

DAWG Tales



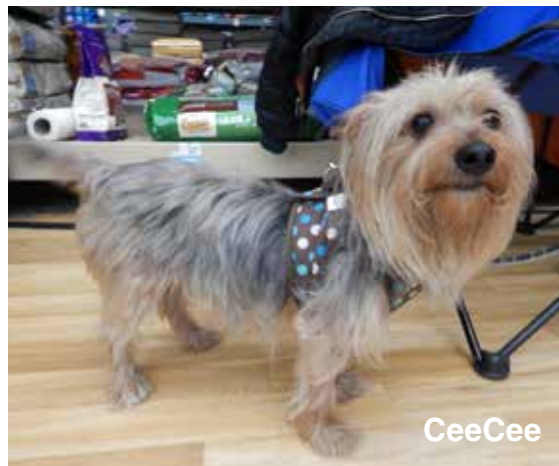
Best Dawg Rescue Newsletter

www.dawg-rescue.org • Fall 2016

Dear Friends,

We just celebrated our 13th birthday! We thank you for giving health and a new lives to 1,200 dogs and some cats too.

DAWG is a mixed-breed rescue, but full-breed and “designer” dogs end up at the shelter too, often with complex medical needs. And so we welcomed Luther, an unneutered Doberman with heartworms, and Ceecee, a Yorkie with rotted teeth.



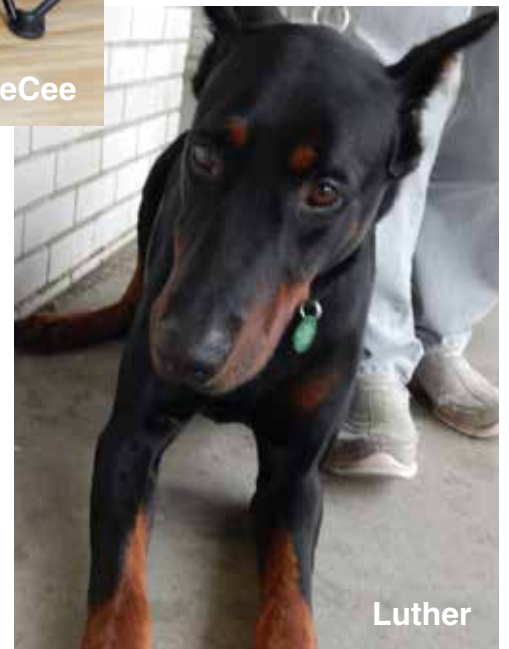
CeeCee



Jessie

I'm mentioning these dogs because they are good examples of “where the money goes” (and why so much of it!). In Luther's case, his medical care totaled about \$3,600, and CeeCee's a little over \$1,000. Worth it? Definitely!

And then there is our mixed collie puppy named Beans. Beans was found abandoned in a vacant home's yard. We knew he had major physical problems regarding his back legs, and one of his eyes looked infected. Our veterinarian diagnosed severe luxating patellas and an entropion eye. We consulted with an orthope-



Luther

dic surgeon about Beans' legs first. Both surgeries, discounted, will cost a total of \$6,000. Beans will also need physical therapy, an unknown expense at this time. Beans should walk like a normal dog by Thanksgiving. Why spend so much on him rather than help/save

more lives? Because we respect Beans' life and know you do too. He has no one to help him but us!

We thank all of you who give so generously, and hope other readers—especially adopters who have never donated—will send a contribution this year in honor of their Dawg dog. **Our annual appeal will follow this newsletter. Please respond as generously as possible to it!**

Joan Marshall
Sincerely,
Joan Marshall
President



Don't let your vet vaccinate blindly.

Test
titers.



<http://www.dogs4dogs.com/blog/2015/01/26/convincing-vets-to-titer-test/>

Someone (I'll call her Ann) wrote me last week asking: Is there any recent info I can pass along to my Vet—he says titers are not reliable and he will not do them.

