

## Small Pet Care Lynn Fry-Collins, DVM

Rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, guinea pigs, and ferrets are often called "pocket pets" because they are small, cute, and inexpensive. These small animals have specific diet, housing, and handling requirements, and they need care and attention just as a dog or cat. And, if they are well cared for, health problems can be avoided and they can be great fun.

The pet's cage should be large enough for it to move freely and exercise, and be able to reach food and water easily. The cages should also have a solid bottom: wire mesh floors can put an uncomfortable and dangerous amount of pressure on animals' feet. Wood should be avoided as cage material because it is hard to disinfect and easy to chew. Remember, pocket pets love to gnaw, and they can easily destroy or escape from a poorly constructed home. Your pocket pet needs soft bedding as well, to curl up in and nest. There is a large variety of bedding types available, so research what might be best for your pet. Regardless of the type of litter, it needs to be changed at least once a week. Ferrets and rabbits may be trained to use a litter box.

You can enrich your pet's environment and keep him comfortable and active with a number of accessories. A "hide box"--a small box, tube, or other enclosed area where your pet can conceal himself--will make him feel safe and comfortable. Plastic tunnels, wheels, hollow rolling balls with latching lids, and other toys are available that can let your pet exercise.

Fresh, high-quality commercial pellets or feed blocks, designed for each species of pocket pet, provide the most complete nutrition. They are widely available at pet stores and some grocery or drug stores. Seed mixes and treats are like pocket pet junk food; they are high in fat and usually low in fiber. You should buy pellets specifically formulated

for the species of pocket pet that you own. Guinea pigs, for example, are the only species in this group that, like humans, lack the enzyme that produces vitamin C. So, like people, guinea pigs need to get vitamin C from fresh fruits and vegetables in their diet. All pocket pets need clean, fresh water 24 hours a day. Most do best with sipper bottles attached to the side of the cage.

As cute as they are, and as much as you want to cuddle them, you should use some care when you handle your pocket pets. They should be approached slowly and never startled, as they can nip when frightened. If your pet is asleep, wake him gently and let him orient himself for a few seconds before you pick him up. Mice, hamsters, and gerbils should be held in the palms of your cupped hands. Guinea pigs, rats, and ferrets should be lifted up with one hand wrapped around the shoulders and one hand supporting the back of the body.

Pocket pets are often considered good starter pets for kids, but inexperienced children can mishandle or be too rough with these delicate animals. Supervise children until they gain experience caring for their new pet, as frightened animals can bite or scratch. Also, encourage children to sit on the floor with pets while they're holding them, to avoid any dropped or fallen animals.

When you have decided on a pocket pet, take it to your veterinarian for an exam and consultation. During the visit, not only will the veterinarian examine your pet, but now is the time to find out what your specific species of pocket pet requires for housing, food and general care. With proper care you'll have bright eyes and a twitching nose to keep you company for a long time to come.

Source of some information: Healthypet.com

## Hit or Miss: Training through Puppyhood and Beyond Jill Morstad, CHS Puppy Kindergarten Teacher



I come to our training project having trained and titled my own dogs in competition, and I have worked with obedience clubs and classes, taught at the shelter, and trained in a veterinarian's office for several years. Across this range of experiences, training approaches have had to change to keep up with the number of dogs hit by cars, dogs biting children, dogs falling through swimming-pool covers, dogs attacked by other dogs off-leash, dogs injured trying to climb over fencing to get out of the yard, and a few dogs who jump out of the car window or out of the back of open pick-up truck. It is important that your dog be trained, and that the method be something you feel comfortable with. But whether you train for competition or not, train for off-leash control, because dogs spend much of their life off-leash in and around the home.

Here's why I think obedience is at the center of all of the ways we live and play with our dogs:

- We can't have off-leash dogs in Lincoln city parks.
- With respect to other public facilities, dogs are rarely welcome either on or off-leash.
- The shelter is filled with runners, escape-artists and untrained, or UNDER-trained dogs.
- Rescues are filled with out-of-control dogs.
- Dogs are attacked by other dogs.
- Dogs get out of yards and chase or attack kids and pedestrians while the owners run behind yelling and calling and generally looking foolish.

To avoid these problems, I encourage all the puppy kindergarten handlers to keep up with training as their pup moves into adolescence. Adolescence hits dogs somewhere between 6 months and 9 months depending on the breed and the individual dog. The behavioral high points of adolescence can be an increase in independence, assertiveness, self-confidence and heightened sexual interest. Adolescence

also brings with it some maturity of thought and ability to concentrate (when they want to) for longer periods.

