



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2022

## Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

We had a great Thank You luncheon for our amazing volunteers on Saturday, 11/12. This was made possible by the generous consideration of Supervisors Merita Callaway and Amanda Folendorf in awarding 2022 Community Organization Allocations in the amount of \$500 each to FOCAS.

This award was made to recognize all the work our volunteers do on behalf of the animals under the County care, as well as the activism for the new shelter.

There were roughly 46 attendees at the lunch, including Supervisor Merita Callaway and Supervisor Elect, Martin Huberty. And of course, JoAnn Elliot's dog, Annie, was the official greeter!



Only about 10 folks could not join us but hopefully we can do this again next year and they'll be able to come then.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work all year long – you are truly appreciated! We were so thankful so many of us could get together to celebrate all that you do.

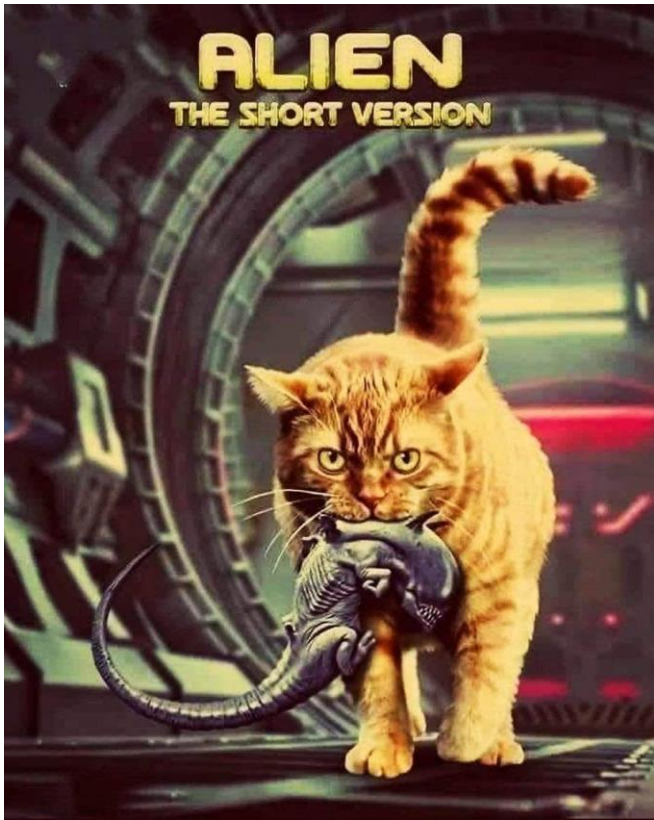


The Pickle Patch did a great job with the food – it was excellent and the selection was perfect – something for everyone, including brownies and chocolate chip cookies!



A very nice selection of sandwiches were presented as well as vegan choices. Also ceasar salad and potato salad were served.

No one went home hungry!



BUT, on the other hand, if you want someone who will never come when you call, ignores you totally when you come home, leaves hair all over the place, walks all over you, runs around all night and only comes home to eat and sleep, and acts as if your entire existence is solely to ensure his happiness - then adopt a cat!

Now be honest, you thought I was gonna say... marry a man, didn't you?



If you want someone who will eat whatever you put in front of him and never say it's not quite as good as his mother's - then adopt a dog.

If you want someone always willing to go out, at any hour, for as long and wherever you want - then adopt a dog.

If you want someone who will never touch the remote, doesn't care about football, and can sit next to you as you watch romantic movies - then adopt a dog.

If you want someone who is content to get on your bed just to warm your feet and whom you can push off if he snores - then adopt a dog.

If you want someone who never criticizes what you do, doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly, fat or thin, young or old, who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to, and loves you unconditionally, perpetually - then adopt a dog.

## Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
August	422.0	14*
September	449.0	18**
October	472.5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,343.5</b>	<b>44</b>

plus 3 dogs went to rescue  
\*\* 6 were senior dogs!



## Keeping the Peace Between Dogs

In Conversation With Nicole Wilde  
 By [Claudia Kawczynska](#), July 2018, Updated July 2022 From THE BARK



Nicole Wilde—who, among other types of rescue work, has lived with, socialized and rehabilitated wolves and wolf-dog hybrids—knows a thing or two about dog-on-dog aggression. Here are a few tips to help you [Keep the Peace](#) between dogs at home.

