

2011
Issue No.
TWO

Blogging

Come and visit us at our Foundation's Blog (located online at landofpuregold.wordpress.com). Our Daily Golden Thoughts are great to begin each day.

Twittering

Share in Twitter's 140 character fun (located online at twitter.com/landofpuregold). That is where you catch our irreverent musings.

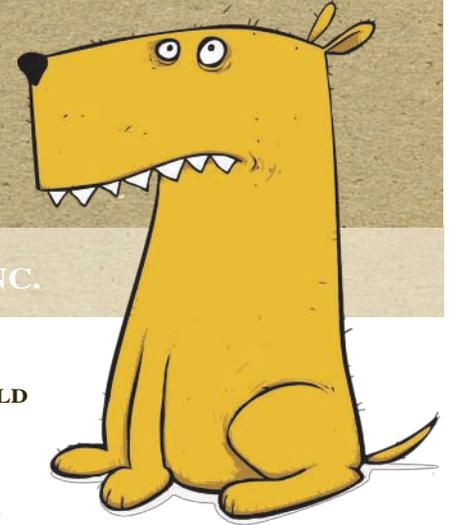
Supporting

Support our canine cancer treatment grants. Shop at our Store for what truly matters—health, home, happiness and healing (at store.landofpuregold.com).

PET 

LIVE LOVE LAUGH
and LEARN

PET TALK



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LAND OF PUREGOLD FOUNDATION, INC.

A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO GIVING COMPANION ANIMALS A VOICE IN THE WORLD

Musings from the land of the Golden Obsessed

We have a wonderful article on Tasty Food Toppers, book & product reviews, and a new exciting prize giveaway.

Just in case you missed our **last issue**, we had started a much needed kitchen remodel (23 years + a few Golden Retrievers will do that) . . . only living through it due to the help of our talented and understanding designer, Stuart Bunyea, of **Stuart Kitchens**.

Sadly, Alfie still remains here, patiently yet eagerly waiting to understand why lots of men keep coming in and out of the house. He could care less about the mess, the dust, the debris. It's just one big party to him.

We do have a new contractor helping us along. The problem is, the minute he starts working on one project he discovers more problems due to the questionable practices from our previous contractor.

I probably would have never taken on the project knowing it would take over a year to conceptualize and complete. Yet, we really have loved some of the new conveniences.



No one has seen the new kitchen yet, which may actually be completed in a few weeks.

That's because of the embarrassment from the connecting living and dining rooms. Despite almost 24 years in this—our first house—not much was found in these rooms except an agility tunnel, a doggie treadmill, and an ancient dining room table from hubby's bachelor days.

Well, now the rooms are empty as we await the arrival of real furniture. And, maybe by June we will even be able to invite folks over . . . like *real people* do.

The next question, of course, will be whether I allow anyone to sit down on the new sofa or even enjoy a meal at the new dining room table. A dilemma for sure.

Taking a bite out of cancer one working dog at a time

It is always sobering when we receive an application for a Working Dog Cancer Treatment grant (grants.landofpuregold.com).

Foundation grants are \$500 per individual working dog in the U.S. or Canada, reimbursements provided directly to treating veterinary personnel. Applicants must be active working dogs, in the areas of assistance, detection, search & rescue, enforcement, military work, or animal-assisted therapy.

Our latest grant recipient is Golden Retriever Montana, shown here goofily covered by vegetation.

Montana is the first medical alert dog who we have had the pleasure to assist. He has been active for almost six years detecting low blood sugar states of his mom, Kristen Beard.

Kristen contacted us in February 2011 about obtaining a **Working Dog Cancer Treatment Grant**. Her handsome, six-year-old diabetes alert dog, Montana, had been diagnosed with oral fibrosarcoma, just having had a hemimandibulectomy (removal of half of the lower jaw). But, now the oncologists were recommending further radiation in order to treat the remaining microscopic disease.

Here below is Kristen's story about his life-saving work and her special guy, Montana:

I have had type 1 diabetes since I was seven-years-old. For some unexplainable reason, I've always had a problem with my blood sugar dropping dangerously low in the middle of the night. Living alone, it's been something that I've worried about (passing out while asleep).

I was completely dependent on family, friends, and professors and an elaborate system of phone calls just to make sure that I was conscious in the mornings.

