



# NEWSLETTER



## Happy Valentine's Day!

February 20th is the second Spay-ghetti Dinner fundraiser for Safe Harbor Humane Society. It will take place at the Moose Lodge in Kenosha from 4-8pm. Last year's turnout was overwhelming; they ran out of food two or three times. That won't happen this year. They'll have some great raffles also. Prices are: Adults \$7.00, children under 12 \$4.00. Contact Safe Harbor more details: 262-694-4047 or [www.safeharborhumane.com](http://www.safeharborhumane.com).

February 25-28 is the largest dog show in this area. Place: Mc Cormick Place in Chicago. It is a fun day for all. For more events, check out our events page on our website. [www.lovingpawsllc.com/events](http://www.lovingpawsllc.com/events). If you know of something in the area, please send us the information and we will add it to the site.

Open House at Dawg House Daycare on March 20th. We are looking for anyone that offers pet services or products to have a booth (table) at this event. Please contact Denise at 847-338-4395 for more information.

I added a couple new classes to the schedule. The Refresher class is a 4-week course that helps you strengthen a skill you feel you need help with. Jenn is putting together an Advanced Tricks class (pre-requisite: Basic Tricks.) The website has the dates and times of all upcoming classes.

We will be looking into new types of classes for you and your dog to enjoy. If there is something in particular that you would like to see us offer, please send us an email telling us what that would be. Watch the newsletters and the website for updates. The newsletter will be coming out every other month this year.

Until next time, be warm, be loved, and be happy!

Laura Yurchak

## February 2010

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# Electronic Containment Systems

by Laura Yurchak

My Harley has a phenomenal recall with only one flaw. Squirrels! My yard is fenced so Harley can chase the squirrels to his heart's content. I don't have to worry about a dog coming into my yard and attacking him, someone stealing him from the yard, a child wandering up to say hi or a squirrel mesmerizing him into the street. A traditional fence is the most secure and safe containment you can provide for your dog, children, and the entire family. Fencing a yard can be very expensive and many homeowner associations don't allow them. The alternative to a traditional fence is the electronic containment systems. I felt that it was time for me to do some research on these systems to better understand how they work. I am sure you already know that I am against using electronic collars for dog training. Put one around your neck and give yourself a jolt. Besides that, incorrect associations can be created, causing more harm than good. However, when it comes to containment, there may be no other alternative available. I know many dog owners have had good success with an electronic containment system. These systems have been drastically improved these past years, reducing equipment failures and false activations. I have put together the pros and cons of the traditional fencing, electronic fencing and compared the more popular

brands. There are many models to choose from, too many to list. I compared similar models from different companies. There are systems that you can install yourself and others that are professionally installed. Of course, those installed professionally are more expensive. I only had the time to research one professionally installed system. I will work on getting more information from the others.

FENCE:	ELECTRONIC FENCE:
<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Pros:</b>
Secure	Inexpensive unless professionally installed
Privacy	Do-it-yourself systems are supposed to be easy to install
Good for any dog	Doesn't obstruct view
Reduces the threat of dog theft	
<b>Cons:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
Expensive	Doesn't stop invaders
Labor intense if doing yourself	Not recommended for aggressive dogs
Not authorized in some areas	Easier for a dog to escape
Must have secure gate	Once a dog escapes, they may not take the shock to come back
	Incorrect associations can occur with shock
	Can fail if a back-up system isn't in place

I had the opportunity to talk with a representative from the Invisible Fence Company. They have been around for more than 30 years. They are more expensive because they professionally install the system and hold 2-3 training sessions with the client and their dog. Their system is designed to work with dogs as young as 8 weeks old. At the initial visit, the representative explains how the system works and gives you a quote. The price includes a system for the area size you have, number of collars needed, additional indoor equipment, training, 1-year supply of batteries etc. They get the collar (without transmitter) from the Lupine Company. Invisible Fence Company honors the Lupine lifetime warranty. I plan to watch their training procedure in the future. For now, it is acceptable. Much better than some things I have read.

