It’s been a long long winter here in the northeast. We hope you were able to keep warm and dry. This issue features coping with the loss of a pet. Many of us have seen our beloved pets cross the rainbow bridge. This issue deals with that grief, as well as filling that empty space with the adoption of a dog looking for a forever family.

If you have any topics you would like to see featured in future newsletters drop us an email at northeastbostonrescuemail@gmail and we will do our best to include it.
Ten Tips on Coping with Pet Loss

by Moira Anderson Allen, M.Ed.

Anyone who considers a pet a beloved friend, companion, or family member knows the intense pain that accompanies the loss of that friend. Following are some tips on coping with that grief, and with the difficult decisions one faces upon the loss of a pet.

1. Am I crazy to hurt so much?

Intense grief over the loss of a pet is normal and natural. Don't let anyone tell you that it's silly, crazy, or overly sentimental to grieve!

During the years you spent with your pet (even if they were few), it became a significant and constant part of your life. It was a source of comfort and companionship, of unconditional love and acceptance, of fun and joy. So don't be surprised if you feel devastated by the loss of such a relationship.

People who don't understand the pet/owner bond may not understand your pain. All that matters, however, is how you feel. Don't let others dictate your feelings: They are valid, and may be extremely painful. But remember, you are not alone: Thousands of pet owners have gone through the same feelings.

2. What Can I Expect to Feel?

Different people experience grief in different ways. Besides your sorrow and loss, you may also experience the following emotions:

- **Guilt** may occur if you feel responsible for your pet's death—the "if only I had been more careful" syndrome. It is pointless and often erroneous to burden yourself with guilt for the accident or illness that claimed your pet's life, and only makes it more difficult to resolve your grief.
Denial makes it difficult to accept that your pet is really gone. It's hard to imagine that your pet won't greet you when you come home, or that it doesn't need its evening meal. Some pet owners carry this to extremes, and fear their pet is still alive and suffering somewhere. Others find it hard to get a new pet for fear of being "disloyal" to the old.

Anger may be directed at the illness that killed your pet, the driver of the speeding car, the veterinarian who "failed" to save its life. Sometimes it is justified, but when carried to extremes, it distracts you from the important task of resolving your grief.

Depression is a natural consequence of grief, but can leave you powerless to cope with your feelings. Extreme depression robs you of motivation and energy, causing you to dwell upon your sorrow.

3. What can I do about my feelings?

The most important step you can take is to be honest about your feelings. Don't deny your pain, or your feelings of anger and guilt. Only by examining and coming to terms with your feelings can you begin to work through them.

You have a right to feel pain and grief! Someone you loved has died, and you feel alone and bereaved. You have a right to feel anger and guilt, as well. Acknowledge your feelings first, then ask yourself whether the circumstances actually justify them.

Locking away grief doesn't make it go away. Express it. Cry, scream, pound the floor, talk it out. Do what helps you the most. Don't try to avoid grief by not thinking about your pet; instead, reminisce about the good times. This will help you understand what your pet's loss actually means to you.

Some find it helpful to express their feelings and memories in poems, stories, or letters to the pet. Other strategies including rearranging your schedule to fill in the times you would have spent with your pet; preparing a memorial such as a photo collage; and talking to others about your loss.

4. Who can I talk to?

If your family or friends love pets, they'll understand what you're going through. Don't hide your feelings in a misguided effort to appear strong and calm!
Working through your feelings with another person is one of the best ways to put them in perspective and find ways to handle them. Find someone you can talk to about how much the pet meant to you and how much you miss it—someone you feel comfortable crying and grieving with.

If you don't have family or friends who understand, or if you need more help, ask your veterinarian or humane association to recommend a pet loss counselor or support group. Check with your church or hospital for grief counseling. Remember, your grief is genuine and deserving of support.

5. **When is the right time to euthanize a pet?**

Your veterinarian is the best judge of your pet's physical condition; however, you are the best judge of the quality of your pet's daily life. If a pet has a good appetite, responds to attention, seeks its owner's company, and participates in play or family life, many owners feel that this is not the time. However, if a pet is in constant pain, undergoing difficult and stressful treatments that aren't helping greatly, unresponsive to affection, unaware of its surroundings, and uninterested in life, a caring pet owner will probably choose to end the beloved companion's suffering.

Evaluate your pet's health honestly and unselfishly with your veterinarian. Prolonging a pet's suffering in order to prevent your own ultimately helps neither of you. Nothing can make this decision an easy or painless one, but it is truly the final act of love that you can make for your pet.

6. **Should I stay during euthanasia?**

Many feel this is the ultimate gesture of love and comfort you can offer your pet. Some feel relief and comfort themselves by staying: They were able to see that their pet passed peacefully and without pain, and that it was truly gone. For many, not witnessing the death (and not seeing the body) makes it more difficult to accept that the pet is really gone. However, this can be traumatic, and you must ask yourself honestly whether you will be able to handle it. Uncontrolled emotions and tears—though natural—are likely to upset your pet. Some clinics are more open than others to allowing the owner to stay during euthanasia. Some veterinarians are also willing to euthanize a pet at home. Others
have come to an owner's car to administer the injection. Again, consider what will be least traumatic for you and your pet, and discuss your desires and concerns with your veterinarian. If your clinic is not able to accommodate your wishes, request a referral.

