

NEWSLETTER

June 2009

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pancake Breakfast for Safe Harbor Humane Society in May. It was a record event with the best turn out ever.

It saddens me to tell you that the Safe Harbor Humane Society is at their limit with dogs and cats. Surrenders and strays increase this time of the year. Due to lack of space, the shelter is forced to euthanize those that have the least chance of adoption. This is a very sad situation. There are dogs from 10 month to 9 years old. Please tell friends and family to spread the word about available pets at Safe Harbor Humane Society.

Those of you who read our newsletters or attend our Hiking Club or small dog play group have met Kerry Anderson and her dogs Bear and Olive. Kerry is the creator of most of the Loving Paws brochures, flyers and business cards. (Those that were not very professional looking were done by me.) She is now working on a new Loving Paws website. Lucky for us, Kerry is now available to work with anyone that needs help with their graphic design for business cards, brochures, websites, etc. Contact Kerry Andersen buggis1@gmail.com.

Contact me if you are looking for a Petmate, model is PetPorter, size is large 36" H x 24" W x 26" H in off white. I know of someone who is willing to give this to anyone in need.

Watch for the Lisa Kluslow seminar flyer in a separate e-mail. The next seminars will take place on August 9th.

My hat is off to Dr. Hendrickson and the Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital staff. Dr. Hendrickson is an awesome veterinarian. The compassion and caring of the entire staff is endless. By the time you read this, Brandy my foster dog, will have completed the injections to kill the adult heartworm in her body (see April newsletter for complete story). I am truly blessed to have them caring for Brandy during this difficult time.

-Laura Yurchak



The Loving Paws Hiking Club is One Year Old!

What is the Hiking Club? We are a group of Loving Paws graduates who meet twice a week to walk our dogs together. Most "hikes" are really just walks on paved roads, although we do occasionally hike on real hiking trails. Information about hikes, such as location, date, time and level of difficulty, is sent out using evite.com.

Where we hike: Lake Andrea, Kenosha Marina and downtown, Petrifying Springs, Van Patten Woods (Wadsworth, IL), Pennoyer Park, Bristol Woods. New hike locations coming soon!

When we hike: We generally hike on Thursday evenings and on either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather.

If you've graduated from a class at Loving Paws and enjoy walking and socializing with other dog people, the Hiking Club is for you. To be added to the club, simply email Laura.

Cost: Free to graduates of Loving Paws

Loose Dogs - What to do!

By Laura Yurchak

I have lost track of how many times I was on a walk with my dogs and a loose dog appeared. Once I had a goofy, fun loving Collie follow me and the girls as we headed home. The owner was in their van trying to catch her but she was having too much fun following us to listen to her owner. Finally the Collie was caught when she was preoccupied with my girls. Other times I was able to hold the approaching dog off with my body language and my stern verbal cue of STAY!!!! GO HOME!!!!!! I didn't shout; I just said it loud enough for the dog and anyone in the immediate area to hear. The dogs that were headed our way were most likely friendly but I wasn't taking the chance. The loose dogs never got closer than approximately 100 feet from us. As I continued to cue the dogs to STAY and GO HOME, the owners came out and got their dogs. I was very lucky. Walking two dogs at a time in a situation like that can be very scary.

Brewer the Beagle and Jane weren't as lucky. Many of you may have seen the story in the paper or on TV. They were on a walk when a big white dog, pit type, came charging at them. The big dog did extensive damage to Brewer. It was horrific for both Brewer and Jane.

There are some things you can do if you ever find yourself facing a loose dog. The things I mention below are not 100% full proof but you can try them if you ever need to. Most dogs know or have some knowledge of the cue "stay or wait". If the dog isn't right by you, you can call out these cues plus use the hand signal. I normally take one step forward as I cue with a hand signal and loudly say "STAY or WAIT". I don't feel as though these cues will work if the dog is too close. Never hold your hand out in front of you if a strange dog is close enough to bite it.

Carry Spray Shield, previously known as Direct Stop. Citronella is the active ingredient and presents a strong odor to the animal causing them to be distracted from the object of their aggression. Independent sampling has shown that Spray Shield is effective in controlling dogs exhibiting low to medium aggression. It should be noted, however, that while the product has matched the effectiveness of 10% pepper spray on dogs, it may not stop trained attack animals or those animals with a strong motivation to attack.