Yikes. He-will-not-do-them? **Titer testing—a simple blood draw to test immunity to a**

disease—is an absolutely safe procedure. You can test titers (antibody) levels to determine if an animal (or human) already has immunity to particular diseases and doesn't need "boosters." The most commonly tested titers are for parvovirus and distemper, the two most important diseases, and also rabies in certain instances. Don't waste your money on anything else.

Although most enlightened vet-

erinarians will happily test titers, too many, like Ann's vet, refuse to test or will belittle results. Others avoid confrontation by charging astronomical rates.

But isn't vaccinating cheaper than testing?

The answer is, not really. Titer testing need not be done every year, nor even every three years. Many experts do it once, to make sure that puppy vaccinations "took," then never again. Contrast that with giving vaccines again and again. More importantly, you won't have to pay anything to treat an adverse reaction which could cost hundreds or thousands of dollars, or even more.

Many veterinary clinics now offer quick, inexpensive in-house titer tests. Dr. Day is in favor of in-clinic testing as is Ron Schultz, PhD. (Dr. Shultz is the world-renowned scientist on whose research the American Veterinary Medical Association

COMMON REACTIONS TO VACCINATIONS

LETHARGY
HAIR LOSS, HAIR COLOR CHANGE AT INJECTION SITE
FEVER
SORENESS
STIFFNESS
REFUSAL TO EAT
CONJUNCTIVITIS
SNEEZING
ORAL ULCERS

MODERATE REACTIONS

IMMUNOSUPPRESSION
BEHAVIORAL CHANGES
VITILIGO
WEIGHT LOSS (CACHEXIA)
REDUCED MILK PRODUCTION
LAMENESS
GRANULOMAS/ABSCESSSES
HIVES
FACIAL EDEMA
ATOPY
RESPIRATORY DISEASE
ALLERGIC UVEITIS (BLUE EYE)

recommendations, the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccination Guidelines and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Guidelines are based.)

Isn't forgoing shots dangerous?

Some veterinarians don't understand that testing is safer than vaccinating. World-renowned vaccine and hematology expert W. Jean Dodds, DVM, has written: "There is no downside to titering your pet. However, be aware that some veterinarians may be resistant to performing titer tests in lieu of vaccination. These veterinarians are misinformed and incorrectly believe that measuring an animal's serum antibody titers is not a valid method of determining his immunity to infectious diseases, or that this testing is too costly. With all due respect to these professionals, this represents a misunderstanding of what has been called the "fallacy of titer testing," because research has shown that once an animal's titer stabilizes, it is likely to remain constant for many years."

How to convince your vet to start testing titers

It's often easier to find someone who already believes as you do than it is to attempt to change a mind cast in concrete. This is especially true when dealing with a vet, like Ann's, who has a vested interest in continuing to give injections, or who denies that vaccines can cause bad reactions. Such a vet is probably behind the times, or lacking in education, in other ways as well.

I wrote an article called Titer Testing: A Crash Course (<http://truth4pets.org/2012/06/titer-testing/>) for a lay audience. (If you'd like to know more about when, how and how often to test, check it out.) I got the impression, however, that it might not seem scientific enough for Ann's purposes. Bummer.

So here are some suggestions.

If you suspect your vet doesn't understand testing or trust test results, have him/her read the roundtable discussion of noted experts, moderated by Dr. Shultz, talking about titer testing: <http://diagnostics.zoetis.com/>

If you are confrontation averse, try saying something like: "Bailey felt horrible after his last shots. Let's do the titer test today and I'll come back soon to discuss vaccinating. I just want to see the test results first."

If the vet still pressures you to vaccinate, try: "I know you don't believe in titer testing, and I appreciate your advice. I'll have someone else draw the blood and send it in. We can talk when I have the results." Smile politely.

Gently expose any hypocrisy. Vets are vaccinated against rabies in vet school. Thereafter, they have their own titers measured periodically to determine when they should revaccinate. Does your vet have his/her own titers tested? **If titer testing is good enough to protect your vet from a fatal disease, isn't it good enough to protect your dog?**

Send your vet this video by Ron Schultz, PhD. <http://truth4pets.org/2012/07/titer-test-drschultz/> On this same webpage, there's an excellent four-part video series in which Karen Becker, DVM, interviews Dr. Schultz.