Trainer Brian Kilcommons has noted that the biggest challenge for most dog owners is mentally moving from "Oh, he is just a puppy" to "Thou shalt listen and obey." This does not mean that you become nasty or disagreeable -- it means you become consistent and insistent. Use your commands with your dog. Link the response to you with all things wonderful in his life. "Sit" brings a ball tossed, a door opened, a dinner bowl put down or an invitation to hop on the couch. This builds obedience as a habit, exercises his mental machine and helps him to see you are relevant in his world.

If you do not direct his behavior, he will likely set about directing yours. Some dogs do this subtly. Is it happening in your house? Answer these questions: Who decides when to feed, walk, play with and pet your dog? If the answer is your dog then you need to get busy!

Why is developing mental control critical now? Because with maturity can come aggression. Many dogs test the waters, so to speak, at 9-11 months, with the next round at 16-18 months. Mental control needs to be established and maintained in a calm, friendly but non-negotiable way during this time period. Behavior problems are so much easier to prevent than correct.

Follow these few simple rules: continue training your dog, direct the dog's behavior, spay/neuter if you haven't done so already, change to adult food and increase the young dog's exercise. While problems are easier to prevent than correct, new behavior problems are also easier to turn around than well-established patterns. If you spend your dog's first full year teaching obedience and discipline in formal training classes, you'll lay a foundation for a happy and successful communication that ought to sustain you over the course of the dog's life.

# CAPITAL HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER SHARING

SPRING 2011

*Mission: To fulfill the promise of animals, the Capital Humane Society shelters animals, protects animals and teaches compassion and respect.*

Capital Humane Society  
2320 Park Boulevard  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.441.4488  
www.capitalhumanesociety.org

## Articles

Tails 'n Trails Pet Walk

Staff Profile

Volunteer Spotlight

Helping Hands

Small Pet Care

Hit or Miss: Training through  
Puppyhood and Beyond

Furry Friends Wish List

## Upcoming Events

**Pet Walk**  
May 15, 2011  
Haymarket Park

**Puppy Kindergarten**  
Call for schedule

**Fist Aid Classes For  
Dogs and Cats**  
Call for schedule

## Tails 'n Trails Pet Walk

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 15, 2011 as the Tails 'n Trails Pet Walk & Festival moves to the Spring! Join us at Haymarket Park for a leisurely walk with your 'best friend' after visiting with vendors, and watching demonstrations on the amazing things dogs can do.



The day will also include a food court, doggie created art, local personalities, and contests. Come prepared to participate in the following contests:

- Best Costume
- Best Pet Trick
- Biggest Shedder
- Largest Dog
- Smallest Dog
- Pet/Human look-alike

Registration and check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. The CHS Alumni Trot will begin at 12:00 Noon, followed by the Endurance Trot and Stop & Smell the Hydrant Trot. Prizes and the raffle drawing will follow the walk.

**Register today by completing and returning the form found on page 2.**

## Raising Cane's

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers owner, Justin Jones presents a check from the proceeds of the sale of holiday Plush Puppies and Combo Meal sales to Bob Downey. Plush Puppies were sold at Raising Cane's locations throughout the United States during the holiday season with proceeds helping local shelters to care for lost and unwanted pets.

Raising Cane's has also been donating \$1 to the Capital Humane Society for each Combo Meal purchased. This benefit will continue through March 31, 2011. Coupons for this special deal can be found and printed from the shelter website at [www.capitalhumanesociety.org](http://www.capitalhumanesociety.org) or the shelter's Facebook site.



## Furry Friends Wish List

- Bleach
- Shoe Boxes
- Aluminum Cans
- Collars & Leashes
- Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- Rubber Gloves
- Cat & Dog Treats
- Dish Soap
- Washable Cat Toys
- Hard Rubber Chew Toys
- Paper Towels
- High Efficiency (HE) Laundry Detergent
- Wooden Chewing Blocks
- Blankets/Towels
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Aspen Bedding for Small Animals
- Purina Kitten Chow
- Little Critter Food
- Shirt Boxes
- 9 volt Batteries
- Cotton Balls
- Dryer Sheets
- Zip Lock Sandwich bags
- Purina Dog Food
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Purina Cat Chow
- Glass Cleaner
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Carpet Samples



### Board Officers

Jon Gross, President  
Becky Veak, Vice President  
Nancy Mitchell, Secretary  
Ryan Sailer, Treasurer  
Sherri Wimes, Member-at-Large

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Barb Bettin  
Robert Dean  
Nancy Fuchs  
Bob LeZotte  
Jeanelle Lust  
Roger Moody  
Seanna Sumalee Oakley  
April Rimpley  
Ann Ringlein  
Darcie Ross  
Kelli Stanley Smith  
Scott Vyskocil