Brand	Invisible Fence	Petsafe DeluxeIn-Ground	Innotek Smart Dog	SportDOG	Humane Contain
Installation	Professional Install	Do-it-yourself	Do-it-yourself	Do-it-yourself	Do-it-yourself
Price	Quoted	\$160.00	\$215.00	\$220.00	\$100.00
Size of dog	8 Wks of age +	8LB+	12lb - 220lb	10lb+	5lb +
Coverage	Any size	25 acres	25 acres	100 acres	30 acres
Wire included	Y	500 ft	500 ft	1000 FT	500ft
Wire coverage	Whatever you need	1/2 acre	1/2 acre	1.4 acres	not stated
Extra wire & flags available	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flags included	Y	50	Y	100	50
Training included	Y	N	N	N	N
Collars included	Any amount	1	1	1	2
Extra collars available	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Light weight collar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Waterproof collar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Collar fail safe	Y				
Adjustable correction zone	Y	few ft - 20 ft	Y	2 settings	N
Levels of corrections	Many	5	7	4	1 - high voltage
Rising Stimulus	N	N	Y	Y at level 2 or above	Y
Vibration	N	N	N	Y	N
Tone	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Safety time out to stop correcting	Y	20 sec	Y	Y	not stated
Digital Code Signal	Y	Y	Y	not stated	Y
Low Battery indicator	Y	Y	not stated	Y	Y
Wire Break Alarm	Y	Y	not stated	Y	Y
Surge protector	Y	Y	Y	Y	not stated
Optional battery backup	Y		built in	Y	Y
Manual or DVD	Rep presentation	Both	Both	Manual	Manual
Indoor accessories	Y	Y	Y	N	Y - extra item needed
Warranty	1 year		Lifetime limited	not found	1 yr



UPDATE: For those of you who haven't already heard, the state of Wisconsin has taken a major step towards ending the suffering of dogs in puppy mills. On December 1, 2009, Governor Doyle signed Assembly Bill 250 and Senate Bill 208 into law! The new law will ensure breeders are providing humane care for their animals, and will also establish a much-needed licensing and inspection program. Thank you to all who voiced their support!

# The Importance of Canine Dental Care

By Amy Wence

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to highlight the importance of canine dental care. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS), 80% of dogs show signs of oral disease by the age of three. If you have a dog that is three years or older, then you may want to schedule a dental checkup with your veterinarian. Periodontal disease, an infection of the gums, should not be taken lightly. "Periodontal infections have been linked to diabetes, heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease and other life threatening disorders. The best way to prevent periodontal disease is by regularly brushing your pet's teeth and by regularly visiting your veterinarian," says board certified veterinary dental specialist Dr. Brook Niemiec.

## Causes

Bacteria combine with saliva and food debris at the gum line and cause plaque to form on the tooth. It takes only 2-3 days for the plaque to mineralize on the tooth and form tartar, which cannot be removed simply by brushing. Without brushing or dental care, the bacteria continue to build up and will lead to periodontal disease. These bacteria may then enter the bloodstream and cause infection to the kidney, liver, lungs, and heart valve.

## Symptoms

Signs of periodontal disease can include red, inflamed and swollen gums, bleeding gums, receding gums, yellow and brown tartar buildup, pain and bad breath. Periodontal disease can also lead to tooth loss if left untreated. Other indicators of oral problems can

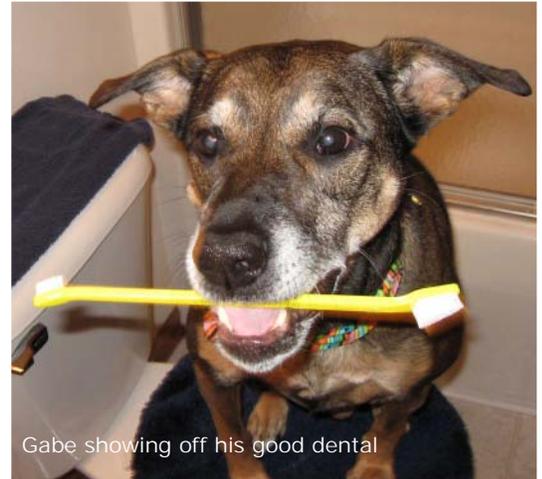
include a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth, and depression.

