



# Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.

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An Official 501C Not-For-Profit Organization

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## FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER JAN - MAR 2009

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### FROM THE SHRF BOARD

SHRF is once again greeting another new year, which happens to be the 10th year of our rescue life. Our anniversary date will be in September. Gosh, a few of you have been with the rescue that whole time; so thanks a million for hanging in there for so long!

In this newsletter you'll see our report on the very successful and well attended Olympics in February. Dawn and Lou B worked so hard to organize the event... work that was highlighted by beautiful game plaques and auction items presentations.

BTW, several Olympic attendee veterans commented about all the new human and dog faces that day.

One reason for new faces was because we had one heck of a year for adoptions. Even with the ongoing low foster home scenario, somehow the numbers of furballs helped was back to the early 2000's numbers when foster homes were plentiful. So kudos and Husky hugs to those of you who fostered multiple times, sometimes without a rest in between.

The board wants to remind everyone that we are selling Rays VS White Sox tickets for 4/18/09. This is our Dog Days with the Rays we have had for several years. The tickets are in right outfield. These are GREAT seats. Please let us know if you would like to purchase some of these tickets since this is a fundraiser for SHRF.

Also, we are working on putting together a garage sale in the 2nd or 3rd quarter depending on available dates of our volunteers. Please start looking around your house and garage for items to help us have a successful garage sale. Look for more information on the website and email when the date becomes finalized.

As always we hope you enjoy this newsletter, Co-editors, Bob and Lorraine continue to create a quality product every quarter for you, our faithful readers. Enjoy.

SHRF Board

**Board members can be reached at any time at 727-391-8934 or by e-mailing: [board@siberrescue.com](mailto:board@siberrescue.com)**

**"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." Will Rogers, 1897-1935**

**Customer: "Has this dog a good pedigree?"**

**Shop Owner: "Has he? Say, if that dog could talk, he wouldn't speak to either of us."**

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**RESCUE PARTICIPATION**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or sponsor of the Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc., please visit the website and fill out the appropriate application OR call or fax us anytime.

**NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**

Business card size \$20 per year

1/4 page \$5 per issue

1/2 page \$10 per issue

Full page \$15 per issue

**SUBMISSIONS**

All submissions and suggestions to this newsletter are encouraged and welcomed. Please forward to the mailing address at the top of page 1 or: [events@siberrescue.com](mailto:events@siberrescue.com)

**From the Editors  
Bob & Lorraine**

At the time I write this there have been 5 dogs that died while running the Iditarod and now there is the usual weeping and gnashing of teeth over these deaths by the various animal rights groups.

I am one of those people who think dogs should live forever however; I think the hue and cry over the Iditarod is mostly for show. I have heard both sides of the argument about the race and I can't see where there is any institutional cruelty toward the dogs going on. There will always be the novice musher who loses a dog through ignorance or the musher who puts winning the race before the health of this dogs.

How are these humans any different than any other person (non musher) who causes a dog to die for the same reason? There is a show on the Animal Planet channel on TV (with a name like Animal Police or Animal Cops) that I cannot watch because it shows the atrocious things people do to their innocent animals.

For the most part it seems that the vast majority of the mushers care very much for the health and safety of their animals.

To me it's a matter of degree. If these so called animal rights people really wanted to save dogs' lives they could get the most results for their efforts by saving the hundreds of thousands of dogs and other animals that are put down each year by various Animal Control organizations nationwide.

They could put their money and effort into spay and neuter programs that have been shown to be effective.

They could put their picketing efforts to work in front of puppy mills and other backyard breeders.

They could show up at animal cruelty trials for people like the brain dead moron in Orlando who shot two Huskies because he "thought" they were wolves and "thought" they were going to attack a couple of cows. Is he capable of real "thought"?

There are some eye opening articles in this newsletter about the most famous of the animal rights groups, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). At the outset, the idea of an organization designed to protect animals is obviously of merit and most people want to do what's right. The image PETA presents is that they are such an entity thus enabling them to attract high profile, high exposure representatives like those in Hollywood. This gives stature, gravitas and media exposure to their endeavors.

PETA generates an annual income of some \$30 million dollars or more, mostly from animal loving people such as those of us in SHRF. As PETA has increased its media and star power exposure some people have begun to look into and question whether they are truly as they represent themselves.

To me, an aura of hypocrisy has appeared. After seeing how they operate one has to wonder whether their agenda is more political than humane. See pages 10 and 15.

**Bob**

**Editorial opinion pieces by Bob and Lorraine reflect the opinion of the writers only and are not necessarily the opinion of Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc nor its Board of Directors and volunteers.**

**"In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog."**

**- - - Edward Hoagland "Dogs and the Tug of Life"**

## **SHRF RESCUE VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!!!!....**

**SHRF is proud to announce our  
Volunteer of the 1st Quarter, 2009  
- - - Cheryl F - - -**

As SHRF starts out it's 10<sup>th</sup> year, we have a fairly new volunteer to recognize since she too has come on with a real bang doing all she can for furballs in need.

Her name is Cheryl F and she has been extremely active in the last 5 months working the many west coast Florida events which SHRF routinely participates in or organizes during the cooler winter months. She also is heading up a current undraising drive for SHRF and will continue to come up with other ideas and plans in order to help the Events/Fundraising team.

Because Cheryl is a recent graduate of Animal Behavioral College, she is a certified dog trainer in basic obedi-

ence, canine behavior and problem solving, using positive motivation and enforcement. This background will be of great help to SHRF since she will gladly advise the foster team on dog issues, as required, as well as occasionally take in a foster dog for evaluation and training herself. Over the months, at SHRF educational stints, Cheryl has also been very willing to talk to the public about obedience issues and training questions anyone may have. She is also a member of the SHRF Swashbucklers, assisting the public who call our answering machine with questions or concerns.

