

Animal Digest

Domestic Dogs

Part Two



Rescue Me

Pepe's tale of triumph

Senior Pets

Oral Disease

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ED'S NOTE

Sincere apologies for the lack of magazine during August but I spent most of the month out of town dealing with a family emergency.

Never fear though as we are back with some fantastic heart-warming articles.

Until our next edition.

Alecia 

Monty the Meerkat

Monty the meerkat, who disappeared from his Summerstrand home last week, is back safe in the care of his owners after surviving an amazing trip to Cradock which almost saw him end up on the dinner table. On Monday, The Herald reported that the seven-month old meerkat's owners, the Staples family, were desperate to find him after he had made his way over a side gate the family had covered with mesh at their home. The family ran newspaper adverts after Monty disappeared on Sunday, May 30, and made up and distributed more than 200 flyers.

Samantha Staples said she was thrilled to have Monty back home unharmed. The little meerkat had been on "an adventure" since he vanished from the family home, she said. "After being picked up by construction workers in Summerstrand, he was released into the bushes following an unsuccessful attempt to sell him to residents in the area."

Staples said a young man and his friends had come across Monty at the petrol station in Admiralty Way and, realising he was tame, had picked him up and taken him to Bayworld. There they came across a man and his wife who said they had a farm in Kirkwood, so they would take Monty there.

"After the article appeared on the front page of The Herald on Monday, the presenter on *The Morning Show* on Algoa FM was reading out the headlines from the front page and the young man who picked him up from the petrol station heard the show. He lives in Humansdorp, so he drove all the way to Port Elizabeth to get the telephone number from the flyers I'd put up in the local supermarkets, and told me about the farmer in Kirkwood taking Monty home."

Staples said she had driven to Kirkwood the next day and spent the entire day there, handing out flyers and talking to every shop owner. She said Johan Swart, the local butcher, had been extremely kind and helpful and "word spread like wildfire".

"The details are a little unclear as to what happened between going to Kirkwood and the next set of hands he fell into, because someone travelling to Cradock found him along the road in the possession of some homeless people who were about to have little Monty for dinner. "This gentleman bought him from these men for R20 or R30 and went on his way to Cradock to visit friends." She said the man had arrived at his friends' farm and the children had fallen madly in love with Monty, so he had stayed with them.

"On Monday evening, Willem Swart phone his father who happens to be the butcher in Kirkwood who was so helpful. His father asked him what he was doing and he told him he was laughing at the kids playing with the meerkat! "Johan asked him where he'd got it and the whole story came out. And so he phoned me the next day and my husband and I drove to Cradock to fetch little Monty and bring him home." She said the family and Monty's sister, Indy, were all overjoyed to see him again. Their plan is to relocate the two to Waterkloof Lodge, the family's game farm in Somerset East, where the environment is more natural for them.



"Through a lot of prayers, there has been a very happy ending to a miraculous story. Fortunately for us and for Monty, he was with a very loving, kind and caring family and we are extremely grateful to Willem and Karin Swart of Cradock and their lovely children for taking such good care of Monty and for giving him lots of love. We are also very grateful to Willem's father, Johan Swart, for his help."

Lee-Anne Butler

TEARS' Dog-Walking Programme

The most important thing we can do for our shelter dogs is to help them form positive associations with all kinds of people. This will help with their behavioral issues, making them calmer, quieter and more friendly when prospective adopters approach their kennels.

Our TEARS Dog-Walking Programme has made great strides (excuse the pun) in ensuring that our dogs receive daily stimulation and interaction with people and other dogs. Dog-Walkers come from all "walks of life" and comprise school learners who come to TEARS to complete Community Service, but often stay on, also young people, some single, some married, who are often not able to have a pet of their own, so come to TEARS to walk our dogs.