7. What do I do next?

When a pet dies, you must choose how to handle its remains. Sometimes, in the midst of grief, it may seem easiest to leave the pet at the clinic for disposal. Check with your clinic to find out whether there is a fee for such disposal. Some shelters also accept such remains, though many charge a fee for disposal. If you prefer a more formal option, several are available. Home burial is a popular choice, if you have sufficient property for it. It is economical and enables you to design your own funeral ceremony at little cost. However, city regulations usually prohibit pet burials, and this is not a good choice for renters or people who move frequently.

To many, a pet cemetery provides a sense of dignity, security, and permanence. Owners appreciate the serene surroundings and care of the gravesite. Cemetery costs vary depending on the services you select, as well as upon the type of pet you have. Cremation is a less expensive option that allows you to handle your pet's remains in a variety of ways: bury them (even in the city), scatter them in a favorite location, place them in a columbarium, or even keep them with you in a decorative urn (of which a wide variety are available).

Check with your veterinarian, pet shop, or phone directory for options available in your area. Consider your living situation, personal and religious values, finances, and future plans when making your decision. It's also wise to make such plans in advance, rather than hurriedly in the midst of grief.

8. What should I tell my children?

You are the best judge of how much information your children can handle about death and the loss of their pet. Don't underestimate them, however. You may find that, by being honest with them about your pet's loss, you may be able to address some fears and misperceptions they have about death.
Honesty is important. If you say the pet was "put to sleep," make sure your children understand the difference between death and ordinary sleep. Never say the pet "went away," or your child may wonder what he or she did to make it leave, and wait in anguish for its return. That also makes it harder for a child to accept a new pet. Make it clear that the pet will not come back, but that it is happy and free of pain. Never assume a child is too young or too old to grieve. Never criticize a child for tears, or tell them to "be strong" or not to feel sad. Be honest about your own sorrow; don't try to hide it, or children may feel required to hide their grief as well. Discuss the issue with the entire family, and give everyone a chance to work through their grief at their own pace.

9. Will my other pets grieve?

Pets observe every change in a household, and are bound to notice the absence of a companion. Pets often form strong attachments to one another, and the survivor of such a pair may seem to grieve for its companion. Cats grieve for dogs, and dogs for cats.

You may need to give your surviving pets a lot of extra attention and love to help them through this period. Remember that, if you are going to introduce a new pet, your surviving pets may not accept the newcomer right away, but new bonds will grow in time. Meanwhile, the love of your surviving pets can be wonderfully healing for your own grief.

*A member of NEBTR had this to add. “I always bring the body home from the vet or if the animal was euthanized in my home, I put him in a bed in the kitchen and let all the other animals come and sniff him. They seem to know right away what happened, and my animals have adjusted very well to their losses even if it was their best bud, and don't mope around hoping he'll come back.”

Ginny

10. Should I get a new pet right away?

Generally, the answer is no. One needs time to work through grief and loss before attempting to build a relationship with a new pet. If your emotions are still in turmoil, you may resent a new pet for trying to "take the place" of the old-for
what you really want is your old pet back. Children in particular may feel that loving a new pet is "disloyal" to the previous pet. When you do get a new pet, avoid getting a "lookalike" pet, which makes comparisons all the more likely. Don't expect your new pet to be "just like" the one you lost, but allow it to develop its own personality. Never give a new pet the same name or nickname as the old. Avoid the temptation to compare the new pet to the old one: It can be hard to remember that your beloved companion also caused a few problems when it was young!

A new pet should be acquired because you are ready to move forward and build a new relationship—rather than looking backward and mourning your loss. When you are ready, select an animal with whom you can build another long, loving relationship—because this is what having a pet is all about!

---

Last Will and Testament Poem

Before humans die they write their Last Will and Testament, give their homes and all they have to those they leave behind. If with my paws I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely Stray I'd give my happy home. My bowl and cozy bed, soft pillows, and all my toys. The lap which I loved so much, the tender, loving, touch. The hand that stroked my fur and sweet voice which called my name. I'd Will to the sad scared Shelter Dog the place I had in my human's heart, Of which there seemed no bounds. So when I die, please do not say,
"I will never have a pet again.
For the loss and pain is more than I can stand."
Instead go find an unloved dog,
One whose life has held no joy or hope, and give My place to Him.
This is the only thing that I can give...
The Love I left behind.
This is my inheritance!
My Will and my Last Testament.
- Susie Moncek -

NEBTR has a special Facebook page dedicated to memorials of those we have lost. It is available to anyone who would like to post photos, poems, or just write about their beloved pet. https://www.facebook.com/nebtrcandles
We would like to take the opportunity to spotlight one of our current fosters. We are spotlighting dogs that may be more difficult to place due to age, health, or who have just been passed over for whatever reason, and have been in foster care longer than most. We are hoping to not only highlight them for a possible forever match but to also help get the word out through our readers’ social media accounts. So please help by spreading the word and sharing adoptable pup Holden!
Here is what Holden had to say in his own words.

