



PET PATHS®

PETential Paths L.L.C.

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New Executive Editor!

I am thrilled and very proud to introduce you to the newest member of the Pet Paths staff. Her name is "Pebbles," our sweet office kitty, who was rescued from a local rescue group, Foothills Animal Rescue. She will be watching over the editing of the Newsletter and making sure everything is just so! Pebbles is a purrrrr-fectioanist, and she accepted our offer of employment with the stipulation that she would receive plenty of good treats throughout the day and many catnip breaks! She hopes you all have a pawsitively wonderful Spring!



Pebbles, Executive Editor

Include Children In Adoption of Your New "Kids"



They will be the new kids in the house if you are like most animal lovers who consider their pets as part of the family.

Every child should have the opportunity to grow up with animal friends by their side for comfort and to learn respect and responsibility. They should also be a part of the decision-making process when you visit a shelter looking for the right companion.

According to Sandy Robins, writing on MSN's Dog Central, children as young as 3 or 4 years will enjoy going with you for the initial selection, as well as to the pet store for supplies, where they can help in picking out the collar, food and water bowls and a great sleeping place. The trip to the shelter can

also be a learning process for the kids, teaching them just how much animals in this environment need a home.

By the time the kids are 7 years old, they should be given the responsibility of keeping the food and water bowls filled, and this is also a good time to teach them the proper approach to grooming. They should definitely take the trip to the vet, to learn the importance of veterinary care. And show them the benefits of using treats as a reward to teach the new pets good manners and basic commands like "sit" and "stay."

Young children should be taught that puppies and kittens are still unpredictable, and to never tease them and to stay away from their toys. But make sure the pet knows which toys are his or hers and which are not, to keep peace in the family. And everyone

should be aware of the dangers of plastic items that animals love to chew on, which can be fatal to your pet.

Dogs are social and friendly creatures so will want to be included in family activities outside your home. Most cats, on the other hand, consider the house their domain, and would just as soon remain home while you and Fido enjoy the out of doors.

Once the new addition has arrived, make sure your children are quickly involved in the daily routine of caring for the pet. With everyone working together, the new arrangement can be a pleasure for all, especially the animal you have saved from the shelter. Good for you!



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Tips & Tails

Linda Tellington-Jones welcomes you to the Tellington TTouch Training Forum!

Now you can read invaluable information on topics about Tellington TTouch philosophy and training tips from all corners of the globe. We have forums covering horses, dogs, cats, other small beings, farm animals and wild-life rescue, as well as valuable examples of TTouch for You.

<http://www.ttouch.com/forumMessageL.TJ.htm>

Rattlesnake weather is back again! Walking in the Arizona desert is lovely right now, but don't let it become a tragedy. If your dog is bitten by a snake, get medical attention ASAP! **Do not cut the bite or apply a tourniquet, and never try to suck out the venom.**

Be prepared by snake training your dog: Google "snake proofing your dog Phoenix" on the Internet. You may also check out the Phoenix Herpetological Society for more information on snakes. <http://www.phoenixherp.com/>



Pets Suffer Most in Foreclosure Crisis

You might ask how the family pet could possibly suffer more than you and your kids, if for some reason you have lost your home to foreclosure, both parents are out of a job, and the next step is bankruptcy. The answer is that you do have some control over the events in your life, and at least know what is going on and can make plans, even if limited and short term. Not true for your pet, who stands wondering in the front yard, on some side road, or at the animal pound, why he or she is all alone, and thinking "how

could my family do this to me?"

Sometimes there's a reason, like the Katrina disaster when thousands of pets were abandoned in the wake of flood water. Fortunately for many, Best Friends Animal Society of Kanab, Utah came to the rescue, and they are answering the call again today for animals left behind in the home foreclosure crisis.



Michael Mountain, president of

Best Friends, says, "We're seeing more and more cases of people leaving their homes and dropping the dog off at the shelter and the cat in the local park. Sometimes they even just tie the dog up outside and drive off."

In *USA Today*, the headline screams, "Foreclosures slam doors on pets, too." Owners aren't always truthful at the shelter why they are dropping off their pet—In most cases saying they are moving—but these recent large intakes of animals are almost without exception in high foreclosure areas. The Humane

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We're on the Web!
www.PETentialPaths.com

EVENTS

May 30-June 1, 2008: 2-day Dog TTouch Workshop ... 9 AM—4 PM at The Pudgy Pup, Mesa, AZ - \$235 per dog/handler team - to register: Stacy Lewis: 612-817-4473 - stacy@dancingporcupine.com

More events are in the planning stages, including demos!
Let us know if you want to host a free demo
at your place!

