

# NEWSLETTER

October-November 2009

Fall is here and the leaves are falling. The puppies that have never experienced the fall may be extremely interested in the changes occurring outside. Although they have been somewhere before, they will look at that same place as if they have never been. Those dogs that have experienced the fall may be invigorated by the cooler weather and the squirrels working overtime. Be part of that experience and enjoy the season together.

There are some exciting things happening for Loving Paws. Classes in Waukegan started a couple weeks ago. I plan to hold Puppy and Adult classes, Agility for Fun, Rally Obedience, Shy & Fearful dog, Reactive Dog and play groups there.

We have launched two new websites. [Loving Paws LLC](#) and [Loving Paws Hiking Club](#) sites are now available. Please take a look at them and give us your honest feedback. We want these websites to be user friendly and your input is greatly appreciated. Play groups and hikes will be scheduled through the websites now so please watch for the new invitations. Folks that are on the hike club list and/or the play group list that have not attended this past summer will be removed. If you want to be on these lists please send me a message stating so.

The Halloween hike is scheduled for November 1st at 2:00pm. We are meeting at Petrifying Springs parking area #1. I ask that all folks attending bring one treat per dog to put into the doggie trick-or-treat bags that we will provide. I will give you a count of attendee on Friday before the hike.

I want to thank all of the people that have left their dogs in my care this summer. We have enjoyed them all and Harley has been marvelous. If you are a client and your dog gets along with my Harley and Joey my cat, your dog can stay with us while you are gone. I can't take any dog that jumps, climbs or digs under fences. Contact me if you are interested.

The renovations at Safe Harbor Humane Society may be put on hold until spring of 2010. The project ran into a lot of delays. They currently have a lot of smaller dogs. I was surprised to see so many smaller dogs vs. how many larger dogs they normally have. Take a look at Safe Harbor if you plan to add a furry face to your family.

If your dog gets into the Halloween chocolate, you should give them 1 teaspoon hydrogen peroxide per 10 pounds body weight. Repeat after 15-20 minutes if vomiting doesn't occur. You must do this soon after they have eaten it. Call your veterinarian immediately if you are not sure how long the chocolate has been inside your dog.

Until next month, be safe, laugh hardy and stay healthy.  
-Laura Yurchak

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# Over-Reactive vs. Aggressive Dogs

by Laura Yurchak.

Do you have a dog that barks and lunges at dogs, people or other objects when on leash?

This is very frustrating and depressing to the owner.

People tell me that they schedule their walks either early in the morning or when it is dark. Some say that they just stop taking their dogs for walks.

Many of these dogs begin with good intentions. When they see another dog they get excited. Their hormones begin to rise; their adrenaline sky rockets... a dog, oh boy oh boy.... I wanta see the dog....can't get close, gotta get closer.... oh boy, oh boy, a dog, a dog!!!!!! They want to see that dog so badly that they pull and bark out of sheer excitement. At that time, the owner corrects the dog for their awful behavior. If you interviewed the dog they would say "What's up with this human? Can't they see that I want to check out this other dog?" As time goes by, the owner's corrections escalate and the dog associates the corrections to the site of the dog. This is when the leash aggression really begins.

Other dogs are over-reactive to movement and sound. Cars, bikes, motor cycles, Oh My!

Squirrels are raining from the sky! There are so many things in the environment that excites our dogs. They get sucked into the environment and are no longer on planet earth. They go to Doggieville. Humans don't exist in Doggieville. We know this because the dogs don't hear a word we are saying even though the neighbors down the block can hear you loud and clear. Try calling a Beagle off of a scent. Go ahead. I dare you. You'll see what I mean.

Many of you know Harley, my Border Collie, the new love of

my life. In the beginning, he was highly over-reactive when he saw other dogs. The first few times I took him to the Hiking Club he wouldn't stop barking and lunging at the dogs. I knew he wasn't aggressive; he was over-reactive. I admit, at times it was hard for me to deal with, but I told myself, this is not his fault and he needs my help. We moved away from the group many times to help Harley calm down. Once I knew he was ready we would meet up with the group again. There were times that we would walk with just one, two or three dogs as they branched away from the group.