There is also a special group of ladies who have been walking our dogs for many years. Among them is a dear elderly lady who tires easily, so, she grooms some of the dogs between walks. Other dedicated walkers arrive early in the morning and refuse to leave until every dog in the kennels has been walked. With so many dogs at our shelter, they rarely leave before 2pm. One of these ladies is mentioned in our story "A Devil called Angel". Another couple has made it their mission to exercise Monica and Pinto, ex-TEARS dogs, who are now security dogs at a premises nearby. Then, there is a compassionate lady who regularly takes dogs to her home for a day or more, which includes walks on Kommetjie beach. A few of the Sunday walkers are great at organising big groups of people who come to walk.

A fairly new walker has initiated a passion for nurturing each dog as an individual into the walkers' schedule and has also introduced puppy training.

This person, along with a TEARS staff member, has produced a booklet - The Volunteer's Guide to Walking Rescue Dogs. The booklet contains invaluable information including canine body language, a site map of TEARS' premises, how to use a choke chain collar, getting started, how to enter and exit a kennel, what to do on the walk, TEARS' Dog Rehabilitation Programme and what to do after the walk.

Dog walkers are definitely "going the extra mile" for the sake of our shelter dogs. Their dedication is greatly appreciated not only by the dogs, but also by everyone at TEARS.

Organised walking takes place on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, from 10am. New walkers are requested to make contact with Leigh Hulsman via the office (021 7854482), to arrange for a short orientation before they start walking.

So, come on all you Animal Lovers who need exercise! Please join our Dog-Walking Programme. Not only will you be helping our dogs by making them more adoptable, but, you can meet people who share your passion for animals and get fit at the same time.

As one of the regular dog walkers, who is also a cyclist, said: Walking the TEARS dogs makes me fit enough to ride in the Argus/Pick n Pay Cycle Tour!

**MAKES YOU THINK,
DOESN'T IT!**



Mandela Day 2010 at CLAW

CLAW – Community Led Animal Welfare is an animal welfare organisation recognised for its pioneering primary animal healthcare and education. Sundays are usually quiet days at CLAW, with a brief visit from staff to do some routine jobs like check on animals, clean cages and administer medication.

But this Sunday was different... it was Mandela's 92nd birthday – a day that has been named International Mandela Day, a day where people in South Africa have committed to give 67 minutes of their time to the less fortunate.

Fifty volunteers from the 'DO GREAT THINGS Old Mutual World For All Mandela Day campaign' arrived in the morning eager to do any work that was needed. And to the delight of the animals at CLAW, that is exactly what happened.



Volunteers tackled the messy storeroom, re-packed the shelves, marked boxes and got rid of clutter. The drug room, surgery, and consulting room were cleaned thoroughly from top to bottom and everything was thoroughly disinfected.



Windows were washed, cages scrubbed, kittens cuddled, and puppies and dogs were groomed, walked and socialised. The happy tail wags and broad smiles were a delight to see!

Two cats and two dogs were adopted on the day by wonderful families.

The MEC for Economic Development, *Firoz Cachalia*, and his wife, Nazira (Johannesburg City Safety Programme Director) popped in for a visit. Many other people visited CLAW on the day to donate blankets and pet food.

A number of the volunteers really enjoyed being at CLAW and plan to return regularly to exercise dogs on the weekends.

What a fantastic day it was, if only every day was a Mandela Day!

CLAW (Community led Animal Welfare)

www.claw-sa.org

Tel: 011 763 1638

Email: clawsouthafrica@gmail.com

REALITY BITES

Thoughts & Opinions

Foster a Furry Friend—TEARS

TEARS have a large selection of beautiful dogs and cats which need a special home. Our "Golden Oldies" would love to be part of a caring family, in the last years of their lives.

TEARS are offering a new programme whereby you can foster one of our special needs dogs or cats, or, if you are a Senior Citizen, you can adopt one of our senior pets, at no cost. If your foster or senior pet requires veterinary treatment, this will be covered by TEARS. In certain circumstances, TEARS, at our discretion, will provide dietary requirements.

Many older people would love to have a pet, but are worried what will happen to their pet if they were to pass away. By fostering or adopting an older pet there is less chance that they will outlive you and with TEARS' policy, we will always take back the adopted or fostered pet if required. It has been medically proven that an older person's quality of life improves remarkably when they acquire a pet!

