

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

IN THIS ISSUE...

- [Animal Nutrition](#)
- [Dog Treat Recipe](#)
- [Special Event ~ 2010 Dog Walkathon](#)
- [Behind the Scenes Animal Spotlight ~ Licorice](#)
- [Doggie Den ~ Hip Dysplasia](#)
- [Cat's Corner ~ Buttercup Happy Tail](#)
- [KAR Wish List ~ April](#)

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KAR Friends

April 2010

Dear Reader,

Our feature article covers the importance of good nutrition to keep our furry companions healthy as well as adequately fed.

This month's Doggie Den addresses the treatment options for hip dysplasia in large dogs, and Cat's Corner tells the happy tail of Buttercup.

Danielle Wallis
KAR Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

P.S. The week of May 2-8, 2010 is Be Kind to Animals Week®. This American Humane Association tradition has been celebrated since 1915 and commemorates the role animals play in our lives and promotes ways to treat them humanely. [Click here](#) to learn more.

ANIMAL NUTRITION

How to Read a Pet Food Label

By Michigan Veterinary Specialists

You want what's best for your furry friend, but how do you determine what food is best for Fido or Fluffy? Does price make a difference? What ingredients are the healthiest for pets? Which ones are the animal equivalents of fast food?

Gaining a better understanding of how to read a pet food label may help in your decision-making process. Pet food labels are legal documents regulated by an agency under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States.

Most grocery store and generic brands are formulated as "variable formula diets". This means that the ingredients used in the food will vary from batch to batch, depending on market availability and pricing. In contrast, most premium foods sold in feed stores, pet stores and through veterinarians are produced using fixed formulas. Although the cost for a fixed formula food may be more than a variable formula diet, the consistency between batches of food is a distinct advantage to the dog or cat consuming the food.

When reviewing the list of ingredients, keep in mind that they are listed in order of predominance by weight. Also, the ingredient list can give no indicator of the quality of the ingredients used in the food. Ingredients with similar names can vary in digestibility, amino acid content and availability, mineral availability and the amount of indigestible materials they contain. In fact, some premium foods with very high-quality ingredients may have an ingredient list that is almost identical to a generic food that



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ANIMAL NUTRITION (continued)

contains poor-quality ingredients with low digestibility and poor nutrient availability. This can be seen in products that claim to be “the same as” another higher priced product.

In the United States, pet food manufacturers are required to include minimum percentages for crude protein and crude fat, and maximum percentages for crude fiber and moisture. These percentages generally indicate the “worst case” levels for these nutrients in the food and may not accurately reflect the exact or typical amounts included. Also note that these indicate only minimums or maximums found in the foods, actual values may differ dramatically.

Common Pet Food Ingredients

<i>Description</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Contribution to diet</i>
Meat (muscle)	Skeletal muscle, tongue, diaphragm, heart	Animal fat, protein, energy
Meat by-products	Lung, spleen, kidney, brain, blood, bone, intestine	Animal fat, protein, energy
Meat meal, meat & bone meal, fish meal, blood meal	Dry rendered product from animal tissue	Animal fat, protein, energy
Cereals	Corn, wheat, oats, barley, corn gluten meal	Carbohydrate, protein, fiber, energy
Soy flour, soy meal	Vegetable protein source including Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP)	Protein, texture/chunks (usually the meaty chunks in foods)
Animal fat, vegetable oil	Tallow, chicken fat, corn oil, soy oil	Fats, fatty acids, essential fatty acids, energy
Egg	Egg powder	Protein of high biologic value
Milk	Skim milk powder, whey	Milk protein
Grain hulls, root crops	Bran, beet pulp	Dietary fiber
Humectants	Sugars, salt, glycerol	Reduction in water availability, energy
Digest	Hydrolysed liver or intestine	Flavor and palatability enhancer, some protein and fat
Preservatives	Sodium benzoate, sodium and potassium sorbate	Retard spoilage from molds and bacteria

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [“Events” page on our website](#) for upcoming adoption (and other) events.



ANIMAL NUTRITION (continued)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Contribution to diet</i>
Flavors	Natural and artificial and “nature identical” flavors, process reacted flavors, key character compounds	Improvement in taste, smell and mouth feel
Coloring agents	Natural and artificial colorings	Improvement in owner
Aromas	Natural and artificial aromas	Improvement in owner
Vitamins, minerals	Vitamin and mineral premixes	Nutrients and dietary
Antioxidants	BHT, BHA, ascorbic acid, mixed tocopherols (Vitamin E)	Prevents fat rancidity

In the United States, the name and address of the manufacturer, distributor or dealer of the pet food must be found on the label, usually on the information panel. This information is not required to be complete, and may only include the distributor and city of origin. Most premium foods include their name, mailing address, phone number with hours of operations and possibly a website address. This makes it much easier for you to contact the manufacturer with any problems or questions regarding the product.

This article appeared in the February 2008 issue of *Michigan Veterinary Specialists News*. Reprinted with permission.

DOG TREAT RECIPE

Min-T's

By Donna Snell



Here are some fantastic treats to combat Fido's bad breath. Mint and parsley plants are super easy to grow in your garden.

