



# FIDO SPEAKS!

FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS  
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## Landlords & Tenants

The New York City Administrative Code (Section 27-2009.1) provides protection for dog owners who live in apartments that prohibit the maintaining of dogs and/or cats without the consent of the owner. Most leases in New York City contain the standard clause that the tenant is not allowed to keep an animal or pet

in the apartment without the consent of the owner.

As a protection to tenants who have owned dogs for a period of time without any objection on the part of the owner and to prevent owners from retaliating against a tenant when a dispute arises by requiring a long-term tenant to remove a pet, the law provides that, if the owner has not commenced a summary proceeding or action to enforce the lease provision relating to pets within three months after the dog or pet is acquired, the owner is deemed to have waived the no pet provision of the lease for purposes of that pet only.

It is important for the tenant who has an illegal pet to maintain the pet "openly" and "notoriously," such that the ownership of the animal is not intentionally

being hidden from discovery by the owner. "Openly" and "notoriously" requires the tenant to maintain the pet in the normal course that pets are maintained; being walked every day for a dog, not hiding the pet when the superintendent visits the apartment and, in short, acting with respect to the pet as if it was fully legal to maintain the animal in the apartment. The tenant should obtain documentation of exactly how, when and where the pet was obtained and maintain this documentation at all times in order to defend any claim by the owner that you are in violation of the lease.

Sometimes documentation is difficult to obtain, for example, if a tenant harbors a stray dog that is not obtained from any source.

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## Tribute To WTC Search & Rescue Dogs

According to this on-line tribute, over 250 canine search and rescue dogs worked around the clock at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the September 11th terrorist attacks. These heroes worked without the benefit of gas masks and protective clothing. They climbed and searched places considered too dangerous for humans. This photo tribute is in recognition of their bravery and heroic efforts. Enjoy the special slide show honoring these courageous canines of 911.

<http://www.ctlegalguide.com/SlideShow/canintribute.htm>

## By The Hydrant

Dale Kaplan

### Coollest Kid In the Park

13 year old Gina has got to be the coolest kid in the park. Not only did she adopt her poodle mix when he was 10 years old, this tiny little fellow came with more baggage than Air France, Alitalia and EL AL combined. Not to mention Swiss Air, Virgin Atlantic, and Jet Blue.

He suffers from toothlessness, a collapsed trachea, a heart murmur, a thyroid condition and a knee that pops in and out. And rumor has it, that he's also being audited by the I.R.S. Oi vay. Gina the Generous you're the best!

### Valiant Defender Of Dogs

SCHLOMO the male canine version of Claudia Schiffer always gets a lot of attention, as does his adorable baby brother Tobias. Now it's their daddy's turn to bask in the spotlight and rightfully so. Valiant protector of dogs, Mark admonished a jogger who kicked Sunya and Reanna's Jackie right in the head. This unprovoked act of "not so nice" caused Mark to chase the jogger to Flatbush Avenue and around the park three times.\* When he finally caught up with him in halfway down Coney Island Avenue, he was unfortunately too out of breath to speak. However, his point was made in a non-verbal fashion and we are hoping the incident will not reoccur. Thank you, Mark.

\*Slight exaggeration

### Pack Of Protégées

It seems that Ulysses the famous black pug has a pack of protégées. Especially mentoring Guinness and his sister Lulu they can be seen along with Boris and Natasha chasing dogs five times their size up and down the meadow. Ulysses. you're a classic!

### Newcomer

If you see a golden lab dancing the samba down the meadow, feel free to join in. Chances are it is Anita who recently moved to New York from Brazil with her person Maria Paula. Welcome to Brooklyn.

### Welcome Back, Connie

After a long hiatus, nursing her knee back to health, Connie and Bear are back with a vengeance. Connie with her digital camera in hand has been shooting beautiful portraits of dogs and their owners. Her spirit and great personality lift up the entire neighborhood. Not to mention her good looks. We love you Connie.

## Bowser Browser

**THE CRUELEST MILES:** The Heroic Story of Dogs and Men In A Race Against An Epidemic, by Gay Salisbury and Brooklyn Author Laney Salisbury

"The true story of Balto, the famed Husky dog whose statue graces Central Park. In winter 1925, there was a diphtheria outbreak in the tiny town of Nome, Alaska and Balto's team of men and dogs raced across wilderness and through a raging blizzard to get the serum to the dying town. Cousins Gay and Laney Salisbury have done a heroic job themselves sorting through old newspaper articles and interviews to create a fluid story. Finally, a book to make you thankful for 90-degree weather." *Chicago Tribune*

## The Elements

By Maureen Sanders

a Dobie  
gazes into water  
and thinks herself in it

a black Lab  
plunges into water  
and gazes at land

good friends,  
their gazes meet in the cold Fall air  
and they dream of a fire

## Vet's Corner

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### Older Dogs

Kristine A. Young, DVM.