**Bark:** What are the most common misconceptions that people have about dog-on-dog aggressive behavior?

**Nicole Wilde:** First, while mild skirmishes may be resolved without [human interference](#), it is a falsehood that in any fight, dogs should be allowed to “work things out.” Allowing them to do so could easily lead to injury in one or both dogs.

Another common misconception is the notion of “backing up the alpha,” as though we could decide which dog is going to be dominant. (Regardless, you should ultimately be the one in charge!)

Dogs work out a loose rank order amongst themselves, but this leads to one more misconception, which is that one dog is dominant in all situations. One dog may typically take the dominant role, but another may have higher status when it comes to treats or access to resources such as a highly valued location—for example, a place on the couch.

**Bark:** What should alert us to a potential dog fight?

**Wilde:** A hard stare is one of those [subtle signals](#) that’s often missed by humans, but not by other dogs. A hard stare can easily trigger a fight; often, owners misunderstand which dog actually started it, since they missed that initial stare.

Another small signal that is sometimes missed is a raised lip. We’ve all seen what I think of as the “National Geographic snarl” on wolves (which is actually called an agonistic pucker), but sometimes a dog will display a subtler version, such as a slightly raised and trembling corner of the lip. This can be easy for an owner to miss.

Stiff body language is another sign that tension might be brewing. Then, there are the more obvious signals, such as [growling](#). Watch too for signs of stress, which include lip-licking, yawning, scratching, sniffing, averting the eyes or turning away from the other dog.

**Bark:** What are some important things pet parents should know?

**Wilde:** How to recognize and monitor their dogs' body language and interactions so that tensions can be defused before they escalate, and situations that cause those tensions can be altered or avoided altogether.

By creating a behavior diary, they should be able to notice trends and habits in their dogs' behavior and relationships over time. Having this roadmap in hand is in itself stress-relieving, which is important when living with dogs who are not getting along. The valuable training skills they learn along the way will allow them to better solve behavior issues.

In my book, *Keeping the Peace*, I also review options for when things are simply not resolvable, and I hope they will take those to heart rather than surrender a dog to a shelter, or euthanizing. But overall, I hope those who read the book will be able to resolve the aggression issues, and that harmony will be restored to the home.

We feel there's a story behind this picture. 😂



*When your mother has REALLY had enough*



## One VERY Cool Gift!

Louie's adopter has graciously ordered this stock tank for the dogs to swim in, as a donation. It's 2' tall x 8' wide.

It'll be known as Louie's Pool.



We know the dogs will absolutely love this on those hot summer days.

Thank you so very much!

## NOAH



At the end of August, April and Ty made their first transfer to NOAH (Northwest Organization for Animal Help) located in Stanwood, WA. NOAH is dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable, and treatable homeless dogs and cats.

They are committed to family-friendly pet adoptions, humane education, volunteer programs, and high-quality spay and neuter programs available for low-income residents, through their Spay & Neuter Clinic.



April and Ty delivered 30 cats and kittens to their shelter so they could be adopted to forever homes. April was very impressed with their facility.

Thank you NOAH and thank you April and Ty!

## 8 Cold Weather Activities for Dogs

Tips to avoid boredom when cooped up during winter storms.

BY [KAREN B. LONDON, PHD](#)  
UPDATED JANUARY 3, 2018



If you are trapped at home with your pup because of a winter storm and wondering how to keep your pup occupied, have no fear. Though it is a challenge, it is possible to keep your dog from going stir-crazy even without spending the usual amount of time outdoors. The key is focusing on mental exercise instead of physical exercise, and remembering that quality time with your dog is a valuable commodity that can compensate for less activity. Here are eight indoor activities for you and your dog:

### Play together.

If your dog likes to play, now is the time to be the most willing play buddy ever. Games like fetch and tug can be played inside, and so can hide-and-seek. Maybe even make an indoor obstacle course for

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your dog. It doesn't matter so much what you play as long as you are engaging your dog in a fun activity.

### **Train together.**

As a trainer, I am always in favor of lots of training time with dogs, but cold weather makes this an appealing option. Teaching tricks such as high-5, crawl, sit pretty, spin and unwind, or jumping through a hula hoop give your dog plenty of mental stimulation and are usually fun to show off later, too. Practical skills such as heel, down, stay, and leave it are so useful that teaching them or brushing up on them will be time well spent. Most dogs enjoy training if it is done in a positive, humane way. Your dog gets treats for being right and has your undivided attention—a total win.

