



Tibby's Tidbits

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Who's dog is this? *Helping Fido find his way Home*

Lately here at the clinic, we have been receiving many phone calls and flyers about lost pets. We sympathize with these families who are searching frantically for their best friend and always try to do what we can to help. Keep in mind that it is always best to have



pets in a fenced area, because pets who are left to run loose can often wander and become lost.

However we must remember that even with the best of owners, the unthinkable can happen. A delivery person or young child can leave a gate or door open and a leash or collar can break or slip off. When we lose our beloved friend, we as pet owners usually know what to do and are familiar with the resources that can be utilized. So what about the person who finds the dog or cat? They may or may not know what to do.

Taking the proper steps when you find a stray pet is critical to reuniting the pet with his or her family. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing an animal reunited with his or her family. Here are some things to keep in mind:

-Don't assume the animal has been abandoned. A pet that has been missing for an extended period of time would probably appear malnourished and be skittish.

-Flyers and local papers are great resources, but using these avenues solely limits the pet's exposure. We have all heard the stories about the dog who turns up 6 months later and 200 miles away. There are many great online resources such as petfinder.com, craigslist.com and lost-pet.com. These sites are accessible to anyone from any location.

-Contact the local Humane Society and area Veterinarians. Humane Society shelters often have lost/found pet listings on their website. Also, many owners who are looking for a pet will call around to local Vets and leave their contact information.

-The pet may have a microchip for identification. Most Vet offices and shelters have scanners to check for a microchip.

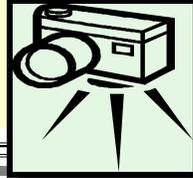
-While you are fostering the pet, keep him/her fenced and leashed. If the pet becomes missing again, any progress that has been made is lost.

-Finally if you decide that you have to turn the found pet over to someone else to care for, make sure to check the shelter's policies. Some facilities may euthanize stray pets in as little as 72 hours. Sadly, this does not allow much time for the pet to be found by his/her family.

Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.

Albert Einstein

Purrrfect Pets . . .



Duke and Daisy



Lily



Bleue in the Snow



*Send us
your Pets
Purrrfect
Picture!*

The Purrrfect Picture Section will be included in every Newsletter. If you would like your pet's picture to be included, just send it to:

animals_naturally
@yahoo.com



Two Spot and Only

Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.

-John Muir



Fun in the Snow



All about Arthritis

With the arrival of cold weather, many pet owners may notice an increase in symptoms in their arthritic pet. Arthritis is inflammation of the joints and can be accompanied by a decrease in synovial fluid which lubricates the joints and a weakening of the connective cartilage within the joint. There are several types that occur in our animal friends including spinal arthritis (spondylosis), hip dysplasia, and other degenerative joint diseases. Your Veterinarian can diagnose arthritis through a variety of means including a thorough examination, presenting symptoms, x-rays, and bloodwork. Arthritis is more common in older dogs, but can also occur in young dogs and cats. Some problems can get worse when the weather is damp or cold, at the onset of storms, or with abrupt changes of weather. Too much running, hiking, or playing will also exacerbate arthritic problems if the dogs are not preconditioned. Maintaining an appropriate level of exercise is key to preventing and managing arthritis. Exercise helps build muscle strength and maintain weight.

Fortunately, there are many holistic treatment options available. These different modalities can help reduce or alleviate symptoms and slow down the progression of arthritis. Many can be beneficial for preventions as well. Here is a sampling of what can be offered:

 **Nutrition**—Home prepared diets and/or food purchased from health food stores that are free of chemical preservatives and by-products and are made with human grade meat are imperative for a healthy dog. This forms a foundation for a healthy immune system. Some skin conditions as well as arthritic problems can be markedly improved just by a change in diet. When changing diet it must be gradual, over 5-10 days, to ensure no gastrointestinal upset.

 **Vitamins and Minerals**—There are many that can be beneficial. Vitamin E can invigorate older animals and slow the aging process. Food sources include vegetable oils, nuts, dark green leafy vegetables, organic meats, seafood, eggs, and avocados. Selenium acts as a good anti-inflammatory agent. Use in conjunction with Vitamin E for lameness in older dogs and weak rear legs. Vitamin C is an antioxidant/free radical scavenger that slows down the progression of arthritis. You can get in a powdered form as Sodium Ascorbate or Calcium Ascorbate. These are easier on the GI system than ascorbic acid. It is important to gradually increase to the desired amount of Vit. C to avoid diarrhea.

 **Nutraceuticals** -Glucosamine /Chondroitin Sulphate is very beneficial in treating arthritis. Products made for dogs vs. people seem to have better results. There are many different glucosamine products on the market. Glycoflex by Vetri-Science is an excellent product that is made from PERNA Mussel; a natural form of Glucosamine. We usually see marked improvement in 1-2 weeks.

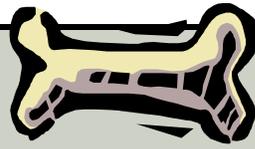
 **Western Herbs & Ayurvedic Herbs** - Western herbs such as Alfalfa, Yucca, and Nettles mixed with food helps with joint circulation and pain. Boswellia is an excellent Ayurvedic herb that serves as an anti-inflammatory.