When I got Montana, as a six-week-old puppy, all of that changed.

The first time Montana woke me up in the night, he was probably six-months-old, and I was so upset that he had disturbed my sleep.

He kept barking at me. He would bark and then come close to my face and cry and then bark again. I was really groggy and so angry that he was waking me up.

I sat up and turned on the light, only to find that I was feeling horribly. After I had been up for a while, I tested my blood sugar and found that at 28 it was dangerously low.

Montana didn't need to go out, nor was anything else wrong. He just wanted me to wake up.

I really thought it was some sort of a miracle, and I can't tell you how guilty I felt for being so mad that he was barking.



Every time since, that I have had a bad low at night, Montana has faithfully barked, whined, nudged me, or done a combination of the three until I have woken up. And, this happens several times a month, sometimes more often.

I once told my doctor about Montana's miraculous ability, assuming that she would think I was crazy. Oddly enough, she wasn't at all surprised. She said she doesn't know what it is, but that dogs and cats seem to be able to sense that something is wrong.

Maybe a change in body temperature, maybe irregular breathing or movement... Who knows... Whatever it is, I'm truly grateful for Montana, my miracle dog.

I have only recently finished college and work as a professional violist and music teacher, playing with several different orchestras and teaching private lessons. I've been able to live alone and travel alone, and not worry about putting so much stress on my family and friends.

My doctors have written letters so that Montana is able to travel and go everywhere with me. He has been featured in several diabetes articles about hypoglycemic alert dogs [*Diabetes Alert Dogs* by Marie Rosenthal, MS. in *Diabetes Self Management*, July/August 2010, pages 23-26].

Even though Montana was never officially certified as a service dog, he has saved my life dozens of times over, and functions as a service dog for me.

HOPE

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all. —*Emily Dickinson*

The important thing is not that we can live on hope alone, but that life is not worth living without it. —*Harvey Milk*

There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something tomorrow. —*Orison Swett Marden*

Hope never abandons you, you abandon it. —*George Weinberg*

Hope is a song in a weary throat. —*Pauli Murray*

One should be able to see things as hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise. —*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope. —*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure but from hope to hope. —*Samuel Johnson*

Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence. —*Lin Yutang*

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us. —*Samuel Smiles*

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for. —*Epicurus*

Hope is a waking dream. —*Aristotle*

Long live blue spaces where hope is a kite and dreams really do come true. —*Anonymous*

*Above featured in our **Hope Cards***

Ten (Plus) Tasty Toppers

By Suzi Beber

Enjoy lots of creative ways to both entice and bolster your furkids from inside out.

Perfect Pumpkin Puree

Pumpkin is often called "medicine in a can" and it is also considered one of the world's healthiest foods. It helps to strengthen the blood and soothes a sick stomach. It is very rich in fiber and contains many disease fighting nutrients, including one of the most valuable sources of bioavailable carotenoids.



Pumpkin contains Vitamins A, C, E, and K, folate, niacin, riboflavin, thiamin, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium. Always have a can of plain canned pumpkin on hand for your pets.

Pumpkin is great for diarrhea and it is just as good for constipation! Add ground cinnamon and carob for a great flavour boost, and to further protect your pet's gastrointestinal system.

Bone Booster

A Cornerstone of Traditional Chinese Medicine

It is very important to have certified organic bones (no hormones, no antibiotics) for this recipe.

Ingredients

1 to 2 pounds of chicken or turkey bones
2 cloves garlic
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar or 1/2 lemon
Filtered water
Handful (1/2 cup) of fresh parsley

Apple cider vinegar releases the minerals and amino acids from the bones, into the broth.

Parsley improves digestion and is beneficial to kidney and urinary tract ailments. Parsley tea is also known to strengthen teeth. Parsley contains Vitamin C, Pro-vitamin A, calcium, chlorophyll, iron, and magnesium.

Instructions

Place the bones, vinegar, and garlic, in a large pot or crock-pot. Cover with filtered water. Bring mixture to a boil, skimming the "particulates" that rise to the top, and then turn the heat down to a simmer.

Leave the bones to simmer away all day or all night. Add the parsley just a few minutes before you move to the next step. Then, drain the broth from the bones. Discard the bones, but keep all the meat and cartilage, which make a perfect meal topper. Your pets will love you for it.

