



Spring 2006

SPEAKS!

FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS
and their owners!

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MARTY Presents Foo Dogs



Borough President Marty Markowitz appeared at the March Coffee Bark and presented Fido with three bushels of boxed gifts, miniature Chinese Foo dogs! We were pleased to pass them on to the multitude of assembled canine lovers - after all 2006 is the "Year of the Dog."

Asian Art Mall, an Internet site, tells us that: "Foo Dogs are the ancient sacred dogs of Asia who guard Buddhist temples. The association between these dogs and Buddha is one of great significance. Foo Dogs have the appearance of a lion. The lion in Buddhist religion is seen as sacred, and has sometimes been offered to Buddha as a sacrifice.

The name given to these guardians originates from China. The Chinese word for Buddha is Fo, which

led to the original title - "Dog of Fo". There have been other theories that the name developed from the city of Foochow; however, there is no actual proof of this. Another name given to the beast is "Lion of Korea". This, of course, is due to the creatures close appearance to a Lion. The Lion is a creature of the feline race that is known as the proud master of all cats. Its introduction into Chinese art coincided with Buddhism.

Foo Dogs can be traced as early as the Han Dynasty. Their first appearance was in Chinese art, which dates back to approximately 208 BC to about 221 AD. Foo Dogs vanished for nearly 400 years after their first appearance. They later returned in the T'ang Dynasty who ruled from 618 to 917 AD. Foo Dogs were popular because of their meaning. The Foo Dog was the protector of sacred buildings and a defender of law. The dogs were commonly placed at business institutions, temple gates, home entrances, and estates. It was also not uncommon to see these sacred dogs guarding tombs or placed in front of government buildings to scare evil spirits. Through out the ages, Foo Dogs were frequently given as gifts to the Emperor. They would be presented in sculptures or in the form of artwork."

Marty went on to explain that it's been years that he personally owned a dog - his only pet a much beloved parrot! "Year of the Parrot" following "Year of the Dog?" For Marty, nothing is impossible!

Bowser Browser

By Bob Ipcar

A Dachshund's Wish

by Joe Tavano

Softcover Illustrated by Ji Yu

Published by Traitor Daschshund, LLC, 2006

As a child, one of my favorite books was Noodle, by Munroe Leaf, the tale of a discontented Dachshund who was “very long from front to back, very short from top to bottom” – who tried out a variety of alternative animal shapes with the help of a magical dog fairy before coming to the realization that, for him, his shape was just right.

In Brooklyn Author Joe Tavano's, A Dachshund's Wish, newly adopted puppy, Paws, is at first content just to do his job; protect his new family by becoming familiar with every sight and sound around the place. Paws loves his new family; I mean really, really LOVES his new family! He's a lot like the old joke; the dog's day consists of “oh, boy this” and “oh, boy that” while the cat chalks up another day's captivity on the hallway wall.

But Paws gets it into his head that walking on two legs would really come in handy – obsesses about becoming a human boy. From his friends in the nearby woods, a squirrel and a raccoon, he learns of a mysterious magic person named Old Mae who could, if she's so inclined, grant him his wish. So begins his quest...

This is the perfect “chapter a night” book to read to the little ones – a good adventure yarn with some mildly scary intrigues. There's even a self-serving rat who races Paws to find Great Mae first.

With the granting of every wish, there's usually a catch – will Paws make the right decision when the time comes? There are many lessons for young people in the story. One of which in my estimation is: “don't judge by appearance!

Situation

By Maureen Sanders

*The dog is drinking,
A guitar is plinking,
I'm just waiting and thinking.
At last the dog stops drinking.*

YUK!!!

*The toilet seat is cold and wet --
Itsy-bitsy damper on the joys of a pet.*

Spring Calendar

Coffee Bark...

May 6th; June 3rd

First Saturday of each month. Free coffee, dog biscuits and more: 7am-9am in the Long Meadow in front of the Picnic House
(see www.fidobrooklyn.org/events)

Fido Memorial Service for Dogs...

May 13th, 8am by the Fido Memorial Tree in the Long Meadow below the Picnic House

Bring a picture, read a poem, or sit in the company of good friends both human & canine.
(see www.fidobrooklyn.org/inmemoriam/memorial-tree.html)

Pupnic - our annual pot luck picnic

June 23rd, 5pm until sundown
in the Nethermead

Come celebrate summer with “Pupnic,” a picnic under the trees for people and dogs alike. Food donations are welcome but look for spectacular trays from many of Downtown Brooklyn's best restaurants. There will be games with prizes, agility equipment, and New York Tails Magaize will be bringing dog and human ice cream - Frosty Paws and Haagen Daaz!

