



PAWPRINTS



CLAUDIA'S PLACE ANIMAL CARE AND REHAB CENTRE

WE ARE IN THE SHELTER!!!!

On the 11th of January we started moving into the office at the shelter. It is ongoing work getting everything into the building and finding the “right” place for it all. For the time being it is only the office part that is up and running but we hope to have the cat and critter part operational in the spring.

We need two people each day to operate the shelter. One would work with the public (phone and email as well as drop-ins) and one would work more in the background (tending to the filing and general building business). The hours are 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday. There are always other jobs that need doing around the shelter, too. All shelter workers must be PAWS members for insurance concerns. If you would be interested in helping out please call us or drop in and talk to us.

We also need helpers on part-time basis for distributing the Wag and posters, advertising, putting together adoption packages, etc.

Of course once the animals are in the shelter we will have need of more helpers. Come for a tour of the shelter and hear how you can help us, your community and especially the animals.

PET PROFILE

Hazel is a Jack Russell/Beagle cross. She is a spayed, 16 month old red and white little girl who is gentle and active. She gets along with other dogs, cats and all people especially kids. A little obedience training would be a great benefit to Hazel and her new family.

HAPPY TAILS

Vinnie has found his new family as well as a new name of Archie. He came to PAWS shortly before Christmas and was noticed by a couple looking for a new canine companion. It was love at first sight.

Spitz the fluffy kitten has also found her new family except it is not new to her. Her foster mom decided she really needed to stay permanently.

Nikki came to PAWS as an older girl needing some surgery which has been completed. She has also managed to capture her foster mom's heart and home. She will be able to enjoy her remaining years with her new mom and her canine brother.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

PAWS is looking for some generous friends to help with some expenses on an on-going basis. We would love to have someone support us by paying for some of our operating expenses. Perhaps by picking up the bill for our garbage collection, a set amount towards utility bills per month, the insurance cost for the building and volunteers, advertising, vet care, etc. You can make a bank deposit or a donation directly to PAWS. Tax receipts can be issued. Any amount would be appreciated by staff and animals. If you could help in one of these areas please contact the office.

PURRS and GRRRS

Purrs: To the people who take in abandoned pets and give them the home they deserve.

Grrrs: To the people who abandon their pets when they move away from the area. These pets are left confused and feeling the abandonment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winter weather can be more dangerous to a dog than you'd think. Not only do you have to worry about keeping your dog warm when winter temperatures plummet, you also have to worry about protecting him from seasonal dangers.

Here are a few winter safety tips that will help keep your dog healthy this winter.

1. **Anti-Freeze** - Anti-freeze and windshield wiper fluid are extremely toxic to dogs. Ingesting even small amounts of it can be deadly. The problem is, dogs like the sweet taste. Puddles of anti-freeze leaking from a car can tempt your dog to lap them up. If your dog walks through anti-freeze and then licks his paws, he will ingest the toxic substance. Be safe. Store anti-freeze and wiper fluid out of your dog's reach. Clean up any puddles leaking from your car. Keep your dog away from tempting puddles of anti-freeze when you walk him, and ALWAYS clean his paws thoroughly when he comes in from a walk.

2. **Rock salt** - Conventional rock salt is commonly used to melt snow and ice on sidewalks, driveways and roadways. But rock salt can be very dangerous to dogs. In addition to stinging, burning and irritating your dog's paws, rock salt can be toxic when ingested in large amounts. Do not allow your dog to lick the rock salt from his dirty paws. Thoroughly clean rock salt from your dog's paws after his walk to prevent burning, irritation and ingestion. If you use rock salt at home, make sure it is safely stored out of your dog's reach.

3. **Snow and ice** - Ice and snow and melting chemicals can sting, burn and irritate your dog's paws. In very cold weather, the pads on the bottom of your dog's feet take a real beating, becoming dry and cracked. To prevent this, thoroughly wash your dog's feet after every walk. The hair between your dog's toes collects ice and snow - keep it trimmed. If dryness persists, apply petroleum jelly to the pads of your dog's feet before each walk.

4. **Frostbite** - Be on the lookout for frostbite. Even short exposure to sub-zero temperatures can cause frostbite to paws, nose or ears. Frostbitten skin is red or gray in color - it may peel off. Apply warm moist towels to thaw the affected area slowly, then contact your veterinarian.

Winter dangers are lurking everywhere, so be prepared and keep your dog safe. Remember, when he goes out for a walk those four little paws can come into contact with plenty of dangerous irritants and chemicals. That's why it's so important to wash your dog's paws after every walk.

Pet parents also need to remember to protect their cats and dogs from common household cleaners such as bleaches, detergents and disinfectants. These products, when inhaled by our furry friends, can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory tract.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The past month has been full of dates to celebrate.

Happy Birthday wishes go to William Mitchell-Banks, Lynn Ray and Ruth Mitchell-Banks. We hope everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed their special day.

PET POINTS

WINTER GAMES (part 1)

Winter is all about snow. The chief purpose of snow, as every retriever knows, is to make snowballs. If your dog loves to play with balls, he will love snowballs. "Catch and chomp" is a favorite among many retrievers, so count on making a lot of snowballs. If your walk takes you near a hill, all the better—they love to chase snowballs down hills and come back to their owners with mouths full of melting snow.