In the mean time, my husband took Harley to classes where he also learned the skills he needed to succeed. Harley has conquered his over-reactivity and now walks with his buddies for the entire hike.

Aggressive dogs differ from over-reactive dogs. Aggressive dogs intend to do harm. The Random House College Dictionary says aggression is "the practice of making assaults or attacks." Genetics, past experiences, lack of socialization or a combination of some of all of these can be the cause of this type of behavior. The dogs that injure someone or another dog must be handled differently. Some may never change. Some may be able to be stay under stimulus control when in a challenging environment. Some may be able to change completely. I have been contemplating exactly how I want to run our aggressive dog class. Jennifer, Amy, Stephanie and I recently went to a two-day seminar on aggressive dogs. The key points that I felt were important is that not all dogs will be able



to attend a class with other dogs. You must keep an aggressive dog under threshold at all times. In other words, you must control the dog and the environment so the dog doesn't exhibit any aggressive behavior. You must also teach them incompatible behaviors at a competition obedience level.

These skills must be in place before the dog attends a class with other dogs. The owner must be committed to the program and understand that this may be a lifetime commitment. Unlike what you see on TV, dogs don't change overnight. It takes time, patience and commitment on the owner's part.

Before starting our aggressive dog class, I require that the dogs have a complete physical including CBC, chemistry and complete thyroid panel. You must also attend at least one or more private sessions.

Accepting a dog into the aggressive dog class depends on the dog's skill level and severity of the aggression. If you have a dog that may be over-reactive or aggressive, you can do one of two things. You can manage the situation as you do now or you can seek help. I would be happy to discuss your options.

# Puppy Mill Paradise

By Stephanie Challand

## WHAT ARE PUPPY MILLS?

Puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities that produce puppies without regard for the health or welfare of the dogs or puppies. The dogs are kept in filthy wire cages and treated like a cash crop with little to no human interaction. When they are no longer able to produce puppies they are destroyed or discarded. The puppies are typically of poor health and have behavioral and emotional issues they will carry with them their entire lives. Puppy Mills often operate in secret selling their dogs to brokers, pet stores or uninformed consumers who are faced with costly veterinary bills and heartache but it is the dogs that pay the ultimate price.

## WHY WISCONSIN?

Despite its strict laws for dairy farmers, Wisconsin is one of the few states that does not have laws to regulate dog breeding. Advocates have been pushing for such legislation for over 10 years, only to face opposition from high-powered lobbyists and members of the Dog Federation of Wisconsin. As a result, all attempts have been vetoed, leaving Wisconsin wide open for the Puppy Mill industry to continue growing. The number of commercial dog-breeding facilities in Wisconsin has grown by over 300% between 1999 and 2007. There are an estimated 500 dog breeding facilities in Wisconsin that sell 50 or more dogs each year, yet only 68 of them are subject to USDA licensing. Lancaster County in Pennsylvania was known for being the "Puppy Mill Capitol of the United States." By the middle of the 1990s, Lancaster had the largest concentration of wholesale dog breeders in the country with sales approaching \$5 million annually. By 2004, it was responsible for producing

over 200,000 dogs a year. As the county continued to grow, there were several highly publicized cases including an episode of "Animal Cops," which led to increased awareness in the area. By the late 1990s entire Amish and Mennonite communities were relocating from Lancaster County to Wisconsin, where they set up dairy farms and continued breeding dogs as a 'cash crop.' Along with breeding, they brought the tradition of Dog Auctioning, which is now illegal in Lancaster County. Such auctions are said to be held twice a year at Horst Stables in Thorp, WI. At these auctions, dogs are sold to other "breeders" looking to increase their stock of a particular breed, to individuals looking for pets or to "brokers" who buy dogs in bulk and sell to pet stores or to consumers via the Internet. PROPOSED LEGISLATION In 2001, a WTMJ-TV investigation into Wisconsin Puppy Mills helped persuade legislators to pass a law regulating dog breeding for the first time. This bill required the licensing of Wisconsin breeders who sell 25 or more dogs per year and created seven new state inspectors to enforce these standards. Governor McCallum used his veto power to remove the penalties as well as vetoing higher dog license fees to fund the inspectors. The remainder of the bill was to take effect in February of 2004, but in 2003, Governor Doyle took an unprecedented constitutional step, using his partial-veto power to craft new wording in a budget bill that effectively repealed the earlier law regulating breeding. There have been several other attempts since to pass such legislation, all of which have fallen short. Meanwhile more and more Puppy Mills are cropping up in

Wisconsin.