Cheryl has 2 beautiful male Siberians of her own at home (Motegi and Max); and naturally they are the inspiration for her wanting to help other Siberians through her volunteerism with SHRF.

**Congrats, Cheryl!**

### **FREE TO GOOD HOME**

After two long years of being on a waiting list for an agility dog, we have been notified by the breeder that, at long last, our number has come up and ...WE ARE HAVING A PUPPY!!!

We must get rid of our children IMMEDIATELY because we just know how time consuming our new little puppy is going to be and it just wouldn't be fair to the children. Since our little puppy will be arriving on Monday we MUST place the children this weekend! They are described as:

One male - His name is Tommy, Caucasian (English/Irish mix), light blonde hair, blue eyes. Four years old. Excellent disposition. He doesn't bite. Temperament tested. Does have problems with peeing directly in the toilet. Has had Chicken Pox and is current on all shots. Tonsils have already been removed. Tommy eats everything, is very clean, house trained & gets along well with others. Does not run with scissors and with a little training he should be able to read soon.

One female - Her name is Lexie, Caucasian (English/Irish mix), strawberry blonde hair, green eyes quite freckled. Two years old. Can be surly at times. Non-biter, thumb sucker. Has been temperament tested but needs a little attitude adjusting occasionally. She is current on all shots, tonsils out, and is very healthy & can be affectionate. Gets along well with other little girls & little boys but does not like to share her toys and therefore would do best in a one child household. She is a very quick learner and is currently working on her house training - shouldn't take long at all.

We really do LOVE our children so much and want to do what's right for them; that is why we contacted a rescue group. But we simply can no longer keep them. Also, we are afraid that they may hurt our new puppy.

I hope you understand that ours is a UNIQUE situation and we have a real emergency here!!! They MUST be placed in rescue by Sunday night at the latest or we will be forced to drop them off at the orphanage or along some dark, country road. Our priority now has to be our new puppy.

Sounds just as ridiculous when you have to "rehome" your dog!!

**It is home to a dog after he has been there three nights.  
*Finnish Proverb***

## Dog Owners More Likely To Share Germs With Pets By Not Washing Hands Than By Sleeping With Dog

ScienceDaily (Jan. 30, 2009) — Dog owners who sleep with their pet or permit licks on the face are in good company. Surveys show that more than half of owners bond with their pets in these ways.

Research done by a veterinarian at Kansas State University found that these dog owners are no more likely to share the same strains of E. coli bacteria with their pets than are other dog owners.

Dr. Kate Stenske, a clinical assistant professor at K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine, studied this association as part of her doctoral research at the University of Tennessee. The research is scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of the American Journal of Veterinary Research.

Stenske said the finding that these human-animal bonding behaviors aren't more likely to spread germs is good news because there are physical and psychological benefits of pet ownership.

"I became interested in the topic because there is such a strong bond between dogs and their owners," Stenske said. "If you look at one study, 84 percent of people say their dog is like a child to them."

Stenske said surveys also show that nearly half of all dog owners share food with their dogs, and more than half allow the dog to sleep in the bed and lick them on the face.

"We also know diseases can be shared between dogs and people," Stenske said. "About 75 percent of emerging diseases are zoonotic, meaning they are transferrable between humans and other animals. With these two pieces of knowledge, I wanted to examine the public health aspects of such activities."

Stenske's study centered on E. coli bacteria, which is com-

mon in the gastrointestinal tracts of both dogs and humans. "People have it, dogs have it, and it normally doesn't cause any problems," she said. "But it can acquire genes to make it antibiotic resistant."

The study examined fecal samples from dogs and their owners and looked at the bacteria's DNA fingerprints. Stenske found that 10 percent of dog-human pairs shared the same E. coli strains. She also found that the E. coli had more resistance to common antibiotics than expected, although the owners had more multiple-drug resistant strains than their pets.

"This make us think that dogs are not likely to spread multiple drug-resistant E. coli to their owners, but perhaps owners may spread them to their dogs," Stenske said. "What we learn from this is that antibiotics really do affect the bacteria within our gastrointestinal tract, and we should only take them when we really need to -- and always finish the entire prescription as directed."

The research showed that bonding behaviors like sharing the bed or allowing licks on the face had no association to an increase in shared E. coli. However, Stenske said the research did show an association between antibiotic-resistant E. coli and owners who didn't wash their hands after petting their dogs or before cooking meals.

"We should use common sense and practice good general hygiene," she said.

Stenske said future research might focus on the relationship between shared E. coli and the behaviors of cat owners. Not only is cat ownership higher than dog ownership in the United States, but cats also interact with people in different ways than dogs, she said.

"We have a lot to learn," Stenske said. "In the meantime, we should continue to own and love our pets because they provide a source of companionship. We also need to make sure we are washing our hands often."

*Adapted from materials provided by [Kansas State Univ](#)*

**"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace."**

*Milan Kundera*

### MEMORIES

**"Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our lives. Yet, if they find warmth therein, who would begrudge them those years that they have so guarded? And whatever they take, be sure they have deserved."**

**--- John Galsworthy ---**

## Pet stickers worthless in emergency

By Drew Harwell and Elisabeth Dyer  
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writers

Published Monday, January 19, 2009



TAMPA — Animal shelters give them out. So do veterinarians. The red and white decals cling to windows in homes where people have dogs and cats.

"Firemen!" they state. "Please Save Our Pets!"

But the sense of security the stickers provide appears to be misplaced. In an emergency, firefighters say, those decals are usually ignored.

"They are very unreliable," said Tampa Fire Rescue Capt. Bill Wade. "People move and they don't move the stickers."

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue spokesman Ray Yeakley said he doesn't know of any fire stations that endorse the stickers.

Lt. Joel Granata with St. Petersburg Fire Rescue said the stickers could unnecessarily put firefighters in harmful situations.

