



summer 2004

# SPEAKS!

FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS  
and their owners!

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

Mandatory Dog Insurance?	pg.2
What's Normal?	pg.3
About Betty (The loss of a dog)	pg.5
From The Alpha Desk	pg.6

## Hearts & Homes To Have New Space...

Special From Laurie Bleier

After 14 years of saving the lives of more than 2,500 dogs and cats from the mean streets of Brooklyn, the highly regarded Hearts and Homes animal shelter is about to make its move.

A fellow Brooklynite, Daniel McKinney, happened upon a small newspaper article stating that this well-respected organization had lost its home of nine years. When he contacted them, he discovered that not only were they homeless, they were bursting at the seams with an over capacity of dogs and cats in their care. Currently they have more than 45 dogs spread out through a network of Brooklyn homes and veterinarians' offices. So McKinney helped them lease a building on McDonald and 18th Avenues, and now they are putting on a series of benefits to raise badly needed funds.

Hearts and Homes will be opening the doors to its new two-level facility, complete with a large grassy back yard, in mid-July. In addition to providing a home for abandoned animals and temporary shelter for potential animal adoptees, the new facility will offer services for pet-owners: "We will offer low-cost vet care two days a week, and we plan to pay low-income pet-owners \$20.00 to bring their animals in for free spaying or neutering," says Todd Puma,

Shelter Operator. "To help subsidize the costs associated with those services, as well as the costs involved in caring for abandoned animals, we will offer dog-training classes, grooming and the sale of pet food and accessories," he continues. Due to the reputation of Hearts and Homes, hundreds of Brooklyn pet-owners are expected to avail themselves of these services.

There are no paid employees at Hearts and Homes. Together with Mel Salamone, Roseann Savasta, Todd Puma, Jamie Benson, Laurie Bleier and the many volunteers and foster parents, Hearts and Homes has placed more than 2,500 cats and dogs. Working seven days a week, weather permitting, the volunteers introduce potential adoptees to the public from several high-profile, outdoor locations, including the downtown Brooklyn courthouse. Additionally, they are well acquainted with most of the police precincts of the borough as well as the Parks Department. Many of these well-meaning city employees call Hearts and Homes to pick up animals that they have found during the course of their duty.

A benefit will be held on Sunday, June 27, 2pm-4pm, at PS 185, located at 86th Street between Ridge Boulevard and 3rd Avenue in Bay Ridge. The Honorary Chairman of this event is Arthur Maresca, and the Co-Chairperson is Kelli Kelibride. Admission tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$10 for children. All donation dollars received by Hearts and Homes are spent on such necessities as veterinary care, food, supplies, gasoline, and boarding fees. Hearts and Homes for Homeless Dogs, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c) organization, Tax ID 113416862.

For more information and photos please go to our Website: <http://www.heartsandhomes.org> or contact Daniel McKinney 718 238-2921 or Laurie Bleier 917 754-3537.

# Mandatory Dog Insurance?

From: Insurance Journal On-line  
<http://www.insurancejournal.com/comments/index.php?a=/news/east/2004/04/22/41408.htm&c=1436>

## N.Y. Bill Would Mandate Insurance for Dog Owners

4/22, 2004

"Over the winter, New York State Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera has proposed requiring all dog owners in the state to carry liability insurance for their pets. He has nicknamed his bill "Elijah's Law" (Bill # A10169) for a 3-year-old boy, Elijah Torres, who was seriously injured in an attack by a Rottweiler in the Bronx in October 2003. The proposal would permit legal action by victims of dog attacks while requiring all dog owners to meet insurance and licensing requirements. (To view this bill in its entirety, go on-line to <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A10169>)

### Among the bill's features:

- The Department of Insurance and Department of Agriculture and Markets would be required to work with insurers on creating canine liability insurance. Premium would be based on the breed of the canine and data of known dangers of the canine.
- The state will develop a special "orange tag" that has to be worn by every insured canine if it will be dwelling or roaming in a public place; i.e. a public park. This orange tag must be worn by the canine at all times.
- Those not properly licensed and insured would face fines and eventual impoundment of their dogs.
- The only dogs that are exempt from this legislation are guide dogs for the blind.
- Owners of an insured deemed dangerous would have to post a sign on the door of their domain stating to the public, "Beware of Dangerous Dog".

According to research behind the bill, dog bites have increased 37 percent in the last 10 years. Nearly 4.5 million dog bites occur each year. About 334,000 victims receive their medical care in an emergency room, at a cost of over \$100 million per year, where 46.1 percent of these cases were categorized as "urgent" when triaged

in the emergency room. Dog bite treatment payments are higher than average emergency room visit costs due to the ragged nature of many lacerations, infection risk and the large number of bites that require rabies treatment."