Fortunately, new legislation has been introduced, but in order for it to move forward, legislators must hold an "executive session" to send the bill to the floor.

## DETAILS OF THE BILL (A.B. 250/S.B. 208):

Requires licensing of animal shelters, animal control facilities, dog breeders and dog dealers who sell more than 25 dogs per year; requires inspections of facilities before licenses are issued, and at least once every 2 years thereafter; requires certificate of veterinary inspection and recent vaccinations to be presented at time of sale; prohibits the sale of puppies younger than 7 weeks old; establishes basic standards of care for licensed facilities; requires registration of temporary dog markets; allows seizure of dogs from licensed facilities.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Do your research before buying a puppy. This should include researching breeds as well as potential breeders. Make sure you visit the breeding facilities and insist on seeing the parents and facilities. If they won't let you, leave.
2. Do not buy a dog online or from a Pet Store. Many are just fronts for brokers and Puppy Mills.
3. Adopt a dog! There are many dogs out there that need loving homes. Be careful to do your research, as some rescue groups are also fronts for brokers. Look for members of Alliance of Wisconsin Animal Rehoming Enterprises (AWARE).
4. Contact your legislators to ensure they send bill A.B. 250/S.B. 208 to the floor for a vote. For more information on contacting your representative visit <http://tinyurl.com/CrackDownOnWIPuppyMills>.

# Ella's Story

By Amy Wence

In late summer of 2006, my husband and I purchased our first house. We made sure it had a big backyard because my husband promised me that I could have a dog once we were settled in. I always wanted a dog, but was never allowed to have one growing up. I never wanted anything more. I spent hours researching breeds, and decided that an American Eskimo was the right dog for me. After we moved in, I started searching for good breeders. Unfortunately, American Eskimos are not terribly common and I had difficulty finding any good breeders in my area. The nearest ones were more than 4 hours away. The day that my husband agreed that we could get a dog, was one of the happiest days of my life. I had been waiting 27 years to get a dog, so as soon as he said yes, I could not wait a moment longer. Since I hadn't had any luck finding breeders, I decided to call Petland. It turned out that the Petland in Round Lake, IL had a female American Eskimo puppy. I couldn't believe it! I was finally going to have the puppy that I had always wanted. I was only vaguely familiar with puppy mills at the time and had no idea that almost all pet stores get their puppies from puppy mills. When I arrived at the store, there were lots of different puppies, but only one American Eskimo. The moment I met Ella, she melted my heart. I knew she would be mine and it was love at first sight. I asked the employee that was helping me where they get their puppies from and she assured me that they only deal with very reputable breeders in the Midwest area. She seemed like an animal lover herself and talked fondly about all of her pets at home.



So, with that I brought Ella home on Sunday, November 19th, 2006. My husband came home and fell in love with her too. She was the cutest puppy we had ever seen and we had no idea what we had gotten ourselves into. It didn't take long before things started to go wrong. I brought her to the vet within a couple of days and was told that she had both kennel cough and an intestinal parasite (coccidia). I couldn't believe it! I had just paid a fortune for this puppy that was supposed to have come from a reputable breeder, and she was sick! Thankfully, it was something that could be treated easily and she recovered quickly. We also started to notice that she had some serious behavior problems as well. The veterinarian had a difficult time handling her because Ella was very feisty and did not like to be restrained or handled. She was growling and biting at 8 weeks old. Petland had given me a form for my veterinarian to fill out so that I could bring it back to the store after Ella was checked out. My vet recorded the medical and behavioral issues she found with Ella and when I brought it back to the store, they could have cared less! So, I decided to do a little research on the breeder listed on Ella's paperwork. It didn't take me long, to find out that