## Prevention

In addition to a dental checkup, there are things you can do at home to improve your pet's dental hygiene; brushing being the most important. Be sure to use toothpaste specifically formulated for pets, as human toothpaste can be harmful to pets. Ideally you would want to brush your dog's teeth on a daily basis. This may seem like a big chore, but it's no different than having to brush your own teeth every day, and it should take less than 5 minutes of your time. Once it becomes a habit, it will just become part of your daily routine. You might try making it a point to brush your dog's teeth immediately after you brush your own. I keep my dogs' toothbrushes and toothpaste in a special container next to my own dental products. This way I'm always reminded that they need their teeth brushed too. Keep in mind that the plaque calcifies in 2-3 days and cannot be removed by brushing; so the more often you brush, the better chance you have at removing the plaque before it becomes tartar. Here are two great resources that guide you on how to get started brushing your dog's teeth:

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2089&aid=384>  
&  
<http://www.avmatv.org/media.cfm?c=417&m=1769&s=64>

As the awareness of pet dental health grows, more and more pet dental care products are becoming available to consumers. There are all kinds



Gabe showing off his good dental

of different pet toothpastes, toothbrushes, chews, water additives, treats, and foods marketed towards improving your pet's dental health. However, not all of these products may be created equal. The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) website lists products that it has given a seal of approval for their efficacy in dental health. A list of these products can be found here:  
[http://www.vohc.org/accepted\\_products.htm](http://www.vohc.org/accepted_products.htm)

Broken teeth are also a common problem, which can occur when the dog is allowed to chew on objects that are too hard, such as cow hooves. A good rule of thumb is not to give your dog anything to chew on that you wouldn't hit yourself in the kneecap with. If you like to give your dog raw bones to chew on, make sure there is plenty of soft tissue on the bone and take it away once they get down to the hard bone. Also, choose joints, like knuckle bones over marrow bones which are harder and stronger and can cause more damage. Discard bones after a day of chewing because as they dry out, they become harder and more brittle. The bacterial counts on the bones will also increase over time.

## My Favorite Pet Dental Products

I'd like to share with you a couple of natural pet dental products that have worked great for my dogs. Both of my dogs are about 3 years old and they both started to have gum line inflammation and plaque/tartar buildup in the same location in their mouths. I have been using the products below for several months now and the results have been drastic. My dogs' mouths have never looked or smelled better!!!

### Triple-Pet All Natural Toothpaste



I like this toothpaste over others on the market because it does not have added sugars and uses natural ingredients. Plus, my dogs love the taste, so they actually don't mind having their teeth brushed because they are getting a reward at

the same time. I have purchased this at Havahart Pets in Racine, Petsmart in Kenosha, and online at: [www.OnlyNaturalPet.com](http://www.OnlyNaturalPet.com) (I use this in combination with the Triple-Pet EzyDog Finger brush that I have found sold only at Havahart Pets in Racine).

### Proden PlaqueOff Animal



This product is an all natural food supplement that can be added daily to your pet's meals. Its main ingredient is a specific strain of Norwegian seaweed that has been clinically proven to reduce and prevent plaque and tartar (<http://www.thehealthierlife.c>

[www.thehealthierlife.co.uk/natural-health-articles/oral-health/proden-plaqueoff-prevent-gum-disease-00272.html](http://www.thehealthierlife.co.uk/natural-health-articles/oral-health/proden-plaqueoff-prevent-gum-disease-00272.html)). This product works systemically, so it's very simple and easy to use. Results may take several weeks. Not recommended for animals undergoing treatment for hyperthyroidism. I have purchased it online at: <http://www.entirelypets.com/plaqueoff180.html> and <http://www.OnlyNaturalPet.com/products/ProDen-PlaqueOff/232000.aspx>

### Stages of Periodontal Disease

In a dog with a healthy mouth, the gingival margin fits closely to the enamel surface of the tooth; there is no reddening or swelling, and there is a lack of plaque buildup (see Figure A). Periodontal disease is inflammation and destruction of soft tissue and bony structures that surround and support the teeth. Untreated, it is a progressive disease that becomes irreversible. However, by implementing appropriate measures, disease progression can be slowed.

#### STAGE 1

##### Gingivitis

Gingivitis is an inflammation that occurs as a result of bacterial deposits known as plaque. As plaque accumulates and becomes mineralized, calculus is formed. The major sign of gingivitis is a reddened line along the edge of the gingiva (see Figure B).

#### STAGE 2

##### Early Periodontitis

Early periodontitis develops if gingivitis is untreated and progresses to infection of the gum and bony tissue surrounding the teeth. There is typically tissue swelling and gingival recession or periodontal pocket formation, with up to 25% loss of these attachment tissues (see Figure C).