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon activated charcoal, available at drugstores (this is NOT briquettes)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 2/3 cup low-fat milk

Preheat oven to 400° degrees. Lightly oil a cookie sheet. Combine flour and activated charcoal, and then add all the other ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls on oiled cookie sheet about 1-inch apart. Bake for 15-20 minutes. Store in an airtight container and keep in the refrigerator

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Pippy](#)



[Zeus](#)

See all of our adoptable [Cats](#), [Dogs](#) and [Kittens](#)!

SPECIAL EVENT

2010 Dog Walkathon

Come join KAR at the Kalamazoo Humane Society's Annual Dog Walkathon! Kalamazoo Animal Rescue will have adoptable dogs on display as well as KAR bandanas, leashes and other merchandise to offer in exchange for donations.

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Prairie View Park in Vicksburg
([click here](#) for a map)

Website: www.kazoohumane.org

The 26th annual event is full of fun activities for dogs and their human companions, including:

- Milt Wilcox's Ultimate Air Dog Challenge
- Flying Aces Professional Frisbee Flying Disc Team
- Classic K-9 Show
- Bill Camps Famous Flying Frisbee Dogs

The main purpose of the walkathon is to raise money for the Kalamazoo Humane Society's animal welfare programs. So if you are up for a walk, the route is approximately two miles long and KHS volunteers will be posted along the way to help you and your pet.

There are plenty of other activities to enjoy with your dog, such as the doggie obstacle course and pet photography. Be sure to visit the many unique demonstrations and information booths, partake in contests, visit the children's area, and much, much more. It's guaranteed to be a dog gone good time!

To learn more about the event or to register for the 2010 Dog Walk, visit the KHS web site or call the Humane Society at 269.345.1181.



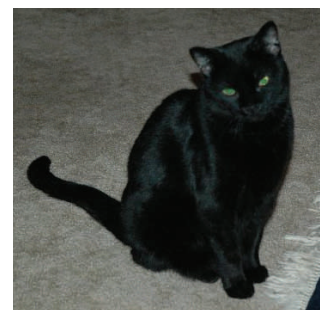
BEHIND THE SCENES

Animal Spotlight ~ Licorice

You know the old saying, patience is a virtue. Well, no one knows this better than Licorice. She was one of nine black kittens born in 2001. Since this time Licorice has been living in a Kalamazoo Animal Rescue foster home and has never known a home of her own. At one time, she was briefly adopted but then returned because her shyness caused her to hide under a bed for two days.

Licorice has always been on the shy side. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that she is picked on by other cats. Any cat placed with her has bullied her, even kittens. Her extreme shyness makes her an easy target.

Still, Licorice manages to make the best of things while she waits for the right person to come along. She enjoys watching TV. Animal Planet is her favorite channel though



KAR LINKS

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- Become a [FOSTER FAMILY](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- KAR [Website](#)



Make a [DONATION!](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES (continued)

she has been known to watch cartoons too. Licorice enjoys carrying puffy ball toys around in her mouth while meowing the entire time. That is quite a skill! She is also a very good exterminator. Any fly or spider on the wall had better watch out!

She is very much a creature of habit and her shyness makes her slow to trust. Making sudden movements or talking in a loud voice will scare her. Once she is held, however, Licorice loves to be talked to and have her chin rubbed. For this reason, she would do best in a quiet home with someone who is willing to be as patient with Licorice as she has been waiting for a forever home.

If you would like to make a difference for a hard-to-place kitty, and then watch this shy girl blossom in your home, please [click here](#) to read her biography. You may also fill out an application to arrange to meet Licorice today.

DOGGIE DEN*Hip Dysplasia: treatment Options for Large Dogs*

By Jennifer Stone, University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine

Hip dysplasia: You've probably heard the term, but what does it mean?

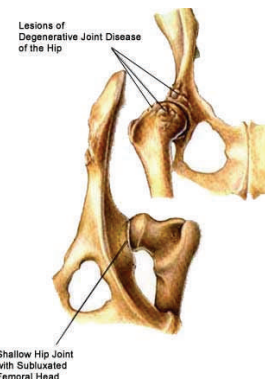
Hip dysplasia is a progressive degenerative condition of the pelvic joint that can lead to severe lameness and pain in large breed dogs. It can be very debilitating, but with the help of several ingenious surgical techniques, the function of the leg can be restored—sometimes almost to normal capacity.

Hip dysplasia occurs when the head of the femur (the upper bone in the hind leg) does not fit into the socket, or acetabulum, of the joint properly. Patients that develop this condition are often first seen for the problem when they are fairly young.

Dr. Dianne Dunning, a veterinary orthopedic surgeon formerly with the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says, "Severe pain can result in a young dog when the head of the femur pulls away from the joint and rides on the rim of the acetabulum during movement (called subluxation). It can put stress on the joint and tear the joint capsule. The pain often goes away on its own as the joint stabilizes, but problems with the conformation or shape of the joint can remain, causing problems later in life."

