

# The Wintergreen Post

Volume 1 Issue 2

Late Spring/Early Summer 2002



## Pet Profile –Baron Rothschild

Breed: Dachshund, miniature  
Color: Red  
Age: 1 4 Years Old  
Veterinarian: Feeding Hills Animal Hospital  
Favorite Kennel Activity: Barking with the big dogs!  
~Owned and Loved By Paul & Marsha Rothschild~

Baron is 100 pounds of heart in 12 pounds of miniature long haired Dachshund. He loves nothing better than to bark with the “big boys” and stir up excitement as he gallops up and down his kennel run. We have often imagined that he sees a Mastiff when he looks in the mirror. We see a charming and personable little guy who brightens our days when he visits!

## Welcome to Summer!

Summer is here again and with it vacation season! We at Wintergreen Kennels are ready, willing and able to serve the public with their pet boarding and grooming needs this summer. Our 95-acre farm is the perfect setting for your dog's or cat's country getaway. Our experienced and dedicated staff are devoted to your pet's well being and happiness while they are in our care. Check out the insert in this issue to help make your pet's visit easy and hassle free!

## Benefits Of Adopting From Shelters

Animal shelters can be a good source of many different types of fine quality pets. Most shelters accept dogs and cats, and some also accept birds, small mammals and even horses.

Shelters may differ in the services they provide, which is often associated with their operating budgets. Many tax-supported shelters have lower budgets than those who operate through contributions. Regardless of budget, in every shelter there are staff who are dedicated to their work and the animals in their care.

Adopting pets from shelters can have many rewards. Many people say they are so happy that they could save the life of a wonderful animal by giving him a new and loving home. It is estimated that 4 to 6 million dogs and cats are euthanized in America's animal shelters every year. Shelters are filled with animals who were and could continue to be great pets, as well as animals who, with a little training, can become a cherished member of the family.

Animal shelters provide a wonderful mix of adoptable animals. Some are purebreds; others are virtually one of a kind. Animals are also of various ages. Many people prefer to have an older pet so there are no surprises about how big he will grow or the type of coat he may have.

*Animal shelters provide an invaluable service of providing safe havens for animals and matching them to new, loving owners.*

Adopting an animal from a shelter is generally less expensive than acquiring an animal through a breeder or pet shop. Of course, you need to remember that the real financial cost of a pet over her lifetime is not her purchase price, but the food, grooming, health care, toys, etc. If you do not have the money to buy an expensive pet, you need to carefully look at your finances to be sure you can afford any pet, and still provide the care he or she needs.

While it varies with the shelter, you can usually get good information on the temperament and personality of the animal you are interested in. You may even have access to his health records, and a good description of his life in his former home.

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Animal shelters provide an invaluable service of providing safe havens for animals and matching them to new, loving owners. Adopting an animal from a shelter can be a wonderful experience if you are well prepared for a new pet. Shelters are also a great place to volunteer your time. You will be glad you did.

*Above Information from [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)*

## From Your Veterinarian Lyme Disease

Dr. Wayne Fowles  
Westfield Animal Clinic

Lyme disease is a devastating disease which affects both humans and animals. In humans the frequency of occurrence of Lyme disease has increased 16-fold since 1982. The incidence in dogs may be 6 to 10 times higher.

Lyme disease, or Borreliosis, is a tick-borne bacterial disease. It is caused by the corkscrew-shaped bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. These bacteria live in mice, deer and other small mammals. When a tick called an Ixodes tick feeds on the infected wildlife, the tick picks up the bacteria then transmits this bacteria to another animal the next time it feeds.

Clinical signs of Lyme disease in dogs include arthritis, sudden onset of lameness and severe pain, fever, loss of appetite and depression. After observing symptoms, blood tests can be used, however blood tests can be inconclusive. If you are concerned that your pet may be affected by this disease, contact your veterinarian immediately. Several broad spectrum antibiotics have proved effective in treating Lyme disease, especially in the early stages. Your veterinarian will have the most effective treatment available.

In order to protect your pet from Lyme disease, the following suggestions are made:

1. Ask your veterinarian about vaccinating for Lyme disease. While no vaccine is ever 100% effective, the Lyme vaccine for dogs has been shown to have a reasonable assurance of effectiveness. Millions of doses of the vaccine have been sold and reports indicate it is as safe as other vaccines given to pets.
2. Treat your yard with a veterinarian recommended tick-killing spray.
3. Routinely check your pets after they have been outdoors, especially if they have been in areas with tall grass and brush. Remove any ticks you find by pulling them out with tweezers, pulling back steadily and slowly. Researchers have learned that infected ticks must feed for about 24 hours to transmit the bacteria to a susceptible animal so quick removal of ticks from your pet reduces the chance of infection.
4. Use baths, dips, and flea and tick collars and sprays recommended by your veterinarian.
5. Cut brush and mow the grass where your pet plays.

The risk from Lyme disease depends on the climate in your region. In most areas of the country, people and pets are at a moderate to high exposure level from April to November.