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Executive Director

Pat Williams  
Director of Operations

Donna Bode  
Director of Development  
and Fundraising

Alisa Eichorn  
Director of Education/Volunteers

Lindsay Wallasky  
Administrative Assistant

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Lisa Clover  
April Cruse  
Lynette Hansen  
Parker Harbaugh  
Erica Harker  
Marty Heidbrink  
Jamie Jacobsen  
Matt Madcharo  
Chrissy Mattox  
Carolyn Nash  
Jessica Novak  
Lindsey Pratt  
Bethani Salizar  
Lisa Saltz  
Kimmy Sanderman  
Vicki Sundquist  
Randy Yager

## Wine, Felines and Canines

Post 355 Denton Legion and the women's Auxiliary held Wine, Felines and Canines on February 19th at the Denton Legion Club. Steve Blazek, proprietor of Bin 105 described 6 wines, giving the characteristics of each wine along with the region where the wine was produced. After tasting, attendees could purchase their favorite glass of wine while bidding on silent auction items and visiting special guests from the shelter. Proceeds totaling \$500 were donated to the shelter.

## Tails 'n Trails Pet Walk Sunday, May 15, 2011 • Haymarket Park

Registration and check-in begins at 11:00 am  
Vendors, demonstrations & events

### Join in the Fun and Events of the Day:

Grilled hotdogs/drink/ice cream cones  
"Doggie DaVinci's" - let your dog create a painting  
Teach your dog "2-minute Pet Tricks"  
Vendors, Demonstrations & Games  
including Hotdog bobbing, puppie pools, face painting  
Poop bag raffle & more for you and your pet!

Costume Contest, Big Dog/Little Dog Contest, Dog Trick Contest  
Biggest Shedder, Pet/Human look-alike Contest

**Raffle Drawing & Prize Winners announced**  
Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Individual/Team

Please fill out and return to the Capital Humane Society at 2320 Park Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My pet is a Capital Humane Society Alumnus (he/she was adopted from CHS)

T-shirt size (circle one): Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large  
Additional t-shirts are available for \$15.00 each.

I do not wish to receive a t-shirt. Please use this to help the animals.

My check for \$25 is enclosed. (single)

My check for \$35 is enclosed. (Family)

My check for \$100 check is enclosed. (Multi-Family)

My check for \$100 is enclosed. (Team)

Liability Waiver: I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Capital Humane Society, its employees, directors, representatives, independent contractors, volunteers (including the Tails n Trails Pet Walk Committee), the Saldogs/Haymarket Park (including but not limited to its affiliates, employees, and independent contractors) and any other individual or group associated with the Capital Humane Society's Tails n Trails Pet Walk for liability for any injury or damage to (or caused by) me, my pet(s) or guest. I intend this waiver and indemnification to be legally binding on myself, my pet(s), my heirs and administrators, personal representatives, assigns or any party holding a durable power of attorney for me.

## Staff Profile - Erica Harker



Erica Harker and Roxie

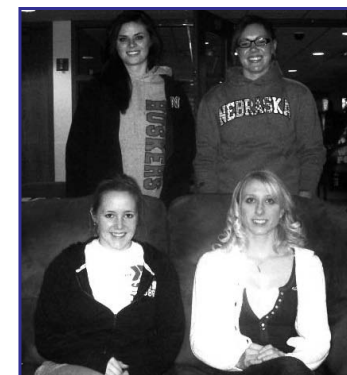
Erica Harker had always wanted to work at the shelter, but the opportunity for her to work as an office clerk didn't occur until October 1, 2009. Erica enjoys working with the public and feels it is very important to educate the community about animal related care as well as the services provided by the Capital Humane Society.

Erica feels a bond with the shelter staff as they are like-minded in being advocates for animals and pet owners. Having grown up with pets, Erica understands the emotions of owners when

they lose a family pet, find a pet or adopt a new pet. Erica also likes to help dogs feel more comfortable when they are at the shelter. Socializing and spending time with them in the office is a win-win for both the animal and staff.

Erica's hobbies include reading, making jewelry, needlepoint and crocheting, photography and dance. Erica's calico cat, Tangles, lives with her mother due to allergies. Erica doesn't let that stop her from spending time with Tangles and Roxie, a black Pomeranian mix, adopted from the shelter several years ago.