Hello friends!! It's me, Holden! I've been in foster care for about a month now and I'm doing great! My foster mom took me to the vet the other day and I was nervous, but did just fine. Mom suspected I had a skin problem due to yeast since I was scratching a lot, and there was swelling and a few swollen lymph nodes. Another sure sign was my smell...mom can bathe me and a day later I have a very distinct, very pungent smell that takes a lot of scrubbing to even get off her hands after she pets me. I don't mean to be so smelly but mom still loves me and thinks I'm the cutest! She switched my food over to a limited ingredient formula without any potatoes and grains to get my omegas back to a normal level and get the yeast problem under control. The vet agreed that that's what she thinks it is as well so she also gave me a medicated shampoo that mom has to let sit on me for TEN MINUTES! Pure Torture in that tub!!! But I got my foster mom back by soaking her in it too. Only fair, but my foster mom promised the baths and food switch will have me feeling better in no time, and boy has it! My medicated baths and new food have helped me TREMENDOUSLY! My itching is going away and my skin is looking great! No more swelling and nasty red scabs! I feel so much better!!

My foster mom and dad bought me for an outing in Syracuse yesterday! I went with my foster brother and sister and we all had a great time together! I get very excited on walks so I pull on the leash a lot. Mom and dad and try to get me to slow down, but I forget so quickly because it's just so much fun!! I am catching on though, because they neeeever stop reminding me. Geesh! We also made a stop at a BBQ! So many people came up to me and told me how adorable I am... I just wish they would have given me some ribs too! I was so happy! I even hung out with my foster moms 1 year old and 6 year old nieces and I was perfectly behaved! Minus a few slobberky kisses. Everyone is so impressed with me!

I'm doing great and mom said I'll be up for adoption soon!!! She wants to keep me, but I get really nervous around the other dogs in the house. I'm not aggressive towards them, and if they’re calm I don't mind them sleeping with me, as long as mom or dad is snuggling me too. When they bark I get a little uncomfortable and nervous, so we can't be left unsupervised together ever. I'm not used to the other dogs in the house, so I'm possessive over my food. If there's food in my dish I guard my gate and can get a little growly. I'd prefer a home by myself or with a very timid and low key dog. I'm potty trained and have very good manners! I'm shy around new people but after a few minutes I warm up and do my happy dance!! I'm attaching a few pictures of me as well! One from my bath tonight and just a few other model shots! Thanks friends!
Me being a good boy getting my tubby
Here I am out and about in Syracuse

If you are interested in making Holden part of your family, please visit our Website and fill out an application: Online Application. If you can’t adopt, please help by sharing his story!
THANK YOU THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our Adoption Heroes, and indeed they are heroes. Thank you for opening your hearts, and your homes to a dog, who through no fault of their own, found themselves homeless. Thank you for looking past their “imperfections,” and their history, and loving them for the great dogs that they can be, and already are. Our foster parents are wonderful, and are the dog’s first stop on the road to a new life. But you are their heroes, for providing what every dog deserves, which is a family, and loving home of their own.

Since last quarter we had 27 dogs adopted by 27 heroes. We wish you well, and want you to know that you will always be part of the NEBTR family.

ADOPTED JAN - MAR 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buddy</th>
<th>Romeo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bella</td>
<td>Brady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maverick</td>
<td>Jackie-o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilbur</td>
<td>Copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey</td>
<td>Quinn (Olive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francesca</td>
<td>Pearl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hank</td>
<td>Chubby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samson</td>
<td>Hattie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Po</td>
<td>Lang Syne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wes</td>
<td>Scamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoey</td>
<td>Bella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar</td>
<td>Leroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spikey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this addition of training talk we are looking at the anti-social dog and are they happy. Recently my parents neighbor adopted a dog who was found as a stray in NYC. She was very underweight and has definite trust issues but loves her new adopted mom. What she doesn’t love so much are other dogs. She is not outright aggressive but lunges at other dogs when on leash or when off leash plays very rough to the point of turning it into something other than play. Who knows what she had to go through to get food while on the streets but she is just not very comfortable “playing” with other dogs.

I myself have one dog who, after suffering an attack by a bigger dog, is not comfortable around other dogs and will snap as his first reaction when meeting a new dog. He would much rather play with a human and not have to deal with other dogs.