Many (if not most!) of us who have been with our dogs since they were youngsters continue to think of them as puppies. Then, seemingly out of the blue, those tell-tale signs appear:

- A little stiff when he gets up in the morning
- She isn't quite as alert as she was
- Now the squirrel always wins the chase
- He licks at his hindquarters
- Her sleeping and eating patterns change

Yes, puppydom does eventually morph into seniorhood. Exactly when that change occurs is different for every dog, but usually begins about two-thirds of the way through an expected life-span for your dog's size or breed. Like humans, dogs are all genetically different and some will continue to do well long into old age while others begin to exhibit symptoms early on.

The good news for 21<sup>st</sup> century dog owners is that advances in nutrition, medicine and supplemental treatments have progressed to the point that most conditions can be managed very effectively. In addition to regular veterinary wellness checks, including blood and urine analysis, there are a range of strategies that can be utilized to help dogs live with a high quality of life.

#### Nutrition

As natural decreases in exercise are confronted by joint diseases, obesity issues tend to be magnified. The obvious response is to decrease calorific intake while maintaining high nutritional value. For people who have the time to cook meals for their dogs, maximizing protein and fresh vegetable ingredients (such as broccoli and carrots) while minimizing fats is strongly recommended. For the rest of us time-starved folks, choosing a high quality commercial food that is lower in calories (such as *Wellness Senior*) is always my preference to feeding prescription diet foods, which contain unnecessary by-products and additives.

### Nutraceuticals and Conventional Medications

I am a practitioner who firmly believes in first using naturally-based supplements to treat disorders, while not negating the value of conventional medicine in combination with these alternatives. The primary ways in which we have used nutraceuticals are in boosting the immune system (for animals of all ages), and in treating diseases from arthritis to itchy skin. As dogs age, using nutraceuticals—such as Vetriscience's Glycoflex—to help maintain the body's systems can aid greatly in the dog's quality of life.

Recently there have been a number of exciting breakthroughs in conventional medicine for older dogs. The newer range of pain relievers, including Zubrin, Metacam and Dermaxx have provided an alternative to Rimadyl which some dogs are unable to tolerate.

#### Treatments

When arthritic joints stiffen, older dogs tend to avoid exercise. The muscles supporting the joints begin to atrophy and the dog becomes weaker, thus exacerbating the exercise resistance. In order to minimize the effects of these events, dogs need to be encouraged to continue to do moderate amounts of exercise. There are also an array of emerging treatments that can help the symptoms of arthritis. Hydrotherapy with electric stimulation and ultrasound has been remarkable in soothing the pain and gently stimulating sore muscles. It is a wonderful sight to see an achy dog emerge from the warm water with a wagging tail and a more sprightly gait! Acupuncture and massage are also treatments that I will sometimes recommend in conjunction with hydrotherapy.

#### Dementia

As nutritional and medical advances mean that dogs are living longer, the incidence of dementia

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## Dog Tales

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By Misa Martin

Flop and I have been students of positive - reinforcement training (Operant conditioning, or "Clicker training" as it is popularly known). There are so many fun and useful things that this way of training can teach us about how our dogs learn, in addition to being a useful problem solving tool for dog owners. I believe that clicker training helped Flop and I to get through a tough time that could have been extremely detrimental to him, but through an informed positive approach, was turned into a good learning experience for both of us.

On a cold December morning last year in Prospect Park, I was walking with Flop, Maya, and Virgil the JRT with several other doggy friends. As many of you know, Flop is a big dog in a little dog package and is quite confident in playing with dogs of all sizes. So I was watching Flop peripherally as he went wildly careening towards the large group of trees that borders the doggie beach, pursued by a group of about six other dogs. They all had been playing chase as a group during our walk, and seemed to be completely harmonious. However, as I watched the group return from that run, I saw that everyone else's dog had come back but mine. Thinking that he was just out of my sight, I was sure that he would come bouncing through those trees, and began to call him. No Flop.

I kept walking towards the beach, and made the same loop around that the group had, to no avail. With Maya and Virgil's help, we all began calling Flop's name. We agreed to separate and I took the path through the woods that begins at the beach, thinking that an uppity squirrel must have distracted him away from the others. I grew increasingly panicked as I called his name, walking alone through

the silent woods, and reflected on our life together.

Flop is my first and only dog, and ever since I rescued him in May 2002 from the CACC I have been incredibly bonded to him. He and I had played the Recall game many times in all kinds of circumstances - and I felt pretty confident that he knew that great things always happened when he came back to me. Using different, consistently rewarding games, like Hide-and-go-Seek - in our apartment and sometimes with the wonderful distractions of the Park. The Recall was one of the essential things that I had trained with Flop, and in the books I had worked with (Karen Pryor's "Clicker Training for Dogs", Peggy Tillman's "Clicking with your Dog") and in Deb Manheim's Puppy Training class, I felt that we had had strong successes in this exercise.