this was not a reputable breeder at all. In fact, what I found was very upsetting. The breeder Ella was purchased from was a Class B dealer (i.e. - dog broker); which means that she obtains dogs from random sources, such as auctions, trades, pound seizures, newspaper ads, or strays. I also found U.S.D.A. court cases against her for shipping puppies under 8 weeks old. She was listed as the largest dog broker in Iowa at the time. I was very angry upon finding this information. Everything the Petland employee had told me was a lie and I now realize that she was only trying to get her commission from the sale of the puppy. I decided to email Petland and let them know what I had found. An employee responded to my email as if she were genuinely concerned and asked me to send her all of the breeder info so she could remove this breeder from their list. However, this employee failed to realize that when she marked my email as spam, it showed up in her response to me on the subject line. I was very angry at Petland for lying to consumers and after talking to others and doing a little research, I found that I was not alone. There are many people out there that were deceived; some with much worse experiences than I. I read many heartbreaking stories of people who purchased puppies from Petland only to find out they were severely ill and some of them even died. This was a hard lesson learned for me and I am ashamed that I was so naive and was actually supporting puppy mills. After knowing what I do now, I have vowed to always adopt from a rescue or shelter and to never step foot inside a Petland again. We held true to our

promise when we adopted our second dog, Comiskey, from Safe Harbor Humane Society in 2007.

I love Ella dearly, but I'm saddened to think about the conditions she was born in and raised for the first few weeks of her life. She has some serious behavioral issues because of poor genetics and I am thankful that we found Loving Paws as soon as we did. It's scary to think where she'd be without all of the training and socialization she's had over the years. We've been able to overcome many hurdles and have learned how to manage her behavioral issues the best we can. It's hard, if not impossible, to change what's genetically wired in her brain, so she'll probably always

exhibit fear aggression to some extent. There is only so much you can do when it comes to genetics. This is why only mentally and physically sound dogs should be bred.

Late last year, the HSUS revealed the details of their 8-month investigation linking Petland to puppy mills. ([http://www.hsus.org/pets/pets\\_related\\_news\\_and\\_events/petland\\_puppy\\_mill\\_112008.html](http://www.hsus.org/pets/pets_related_news_and_events/petland_puppy_mill_112008.html))

This year they followed up with a class action lawsuit filed against Petland and the Hunte Corporation. They have continued their investigation: "A new 2009 exposé has traced the shipping records for more than 15,000 puppies to Petland stores, proving once again that America's largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores,

Petland Inc., is also the nation's largest retail supporter of puppy mills. The investigation revealed that almost every Petland store in the country is buying puppies from large-scale "middleman" brokers that deal with puppy mills, and some are continuing to buy directly from known puppy mills that The HSUS filmed and identified in our 2008 investigation. Some of them even purchased puppies from a known animal abuser in 2009." ([http://www.stoppupmills.org/petland\\_stores.html](http://www.stoppupmills.org/petland_stores.html)) To learn more about the Petland investigation and how to stop the cruel practice of puppy mills, please visit: <http://stoppupmills.org/petland.html>

## Mite This Happen to Your Dog

By A Loving Paws Client\*

Remember that old Head and Shoulders commercial "That little itch should be telling you something"...

I recently learned firsthand about a parasitic mite that is commonly referred to as "walking dandruff." The official name is Cheyletiella (pronounced Chi-la-tea-ella). Cheyletiella mites are referred to as walking dandruff because of the flakes and the scales they produce. If you happen to look at them very closely, the flakes will appear to move from one place to another. Cheyletiella mange is very similar to sarcoptic mange. The only difference between the two is their size. Puppies seem to be more susceptible than older animals, but infestation of adults is sometimes seen. This mite is similar to head lice in kids – very contagious. My puppy picked it up after spending the weekend with the other clean, healthy, spoiled dogs in our family. Two days later, my puppy was chasing his tail, scratching like a mad man,

and pacing the house with a tortured look on face because these Cheyletiella mites were biting him. These mites can hop onto a human and bite, but doesn't prefer us to animals. Since my brother's dog was just diagnosed with Cheyletiella, we knew what we were dealing with. The vet gave my puppy a shot of Ivermectin that killed the adult mites on him within 36 hours. We are using Revolution topical ointment every 2 weeks for the next 6 weeks to address the developing mites (they have a 21 day life cycle). I cleaned my house from top to bottom and sprayed everything down with Mycodex insecticide spray. All the bedding was washed in hot, soapy bleach water. Since it is highly contagious, I was warned to keep my puppy away from all other dogs – no puppy class, hiking club, play dates, boarding kennel, etc. – for 4 weeks. This has been a less than fun experience for me and my puppy.