### **Massage time.**

If your dog loves physical contact, days stuck inside can be great opportunities for dog massages. Basic massage instructions can be found on YouTube, or you can just do whatever you know your dog already likes. For dogs who love to be brushed, a snow day can be an opportunity to spend a significant amount of time maintaining his coat. If your dog dislikes being brushed, it's probably wise to skip it on days that are already a bummer because of being stuck inside.

### **Surprise toys.**

Most dogs love receiving new toys or things to chew on. If that describes your dog, consider this a great week to bring out a new toy or two, or even something extra special to chew on. Though these items can be expensive, you will get your money's worth out of them this week, when your dog doesn't have as much to do as usual.

### **Stuffed Kongs.**

Stuffing a Kong with food can help your dog stay happily occupied for a long time. Put some treats in

along with regular food and consider freezing it so that it will last longer. Many dogs can spend 30-45 minutes extracting food from a well-stuffed Kong. If your dog takes just a heartbeat to empty one, it may be a good week to start freezing them or making them harder to empty in other ways.

### **Food puzzles.**

Make life more interesting for your dog by feeding them with a food puzzle toy. Many products present challenges for dogs as they must work to get the food. I'm in favor of feeding dogs this way on a regular basis, but there's no better time to start than during a storm when you must make an extra effort to prevent boredom.

### **Arrange playdates.**

If your dog has a good canine buddy who can visit for an indoor play session, send an invitation right away! This may only work if the other dog lives really close and can safely walk over during icy or snowy-in conditions, but if luck is on your side in this regard, take advantage of it. Only invite another dog over if you know that the dogs will play nicely indoors and won't have issues over space, food or toys.

### **Go outside (when safe).**

Decide if it is reasonable to be outside safely for longer than quick potty breaks. That depends on your dog and the temperatures you are experiencing. In New England and in the Midwest, it may not be safe to spend much time outside at all. However, in parts of the southeast, it may be possible to walk dogs safely in the winter, though perhaps more briefly than usual.

It may feel crazy cold, but some dogs might be able to tolerate it quite well. Larger dogs with thicker coats will likely have an easier time handling unusually low temperatures, but even breeds who are supposedly good in the cold may find it challenging if they are used to much warmer

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weather. Perhaps a short walk is possible if you go during the “heat” of the day, but only brave the cold if it’s safe for you and your dog to do so.

Hopefully, it won’t be long until you can return to your normal activities. In the meantime, do what you can to make your dog’s days as interesting and full of fun as possible.



## Health tips

by Doc Hopper

**Tips For Making Emergency Situations Easier**  
(<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/>)

There are many steps you can take to help make ER visits easier for you and your dog. They may also help you make better decisions when you’re there.

### 1. Bring Someone With You

Try not to make decisions based on fear. Too often we think we have no choices. But really we’re absorbing others’ energy instead of grounding ourselves. So if you do go to the emergency vet ... I recommend taking another person with you.

Pick a friend or family member who can be more objective. And discuss an advocacy plan before the clinic sees your dog. Your friend can help you ask questions and remember answers ... which can be hard when you’re worried about your dog.

You need to know the risks and benefits of procedures and treatments. And costs versus benefits too!

### 2. Pick The Right Diagnostic Tests

Remember ... ER doctors are primarily trained to diagnose. And they learn to paint the grimmest

picture! Pet insurance and liability instill this in them.

I’ve often heard of animals waiting hours and hours for any therapy. Meanwhile the clinic continues to organize and prioritize diagnostics! Obviously ... a diagnosis that may kill an animal is not a good investment.

So the best thing you (and your advocate) can do is to ask very pointed questions about diagnostic tests:

- Do you think this is a useful or helpful test ... with little to no risk?
- What is the minimum we can do to get some answers so we can start medical therapy and observe my dog’s response?
- What would you do if this were your animal ... especially if money was a real concern?
- Are the diagnostics likely to change your treatment recommendation? (If not, why put your dog through it?)

These are important questions ... whether you have disposable funds or not. Many diagnostics come with great risk. Insist on full informed consent.

### 3. Don’t Stress About Money ... There Are Options

Research shows that most people view their pets as family members. Yet less than 1% have pet insurance. Having a financial plan in place is crucial. And to do that you need to know what your options are.