We, both humans and animals all need to be cared for and loved. Why not give TEARS a call right now and open your heart to a deserving dog or cat! Change their lives and fill yours with love! Phone 021 7854482 TEARS Office / 083 651 6343 (Marilyn) or Melany TEARS office: 021 785 4482



**MEEOW
NOW
OPEN**

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Fax: (021) 785 4354

Emergencies: 083 651 6343

tears@tears.org.za

www.tears.org.za

TEARS is a **Pro Life**, non-profit organisation whose core aim is to rescue, rehabilitate, re-unite and re-home lost, abandoned, abused and neglected dogs and cats.



Support our "Pay-for-a-Spay" Campaign by donating R100 or more to cover the cost for a Township pet to be sterilised.

Oral Disease in your older pet

One of the most common diseases we see in older animals is dental disease, of which the most common symptoms are halitosis (bad breath), inflamed gums, pain when eating, bleeding and excessive salivation from mouth, swellings in the face and loose teeth. The most common problems are gingivitis or stomatitis, periodontal disease and less frequently certain types of tumours.

Periodontal disease begins with uncontrolled plaque (salivary proteins and bacteria) on the teeth which causes an inflammatory reaction which leads to a reversible gingivitis. Plaque eventually becomes mineralised and hardened to form tartar or calculus, this provides an even better surface for bacteria to attach. Bacteria then move into the gums and down the roots of the teeth to affect the bone surrounding the teeth, which could then potentially lead to rotten teeth.

Apart from tooth loss, periodontal disease also has potentially more serious consequences. The constant presence of bacterial in an unhealthy mouth could lead to infections in other organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. Dental root abscesses are also fairly common. Especially in small breed dogs the bone infection can become so severe that the jaw may fracture or develop oro-nasal fistulas.

Fortunately periodontal disease is to large degree preventable by good dental care. Brushing you cat (some of them) or dog's teeth on a regular basis will remove most of the plaque and reduce the occurrence of gingivitis. Ideally one should brush your pets' teeth on a daily basis. Once tartar is present your pet will have to have it's teeth cleaned with a scaler and then polished, this has to be done under anaesthetic. There are some specialised diets available to help with dental care, as well as special chew toys. Once the periodontal disease becomes irreversible and the teeth become rotten and loose, we need to extract them. Another reason for extractions is broken teeth - usually from playing with rocks or eating bones.

Dental disease in cat's is a little more complicated, they also get gingivitis and periodontal disease due to plaque build-up, but they have a couple of diseases that dogs don't get. Firstly they may have a type of cavity which happens when some of the cells start reabsorbing the enamel. Secondly, they can get quite severe inflammation of the gums and mouth due to an immune reaction to plaque. Both these conditions can be very uncomfortable and would need some form of treatment.

We often diagnose dental disease and other problems in older animals during their annual check-ups but if you are worried about your pet's teeth, please consult your vet or vet nurse at any time for more detail on dental care. Prevention is definitely better than cure in this case.



RESCUE ME

Tales of Daring Rescues and Rehabilitation

Rescue · Rehabilitate · Re-Home

Rosebud

A MISSING dog was found alive this weekend after surviving three weeks trapped by her neck in a crude wire snare in Abbotsford, East London. The “miracle” golden retriever, Rosebud, is thought to have survived by drinking dew from the leaves of plants around her.



After she was found on Saturday by farm workers, Rosebud spent a night at the vet and was already home yesterday afternoon when the Dispatch went to visit her.

Rosebud's lacerated throat and shallow head wounds bore witness to her ordeal, but despite these she was still playful, although a little sleepy from her pain medication.

According to her owner Joan Hempel, the 18-month-old pooch often plays around the river by the farmhouse, but when she did not come home on June 3 Hempel grew worried.

She printed flyers and posters and canvassed nearby neighbourhoods with pictures of Rosebud, with the assistance of friends and family. “I even contacted the SPCAs in Port Elizabeth and King William's Town, and got calls from them while we were looking for her,” Hempel said. “And this whole time she was right on the farm.” Hempel said the whole family was upset about the disappearance of the dog, but most especially her five-year-old granddaughter, Chloe.