But Prospect Park has many strong environmental distractions for dogs. Flop is a Rat Terrier mix, and was just at that stage of adolescence where environmental distractions were becoming big issues for us. Would Flop have maintained his focus better, if we had spent more time playing these games? Having a friend help me by working with us in the park, creating distractions for Flop as I called him to me, so that when faced with that choice, he'd be immediately rewarded upon making the right one. I sorely wished at that moment that we had played these games.

Many of you must empathize with my increasing despair as I started asking fellow dog-walkers if they had seen him. On the verge of tears, and with a distinct feeling that Prospect Park had never seemed so huge, I walked back along the Long(est) Meadow asking folks for sightings of Flop along the way.

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## Dog Tales

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Maya and Virgil had also been looking unsuccessfully and as we rejoined she said, "Just go home - he'll be waiting for you at your door, when you get there." The outstanding odds of that actually happening seemed to be too much, and my heart grew heavier as I approached the 9th street exit.

As it happened I glimpsed my landlady Anne walking into the park. I waved my arms at her as we were not quite at shouting distance. She saw me and waved back, and as I began running towards her she announced, "Don't Worry, Misa! I just put him in your apartment!"

Joyous words, to say the least. She had been surprised to see Flop sitting alone at the doors of our building, looking around to see who would open the door for him, and realized immediately what had happened when she saw that I was not with him. We live on the corner of 6th Ave at 9th St. - and I wondered how awful it must have been for Flop as he navigated his way home along traffic-laden 9th St.

But no need to wonder - he showed me how bad it had been for him. There were moments in the next few days when any approaching garbage truck or city bus would make him cower in terror. His behaviors were so intense that he would not accept treats from me. In this kind of emotional state, a dog is not able to respond to a clicker, a voice, or even an offering of lamb lung.

So I had to learn to change my behavior in order to get him over his fear. I worked with him on this as often as I could, starting inside my apartment hallway and gradually

decreasing our distance from busy streets: as a bus or other scary, large moving vehicle would approach, I would gently "pill" him with a treat, and gently hold his mouth closed until he swallowed. Enough repetitions of this kind of treatment (which is formally called Classical conditioning, in which the subject is learning associatively) and the dog begins to come out of his highly emotional and unresponsive state, and will then respond to the familiar reward system of clicks/treats.

I was careful to be mindful of this at all times, and many a conversation of mine was interrupted by the approach of a semi, as my consistency with his desensitization to street noise was crucial during this period. Flop's "bounce-back" from his petrified dog behaviors to relative normalcy seemed to be fast. I now have a dog who hears the approach of a large truck or bus and will turn to me, wag his tail, and say "Hey, where's my treats?" Pretty cool. His current behavior means that the scary city bus has become a Conditioned Reinforcer, a powerful signal for Flop that great treats are on the way.

What to conclude from an experience such as this? I strongly recommend playing as many variations on the "Recall" game as you can think of. There are many resources in print and on the web (Karen Pryor's site, and the advice given in the positively focused ClickerSolutions Yahoo group - and they're free!) Rewarding your dog for choosing to come to you, even with environmental distractions) is a lesson that should be reinforced every day. And learning how to change your approach to solve fear-based behavior problems will earn you big kisses from your dog. ----

## From The Alpha Desk

Wow. Seems like we waited forever for summer and it never showed up. Now, leaves are changing, geese are flocking, the Sunday papers are twice the size they were & pretty soon, we'll have the meadows mostly to ourselves again. And, of course, there's the return of Winter Hours on November 1. But there's also the return of earlier sunsets, making it a bit spooky sometimes to get to the Park in the evenings. Crime in the City is still way down, but let's not get overconfident. There have been a scattering of violent crimes in the Park as more people utilize the space - over 7 million visits in the last 12 months, up from 1.5 million a decade ago.

On September 16, officers from the Precincts around the Park held a meeting on safety in the Park. It was well attended by politicians and the public, including a substantial contingent of FIDO people. Thanks, folks - such a showing helps reinforce our presence with the Powers That Be. Although our suggestion that one way to increase safety would be to have expanded off-leash hours didn't fly, at least we put it out there. Visibility is key!

The officers fielded questions from the audience about personal safety and the quality and problems of enforcement. They pointed out some things you should keep in mind to protect yourself while in the Park:

- There are several "dead" areas in the Park where your cell phone may not work. If you tend to wander through some of the interior reaches of the Park, check your cell reception - you can't necessarily count on your cell in an emergency. Park Administrator Tupper Thomas said she was looking into positioning at least one cell antenna in the Park.

