



A Happy Ending *Crystal's Story*

Crystal is a cute little Poochon; a Poodle Bichon mix. At less than ten pounds her bright eyes seem to fill up her entire little curly face. She is loving, trusting and a real cuddler. You would never guess that she spent the first two and a half years of her life living with dog hoarders. Besides the deplorable living conditions she also endured living with a broken leg that was never re-set and because of that, it was never able to be used again.

Doggie Protective Services (DPS) in Palo Alto California, a non-profit all volunteer rescue organization, has helped over 12,000 animals find their forever homes. Crystal was lucky enough to be one of them and Gail Peterson's home is the one she found.

Crystal's journey to her forever home started when Gail saw a girl walking a cute little puppy in her neighborhood and stopped to talk with her. The girl was fostering the puppy for DPS. She explained to Gail all about the organization. They have no facility, partner with 30 different shelters and rely totally on foster homes located throughout California to take in the dogs they rescue. Gail looked further into the organization and was eventually introduced to a little dog that walked on only three legs and had been in foster care for six months. That was five years ago and the dog was Crystal.

After bringing Crystal home one of the first things Gail did was to take her to a vet to be checked out and determine what could be done about that back leg she was not using. By this time Crystal was three years old and it was obvious that the leg had been broken for quite a while. In order to walk she had been holding the leg up so as not to put any pressure on it. Unfortunately overtime the bones had fused together at the joint making it impossible to finally be able to set it correctly. Crystal's leg is permanently in the bent position with her foot not touching the ground. Do to the lack of use that foot has atrophied and although totally formed, it appears slightly smaller than the others.





A Social Pet Therapy Program

THE COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

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OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of lives of people by promoting the Human/Companion Animal Bond and to provide support when the bond is broken.

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"Animals speak to those who listen"

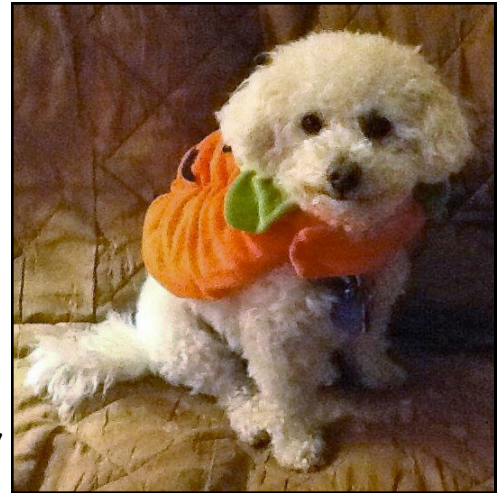
So how has all this affected mobility and how does Crystal get around now five years later? "Great" Gail says. "In order not to put any additional strain on her legs I've trained her not to go up the stairs in my house or jump up on furniture or the bed. She'll wait at the bottom of the stairs to be carried up and also wait to be lifted on to any furniture and my bed. I'm very careful to feed her well but keep her weight stable. She also gets vitamins for her bones and a massage daily on her foot and leg joints."

While living in Canada and California Gail has worked as a University Librarian and with a software company. She has also had years of experience in California and AZ working with and aiding Senior Citizens. In one of her positions within a hospital she was responsible for assuring that Seniors being discharged were able to receive all the assistance they needed once at home.

Gail's mother lived in a nursing home at the time she adopted Crystal. "While visiting my mother, I could see the heart warming reactions of residents when my sister brought her dog, Dexter the Wonder Dog, to visit. Crystal was such a calm, smart and very loving dog I decided to enroll us in the American Kennel Good Citizenship training program with the idea of doing social therapy." Once certified, that's exactly what they set out to do.

After moving to Arizona in 2016, searching the internet and finding the CAAA website they applied and were set up to visit at Healthcare Plaza in Scottsdale, a 179 bed skilled nursing facility. With Gail's past experience in hospitals and a desire to again work with seniors, Healthcare Plaza was a good fit and she and Crystal have been visiting every week since. "From our very first visit when I put Crystal on the lap of a frail man sitting in a wheel chair and I saw his absence of expression totally transformed, it's been one rewarding experience after another." Crystal even dresses up for the residents, many times in attire matching that week's season or holiday. "She has several "regular" residents that we visit each week. They get very excited during special occasions and are always asking what Crystal will be wearing."

Once there was a little Poochon that was lucky enough to go from a hoarding home to a loving home - It's clearly a happy ending; A "Crystal Clear" happy ending.





There are several ways you can help CAAA generate financial contributions by participating with our Community Partners.

- When shopping at **Amazon** on line, use :
SMILE.AMAZON.COM
- When you enroll your **Fry's** VIP card in their Community Rewards Program
- Any real estate transactions with **Richard Howell, North & Co. Real Estate**. Email: richard@northandco.com
- Making **United Way Agency** Pledges using code:
Companion Animal
Association of Arizona
TIN-94-2908620
- **Intel** encourages employees to pursue their passion to volunteer. The Intel Foundation matches the time they volunteer with a cash grant through the Intel Involved Matching Grant Program. CAAA is eligible to receive these cash grants.