Seeing the pet information, correct or not, could compel some rescuers to enter "fires we would have normally taken a defensive approach to," Granata said. "It could put firefighters' lives in danger."

The topic came up last week, after a South Tampa couple lost two chihuahuas in a blaze. Wade recommended that pet owners with confined animals rely on monitored smoke detectors. The chihuahua owners didn't have a pet rescue sticker and Wade wasn't endorsing one.

That's news to some.

The pet decals have been around for years, handed out for free by animal-welfare groups.

"We know for a fact that it has saved lives," said Ron Yogan, executive director of the Hillsborough Animal Health Foundation, which has provided thousands of the stickers to veterinarians in the past decade.

He said he has heard anecdotes about pets saved, and he's "disappointed" to hear some firefighters don't take the decals seriously.

"As a nonprofit, we would not be investing our money in a program if we thought it was ineffective," he said. Linda Britland of Pinellas County Animal Services considers them the only widely used form of emergency pet protection available.

"It's unfortunate if you're not home and your pets are inside," she said. "How else would they (firefighters) know?" While dogs would likely pace and bark in a fire, cats would tend to hide under a bed or in a closet, said Tampa veterinarian Emily Dugas.

"We would hope we could team up with the Fire Department to be alert to the stickers," she said.

Hillsborough County Animal Services spokeswoman Marti Ryan said her shelter ran out of stickers but expects to get more.

"If they're saying it's pretty ineffective, well, that's good to know," she said. "If we need to reinvent the wheel or modify the stickers, that's a discussion we should have."

Ryan has a sticker on her door and says she still thinks it's smart to give first responders this information — and to include pets when planning for evacuations.

"I would absolutely advocate them," Ryan said.

Liana Teague of Hernando County Animal Services said her branch has phased the stickers out in recent years.

"I think the biggest problem with them is that the info expires," Teague said. "It gets outdated."

**You know you're a dog person when...**

**You meet other people with dogs, and remember their dog's call name after 30 seconds, but don't get the owner/handler's name until you've met them 2 or 3 times.**

**Please recognize and support these great professionals who help  
Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.**

**Altamonte Animal Clinic**

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**The Day and Evening Pet Clinic**

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**Underhill Animal Hospital**

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Orlando, FL 32807



**WEB SITES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

**Hero Dog Tries to Help Mortally Wounded Dog** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofpYRITtLSg>

**Dog Sledding** [http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/03/dog\\_sledding.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/03/dog_sledding.html)

**Shoplifting DOG Apologizes !** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiCXLXcSTd4>

## Smokers Would Rather Give Up For Their Pooch's Health Rather Than Their Own

ScienceDaily (Feb. 10, 2009) — Smokers are more likely to quit smoking for the sake of their pets' health than they are for their own, suggests research published ahead of print in Tobacco Control.

The published evidence shows that second hand tobacco smoke can be as dangerous for pets as it is for the non-smoking partners of smokers. Exposure to it has been associated with lymph gland, nasal, and lung cancers; allergies; eye and skin diseases; as well as respiratory problems in cats and dogs.

But few smokers realise what impact their habit is having on the health of their pets, say the US researchers.

They set up an online survey for pet owners resident in south eastern Michigan, quizzing them about their and their partners' smoking behaviours, and what they knew about the effects of second hand smoke on their pets.

In all, almost 3300 people responded, one in five of whom were smokers and more than one in four of whom (27%) lived with at least one smoker. The average number of cigarettes smoked was 13.5 a day, with around half of those smoked in the home.

Nearly one in three of the smokers (28.4%) said that know-

ing that smoking was bad for their pets' health would spur them to give it up. And almost one in 10 (8.7%) said this would prompt them to ask their partners to quit, while around one in seven (14%) said they would tell their partner to smoke outdoors.

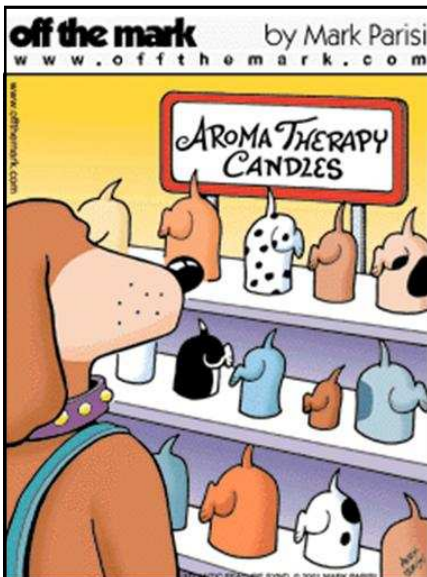
These figures were even higher among non-smokers, more than 16% of whom said they would ask their partner to quit, while around one in four (24%) said they would tell their partner to smoke outdoors.

Around four out of 10 smokers and one in four non-smokers living with smokers said they would be interested in receiving information on the effects of smoking and how to give up.

Public health campaigns targeting smokers would do well to focus on the detrimental impact of second hand tobacco smoke on pets, say the authors. US pet owners are clearly a very devoted bunch, they say, which such campaigns could tap into.

Almost two thirds of US households have a pet, and their combined spending power on pet supplies and over the counter medicines was estimated to be in the region of more than US\$ 10 billion last year. And a survey carried out by the American Animal Hospital Association in 2008 showed that more than half of the respondents said that if they were stranded on a desert island, they would prefer the company of their pet to that of another person.

*Adapted from materials provided by [BMJ-British Medical Journal](#),*



### Dog Myths

Forget what you *think* you know about canine health & behavior.  
*by Marry Sorensen*

Dogs heal their wounds by licking.

"A small amount of licking does help to clean a wound, but excessive licking tends to do more harm than good," Dr. Beaver said.

You can help speed healing and prevent further damage by following hospital instructions for protecting a wound or incision from your dog's abrasive tongue. That restrictive collar may seem like a drag, but it'll save your dog pain.

