

# Triple A Supporters Needed

## Want to be a Triple A Supporter?

Pet Pals has a number of AAA supporters (thank you!), but we are currently looking for a few more people who might be interested in signing up for the **Animal Action Alert** list. The more people involved, the more the load is spread out! Periodically, special needs arise for the animals. For example, the Shelter sometimes has a huge population of cats and kitties and therefore an increased demand for cat food and litter. Or there is a large number of dogs and a shortage of biscuits and toys. When that happens, an email will be sent out to those on the Triple A List, alerting them to the urgent situation. If a few of the Triple A Supporters picked up an extra can of dog food or bought an extra bag of litter (while shopping for their own pets, of course!), then the crisis could be averted. As a Triple A Supporter, you would respond to an alert only when it is convenient. You are never expected to respond to each and every alert. We just appreciate that little bit of extra help when we get in a bind. If you would like to be a Triple A Supporter and be alerted by email when these CATastrophes occur, please send your name and email address to [cwood@lostcoonhound.com](mailto:cwood@lostcoonhound.com). As always, thanks for your support!

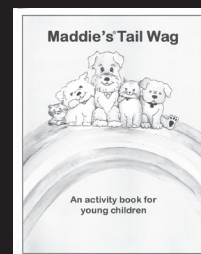
PLEASE CONTACT LISA JONAS AT [PRESIDENT@GCPETPALS.ORG](mailto:PRESIDENT@GCPETPALS.ORG) or VISIT [WWW.GCPETPALS.ORG](http://WWW.GCPETPALS.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GRAND COUNTY PET PALS VOLUNTEER OR MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT [FACEBOOK.COM/GCPETPALS](http://FACEBOOK.COM/GCPETPALS)

## Mutterings

Save the Date!

**ROMP & STOMP at the  
GRAND LAKE NORDIC CENTER  
SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2012  
10AM TO NOON  
[www.gcpetpals.org/events](http://www.gcpetpals.org/events)**



We offer free activity books in English and Spanish for your favorite kid. Email us for details on how to get one.

[info@gcpetpals.org](mailto:info@gcpetpals.org)



Grand County  
**PET PALS**

P.O. Box 1972  
Granby, CO 80446

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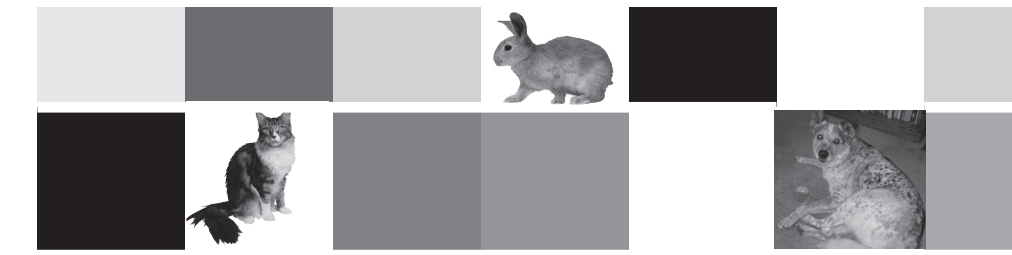
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ISSUE 4 \* WINTER \* 2011

GRAND COUNTY PET PALS

# the SCOOP

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## Misbehavior or Misunderstood Behavior?

By Pam Johnson-Bennett

People are familiar with dog training, but when I mention cat behavior and training, they raise an eyebrow. Cats are trainable, and behavior problems can often be solved. Where we fail in tackling behavior problems is that we assume the cat's motivation is spite, anger or stupidity. Your cat isn't sitting around hatching a plot to make you mad. When a cat "misbehaves," he's trying to solve a problem.

Every behavior a cat displays has a purpose, or else he wouldn't repeat it. The key to successful behavior modification is figuring out what triggers the behavior and what the cat gets from displaying that particular behavior (the payoff) so you can change the conditions. To change the outcome, you have to change the setup.

Think like a cat and you'll realize that the unwanted behaviors your cat displays are not abnormal. He's trying to solve a problem according to what his instincts tell him. If he's scratching the furniture, he isn't intentionally trying to shred the sofa. He has a natural need to scratch and will seek out the most effective object for that function. If the scratching post is ineffective (wobbly, short, unappealing texture or located in some isolated corner), then you can't blame him for choosing the sofa. Provide him with a more effective post, and he'll prefer that to your furniture. Look at things from his perspective, and you'll no longer see a cat trying to destroy your décor.

Many cats are relinquished to shelters, sent outdoors, abandoned or euthanized for behavior problems that are correctable. Solving the problem often comes down to common sense.

