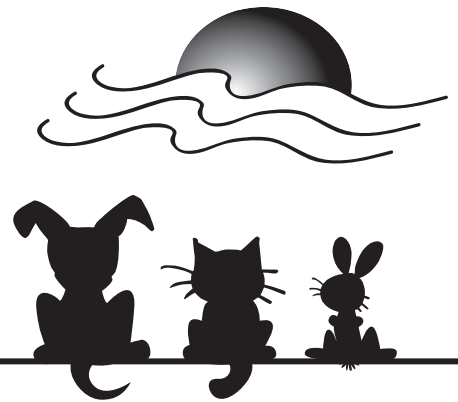




Pet Tails



About **PETS**...and their **PEOPLE**

Summer 2006

Dog Park Dedicated to Carlsbad Leader

Carlsbad's first and only dog park was dedicated on May 18 to Ann L'Heureux, the long-time community leader who had worked for years to make the park a reality. Mayor Bud Lewis, City Council members and park officials joined Hap L'Heureux and his standard poodle Marshall in unveiling the commemorative sign naming the "Ann D. L'Heureux Memorial Dog Park". There is also a brass plaque honoring Ann beside a memorial tree on the site where a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the opening of the park in 2001.



(left to right) Hap L'Heureux and his standard poodle Marshall with Carlsbad City Council members Ann Kulchin, Bud Lewis, Mayor and Matt Hall unveil the commemorative sign dedicating the Ann D. L'Heureux Memorial Dog Park in Carlsbad.

Ann L'Heureux was a tireless civic advocate who passed away last fall at 61 after a long bout with cancer. Over more than 30 years, she had served the city as a planning commissioner, a Carlsbad Library board trustee and an active member of other community organizations. In 2003, she was named Carlsbad Citizen of the Year.

In his remarks to the 60 or so assembled guests, Ann's husband Hap said they took their dogs to parks in other areas, always dreaming of a dog park in Carlsbad. A plan began to develop when the couple's standard poodle Fletcher "wrote" a letter to the city requesting a dog park. Fletcher's likeness is featured on the new dedication sign.

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Emergency Preparedness...For Your Pets!

Increase your pet's odds of surviving a disaster

As the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina unfolded on our television screens last year, it was heartbreaking to look at the pets that had to be left behind, often wrenched from the arms of their owners during the race to rescue so many. Often rescue operations weren't equipped to handle animals and most emergency shelters refused to take pets due to overcrowding, safety concerns and very likely inflexibility of regulations, even during this extraordinary disaster. So most beloved pets were left to struggle...and die.

We need only to recall the 2003 Cedar Fire or other large-scale fires that have swept through San Diego County communities over the years to know that the vast power of Mother Nature is unpredictable and can never be underestimated. Our only defense is to be just as prepared as we possibly can be, both as a community and as a family unit.

There is at least one pet in over 60% of U.S. households and since most of us consider pets as family members, they need to be included when you start preparing your family for emergencies.

First of all your pet should have a collar with a tag containing pertinent contact information, including your cell phone number and e-mail address (more likely to be accessible in event of disaster) and a phone number of a contact who lives far away. Your pet should be "micro-chipped" for identification, which can be done at your vet's office or at various local animal shelters. You might also register your pet with an on-line pet registry locator for lost pets. These precautions will make it more likely you and your pet will be reunited if separated during an emergency, or even if your pet is simply lost.

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Animal House Pet Care Wins Third Place in "Adopt A Fire Hydrant" Project

Community Art Benefits Camp Pendleton Marines

Twenty-six fire hydrants in the Village of Carlsbad have been "adopted" by businesses and individuals, with a major portion of the "adoption fee" going to benefit the **Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund at Camp Pendleton**. The art project was organized by the Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the City of Carlsbad, to promote art, activity and community involvement in this seaside downtown area. Each hydrant has been uniquely hand-painted by local artists, students, residents and business people, who donated their time and talent. The art materials were donated by Tru-Value Hardware Store in the Village. The fire hydrant art reflects the many faces and facets of Carlsbad – the heritage, location and lifestyle.

The **Animal House Pet Care** fire hydrant, #13 on the tour, titled "**Animal House**" is located on the sidewalk outside **Mike Downs's Grand Deli** on the corner of Roosevelt and Grand, where many dog lovers enjoy breakfast or lunch with



Susan McBride of Animal House Pet Care gives Mike Downs, owner of Grand Deli, a "fire hydrant" dog biscuit jar with complimentary treats for Grand Deli customers who can enjoy the patio area with their pets. The fire hydrant seen here at the Grand Deli was "adopted" by Animal House Pet Care and features some of the company's dog and cat clients.

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Welcome to Animal House Pet Care!

We take great pride in providing the very best in personalized, loving care for your precious pets in the comfort, security and familiar surroundings of their own home. We have years of experience with many types of animals, from horses and other farm animals to dogs and cats...even exotic pets, like snakes, birds, iguanas...and of course pocket pets like hamsters and mice.

Busy families know their pets need and enjoy daily exercise through walking, running or fitness play, but many find it hard to commit to a regular schedule to maintain their pet's fitness level. This is when your professional pet provider can bring a comfortable routine and stability to your pet's needs.