Bone Booster II

A Cornerstone of Traditional Chinese Medicine

It is very important to have certified organic bones (no hormones, no antibiotics) for this recipe.

Ingredients

2 large beef marrow bones or other marrow bones
2 cloves garlic
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar or 1/2 lemon
Filtered water
Handful (1/2 cup) of fresh parsley

Instructions

Place the bones, vinegar, and garlic in a large pot or crock-pot. Cover with filtered water. Bring mixture to a boil, skimming the "particulates" and foam that rise to the top, and then turn the heat down to a low simmer.

Leave the bones to simmer away all day or all night. Add the parsley just a few minutes before you drain the broth from the bones. Discard the bones, but keep all the meat and cartilage and marrow. Your pets will love you even more.

The broth makes it so easy for your pets to get quick nourishment and to aid in the healing process, as needed.

Cartilage and tendons also provide instant chondroitin sulphates and glucosamine.

This is a great broth to make and store in the freezer. It makes a great base for soups, stews, and extra special treats, and, by the way, this broth is for the whole family. Bone Marrow soup contains stem cells!



HEALTHY PETS 101



CINNAMON

Cinnamon has many applications. In the West, the inner bark is used primarily for indigestion and diarrhea. In traditional Chinese Medicine, cinnamon is well recognized as an energizing "herb," especially for kidney problems, and even asthma. Compresses made from diluted cinnamon tincture, help to relieve arthritic and rheumatic pain.

Cinnamon was first used medicinally in Egypt and parts of Europe, as far back as 500 BC. Traditionally, it was taken for colds, flu and digestive problems, and it is still used in much the same way today. It also helps to treat nausea and flatulence. Even the oil found in cinnamon has antifungal and antibacterial properties. Isn't it nice to know that something that tastes so good is also good for you and your dog?

CAROB

Carob is the fruit of the carob tree, also known as the locust tree and St. John's tree. Carob is rich in natural sugars and contains all the principal vitamins and minerals. In ancient Egypt, carob pods were combined with porridge, honey and wax, as a remedy for diarrhea. They also used carob in recipes for expelling worms and treating poor eyesight and eye infections. In the 1st century AD, the Greek physician Dioscorides wrote that carob helped to relieve stomach pain and settle digestion, and this bit of news has not changed since!

Ten (Plus) Tasty Toppers (cont.)

Simple Stock

This recipe makes a nutrient dense broth that you can use as a topper for regular meals, and it is also the perfect addition to any recipe, for your whole family. Please choose organic products whenever possible.

Ingredients

12 cups filtered water
1-1/2 pounds chicken necks and backs
1 carrot, cut in pieces
1 celery stalk, cut in pieces
2 fresh Shiitake mushrooms, cut in slices, or, if fresh mushrooms are not available, use 2 large dry Shiitake mushrooms
1 clove garlic
1 small piece of fresh ginger root or 1/2 teaspoon organic ginger powder
1 teaspoon sea salt
Handful (1/2 cup) of fresh parsley
Other herbs of your choice can be added to this recipe, including marjoram, thyme, and oregano.

Instructions

Place all ingredients in a stock-pot. Bring to a rolling boil, skim off the foam, turn the heat down to a low simmer, and leave the pot to sit and stew for about 6 hours. Refrigerate overnight. The next morning, skim the fat off from the top, remove the meat and vegetables, strain the stock, and store in containers. This simple stock freezes beautifully.

Meat (cooked bones removed) and cooked vegetables can be added to your pet's meals. Broth can be added to your pet's drinking water, for extra nourishment, and to encourage adequate water intake, and if necessary, you can also put some broth in a syringe, and gently give it to your pet.

Liver Lottery

Your pet will think he has hit the lottery, when he samples this tasty topper. Please choose organic products whenever possible.

Ingredients

1 cup raw liver (beef, chicken, turkey, duck, lamb, etc), chopped (Only certified organic liver should be used for this recipe.)
2 tablespoons filtered water
1 tablespoon potato flour (optional)
1 clove garlic, finely minced
Pinch of Turmeric

Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a small pan. Gently sauté on medium heat. This recipe takes less than 5 minutes to prepare. Make sure it has cooled completely before serving. This recipe can also be easily whirled in a food processor and served as a sauce, or add extra filtered water, and use a syringe.