#### STAGE 3

##### Moderate Periodontitis

With moderate periodontitis, bleeding often occurs when the veterinarian probes around the teeth. Affected teeth have up to 50% loss of attachment to surrounding bone, and roots may be exposed (see Figure D).

#### STAGE 4

##### Advanced Periodontitis

With advanced periodontitis, there is more than 50% loss of attachment, often with blood and pus surrounding the tooth (see Figure E). At this stage, a tooth will be lost if treatment is not provided and sometimes even if treatment is provided.



Source:

<http://www.colonialterraceanimalhospital.com/ourservices.htm>

Sources:

1. [www.petdental.com](http://www.petdental.com)
2. [http://www.avma.org/press/releases/100125\\_npdhm.asp](http://www.avma.org/press/releases/100125_npdhm.asp)
3. "Improve Your Dental Acuity," The Whole Dog Journal, July 2008
4. <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2089&aid=384>



Wisconsin Pet Care offers daily canine exercise, overnight sitting in your home and daily multiple visits. Bonded and insured with focus on loving, compassionate care. Please visit [www.wisconsinpetcare.com](http://www.wisconsinpetcare.com) or call Lori Mendelsohn Thomas at 262-764-0823 for more information. Specializing in more challenged friends!

## Dog in Progress

by Jennifer Lueck

Something wonderful happened at the Lueck house a few weeks ago and it made me realize how much Gabe has changed since we got him nine years ago. Gabe came to us at a year old and already had issues, one of which was having a fear of having his front nails clipped. At first I tried wrestling him to the ground to force him to submit to nail clipping (before I knew about positive methods), but he was the better wrestler and I succeeded only in making his fear worse. After that, the only way to clip his nails was to bring him to the vet, where they would muzzle him and the vet techs would hold him down while the vet clipped his nails.

Things changed when we went to Loving Paws for Casey's puppy classes and I learned about positive reinforcement dog training. I read a bunch of books on the subject and decided that all it would take to trim Gabe's nails was some simple desensitizing to the nail clippers. (Yeah, right!) I spent hours touching his paw with the nail clippers and then giving him a treat. Paw, treat. Paw, treat. Then I moved on to touching his nail, treat. Nail, treat. I did this over and over, always working on getting closer to clipping his nail. But each time I'd get to the point of actually clipping, he'd panic. So we'd start over. Paw, treat. Nail, treat. But I just couldn't clip his nails. I was frustrated and his nails were getting longer and longer, but I wanted to make it work because I never wanted him to be muzzled and held down for nail trimming again. I told Laura about it and she offered to show me a better way. She came over the following weekend, armed with steak



and her nail clippers. She positioned Gabe in a corner of the kitchen, with my mom blocking one side of his body, me feeding him the steak in the front and she worked on his other side. She did all of his nails in about five minutes.

No muzzle, no force, just positive reinforcement, confidence, and a lot of skill. She came over the next weekend and we did it again. She clipped three paws and had me do the fourth while she fed him. The weekend after that, my mom and I did it alone; she fed him and I clipped. This has been our strategy for the past five years. We have switched from nail clippers to a Dremel, but the game plan is otherwise the same.

But then one day, I had some juice left in the Dremel's battery after trimming Casey's nails and it seemed a waste not to use it, so I lifted Gabe's front paw and touched the Dremel very lightly to a nail. He didn't panic and pull his foot away! Gabe got a big woo-hoo and a jackpot of cookies. I lifted his paw again and touched his nail very lightly with the Dremel. He didn't pull away again, so he got more treats and praise. We did this several more times, with celebrations each time. I

began to wonder how far he'd let me go, so the next time I actually ground his nail a little... and he still didn't pull away! I woo-hoo'ed again and gave him tons of cookies. We did this several more times. That's when the amazing happened. Just as I touched the Dremel to Gabe's nail, he wagged his tail. Breakthrough! That tail wagging meant Gabe had made a positive association with the Dremel touching his nail!

So here's my message to all of you: there's no magic age that your dog has to be finished by. You have your dog's whole life to turn him into the dog you want him to be, or pretty darn close. If there's something you want your dog to learn or something you want to change about your dog – pulling on leash, difficulty nail trimming, barking, whatever it is, it's never too late to do start working on it. Challenge your dog. Don't underestimate him. Don't give up on him. Set him up for success, but don't limit him for fear of failing. It might be hard and it will probably take time, but take it from me, the payoff will be worth it.