Snowball fights are a ball for most dogs too - think of it as winter Frisbee. Don't pelt your dog with snowballs, but throw them at someone else, and let your dog play interception for one (or both) of sides. Some dogs like to help their family build snowmen. They can learn to fetch sticks for arms and decorations. Fetching or finding sticks is much more fun when they are buried under snow. You may need to help him out a bit at the beginning. Say, "Find a stick," and then go looking for the stick with your dog. It may involve digging, so wear mitts!

Hide and Seek

Snow is perfect for hiding and finding games. Hide and seek games run the gamut from simple to complex. Begin with "find a stick" - if your dog is having a hard time understanding find, go back a step, and start with "find a cookie." If your dog is not a natural finder, you may have to hide the cookie right under his nose for the first little while. But, with a tasty finish to the seeking he will learn quickly.

Hide and seek games are great for reinforcing some everyday comments. "Sit" your dog; then tell him to "wait" or "stay." Next, tell the dog what you're doing, "I'm hiding the cookie" (or stick, or toy). Initially, you may need two of you: one to help the dog with the staying, and the other to do the hiding. Then, tell your dog to go find whatever you hid. "Find" is a good command, but "Where is...", "Look for..." etc. will do as well. This command is useful in the house too ("Find the leash, Fido." "Where's your bone?").

The best hide and seek involves hiding yourself, of course. If there are two of you, the person who stayed with the dog should give the commands, including the command to go find. If there's just you, you need to shout "find" from your hiding place. It's not really giving away where you are as the tracks you left in the snow will do that anyway!

Most dogs love to seek and a few love to hide. Be careful about playing any hide and seek games in which the dog is the hider in an unenclosed area, however - you don't want to create a situation in which you cannot find your dog.

Zig-Zags, Swimming and Slides

Snowstorms create a whole new slew of game opportunities. After a fresh snowfall, people shovel huge snowbanks on either sides of the sidewalk. Teach your dog to leap from snowbank to snowbank on his walks. Zig Zag will become a command and a game

A similar game requires less leaping and more swimming. Almost every Labrador loves "swimming" through loosely packed snow: throw a stick or snowball and watch them go. Build your dog a labyrinth in his backyard. Shovel a snail-shape all through the backyard, and your dog will love to run through it, back and forth. You can turn the labyrinth into a proper maze by creating connections and blocks, or, you can plan a more elaborate maze of your own design.

Slippery snow opens a whole new vista of possibilities. Some dogs love to slide down hills. They may slide down on their backs or slide down on their butt. To make sure your dog has the maximum amount of fun this winter, just watch her, and see what she likes to do. Lots of dogs are perfectly happy just rolling in snow.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The next PAWS meeting will be January 20th (Wednesday) at Claudia's Place Shelter at 7pm.

The next Concert Concession will also be on January 20th at the High School at 7:30pm.

The next Bake Sale is on the 12th and 13th of February at Overwaitea. Stock up for Valentine's Day!

TRIVIA and TIDBITS

THE NON-WORKING BREEDS (Part two)

Let's not come right out and call this group indolent. We'll just say this classification of humans has never distinguished itself by going that extra mile – or millimeter.

1. **The Carry Blue Terror** – The ultimate party animal, with a case of Labatt's beer under one arm, and a get-down-and-boogie attitude that will carry him through 'til dawn – or the end of the host's patience, whichever comes first.
2. **The Often Pinch-her** – Enthusiastic, uptempo and altogether too much, this lascivious little fellow embarrasses everyone, including his canine companions, by making pushy passes at co-ed co-workers, female friends and even strangers on the subway train.
3. **The American Spritz** – This is the compulsive comedian, a *Late Night with David Letterman*-style show-off with a never-ending line of comic patter to endear him/herself (or not) to audiences everywhere.
4. **The Poolie** – Attractive and oh-so available, the male and female of this breed can be found on lounge chairs applying oil, fielding phone calls al fresco or playing a self-consciously splashy round of water polo.
5. **The Ciao (or Ciao-Ciao)** – More into shopping and lunching than aquatic antics, this breed can be pouty, particularly if a misplaced Prado handbag or a missed-out-on sale at Holt Renfrew is at issue.
6. **The Sealyham Posturepedic** – So-o-o lazy! For the stay-at-home dog, here's a real live lap-person, who loves to lounge, along with sleepytime companions like the Bedlington, the Afghan and the Sheet-zu.

TAIL END

Important Links:

Cranbrook SPCA – 250-426-6751

Trail SPCA – 250-368-5910

Nelson 2nd Chance – 250-352-2228

PAWS office – 428-7297

Creston Vet Hospital – 428-9494

Animal Control (Town of Creston only) – 428-2214

If you are interested in adopting a new companion, need to re-home one or have found a pet or lost one – please check out our ***Weekly Wag and Meow Mart*** which is posted at the Vet Clinic, Sunset Seed and Lil' Mutt Grooming. Or check with PAWS - 1420 Northwest Boulevard - or check our website.

Everyone is invited to participate in PAWS events, projects, meetings and fund raisers.
If you are interested in volunteering, fostering or becoming a member please contact us.

CRESTON PET ADOPTION & WELFARE SOCIETY

2805 Lower Wynndel Road, Creston, BC V0B 1G8

Phone: 250-428-7297 (428-PAWS)

Email: paws@kootenay.com Website: www.paws-crestonbc.org