1. Discover the underlying cause or payoff.
2. Provide an alternative of equal or increased value.
3. Reward the cat when he gets it right.

Many people reprimand the cat for "misbehavior." Instead of focusing on what the cat needs and how to help him succeed, these people choose punishment. Imagine the stress the cat endures when he's punished for a behavior that's normal. For example, a cat stops using the litter box and starts urinating on the carpet. Punishing the cat (rubbing the cat's nose in the mess, hitting, yelling, sending the cat into time-out or shoving the cat into the litter box) only succeeds in doing one thing: intensifying the cat's stress and fear. What if the cat is eliminating outside of the box because he is in pain due to a urinary tract problem and associates the box with his pain? Now, because of the punishment, he is not only in pain from the medical condition, he's also afraid and unsure about where to relieve himself. The person who thought he or she was conveying the message about an inappropriate location choice was actually conveying the message that urination is bad and punishment will follow. Since urination will happen again, the cat becomes stressed and retains the urine as long as possible or finds a secret place to eliminate. Either option causes stress to an already stressed-out cat.

Many behavior problems could also be corrected or avoided if people would stop looking at their cats as fur-covered children or as dog substitutes. Cats should be loved and cherished, but when you forget that he's a cat and has specific needs, it's a setup for failure. Additionally, when you adopt a cat and expect him to act like a dog and then are disappointed because he doesn't interact with you the way your pup does, it creates another lose-lose situation. Look at a cat for the beautiful, intelligent, playful, social creature that he is. You might just be surprised what you can learn.

*Pam Johnson-Bennett, certified animal behavior consultant and one of the most well-known experts on feline behavior, is the author of seven award-winning books on cat behavior and training.*



Grand County  
**PET PALS**  
[gcpetpals.org](http://gcpetpals.org)

Dedicated to the welfare of our pets  
in Grand County Colorado

## NEAT QUOTE:

“There is only one smartest dog in

the world and every boy has it.” - unknown

## Events that Help Us, Help Others

**Ladies Night at ACE Hardware:** Thanks to Amy Kaplanis and her team at ACE Hardware in Granby, we raised \$240.00 as the selected non-profit for ACE's popular annual event.

**Pet Food Drive at City Market in Granby:** We collected over 100 bags of cat and dog food as well as kitty litter, treats and toys to support the animals at the Grand County Animal Shelter as well as Max's Full Belly Deli which provides food for families struggling to feed their pets in these difficult economic times. What a generous community we have!



**Pet Photos with Santa Paws was held in December at two new locations:** This year we thought we'd mix things up a bit and hold this fun event at the Historic Church in Fraser and in Granby at the Granby Community Center. It was a rousing success with over 75 participants and we raised a little over \$1500.00! This is a super-fun event, where kids, cats, kittens, dogs and even horses are encouraged to participate.



### COMING UP!

**Romp and Stomp Snowshoe and Nordic Ski Event March 11th:** Grand Lake Touring Center, Grand Lake, Colorado. There is a new dog friendly trail to romp and stomp upon this year

with your favorite canine. This event is from 10AM to noon and the cost is \$10.00 per person. We will have music, desserts and silent auction items at this wonderful location. We hope to see you there!

**A Special Note of Thanks:** Lori Clement, one of our wonderful board members, works on obtaining grants for Grand County Pet Pals. She really made things happen this year and we'd like to thank her and the following organizations for their support:

- The Board of County Commissioners using Conservation Trust Fund monies so that we may purchase \$3,000 worth of fencing for a dog play area at the shelter.
- The Grand Foundation for \$2,100 so we could paint the cat room as well as purchase training materials whose subject is promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Wells Fargo Community Assistance Fund of \$500 for spay/neuter surgeries.
- The Forte Foundation for \$2,500 unrestricted funds.

## Happy Tails: Jackie's Living the Good Life

by Jeri Peirce

As you can see by her picture, Jackie is living a pretty cush-y life these days. Jackie's life has had some ups and downs, though, and it has taken awhile for her to find her forever home. But that just gave those who hang around the Grand County Animal Shelter more chances to get to know this friendly and pretty girl.

Jackie first arrived at the shelter as a youngster when another shelter could no longer keep her. Her first real home after coming to Granby was with a single lady who was looking for a dog who would be a loyal and loving companion. Her new owner had initially been apprehensive about adopting a Staffordshire Terrier; but after meeting Jackie and doing some

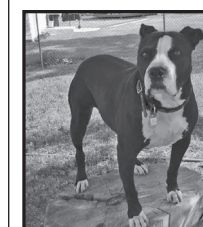


research, she fell in love with her and found that Jackie was just the companion she was looking for. Sadly though, Jackie's first owner was eventually transferred to Denver for her work. Due to the vicious and unfair laws imposed by the City of Denver regarding pitbull-type breeds, Jackie's owner was forced to surrender her. Jackie once again found herself back at the Granby shelter.