(see www.fidobrooklyn.org/events)

Kong - The Very Beginning

By Bob Ipcar

We're not talking about the big ape here. This is the indestructible rubber cone that usually comes with a rope to sling it by. Was there any truth to the rumor that the Kong was discovered by a motorcycle warehouse guard dog who spent his time gnawing on rubberized footrests? Totally untrue says Sandy Lucero of the Kong Company.

But the real story is almost as good. The founder and CEO of Kong Company, Joe Markham, was actually repairing his VW Bus when the idea of the Kong was born. In an attempt to divert his German Shepherd, Fritz, from constantly chewing on rocks and tree branches – wearing down his teeth in the process – Joe tossed a rubber suspension part to the dog in an effort to provide him with a less destructive form of entertainment. He noticed that Fritz not only enjoyed his new toy but was unable to make a dent in it. With a little refinement of the rubber formula, Joe began production in 1976. The rest is history!

Sandy Lucero hastily adds that nowadays, the Kong Company has a veterinarian check out their toys. No way will they make anything that is not safe for dogs, cats, or birds.

Birds? A Parakeet sized Kong?

Famous Kong Recipes (fillers)

from /blueboychihuahuas.com

ARCHEOLOGY KONG - by Aunt Jeanne

Got a canine with major separation anxiety? Try stuffing a Kong when you leave the house – makes your dog look forward to your departure!

LAYER ONE (deepest): roasted, unsalted cashews · freeze dried liver bits

LAYER TWO: dog kibble, cookies or liver biscotti · Cheerios · sugar-free, salt-free peanut butter · dried banana chips, apples and apricots

LAYER THREE: carrot sticks · turkey or leftover ravioli or

tortellini ·

Pack a Kong Toy (the larger the better) as tightly as possible. The last item inserted should be an apricot or piece of ravioli, presenting a smooth “finish” under the main opening.

LIGHT VERSION: substitute crumbled rice cakes for cashews, Caesar croutons for freeze-dried liver, fat free cream cheese for peanut butter.

KONG ON A ROPE: - by Jean Donaldson

Dry dog kibble · appropriate Kong Toy · Rope

Take the rope, pull it through the Kong Toy and knot it. Hang this upside down from a tree, deck or post. The small hole should be facing the ground. Take the kibble and fill the Kong Toy. Make the toy hang just low enough that it is out of your dog's reach. The dog will spend hours trying to retrieve the kibble from the Kong Toy. At the end of the day, take the remaining kibble and give to your pet as a reward.

FROZEN JERKY POPS - by Ian Dunbar

Peanut butter · bouillon · Jerky Strips · Water · appropriate Kong Toy · muffin

Smear a small amount of peanut butter over small hole in your Kong Toy. Fill the cool water and add a pinch of bouillon. Place a Jerky Stick inside Kong Toy and freeze. This can also be put (once frozen) in a children's size swimming pool for a fun day of fishing for your pet.

SIMPLE, TRIED AND TRUE - by Terry Ryan

Peanut butter · appropriate Kong Toy

Smear peanut butter inside the cavity of your Kong Toy. It's that easy! - by trainers and vets worldwide.

TRIXIE'S FAVORITE by Joe Markham (himself)

Trixie, a 50 pound Aussie/Springer mix, loves turkey, chicken or marrow bites mixed with slightly moistened food nuggets frozen inside her Kong. She is very clean about unstuffing - some dogs are not! -

Remembering Serena

Martin J. Rosenberg

It frequently happens that a person whose psyche is just at the edge is able to see and express emotions in a stark, shadowless way that gives us a lightening flash of insight and comprehension. And so it is with our friend and neighbor, Miss L. L is a fragile young woman. who lived directly across the street from us.

When our Rottweiler, Serena, first arrived, L would visit Serena, usually, but not always, from the other side of the driveway gate. She was so impressed with Serena that she went out and got her own Rottweiler. About a year later L acquired a second Rottie; L also had a boyfriend. This all proved to be too much to handle; life took its course and toll. L had to dump the boyfriend and give away the two dogs. (They are now living happily on a farm. I have no information about the boyfriend.) L, who had always been on drugs, descended into alcoholism. She went to AA and is now fully recovered.

Continuously, throughout this very difficult period, L would come to visit Serena about once a month; always asking for permission first, L would lie down, completely stretched out, just outside the gate facing Serena. Serena would lie down, completely stretched out, just inside the gate facing L nose to nose. And they would talk. I told L not to tell me what they were saying to each other; I really didn't want to know. And Serena would never reveal such privileged information. L always thanked us profusely for allowing this to happen.