**For the fifth year in succession I have pored over the catalogue of dogs in the show at Madison Square Garden without finding a dog named Rover, Towser, Sport, Spot or Fido.**

**Who is the man who can call from the back door at night: "Here, Champion Alexander of Clane o' Wind-Holme! Here, Champion Alexander of Clane o' Wind-Holme"?**

**Westbrook Pegler**

## SHRF Events 1st Quarter 2009

### Ultimate Tailgate Pawty January 31, 2009 Coachman Park – Clearwater

This was a fun event put on by the Humane Society in Clearwater in conjunction with the Super Bowl that was held in Tampa this weekend. There were tons of rescues, animal vendors, agility shows, and even some Football players. The event was great and the weather was nice. We got some more exposure and educated a few more people regarding the Husky breed. We want to thank all of the volunteers that ran the booth. Also, we wanted to thank all the former adopters that attended and help support the rescue. We love to see our former rescue dogs.

### Husky Olympics February 22, 2009 Lake Seminole Park

Again this annual event was a wonderful success as always. We had approximately 120 people with 80+ dogs in attendance. It is always fun to see all those huskies in one place. We raised some much needed money, ate some great food, visited with friends, and played with dogs. It doesn't get much better than that. We want to thank all of the volunteers that helped make this event possible. We especially wanted to thank all of the attendees and their beautiful dogs. Please see the winners of the events in the newsletter. We hope to see everyone out there next year.

### Get Rescued in Gulfport February 28, 2009 Gulfport



This was the second annual Get Rescued in Gulfport and our second year attending. The event was much bigger than last year and we had beautiful weather too. Once again, SHRF was a favorite with our beautiful dogs. The street was full of rescues and vendors. You could find just about anything you wanted rescue or pet related there. We recommend if you can make it out next year to try and attend. We are always looking for event volun-



teers. We again would love to thank the volunteers that manned the booth and former adopters and friends that showed up to support us. It was a very successful event. We raised money and awareness on the beautiful Husky breed.

### 3rd Annual Mutt March March 21, 2009 Highlander Park, Dunedin



This event was sponsored by Suncoast Animal League. It was a fun event with a walk, races, silent auctions, and a 50/50 raffle. The weather was beautiful and Highlander Park was a wonderful setting. There were several rescues and many pet vendors. We met tons of great people and petted even more dogs. These events are a blast... if you have never attended before... we suggest you support us at some of the upcoming events.



Thank you to all the volunteers that attended.

**"The more I see of the representatives of the people, the more I admire my dogs."**

*Alphonse de Lamartine*



# 13th Annual Husky Olympics



## 2009 Husky Olympics Award Winners



### CANUK

Best in Show  
Best Trick

### CODY

Best Howler



### TOVA

Fastest Cookie  
Bobber

### BANDIT

Curliest Tail



### NATASHA

Hairiest

### NIKITA

Best Kisser



### GORGOR

Prettiest  
Eyes

**"Every boy who has a dog should also have a mother, so the dog can be fed regularly"**

*Anonymous*

### SAMPLE

### WINNER'S

### PLAQUE



### PETA Killed 95 Percent of Adoptable Pets in its Care During 2008

Posted On March 25, 2009

WASHINGTON DC – Today the non-profit Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) published documents online showing that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) killed 95 percent of the adoptable pets in its care during 2008. Despite years of public outrage over its euthanasia program, the animal rights group kills an average of 5.8 pets every day at its Norfolk, VA headquarters.

According to public records from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PETA killed 2,124 pets last year and placed only seven in adoptive homes. Since 1998, a total of

21,339 dogs and cats have died at the hands of PETA workers.

Despite having a \$32 million budget, PETA does not operate an adoption shelter. PETA employees make no discernible effort to find homes for the thousands of pets they kill every year. Last year, the Center for Consumer Freedom petitioned Virginia's State Veterinarian to reclassify PETA as a slaughterhouse.

CCF Research Director David Martosko said: "PETA hasn't slowed down its hypocritical killing machine one bit, but it keeps browbeating the rest of society with a phony 'animal rights' message. What about the rights of the thousands of dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens that die in PETA's headquarters building?"

Martosko added: "Since killing pets is

A-OK with PETA, why should anyone listen to their demands about eating meat, using lab rats for medical research, or taking children to the circus?"

CCF obtained PETA's "Animal Record" filings since 1998 from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Members of the public can see these documents at [PetaKillsAnimals.com](http://PetaKillsAnimals.com).

In addition to exposing PETA's hypocritical record of killing defenseless animals, the Center for Consumer Freedom has publicized the animal rights group's ties to violent activists, and shed light on its aggressive message-marketing to children.

*The Center for Consumer Freedom is a nonprofit coalition supported by restaurants, food companies, and consumers, working together to promote personal responsibility and protect consumer choices.*

## LUCKY ADOPTERS

Comments from some people lucky enough to have adopted one of our SHRF dogs.



**Hobie (formerly Kobe).** Took him camping again he is just a great dog. He loves toys so he got more presents than anyone here. Had to get a toy box. I am getting a trainer for him not so much that he needs it, I need it. I spoil him too much, and he dominates me so just for the manners.



**Dallas** has adapted well to our little family and is doing great. We are going on a camping trip next week for a week so I'm looking forward to see how he likes it.



**Neo (New III)** was a happy addition to our family in July 2007. He's very good with cats. He and our 14 year old Siamese are good friends and often play together. We can bathe him, brush him and clip his nails with no fuss. He's the easiest going dog I know. Neo loves when we take walks together, he loves to swim at the nearby state park. We want to thank all the people we met and talked to in uniting us with Neo. We love him and he has brightened our lives so much we feel like he has been ours forever!