So are these dogs missing out on some fundamental part of being a dog? I believe and research is showing NO! Not every dog needs to be social and interact with other dogs to be happy. In fact more research is showing that it is actually an unpleasant experience for a reactive or anti-social dog to be constantly put in situations where they have to deal with other dogs. Not all people are social butterflies and that is the same for our dogs. The following is a nice article on 5 things to know if you have a fearful/anti-social dog from Alex Andes contributing to Victoria Stilwell Positively Website. The original article can be found here: Positively.com

5 THINGS I WANT ANYONE WITH A FEARFUL DOG TO KNOW

By: Alex Andes

As the pet parent of a fearful dog, I know that it can sometimes feel terribly isolating. I see other dogs that truly enjoy meeting new people and other dogs (my other dog is one of those lucky fear-free dogs), and I find myself wishing the same for my not-so-social dog. It's easy to get discouraged, but know that there are many people all over the world that are experiencing the same things with their dogs as you are.

*Here are a few things to keep in mind as the pet parent of a fearful dog:*

1. **Your dog is never going to be a social**

   The odds are, if you have a fearful or reactive dog, you may never be able to go to a public festival with your pup, or take him out to the dog park. With the help of a *great force-free*
trainer, it is possible that your dog's fears can be alleviated, but even if your dog never becomes that social butterfly you hoped for, know that that's nothing to be ashamed of.

2. "Training" doesn't help.

Many people fall into the trap of believing that shy, fearful, and/or reactive dogs "just need training." Some trainers will even perpetuate this false notion in order to get your business. I can promise you that no amount of "obedience" training is going to change the way your dog feels about what he's fearful of. If I trained you how to fluently speak a foreign language, would it make your fear of spiders go away? That's about how relevant obedience training is to working with a fearful or reactive dog.

I'm not saying not to teach your dog basic cues. Teaching your dog to sit, stay, down, come, etc. will all be helpful when utilizing the techniques that will help with his fearful behavior. But don't expect those cues alone to change the behavior.

3. It's not (usually) your fault.

Perhaps you didn't properly socialize your dog as a puppy. Maybe he had a negative experience during his fear periods. But in many cases, people with fearful dogs are working with dogs that have poor genetics or that had traumatic events happen before the dog was in their possession.

Don't beat yourself up over having a fearful dog. I constantly find myself thinking "if only I had known this sooner" or "maybe if I'd done this, she wouldn't be so afraid." You should always be learning about the latest science-based training techniques to deal with your dog's particular issues, and it can help immensely to work with a reputable trainer. Do the best you can, steer clear of punishment-based training methods, and accept that you are going to make mistakes. You may not have created the problem, but you can be part of the solution.

4. There is hope.

There is more help than ever available for fearful and reactive dogs. I can't emphasize enough how important it is that you do your research when looking for a dog trainer. If you're willing to put the time and effort in to truly change the way your dog thinks and feels, you will see a huge change.

Many "trainers" will treat a leash reactive dog with "corrections" and punishment-based techniques that only worsen the dog's fearful response. Find out how I stopped my dog's leash aggression using only force-free techniques.

5. Fearful dogs are just as worthy as any other.

Having a dog that's not social can be isolating and frustrating, but I believe your fearful dog is just as worthy as any other of having a life that makes them comfortable and happy. It may not
be the life full of dog parks and house parties that you dreamed of, but it can be a wonderful life, nonetheless.

POSITIVELY EXPERT: ALEX ANDES

The below is a great illustration done for Dr. Sophia Yin of how to recognize fear and stress in your dog.
In this edition of “Try Something New” we continue talking dog sports! Following with the less than social dog topic this quarter we are looking at Nosework!! This sport is wonderful for reactive dogs (dogs that do not like other dogs), older dogs (dogs that might have a tried time with more physically demanding sports), or any dog! And don’t think our little pushed faced dogs can sniff out the hide as well as their longer nose cousins because they out little Bosties are determined little hunters (especially when food is involved! LOL).

Here is a quick intro to the sport of nosework. Please visit the K9nosework website K9nosework.com (where the below information was taken) for even more information and links on how to get started!

The Founders:

Ron Gaunt, Amy Herot and Jill-Marie O'Brien founded and developed the activity and sport of K9 Nose Work to bring fun scent work to the greatest number of dogs and their people.

K9 Nose Work blends the foundational skills used in K9 detection with a unique teaching style that promotes individuality and relationship building between dogs and their people, providing a lifetime of rewarding experiences.

Beginning in Southern California in 2006, K9 Nose Work classes, workshops, and competitions are now enjoyed from coast to coast, making a difference in the lives of thousands of dogs and their people.

WHAT IS K9 NOSE WORK?

K9 Nose Work is the specific term used to describe the canine scent detection activity developed by Ron Gaunt, Amy Herot & Jill Marie O'Brien. The three founders of the activity wanted to use their extensive experience from working in the professional canine detection world to give pet dogs and their people a fun and easy way to learn and apply scent detection skills, and so they crafted a new activity: K9 Nose Work.