- Insurance often does pay off in a crisis. But many insurance plans don’t cover holistic treatments ... and I don’t think any cover homeopathy.
- Credit companies like Care Credit and Scratchpay can be amazing options for urgent situations. Or check out other lenders like Grace Loan Advance.
- Consider GoFundMe accounts for animals. They can (and do) easily raise sizable amounts rapidly. Many of my clients have seen miracles when they shared their pet’s

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story. But some use pride as an excuse not to ask.

- There also are some great subsidizing non-profits that deserve research as well. Some started up specifically for pet emergency situations.

#### 4. Prepare For Emergencies

This may sound impossible. But there are some ways to prepare for emergencies.

- Become familiar with issues common to your dog's breed.
- Consider your dog's lifestyle. Is she super-active, into hiking, or a lover of water sports? Think ahead and consider possible emergency situations that could come up.
- Avoid overheating. For very active dogs ... or short-snouted dogs, carry a thermometer with you. And know how to use it. Brachycephalic (flat faced) dogs can't physically get oxygen exchange easily. So they can get heat stroke extremely quickly. Rapid cooling options are key in these situations.
- Ask your vet to provide you with subcutaneous fluids to keep at home. Dehydration and toxicity are debilitating. Every pet owner should have a bag of fluids on hand ... and learn how to give them. They're life-saving in so many situations. You can watch YouTube videos to learn how to give sub-Q fluids. If you're just too needle-phobic, get the name and number of a mobile vet technician who can assist. Ask your vet if you're not sure you should use them.

#### Prevent Emergencies

Of course, the best way to avoid emergency clinics is to prevent emergencies in the first place. And when it comes to prevention ... choosing holistic options is key.

- Choose natural flea, tick and heartworm prevention and parasite control.
- Avoid over-vaccinating and use titers instead

- Feed, organic fresh food and clean water.
- Give your dog a healthy lifestyle with lots of grounding outside. Regular sunshine and exercise are important.

These are simple, easy prevention tools to keep your dog away from the emergency vet.

#### Be Prepared

Get informed ... be prepared.

- Decide and commit to a pet savings account or pet insurance.
- Investigate vets and nearby clinics.
- Get a homeopathy kit and invest in some first responder education as well. Or make sure you have a relationship with a good homeopath you can call in emergencies.
- Start keen observation and detective work for each of your animals. Fur can hide a lot!
- Write down some questions for the ER vet now as a reminder. Put them in your phone under your preferred clinic contact info.

If it's a true emergency ...

- Grab a calm friend as an advocate.
- Use homeopathy on the way to the ER clinic.
- Make notes for your ER vet.

Remember, urgent situations don't need a knee-jerk reaction. Your dog deserves keen intuitive regular attention as well. So ... don't ignore signs and symptoms until they're convenient. Do not let a chronic issue creep up and become an emergency.

Health emergencies are frightening – for you and your dog. You hand over your pet and your credit card ... and wait patiently for updates. Emotions build and that can lead to bad decision-making.





### A Short Recap for 2022 to Date

In 2022, over the 5 drive-through rabies clinics held, there were 961 rabies vaccines given, 385 microchips inserted, and we received \$11,643.57 in donations.

We spent a total of \$40,710.15 on the animals and their needs at the shelter!

**SHOUT OUT THE DOGS THAT WILL LITERALLY EAT CAT POOP GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, BUT TRY TO HIDE A PILL IN 3 POUNDS OF CHEESE AND SUDDENLY THEY'RE GORDON RAMSEY.**

Dog owners after giving their dog a pill



Cat owners after giving their cat a pill

**On the 12th day of Catness**  
**my human gave to me**

- 12 cardboard boxes
- 11 tins of of tuna
- 10 lizards leaping
- 9 lasers dancing
- 8 mice-a-squeaking
- 7 salmon swimming
- 6 catnip mousies
- 5 SHINY THINGS!**
- 4 paper bags
- 3 scratch posts
- 2 belly rubs (because the 3rd I'll bite)
- AND A PAWTRIDGE IN A PURR TREE**

# BE AWARE THIS CHRISTMAS

Grapes & raisins



Mince Pies



Cooked bones & fatty foods



Mushrooms



Christmas Cake



Peanuts & Macadamia nuts



Christmas Decorations



Onions & Garlic



Chocolate



Christmas pudding



Alcohol



Sugar



Peach & Nectarine Stones



**ARE ALL**

**POISONOUS OR HARMFUL**

**TO DOGS**



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Happy Holidays Everyone