June 15 - This bill is pending in the state legislature, having been sent back to the Agricultural Committee for amendment. Assemblyman Jim Brennan's Albany office expressed the opinion that while not impossible, it was highly unlikely this bill would come up for a vote this year, there being no companion bill in the State Senate that remotely resembles it. Nevertheless express your concerns; personally e-mail your legislative representatives: Assemblyman Jim Brennan ([brennaj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:brennaj@assembly.state.ny.us)) and Assemblyperson Joan Millman ([millmaj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:millmaj@assembly.state.ny.us))

## Summer Calendar

### Annual Pupnic June 25 (5pm - Sundown)

Picnic in the Nethermead with food and fun for all...

### Fido Memorial Service June 26 (8am - 9am)

By the Fido Memorial Tree (on the path next to the Pools below the Tennis House. An impromptu remembrance of all our departed dogs....

### Coffee Bark - July

Postponed until second Saturday of the month because of the 4th July weekend.

### Coffee Barks - August & September

First Saturday of the month!!!

### FIDO Steering Committee Meeting:

2nd Monday of the month. Floating location so call first. All welcome. Call the FIDO voicemail 1-888-604-3422 or email [fidobrooklyn@att.net](mailto:fidobrooklyn@att.net).

## Have a Happy Summer!

# What Is Normal?

Normal Temperature, Pulse, Respiration Values  
by: PetPlace Veterinarians (on-line)

Pale, white, blue or yellow gums are cause for concern and you should contact your veterinarian immediately. By knowing what's normal in your dog, like body temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate, you can better tell if your pet needs medical care. Here are some norms to consider:

## Body Temperature

Body temperature in animals is taken rectally. The normal body temperature for a dog is 100 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. If your pet has a temperature less than 99 or over 104, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Mucous Membrane Color

The most commonly examined mucous membranes are the gums. The color of the gums is a good indicator of blood perfusion and oxygenation. The normal gum color is pink. If your pet has pigmented gums, lowering the eyelid can also give you an indicator of mucous membrane color. Pale, white, blue or yellow gums are cause for concern and you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Capillary Refill Time

Briefly apply pressure to the gums and release. The area should blanch and rapidly return to the normal pink color. This test is referred to as the capillary refill time and is a crude method of assessing circulation. Normal refill time is 1 to 2 seconds. If the refill time is less than 1 second or over 3 seconds, immediate veterinary care is recommended. To practice, you can do a quick capillary refill test on yourself. Press down on the tip of your fingernail. The pink skin underneath the nail will blanch. When you release the fingertip, the color rapidly returns to normal.

## Heart Rate

You can feel your pet's heartbeat on the left side of the chest at the area where a raised elbow will touch the chest. Your pet should be calm and quiet. Place your hand over this area of the chest and feel for a heartbeat. You can also use a stethoscope if you have one. Count the number of heartbeats for 15 seconds and multiply that number by 4. Be aware that a dog's heartbeat will normally slow down and speed up with each breath. This is not an abnormal

heart rhythm and does not require veterinary care. If you cannot determine your pet's heartbeat, you can try to determine the pulse rate. The easiest pulse to feel is the pulse associated with the femoral artery, which is best felt inside the back leg in the groin area. Place your first two fingers up high on the inside of your pet's thigh. Slowly feel the area until you can detect a pulse. This method may take some practice and you may want to ask your veterinarian for guidance during a routine exam. For dogs, a normal heartbeat varies on size: Small dogs and puppies normally have heart rates of 120 to 160 beats per minute. Dogs over 30 pounds have heart rates of 60 to 120. The larger the dog, the slower the normal heart rate. If your pet has a heart rate outside the normal range, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Respiratory Rate

Counting the number of breaths per minute and determining the breathing pattern can be very important in an emergency. Learn the normal breathing rate and pattern for your pet. Count the number of breaths your pet takes in one minute. Avoid counting when your pet is panting. A good time to count the normal breathing rate is when your pet is asleep.

## Normal respiratory rates:

For dogs: 10 to 30 breaths per minute. Dogs can also pant normally up to 200 pants per minute.

Determining the breathing pattern is also important. In a normal breath, the chest expands as the breath enters the chest. The chest then sinks as the breath leaves the chest. Exhalation requires no effort. If you notice your pet using his abdominal muscles to breath, gasping, making loud noises, taking shallow breaths, panting excessively or exhalation seems to be difficult, consult your veterinarian immediately.