Gabe is steadily transforming into a really great dog. If you had told me two years ago that he'd be able to walk calmly with a group of people and dogs, go to a dog Halloween Party, have a birthday party with his dog friends or enjoy having his nails trimmed I would tell you it was absolutely impossible. But it's not. He's done these things and more. It's taken a while and it's been rough at times, but it's been worth it and I'm proud of him.

# Life with a Reactive Dog

by Stephanie Challand

For those of you, like me, living with a Reactive dog even life's simplest tasks can be difficult at times. I cannot pinpoint the day when my life with a Reactive Dog started but every day since then has brought new challenges and joys to it.



Logan & Lacey

We had Lacey about 5 weeks when we decided she needed a friend so we started looking for another dog. We found Logan online and had him flown to us something I would NEVER do again. We picked him up at the airport on August 31, 2006. When we first saw him he was huddled in the back of the airline carrier trembling and would not come out. We eventually managed to coax out and began our journey with him home. When we arrived at home he was very unsure of everything even Lacey. By the end of the first day he and Lacey were best buds and even fell asleep cuddled together in the same little doggie bed. Over the next few days he started to warm up to things a little so we just assumed this behavior was because of the flight and his new environment and that he would eventually grow out of it. Looking back now, I know we should have done something about this immediately. I just didn't realize at the time how much this would affect his life and ours in the future. If only we had known about Loving Paws then maybe our life with a

Reactive Dog never would have started.

By Logan's second birthday we really started to notice a change in his behavior. Around this time our family situation also changed. My husband started a new job where he was away all week and only home on the weekends. This really took a toll on Logan. He would lay by our back door at night waiting for 'Daddy' to come home. Around this time he began barking more at noises outside and people walking by. On our walks he was at a point where he would hop on his back feet instead of walking and whine the entire way.

In October 2008, Steve quit this job so he would be home more and we adopted Lance from Safe Harbor. I realize now that adding another dog to the family was not the wisest decision we could have made. At the time I didn't realize just how deep Logan's issues were or how long they would take to get under control. Even though things seemed fine at the initial introduction, when we got Lance home, Logan's behavior around him changed. He would lunge at Lance when he became stressed. Loud noises, dogs barking, kids playing outside, vacuuming, etc. would set him off. If Lance picked up a toy Logan would run clear across the room bite Lance's cheek and take it from him. We almost took Lance back to the shelter, and maybe that would have been best for him, but we decided not to. I vowed from that point forward to do everything I could for all

of my dogs.

I had already been working some with Logan but really had no clue what I was doing. I saw an episode of "It's Me or the Dog" with an extremely stressed-out Jack Russell Terrier who reminded me so much of Logan it was scary. Victoria used a few techniques that proved very helpful in working with Logan. She would hold a piece of food in front of the dog letting him nibble on it while passing by something that caused the dog to react. This coupled with eye contact and sit became the staples of my training with Logan. I began walking Lacey and Logan individually so I could work with them one-on-one. Lacey had also been reacting to things while walking with Logan but as soon as I started walking them independently she became much better. Logan was a different story however. Our first few months consisted of walks where we would go a couple of steps and I would ask for a sit and eye contact. At first, he could not even pay attention to me. He was throwing me tons of calming signals (head turns,



Lance

body turns, yawning, paw lifting, shaking, etc) which of course I didn't know anything about at the time. I got some higher value rewards (chicken works wonders) and continued working with him. Eventually, he began responding to me and the hopping/whining began to slowly decrease. It was then that I really started to notice him reacting to everything (people, dogs, garbage cans, garage doors opening, etc). It wasn't long before Lance began to show some of the same issues Logan had as a puppy. As soon as we noticed this we promptly got him into a puppy class at Petco where he wasn't the friendliest with other dogs. Luckily, before he finished this class we had found Loving Paws. Both Lance and Logan have been through the Loving Paws Reactive Dog class which along with the Hiking Club has made a world of difference for them both. They still react to other dogs but it is a far cry from where they were and because of this class I now know how to handle him in these situations.

I now realize the extent of both dog's issues and the fact that a Reactive Dog can never be 'cured'. No matter how much I work with them they will always have reactive tendencies. Counter-conditioning and desensitization can drastically help but I will always have to be aware of their surroundings. The key is to keep them under their threshold and from reacting at all costs while gradually increasing that threshold. The time it will take for each dog to 'recover' depends on the individual dog and the handler. If you find yourself with a dog like this, contact Loving Paws today!



