

# NEWSLETTER

May 2009

I hope all of you are enjoying our spring weather. Summer is right around the corner. Please watch your e-mail for updates on new classes and other events.

**UPDATE ON BRANDY:** Brandy, our foster dog, started the injections for her heartworm treatment. We will keep her with us while she is being treated because we know what a difficult time it will be for her. Wish us luck and say a prayer for her.

**UPDATE ON SHHS:** Safe Harbor Humane Society is in the final stages of getting building permits and a bill of materials for the project. We hope to see work starting on the building soon. Watch your e-mail for updates.

**Dr. LISA KLUSLOW SEMINARS** – I received raving reviews from those that attended the Nutrition seminar and the Injury Prevention seminar we held in April. Dr. Kluslow will be coming back on August 9th to speak again. Watch your e-mail for details.

**WISCONSIN PET CARE** - Owner, Lori Mendelsohn Thomas, has coupled her love of animals with her unique business savvy in Wisconsin Pet Care. Serving all of Kenosha County, Lori is available weekdays and weekends. Visits include fresh water, exercise, mental stimulation; feeding (upon request) treats, cuddling, love and potty clean up during the visit. She has a signature follow up which you will enjoy, but it's her "secret service" so hire her to find out! Feel free to ask for anything else you may need.  
lori@wisconsinpetcare.com (262) 764-0823

## A Special Find In A Difficult Time

By Kerry Andersen

*My hope is that this story will help others with their unique struggles find peace and healing through their relationships with God, family, friends, community, and their four-legged sidekicks.*

Like many people these days, the poor economy hit our family hard. Our income was cut in half when I lost my job this month. It was a complete surprise, which only added to the stress of the situation. I went into panic mode within minutes of being told the news—the big question being, “On an already tight budget without any luxuries to cut, how would we pay our bills and still have money left for the daily necessities?”

In the first few days of my unemployment, I spent a great deal of time and energy dealing with my emotions. Not only was I afraid, but I also felt sadness, betrayal, anger, and a whirlwind of similar feelings. And then, something magical happened that gave me a sense of hope and well-being.

Bear and Olive and I changed our walking routine. No longer restricted to evening walks around the

neighborhood, the three of us started going on more adventuresome morning escapades. Sometimes we went to Pets. Many times we visited the marina. A few times I even allowed Bear and Olive to romp freely through the sand along the shore.

During these walks, the healing began. I started to believe that we would survive. Perhaps it was experiencing the sun rise over the lake. Or, maybe it was hearing the waves lap against the rocks. As a dog lover though, I truly believe that there was something about my connection with Bear and Olive that inspired hope, faith, and a sense that things will get better.

Today I am still unemployed. And yet, while the future remains uncertain, I am exploring many opportunities that will eventually bring stability back to our home. Until then, I will continue to appreciate the wonderful network of family and friends that offer their kind words, prayers and support. And, I will continue to enjoy the company of my dogs every morning knowing that these special times are something that even a difficult time can't take away.

# Living With an Adolescent Dog

By Laura Yurchak

I lived with older dogs for many years. The day we brought our Border Collie, Tasha, to be cremated, I got a call from Beth at Safe Harbor Humane Society. She said that a 7-month-old Border Collie was surrendered and she was concerned about him being cooped up in a kennel run. She asked if I could foster him. Later that afternoon we went over to see Harley, the Border Collie. George, my husband, was okay with the thought of fostering Harley but we needed to have a day or two to grieve our Tasha. On Tuesday of the following week, Harley became our next foster dog.

Harley is a fun loving, crazy, adolescent dog that is full of energy. He constantly makes us laugh. In fact, he is more entertaining than the TV. We are learning how to live with an adolescent dog again. Every time we leave the house we check to see if it is "Harley proofed".

Harley loves my shoes and socks. I haven't had to worry about completely closing closet doors for many years. I do now! I never get mad at him for hunting out his favorite closet items. I just laugh and think to myself, "I left that darn closet door open



again!" So far, I have tossed away two pairs of sandals and two pairs of tennis shoes are gnawed on. I don't think I have more than two or three pairs of socks that don't have Harley holes. I have to do a better job of closing my closet door.