Titers prove immunity for exporting pets abroad and to Hawaii. In addition, standards for parvovirus and distemper are widely accepted worldwide. If titer testing is good enough for scientists and researchers, why isn't it good enough for your vet?

Jan Rasmusen is the national award-winning author of Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care (winning Best Health Book and Best Pet Health Book).

Excerpt from What Every Vet (And Pet Owner) Should Know About Vaccines by Dana Scott, *Dogs Naturally Magazine*

Because vaccines can create very real health problems in dogs. It's important that vaccines are only given when necessary because every vaccine has the potential to kill the patient or create debilitating chronic diseases including cancer and allergies.

Dogs doing good... a day in the life of former DAWG dog, Reilly

a note from her adopter

At the nursing home today, we were given a list of names and room numbers of people who supposedly wanted a visit from the therapy dog. I heard a little voice from one of the rooms. "Did you say you have a dog?" So I replied, "Yes, a therapy dog, do you like dogs?" And he said, "Oh, please bring her over here." So we picked our way through the obstacle course of wheeled items and around the curtain and there was this skinny little old man, sitting sideways on the bed. The instant he laid eyes on Reilly, he burst into tears and fell backwards. I was alarmed, thinking he hit his head on the bed rail. But he stayed that way, lying sideways flat on the bed, feet dangling on one side and head dangling on

the other, and he just stared and stared at Reilly while he kept on crying. Then after a while he thanked me for letting him see her. I asked, "Would you like to pet her?" And he reached out like he was desperate to touch Reilly. I picked her up so he could reach better, and he just patted and stroked and bawled his heart out for several minutes. After a while, Reilly became kind of heavy and uncomfortable and then she got fidgety. He wanted her to snuggle with him, so I set her down on the mattress next to him, and that made him turn himself. Finally he got himself together and told me he just now decided he has to live. He has to get better so he can go home to see his own dog. He



said we made his day and he was so grateful. Of course I had to promise to visit him again next week, if he's still there.

Nice to be part of something positive. —Jeni

Excerpt from "What Is Your Dog Telling You?"

By Melissa Holbrook Pierson

The language of dogs is primarily visual, enacted with their bodies. They speak with the direction of their gaze, the tilt of their tails, the distance they keep and the arc of their movement. Canine language is rich for the same reason ours is: We are both social, cooperative species. Dogs are generally quite adept at telegraphing warnings, so it's our job to learn to read them better. So what are dogs trying to tell us?

It's all in the ears, tail and body.

The baseline posture of a relaxed

dog includes having ears up and tail down. In an alert, often transitional, posture, the tail is held straight behind, the ears go forward, and the entire carriage raises. A fearful or anxious dog tucks his tail, lowers his body and pulls back the corners of his mouth. If his hackles (the hairs along the back of his neck) are raised and his nose wrinkled, he is saying he just might bite if pressed further. Similarly, the dog whose tail is stiff and wagging slowly (not all wagging denotes pleasure), with ears forward and carriage following suit, may be

announcing imminent attack. If he freezes, pupils dilated and staring hard, he is to be taken at his word: Watch out.

They're sorry, in many different ways.

For the same reason that Eskimos purportedly have 50 different words for snow, dogs have a vast repertoire of gestures for appeasement and pro-pitiation. The Norwegian dog trainer Turid Rugaas has identified some 30 "calming signals"—movements offered to deflect trouble (which may also relieve stress in both giver and

receiver). Supremely subtle, sometimes so quick we don't notice them, these appeasing signals include a flick of the tongue; turning the head or gaze away; suddenly sniffing the ground or sitting; yawning; shaking off; or approaching on a curve.

Please skip the hugs.