In K9 Nose Work, dogs learn how to search for a specific odor or odors and find the source. Dogs start by searching for their favorite food or toy reward hidden in a variety of environments, increasing the challenges and adding new search skills as the dog progresses. Most people will choose to have their dogs learn to find the target odors used in K9 Nose Work: birch, anise, and clove; those looking to keep it fun searching for food or toy can still have fun and progress in the
activity. Once target odors are introduced to the dog, he will search for the odor only and find its source, then get rewarded by his handler with his favorite food or toy reward.

K9 Nose Work introduces dogs to four different search elements: container, interior, exterior, and vehicles. Dogs build their hunt drive and learn foundational search skills in all four elements. Later stages of K9 Nose Work introduce advanced detection and handling skills to teams. Dogs are exposed to a myriad of complex search scenarios, while continuing to condition their foundational skills. Handlers sharpen their observational skills and learn when and how to take action during a search. Teams will practice searching to the competition standards set by the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW), which includes searching for blind hides (location of hide unknown to handler), searching for multiple hides in a single search area, and, at the higher levels of competition, searching for an unknown number of hides in a search area.

K9 Nose Work is an activity that uses real-world environments and can be done almost anywhere. Every search has the potential to be a dramatically different & highly stimulating experience for both dog & handler, just by changing hide placement, or searching under different weather conditions. By participating in K9 Nose Work with your dog, you're giving him the freedom to express and refine his natural talents, and he's giving you a glimpse into how he "sees" the world.

Some of the many benefits of K9 Nose Work are:

- Dogs easily burn lots of mental & physical energy doing searches
- Searches can be done anywhere you can take your dog
- No prior training is required and no obedience is needed
- In classes, dogs work one at a time and rest crated or safely in a vehicle between searches so reactive dogs can enjoy the activity, too
- Shy or fearful dogs build confidence and overactive dogs put their energy into fun searches
- Stronger bond between dog & handler as handler learns to observe, understand, and rely upon his dog

THE TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Any dog can learn K9 Nose Work. The training methodology is designed to help pet dogs tap into their hunting instinct, learn independent problem-solving skills, and to build broad and solid foundational scent detection skills that will enable them to successfully face new and greater challenges in K9 Nose Work.

All K9 Nose Work dogs begin the game by searching for their favorite food or toy. They search in an obedience-free zone, without handler interruption or unintended correction. When dogs find the hidden toy or food reward, they play with it or eat it, self-rewarding and reinforcing their successful searching behavior. Many K9 Nose Work dogs will learn the activity searching for their food or toy reward for 3 months to a year. This time period before introducing a target odor allows for dogs to build their desire to hunt, stamina for searching, and skills for searching in many environments without the risk of failure, distraction or disinterest in the search. It also
gives the handler time to learn how to observe the dog and to learn handling skills. In K9 Nose Work, pet dogs are learning a task that is typically assigned to world-class, specifically bred high-drive working dogs, so it's important to move the training at a pace that will bring the best performance out of the dog.

Throughout a dog & handler team's training in K9 Nose Work, the emphasis will always be on creating learning experiences for the dog and supporting his independent problem solving, not commanding him to perform a series of tasks in a predetermined manner. K9 Nose Work is all about the dogs and all about celebrating their amazing abilities.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

K9 Nose Work is designed to be a lifelong activity with endless possibilities for fun and learning. Structured learning opportunities are available to help you & your dog get the most out of K9 Nose Work.

Workshops & seminars are a great way to immerse your dog & yourself in K9 Nose Work and to observe other dog & handler teams learning the activity. Founders of the NACSW, its faculty, and approved Certified Nose Work Instructors (CNWI) are the only sources for official workshops & seminars. See the section on workshops for more information.

Classes are ideal for learning & improving upon the skills needed to have fun and be successful in K9 Nose Work. Classes are offered by independent instructors and typically meet once a week. Each instructor is granted the freedom to structure her classes to meet the needs of students in her area. All instructors will use the K9 Nose Work training methodology to introduce dogs to the activity and to teach them new concepts as they progress. Things you'll learn in K9 Nose Work classes include:

- The importance of boxes
- Starting a dog on primary reward
- Moving the search beyond the box
- Patterns for more efficient searching
- Searching the elements: containers, interiors, exteriors, and vehicles
- Pairing to introduce a target odor
- Improving observation & handling skills
- Leash handling with short & long lines
- Proper reward delivery once dog is searching for target odor only

And much more!

Find an instructor teaching K9 Nose Work classes near you using our instructor listing tool.

TRAINING DVDS
The NACSW has released a DVD focusing on the progression of a dog & handler learning K9 Nose Work at home after attending an Intro to Nose Work workshop. The DVD is called The Parker Videos. See a review of the Parker videos on the K9 Nose Work Blog.

The NACSW is currently in production on more DVDs to enhance the K9 Nose Work learning experience. Check the news section of nacsw.net for information on new DVD releases.