## Volunteer Spotlight - UNL Vet College Partnership a Win-Win



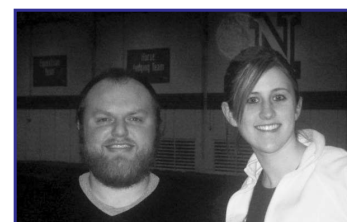
UNL students Maddy and Cayla (top), Kate and Amanda (bottom)

Several UNL vet and pre-vet students have been getting some hands on experience at the shelter pitching in with our vet staff. Maddy Larson, Cayla Iske, Kate Johnson, Amanda Thaler, Charles Hubenka and KathiLee Harrell have been volunteering their time since last fall. They have helped the vet staff with spaying and neutering, exams, vaccinations, Feline-ality assessments and general cleaning.

Charles says "The best part of volunteering is that I know I'm a member of the group of people helping animals. CHS is doing important work and has reinforced my goal to pursue veterinary medicine."

KathiLee says that she's overwhelmed with joy when a pet is adopted from us. She says "These special souls have gotten their glorious moment, they have their second chance."

These students have been very dedicated to helping our animals while trying to juggle their studying, jobs and college life. A special thanks to the UNL Animal Science College for their support.



UNL students Charles and KathiLee

## Capital Humane Society Out & About

### Critter Corner

Time Warner Cable, Ch 13  
Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
Thursday, 5:30 pm  
Saturday, 4:00 pm  
Sunday, 7:30 pm

### Lincoln Journal Star

Pet of the Week - Friday

### Neighborhood Extra

1st Saturday of the month

### KOLN-TV 10/11

Thursday, 12:15 pm

### KLKN-TV 8

Every Wednesday, 11:50 am

### KZUM 89.3 AM

Saturday, 10:15 am

### KLIN 1400 AM

Thursday, 6:45 am

### KFOR 1240 AM

Tuesday, 6:50 am

Thursday, 8:45 am

### KFRX 106.3

Thursday, 9:00 am

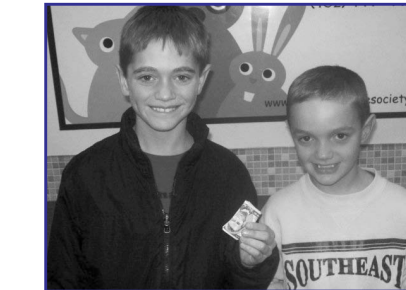
www.FROGGY981.com

Click on Pics/Videos to  
find Frogs for Dogs



Web Site  
www.capitalhumanesociety.org

## Helping Hands



Corey & Kyle donate Christmas money.

**COREY & KYLE KRUGER** chose to donate their Christmas money to the shelter animals. This gift helped in the purchase of animal food and supplies.



Ryan Witkowski

**RYAN WITKOWSKI AND AUSTIN COYLE** each made scratching posts for cats to earn their Eagle Scout Badge. Ryan made scratching posts with carpet scraps and Austin with rope. The scratching posts were then sold, with proceeds to help the shelter animals.



Austin Coyle



Sarah DeBoer shows the shelter with gifts from her half-birthday party.

**SARAH DEBOER** celebrated her half birthday with a swim party for her friends. She also asked her friends to bring a gift for the shelter animals. Sarah and friends donated dog & cat food, leashes, treats and toys along with \$52.00. Thanks Sarah and Happy Half-Birthday!

Congratulations to **TAURA HORN AND JOE CROCKETT** who were married on December 18, 2010. Taura and Joe asked guests to make to donation to the couples favorite charities rather than buy a wedding gift. Thanks to their request, \$650.00 was donated to the Capital Humane Society.



Joe, Brodie and Taura present their wedding gift to the shelter.

**MRS. VANNOY AND HER 3RD GRADE CLASS** from Messiah Lutheran collected shoeboxes, cat litter, detergent, bird perches, cat food, treats and other items from the shelter wish list. Thanks 3rd Graders for your kindness to the animals.



Steve and his oldest dog, Coco brought gifts for the shelter dogs.

**COCO, NIKKIE & G'FA DESCHANE**, along with their owner Steve have been bringing presents for the shelter dogs for the past 14 years. This year the Deschane trio brought dog treats and blankets.

**PRESENTS 4 PETS** is a nationwide collection drive held annually to benefit shelter and rescue pets. In 2010, National Association of Professional Pet Sitters members raised nearly \$64,000 in cash and supplies during the Presents 4 Pets campaign. Proceeds were donated to local animal and rescue shelters. Thanks to our local sponsor A Pause for Paws, many donations collected will be put to good use in caring for the CHS animals.



Jessy Faiferlick delivers donated items from the Presents for Pets drive.

Thanks to the clients and day campers at **CAMP BOW WOW**, the shelter dogs are enjoying food, toys and treats along with other items from the shelter wish list. Thanks also Tom and Camp Bow Wow staff for sponsoring the Angel Tree Dog drive.



Tom, Karey and Matt deliver donated items from Camp Bow Wow day campers.