What can't I say about **Neeko (formerly Blaze)**. I am really glad that we adopted him. He has brought sooo much happiness back to our household after the passing of our Husky. There isn't a day that goes by that he doesn't make me laugh. He is such a lover!!! He loves to fall asleep with us in the recliner and when we are not home he prefers our bed (stinker). I can't see why anyone would want to give him up. He is starting to learn how to sit and to come when called. He loves getting up at 5:30 AM and going for walks, when no one else is up.

"**Shadow** became part of our family in September of 2008. We have had another Siberian Husky "Sasha" for 5 years and we were looking for the perfect companion for her. Shadow is full of energy, loves to play with his sister and go out for a run. We recently took him to the dog park on Davis Island and discovered what a good swimmer he is. We had a wonderful experience with Siberian Husky rescue, the process was very quick and everyone was very helpful. We would like to give special thanks to Janet E. for all her hard work and the great job she did fostering our baby boy



**Two women, who are dog owners, are arguing which dog is smarter.**

**First woman: My dog is so smart, every morning he waits for the paperboy to come around and then he takes a newspaper and brings it to me.**

**Second woman: I know.**

**First one: How?**

**Second one: My dog told me.**

## SHRF, INC. EVENTS AND FUND RAISERS

### 2nd Quarter 2009 Upcoming Events

**April 18** - Dog Days with the Rays

**3rd Saturday** every month - Gulfport's Third Saturday Art Walk

WE CAN ALWAYS USE MORE VOLUNTEERS!!! So if you can help, please call 727-391-8934 or email [events@siberrescue.com](mailto:events@siberrescue.com) . If you can't help... please come out and see us at any of these events or our monthly events at Petco and Petsmart. We would love to have you!!!

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR EVENTS UPDATES!**

### **If You're Aggressive, Your Dog Will Be Too, Says Veterinary Study**

ScienceDaily (Feb. 18, 2009) — In a new, year-long University of Pennsylvania survey of dog owners who use confrontational or aversive methods to train aggressive pets, veterinary researchers have found that most of these animals will continue to be aggressive unless training techniques are modified.

The study, published in the current issue of *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, also showed that using non-aversive or neutral training methods such as additional exercise or rewards elicited very few aggressive responses.

“Nationwide, the No. 1 reason why dog owners take their pet to a veterinary behaviorist is to manage aggressive behavior,” Meghan E. Herron, lead author of the study, said. “Our study demonstrated that many confrontational training methods, whether staring down dogs, striking them or intimidating them with physical manipulation does little to correct improper behavior and can elicit aggressive responses.”

The team from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Penn suggest that primary-care veterinarians advise owners of the risks associated with such training methods and provide guidance and resources for safe management of behavior problems. Herron, Frances S. Shofer and Ilana R. Reisner, veterinarians with the Department of Clinical Studies at Penn Vet, produced a 30-item survey for dog owners who made behavioral service appointments at Penn Vet. In the questionnaire, dog owners were asked how they had previously treated aggressive behavior, whether there was a positive, negative or neutral effect on the dogs' behavior and whether aggressive responses resulted from the method they used. Owners were also asked where they learned of the training technique they employed.

Of the 140 surveys completed, the most frequently listed recommendation sources were “self” and “trainers.” Several confrontational methods such as “hit or kick dog for undesirable behavior” (43 percent), “growl at dog” (41 percent), “physically force the release of an item from a dog's mouth” (39 percent), “alpha roll” physically -- rolling the dog onto its back and holding it (31 percent), “stare at or stare down” (30 percent), “dominance down” — physically forcing the dog down onto its side (29 percent) and “grab dog by jowls and shake” (26 percent) elicited an aggressive response from at least 25 percent of the dogs on which they were attempted. In addition, dogs brought to the hospital for aggressive behavior towards familiar people were more likely to respond aggressively to some confrontational techniques than dogs brought in for other behavioral reasons.

“This study highlights the risk of dominance-based training, which has been made popular by TV, books and punishment-based training advocates,” Herron said. “These techniques are fear-eliciting and may lead to owner-directed aggression.”

Prior to seeking the counsel of a veterinary behaviorist, many dog owners attempt behavior-modification techniques suggested by a variety of sources. Recommendations often include the aversive-training techniques listed in the survey, all of which may provoke fearful or defensively aggressive behavior. Their common use may have grown from the idea that canine aggression is rooted in the need for social dominance or to a lack of dominance displayed by the owner. Advocates of this theory therefore suggest owners establish an “alpha” or pack-leader role.

The purpose of the Penn Vet study was to assess the behavioral effects and safety risks of techniques used historically by owners of dogs with behavior problems.

*Adapted from materials provided by [University of Pennsylvania](http://University of Pennsylvania)*

***Come Join Us!!***  
**DOG DAYS WITH THE RAYS**



**Rays vs Chicago White Sox**

**Saturday, April 18th**

***Game starts at 7:08PM***

**We have tickets for sale in the  
Outfield**

**sections 140 - 142 - 144**

**\$20 each**

Tropicana Field

One Tropicana Drive

St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**To order tickets call 727-391-8934 or email  
[events@siberrescue.com](mailto:events@siberrescue.com)**

## Wolf In Dog's Clothing? Black Wolves May Be First 'Genetically Modified' Predators



*Black wolves dominate packs in the forests of North America, while white wolves are more numerous in the treeless tundra. (Credit: Marco Musiani, University of Calgary)*

ScienceDaily (Feb. 6, 2009) — Slipping through trees or across snow, the wolf has glided into legend on paws of white, gray or — in North America — even black. This last group owes an unexpected debt to the cousins of the domestic dog, say Stanford researchers. In an unconventional evolutionary twist, dogs that bred with wolves thousands of years ago ceded a genetic mutation encoding dark coat color to their former ancestors. As a result, the Gray Wolf, or *Canis lupus*, is no longer just gray.