I would have a counter surfer on my hands if our Terra didn't teach us to keep the counters free of food. Harley will not get the chance to rehearse taking food from the counter since we don't give him the opportunity to do so. He will grab a washcloth from the tub and prances around with it in his mouth. George and I just laugh at him. He looks at us as if to say, "Here you go, I saved it just for you."

Pencils and pens have joined the endangered items list. I am amazed at the way he can crumble a pen into pieces and doesn't get full of ink. Since hairspray works great on getting out ink stains, the clean-up is a snap.

We no longer have to pick up the sticks in the yard since Harley mulches them for us. He started just a little bit of digging but it hasn't continued. If the digging starts up again, we will get Harley a sand box to dig in.



Harley entertains himself with his toys and playing with our cat and Brandy, our foster dog. He throws his toys in the air and pushes his balls all over the place. He shares the food ball with his friend Brandy. Talk about how smart dogs are! Harley pushes the food ball around and Brandy helps him eat what falls out. It keeps them both busy!!!



We know that all of the jumping, barking, searching for cool things to get into are normal doggie behaviors. According to a dog, those are the things dogs do! I know as a professional, we have some training to do, but all in all, Harley is a super dog.

Living with an adolescent dog has its challenges but it is also very rewarding. Harley has mended my broken heart and has given me the joy of loving a dog to my fullest again. Harley is now a Yurchak. I look forward to our life together.

# Mythbusting Dog Color Vision

By Jennifer Lueck

It is a common misconception that dogs see in black and white, but dogs do see in color, just not the same range of colors humans with normal vision see.

## How do they know?

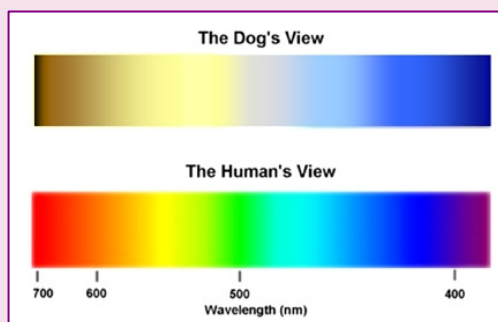
Scientists have been trying to test the color vision of animals since the early 1900's with mixed results. An experiment was conducted in 1989 at the University of California, Santa Barbara, by Jay Neitz and his colleagues. The test subjects were two Italian Greyhounds, Flip and Gypsy, and Neitz' own dog, a toy poodle named Retina. For the trials, the dogs were placed in a box facing a display of three round light panels. A computer randomly selected



color combinations. Two of the three lights were always the same color. The dogs were taught to find the unique color and touch it with their noses. Every correct choice was rewarded with a dog treat dropped in the cup beneath the light they chose. Wrong choices meant they didn't get a treat. Neitz performed approximately 4,000 trials with the dogs and charted the results. The experiment proved that dogs do see color, but they see a more limited range than humans with normal color vision. Neitz' results were confirmed in 1993 by a researcher using a sophisticated optometric instrument that measures the individual absorption rates of the cones in dogs' retinas.

## How are dogs' eyes different from humans'?

Normal human retinas have three types of color receptors, called cones. Each cone is sensitive to a particular wavelength of light. The combined activity of the three different kinds of cones gives normal human their full range of color. Dogs and most colorblind humans have only two kinds of cones, making their color vision more limited than normal human color vision.



## What does this mean for you and your dog?

It seems that most dog toy companies choose colors that appeal to the owner, rather than the dog! Knowing what colors your dog can see will help you choose toys and training equipment that will be the most visible to your dog. To give you an example of how toys look to dogs, I took pictures of some of Casey's toys on our carpet and in grass. I filtered the pictures using [www.vischeck.com](http://www.vischeck.com), which is an application web developers use to make sure their sites are visible to color blind humans. The pictures on the left are normal human vision; the pictures on the right are close approximations of what dogs see.



I've known for years that dogs were red-green color blind but I was still amazed by the results. It's easy to think that red and green are the only colors dogs don't see, but red and green are actually components of a many other colors. Without red, purple just looks blue and pink looks light gray. My experiment shows that light pink toys show up fine in grass, but are almost completely invisible on the carpet! Green and red are visible on the carpet, but are lost in the grass. On both carpet and grass, blue and yellow toys are the most visible, making them the best color choices for toys.

Before you start to feel bad for your dog because his color vision isn't as good as yours, check out Amy's article on scent to see how much we're missing by having human noses!