Dogs who love the thrill of adventure especially enjoy our field trips to the beach, park, lagoon, and even to the pet stores for a little "shopping" and play dates with their dog friends.

Whether you use our overnight services, daily visits or pet taxi, your peace of mind is most important to us. We are licensed, insured, bonded and pleased to provide references for you from clients who have used our services. A "get-acquainted" meeting at no charge is arranged prior to engagement so we can gather important details relating to your pet's needs and customize a care plan.

We hope you will give us the privilege to serve you and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Susan C. McBride, Owner

Susan McBride, owner of Animal House Pet Care, is a life-long animal lover and dedicated to providing services to enrich your pet's life. She attended Rawhide Ranch, a residence vocational school and ranch camp in Bonsall, CA, where she learned and practiced animal care and excelled in riding. She is experienced in First Aid and CPR. Susan invites you to contact Animal House Pet Care with any questions or comments about services available for your pets.

www.animalhousepetcare.com
Member of National Association of
Professional Pet Sitters - NAPPS

*We proudly support organizations that rescue,
shelter and care for animals.*

Pet Tails

Gina McBride • Publisher/Editor



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PET TIPS

Watch out for Foxtails!

Foxtails, a perennial grass growing abundantly in our area, can cause infections and possibly even death to dogs and cats. The plants grow quickly during the winter and spring rains, then the one to two foot plants dry out during the summer and spread their seeds. This is when they are the most dangerous to pets.

The actual seeds look like little brushes with pointed ends and barbs like fish hooks that make them easily stick to the pet's fur. If it penetrates the skin, it can cause infection, allowing it to burrow deeper, making it possible for the infection to enter the bloodstream.

Once a foxtail works itself into the skin, it might have to be removed by a veterinarian, perhaps even surgically and with anesthesia.

Telltale signs... A foxtail lodged in your pet's ear, will cause it to violently shake its head...in the nose will make pet sneeze repeatedly, often with blood...under the skin can cause an infected lump to appear. Foxtails often stick in paws and pets will constantly lick and bite at it and painful lumps can appear.

Inspect your pets carefully after they have been exposed to foxtails. It is advisable to keep your pets from playing in wild fields and canyons where foxtails might be growing, especially during the summer months.

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Second, just as you need to have an emergency preparedness kit for your family, you should also prepare a kit just for your pet, a brightly-colored pack with supplies to last for a few days. You'll want to include water, and perhaps water-purifying tablets, pet food and treats, bowls, a manual can opener and a leash or small carrier. Also pack a supply of your pet's medications (you might need to rotate these for freshness) and a pet first aid kit with instructions and a contact list for shelters, clinics and veterinarians.

In your pet's disaster kit, you should have copies of your pet's medical records, listing vaccine dates and prescribed medications. Also include extra photos of your pet and multiple copies of a pet identification form that has contact information and a complete description of your pet. These can be posted at shelters or central locations if you and your pet are separated. Then be sure to store your pet's emergency pack in a very accessible location.

Third, taking basic first aid classes designed for your family and pets will provide skills you might need. Have family meetings to discuss your plans in case

of an emergency. Then, if a disaster should strike, try to calmly assess the situation and quickly follow your plan to unite your family and pets and if needed, move to a safe place. Being properly prepared for emergencies will increase your odds for a good outcome.

Visit www.animalhousepetcare.com to access useful emergency preparedness links, download a Pet Identification Form to complete for your pet's disaster kit and learn about the on-line pet registry program for locating lost pets.

House Bill Passes Requiring Pet Evacuation Plans

A scene on television during the Hurricane Katrina evacuations of a young boy having to leave his dog behind was a defining moment during that tragic time and has captured the hearts of the U.S. Congress. The House voted on May 22 to require that pets be included in any emergency preparedness plans being developed by state and local agencies or risk losing future funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

U.S. Reps. Christopher Shays, R-CT and Tom Lantos, D-CA are co-sponsors of the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. They estimate that up to 600,000 animals died or were left to find shelter during the Katrina disaster. Pet owners were also put in danger as many refused to be rescued if their pets had to be left behind.

A similar measure has been introduced in the Senate giving FEMA authority to make grants to agencies for emergency preparedness projects for animals. 🐾



Photo by Gina McBride

In Our Next Issue

Planning for Pets...and their People

What would happen to your pets if something should happen to you? As loving, responsible pet owners you need to make arrangements in event of a short-term emergency or disability and if you are permanently incapacitated or pass away.

From "pet cards" to "pet trusts", we will explore various methods to protect and plan for your pets when you can no longer care for them.

What are the various methods of giving to charitable organizations that serve our communities?

Most animal lovers and pet owners want to support those groups that rescue, shelter and care for animals and also those that protect and provide for animals in the wild. Learn how you and your family, even your business, can make smart gifting decisions that benefit both you and your favorite causes.