- There are 70 pole-mounted call boxes throughout the Park. They will be inspected and repaired where necessary, and a listing of their precise locations will be distributed. We will post the list on our website as soon as it is available.

- Learn the names of the various parts of the

Park and the roads and landmarks; so in the event you have to call 911, you can give a good description of where you are. Officers assigned to the Park receive special training in navigating the Park and in recognizing the names of the various sections.

- And the usual things: don't get so wrapped up in your tunes that you can't hear someone behind you. Don't linger alone in the woods. Keep your eyes open. Don't hesitate to scream and run if someone approaches you in a threatening manner. Report suspicious activity to the police.

- One of the strongest recommendations is to walk with a person or group. One way to do this is by making "appointments", like some folks do for playdates. If people are interested, we could use the FIDO website and e-mail to set up times and places for people to meet and walk their dogs together. Noting super-formal, but if there is are groups that congregate most days at a certain time and place, we could post that information. This has a potential dual benefit - we can feel safer taking our dogs in, and other Park users can find safety in our numbers as well. Anyone interested in getting the ball rolling can just drop an e-mail to [fido@fidobrooklyn.org](mailto:fido@fidobrooklyn.org)

On a more upbeat note, there was a ribbon-cutting on the 18th for the reconstructed stream in the Nethermead. The tall fences are down, and while the shorter black fences will be with us for some time, Tupper has said that they will be replaced by even shorter ones. More important-she said she is amenable to the idea of using the pool there as a dog beach. It won't happen this coming summer, most likely, and there are some other details that have to be worked out, but it is looking good for the Ol' Swimming Hole to be reinstated. If you haven't been by the area lately, check it out. You'd hardly recognize it. So do enjoy the Park. It is just too beautiful to stay away. Just be cautious.

*Mary McInerney*

## Landlord & Tenants

*Continued from page 1*

In that event, the best evidence would be to bring the animal to a vet as soon as possible (which you should do any way if you take in a stray) and document your ownership of the pet through your veterinarian's records. Obviously, if you purchased the pet, you will have a receipt. If you obtain the pet through a private breeder, you can also get a receipt or some form of other ownership papers (AKC) to document the date on which your pet was acquired.

During the first three months a tenant takes in an illegal pet, the owner may start an action to remove the pet (by dispossession) if it is a violation of the lease, and there will not be too much you can do to prevent the ultimate loss of the animal. Once three months have passed, the pet may no longer be removed on the basis that its presence violates the lease, but if the pet is a nuisance (pees in the hallway, barks or is aggressive to other tenants in the building), the owner may bring an action to remove you as a tenant for maintaining a nuisance. This article is a general outline of a tenant's rights with respect to animals and is not applicable to all circumstances.

If you have a problem with your landlord regarding an animal, it is important to consult an attorney as soon as possible to determine your rights in each particular situation. ---

*Dave Singer, Attorney at Law*

## Famous Dog Quotes

"If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise" --*Unknown*

"The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog." -- *Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)*

"Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear." - *Dave Barry*

## Vet's Corner

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is increasing. Also called Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome, or CDS, this gradual and distressing loss of character occurs in dogs over the age of seven. Common symptoms include confusion, aimless wandering, memory loss, changes in sleeping patterns, urinating or defecating in the house, and a general loss of interest in activities. The good news is that the disease can be well treated with drugs such as Selegiline, which can help to restore a dog's character and restore a family's hope.

### And finally...

With attention to physical and mental changes, including implementing strategies to manage diseases, you and your dog should be able to thoroughly enjoy his or her senior years. Continue to do all of the activities that both of you derive pleasure from: take those special trips, cuddle often, spend quality time together, and most of all love each other well. ----

Dr Kristine A. Young, DVM, practices Veterinary Medicine at the Hope Veterinary Clinic in Brooklyn

## Upcoming Fido Fall Events

### Halloween Parade

Friday, October 31st – Usually we meet at 12th Street & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue where we march as a group. Spooky encounters – use common sense.

### Bark The Herald Angels Sing

Sat, December 13th

Time 7:30 am – 9am

Celebrate the holidays with song, wassail and cider. By the pond below the Tennis house.

### Fido Lecture Series

Join us in the fall for a look at: Dog Chiropractic, Dog First Aid, Fear and Aggression in Dogs, and Training Dogs for Simple Tasks and Tricks.

More Info: [www.fidobrooklyn.org](http://www.fidobrooklyn.org)

KEEP OUR PARK OFF-LEASH FRIENDLY

YES, I WANT PROSPECT PARK TO BE MORE DOG FRIENDLY

Here is my Membership contribution of:

\_\_\_ \$15.... \_\_\_ \$25.... \_\_\_ \$50 ....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog's Name

(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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