The effect was more than just cosmetic: the resulting black wolves, which are found nearly exclusively in North America, seem to have a selective advantage over lighter-colored wolves in forested areas. It's a rare instance of domestic animals — in this case, probably the dogs of the earliest Native Americans — contributing to the genetic variability of their wild counterparts in a way that affects both the recipients' appearance and survival.

"We usually think of domestication as something that is carried out to benefit humans," said genetics professor Greg Barsh, MD, PhD. "So we were really surprised to find that domestic animals can serve as a genetic reservoir that can benefit the natural populations from which they were derived. It's also fascinating to think that a portion of the first Native American dogs, which are now extinct, may live on in wolves." Canine geneticists generally agree that North American dogs today are all descended from European dogs.

Barsh and graduate student Tovi Anderson collaborated with, among others, scientists at the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Calgary, the National

Park Service at Yellowstone National Park and the National Human Genome Research Institute to conduct the research. Scientists from Sweden and Italy also participated in the international effort.

Anderson and her collaborators compared DNA collected from 41 black, white and gray wolves in the Canadian Arctic and 224 black and gray wolves in Yellowstone National Park with that of domestic dogs and gray and black coyotes. Their intention was to build on previous work in the Barsh lab that identified a mechanism controlling pigmentation in dogs that differs from most other mammals.

"We expected this to be a short research project to confirm that wolves and dogs shared the same genetic pathway that determines black coat color," said Anderson. "But the story got much more interesting when we expanded our research and began asking about the origin of the mutation in wolves."

Dark-coated wolves are significantly more prevalent in forested areas of the Canadian Arctic than they are in the icy tundra (62% vs. 7% of the total population, respectively). Biologists have long suspected that something about having black fur is particularly advantageous for the woodland wolves, but they weren't sure what. Because black wolves gray with age, it seems that the root cause might be deeper than just coat color.

Barsh's laboratory, which has spent years studying genes affecting coat color and other biological pathways in mammals, discovered in 2007 that the gene responsible for black fur in dogs, called beta-defensin, belongs to a family of genes previously believed to be involved in fighting infection. One version of the gene produces light or yellow-colored dogs and wolves; a mutant version missing three nucleotides produces black animals.

"Wildlife biologists don't really think that wolves rely much on camouflage to protect themselves or to increase their hunting success," said Barsh. "It's possible there is something else going on here. For example, the protein responsible for the coat color difference has been implicated, in humans, in inflammation and infection, and therefore might give black animals an advantage that is distinct from its effect on pigmentation."

Although the "why" of this selective advantage remains a mystery, the "how" is becoming more clear. Anderson's study confirmed that the black-coat gene shows evidence of positive selection in forest wolves. She also showed that the gene is dominant, meaning that an

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14) **Black Wolves**

animal with only one copy of the gene would still have a black coat. Ten of fourteen pups of a mating between a black wolf and a gray wolf carried the gene and were black.

She and her collaborators used a variety of genetic tests to determine that the mutation was likely introduced into wolves by dogs sometime in the last 10,000 to 15,000 years, about the same time the first Americans were migrating across the Bering land bridge. These humans were probably accompanied by dogs, some of which carried the black-coat mutation estimated to have arisen about 50,000 years ago. The rest, as they say, was history.

"It may have been easier for dogs to interact with wolves in North America than in Europe," said Anderson. "There was probably a higher concentration of wolves, and the dogs, like the humans, were more migratory."

Unfortunately, it's not yet possible to tell whether there were any black wolves prior to the domestication of dogs. It may be that the mutation arose in the wolf population prior to the domestication of the dog somewhere between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago and then died out in the wild. Alternatively, it may have made its first appearance in a domestic dog and never entered the wild until the Native Americans migrated from Europe. Regardless, it's the seemingly beneficial aspect of the mutation coupled with its origin that has the researchers excited.

"This is a mutation that had been cultivated by humans in

the form of the domestic dog for thousands of years," said Anderson. "Now we see that it not only entered the wild population, but also is benefiting them." The researchers speculate that the loss of the wolves' tundra habitat may encourage the spread of the black-coat gene even further. They're interested in finding out exactly how the mutation works to help forest wolves.

The research underscores the idea that evolution may involve other instances in which traits are passed in unexpected directions. "We now know that dogs have been the caretakers of a genetic legacy that may be very beneficial to wolves," said Barsh. "It should lead us to think more broadly as to how this might apply to other animals and plants."

With tundra habitat expected to decline in coming years due to northern expansion of boreal forests related to global warming, the researchers note that black coloring may also help gray wolves adapt to their changing environment.

"It is somewhat ironic that a trait that was created by humans may now prove to be beneficial for wolves as they deal with human-caused changes to their habitat," said Marco Musiani, an internationally-recognized expert on wolves and a professor in the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design, who was one of the researchers.

Barsh and Anderson's Stanford collaborators include Hua Tang, PhD, assistant professor of genetics, and Sophie Candille, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the Tang lab. The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Swedish Research Council.

### **Fifth dog dies in Iditarod**

Staff and Wire Report  
Originally published Friday, March 20, 2009 at 11:02 a.m.  
Updated Friday, March 20, 2009 at 1:40 p.m.

**FAIRBANKS** -- An 8-year-old male named Omen has become the fifth dog to die in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Race spokesman Chas St. George says a necropsy will be conducted on the dog from musher Rick Larson's team. Omen died early Friday on the trail between the Elim and White Mountain checkpoints.

Late Thursday, a 5-year-old male named Maynard in the team of Warren Palfrey, Yellowknife, Northwest Terrori-

ties, died on the trail between Safety and Nome late Thursday. The incident occurred about an hour before Palfrey's arrival at the finish line.

A necropsy will be conducted.