For a dog, what comes naturally to us primates when we overflow with affection feels like a threat. The desire to hug is one of the hardest reflexes for us to overcome, but reaching across a dog's neck is an act of intimidation. He may tolerate it, but he doesn't like it. When strangers bend over dogs or reach out to pat their heads, or when children latch on to their necks—or stare into their eyes, another threatening

gesture—many dogs will react with a volley of appeasements. If these go unheeded, they may feel forced to defend themselves. This is often why small children get bites to their faces, conveniently presented at muzzle level. Viral Internet photos to the contrary, it is not cute when toddlers lie on top on dogs or pull their ears; it is a lit fuse.

That's not a guilty look.

The jury is still out on whether dogs experience guilt or shame, but chances are that “the look” popularly ascribed to a dog who has done something wrong is actually fear or anxiety prompted by the expectation of anger from the owner. The furrowed brow, half-moon eyes, slinky posture and lowered head of the canine

“wrongdoer” are not an apology; they are signs of stress or requests to desist.

They love you too. My dog, and probably yours, has a special way of greeting those she loves: I call it helicopter-tail. Other signs of happiness are unmistakable and easier to read by humans than many of dogs' other communications: a “rocking-horse” run, as vertical as it is forward; the greeting stretch (followed by “pretty please” front paws on your leg); the C-shaped body bend—the better to maneuver a butt for that all-pleasing scratch—and the smile. And, yes, dogs do smile. No translation needed.

—Ms. Pierson is the author, most recently, of *The Secret History of Kindness: Learning from How Dogs Learn* (W.W. Norton).

Honorary and Memorial Donations May 2015 through August 2016

HONORARY DONATIONS



Sophie and Ozzy,
from Mary and Barbara Rust
Miles and Harry, by Jennifer Crown
Ziva, by Susan Shapiro
Suzanne Arnold, by Elfriede Pace
Suzanne Arnold, by John and
Janice Sheehy
Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, by Amy
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Soslow
Dylan's birthday, by Jonathan and
Rebecca Kaltman, Alexandra
Walker, Seth Bleiweis, and
Elaine Rae Rahbar

Lola, who continues to amaze us,
by Ilene Pollack and Kip Lightner
Lola, on her 11th birthday,
by Ilene Pollack and Kip Lightner
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by Mary Mason
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and Sujeeta Bhatt
Zoey, by Eric Needy and
Sujeeta Bhatt
Carrie, by David and Marni Goldberg

Gus, by Dana Best
Missy and Rusty, by Irene Marsh
Demi, by Barbara Berschler
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Skylar, our one-eyed girl,
by Howard and Serena Weisman
Joan Marshall, by Mike Hall,
Pat Krenzke and Dusty
Joan Marshall, by Iris Rainone
and Gary Mummert
Joan Marshall and Mandy on
her 12th birthday, by Bruce
and Toni Immerman
Joan Marshall, who helped so
much in our adoption of Roxie,
by Lou Montgomery
Marcy Marx, by Andi Sacks
Happy Birthday to DAWG,
by Dorothy Filbert

Happy Birthday to Barbara
 Rohmann, from Steve Rohmann
 and Marcy Marx
 Marcia Brier, by Rick Paden
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 by Diana Watson
 Mads and Cole, by Donna Deane
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 Hammes
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 Cody, by Matthew Long and
 Scott Tkacz
 Breezy, by Ken and Elizabeth
 Lundeen
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 Campbell
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 Maggie, Jake, Sunny, Dusty,
 Digger, Isa, Boagie, Bella and
 Tucker, by DeAnna Dean and
 Rosalie Hull
 Kris, by Ron and Margaret Salisbury
 William Mercurio, by Anonymous
 Kathy Rodeffer, by Anonymous
 Thank you for Woodstock (a/k/a
 Pepsi). He's the best friend I've
 ever had, by Lyman Buck
 Ali and Diamond say THANK
 YOU, by Patricia Culpepper
 God Bless you as you continue
 your work w/precious animals,
 by Catherine Corbett
 In honor of the many volunteers
 working to save dogs,
 by Marilyn Bate
 In appreciation for all you do,
 by Ria Lurie