Shiitake Mushroom Tea

Ingredients

2 dried Shiitake mushrooms, broken into small pieces
1 cup filtered water

Instructions

Place Shiitake pieces and filtered water into a small pot. Bring to a boil, and then reduce the heat to simmer for 30 minutes.

Strain mushroom bits and cool tea, before serving to your pets.

1 cup of tea is equal to 4 doses, which can be added to food or drinking water. Shiitake bits can be added to your pet's meals too.

The Hero of Harrow's Cancer Cocktail

Thanks to the greatly missed Dr. John Carter, DVM.

Nobody has been able to put a cap on cancer yet, but every day, we are learning about new ways to support our animal companions.

Dr. John Carter, a British Veterinary surgeon and research scientist, created this cancer cocktail, after losing his own dog to cancer.

Please choose organic products whenever possible.

Ingredients

8 (230 grams) ounces raw chopped liver
4 ounces (115 grams) grated carrot
1/2 ounce (15 grams) ground Brazil nuts

Instructions

Simply puree the ingredients and serve, as a topping, or, as necessary, as a complete meal. It's bursting with flavour and nutritive value.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Shitake is a "Healing Helper"

To relieve vomiting, boil 1/2 cup of dried Shiitake mushrooms in filtered water, until the "soup" becomes yellowish in colour.

To relieve a cough, try Shiitake mushroom tea with 1 teaspoon of unpasteurized local or **Manuka "healing" honey**.

To relieve urinary problems, bake 1 cup of fresh Shiitake mushrooms in a 350F degree oven, until the surface of the mushrooms appears burned or charred. Crush mushrooms into powder, and add 5 grams per day to your pet's diet, or include fresh Shiitake mushrooms in your pet's daily diet.

Brazil Nuts

Since the early 1970s, selenium has been added to farm animals' feed in different parts of the world, where natural selenium levels have been found to be low. This includes some areas of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. While barley, button mushrooms and Shiitake mushrooms contain selenium, along with cod, snapper, tuna, halibut, salmon, and calf's liver, Brazil nuts are one of the most concentrated food sources of selenium, containing 70 to 90 micrograms (one thousandth of a milligram) per nut.

Selenium helps to protect cells from free radical damage, supports thyroid function, and it also helps to lower the risk of inflammation in joints.

Carrots

Carrots are one of the world's healthiest foods. They are a valuable digestive aid. They also act as a glandular tonic, skin cleanser, and eye conditioner. Carrots are a treasure trove of nutrients, including Vitamins A, B-6, C, E, K, choline, folate, thiamin, riboflavin, calcium, copper, fluoride, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, and selenium.

Ten (Plus) Tasty Toppers (cont.)

Flan For The Finicky

Choose organic products whenever possible.

Ingredients

2 cups finely grated raw carrot, sweet potato, yams, or 2 cups of finely grated apple

6 raw egg yolks

6 tablespoons broth or filtered water. For finicky felines, simply use the broth from a can of fish, like tuna.

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

Note: If you use grated apple, replace 1/2 teaspoon sea salt with 1 teaspoon cinnamon, or 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon & 1/2 teaspoon carob.

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350F degrees. Lightly grease a Pyrex or cake pan.

Whisk egg yolks with water or broth, and add sea salt. Add grated carrot and mix thoroughly. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool, cut into strips, and serve. Top with goat yogurt.



Yay For Yogurt

Many people and pets with cow milk sensitivities or allergies, can drink goat milk because it contains a different kind of protein.

Goat milk contains 13 percent less lactose than cow milk and its milk-fat particles are naturally homogenized and small, making it easy to digest.

To make your own yogurt, boil 1 liter of whole milk for 15 minutes, making sure it does not burn. Watch the milk very carefully. Turn the heat down before it reaches a rolling boil. Let the milk cool until it is lukewarm.

In a small mixing bowl, combine one 175 gram container of yogurt with a small amount of milk, until it is smooth. Then, return it to the pot and leave it until yogurt has formed. This can take 8 to 12 hours.

You can use homemade yogurt in so many ways. Top a meal, mix it with fruits and vegetables, and even meat. Add some sweet or savory spice. Freeze it. Remember, there's always "store bought" too, but choose organic, and for sensitive tummies, "go for the goat."