#### Helpful Hints

Here are some things I have learned and done along the way that have helped my dogs. They may be worth a try.

1. Walk your dogs individually if you have any behavioral issues and be sure they get plenty of physical and mental stimulation.
2. Pay close attention to what your dog is telling you through their body language and calming signals. Work on anything that they appear afraid or uncertain of immediately.
3. Work on reducing your dog's overall stress level. No raising your voices in the house, etc. Give them a day off every few days by allowing them to just be a dog.
4. Play relaxing music (I recommend Through a Dog's Ear) and massage your dog at least a few times each week.
5. Consider using a D.A.P collar, diffuser or spray or other calming aids which Laura can recommend.
6. Carry treats with you at all times even in the house and work on their reactions to everything inside and out.
7. Check out the Recommended Reading list on the Loving Paws Website!

These things take time so don't be discouraged if you don't see progress immediately. Just be patient and consistent and things will gradually improve. It has been close to year and a half since I started working with Logan he is doing much better. In the past few months he and Lance have actually begun playing together which is amazing to see. He is sleeping better and no longer jumping up barking at every sound he hears. His walking has improved immensely. He now walks on all four feet and no longer whines. Lance is doing much better as well. We still have a long road ahead of us but we just take it one day at a time and try to enjoy every minute of it.

# NINO'S BIG ADVENTURE

By: Jim, Eve & Nino Boehme

My name is Nino and I am an 18 month old Italian Greyhound. I live in Pleasant Prairie with my mom and dad Jim and Eve Boehme. I would like to share with you the greatest adventure of my life that I just experienced a few weeks ago.

It all started several months ago when my mom and I decided to go to Miami for the holidays to see my mom's family. They decided they wanted to take me with and found a flight that would allow me to travel with them in the cabin of the airplane. Soon after, my dad starting working with me to get me into and stay in the crate I would be in during the flight. He used some really yummy treats and before long I couldn't wait to be in my crate. We also visited a holistic vet who gave me some drops that would help me to relax during the flight.

The day of our flight we got up very early and drove to Milwaukee. I jumped into my crate and off we went into the airport. There were so many people and sites and sounds I had never experienced before.

After checking in and going through security I was able to get out of my crate and sit on my mom's lap. So many people came up and petted me and told me how cute I was.

Before long it was time for me to get back into my crate and board the plane. When we got on the plane my dad put me under the seat in front of him.

I was a little scared at first, but once I realized my mom and dad were there I settled in and slept the whole flight.

When we landed in Florida, I was able to get out of my crate as we waited for our luggage. Several people came up to say

hi to me and I got more hugs and kisses. After we got our luggage my uncle picked us up and we headed to his condo. He lives in the biggest building I have ever seen right on the water. I loved it there. It was so warm and we went for walks in the harbor every day. The best part about my uncle's place was the dog park. It was an off leash dog park and it was great. I met so many cool dogs and I was able to run around as much as I wanted.

The last day we went there, I met another Italian Greyhound named Riley. He was grey and a little bigger than me. We ran around until I was so tired I couldn't run anymore. It was very fun because my uncle had never seen me run like a greyhound before.

One day we went to a place called South Beach. It was so warm and had the softest whitest sand I have ever seen. My mom calls the stuff at Lake Michigan sand, but it isn't nearly as warm and soft as the stuff I walked on at South Beach. There was a really cool boardwalk that we walked on for miles and miles. I saw all kinds of other dogs with their parents and got lots of head scratches and smiles from several strangers. I liked South Beach.

Another day we drove all the way from Miami to Orlando to tour a winery. Since my uncle's friend worked at the winery I was able to go on the tour with everyone. It was very cool. We toured the blueberry fields and went inside to see how they make and bottle the wine. My mom and dad really liked the wine,



but I liked watching the ducks and geese splash around in the pond way more.

After we spent a few days with my uncle, we drove down to Miami to spend a few days with my aunt. She lives in a house with a fenced in back yard which was great because I could run around and explore as much as I wanted. I loved sniffing my way through the back yard which was full of plants and trees that I had never seen before. There were also lizards running around that I could chase. My aunt has a little girl and I enjoyed running after and playing with her. They also had a cat that I tried to play with, but she wasn't very interested in playing with me. It was very warm and we spent most of our time outside in the sun which was very fun.