Two dogs died in Lou Packer's team when they were caught in a windstorm outside the ghost town of Iditarod. The rest of the team and Packer were airlifted to safety. A dog on the team of North Pole musher Jeff Holt also died earlier in the race.

The 1,100-mile race started March 8 near Anchorage. Fairbanks musher Lance Mackey won his third consecutive title on Wednesday.

There are still 26 mushers on the trail.

## School honours Husky hero

06/03/2009 10:05 - (SA)

By Malani Venter, Die Burger

Somerset West - A male Husky received a special medal from the pupils of Somerset West Primary on Thursday morning, after he refused to leave his mate who was hit by a car on the N2 last week.

The medal, for showing courage and love, was hung around the dog's neck by school principal, Johan Engelbrecht.

The two-year-old Husky, named Ice, arrived at the school with his owners, Randall and Esmeralda Olsen. He posed for pictures, holding his tail high and allowing many people to touch and hug him.

Esmeralda said their other dog, Lushka, who was presumably injured in a hit-and-run incident last Thursday on the N2, was recovering well.

Her back leg was broken and she had an operation in Stellenbosch.

"The operation was a success and she will be coming home today [Friday]. We had to wait a while before she could come back after the operation - the two haven't seen each other in a while and the excitement will be so big that she might get hurt," she said.

Ice was pining for Lushka, added Randall. "In the evening, you only hear howling."

Before the medal was awarded, the school's own Husky mascot was brought into the hall. The initial plan was for the mascot to present the medal to Ice, but he did not like the large fake dog, so Engelbrecht decided to give Ice the medal himself.

After the event, pupils from the school had a chance to have their picture taken with the new "hero".



Ice, who stayed with his Husky mate when she got run over on the N2, gets a hug from Hagan Poole from Somerset West Primary.

## PETA's Dirty Secret

<http://www.petakillsanimals.com/petasdirtysecret.cfm>

Hypocrisy is the mother of all credibility problems, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has it in spades. While loudly complaining about the "unethical" treatment of animals by restaurant owners, grocers, farmers, scientists, anglers, and countless other Americans, the group has its own dirty little secret.

**PETA kills animals.** By the thousands.

From July 1998 through December 2008, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) killed over 25,112 dogs, cats, and other "companion animals." That's more than five defenseless creatures every day. PETA has a walk-in freezer to store the dead bodies, and contracts with a Virginia Beach company to cremate them.

Not counting the pets PETA spayed and neutered, the group put to death over 90 percent of the animals it took in during the last five years. And its angel-of-death pattern shows no sign of changing.

On its 2002 federal income-tax return, PETA claimed a \$9,370 write-off for a giant walk-in freezer, the kind most people use as a meat locker or for ice-cream storage. But animal-rights activists don't eat meat or dairy foods. And during a 2007 criminal trial, a PETA manager (testifying under oath) confirmed the obvious -- that the group uses the appliance to store the bodies of its victims.

In 2000, when the Associated Press first noted PETA's Ker-

vorkian-esque tendencies, PETA president Ingrid Newkirk complained that actually taking care of animals costs more than killing them. "We could become a no-kill shelter immediately," she admitted.

**PETA kills animals.** Because it has other financial priorities.

PETA rakes in nearly \$30 million each year in income, much of it raised from pet owners who think their donations actually help animals. Instead, the group spends huge sums on programs equating people who eat chicken with Nazis, scaring young children away from drinking milk, recruiting children into the radical animal-rights lifestyle, and intimidating businessmen and their families in their own neighborhoods. PETA has also spent tens of thousands of dollars defending arsonists and other violent extremists.

PETA claims it engages in outrageous media-seeking stunts "for the animals." But which animals? Carping about the value of future two-piece dinners while administering lethal injections to puppies and kittens isn't ethical. It's hypocritical -- with a death toll that PETA would protest if it weren't their own doing.

**PETA kills animals.** And its leaders dare lecture the rest of us?

Year	Received	Adopted	Killed	Transferred	% Killed	% Adopted
2008	2,216	7	2,124	34	95.9	0.32
2007	1,997	17	1,815	35	90.9	0.85
2006	3,061	12	2,981	46	97.4	0.39
2005	2,165	146	1,946	69	89.9	6.74
2004	2,655	361	2,278	1	85.8	13.60
2003	2,224	312	1,911	1	85.9	14.03
2002	2,680	382	2,298	2	85.7	14.25
2001	2,685	703	1,944	14	72.4	26.18



HAPPY ENDINGS 1st Quarter 2009



*Congratulations to all of these newly adopted dogs and their families!*

*We truly appreciate your love and devotion to our SHRF Sibes!*

**Why is it... that when you blow in your dog's face, it gets mad**

**- but when you take it for a ride in the truck, it sticks its head out the window?**





# THE DOG HOUSE...we need homes!

*PLEASE! Can you find room in your home for one of us? We promise to be good furballs and to love you forever and ever!!*



**"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them."**  
  
**-Phil Pastoret**



## Pet Friendly - Chop! Chop! Fried Rice

From Every Day with Rachael Ray  
November 2008

**SERVES 1**

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 1/2 cup leftover white or brown rice
- 1 large egg, beaten

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a small skillet, heat the oil over high heat. Add the rice and cook until golden, about 4 minutes. Add the peas and carrots and toss to combine. Scoot the rice-vegetable mixture off to the side; add the egg to the pan and cook, stirring, until set, then mix into the rice. Transfer to a bowl and let cool.

Three handsome male dogs are walking down the street when they see a beautiful, enticing, female Siberian Husky dog. The three male dogs fall all over themselves in an effort to be the one to reach her first, but end up arriving in front of her at the same time.

The males are speechless before her beauty, slobbering on themselves and hoping for just a glance from her crystal blue eyes in return. Aware of her charms and her obvious effect on the three suitors, she decides to be kind and tells them "The first one who can use the

words "liver" and "cheese" together in an imaginative, intelligent sentence can go out with me."