Congee

Congee is traditionally called his-fan or rice water, and is eaten throughout China, most often as a breakfast food. It is a thin porridge or gruel, made up of a handful (1/2 cup to 1 cup) of rice, simmered in 5 or 6 times the amount of water.

Although rice is the most common whole grain for congees, millet, spelt, and other whole grains can be used as well. Cook the rice and water in a covered pot for 4 to 6 hours on a very, very low simmer.

A crock-pot works perfectly for the preparation of congees. It is better to use too much water, than not enough, and it is said that the longer the congee cooks, the more "powerful" it becomes.

Simply add 1 teaspoon of mushroom powder to your congee, before cooking, for a powerful healing whole food, for your pets.

Purrfect Poaching

As kitties can be such discriminating eaters, this is a great topper to consider. Choose organic ingredients whenever possible.

Ingredients

1/4 pound white fish, e.g., tilapia, Pollock, Ling cod

1/2 cup filtered water

1 clove garlic

1 teaspoon fresh parsley

1 teaspoon fresh catnip or 1/2 teaspoon dried Catnip

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a sauce pan, except the fish. Bring to a boil. Then, turn down to a low simmer for 15 minutes.

Gently add the fish to the broth and cook for 15 minutes. Cool before serving.

Mushroom Magic

Choose organic ingredients whenever possible.

Ingredients

1 cup beef strips (no hormones, no antibiotics)

1 cup liver, e.g., beef, chicken, turkey

1 cup Shiitake mushrooms

1 cup Shiitake tea

1 cup zucchini

1 1-inch piece fresh ginger or 1 tsp ground ginger

2-3 cloves garlic, finely minced

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1 cup filtered water or broth

1 tablespoon cold pressed extra virgin olive oil or rice bran oil

Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a large pot. Bring to a boil. Then, turn down the heat to simmer.

Simmer gently until there is no pink in the meat. Remove from stove. Cool.

Serve as an addition/topping to your pet's regular meals.

"Mushroom Magic" can also be served with rice if desired.

Triped Again

When your pet keeps tripping you up, it's time to pull out the tripe. And only green tripe will do, because even though it really isn't green, when you ask for "green tripe," you will know, that it hasn't been cleaned, bleached, or scalded.

Beef tripe is usually made from only the first three chambers of a cow's stomach — the rumen, the reticulum, and the omasum.

In Greece, cleaned lamb's tripe, is combined with lamb's feet and eggs to make a traditional soup, that is served both hot and cold.

In Mexico, "Menudo," is a classic dish that is made with spicy honeycomb tripe and hominy grits and veal knuckle, as a cure for hangovers.

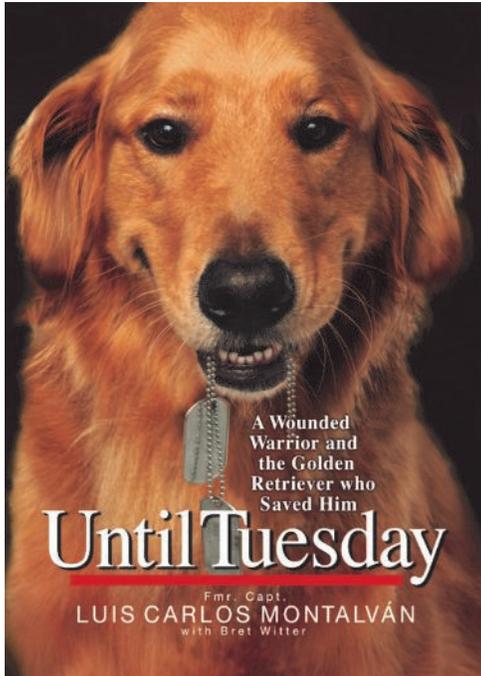
Make sure that the tripe you choose, comes from grass fed animals, and that the product is certified organic, containing no antibiotics and hormones, and remember, white tripe has been cleaned and has no place in your companion animal's diet.

Suzi Beber, successfully creating special needs diets for dogs and cats for fourteen years, is the founder of the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund, a part of the University of Guelph's Pet Trust, and located on the web at smilingblueskies.com.

Until Tuesday

. . . a story of strength and purpose

To be published on May 3, 2011 by Hyperion, *Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*, was written by Former Captain Luis Carlos Montalván, with Bret Witter.