Tired of Dirty Doggie Feet?

By Jane Conrow

Do you ever look at your dog and think: "Gosh, his feet are dirty, but the rest of him doesn't need a bath." This especially plagues those of us who have dogs with white feet. Even one short walk will turn them grey.

There's a new product out there made by a bunch of manufactures that is a wonder washer for just dog feet. Basically it's a slim plastic container with soft silicone bristles inside. You simply fill it with plain or soapy water and dip your dog's feet in it, one-by- one. Getting your dog used to it is much easier than acquainting him to something like a tooth brush. Basically you practice without filling with water. Most dogs (including mine) take to it right away. Perhaps it feels like a foot massage. It's a lot easier than bathing the entire dog!

Products vary in size and price. At this time, an online search showed the most variety at Amazon. But also the following stores (online) carry one variety or another: Chewy, Target, Walmart. (Search in your web browser under "dog foot washer".)



Picture That!

How can you describe the joy and love on a residents face when they see one of our dogs? It's hard to do. So how about some pictures? If your facility allows picture taking of residents during visits, let me know. I'd love to tag along with you and capture some of those happy faces for our newsletter. Contact me at the email address below. Remember, we'll have to have a photo release (available on our website).

Jackie
trngptst@cox.net

FROM CAAA PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A YEAR OF INSPIRATION

Companion Animal Association pet therapy volunteers and members have provided 35 years of happiness and comfort to so many!

There's no contesting that a visit from a cute, furry friend is an uplifting and memorable experience for those facing a challenge or in need of emotional support.

The kindness of volunteering and sharing your pet to raise someone's spirit is inspiring and heartwarming. You give the most expensive and priceless gift anyone can - kindness and love.

With Much Gratitude,

Pamela Peet
President



OCTOBER PICNIC CANCELLATION

As a result of rain and more rain, our annual picnic was cancelled. It was disappointing not to be able to visit with our membership and welcome our new teams.

So, a huge Thank You to all who RSVP'd, but we hope to see you all at our annual event in March.

March event details will be announced soon and will be held at the Pyle Center in Tempe.

In the meantime, hug your furry loved ones and create wonderful memories.

The CAAA Board



CAAA TEAMS GO SCOUTING

If you happened to be in the area of Arcadia Park a few months back and saw a group of a dozen or so Brownie Scouts along with about ten dogs and wondered what was going on, wonder no longer. It was the Troop's monthly meeting and this month included a lesson about pets, specifically dogs. CAAA member April Crow coordinated the event and was there with her dog Willow along with three of our other teams; Rick & Jake, Jane & Ty and Gail & Crystal.

The interactive session was designed to teach respect for the dogs and safety for the girls. The main topics that were covered included pet responsibility, basic manners around dogs and the well being and safety of both. The girls were told how to correctly meet a dog if they see one with their owner; always asking permission, approaching slowly, and first reaching out your hand and letting the dog

smell you. They then practiced by meeting the therapy dogs. They were also given brushes to practice brushing the dogs and taught basic health care while dressed in lab coats and "examining" the dogs including using a stethoscopes to listen to heart rates.

The girls had questions and although some had never before spent a lot of time around dogs they all eagerly participated. Even those that had pets were able to interact with the variety of different breeds and sizes that were there participating; from small King Charles Ty to large Golden Jake.

One of the most important lessons was what to do if you are approached by a dog you do not know that is loose with no owner in sight. One of the most important points stressed is not to run as it may provoke the dog to chase you. The girls were taught to stand still and be a tree by

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looking straight ahead and not at the dog, or be a rock by curling up on the ground and being as still as can be.

This was not the first time April had coordinated an educational session like this. She said that as a participant you always wonder if children are listening and learning what it is you are explaining and you always hope you have made a difference. Well, she no longer has to wonder or hope about that. Since this event, the Brownie leader called her to pass on a message she had received from the mother of one of the girls. They were camping when her daughter and younger son went for a walk and were confronted by a loose dog coming towards them with no one else in sight. The brother turned and wanted to run but was stopped by his sister who pulled him to the ground and told him what to do. They both rolled into a tight ball, pretended to be a rock and were as quiet as they could be. The dog sniffed them and walked away. "Mom wanted to be sure we were thanked for helping her children to avoid what could have possibly been a disaster" April says. "I'm so glad that our lessons are really learned and remembered".