## Sources:

- "Color Vision: Almost Reason Enough for Having Eyes." Jay Neitz, Joseph Carroll and Maureen Neitz. *Optics and Photonics News*, January 2001
- "Color Vision in the Dog." Jay Neitz, Joseph Carroll and Gerald H. Jacobs. *Visual Neuroscience*, 1989.
- "Can Dogs See Color?" Stanley Coren, Ph. D. October 20, 2008. Psychology Today Blogs: <http://blogs.psychologytoday.com/print/2111>
- Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training: Adaptation and Learning*. Steven R. Lindsay

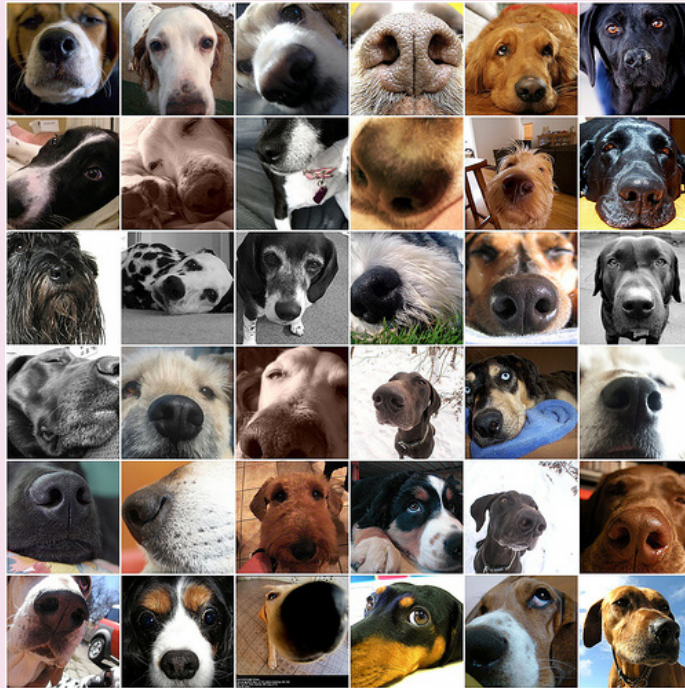
# Sniffing out the Facts

By Amy Wence

- Smell is a dog's sharpest sense. When dogs sniff us, they can tell where we've been, what we've

been doing, what we ate, and even if we are not feeling well.

- A dog's nose is up to 10,000 times more sensitive than a human's!
- Dogs have approximately 200 million scent receptors compared to our 5 million.
- The bigger the honker, the better! Larger noses have more scent receptors. For example, the dachshund has about 125 million scent receptor cells, while a beagle and German shepherd dog have about 225 million. The bloodhound takes the cake with around 300 million scent receptors!!!
- Each dog has an individual "noseprint," just as humans have unique fingerprints.



- Dogs interrupt their normal breathing process when they pursue a scent. This is why if you offer a panting dog a treat, he will stop panting so that he can turn on his smelling ability to interpret the scent being offered.

- Dogs prefer to mark vertical surfaces with urine because the air can carry the scent farther if it is

above ground. Also, the higher the mark, the larger the dog. Since size is an important factor for determining dominance, male dogs developed the habit of lifting their leg to aim their urine higher.

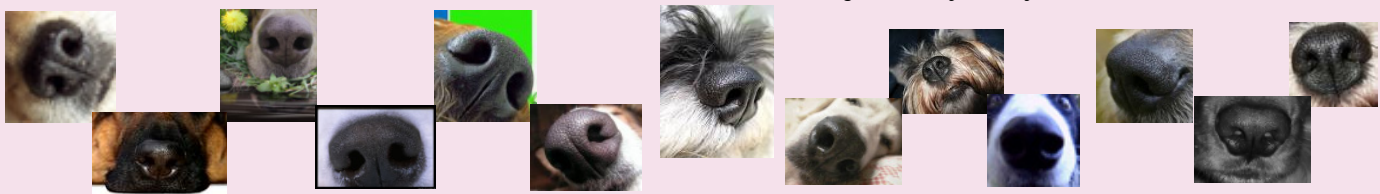
- Urine marking is also a way for dogs to convey information. Dog urine contains various pheromones, which provide a great deal of information about that dog. Dogs can identify the age, gender, health, and mood of another dog just by sniffing his urine. So when you are

walking your dog and he stops to sniff a tree or fire hydrant, he is getting all kinds of stimulating information. It's a dog's source of daily news!