UNTIL TUESDAY: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him is the story of how a service dog helps to heal the soul of a crushed soldier. It is a book that could possibly change your views about both men and dogs *in service*.

There is much familiarity with stories such as this one given my many years championing *the bond*. And, yet, I have never experienced such clarity or honesty, as Luis and Tuesday's strengths and vulnerabilities are laid bare for all to experience.

Luis Carlos Montalván, a highly decorated seventeen-year veteran, never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. Even after suffering stab wounds, a traumatic brain injury [TBI] and three broken vertebrae, he chose to ignore his constant pain. Instead, he remained leading his men at a dangerous Iraq-Syria border post.

It was only when Luis returned home that his physical disabilities, agoraphobia, and crippling post traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] began to take their toll. Doubting that he would ever recover, there were even contemplations of suicide.

Sadly, this kind of destructive thinking is quite prevalent, as eighteen veterans a day commit suicide—more having done so since the start of the wars than have been killed by the enemy.

By chance, while surfing the web, Luis happened to discover that veterans with physical or psychological wounds could apply for a free service dog. It was then that he met Golden Retriever Tuesday.

Both Tuesday and Luis are shown—warts and all—struggling to heal their invisible wounds, and it is their shared battle that is so illuminating.

"We aren't just service dog and master; Tuesday and I are also best friends. Kindred souls. Brothers. Whatever you want to call it. We weren't made for each other, but we turned out to be exactly what the other needed."

UNTIL TUESDAY provides a genuine peek at the conflicting practices and philosophies behind the training of our invaluable service dogs. And, it reveals what living with a post traumatic stress disorder is really like, not how it is fictionalized in the media. Seeing the effects of the war, PTSD, and TBI through a brave captain's eyes is an experience we all can learn from.

It is not easy to explain invisible disabilities, such as PTSD and TBI, to others, so accounting for the attacks and suspicions of malingering that Luis endures. Made afraid to show growth or an ability to get better—as accommodations or benefits could then be questioned—a Catch-22 type dilemma results.

For someone now more comfortable in solitude, Luis Carlos Montalván's current path in advocacy for the disabled remains a challenging one. And, certainly, the new life that he is carving out, with Golden Tuesday by his side, is merely a work in progress. Yet, it is one that I am hoping does have that dreamed-about *happy ending*.

There is nothing about me—even the straight, stiff way I carry myself—that signals disabled. Until people notice the cane in my left hand, that is, and the way I lean on it every few steps. Then they realize my stiff walk and straight posture aren't just pride, and that Tuesday isn't just an ordinary dog. He walks directly beside me, for instance, so that my right leg always bisects his body. He nuzzles me when my breathing changes, and he moves immediately between me and the object—a cat, an overeager child, a suspiciously closed door—any time I feel apprehensive. Because beautiful, happy-go-lucky, favorite-of-the-neighborhood Tuesday isn't my pet; he's my service dog."

I have been **following Luis & Tuesday's story** since July 2009. My article, ***Mitigating a World of Hurt – Psychiatric Service Dogs Stepping up to the Challenge***, details the increased emphasis of such dogs in the media given the fact that 300,000 veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with severe depression and PTSD.



2 PAWS UP

Reviews from Golden Mom Rochelle

I am always on the lookout for the latest and the greatest books . . . even though there is so little room left to store all these finds. Authors who have been kind enough to share their latest publications may see reviews here, at our website, or our foundation's blog.

Not one to be negative, though, only those books receiving my "2 PAWS UP" Stamp will appear. My mom was right, of course. If you have nothing good to say, don't say anything at all.

Working with Goldens since 1987, my bookshelves are overflowing with animal themed books and media.

At our Foundation's website you can find my favorites. The categorized listing includes items in my possession, or from recognized authors I've come to trust.

Categories include the following: bereavement, cancer, children & dogs, canine sports, performance dogs, general & holistic health, massage, diet & nutrition, clicker training, assistance dogs, human-canine bond, hospice care, detection dogs, tracking & trailing, travel, puppy life & training, physically disabled dogs, blind & deaf dogs, problem solving, anxiety & fears, search & rescue, senior dog care, and understanding our dogs.

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PET PEEVES

By Dr. V of pawcurious.com fame



THE PARENT TRAP

The message board title plaintively screamed to be clicked: "I'm breaking up with my boyfriend and I don't know what to do!"