“(Chloe) kept asking me, ‘but what if Rosebud is starving and cold?’ She loves animals so much,” the grandmother said.

“We even put an advert in Chloe's school (Merrifield Primary) newsletter,” Chloe's mother, Janine Hempel, said yesterday. “People phoned in about every other stray, and we would race out there to see whether it was Rosebud or not.” Hempel said when Rosebud was found the dog was in “quite a state”. “She was covered in ticks, she was filthy and smelly and her wound was filled with gunk.



“She cried like a baby when she came home, and cried all the way to the farmhouse. But to be honest so did we,” the delighted owner said. Hempel said she did not think Rosebud would have lasted in the snare much longer, and added that it was Rosebud's personality that kept her alive for so long.

“I think if she was a more aggressive dog, if she fought back (against the snare) it would have hurt her more, but she's very placid.” Janine added: “It's almost like she realised she couldn't do anything and said ‘I'll just sit here and wait.’” Now that Rosebud has been found Hempel said she would start working on fixing the holes in their fencing and install spring gates to ensure Rosebud – or any of the other Hempel dogs – did not get caught in a snare again.

By MICHELLE SOLOMON—Dispatch

BREAKING GROUND

Training, Obedience and Guidance

What type of dog do you choose?

As mentioned in my previous article dogs over the years have been bred to do specific jobs such as herding sheep, guarding, retrieving. When choosing a domestic pet this has to be taken into consideration and it is advisable to look up the behavioural characteristics of a particular breed before choosing a pet. Many breeders are keen to sell their puppies and will often advertise their puppies as "good family pets". Do not go on looks alone as there are many sweet looking, cuddly looking dogs that do not make good family pets.

While you may like the look of a particular dog, when choosing a dog consider what the dog was originally bred for. Huskies are very active dogs that were bred to pull sleds for days over long distances so if you are an active sort of person that enjoys running and providing a lot of mental stimulation for your dog this may be the dog for you. On the other hand if you do not enjoy coming home from work and being active you do not want to choose a dog that has a high activity level.



If you have young children take this into consideration when adopting a dog as dogs and young children require a lot of management and you may make your life difficult if you choose a dog that is very active and difficult to manage around children. Also the care of the dog is up to you. Most children lose interest very quickly in looking after a dog and you will be required to do most of the work. So choose a dog that you are prepared to look after rather than letting your children choose for you.

Are there elderly people in your home? If so you will want to consider which breed will be most suitable. You do not want a large, active dog who will jump up and accidentally knock an old person over if you do not have the time or inclination to train the dog properly. In this case perhaps a smaller, less active breed would be more suitable.



Some dogs like the retrieving breeds like to pick up articles off the floor and walk around with them. They often also like water and will swim in your pool. If you are the sort of person who does not like the house messy they may not be the most suitable choice of dog for you.

If you are allergic to dog hair but would still like a dog you may have to choose a dog that doesn't shed such as a poodle.

BREAKING GROUND

Training, Obedience and Guidance

What type of dog do you choose?

Many people these days want a dog to guard their property as well as be a companion for their children. Understand that guarding breeds were bred to guard and do not always make good family companions. The guarding is so strong in some breeds that they will begin to guard the home and garden from the "bad" people as well as from your family and friends. If you have an active household with lots of children coming and going then this type of dog may not be suitable for you.

Most dogs do not like being left alone in the garden or in the house for long periods of time and will become destructive unless they are kept mentally and physically stimulated. Most dogs enjoy the company of people and prefer to spend time with them in the house. If you do not like dog hair in your house and do not like the mess that dogs leave and are unable to provide them with enough mental and physical stimulation then rather do not get a dog as a pet.

If you would like some advice in choosing a dog as a pet you can contact me at info@dogdynamics.co.za. Next month I will cover how to choose your puppy or older adult dog and what factors should be considered here.



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South Africa | beta

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PUPS AND KITTENS NEEDING GOOD HOMES

July 2010

CLAW is overwhelmed at the moment with puppies that need to find homes. Every day litters of pups are being dropped off at CLAW and we are desperately looking for homes for these adorable guys! Please consider adopting or pass on to anyone you think could help.