It was all revealed the evening that L visited us after Serena's passing. L had been telling Serena about her low self-esteem; Serena projected her own self-assurance onto L. L had complained about her unattractiveness (she is a very pretty young lady) and lack of abilities. Serena transferred her own beauty and high level of capability onto L. L bemoaned her own incapacity to perceive and learn; Serena transferred her own intelligence and perspicacity to L. That is what they were talking about, nose to nose, through the driveway gate. Whenever L had

been depressed; Serena projected her joy of life.

Serena's passing hurt L. She had lost a dear and special friend; the one who always understood and always gave. We are wont to think that this 'projection' and 'transference' was exclusively in the mind of L. That would be largely true, but not all true. Serena did have all those qualities; she also had the desire and power to give, and gladly gave to L. Where did this come from?

It was a Gift from the Good Lord. Although her early life and good breeding (Serena was indeed well-bred) and first-rate training explain much, it does not and cannot explain all. These qualities came to her naturally; inborn. Serena had a strong sense of 'What is Done' and 'What is NOT Done'. And she would attempt to remedy the situation whenever possible: breaking up fights and protecting pups. She was a great swimmer and loved to retrieve sticks and tennis balls that her 'lazy' swimming buddies would abandon in the Lake; then then hide everything in the bushes.

My role and input was to (cleverly) allow her to be herself. She was sensitive, responsible, aware of her surroundings and self-aware. Those qualities are not taught, cannot be taught. They are inborn. She passed all this on to L.

Her AKC name was Starlight Express. As prescient as it gets.

With Serena, her Persona was herself.

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Power of Dog Droppings

By KIM CURTIS, Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO -

City officials are hoping to harness the power of dog doo. San Franciscans already recycle more than 60 percent of their garbage, but in this dog-friendly town, animal feces make up nearly 4 percent of residential waste, or 6,500 tons a year — nearly as much as disposable diapers, according to the city.

Within the next few months, Norcal Waste, a garbage hauling company that collects San Francisco's trash, will begin a pilot program under which it will use biodegradable bags and dog-waste carts to pick up droppings at a popular dog park.

The droppings will be tossed into a contraption called a methane digester, which is basically a tank in which bacteria feed on feces for weeks to create methane gas. The methane could then be piped directly to a gas stove, heater, turbine or anything else powered by natural gas. It can also be used to generate electricity.

Methane digesters are nothing new. The technology was introduced in Europe about 20 years ago, and more than 600 farm-based digesters are in operation there. Nine are in use on California dairy farms, and chicken and hog farms elsewhere in the United States also use them.

Neither Norcal Waste spokesman Robert Reed nor Will Brinton, a Maine-based recycling and composting consultant, knew of anyone in the United States who is using the \$1 million devices to convert pet waste to energy. But Brinton said some European countries process dog droppings along with food and yard waste.

"The main impediment is probably getting communities around the country the courage to collect it, to give value to something we'd rather not talk about," Brinton said. "San Francisco is probably the king of pet cities. This could be very important to them."

San Francisco — the city named after Saint Francis, patron saint of animals

— has an estimated 240,000 dogs and cats. Some experts believe methane digestion must become more attractive economically before it gets popular. Landfill space is relatively cheap, and natural gas and electricity also remain fairly inexpensive.

Reed points to San Francisco's groundbreaking food composting program, which began 10 years ago, as proof an unusual idea can work in this forward-thinking city. A Norcal Waste subsidiary collects 300 tons of food scraps per day from homes and restaurants and converts it into a rich fertilizer sold to vineyards and organic farms.

"Now, the city's asked us to look at dog waste specifically," Reed said. Because animal waste contains disease-causing germs, composting it at home with yard waste and food scraps can be unsafe.

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From the Alpha Desk

Welcome to the 'Hood! Where did you move from? Are you adjusting to Brooklyn? Life in NYC can be nuts, but it also has some big payoffs-like Prospect Park's dog scene.

To answer some of your questions:

While FIDO cannot specifically recommend a vet, dogwalker, etc., there are some listed, paid sponsorships on our website and in our newsletter. A **great** way to get to know the area and the services available is to ask other dog owners in your neighborhood. Remember, this is New York, and **everybody** has an opinion and is usually happy to share. Often at length.

A good general dog resource is www.urbanhound.com.

Another great way to meet other dog people, other than just wandering around, is to join us for our monthly Coffee Bark, held the first Saturday of most months. Next is Saturday, May 6, from 7am-9am.

