



# Petite Paws Gazette

February 2010

## Petite Paws Rescue Angels, Inc.



### February is Pet dental health month

Bad breath, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), is among the first signs of dental disease in Pets. During February, national Pet dental health month, veterinarians urge Pet owners to take preventive measures to help improve and maintain the health of their Pets' teeth and gums.

#### Tips for keeping your Pet's teeth and gums healthy:

- Feed your Pet a high-quality diet that promotes dental health. Select food made by companies known for staying current on the latest nutritional research. Many of the reputable Pet food companies have formulated diets that aid in the control of tartar and calculus. The best Pet food diet for your Pet based on several factors, including age, weight, health concerns and lifestyle.

- Cats and dogs require dental exams and benefit from professional cleanings to maintain their overall health. If dental care is neglected, harmful bacteria can enter your Pet's bloodstream and cause various health problems, such as heart disease and kidney infections. Additionally, dental disease is very painful and can cause great discomfort.

- Dental examinations are recommended every six months, depending on your Pet's needs. Your veterinarian can examine your Pet and discuss the recommended interval for professional dental cleanings. If you notice bad breath, a decreased appetite, weight loss, pain when chewing, blood on your dog's chew toys or bones, nasal discharge, red/swollen gums, or any other signs of dental disease between recommended cleanings, bring your Pet in for an examination immediately.

- Small canine breeds, as well as most felines, are at an increased risk of having dental problems and gum infections. While these problems are often caused by overcrowding of the teeth, retention of "baby teeth" or genetic predisposition to gum disease, they are often aggravated by poor dental care.

- Tartar and dental calculus lead to tooth and gum decay. If tartar (the non-visible film on teeth) and dental calculus (the visible mineral deposits) are not routinely cleaned from Pets' teeth, they can cause gums to become red, inflamed, infected and painful (gingivitis). Prolonged tartar, dental calculus and gingivitis can also cause bad breath (halitosis), periodontal disease, dental infections and eventually, tooth loss.

- Brush your Pet's teeth regularly. By introducing the habit early in life, brushing can become an enjoyable part of your Pet's healthcare routine. Your veterinarian can recommend toothbrushes and toothpastes that are created especially for Pets. The appropriate use of chew toys can also be an effective way to control tartar. Ask your veterinarian to recommend specific chew toys for your Pet.

*\*Please never give rawhide as a dog chew. It is very dangerous. Rawhide does not digest and can get lodged in your pet's intestines causing major health issue or worse.*

To keep your Pet's teeth and gums as healthy as possible, ensure that you brush his or her teeth at least once per week (ideally, daily), and visit a veterinarian for regular dental cleanings.

Reprint from: [Banfield](#)

## Volunteer of the Quarter

It is with great pleasure that we honor **Foster Director, Theresa Allen**, as our Volunteer of the Quarter. Theresa joined our "family" in May of 2007 and immediately hit the ground running as a volunteer and foster. Her invaluable knowledge about canine health and her passion for saving dogs from abuse and abandonment have made her an integral part of our team. In addition to cultivating a team of volunteers to fulfill the Petite Paws mission in her area, Theresa and her husband Ray have opened their hearts and home to many dogs awaiting adoption and have truly made a difference.

Thank you Theresa for the incredible job that you do!



## Senior Adoption Program

You may have seen the announcement in our last newsletter about our change of policy on adoptions. Any person over the age of 55 is eligible for a discounted rate when they adopt one of our fosters over the age of 1. We have decided to offer this in the hopes that more people will apply to adopt one of our fosters. Due to the sad state of the economy last year, we had fewer adoption applications than in the past. We also took in more fosters for the same reason—loss of homes, loss of income, etc. took a toll on many families and many of their pets.

We also have many older dogs looking for homes. We are trying to encourage the adoption of fosters who may have a few years on them. Yorkies and toy dogs in general live longer than the larger breeds, so a 4-year-old dog could conceivably have 12+ years of a happy life ahead of him/her.



Mature people, as a rule, have more patience and don't expect perfection. They are more willing, and have more time, to work with a dog that may need some extra time to fit into their new household.

If you know anyone who might benefit from having the companionship of a mature dog, please encourage them to check out our [website](#), especially our Senior Adoption Program! Visit us for more details [HERE](#).

## Forever Families - Come Join Us

Are you one of **those** people who are always telling stories about your pets? Do you walk in to a pet store and leave \$100 later, even though you only went in for one item? Do you carry their pictures in your wallet, on your cell phone, or better yet - are they the screensaver on your computer? Well guess what - here at Petite Paws Rescue, we are **those** kinds of people. And when adoption day comes for one of our foster kids, we hope their forever home is occupied by **those** kinds of people, too!

Because we want everyone to share their stories, pictures, ideas, thoughts, or whatever else you want to talk about, we have a great place to come together - our **Petite Paws Rescue - Forever Families Google Group**! The membership for our group is limited to Petite Paws Rescue adopters and board moderators only. Since it's a select group who are eligible for membership, it's a safe place for you to talk about what's new with your forever friend, share your latest pictures or ask questions about something you may be experiencing with your furry pets. Plus, we like to hear how our former kiddos are doing in their forever homes so it's a great way for you to keep in touch with us, too!

If you want to join, we'd love to have you! If you're not sure, well - just join anyway. You don't have to post anything if you don't want to, so you can just hang around and read the messages for awhile, see how you like it.

Please [EMAIL](#) us if you are interested.

## February Events

2/13/10 - PetSmart Hobart 10 - 4  
2/14/10 - PetSmart Hobart 10 - 4  
2/13/10 - PetSmart Indy 11 - 4  
2/13/10 - PetSmart Ft Wayne 11 - 3  
2/28/10 - PetSmart Hobart 11 - 4

Visit our site for more details [HERE](#).

Interested in joining our team to help out at events? Please contact us for details.

[EMAIL US](#)

## Thank You So Much

Peggy McCain  
Jerome Sukta  
Terri Clegg  
Stephanie Jobe  
Sarah Harger  
Lori Roddy  
Barbara Sanders  
Barbara Johnson  
Joyce Ross  
Joyce Holifield  
Catherine Evers  
Nancy Kegley  
PetSmart Charities  
Marilyn Mason  
PSG Elementary Students  
Melissa Townsend  
Margaret Clark  
Stephen Smith  
Mary Jurgenson  
Connie Keuler  
Carolyn Rudolph

## Volunteers Needed

As always, we are in dyer need of volunteers and foster homes. Make a rewarded difference in you life and join our team!

You may find our Volunteer Application on our website [HERE](#).

## January Adoptions

Mabel 1-1  
Gracie Anne 1-15  
Kailey 1-19

Spring is right around the corner and will be here before you know it. All the snow will go away and the birds will be singing again. There is no better time to adopt a fur kid. They won't mind going outside as much in the warmer weather.

Try to keep warm. See you next month!

***Yorkie Hugs,***

Barb Beck  
Founder/Executive Director  
Petite Paws Rescue Angels, Inc.  
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