Before long it was time to get back into my crate and head back to Wisconsin. I loved all the sites and smells of Florida. When we left Florida it was 68 degrees and when we got to Milwaukee it was 5 degrees. I wasn't so happy about that, but it was nice to get home and sleep in my own bed. My mom and dad were so excited about how well the trip went that they are already planning another trip that I can go along with. I cannot wait.

# My New Job

by Casey Lueck

I have a new job and I'm really good at it! My mom really likes to go cross country skiing but she's not very good at it. She falls all the time and can't go very fast. My new job is to pull her! This is called skijoring. What I do is put on my harness, get connected to her with a rope and when she says "hike!" I take



With Casey

off running. She even tells me "Yes!" when I pull her! I'm not allowed to pull when we go on walks so skijoring makes me really happy! I've wanted to pull my whole life!

Mom uses some funny words like "gee" and "haw" when she wants me to go right or left. I don't know the difference yet so I just watch her skis to see which way they are pointing and I pull that way. She says "whoa" when she wants me to stop, but I have a hard time with that one because stopping is boring. If we see another skier or another dog, Mom says "on by" so I know I have to pass them on by. That's an easy one. Nothing is as much fun as my new job... except maybe chasing birds!



Without Casey

Mom says she wants me to have as much fun as she's having so I still get to stop and smell sometimes. I just have to remember that she falls down if I run to the side - so I shouldn't do that. Even if there's a squirrel or a great new smell. If Mom falls it's my job to rescue her with hugs and kisses. She's really good at getting back up. I think she's had lots of practice. Mom connects the rope to my harness with things called carabiners. These neat things make it easy to fix the rope when we get all tangled up.

Our friends Kathy and Charlie are learning to skijor too. Charlie only weighs 24 pounds but he's really strong and can pull just like a big dog. He barks a lot when we're on walks but he doesn't bark at all when skijor because he's too busy.

Charlie is a prankster. He tried to run circles around my mom so she'd get tied up with his rope. It almost worked! But Charlie has carabiners on his harness, too, so his mom untied my mom right away.

When we are done skijoring, I am a tired dog. Mom says that makes me a good dog. I don't know if that's true, but I do know that I love skijoring!



If you are interested in skijoring with Casey and Jennifer, please contact Jennifer at [lphikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:lphikingclub@gmail.com).

# Dawg House Daycare

*Your Dog's favorite "Home away from home!"*

At Dawg House Daycare it's a play-all-day philosophy full of activity and attention. When a dog is left at home alone or placed into a kennel all day, they become bored. Boredom leads to destructive behavior such as chewing, obsessive licking, and digging. We make it our goal to provide a fun, stimulating environment to relieve that boredom. As dog lovers and pooch parents ourselves, we understand a dog's need for interaction and socialization as well as a parent's peace of mind.

Dawg House Daycare is thrilled to be working with Laura Yurchak. Laura is currently conducting many classes and playgroups at our new Waukegan location. As a way to introduce ourselves, we are offering a wonderful opportunity for all of Laura's clients. In the month of February we are offering a FREE day of daycare to any of Laura's clients, either past or present. In addition to the FREE day of daycare, we will also be offering our daycare packages at a substantial savings!

**During the month of February 2010:**

**All 10 visit daycare packages will receive 15% off the purchase price!**

**All 20 visit daycare packages will receive 20% off the purchase price!**

Please visit our website at [www.dawghousedaycare.com](http://www.dawghousedaycare.com) to complete our on-line application and request a *free* day of daycare for your dog. We will then call you to schedule your *free* day of daycare.

For the safety and well-being of all our guests and staff, we do require all dogs to be up to date on all required vaccinations and to adhere to all stated requirements on our website. We are conveniently located on Delany Rd in Waukegan, just 2 miles north of Rt 41, between Yorkhouse and Sunset Rds.

We look very forward to meeting you and your dog soon where we trust Dawg House Daycare will become your Dog's favorite "Home away from home!"

Denise Sanfelippo  
Owner – Dawg House Daycare  
2901 Delany Rd Ste 102  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
847-360-1505



Denise Sanfelippo, Owner

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visit: [Dawg House Daycare.com](http://DawgHouseDaycare.com)