It was in the "pets" section, which I found rather perplexing.

After clicking on the link, she went on to explain that although she could care less about the demise of her relationship, she was having major misgivings about losing the companionship of her ex's Labrador, Moe.



It comes up more often than one might think.

There was a divorce case here in San Diego that lives on in legend and lore after the well to do couple spent tens of thousands of dollars fighting over custody of the pointer they adopted from the shelter two years prior to their divorce.

Only after enlisting the services of a veterinary behaviorist to assess the dog's quality of life with the two owners was the judge able to

come to a conclusion as to who would provide the better home.

While the vision of two people (well, two lawyers) duking it out over a dog seems more Disney matinee than real life, losing a pet along with a relationship can be a real cause of distress for people.

Supposedly, some rescues won't even adopt a pet to a couple without a separation custody agreement in place.

Can we call that a pre-pup? Please?

I admit I haven't given the idea a whole lot of thought, personally.

It's blazingly apparent who would inherit the whole hairy shebang in my case, were my marriage to implode.

Though it does beg the question of whether I would qualify for petimony. I hope so. Kongs are expensive.

I have seen this be an issue in cases where two roommates who are not romantically involved adopt a pet together, then decide to move on

In those cases, determining ownership often comes down to the typical paper trail that defines "ownership":

- The person who obtained the pet, as shown on adoption/purchase records
- The person who licensed the dog
- The person who registered the microchip
- The person who paid the vet bills

When I was in vet school, my freshman year roommate and I adopted two cats. Within a month it was apparent they loved her and could care less about me.

They tolerated me, but they slept on her face.

Needless to say, she took them with her when we moved on and we were all fine with that.

It's not an issue I find myself too concerned about. I'm actually just happy that people care enough to fight over who gets to live with their pet.

My vet school classmate Candy was bound and determined to see her spay surgery class dog (who came from the local shelter) in a good home.

After vetting multiple potential families, she placed this dog in the care of an energetic young couple who promised the dog a life of hiking and love.

Four months later, Candy got a call from the shelter wondering if she wanted her dog back. (Before adopting the dog out, she had microchipped the dog in her name.)

Apparently this couple broke up, couldn't handle that the dog was a reminder of the failed relationship, and dumped her at the shelter without even having the class to let Candy know they weren't keeping her.

She was adopted again, this time to her forever home.

With that in the back of my mind, I can't get too upset over custody battles.

It's better than the alternative.





2 PAWS UP

Land of PureGold Foundation Store Shop for items that typify our organic, eco-friendly, chemical-free view of wellness and prevention, allowing you to shop for what truly matters — health, home, happiness and healing. And, 100% of the profit from sales funds cancer research and treatment.

Be sure to learn about how we are **polluting our pets** and what can be done to minimize the damage.

MAX-COMFORT was the first company to provide memory foam dog beds. They do not try to compete with beds made overseas via cheap labor and questionable materials. Beware of imitations! Inexpensive imported foams contain fillers that weaken the comfort and performance of the bed and can be a health hazard to your dogs. In fact, they often contain flame retardants that are toxic to your dog.

MAX & RUFFY'S provides organic gluten-free, vegan treats in 100% eco-friendly packaging. They are made by Kelly and Beth, from scratch, in Virginia. There are four great flavors: blueberry, sweet potato/alfalfa, squash/kelp, and pumpkin. We love the small size and also mini-size (1/4 inch cubes) for training treats.

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And the poetry on these cards is simply wonderful.

Check them out at <http://bit.ly/plantit>.

UNIQUE FLOWER CARDS

Plant, water and watch them grow

This unique range of stylish cards are actually made from a special process which impregnates the card with wild flower seeds.

Stage 1 - Plant card Stage 2 - Seeds germinate Stage 3 - Flowers grow

When planted, each handmade seed card acts like mulch to retain moisture for the seeds. Included are a diverse and hearty mix of wild flower seeds to ensure growth.

By controlling pressure on the press and all aspects of the drying process, the highest germination rates possible are guaranteed. So when your friends/family have finished with the card they **simply plant it indoors or outside** following the simple instructions included, and **they will be amazed at how it will grow into beautiful flowers.**

Made from 100% re-cycled paper, soy-based inks, and organic pigments, enables all aspects of the unique manufacturing process, to be completely environmentally friendly.