CLAW has an overwhelming number of puppies, they all desperately need to find homes.



These 3 adorable puppies were rescued because the owner could not afford to feed them anymore. They were covered in filth, full of worms and desperate for a good meal.

8-week male German Shepherd/Husky mix



7-week old kittens
Extremely playful and adorable!

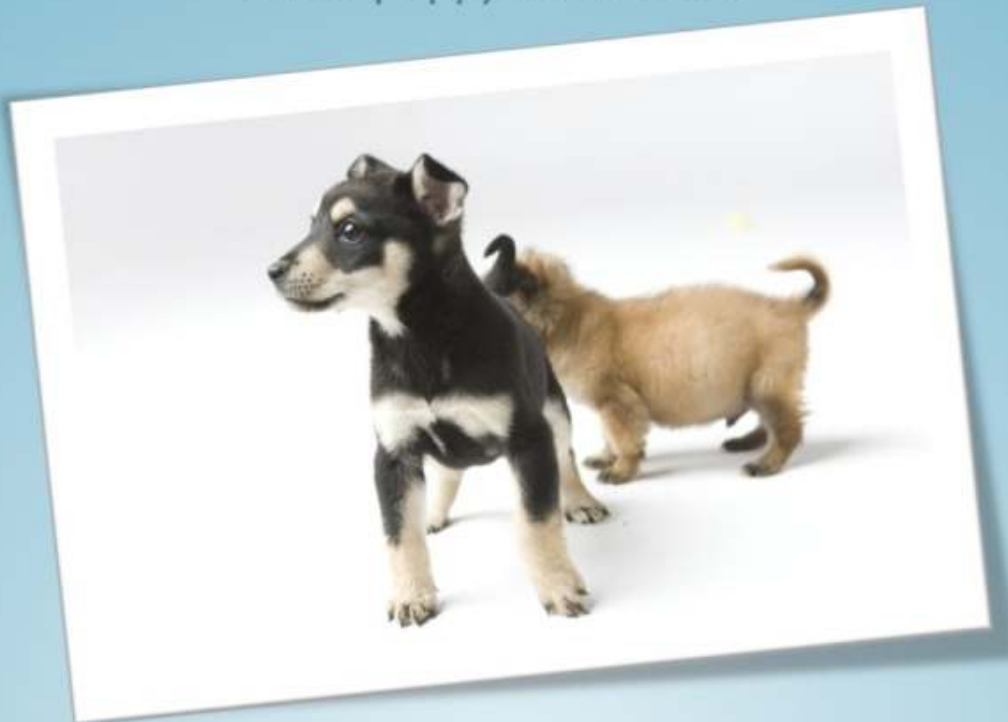
3-month-old large mix-breed pups (1 male and 2 females). Found abandoned under a tree. We took them in, gave them a good meal and a full check up from head to toe. Besides being extremely hungry, they are in perfect health!

Donation of R450 includes vaccinations as well as sterilisation at 6 months of age. Contact CLAW for pre-adoption forms.

Don't breed or buy while shelter animals die! If you can help, please contact CLAW on 011 763 1638

ADOPT A LIFE PARTNER TODAY

www.puppyhaven.co.za



It's a Puppy Shower!

It's raining dogs & puppies – so Puppy Haven is hosting a Puppy Shower to introduce the new arrivals to the world and encourage adoptions. If you have the paw-fect home to offer to a puppy or adult dog, please come and visit us.

On 11 September 2010, Puppy Haven will offer tips on pet care, light refreshments and plenty of fun for attendees. Like any good shower guest, we ask that you bring along a donation or shower gift – our website contains a wish list for your use.

With every adoption, you will receive a free Royal Canin starter pack.

DETAILS:

Date: Saturday 11 September 2010

Time: 09h30 – 14h00

Venue: Kitty & Puppy Haven, 271 Corlett Drive, Kew, Johannesburg

For directions, visit our website www.puppyhaven.co.za or contact us on (011) 440-2404.



Rescue • Rehabilitation • Re-Homing