivational things such as diarrhea and vomit can be for finding a cure to an upset stomach.

However, while pet problems can be confusing and frustrating, especially since your animal can't simply tell you what is wrong with them, you would be surprised to know that things such as the stomach and digestion are not all that different between you and your pet.

Like humans, pets can fall victim to the same damaging effects of environmental pollution, over-processed foods, allergies to food additives and daily stressors. Each of these factors can have a significant effect on the health of their gut and overall digestive functioning, leading to many different stomach problems and digestive issues.

Here are just a few ways in which you can increase the

health of your pet's digestion and ensure that they have a happy, healthy stomach at each meal.

### A HEALTHY DIET

There are many vitamins and nutrients that should be an essential part of your pet's diet in order to help maintain the strength and health of their digestive tract.

One specific nutrient that is essential for nearly every metabolic process in your animal—from the health of their organs, to the proper functioning of their immune system—is enzymes. There are also several specific enzymes, such as protease and amylase, which are necessary for your pet to have healthy digestion.

While many pets are able to produce these enzymes on their own, they are not able to naturally produce the amount that is essential for processing their food efficiently. This is why you should always supply your pet with a nutritious food brand that offers a healthy helping of digestive enzymes.

Another large part of healthy digestion for pets is making sure that they receive a proper amount of natural fiber in their diet and treats. Fiber not only helps to ensure that your dog has a healthy, functioning gut, but it will also help to promote proper weight management.

### STAY CLEAR OF DANGEROUS FOODS

There are several foods that humans can consume on a



daily basis, many of which are great for our health and body, but can cause your cat or dog to become dangerously ill.

It is extremely important for all pet owners to understand the do's and don'ts of healthy pet snacks, and to protect your animals from any foods that could potentially cause them digestive problems or more serious issues. It is also wise to inform friends and family who are frequently around your pet of any of their problematic foods, just to be sure that accidents or "secret treats" do not occur without you knowing.

Some of the most common foods that can be dangerous for a pet's health and stomach include:

- Avocados
- Candy (especially chocolate)
- Coffee
- Grapes
- Onions
- Raisins
- Salt
- Walnuts

If your pet consumes any of these types of food, be on the lookout for any signs of digestive problems or strange behavior. If you notice any serious symptoms, take your pet to the vet as soon as possible.

## **PRE AND PROBIOTICS**

There has been a lot of talk lately in the pet world about pre and probiotics for healthy pet digestion. However, not many people understand what exactly these supplements are for, not when they should be giving them to their pets.

Both pre and probiotics can help to improve an animal's intestinal tract by stimulating or modifying their immune system, essentially restoring

microbes in the gut which have become "out of balance."

These supplements become very important in a pet's diet because many situations can occur that will cause the digestive system to be thrown out of balance, such as periods of stress, the changing of the diet, or even antibiotic treatments. However, maintaining a diet rich in pre and probiotics will ensure that the intestines maintain normal functionality, motility and prevent any unhealthy bacteria from growing in the gut.

So, what exactly is the difference between pre and probiotics? Probiotics help to aid the digestive tract by increasing the amount of helpful bacteria found in the gut, while also strengthening your pet's immune response. Prebiotics essentially act as the "food" for these beneficial probiotic bacteria, stimulating and nourishing the digestive system so that probiotics can function more easily.

Most of these helpful pre and probiotic supplements can be found in pet food, digestive aids and even national supplements such as Bene-Bac Plus Pet Powder.

Another large part of ensuring that your pet has a healthy, functioning digestive tract is maintaining a regular exercise routine. Not only can fitness and exercise help to build up a healthy appetite in your animal, it also helps to get all of the organs in the body functioning properly and doing their job.

In the end, if your pet's stomach and digestive system is happy and functioning, you can be sure that your furry friend will be as well.

Darlene Frudakis is the owner of PetAg.com, a leading provider of nutritional products and food for pets.

Join us in helping our four-legged friends find loving homes. Adopt a dog today!

### South Texas Aussie Rescue

[www.southtexasaussierescue.org](http://www.southtexasaussierescue.org)

South Texas Aussie Rescue, Inc. (STAR), located in Houston, TX, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) adoption and referral service dedicated to placing homeless or abandoned Australian Shepherds in loving, permanent homes. All representatives and foster homes are volunteers - they receive no compensation and do it only for the love of the breed. All Aussies available for adoption have been temperament and health checked, spayed/neutered, heartworm checked and put on preventative (and treated if positive), and are current on their vaccinations. If a suitable dog is found for you to adopt, we do ask for a small adoption fee to help us cover any medical work we've done and to help us continue helping other Aussies in need.

Our  
cover dog,  
Luna!



Photos by Paw Prints by Jamie



My name is **Luna**. I am a blue merle female Aussie, believed to be three or more years old and weigh 40 pounds. I was found at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. My front right leg was broken and healed incorrectly and my back right leg was dislocated and left that way. I had surgery on my rear leg and I am recovering nicely. After six weeks, I am finally using that leg for walking! I am currently in a foster to adopt situation with a lovely family in Missouri City.

Please note that these dogs may have been adopted by the time you visit them; however, there are many more wonderful dogs in need of forever homes.



Hello, I'm **Zach**! I'm a red, tri-colored male and I'm approximately two years old and 45 pounds. I was found in Brenham at a tractor supply store. I'm a very nice boy and new to the program. I am now fully vetted and being evaluated by my foster home. I will be available for adoption in the latter part of June.

**Shadow** here! I am between 12 and 18 months old, so I still have some puppy traits, but I have not chewed inappropriately or had accidents in the house. I am good with dogs and dog-savvy cats. I will need a space to call my own, a crate or a place under a table. My first reaction when I'm overwhelmed is to go to my safe place. I will do well in a home with gentle discipline. I love my toys, playing with my foster brother and snuggling with people. I am also good with children, but due to my size and age, older ones are preferred. My foster home says that I am one LOVEABLE dog!



I'm **Ace**, a lovely, fluffy black tri-colored male that is approximately four years old. I was returned to the program due to no fault of my own. My adopter initially worked from home and her new job required travel several days a week... meaning a lot of alone time for me. I will need to lose a few pounds to be at a healthy weight again. I love my new foster home and have impeccable house manners. I know how to sit, down, stay, come and leave it. I need a home where I will not have to wonder "who's the boss?". I prefer a soft voice and praise more than a treat reward. I enjoy being outside and will chase the birds and leaves and entertain myself. I do not know any children but I am good with cats and fine with other dogs.



Nice to meet you! **Hank** here. It's been said that good things come in small packages. Thankfully, I weigh just under 35 pounds. I am a very good boy who can be a little shy at times, but if you give me a squeaky toy, I will play forever. I love my foster family of dogs and will play chase and tug. I am also excellent with cats and small children. I have learned to sit, down and shake, as well as walk on a leash. My foster dad says that I am one super loveable dog.



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