PURR & SIMPLE KWIK KLUMP LITTER

We rescued our Cindy, a feral 6-month-old rape victim, 18 years ago. Since there are loads of dog lovers who have kitties as well, we feature many wonderful cat supplies and treasures at our foundation store (<http://bit.ly/catstuff>).

While we do not stock litter, that doesn't mean we aren't always looking for the latest and greatest to keep our little one happy ... as well as share with others.

So, for the last month, we've been testing this brand new Kwik Klump All-Natural Cat Litter Formula from **Purr & Simple**. Made from the shells from tree nut crops of Northern California, its natural soil-like color camouflages feces, truly making it more like a *natural* restroom.



While we did not see it as long-lasting as the company's claims, that may have been a function of our

girl's frequent litter box visits due to kidney disease. But, it sure does absorb significantly more of the urine odor, the main claim that drew our interest.

Low dust. ALL natural. Superior odor control. Definitely a winning combination. Of course, the fact that it is also biodegradable and certified as "safe to dispose of by flushing in toilets" are great features as well.

Although the nut protein levels emitted are very low (14parts per million) and the product doesn't contain or come into contact with peanuts, this product should not be used for those with extreme nut allergies.

DEFINITELY IN A *GIVING* MOOD!

We just added NFDO organic, gluten-free dog treats to our store, found at <http://bit.ly/pg-nfdo>. To celebrate, we are GIVING AWAY 3 full bags to the first 3 folks to correctly answer the question below at our Twitter (<http://bit.ly/tw-logg>) or Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/opg-fb>) pages. The answer is easily found at the treat page. Total value of prize is \$20 per person.



"What is the impact of gluten on our dogs?"

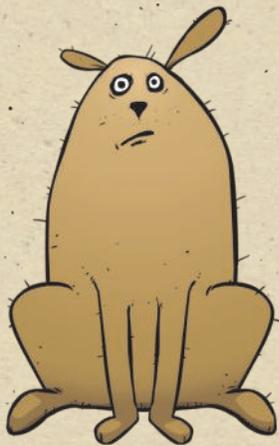
Land of PureGold Foundation

We promote holistic health, organic and chemically free living, responsible dog care, and respectful and consistent training practices. Providing materials on canine cancers, our foundation educates others about more preventative courses of action to maintain a healthy and strong immune system. With a volunteer board membership that includes renowned veterinarians, Dr. Allen Schoen and Dr. Marty Becker, our public 501(c)(3) charitable organization allows donations to be tax-deductible. And, few causes are more gratifying than helping those who are facing a diagnosis of cancer. Through these donations, online store, and educational media development, we fund cancer treatment for working dogs and research in comparative oncology, the study of cancers that occur similarly in companion animals and humans. Check us out at landofpuregold.com!

Thanks for
your support!

PET

LIVE LOVE LAUGH
and LEARN



PETTALK

A LOPG PUBLICATION
DEDICATED TO GIVING
COMPANION ANIMALS
A VOICE IN THE WORLD

Earth Friendly Pet Products

Environmentally friendly (also eco-friendly, nature friendly, and green) are synonyms used to refer to goods that are considered to inflict minimal or no harm on the environment. To make consumers aware, the products may be marked with eco-labels. But because there is no single standard for this concept, these labels are too vague to be meaningful. So, look for those businesses dedicated to sustainable fair trade principles, and that use organic, dye-free, and/or reclaimed materials.

One such company is Barkwheats, who uses the *berry*, buckwheat, for their biscuits. Handmade in Stockton Springs, Maine, these gluten-free and grain-free wonders are made with



organic and local ingredients from neighboring organic farms in Maine, and family farms with Sustainable Harvest International in Belize. Barkwheats packaging is 100% compostable, biscuits enclosed in packaging made from sustainably harvested cottonwood trees and 100% recycled paperboard. They also compost, recycle, purchase wind energy, use CFL bulbs and select the most energy efficient equipment to run their facility. Find these great treats and more at:

store.landofpuregold.com/sogood.htm

Recommended resource links

- cancer.landofpuregold.com — Becoming Cancer-AWARE
- ccr.cancer.gov/resources/cop — NCI Comparative Oncology Program
- bit.ly/AVSABarticles — American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior
- www.askdryin.com — Leadership without Force from Dr. Sophia Yin

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