Years ago, I brought home a stray that ended up having

fleas. By the time he showed symptoms, I had two other dogs, two ferrets, and a household with fleas. Ever since that adventure, I have religiously used K-9 Advantix for flea and tick prevention on all my dogs. (My puppy also used K-9 Advantix monthly.) Guess what... K-9 Advantix does not prevent or minimize the risk of Cheyletiella mites. Revolution (available at vet offices) helps prevent fleas and "walking dandruff" mites, but not ticks. According to the vet, only Frontline Canine Plus prevents fleas and ticks and helps reduce the risk of "walking dandruff" mites. After battling "walking dandruff" for weeks, we are making the switch to Frontline Canine Plus. Learning firsthand, especially about Cheyletiella, isn't always the best way to learn.

\*The author asked to be kept anonymous lest someone see her dog scratch and think he still has mites.

# Buckle Up, Fido

By Jennifer Lueck

I got my first dog when I was eleven and almost lost him the same year. Louie was a great little dog who loved to go "bye-bye" in the car. On one memorable car ride, Louie and I were in the backseat and my mom was driving. I had the windows rolled down and she told me to shut them so Louie didn't jump out. Being a rebellious pre-teen, I said, "okay," but left them down. I turned my head for a second and when I looked back, Louie was gone! I yelled for my mom to stop the car because he had jumped out, but she didn't believe me. When she finally looked in the rear view mirror and saw Louie in the street, she slammed on the brakes, did a u-turn and drove back to him. He was a little skinned up, but not really hurt. We were very lucky that he was not seriously injured.

From that day on, I have been a proponent of restraining dogs in cars.

Dog restraints serve two main purposes:

- 1) Protect your dog and yourself in the event of an accident
- 2) Prevent accidents from happening by limiting distractions to the driver



Casey and Comiskey on a road trip to Kettle Moraine in May. Both dogs are wearing Four Paws harnesses and are connected to the car with Kwik-Connect Tethers.

## Facts:

- In a 30-mpg accident, a 60-pound dog can cause an impact of 2,700 pounds. That's the equivalent of an elephant slamming into the driver, windshield or another passenger.
- A AAA survey found that distraction from dogs was a significant cause of motor-vehicle accidents.
- Unbelted rear passengers increase the risk of death for belted front passengers by five times.
- Dog restraints help rescue workers and EMT's in the event of a crash. If the dog is restrained, he will not get in the way of rescue attempts and cannot run away.
- The backseat is the safest place for a dog in cars with passenger side airbags (unless they are disabled).
- Accidents happen close to home, so buckle up even on short trips. Progressive Insurance polled policyholders who experienced accidents in 2001 and found that 52% of accidents occurred within five miles of their homes and 69% of accidents occurred within ten miles of their homes.

## Equipment:

- Dogs should be restrained using harnesses; never restrain your dog in the car with only his collar.
- Use harnesses that are crash tested or made from automotive grade components. A walking harness is not made to withstand the force of a crash.
- Many harnesses have a strap on the back so they can be attached to your car's seatbelts.

## True Story

Dog's Name: Missy  
Breed: Pomeranian  
Owner: Donna Irving (Jennifer's aunt)  
Cause of injury: Missy was riding in the front seat on her owner's lap. The driver stopped suddenly and Missy was thrown into the dash.  
Injury: Broken leg, requiring surgery  
Cost: Between \$2,000 and \$3,000  
Recuperation time: 10 weeks of being crated 23 hours a day (let out only for potty breaks)

- The Kwik-Connect Tether by Pet Buckle can be attached to a seatbelt, latch bar or cargo tie down points. This product is excellent for canine geniuses who free themselves by stepping on seatbelt releases.
- If you use a crate, make sure the crate is securely attached to the car.