In honor of Best Dawg friends
 who gave us our family: George,
 Brenda, Travis, by Fernando
 Marra-Lopez and Pam Bilik
 In honor and memory of all
 DAWG dogs, by Kathy Ellis

**MEMORIAL
 DONATIONS**



Tucker Bosworth-Yeager,
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 of you who loved him, by Susan
 and Steve Reed
 Leah, our beautiful princess,
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 and Greg Bradsher
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 Maggie, Scooter and Sparky,
 by R. David
 Midnight, by Bridget Crowley
 George, a stubborn, vocal, comedic,
 cuddly member of our family,
 by Fernando Marra-Lopez
 and Pam Bilik
 Molly, by April O'Neill



In special memory of Suzanne Mattingly

A big-hearted, ceaselessly valiant rescue heroine, whose life ended too soon.
We miss you terribly, Suzanne. Memorial gifts by Gloria Cottman,
Joan Marshall and your friends in Best Dawg Rescue

Unlike most days at Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All of the recent arrivals had no idea what to think, as they had never experienced a day like this before.

It wasn't long before an elderly animal came into view, head hung low and tail dragging. As he walked toward The Bridge, he watched all of the other animals watching him. He knew he was out of place here. Alas, as he approached The Bridge, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who apologized, but told him that he would not be able to pass. The elderly animal turned towards the fields before The Bridge and saw a group of other animals like himself, also elderly and infirm. They weren't playing, but rather simply lying on the green grass, staring out at the pathway leading to The Bridge. And so, he took his place among them, watching the pathway and waiting.

One of the newest arrivals at The Bridge didn't understand and asked one of the animals that had been there for a while to explain it to him. "You see, that poor animal entered rescue just as you see him now, with his fur graying and his eyes clouding. He never made it out of rescue, and passed on with only the love of his rescuer to comfort him. Because he had no family to give his love to, he

has no one to escort him across The Bridge."

The first animal thought about this for a minute and then asked, "So what will happen now?" As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the gloom lifted. Approaching The Bridge could be seen a single person. The older animals were suddenly bathed in a golden light and were all young and healthy again.

"Watch, and see," said the second animal. A second group of animals from those waiting came to the pathway and bowed low as the person neared. At each bowed his or her head, the person offered a pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. The newly restored animals fell into line and followed her towards The Bridge. They all crossed The Bridge together.

"What happened?"

"That was a rescuer. The animals you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of her work. They will cross when their new families arrive. Those you saw restored were those who never found homes. When a rescuer arrives, they are allowed to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort the animals they couldn't place with families on earth, across The Rainbow Bridge."

"I think I like rescuers", said the first animal.

"So does GOD", was the reply.



Our trainer, Al Marx—

(greatdogs@obedienceworks.com) donates his time to work with Dawg dogs at weekly adoption shows. YOUR donations will help us to save dogs like Boz (left) and Gretchen.

Please donate through Network For Good (credit card), or mail to PO Box 34213, Bethesda, MD 20827. —Thank you!

Our grateful thanks to . . . Beltsville PETCO and Laurel PetSmart for sponsoring our weekly adoption shows; and College Park Animal Hospital and Countryside Kennels, for extraordinary care and services at reduced rates that help DAWG dogs get well and live well until adopted. We also thank the Outer Office in Fulton, MD for printing our newsletter, and BBI Web Management for managing our website. Special thanks to our recommended trainer Al Marx (301-922-3391 or greatdogs@obedienceworks.com).

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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to rescuing and adopting overlooked and medically needy animals in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

Editor: Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler

Designer: Karen Eskew

Best Dawg Rescue, Inc.

PO Box 34213,
Bethesda, MD 20827
301-407-BEST
www.dawg-rescue.org

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Best Dawg Rescue, Inc.

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Check out our adoptable dogs and DAWG Tales in color at www.dawg-rescue.org

Dogs need help 365 days of the year! Please give and volunteer throughout the year.