The changes seen in older animals with hip dysplasia are caused by osteoarthritis (also called degenerative joint disease) and are the result of degeneration of cartilage accompanied by bone formation and fibrosis around the joint. Both the acetabulum and the head of the femur to change in shape until they no longer form a stable joint, causing lameness and pain.

If the problem is noticed early enough (when the head of the femur and the acetabulum are still mostly intact), then hip dysplasia can sometimes be corrected by a procedure called a triple pelvic osteotomy, in which the pelvis is actually cut into three pieces and repositioned so that the head of the femur fits more snugly into the acetabulum. This procedure is usually best for animals that are young and have not developed too many degenerative changes in the joint. It requires that the animal have 6 to 8 weeks of rest after surgery to ensure that the bones of the pelvis heal correctly.



DOGGIE DEN (continued)

For dogs with extensive degeneration of the joint, there is a treatment called a femoral head and neck osteotomy, which involves the surgical removal of the head and neck of the femur. Dr. Dunning says, "Many pets can do very well without the pelvic joint because the muscles of the hind leg can compensate to form a 'muscular joint' just like the one found naturally in the forelimb of domestic animals. Chances are that animals receiving this treatment will never be great athletes, but they can be perfectly functional family pets."

Getting the dog up and moving around is the best post-operative care for this kind of surgery. Physical therapy is key to rehabilitating the leg. There are no fractures that require healing, and the sooner the dog begins to develop strength in the muscles of the hind leg, the better.

For those people who want their dog to return to pain-free, mechanically sound, normal hip function, there is a more complex treatment option available called total hip replacement. Dr. Dunning says, "This treatment allows animals to be more comfortable and return to an active life-style and in some cases perform at an optimal athletic capacity."

Your dog may be a candidate for a total hip replacement if he or she has hip dysplasia, is fully mature and in good health, and weighs more than 30 pounds. A thorough pre-operative examination is required to rule out other orthopedic and general health concerns prior to surgery.

In this procedure the head and medullary cavity of the femur is removed and an implant made of cobalt chrome stainless steel is put in its place. The acetabulum is replaced by a high-polymer plastic cup. Together they form a new joint that can function almost as well as a natural joint. Post-operative care is fairly extensive, requiring at least 6 to 8 weeks of cage rest. However, most dogs walk on their new hip immediately after surgery.

Post-surgical infection is a major concern with this procedure. Dr. Dunning says, "We screen potential candidates for this surgery thoroughly to make sure that they are in good condition because any pre-existing infection could jeopardize the success of the implant." In addition, precautions must be taken to ensure that infection does not spread to the new joint after the procedure. This means that prophylactic antibiotics should be administered to the dog when other surgical or dental procedures are done, and its overall health should be monitored closely.

If you think that your dog could be suffering from hip dysplasia, or you would like more information about any of these procedures, contact your local veterinarian or call the Small Animal Clinic at the University of Illinois at (217.333.5300).

Article reprinted with permission of Jennifer Stone and the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine at <http://vetmed.illinois.edu/>.

CAT'S CORNER

Buttercup Happy Tail

By Megan Lipp

In December, Mary Ann adopted Buttercup, now known as Annie. Feeling overwhelmed with the decision, Mary Ann decided it was best if she allowed the cat to choose her instead of the other way around. Unfortunately only a month before her dear pet cat Daisy, died rather suddenly. She explained that the "sadness I experi-

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[Questions or
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newsletter?

CAT'S CORNER (continued)

enced was indescribable." Mary Ann and her family gave Daisy a loving home for 12 long years and they had already adopted a friend for her from KAR, a cat named Gracie.

Now that Gracie was alone and to lessen their loss, they began their search for a new bundle of joy. In particular they were looking for a cat that was not as she describes a "beauty queen." In other words, one that could be overlooked by someone searching based on looks alone. The family came to KAR because they knew that they would be matched with the best cat for their home. Dawn, Sue and Joan all helped to make this perfect match.



Here is a message from Annie, in her own words:

"I am so very happy in my new home. I get the best the hugs, I get to play in the bathtub, drink out of the bathroom faucet, and best of all, I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SCREENED PORCH. I like to play in it and I will soon have my own chair and pillow to nap on out on the porch when the weather gets warmer. I like to watch deer, rabbits, birds, turkeys and so much more activity from the porch. I am one lucky kitty. I chose the perfect home for me."

It goes to show that sometimes the best animals we get are not the ones that we pick, but rather the ones that pick us. Annie is a great addition to Mary Anne's family. She easily adjusts to anything in life, whether it is a car ride, learning new things, or going to a slumber party. She seems to take life as it comes and is enjoying her new chance at life with a new family.

KAR WISH LIST ~ APRIL

If you can help or know someone who might like to help, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is need of the following items:

- Dog treats
- Dog toys (new or gently used)
- Purina One dry dog food
- Gently used dog crates, any size
- 36-inch long, wire dog crates (\$75 new)
- 42-inch long, wire dog crates (\$90 new)



If you are interested in donating a *wish list* item, please bring it to one of our [adoption events](#). KAR also welcomes monetary donations that will allow us to purchase these items.

About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through private donations.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Southwest Michigan.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent homes.