## Pet Safety Kit Offer

Bark Buckle UP is offering Pet Safety Kits that are designed to protect your pets if you are in an accident. The kit includes a decal to notify first responders to look in your glove box for your pet's registration card, which includes emergency contact and vet information.

They will send one free Pet Safety Registration Card and one decal to put on your car window for only the cost of shipping and handling (\$1.50). Additional pet cards and decals are only \$1.00 each. You can sign up at:  
<http://www.barkbuckleup.com/Members/Registration.asp>

Putting seatbelts on dogs is a pain, but it's much less painful than losing your dog in a crash. If you are not convinced to restrain your dog in the car yet, check out this video of Pet Buckle's crash test. Don't worry – they used stuffed dogs for the test.

<http://www.immioutdoors.com/petbuckle/sledtest.htm>

## Letter from a Client

We just recently had a huge scare with Ginger. A \$2000.00 scare that I would ask you to please tell all your clients about. Ginger loves to play with those light weight rubber pacifiers with the nubs all over them. We bought them at Petco and of course did not check to see where they were made. That was our first mistake. The second mistake, the costly one, is that we let her chew on it while we were making dinner. When we were ready to sit down to dinner, I went to put the toy away and couldn't find it. Now, this has happened before where she has thrown the toy up in the air and it has landed in several hiding spots. So, we did not think much of it. One week after the missing toy, Ginger became extremely ill.

Ginger has NEVER thrown up or pooped in the house. This happened all night long. I took her to the vet and they did x-rays. They found part of the toy in her stomach. So, off to surgery she went to have the toy removed. When they opened her up, there was no toy parts in her, but she was SO dehydrated that her stomach was inflamed and that's what showed up on the x-rays. They took blood to check for toxemia and kept her over night on IV fluids. I got to bring her home the next day. I had to make sure that she drank a lot of water and urinated to make sure that her kidneys were working. Within about three days she was feeling better. We went back about five days later for another blood test. She did not sustain any permanent damage and is back to her old self. The moral of the story: DO NOT BUY TOYS THAT ARE MADE IN CHINA and DO NOT LET YOUR DOG PLAY UNATTENDED WITH A TOY.

-Linda Ryglewicz

## Presents 4 Paws

Wisconsin Pet Care, Loving Paws and Woodman's lodge has teamed up to help the Kenosha Safe Harbor Humane Society in a charitable drive during November 1st-7th, 2009.

Here is a list of what the shelter needs:

Bleach, Liquid Laundry Detergent, Ajax or Dawn Dish Soap, Kitten Food, Dog Food (Purina or Better) Cat/dog toys and treats, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, 8.5 by 11" copier paper in white and/or colors, Letter size file folders, Postage Stamps, Q-Tips, Cotton Balls, Gift Cards to Petco, Petsmart, Visa, Wal Mart, Target, Shopko, K-Mart, Office Max. Cash donations are especially appreciated to cover Vet Bills, Medications, Spaying and Neutering, Surgeries, Vaccines, and other medical bills.

Donations can be brought to:

- Wisconsin Pet Care, 7111-5th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53143. You can drop off your donation anytime in the Dog House marked "Presents 4 Pets"
- Woodman's Lodge, 5914-128th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53144. Drop off times are M-F 9-11am, 2-5pm. Sat 9-3.
- Loving Paws LLC, 4816-67th Street, Kenosha, WI 53142. Drop off anytime in between the house and garage. A container will be there.

THE ANIMALS AT SAFE HARBOR HUMANE SOCIETY THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!!

## Sources

Puppy Mill Paradise

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

[http://www.milwaukeeemagazine.com/currentIssue/full\\_feature\\_story.asp?NewMessageID=24351](http://www.milwaukeeemagazine.com/currentIssue/full_feature_story.asp?NewMessageID=24351)

[http://www.hsus.org/legislation\\_laws/state\\_legislation/wisconsin/puppy\\_mills.html](http://www.hsus.org/legislation_laws/state_legislation/wisconsin/puppy_mills.html)

Buckle Up, Fido

<http://www.pettravel.com/pet-safety-harness.cfm>

<http://www.barkbuckleup.com/default.asp>

<http://www.carinsurance.com/Articles/content31.aspx>