COMPETITION IN THE SPORT OF K9 NOSE WORK

The sport of K9 Nose Work provides a venue for dogs & handlers to test their scent detection skills in real-world settings with blind (location unknown to the handler) hides set in timed searches representing each of the four elements of competition: container, interior, exterior, and vehicle. Learn more about competing in K9 Nose Work at nacsw.net

Competition K9 Nose Work may not be for every dog & handler due to location specific variables beyond the control of trial officials, such as: small search areas and narrow pathways to and from the searches that may not allow much space between spatially sensitive dogs and people who are strangers to those dogs, uneven terrain, long distances between areas, large search areas, loud and/or unexpected noises, highly distracting events occurring in close proximity to the trial location like marching bands, soccer games, industrial vehicles loading & unloading, gunfire from a firing range, etc. The best interest of your dog should always be considered first before entering a competition. For dogs and/or people needing an alternative to official NACSW K9 Nose Work trials, there are mock trial events, advanced classes teaching competition skills, and training groups that can set trial-like searches for each other. K9 Nose Work is all about the dogs, and we hope you'll make the best decision for your dog when deciding how you and your dog will enjoy K9 Nose Work.

To keep up with K9 Nose Work you can visit our blog, join our Facebook page, and follow our twitter feed.

Let's Get Sniffing!

Also, check out Nation Association of Canine Scent Work for event and membership information.
How You Make A Difference
Stacie Kyle

Despite all the advances in the world today, we are still needlessly euthanizing animals from over-crowded shelters. The good news is that the numbers have decreased significantly over the last 30 years.

Thirty years ago, the number of unwanted animals that were killed in the United States was 17 million. Year after year, that number stayed about the same.

The nationwide movement toward “no-kill” shelters and sanctuaries has made a dramatic difference. Today, the number of animals euthanized in overcrowded shelters in the United States is about 4 million.

To me, the loss of one animal that could have lived out its life in a loving home is too many.

Still, we should stop and consider how much the move to no-kill shelters has made the world better.

Today in the United States, there are approximately 10,000 puppy mills, 2000 of which are USDA-licensed, that collectively produce approximately 2,000,000 puppies per year (BF Sept 2014). Six years ago, there were more than 6000 USDA-licensed puppy mills operating in the United States.

Public awareness of puppy mills is greater today than it ever has been. In response, 55 jurisdictions across North America have banned pet stores from selling dogs, unless those dogs come from a shelter or a rescue.

Increased public awareness of puppy mills is progress, but we still have a long way to go. For example, even though 75% of Americans have heard of puppy mills, 43% do not know that virtually all pet store puppies come from them. Seventeen percent of Americans looking to buy a dog or cat would rather get one from a pet store than from a rescue or a shelter.
We, on the other hand, know what goes on in the worst puppy mills. The dogs that sire and give birth to puppies in mills are given the absolute minimum of care, just enough to keep them alive to breed.

When their bodies break down, and they can no longer produce cute puppies, they are killed, often by being shot in the head. The worst millers see discarding these dogs as just another cost of doing business (HSUS 2014 – 12).

The animals in overcrowded shelters, the parents of mill puppies, all of them need a voice. They need people committed to educating others about the value of no-kill and the realities of the worst puppy mills.
Yes, we should celebrate that the kill rate has gone from 17M to 4M per year. That’s huge, but the world would be better if we could make the number zero.

I chose to be optimistic. I realize that thousands upon thousands of us are doing something to improve the situation. We rescue. We foster. We transport. We sew toys. We donate coats. We give money. We fundraise.

Let’s not forget that you and I are doing something about it. We’re working on it every week!

You love your fosters so much that giving them up brings tears, even when you know they’re going to ideal forever homes. You write the check for a fundraiser for an abused dog, even when there isn’t much in your account. The toys you sew and coats you donate make dogs happy and warm.

You are making a huge difference, one dog at a time.

Let’s celebrate the good things that have happened this year because – every single dog or cat that you rescued, every dollar you donated, every benefit you planned, helped to move the “No Kill” needle toward zero.

Here are a few stories I have compiled in digest form about the good work people are doing to improve the treatment of animals:

- Sharing the Solution – There is a new PSA (public service announcement) called sharing the solution – it was put together to bring awareness to everyone to stop puppy mills by not buying dogs/cats from pet stores, auctions or online. If people don’t buy puppies from pet stores or online sellers, there will be no mills.
• **A Place to Buy Pets** - Overstock.com, the Utah-based online shopping giant has created a platform (pet.overstock.com) for people to search for adoptable pets from local rescue groups. They also collect donations at check out for local rescues. Over 20 million people visit this site each month!

• **Global Pet Adoptions** - Sponsored by Purina, this global event placed thousands of pets in forever homes in 10 countries on 5 continents. Started 20 years ago by the North Shore Animal League (NSAL), the event allows rescues and shelters to join a weekend effort to find forever homes for as many animals as possible.

• **Cooperative Advertising Campaign** – NSAL created a campaign to raise awareness about shelter pets in need of adoption. The idea worked so well that the NSAL developed a grant program to other shelters use radio, television, and social media to find homes for adoptable pets (North Shore Animal League – 2014).

