

# Midnight's Mewsings

Volume 4, Issue 2 Summer 2009



Layout done by : Leslie Leffler

## Employee Spotlight



**Name:** Leslie Leffler  
**Hometown:** Dover, PA  
**Position:** Nurse/  
 Inpatient Coordinator  
**How many years in this field?** 20 years

I got my start at the Shiloh Vet Hospital in Dover as kennel attendant . Worked in that position for approximately 4 years then received on the job training for nursing and then began my career as a veterinary nurse. I continued in this field at another hospital and Patton's adopted me March 2004. I love it here and I enjoy the reward of making pets better and educating pet owners. I am currently taking classes to become certified. I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors.

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## Summer Hazards

By: Rebecca Dougherty

Summer is one of the best times to get out and spend some quality time with our furry friends, but summer also brings its share of hazards. Common sense can prevent many of the season's dangers. Heat stroke, poisonings and drownings increase during the summer months. More pets get lost, stolen or hit by cars in the spring and summer.



One of the most important things to consider is your pet's access to fresh water. While this may seem like common sense many people think it is more important for their pet to eat. Water intake is far more critical than food, especially in the heat of summer. If your pet doesn't eat for a day it should bear watching, but if your pet is not drinking it's time for a call to your veterinarian.

Many people like to take their pets along with them when they go out in the car. This is a great, fun way to spend time with your dog but remember not to close your pet up in the car for even a short amount of time. A small dog can overheat in just ten minutes on even a cloudy day! Many causes of injury in the summer come from dogs jumping out of the beds of trucks. NEVER let your dog ride in the back of a truck, even for just a short trip. If your dog likes to hang its head out the window be aware that low hanging branches, insects, or road debris can hurt your pet. It is also advisable to use a seat belt or harness to keep your dog from acci-

dentally falling or jumping out the window.

Another consideration in the summer is heat stroke. Your dog may love to play fetch for hours on end, and may want to do it, but if it is hot and humid the chances of heat stroke are considerable. Signs to watch for are: excessive panting, inability to stand, restlessness and agitation, thick ropy saliva, pale or muddy gums, or the gums may be very red. If you suspect heat stroke, try to take a rectal temperature with a regular digital thermometer. Anything over 104 warrants a call to your veterinarian. Try to move your pet to a cool, shaded area. DO NOT use cold water or ice to cool your pet; regular tap water is more efficient for cooling. Do not try to force your pet to drink or orally force water on your pet. Do not leave your pet unattended, and get them to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Poisoning cases also increase in the summer due to toxic plants, chemical hazards like antifreeze, alcohols or gases, fertilizers, pesticides for bugs, weeds, or rodents. Home improvement items like paint, paint thinners, and glues, along with cleaning products can also lead to poisoning. Pool chemicals are another area of accidental poisoning; dogs and cats seem to find the strangest things tasty!

Swimming is great exercise for dogs, but accidental drowning is more common than people think. Make sure your pet is supervised at all times while swimming. Keep escape tools handy, like ramps and life preservers. Make sure your dog is well trained in obedience and comes when called, and carry an extra stick or ball that can be

used to lure them back if necessary. Older and younger dogs are at higher risk while swimming also and may not know their limitations; they may panic if they get tired. If your dog is an active swimmer, classes in CPR and first aid are a great idea. And if you have any questions about your pets safety in the water, fit them for a personal flotation device. These can be acquired at many local pet stores.

Make sure your pet is current on their heartworm preventative, and have them tested if any doses were missed over the winter. Flea and tick preventative is also important to apply to your pet monthly. Fleas can cause anemia and lower your pet's immune system, and ticks carry many diseases like lyme, anaplasmosis and ehrlichia. Talk to your veterinarian about the best flea, heartworm and tick products for your pet

If your dog has been a couch potato all winter, remember to give it some warm-up before playing, and keep play time short at first. Simple things like keeping ID tags current can help with lost or stolen pets, or ask your health care professional about microchips or tattoos. Spaying and neutering will decrease your pets desire to roam, and risk of being hit by a car, or lost. Check your fences and gates for holes or sagging areas. Consider pet safe sunscreen for the light colored or shaved pet. Keep your common sense and wits about you and have a terrific summer enjoying your best buddy!



## Loving and Losing Your Pet

By: Julie Good



On April 19, 2009, Patton Veterinary Hospital held its first Pet Loss Support Group meeting, led by Dr. Elizabeth Ravell, Ph.D. This Group was established to provide support and comfort to people who have lost their beloved animal companions.

Many of us consider our pets family members; their loss can be devastating. As if this weren't difficult enough, some of your friends and acquaintances may not understand the depth of your sorrow or how life-changing an event this can be. In an attempt to help you, they may say things like, "It's just a dog," or "You can get another bird." They truly do not understand the human-animal bond, and that this a relationship like no other in your life. Your dog, cat, bird, rabbit, guinea pig, or iguana may have been your best friend, always there for you, never asking for anything more than to be loved (and fed, of course!). With few opportunities to express your feelings to an empathetic ear, you may suppress them, or think that your grief is unnatural or unhealthy.

That's where the Pet Loss Support Group can come in. It is important to remember that the Group should not be considered therapy, however, through talking about your own experiences and listening to the experiences of others, you may gain the sympathetic understanding you need to help you cope.

While the Group is here to help each participant, we do need to follow a few rules: What is said within the Group is strictly confidential. Anyone may speak or not speak; there is no pressure. We share feelings; we do not give advice. We accept; we do not judge.

