

The Wintergreen Post

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Pet Profile – Tess Mieher/Averill

Breed: Labrador Retriever
Color: Black
Birthday: October 19, 2002
Veterinarian: North King Animal Clinic
Favorite Kennel Activity: TLC walks in the orchard

~Owned and Loved By Stuart Mieher & Mary Averill
and their children, Kate & Claire~

Tess embodies all the best attributes of a Labrador Retriever. She's loyal, funny and friendly; she's energetic and outgoing; she listens well and is learning her basic commands. Her family is doing a great job with their very first puppy! Tess is growing by leaps and bounds and we look forward to watching her mature during future visits.

Tess loves her time at the kennel and it's always a pleasure for us at Wintergreen to watch a happy pup grow through the years!

U.S. Postal Service Issues Neuter/Spay Stamps

Kirby and Samantha, a photogenic puppy and kitten, were featured on new First-Class Neuter/Spay commemorative postage stamps issued in September 2002. "These stamps will serve as a reminder of the importance of neutering or spaying our pets," said Cathy Caggiano, executive director, Stamp Services for the Postal Service. "They will also serve as another way for the U.S. Postal Service to continue its tradition of raising the public's awareness of social issues."

The Neuter/Spay stamps portray a male puppy (Kirby) and a female kitten (Samantha) that were photographed in a Connecticut animal shelter while awaiting adoption. Each was subsequently neutered or spayed and adopted into a loving home.

An estimated 70,000 cats and dogs are born each day in the United States. Animal shelters and veterinarians throughout the country urge pet owners to neuter or spay their dogs and cats in order to combat the problem of animal overpopulation. Neutering or spaying pets can lead to better health and longer lives.

Neutering male dogs and cats generally decreases their tendency to stray from home. Neutered male dogs will have less of a chance of developing prostate disease. Among female cats and dogs, spaying decreases the rate of breast cancer. Spaying and neutering pets also helps to eliminate many of the behavioral problems that result in animals being turned into shelters.

The release of these stamps marked the first issuance of stamps featuring a pet cat and dog since the popular 13-cent stamp of a kitten and puppy issued in 1982 and the Bright Eyes stamps issued in 1998. These are also the first U.S. postage stamps to call attention to the pressing issue of pet overpopulation. The issuance of these stamps is the culmination of a grassroots campaign by thousands of citizens, community leaders, animal health and welfare organizations, veterinarians, and celebrities.

Above Information from www.peteducation.com



Employee Profile - Lisa Peloquin Head Groomer

Lisa's personality and grooming skills have made her a popular fixture with the staff, customers and pets in her first year at Wintergreen. The notes and phone calls from owners thanking her for her caring attentions to their pets is a sure indication of Lisa's place in the Wintergreen Grooming Hall of Fame.

Her multi-pet household keeps her busy at home, and her outside interests range from crafting to motorcycling. We feel lucky to have Lisa aboard, and hope that she will be here for many, many years!

Grooming Tip Cleaning Your Pet's Ears

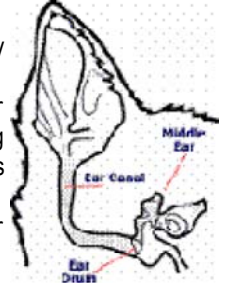
Your dog's ear is more L-shaped than yours, and debris loves to collect at the corner of the L. To remove this debris, fill your dog's ear canal with

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, 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 (we 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.



Why Do Dogs Lick?

Dogs lick for a number of reasons. They lick to groom themselves and others. Mothers lick their puppies to clean them and stimulate their urination and defecation. As puppies grow older, licking becomes a way of welcoming others back into the "pack" and increasing the bonds within the group.

This last reason for licking (greeting and begging) is probably the one that has developed into the licking tendency of pet dogs. Licking is a way our pet dogs can greet us, say 'glad you're back!' and strengthen their relationship with us.

Kitty Korner

Cat Carriers: How do I get my cat to accept one?

We have all had or seen cats which detest cat carriers, and who will do anything to stay out of them. There are some easier methods to get a cat into a carrier, and there are ways to get a cat to enjoy, or at least tolerate, a carrier.

If you do not have time for training and just need to get your cat in a carrier in the next few minutes, try turning the carrier on end so the door is on the top. Hold your cat on his upper body underneath his front legs, so he is more or less hanging in the air. Now try placing your cat in the carrier back feet first. There are also carriers made which open from the top as well as the sides.

If you are looking ahead to a time when you will need to have your cat go into a carrier, try the following:

Start placing absolutely wonderful treats (e.g., very small pieces of cooked chicken) just inside the carrier. If the cat is too afraid to get that close to the carrier, place the treats as close to the carrier as you can without making the cat afraid. You can do this several times a day. Start using a word such as 'inside' as you place the treats in the carrier. Let the cat eat the treats and then leave on his own. Slowly move the treats farther and farther into the carrier so now your cat will go into the carrier to get the treat. Do not close the door on the cat. Now you can start feeding his regular meals in the carrier. Continue to use the word 'inside' or whatever word you choose, when you put the food in the carrier. He will now be associating the carrier and the word and action of going 'inside' with good things happening. When he is comfortable going in and out of the carrier, start shutting the door for very short periods of time (seconds) and then longer and longer periods, so being enclosed in the carrier becomes commonplace. Also put a soft blanket or towel in the carrier to make it more hospitable. Now when you need him to go in the carrier, he will probably do so willingly.