• **Students United** - In Elmer, NJ, a teacher and her students created Project REACH (research, educate, act, create, help). They drafted public service announcements to encourage people to adopt at shelters. Their blog (projectreach2013.blogspot.com) has many ways students can help animals in their communities.

Much progress was made on the state and local level in 2014:

• **Because of its state motto “Land of 10,000 Lakes”, Minnesota** is sometimes derisively referred to as the Land of 10,000 puppy mills. National and local animal welfare groups have helped to pass a law that will regulate Minnesota’s commercial dog breeders. The new law will require licensing and inspections by the Minnesota Board of Animal health and will not grant a license to anyone convicted of animal cruelty. (puppymills.bf.org)

• **South Dakota**’s legislature passed a law that outlaws breed discrimination.

• **Virginia**’s legislature passed a new law that requires pet stores to disclose where the dogs they sell come from.

• Ordinances were passed to ban the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores in **Chicago** and **Cook County in Illinois**
In 2013-2014 **Los Angeles** Animal Services recorded the fewest animals euthanized in its history. Animal welfare groups are working with 70 partners to get pets out of LA city shelters alive (BF Nov/Dec 2014).

**Utah** is working on its goal to get 90% of the state’s animal shelters to be no-kill. Today, more than 92% of the dogs in Utah animal shelters are saved. The state is working with 40 shelters and rescue groups to get to the 90% no-kill shelter goal.

**Louisville, Kentucky** has an abundance of pit bulls and pit bull mixes that are being surrendered because owners have fallen on hard times. The city has a new program to get owners free help so that they can keep their dogs. Every month, a community outreach program offers free supplies, spay/neuter, dog food, pet training, harnesses, vaccinations, id tags, and collars. The goal is to reduce the number of dogs entering shelters and increase the overall save rate and to keep dogs and owners together.

In **New York**, Best Friends Organization kicked off a large foster program, which could save thousands of shelter pets and push NYC closer to a 90% save-rate. If the city were to achieve the goal, it would be designated a no-kill city. The program has produced many new volunteers interested in fostering pets.

Animal welfare organizations have spearheaded the passage of a bill in **Delaware** that ensures dogs and puppies seized in dogfighting cases will be evaluated individually, rather than being automatically destroyed (BF Dec 2014).

On Jan 2014, **California** began implementing proposition 2, the 2008 landmark ballot initiative that ends restrictive confinement of farm animals.

**Loudoun County, Virginia** overturned a ban on owning and adopting pit bulls and pit bull mixes.

**Missouri** - Because its legislature passed Prop B four years ago, Missouri has the strongest anti-puppy-mill statues in the nation. In 4 years, more than 1300 dogs have been rescued, 37 businesses or individuals were referred to the Missouri Attorney General’s office for prosecution. Heavy fines have been assessed and nine licenses have been revoked. The number of commercial breeders licensed in Missouri’s animal care program has dropped from 1400 to less than 800, a decline of more than 40% (HS legislative fund news).

This year also included some encouraging developments on the federal level:
• In September, the USDA brought Internet puppy sellers under the federal Animal Welfare Act’s regulations; requiring licensing, inspection, and basic standard of care for the first time (HS legislative fund news).

• The USDA has issued a new federal rule that regulates puppy imports. Breeders from outside the US are now required to certify that pups brought into the US for resale are healthy, vaccinated, and at least 6 months old.

• The FBI has added a new category for reporting animal cruelty crimes. Previously, such offenses were labeled as “other”; now, they are considered a top-tier felony. Maybe this new classification will help prosecution of these crimes.

• For the first time, an animal welfare organization was invited to speak at The National Animal Care and Control Association’s national conference about the value of spay/neuter return.

• Three decades ago, just four US states had felony penalties for malicious animal cruelty and only a dozen had laws making dog fighting a felony. Today, malicious animal cruelty and dog fighting are felonies in all 50 states. In addition, it is a federal felony to engage in animal fighting or to sell videos depicting animal cruelty (HSL Nov/Dec 2014).

• Across the US, 50 cities and counties have banned pet store sales of commercially bred puppies.

• The Pet Safety and Protection Act, now before Congress, addresses sales of dogs to laboratories by class B dealers (internet, auctions, etc.) selling dogs to laboratories. This legislation is part of the broader campaign to build support for the passage of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

This year brought some encouraging progress on animal welfare issues across the globe:

• Because of an online petition with 678,000 signatures, the National Assembly’s Legal Committee in France voted to amend its 210-year-old Napoleonic Code, changing the status of pets from personal property to sentient, living beings. The change now needs Senate approval to become law.
• Acts of Kindness – In Turkey, a company called Pugedon has created a vending machine that allows people to recycle plastic bottles and buy dog kibble for strays. The service is at no charge to the city, and funds come from recycling the plastic.

• In Spain, the ruling party is presenting a draft law to prohibit the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores.