If you are interested, the next meeting will be held at Patton Veterinary Hospital on June 28, 2009, at 1pm. All are welcome, but please call Julie Good at 246-3611, if you would like to attend.

### Celebrity Pet Pals

#### Canine Country: Emmylou Harris Rescues Dogs in Need

By

Shawn Downs

Client Relations Specialist



As a musician, Emmylou Harris has spent over thirty years entertaining fans of country, pop and folk, earning twelve Grammy Awards along the way. And as an animal lover, she has helped to improve the lives of countless pets through her support of the Humane Society, as well as through the opening of an active rescue facility in her own backyard.

Emmylou first learned to love dogs while her father was studying to become a veterinarian. He was forced to abandon his studies when he enlisted in the armed forces during World War II, but his early influence would shape Emmylou's passion for animals. She spent much of her life in the company of dogs, even taking them along on tour when her music career flourished.

Miss Harris became involved in animal welfare causes when she heard of the relief efforts being made by the Humane Society following Hurricane Katrina. She posted a substantial donation which aided in the rescue of countless injured and displaced pets. It was then that she decided to become a full-time supporter.

"Now I am at a place where I want to focus much more on helping [animals] and ensuring humane treatment," she said in a recent online interview. "That's what my passion is about these days: ending their suffering and educating people about animal issues."

Her most personal effort toward this cause has been the founding of Bonaparte's Retreat, a fully staffed foster and rescue facility that Emmylou built over several acres of her Nashville estate. Named after her beloved poodle and "road dog" Bonaparte, the rescue serves to rehabilitate and place as many dogs as possible into loving homes. Harris admits that she sympathizes most with the more difficult cases, dogs who are older and have less chance of being adopted, as well as those who have been surrendered by their owners due to aggression, neglect or behavior issues.

"I feel sorriest for the ones who've been there longest and languish in cages and runs," she says. Her main goal with these dogs is to "socialize them and just give 'em love. So often people treat animals like trash—sometimes even worse than trash."

Emmylou hopes that her work will in some way inspire people to believe in the basic fact that animals have value. She is quick to note the many roles that dogs play in society, not only as companions but also as service dogs to the blind and physically challenged, and as well-wishers to sick patients and the elderly in nursing homes. She feels that animals have the ability to enrich lives—even more than a platinum album or Grammy Award.

"Animals can teach us how to be better human beings," she says. "They've certainly taught me that."

# Community Events



## Pet Fest 2009

By: Leslie Leffler

Pet Fest 2009 was a great success! This day was filled with fun, giveaways, raffles, food and who could forget the ANIMALS! Thank you to everyone that helped make this event a true success. Dr Douglas Schmidt and Tiffany Main presented the York County S.P.C.A. for \$1000.00. The petting zoo included, a chicken, ducks, rabbits, goats, 60lb. Turtle, We had face painting by Luke Schmidt, great job! We had food provided by Subway, with drinks supplied by PVH.



### Welcome Home, Bo Presidential Pooch Arrives at the White House

By  
Shawn Downs  
Client Relations Specialist

During his first hundred days in office, President Barack Obama fulfilled his most important campaign promise—the one he had made to daughters Sasha and Malia. Moments into his election night speech, Obama assured the girls that a new puppy would soon call the White House home. After months of consideration and numerous offers, the First Family has happily adopted Bo, a 6-month old Portuguese Water Dog presented to them by Senator

Ted Kennedy.

With allergies a concern at home, the Obamas chose this particular breed in part due to its lack of allergens. An accomplished swimmer, the Portuguese Water Dog is historically famous for its ability to retrieve fishing nets and carry messages between boats. The breed is also known as a friendly and obedient companion, with medium-length curls and lots of energy.

Since making his Washington debut this past Easter, Bo is already winning hearts all across America. Photos of his lovable mug have appeared in headlines from coast to coast, along with feature stories in a number of major news magazines. He is also the star of several children's books including *First Dog* and *Bo: Commander in Leash*.

With so much media attention, Bo is sure to find himself at home in the spotlight. But no matter how many friends he gains in the process, his biggest fans will be the Obama girls.

"We couldn't be happier to see the joy that Bo is bringing to Malia and Sasha," Senator Kennedy said in a recent

statement. "We love our Portuguese Water Dogs and know that the girls, and their parents, will love theirs too."



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 POMERANIAN  
 POODLE  
 PUG  
 ROTTWEILER  
 SCHNAUZER  
 SHIBAINU  
 SHIHTZU  
 SPITZ  
 WHIPPET  
 YORKIE

## Lend A Paw

### SPCA

3159 Susquehanna Trail North  
 York, PA 17406  
 (717) 764-6109  
[www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org)  
**First Annual Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, June 20**  
**9am-2pm**

### Animal Rescue Inc.

2 Heritage Farm Drive  
 New Freedom, PA 17349  
 (717) 993-3232  
[www.animalrescueinc.org](http://www.animalrescueinc.org)  
 See website for their most recent Wish List!



## Did You Know?

The placement of a donkey's eyes in its head enables it to see all four feet at all times! !



50/50

### **PVH's 1st Basket Bingo**

PVH will be holding a basket bingo. Baskets are Longaberger basket packed with all kinds of goodies. Proceeds from this event will benefit Tails End Rescue. We will also be taking donations. For a complete wish list please visit:

[www.petfinder.org/shelters/PA73.html](http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/PA73.html)

Location: Seven Valleys Fire Hall, 35 Main St, Seven Valleys

Date: August 30th

Time: Doors open at 1:00pm Games start at 2:30

### **Patton Veterinary Hospital**

425 East Broadway  
 Red Lion, PA 17356  
 Phone (717) 246-3611

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