 **Homeopathy** - Homeopathic medicines are called remedies. They can be very helpful in any musculoskeletal condition. There are many different remedies and potencies for different forms of arthritis.

 **Acupuncture, Acupressure, and Massage** — In Chinese Medicine it is believed that pain results from a blockage of blood circulation to a specific area. Helping to keep blood flowing can help with pain relief.

Don't forget that when starting any new treatment regimen, you should always check with your veterinarian. While these options may be excellent for treating arthritis, some may be contraindicated if your dog has other health conditions. Finally, don't lose hope. Vets have seen remarkable results with many of the options listed here. PDF Created with deskPDF PDF Writer - Trial :: <http://www.docudesk.com>

Boscoe From Foscoe



Many years ago there was a dog who would later come to be known as Boscoe. Boscoe roamed the beautiful streets of the Hound Ears club in the mountains of NC. He would often hang out at the clubhouse where he heard through the grapevine that there was some really good food being served. Often he was fortunate enough to score some delicious steaks and other tasty treats. Many of the residents and staff in Hound Ears would try to tempt Boscoe to come up to them when passing out the good food. However, Boscoe was too smart for this, for he knew it was a trick and quickly darted away.

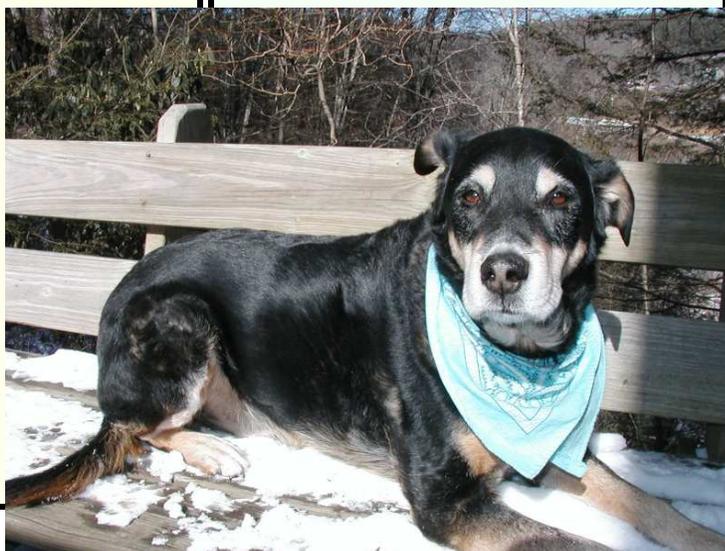
One day a man in a truck came and tried to tempt Boscoe with some more treats. He had a long stick with a big loop on the end. While he did seem like a nice man, Boscoe was extra suspicious and quickly bolted away.

Meanwhile, there was a man who worked at Hound Ears named Bruce. Bruce knew of Boscoe's ramblings through the hills of Hound Ears.

He knew that the man with the long stick would soon come back with more aggressive means to catch the dog that alluded everyone. Bruce also knew that Boscoe was a good dog who just did not have much experience trusting people.

One Saturday morning Bruce got up and insisted to his wife Maggie that they go and try to rescue Boscoe. Maggie was a Veterinarian and couldn't say no to helping the handsome dog who couldn't be caught. Upon arriving at Hound Ears, Boscoe was nowhere to be found.

After they had left and gone back to their house, Bruce received a call that Boscoe had shown up. They got back in the car and headed off to make a second attempt.



Back at Hound Ears, Boscoe was looking for his usual handouts when Maggie appeared. She started tossing Boscoe delicious little round balls of food. She was not trying to grab him, so Boscoe continued to hang out and eat. With each treat, Boscoe got a little closer until . . . Whoops!, Maggie had tried to grab him, but he was too fast! Boscoe still liked the food, so he did not run away, but gradually started eating the treats again while keeping his distance.

After 30 minutes or so, Boscoe was so enjoying the food (he hadn't eaten this much in a while!) that he began to let his guard down . . . Whoa!!! All of the sudden he was in Maggie's arms in a great big bear hug, but for some reason he was not afraid!

Boscoe now lives the good life with Maggie and the rest of his four-legged family. He is a very well behaved gentleman. He has never had an accident in the house, never pulled while on a leash, and always stays at Maggie's side when going for walks. In fact, Boscoe is so good that he has had many invitations to join a new family. But Boscoe knows that Home is where the Heart is and his heart was stolen by Maggie and Bruce a long time ago.



In Memoriam

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to all of the close friends of Whispering Waters who left us over the past few months. Our animals are our family members and it never gets any easier to lose one of them. We all know that family can be trying at times. Our pets are the ones who love us unconditionally, don't tell us what to do, and stand by us even in the toughest of times. They make us laugh just when we need it and they challenge us to be a better person without ever saying a word. Our thoughts go out to all of those left behind. Remember we are always here for you.

In Loving Memory:

*Abby
AJ
Carly
Corky
Dixie
Jasper
Molly
Rusty
Sammy
Sempi
Shea
Swoozie*