It was at the Granby shelter that Mike Phalp found 7-year old Jackie. Mike was looking for a buddy for his dog, a Rottweiler/Basset mix named Rasmus. Mike works long hours away from home, and he

thought Rasmus would be happier if he had a friend to hang out with. Mike's had pitbull-type dogs before and has a soft spot for them, so he decided to give Jackie a try.

Jackie has turned out to be the perfect friend for Rasmus. They love to go on runs, and Mike says the two of them are like little wild animals when they go out to play together. When they are getting ready to go on their evening run to the Post Office after work, Jackie becomes so excited that she is like a whirlwind tearing around in circles with all that energy. Although he likes to let the two dogs run when they can, Mike also works with Jackie on



leash training. She now walks right by his side when on a leash.

It is obvious that Mike is big fan of the pitbull-type breeds, but he cautions that they are not for everyone. He personally finds them to be fairly low maintenance compared to some breeds, such as a Jack Russell terrier for instance. They need good daily exercise like all dogs, but afterwards they're happy to just chill out. And, of course, all you need to know can be read in those intense and expressive eyes.

Jackie is obviously loving her home with her best bud, Rasmus. They are good company for each other and have active days. But when it's time to relax, they can be found happily snuggling together on their side-by-side, heated cushions. It's a pretty cush-y life!

## PLEASE SUPPORT PET PALS!

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law

**YES! I would like to join (or renew with!)  
Grand County Pet Pals and help animals in our community.**

- New Member**                       **Renewal**
- Lone Wolf** (individual):        **\$25.00**
- Pack** (family):                    **\$50.00**
- Working Dog** (business):      **\$100.00**
- Additional Contribution** \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm already a member but want to donate!** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt./Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  I prefer to get the newsletter via email

### Please mail check payable to:

Grand County Pet Pals  
PO Box 1972  
Granby, CO 80446

You can also pay via PayPal at  
[www.gcpetpals.org](http://www.gcpetpals.org)

**Raise money for Grand County Pet Pals  
just by searching the Internet using  
GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo)!**

## Mixes and Mutts

by Suzie Royce Cruise

OK, I admit to it. I spent the money to get a DNA test for my dog, Blue. I really wanted to know what her ancestral background was. Turns out, she is an American Mutt.

However, her dominant breed is Cattle Dog or Blue Heeler. According to the *dognosis*, she was also reported as being part Dachshund, Newfoundland & Greyhound!

Most of these breed DNA tests report back on results only recognized by "official" breeders and clubs. So, what I originally thought Blue was, (a Catahoola Leopard Dog – the state dog of Louisiana) was in fact, not an official "recognized" breed. Blue is a medium sized dog. She weighs roughly, on a skinny day, 52 lbs. If I was going to blindly adopt Blue from the reported breed description, I might have passed her by. I would have envisioned a huge dog! I still think Blue is a Catahoola Leopard Dog despite the results because the breed is only recognized by some.

Why are we so interested in canine heritage? Upon adoption, I hastily had Blue spayed at 7 months of age. As I got to know her, I realized how unique and special she was. Since there was no chance of breeding her, I wanted to

prepare a search in getting another one just like her. NOT! According to The Mutt Book; Decoding Your Dog's Heritage, "there is no way to breed a dog who is just like another dog. Each dog is a unique individual." I rescued a Border Collie instead.

The advantage of understanding your dog's background is that certain aspects of behavior



Artist unknown

are likely to be enhanced or lessened according to what breeds contribute to the mix. Terriers tend to dig, collies to herd, huskies to run, and hounds to hunt. Another positive of understanding

help monitor your dog's health and happiness as he/she ages. Currently, mutts are the desired choice of Americans over purebreds due to the genetic diversity resulting in generally healthier dogs. Here is a smattering of mixes with interesting heritage:

1. Ibizan Whiphound (Whippet, Ibizan Hound, Terrier)
2. Greyscot Waterpoo (Greyhound, Scottish Deerhound, Spaniel)
3. Aussietan Corgipin (Australian Cattle Dog, Welsh Corgi, Miniature Pinscher)
4. Labrador Bachshund (Labrador Retriever, Dachshund, Jack Russell Terrier, Beagle)
5. Loxer Bull Retriever (Boxer, Labrador Retriever, Bullmastiff)

And the designer mutt list goes on... Next time you look at your Golden Belgian Collie, give them a big hug and tell them it's OK – America is supposed to be a melting pot.