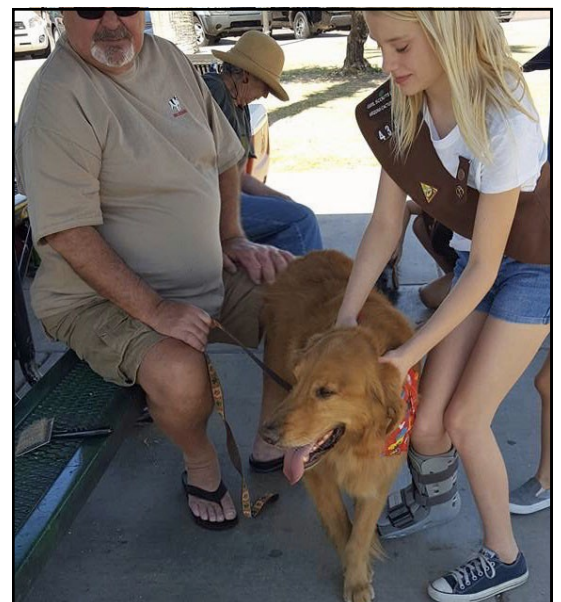
"I think sessions like this are good for everyone, including the dogs", she adds. "Most of the time we visit with the elderly in a hospital-like setting. We seldom visit and interact with children which is a totally different kind of experience for all of us. Afterwards we received hand drawn thank you cards from the Brownies, but before we left we were given.....Girl Scout Cookies!"



Learning to care for a dog including brushing Ty as Jane looks on (above) and Crystal (below) as Gail looks on



April with Jake and Willow being "examined"



Meeting Rick's Golden Jake

Don't Shop ~ Adopt



It's estimated that over 90% of the dogs sold in stores come from puppy mills. That will now change in California as it is officially the first state to ban

puppy mills. The California State Legislature passed and the Governor signed CA Assembly Bill 485. In part, it reads:

This bill would prohibit, on and after January 1, 2019, a pet store operator from selling a live dog, cat, or rabbit in a pet store unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group, as defined, that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter, as specified.

Los Angeles, San Diego and several other cities in California already had ordinances against puppy mills. This bill prohibits sales state wide but still allows local governments to enact stricter guidelines and penalties then state law.

So what about Arizona? We have a law directed at curbing these sales that Governor Ducey signed in 2016. However, it was then and still is

controversial. While it sets forth statewide standards including the establishment of a panel to study regulations from other states and look for options to encourage neutering, adoption of animals and "healthy breeding of dogs and cats", it does has a fair share of opponents.

It requires pet stores to ensure they are obtaining their dogs and cats only from breeders who comply with standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The opponents say besides USDA standards not being strict enough the agency has admitted they do not have the resources to enforce them. The state law voided the existing regulations in Phoenix and Tempe and one pending in Tucson which allows pet stores to sell ONLY rescue and shelter dogs and cats.

The full text of CAAB485 can be found at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB485

The complete article explaining the Arizona law can be found at:

<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2016/05/19/ducey-signs-puppy-mill-bill-over-objections-of-pet-advocates/>





CORNER

BY DR. MELANIE LOWRANCE

WWW.SMALLANIMALHOUSECALLS.COM

THE VET'S



New Puppy Visits

With the holidays coming up I thought I could give some advice on things to ask and go over with your vet and what the veterinarian looks for on the first puppy visit just in case you get a new puppy under your tree.



Most puppies purchased from breeders will be sold between 6-8 weeks of age, but regardless of age any new pet should see the veterinarian.

I would recommend bringing the puppy in right away to have a physical exam performed. The veterinarian will perform a head to tail exam including:

- looking in the ears- ear mites and infection can be seen in very young dogs

- looking in the mouth- is there an over/under bite and are the teeth aligning correctly, any cleft palate

- palpation of the hips to evaluate for Ortolani's sign (if present this may indicate hip dysplasia) and knees for any patellar luxation (loose knee cap) especially common in small breeds of dogs

- listening to the heart to make sure there is no congenital heart defect- a puppy can have a significant heart defect and not have any outward signs.

- checking the puppy's skin for signs of external parasites like mites, fleas, ticks, tumors or hernias on the abdomen.



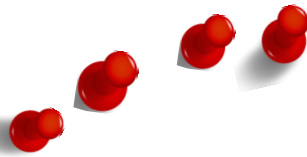
Things to consider addressing with your veterinarian during the visit:

1. Vaccine schedule- puppies receive a booster every 3-4 weeks until they are 16 weeks old. Puppies receive the rabies vaccine at 12 weeks in Arizona and it is only good for 1 year.
2. Spaying and Neutering
3. Puppy training and socialization
4. Boarding or traveling with the puppy - vaccine schedules can be tailored to the pet's lifestyle
5. Grooming and ear care, nail trimming, oral care including teeth brushing
6. Nutrition- what diet is best for the age and breed of the dog and treats
7. Any problems that you have seen in your new pet- such as coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, scratching, house training problems, etc.
8. Heartworm/flea and tick prevention - puppies under 6 months of age can start on heartworm prevention without having a heartworm test performed. It is now advised all dogs in every state stay on heartworm prevention year-round.
9. Bring in a fresh stool sample with you to have the puppy checked for intestinal parasites. Puppies can have normal stools and still have intestinal parasites.

I hope this helps to make the connection between you and your pet strong. This advice is not just for puppies but for any pet going to the veterinarian especially the first visit. To quote Benjamin Franklin:

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."





BULLETIN BOARD



Wishing you all of the
Hope, Wonder, and Joy that the
Season can bring!

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update



DON'T FORGET WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU?

Share your stories from pet therapy visits on Facebook. If
you have a story to share, please send it to Bella at:

bellapanchmatia@gmail.com

CAAA
2018

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