We set up behind the Picnic House (enter Park thru Mansion entrance btw. 3rd and 5th Sts, go around mansion (aka the Villa) to the right, thru parking lot, across road, behind 1-story brick Picnic House. Look for FIDO banner.

By the way, the Mansion stocks free, detailed maps of the Park that show where the self-guided tour trails are as well as the emergency call boxes (you never know- and there are some dead cell phone areas deep in the Park). They usually have copies of the Rules- there are Rule cards for dog walking, birding, biking, jogging, fishing, etc... mostly just common sense things. The dog rules are also available at www.fidbrooklyn.org. Skating around the dog rules, by the by, can get you a \$100 ticket, so check them out.

If you need any more information, please E-mail us at: fidobrooklyn@att.net

*Mary McInerney,
President Fido In Prospect Park*

Driving Licence For Dogs?

From the internet

Viennese dog owners can now get a "driving licence for dogs" under a new initiative by city officials who thought man's best friend's best friend could do with a bit of brushing up on canine conduct. Though voluntary, this new license, which takes about two hours to obtain and costs a modest 25 euros (30 dollars), has both written and practical "driving" tests to assess the owner's competence.

For the written part of the exam, candidates must answer multiple-choice questions that check whether they know their responsibilities concerning their pet's health and behavior. "When your dog wags its tail, does it mean it is happy, excited or bored?" is a typical question. The practical part simulates a spin -- in this case a "walk" -- through town, testing the owner in a variety of predicaments such as putting a muzzle on the dog in the tram or underground or picking up droppings.

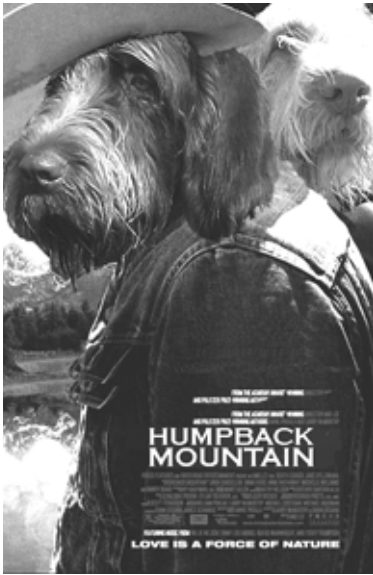
"The Viennese are real dog-lovers," said the capital's environment councillor Ulli Sima who initiated the license project. "But they believe strict measures are necessary so that peaceful cohabitation between man and dog is possible in this city." Those happy owners who pass their "licence" -- or Hundefuehrerschein -- will be exempt from the annual dog tax of 43.60 euros (53 dollars) and will receive a few goodies for their pets, from vouchers for a new leash to bags for their pet's droppings.

The new license is for the average street pooch, which many still find intimidating. In the 2004 survey, 34 percent of those questioned said they felt "personally in danger" in the presence of dogs, and 92 percent said dogs should always be kept on a leash and wear a muzzle. Thousands of parents have also signed a petition to force the city to find a solution to the five to 10 tons of dog excrement produced daily. Vienna's Mayor Michael Haeupl has

Continued on page 7

By The Hydrant

Gossip from Lorreta



Playing daily in the Long Meadow
"...a must see performance..."

Driving Licence - Continued from page 6

promised personally to look into the matter. Twenty veterinary examiners have been accredited to carry out testing for the new dog driving licence, which was set up in January. According to the Vienna-based non-profit organization Animals as Therapy (TAT), at least 15 people are known to have passed the test but no official figures have been released yet.

Elisabeth Karsai, a medical student associated with TAT who took the driving test with her big two-year-old grey poodle, told AFP she "felt like a pioneer and wanted to ensure that more people pass this licence."

Another candidate, veterinary doctor Irene Thomaier, said, "I am here to learn how to understand my dog," a two-year-old half-breed named Dina. According to TAT director Gabi Glaser, the point of the Vienna driving test is to know the basic rules of how to lead a dog and to make life with canines as pleasant as possible in a city. "Dogs' social tolerance and ability to deal with a big city will be improved and in this way people's safety needs will also be satisfied,"

Dogs are proving to be less stressed than their owners during the testing notably with a bit of bribing -- in the form of doggie treats -- as they're put through the paces, including claw and ear inspections. For their two-legged owners not yet up to the challenge, the city of Vienna provides information and schedules for dog-training schools to help them overcome their hesitation.

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*Renewals due yearly on April 1st. If you first became a member of Fido after 4/2006, you're good until 4/2008



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