Foreclosure

(Continued from page 1)

society of the U.S. has created a fund and is asking for more contributions to aid shelters and rescue groups. In addition to handling the larger influx of animals, these organizations are establishing education programs to show families how they can keep their pets.

Although it is hard to believe that you have to tell people this, Best Friends says that it is never okay to leave the family pet to fend for itself. Where we live in Arizona, even leaving them outside for a short period makes them prey for predators like coyotes and bobcats, or in the case of small animals, hawks. So you can imagine what happens when they are left alone, out in the wild, with nowhere to take shelter. This is not to mention the tremendous heat in the summer months and the danger of getting hit by a car. These are domestic pets that are not able to survive on their own.

The Sacramento SPCA has a program of reaching out to families by visiting the home to

help find ways the owners can keep their animals or make temporary-care arrangements. In Pennsylvania, they waive fees for foreclosure victims when taking in pets temporarily. They keep them as long as necessary for the family to find a new home.

Best Friends tells the story of a Salt Lake City real estate agent, Mindy Mason, who took action after hearing friends talk about animals found in foreclosed homes. Mason and others are planning a fund-raiser to collect money for Best Friends. The organization is working courageously to help people keep their animals, or at least the next best thing which is to place them in new forever homes. Aren't those really the only two humanitarian options?

A Stockton, California home was trashed by the owners prior to a bank's foreclosure. Concealed in all the debris, according to ABC News, was a starving pit bull found by workers, who was too far gone to be saved. The family lost their property, but the dog lost its life in this foreclosure. The Humane Society of Stanislaus County, also in northern California, reports dogs dumped in farmers' grazing grounds, and house cats that are turned loose, forming wild cat colonies. On the first entry to an abandoned home, property inspectors

TTouch Increases Confidence and Awareness



be unsure of himself? That he may need more confidence? Not only can this mean that Moose is out of balance, but if a large-breed dog does this to you, it might put you off balance as well.

In training, dogs need us to be in balance, so we can help them be in balance, too! Once in balance, the dog learns to stand and sit in his own body without leaning into a person. He learns to take responsibility for his own behavior and has the confidence to do what he needs to do.

Does your dog lean into you? You may think he is offering you affection, which certainly is part of it, but did you know that his behavior may indicate that he may

Tellington TTouch® can help, using one of its most important TTouch tools: the Confidence Course., which consists of leading a dog over various types of surfaces and through other obstacles. Some of these are tires, ladders, cones, poles, etc. All this helps to noticeably increase attentiveness, coordination, cooperation, and balance.



So, the next time Moose leans on you, remember that it is important that the support he receives from you is teaching him to be balanced, which helps him to gain self-confidence. He can then act consciously rather than react instinctively.

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." -Will Rogers

or real estate brokers find dogs tied to trees in the backyard, cats in garages, and turtles, rabbits and lizards in kids' bedrooms.

And the shelters are filling up fast with desperate pleas from animal owners on the verge of being evicted. In situations where families suffering foreclosure return to the rental market, they find it near impossible in some cases to take their animals. Many calls are emotional because the people have already been turned down by other, overrun shelters. One dispatcher says she levels with them right up front that there is a 50/50 chance the pet could be put down. But at least the humane treatment they receive prior to and including the euthanization is better than being left in the wild or abandoned in the home with nothing to eat or drink.

On the other end of the cycle, people are no longer adopting like they used to because of tough times and the costs involved in caring for pets. Animals are pouring into shelters much faster, but going out to new homes is pushing many to the breaking point. And it would appear that the foreclosure crisis may just be getting started. So what can you do to help others in this dilemma?

If you know someone, tell them that there are realtors specializing in pet-friendly rental properties. Give them animal rescue literature, even at the risk of offending them, because you are actually thinking of their furry companion.

Check on any abandoned or foreclosed homes in your neighborhood to see if any pets were left. If you find one dehydrated, give only a small amount of water and call a vet immediately.

According to Best Friends (www.bestfriends.org), If you or someone you know is facing potential foreclosure, go to the **Hope Now Alliance** at <http://www.hopenow.com/> or call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE for information and resources.

Let's do whatever we can to help keep pets together with their families during these stressful times! Short of that, at least place them in a safe and nurturing environment. They deserve it!

By contributing writer,
Jack E. Dunning

(Jack is our staff contributing writer, who will be submitting articles on a regular basis.)