Above Information from www.peteducation.com

Events – Past & Future ~Canines For Cancer~

The *Canines for Cancer* festival, held in September of 2002, was a day of dog related fun held to raise money for the Cancer Connection, a drop-in support center for cancer survivors, friends and family. The event, held at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton, included Avid Micro-chipping by Dr. Lewis Owen of North King Animal Clinic, a State Police Dog Demonstration, a Nail Clipping booth, Trigger Point MyoTherapy by Stephanie Chmura, vendors such as Precious Paws, Cabel Roome's Pet Portraits and Cindy Hardy, who had a variety of toys and treats to offer. There was a booth where you could get a button, magnet or keychain made with a picture of your pet on it. Other events included Doggie Square Dancing hosted by *All About Dogs* and a Look Alike Contest with the grand prize – a Wintergreen goodie basket!

Did you attend? If so, let us know opinions and ideas! Should we do it again?

Thank you to all those who helped & attended!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Westhampton Rabies Clinic

April 5, 2003

From 1 – 2 p.m.

For more information, call the Westhampton Town Hall

Easthampton Rabies Clinic

April 26, 2003

Public Safety Complex

From 1 – 2 p.m.

Southampton Rabies Clinic

April 26, 2003
Southampton Highway Dept.
From 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

MSCPA's 21st Annual Walk For The Animals

May 4th, 2003
Court Square , downtown Springfield
10am - 2pm .
For more information, visit www.mspca.org/springfield

Dakin Shelter's 2nd Annual Book & Plant Sale

May 18th, 2003
Valley Veterinary Hospital , Hadley
For more information, visit www.dakinshelter.org

No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich.



--Louis Sabin, author (b.1930)

From Your Veterinarian



**Healthy Teeth =
Healthy Pet =**



Smart Owner

Dr. JoAnne Leja, D.V.M.
Pet House Calls, Westfield , MA
(413) 562-1551

One of the easiest and most cost effective ways we humans can help our pets live longer, healthier lives is to care for their teeth and gums. Dental disease is the most common problem in the pet population today, affecting over 85% of all dogs and cats that were seen by a veterinarian last year. Periodontal disease causes bad breath, pain, and eventual tooth loss. Left untreated, bacteria from infected gums can damage heart valves, kidneys and other internal organs, shortening your pet's life. Pets need dental care at home, just like the rest of the family. The little bit of time and effort is small compared to the lifetime of love and devotion they give us. Ask your veterinarian to help you make the best choice of products for your pet's home dental care.

The easiest time to start home dental care is in puppy or kittenhood, but it's never too late. First, acquaint your pet with mouth care. Using your hand, and keeping your pet's mouth closed, gently lift your pet's lips and run your finger around his or her gums (you do not need to see Fido's tonsils!). Do this for just a few seconds on the first day and progress to 30 seconds by the end of the week. Reward your pet with a small treat at the end of each session (no "people food" please!) A tartar control treat is excellent!

The following week, introduce the pet toothbrush or dental gauze pad moistened with water. Lift lips. Massage the outer surface only of the upper and lower teeth using a gentle circular motion at the gum line. If you have questions, ask your veterinarian to demonstrate the proper technique.

The third week, use your dental cleaning instrument and add ¼ inch of pet toothpaste to brush the outer surface only of the upper and lower teeth in a gentle circular motion. You can experiment with different flavors to find your pet's favorite. If using gauze pads, try the pads that are soaked in the dentifrice.

A FEW POINTERS:

1. Do not rush the process or else the pet may become resistant.
2. Always give praise and a treat at the end of each session. Making it fun for your pet makes it easier for you.
3. If your pet shows any indication of aggression (growling, baring teeth, biting, scratching, etc.) stop immediately. Call your veterinarian for further professional advice.
4. Never use a human toothpaste. Remember: PETS DON'T SPIT and human toothpastes contain ingredients that shouldn't be swallowed!
5. Cleaning at home will reduce the frequency of professional care needed.
6. If your pet resists all other methods of home tooth care, a special Dental Diet, dental treats, or toys may be your best options.

Dr. Leja is a native of Chicopee . She graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 1981. She has been a veterinarian in the Westfield area since then and opened Pet House Calls Veterinary Clinic in 1988.

Bark-B-Q Doggie Treats
You'll Never Stop Hearing Compliments Over This One!

2 ½ c. whole wheat flour	1 tbsp honey
½ c. cornmeal	2 tbsp brown sugar
½ c. wheat germ	1 egg
½ c. barbeque sauce	½ c. water
3 tbsp corn oil	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, mix honey, oil, egg, water and barbeque sauce. Add to dry ingredients. Roll dough to ¼" thick, cut with cookie cutter, and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 25 minutes.

Makes 2 ½ dozen.