- Research has shown that when dogs are overheated, their ability to track and recognize items by scent is reduced by over 40%.
- Dogs are able to smell multiple layers of odor and separate the smells from one another to identify each individual scent. For instance, while we may smell a pot of chili on the stove, the dog smells meat, beans, tomato, onion, and each of the spices.
- Dogs do not like citrus smells like lime, lemon, and orange. Does especially dislike citronella.
- Dogs are able to identify humans by their individual scent.
- Dogs' noses are so sensitive that they have even been shown to detect the presence of cancer in humans.
- A dog's nose is wet because the moisture helps to attract and hold scent molecules so they can travel through the nostrils.
- Dogs can sense odors at concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can. They can detect one drop of blood in five quarts of water!

Sources:

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qa4128/is\\_200404/ai\\_n9390754/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa4128/is_200404/ai_n9390754/)  
"How Dogs Think" by Stanley Coren



## Meet Our Writers

**Laura Yurchak** CPDT, CDBC, training director of Loving Paws has lived with dogs, cats and other animals all her life. In 1993, she decided to dedicate her life to working with dogs while working at Wolf Animal Hospital. She joined the American Boarding Kennel Association, ABKA, with the intention of owning and managing a luxurious boarding facility for dogs and cats. Through the course of events she and her husband enrolled their Border Collie, Tasha, and Australian Cattle Dog Mix, Terra in a positive reinforcement based dog training class. Surprised that aversives were being used, she searched for a training technique that didn't jerk her dogs around and cause unpleasantness in their relationship. ©THE THIRD WAY (TTW)



Laura with Tasha and Terra

created by Chris Bach was the answer! She fell in love with TTW of dog training and has been working with TTW techniques since 2000. She cherishes her amazing friendship with Chris and has become a Master Third Way Trainer.

Laura is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer through the Association of Pet Dogs Trainers (APDT) and a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC). She has also graduated from grooming school, completed the Pet Care Technician Program through the ABKA, trained in CPR for dogs and is an AKC Certified Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. To Laura, dogs are unique and wonderful gifts that we should cherish. Laura has a border collie named Harley, a cat named Joey and a husband named George.



Jennifer and Casey

**Jennifer Lueck** first became involved with Loving Paws in early 2004 when her dog, Casey, was a puppy. After Casey graduated from her classes, Jennifer began auditing classes to learn to become a trainer herself. She has been teaching classes since July 2006. She has attended numerous seminars and workshops on training, behavior and canine nutrition and health. She is trained in both human and pet first aid. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Parkside in 2000 with a degree in Modern Language. She currently teaches Canine Freestyle, organizes the Hiking Club and contributes to and edits the newsletter. She has two dogs: Gabe, a shepherd mix and Casey, a purebred mutt.

**Amy Wence** came to Loving Paws as a client in January 2007 when she brought her American Eskimo dog, Ella, to puppy classes. She was so impressed with Laura's techniques that when she adopted her second dog, Comiskey, she immediately enrolled him in puppy classes too. After bringing both of her dogs through multiple obedience classes, she realized that she had a passion for dog training. She started auditing classes in October 2007 and is now a trainer at Loving Paws. She enjoys helping with classes, playgroups, and working one-on-one with clients. Amy is also a contributor to the Loving Paws Newsletter and a regular at Hiking Club. She has attended various seminars on topics regarding dog behavior, nutrition, and first aid. She also enjoys helping out Safe Harbor Humane Society with fundraising events and working with shelter dogs. She is pursuing a career as a Certified Veterinary Technician and is currently enrolled in an AVMA accredited program.



Amy, Ella and Comiskey



Kerry at a hike last winter.

**Kerry Andersen** has brought her dogs Bear and Olive to many classes at Loving Paws. Bear recently completed the first level of Canine Freestyle and Olive completed the beginner agility class. Kerry is an active member in the Hiking Club and a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

**Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?**

We'd love to hear from you! Send your stories and/or articles to Jennifer at [jenn\\_web@lovingpawsllc.com](mailto:jenn_web@lovingpawsllc.com).