It is legal in Wisconsin to carry pepper spray. As soon as you see the dog approaching, take your pepper spray out of your pocket and spray it toward the dog. They could be across the street but I would still spray a burst in the dog's direction. If the dog continues to move forward, continue spraying. Most dogs will not approach something that is spraying toward them, especially with a smell like that.

Carry a self-defense personal alarm. These devices emit 120+ decibels. They are loud enough to call the Marines to your rescue and most likely scare most dogs away. These fit in your pocket and only cost about \$10.00.

For those dogs like the goofy Collie that followed me, you can toss a handful of treats to the side of the dog as it is approaching. Do not throw the treats at the dog; toss them to the side of the dog. This way the dog is not facing you while they eat the treats. You can slowly move away.

If you try all of the things above and you or your dog are attacked:

- DROP THE LEASH. Give your dog a chance to either get away or defend himself.
- Spray the attacking dog with Spray Shield or pepper spray. Do not spray these when the attacking dog has a hold of your dog. It will only make them mad and they may hold onto your dog harder.
- Pour your water bottle over the dogs.
- Turn on your self-defense personal alarm and toss it at the dogs.
- Stay calm and try to find something that you can put between the two dogs. This will be hard to do since there is normally nothing big enough to slide in between them. If you have a coat on, take it off and toss it over the attacking dog.
- If you are being attacked, keep your hands folded and tight to your body. Don't make eye contact and stand still.
- If you are knocked down, curl into a ball and protect your face. Whatever you do, do not run. This will only increase the dog's prey drive and encourage him to come after you.

ABOUT PEPPER SPRAY - In Wisconsin, you are allowed to use pepper spray to defend yourself against someone who is attacking or about to attack you. The age limit for carrying concealed pepper spray on your body is 18, and if it's kept in a car, the driver must be over the age of 18. (Since pepper sprays are usually not to be stored in temperatures over 120 degrees, it's wise not to carry pepper spray in the glove compartment during the warmer months). Pepper spray is the only self-defense spray you can legally carry in Wisconsin.



Ticks Suck!

By Jennifer Lueck

Tick season is upon us in Wisconsin and it's bad again this year. We even had to postpone the Hiking Club excursion to Kettle Moraine until July because of all the ticks!

We have two types of ticks in Wisconsin, the deer tick and the American dog tick (also known as the wood tick). Ticks can carry diseases in their saliva, which they can pass to a host when they feed. It generally takes 24 to 48 hours of feeding before an infected tick can spread a disease, so quick removal of ticks is essential. The most well known tick-borne disease (TBD) is Lyme disease, which is spread by deer ticks. Other serious TBD's include Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and tick paralysis, which are spread by American dog ticks.

Deer ticks are no longer just an "up north" thing. A tick census conducted last fall by UW-Madison entomologist Dr. Susan Paskewitz found that deer ticks now appear in most places in Wisconsin. In Illinois, deer ticks are believed to be established in Cook, Dupage, Will and Lake Counties.

The American Veterinary Association recommends the following steps for reducing your dog's risk of TBD's:

- Remove ticks immediately.
- During tick season, treat pets with an appropriate tick preventative.
- After hiking, camping or any other activities in tick-prone areas, examine your pets for ticks as soon as you arrive home.

To search for ticks on your dog, run your hands over your dog's entire body, feeling for anything out of the ordinary. Ticks are often found around the eyes, ears, neck (under the collar) and feet, inside armpits and between toes. They can attach anywhere, so you really have to search the whole dog. (After you've checked your dog, be sure to check yourself!)

Despite the recent tick population explosion, experts are not recommending people avoid outside activities. The best way to prevent tick-borne diseases is careful examination after visiting tick-prone areas and to seek treatment immediately if symptoms develop.



How to Remove a Tick

- With a tweezers or tick-removing device, grasp the tick close to the skin and pull straight out.
- Do not twist or jerk as you pull, or the head may come off and remain in the host.
- Wash the bite with soap and water or an antiseptic
- Place the tick in a plastic container marked with the date in case your dog shows signs of illness.
- Wash your hands

NOT

How to Remove a Tick

There is a plethora of old wives' tails about removing ticks from touching a tick's rear end with a lit match or hot needle, to smothering it with petroleum jelly, nail polish remover or a glob of soap. These methods do not work and in some cases might make matters worse by causing the tick to release additional saliva, which can increase the chance of transmitting a disease to its host.



As ticks feed they become engorged with blood. Gross, but true.