The sturdy, muscular black Lab speaks up quickly and says "I love liver and cheese." "Oh, how childish," said the husky. "That shows no imagination or intelligence whatsoever." She turned to the tall, shiny Golden Retriever and said "How well can you do?" "Um. I HATE liver and cheese," blurts the Golden Retriever. "My, my," said the sibe. "I guess it's hopeless. That's just as dumb as the

Lab's sentence."

She then turns to the last of the three dogs and says, "How about you, little guy?" The last of the three, tiny in stature but big in fame and finesse, is the Taco Bell Chihuahua. He gives her a smile, a sly wink, turns to the Golden Retriever and the Lab and says.....

READY?

"Liver alone. Cheese mine."

## I Want to Quit (This is What Animal Rescue is Like)

By Joan C. Fremo of Great Pyrenees Rescue, written in 2001  
Joan passed on in January of 2003  
after a life of dedication to rescue.

**I want to quit!** My health is bad. There are days I feel so terrible that I can barely move. My phone bills are outrageous, and I could have replaced my van with the funds I have spent these last 3 years---on animals that were not my own.

**I want to quit!** I spend hours and hours emailing about dogs. There may be 500 messages when I start---and at 4 AM, when I finally shut down the computer, there are still 500 emails to be read.

**I want to quit!** Gosh, I haven't the time left to email my friends. I can't remember the last book I read, and I gave up my subscription to my local newspaper---I used to enjoy reading it, cover to cover, but now it often ends up in the bottom of the squirrel's cage---unread.

**I want to quit!** I've spent days emailing what seems like everyone---trying to find a foster home, help for a dog languishing in a shelter---but his time has run out, and the shelter has had to euthanize to make room for the next sad soul.

**I want to quit!** I swear, I walk away from my computer to stretch my legs---let the dogs out---and come back to find another dog in desperate need. There are times I really dread checking my email. How will I find the funds, the help, to save yet another dog?

**I want to quit!** I save one dog, and two more take its place. Now an owner who doesn't want his dog---it won't stay in his unfenced yard. An intact male wanders... This bitch got pregnant by a stray... This 3-month-old pup killed baby chicks... The dog got too big... This person's moving and needs to give up his pet. I ask you, friends---what town, what city, what state doesn't allow you to own a pet?

**I want to quit!** I just received another picture, another sad soul with tormented eyes that peer out of a malnourished body. I hear whimpering in my sleep, have nightmares for days...

**I want to quit!** Many of the "Breed People" don't seem to want to hear about these dogs. Breeders either don't realize, or just don't care, how many dogs of their breed are dying in shelters.

**I want to quit!** I just got off the phone. "Are you Pyr Rescue? We want to adopt a male to breed to our female." How many times do I have to explain? I have tried to explain about genetics, about health and pedigrees. I explain that rescue NEUTERS! I usually end up sobbing, as I explain about the vast numbers of animals dying in shelters across the country, as I describe the condition many of these animals are found in. I wonder if they really heard me...

**I want to quit!** It is not like I don't have enough rescues of my own to worry about---but others have placed dogs improperly and aren't there to advise the new owners.

**I want to quit!** There ARE some unscrupulous rescues out there---hoarders, collectors, and folks who will short change the care of the animals to make a dollar. The save them all, regardless of temperament, putting fellow rescuer's and adopters at risk but not being truthful.

**I want to quit!** I have trusted the wrong people--- had faith and heart broken...

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** My dog, Magnus, lays his head in my lap, he comforts me with his gentle presence---and the thought of his cousins suffering stirs my heart.

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** One of those 500 emails is from an adopter. They are thanking me for the most wonderful dog on earth---they cannot imagine life with out their friend---their life is changed, and they are so grateful.

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** One of my adopted Rescues has visited a nursing home. A patient that has spent the last few years unable to communicate, not connecting---Lifts his hand to pat the huge head in his lap, softly speaks his first words in ages--- to this gentle fur-child.

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** A Good Samaritan has found and vetted a lost baby, "I can't keep him, but I'll take care of him until you find his forever home."

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** "Jamie took his first steps holding on to our Pyr." "Joan, you should see this dog nursing this hurt kitten!" "I was so sick, Joan, and he never left my side..."

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** I get an email from a fellow rescuer, "Haven't heard from you in a while---you OK? You know I think of you..."

**I want to quit! AND THEN...** A dozen rescuers step up to help, to transport, to pull, and to offer encouragement. I have friends I have never seen, but we share tears, joys, and everything in between. I am not alone. I am blest with family of the heart, my fellow Rescuers. Just days ago it was a friend who shared her wit and wisdom, whose late night email lifted my heart. Sometimes it is friends who only have time to forward you a smile. Often, it is my friends who forward me the notices of dogs in need. There are Rescuers who see a failing transport and do everything they can do find folks to pull it together for you. Rescuers who'll overnight or foster your Dog while you seek transport. There are Rescuers not used to or comfortable with your breed, but who put aside their discomfort to help. There are Rescuers whose words play the music of our hearts. Foster homes that love your Rescue, and help to make them whole again---body and spirit. Foster homes that fit your baby in, though it may not be their breed. Rescuers whose talents and determination give us tools to help us. Rescuers we call on for help in a thousand ways, who answer us, who hear our pleas. Rescuers who are our family, our strength, our comrades in battle. I know I cannot save every Pyr in need. I know my efforts are a mere drop in a sea. I know that if I take on just one more---those I have will suffer.

**I want to quit! But I won't.** When I feel overwhelmed, I'll stroke my Magnus's head while reading my fellow Rescuers emails. I'll cry with them, I'll laugh with them---and they will help me find the strength to go on.

**I want to quit! But not today.** There's another email, another dog needing Rescue.

This piece is dedicated, with love and gratitude, to all my fellow Rescuers.

Joan