• The European Union forbids selling any cosmetics products tested on animals.

• In China, animal welfare groups are waging an increasingly successful public relations campaign against the practice of eating dog meat.

Finally, here is some good news about the work being done by dog rescue groups:

• According to the National Coalition for the homeless, there are about 3.5M homeless people in the US AND 5-10% of them have dogs and/or cats, in some areas of the country the rate is much higher, as much as 24%. Two women started the Kibble Cupboard in South Jersey. Last year, they collected and gave away more than 8000 pounds of food and cat litter to seniors and low-income individuals.

• Spay USA started in 1993. Today, it is America’s largest nationwide network providing information and affordable spay/neuter services. This program helped pay for 18,000 surgeries performed by 5000 veterinarians (NSAL – 2014).

• Since 2007, Mill Dog Rescue has taken thousands of dogs from mills to rescue or no-kill shelters. In 2013, the group was involved in 10 separate mill rescues that delivered 633 dogs and puppies to safety (NSAL – 2014).

• Have you heard about Pets of the Homeless in Carson City Nevada? Since it started, it has helped feed and care for 10,000 pets by giving food and supplies to those in need.

• The Humane Relocation Program has rescued thousands of dogs, puppies and cats and kittens across the country by relocating them from over-crowded and high kill shelters to no-kill shelters. The model they created has been emulated in the US and throughout the world (NSAL – 2014).

• A person in Houston decided he wanted to help small rescue groups after working closely with after Katrina devastated New Orleans. So he started Rescue Bank, a nonprofit national pet food distribution program. It helps small rescues and foster groups with
limited resources. Today, there are over 30 rescue banks distribution centers across the US – 85-90 % of the food goes to the rescue/foster groups and 10-15% goes to the pet food bank to help families feed pets.

- An adoption event, called Indy 672, in Indiana cleared out the Indianapolis Shelter. The event found homes for 132 dogs and 66 cats, leaving the shelter empty!

- The 18th annual Strut your Mutt event sponsored by Mini USA raised more than 2.2M and drew 13,000 participants!

- NY Best Friends, the Utah based animal sanctuary, came to New York City this year and established an organization and volunteer foster families to provide temporary homes to dogs and cats from NYCA\textsuperscript{C}C \textsuperscript{(NYC Animal Care and Control)}. This arrangement helps NYCA\textsuperscript{C}C decrease the number of euthanized dogs and gives Best Friends time to find adoptive homes for deserving pets.

- HSUS hit the road this year to visit 8 rural shelters throughout NC. They created the MC shelter project – highlighting forgotten shelters with little to no resources. The shelters received financial support and had opportunities to spread the word about dogs needing homes. One rural shelter had 27 dogs adopted directly from the shelter – which had never happened before. Another had 18 dogs pulled by local rescues.

- A Bowling Green Kentucky truck was loaded up with puppies to take them from the South to the Northeast where higher spay/neuter rates prevail, and puppies are not as plentiful. But, there was a catch, 21 puppies went to a Philadelphia rescue as an experiment. These puppies were the first shelter animals offered for adoption at a Pets Plus store. The event was a huge success! Every puppy was adopted and the experiment has become a permanent part of Pets Plus’s operations.

- 170 animals were rescued from a suspected puppy mill in Acorn County, Mississippi. Another 4-month investigation in Sevier County, Tennessee freed 50 dogs, most of whom were chained to old car axles driven into the ground (\texttt{Pitbulls.bestfriends.org}).

- Humane Alliance in Asheville, NC has been awarded a grant to support low-cost spay and neuter services. Any partner rescue or shelter can have a cat spayed or neutered for $10 and any dog for $20. Those prices include a rabies vaccine! People adopting pets will benefit because the savings on these services will be passed along in the form of lower adoption fees (\texttt{Nmhpnetwork.bestfriends.org}).
The work you are doing is making a difference. Let the stories in this digest remind you of all the good work you and others are doing. Let’s keep working until we can say *none* when someone asks us how many more animals must be killed needlessly.

Footnotes:
*Best Friends News/Sept/Oct 2014, Jan/Feb 2015*
*North shore Animal League - Paw prints Issue 3 & 4, 2014*

Chef Louie wanted to share this cupcake decorating idea he found from Stacey Lambert. Although Louie has been waiting for his forever home for over a year he hasn’t been bored! He
has been hard at work helping in the kitchen and coming up with some tasty treats. If you are looking for a kitchen helper Louie is available for adoption!

THE PERFECT CUPCAKE (PUPCAKE)

These Boston Terrier cupcakes were created by Stacy Lambert. (for human consumption, not a pet treat) Any cupcake will work for the base, and then use chocolate and buttercream icing for the face, with dark piping chocolate for the mouth. The ears are wafer cookies, eyes are M&Ms, noses are jellybeans, and tongues are starbursts.

If you would like to share your creation with us please send photos of your cupcake creations to the editor:

Chris Cassner cassner@embarqmail.com