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### **Grooming Tip – Cleaning Your Dog's Ears**

Your dog's ear is more L-shaped than yours, and debris loves to collect at the corner of the L. To remove this debris, fill your dog's ear canal with a good ear cleaner. Ear cleaners should be slightly acidic but should NOT sting. Massage the base of the ear for 20-30 seconds to soften and release the debris. Wipe out the loose debris and excess fluid with a cotton ball. Repeat this procedure until you see no more debris. Depending on your dog's ear condition, you may have to start out doing this twice a day.

Cotton applicator swabs can be used to clean the inside of the earflap and the part of the ear canal you can see. They should NOT be used farther down in the ear canal since that tends to pack debris in the ear canal, rather than removing it. Some ear problems are so painful that the dog must be anesthetized to do a good job of cleaning the ears.

You may find your dog does not like to have his ears cleaned because it is uncomfortable. Talking to him during the process, stopping momentarily to give him a treat if he is doing well (you do not want to reward fussiness!) and doing something fun afterwards may all help.

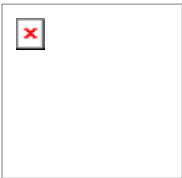
After the ear is clean, let the dog shake his head and allow some time for the ears to dry. Then you can apply any ear medication that was prescribed.

*Above Information taken [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)*

### **WINTERGREEN HAS A NEW GROOMER**

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to Lisa Peloquin who will be joining the Wintergreen staff on a full time basis. You will enjoy Lisa's friendliness and professionalism in our grooming shop starting this May.

**WELCOME, LISA!**



### **Kitty Korner Do Cats Always Land On Their Feet?**

If cats fall a short distance, they can almost always right themselves and land on their feet. If they fall more than one or two floors, however, they may sustain severe or even fatal injuries. The number of cats who become injured from falling is increasing, partially because of the large number of multi-story apartment buildings.

The uniqueness of the cat's skeleton is one of the reasons they can right themselves so quickly. Cats do not have a collarbone, and the bones in their backbone have more mobility than in many other animals. For these reasons, cats have free movement of their front legs and they can easily bend and rotate their bodies. This allows them to land feet first. This righting reflex begins to appear at 3-4 weeks of age, and is perfected at 7 weeks.

There are certainly instances of cats falling only a short distance and acquiring severe injuries. For the safety of your cat, always be sure upstairs windows are screened. Balconies and upstairs porches should be off-limits unless screened or cats are restricted from the edges and railings with the use of a harness and leash. (Be sure the leash is short enough to prevent the cat from jumping on the railing, or reaching the edge of the porch.)

*Above Information from [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)*

**EVENTS - Past & Future**

**2002 Westminster Dog Show**

The 2002 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the country's second oldest continuous sporting event, featured 2,500 dogs representing 159 recognized breeds, all competing for the coveted title of Best in Show. Congratulations to the 2002 Best in Show winner, **Ch. Surrey Spice Girl**, a.k.a. "Spice," a miniature poodle from the Non-Sporting Group!

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**20th Annual MSPCA Walk For The Animals**

May 5, 2002

Court Square, Springfield , MA

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Walk for the Animals.** A fun event for pet lovers to benefit the shelter! Dogs welcome!

*For more information, visit the MSPCA online at [www.mspca.org/springfield](http://www.mspca.org/springfield)*

**21st Annual Walk for Fidelco**

May 18, 2002

Riverfront Plaza , Hartford , CT

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Walk for Fidelco.** There will never be a better time to help change the lives of the visually impaired.

*For more information, visit Fidelco.'s website at [www.fidelco.org](http://www.fidelco.org)*

**MSPCA's Annual Dog Wash**

August 25, 2002

Pets Supplies Plus, Boston Road , Springfield

*For more information, visit the MSPCA online at [www.mspca.org/springfield](http://www.mspca.org/springfield)*

**MSPCA's 1st Golf Tournament**

September 26, 2002

Oak Ridge Golf Tournament, Feeding Hills

*For more information, visit the MSPCA online at [www.mspca.org/springfield](http://www.mspca.org/springfield)*

<p>Did you know that according to a new national survey, 90 percent of pet owners would not consider dating someone who was not fond of their pet?</p>
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**Search & Rescue Dogs At Ground Zero**

Rescue workers at the site of the collapsed World Trade Center in New York have earned the respect and gratitude of all Americans for their tireless efforts on behalf of the victims of the September 11 attacks. Lt. Dan Donadio is in charge of one of the hardest-working units at Ground Zero--the New York City Police Department K-9 Unit. The smart, tough, and loyal dogs of the K-9 Unit, along with other Search and Rescue dogs from across the country, have been on call since the disaster, using their special abilities to locate victims in the rubble.

Formed in 1980, the unit trains canines--mainly German Shepherd Dogs, with some Bloodhounds--to work with their handlers in teams based on mutual devotion and respect. In addition to search and rescue work, the dogs also assist in subway patrol, tracking, and criminal apprehension. The unit was on the scenes of the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993 and the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

*Above Information from [www.americankennelclub.org](http://www.americankennelclub.org)*