Sources:

"Beating Those Awful Ticks" by Jan Mahood, American Kennel Club Family Dog, May/June 2008

"Ticked Off" www.snopes.com/oldwives/tick.asp

Wisconsin DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/LymeDisease/>

"Deer Tick Control" by Phil Pellitteri, UW Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab: <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/ticks.pdf>

"Still ticking: Ticks and Lyme disease aren't so rare in SE Wisconsin" By David Steinkraus, The Journal Times Online, June 9, 2009.

http://www.journaltimes.com/articles/2009/06/09/health/do_c4a2ed227a1097672772095.txt



Door County: A Doggie Dream Vacation

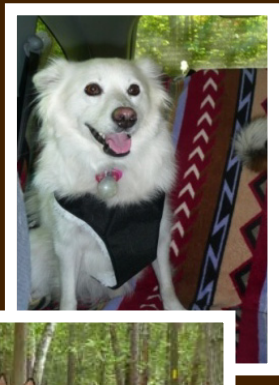
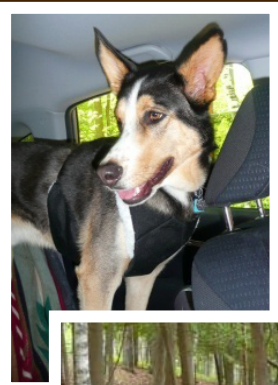
By Comiskey Wence

Are you looking for a fun place to go this summer? How about Door County, WI? My people took me and Ella there recently and we had the best time! We left the cats at home since they are boring and just lay around all the time. Plus, they don't like riding in the car like me and Ella do. The three-hour drive to Sturgeon Bay was exciting! When we got there, our people unpacked the car, while we were busy exploring the house that they rented for us. There were lots of different rooms to sniff around and check out. I loved all the big windows overlooking the woods. The air was so fresh and all we could hear were the sounds of nature. After we got settled, our people chauffeured us around the area and we saw wild turkeys and deer for the first time! I have to admit; those turkeys are kind of scary looking! They were bigger than Ella!

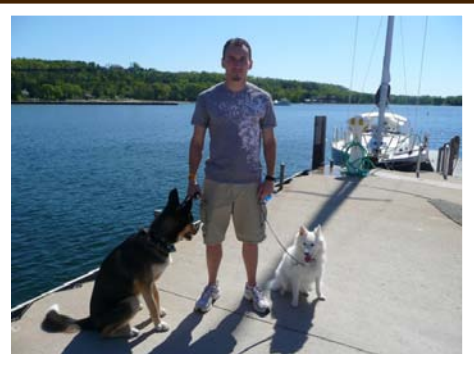
On the second day, we took our people for a very long walk through Potawatomi State Park. We saw more deer... but thankfully no turkeys. We hiked deep into the forest, where there were all kinds of new sights, smells, and sounds to explore. We were exhausted afterwards, so we went back to the house to take a nap. The bed was so huge that we even let our people sleep in it too! The cabin was very peaceful and we couldn't help but relax all weekend long. Even Ella was able to relax and stop barking for once! I think it's because there was nothing for her to bark at. It was nice to have some peace and quiet. Me and Ella really enjoyed gazing every morning into the woods behind the house and just listening to the birds chirp.

On our last day there, our people took us on a scenic drive from Sturgeon Bay to Gills Rock. Along the way, we passed through several little towns. Fish Creek and Sister Bay were very busy with lots of people. We also got to see a restaurant that had goats on the roof! We stopped in Sister Bay and tried some home-made ice cream which was very yummy! On the way back we stopped in Egg Harbor and went for a walk around the marina.

Well, that concludes our vacation in Door County. There were lots of fun things for Ella and me to do, like riding in the car, walking in the woods, having an infinite number of trees to pee on. It really doesn't get any better! The best part though, was that we were with our people the whole time. It was a doggie dream vacation!



About the Author
Comiskey is a 2-year-old Husky/Malamute/Pharaoh hound mix. He lives with his family in Kenosha, WI. His family members include: José & Amy (his people), Ella (his American Eskimo sibling), and Casey, Jasmine, and Meatball (the cats). Comiskey enjoys howling with his people, wrestling with Ella, and grooming the cats.



We rented the Black Bear Lodge in Sturgeon Bay, WI. It was very affordable and I would highly recommend it. To check out this and other pet friendly rentals in Door County, visit: <http://www.rentdoorcounty.com/hotproperty/advsearchr/30695/>