These topics will be presented by *Gina P. McBride, CFP, CSPG of McBride Financial Advisory, Consulting and Communication. She specializes in Financial Life Planning and Strategic Philanthropy Consulting and can be reached at (760) 918-9361 or ginam@mcbridefinancial.com*

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Hap, wearing a shirt saying "I'm Fletcher's Dad" with a picture of Fletcher (who passed away several years ago), said "Most of these people are old friends. It's a wonderful tribute to Ann." He noted that Ann enjoyed the park where dogs could play off-leash and people could meet saying "It helps bring the community together". Hap enjoys taking Marshall to play at the park four or five times each week.

The 13,200 square foot fenced park is on Carlsbad Village Drive, just east of El Camino Real. There are benches, drinking fountains for both pets and people and a dispenser for those all-important plastic bags.

The park is open daily from 8 AM until Sunset.

Enjoy!

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Photo Courtesy: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

their pets by their sides. Artist **Marla Epstein** created a delightful scene on the hydrant with dogs and cats under a starry sky, including Animal House Pet Care owner Susan McBride's Siberian Husky "Jazmine" and several of her "clients". Epstein, well-known for her pet portraits, is owner of **Ginger Grayham Fine Arts Gallery** located two doors down from Grand Deli...and the fire hydrant.

Visitors to the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce website www.carlsbad.org can take a virtual tour of the fire hydrants. Brochures with a map showing locations of all the fire hydrants are also available to download from the site or to pick up at various businesses in the Village, including the Carlsbad Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Take a stroll through the Village of Carlsbad and enjoy this unique community art event.

Coming Events 🐾 🐾 🐾

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) sponsors "**Woofstock 2006**" on Saturday, August 5, from 9 AM until 2 PM at the San Elijo Campus of MiraCosta College on Manchester Avenue in Cardiff. This popular annual event features food, vendor booths, games, dog agility demonstrations, contests and opportunity drawings. It is a fun place for pets (only if they are socialized, please!) and their people. There is no charge, however, donations are always appreciated. For more information, call (760) 901-4308.

We'll see you there!

Volunteer Opportunities...

Canine Companions for Independence welcomes volunteers to help in their efforts to provide assistance dogs to people with various disabilities. Volunteer training sessions are held at the CCI regional center on Rancho del Oro in Oceanside. Please call (760) 901-4300 to learn about volunteering, training sessions and available facility tours or visit with them at "**Woofstock 2006**".

Kind Words from Animal House Pet Care Clients

"Susan has been taking care of our cat, Gracie and dog, Katie for years. She is an awesome addition to our family support system."

~Dr. Nan Grauer, Carlsbad

"I always feel good about Animal House Pet Care coming to my home to take care of my cats when I need to travel. They are "happy cats" when they can stay on their daily routine at home!"

~Ralph Perez, San Diego

"Rudy and Sarah stay physically fit and alert with their daily walks and games. They can hardly wait for Susan to arrive each day for their adventures!"

~Bonny, La Costa

The Gift

Eyes fearful, paws worn,
A sorrowful sight
So forlorn.

Love they said would be the cure
For the suffering
You had endured.

So our family grew that day
We brought you home
With us you'd stay.

Slowly, gently the bond it grew,
Faithful, loyal
Loving true.

Looking back it's so unclear
How we got by
Without you here.

Trusted companion, devoted Friend
You give and give
It never ends.

They said we were a gift to you
But now we know
Who rescued who.

~ J. M. Berry

Animal Shelters

Precious pets are eagerly awaiting adoption and new homes at the following organizations.

Rancho Coastal Humane Society

389 Requeza Street, Encinitas
(760)753-6413
www.rchumanesociety.org

Helen Woodward Animal Center

6461 El Apajo, Rancho Santa Fe
(858) 756-4117
www.animalcenter.org

North County Animal Shelter

2481 Palomar Airport Rd., Carlsbad
(760) 438-2312
www.sddac.com

North County Humane Society & The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2905 San Luis Rey Rd., Oceanside
(760) 757-4357
www.nchumane.org

*"Until one has loved an animal,
a part of one's soul remains unawakened"*

~ Anatole France (1844-1924)

Animal House Pet Care

EXTRAORDINARY PET SERVICES!

Hamsters to Horses

Personalized, loving care for your pets in comfort, security and familiar surroundings of their own home. Overnight stays for Vacation and Business Travelers to provide stress-free experience for your pets, nestled in their own beds.

Daily Pet Visits, Exercise, and Dog Walking.

Pet Taxi to Vet, Groomer, Etc.

Field Trips to Lagoon, Beach, Parks, Pet Stores.

Play Dates with Dog Friends.

Gourmet Bakery Delights.

Activities Diary.



On-Line Pet Registry Program



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!

Services can be custom-designed to fit your needs.

10% Discount to Military, Police, Firefighters

We proudly support organizations that rescue, shelter and care for animals

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(760) 635-3978



Photo by Gina McBride

Susan McBride with her Siberian Husky "Jazmine" and client Golden Retriever "Baylee"



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Summer 2006



Peek
Inside

- Emergency Preparedness for Pets
- Dog Park Dedicated
- Carlsbad's Painted Fire Hydrants
- Watch out for Foxtails!
- "The Gift" by J. M. Berry
- And more...



While You Are Away...We Will Stay...and Play!

Pet Tails



Summer 2006

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