If you are unsure if your pet is breathing, place a cotton ball or tissue immediately in front of the nose and mouth. If you see movement of the cotton or tissue, your pet is still breathing. Or use a mirror. Place the mirror in front of the pet's mouth and nose. If there's condensation on the mirror, your pet is still breathing.

— — —

# A Dog for All Seasons

By Maureen Sanders

She came to us in summer.  
She was frightened and confused.  
The dog had been abandoned,  
But hadn't been abused.

They told us she had papers  
That the shelter couldn't keep.  
We didn't want her papers,  
We wanted her release.

And freed she was! - To a  
Doberman, huge and smart.  
She gave the Dobie respect.  
She gave the Dobie her heart.

She and the Doberman understood each other.  
Her new English-speaking American owners never  
suspected that a dog might know only Spanish!

A housemaid came to the rescue.  
When she and the dog were alone,  
She spoke in her native tongue,  
And the dog was no longer forlorn.

The housemaid taught the dog English.  
She knew how hard it could be  
To know just a foreign language  
In the land of the brave and the free.

The dog learned a new language,  
And she learned a new name.  
We dropped the name "Buffy"  
And "Saint" she became.

"Saint", of course, was a play on Buffy  
Saint Marie. Shortly, however, Saint acquired an  
earned name. She is now fondly known as "Big  
Bear".

People love Big Bear.  
And Big Bear loves people.  
She waits at her grandmommy's door  
To help and protect someone feeble.

The city she found somewhat grim.  
In the country she learned she could swim.  
And chase deer.  
And live out her life to the brim.

Then tragedy struck.  
Her friend, the Big Beast, was gone.  
Saint shared all the pain of the humans;  
And, on Witty's grave, laid a kong.

It's difficult to assess the depths of canine  
feelings. We can but judge by behavior,  
armed with the knowledge that they're made  
of the same stuff we are.

And then came the rat!  
An 8-week-old Dobie,  
entirely too small,  
to count as a Doberman  
Or a canine at all.

Big Bear was Top Dog!  
The baby adored her,  
And teased her, and learned from her,  
And stole from her.

An understanding parent,  
Saint was patient but firm,  
And the neophyte Dobie  
Proved quite able to learn.

The story's not over. Big Bear's only  
four. Her constant companion's just half that.  
Their bond is a wonder to behold.

## All For Paws

Dog Food - Cat Food - Cages -  
Accessories - Special Orders - Supplies  
Small Animal - Bird

**216 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 718-788-7052**

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

## Susanna's Dog Walking

Personal Care - Cat Sitting too!  
NAPPS Member - Insured  
Celebrating 4th year in Park Slope  
& Windsor Terrace

**Call 718-965-953 or 347-262-7508**

# About Betty

by Gene Kahn

By now there must be questions among the dog crowd at the Tennis House wondering about Betty. Sadly, Betty died on the morning of Sunday, April 24th. She had only two weeks earlier been diagnosed with serious kidney disease and the doctors at Prospect Park Animal Clinic were not optimistic. It is likely that two years earlier, on a trip to Montauk, she was exposed to Lyme disease, which seemed to be the underlying cause of the kidney failure.

I am very grateful to the vet, Dr. Leonard Silverman, for the very gentle way he helped me go through the process of euthanizing Betty. She was only five years old, and she was still able to walk into the vet that morning. But would it have been better to wait until there was nothing left of her and have to carry her in to be put down? To the end, I am so impressed by the basic dignity that she displayed, knowing she was very sick, and could no longer eat anything.

## A Kentucky Dog

Like all my pets, Betty really found me. I was visiting a farm in rural Kentucky, the apple orchard of a good friend, who warned me not to bother with another one of the many strays that get dumped on the family farm for adoption. Of course, I bought her some food, but she just sniffed the supermarket dry chunks and stated her preference for fresh caught wildlife, and left-overs. She was a total country dog.

Yet one night, looking up at the stars in the Kentucky sky, she told me that she would go anywhere just to have a home. She was still in her first year, skinny and her head still a bit too big. She was very persuasive. So she came back to Brooklyn with me the summer of 1999 and began to learn the ways of the city.

With wonderful help from Debra Manheim, I made some progress with basic training, but she never got over the desperate need to forage on the streets. I secretly admired her, along with her determination to chase squirrels and wait for that one in a hundred chance that one might just fall out of tree, someday.

## Her Last Breath

I have been reminded by a close companion, that had I left Betty back in Fleming County, Ky., she would most likely have been run over or shot, as most rural dogs have

very short and brutal lives. Instead, she learned about "car-car," "out-out," "ready-Betty?" and knew all the signs of a Sunday morning trip to the beach. She grew to love the surf, quite a change for dog used to hunting through mud and underbrush.

I still feel lucky to have at least been able to hold her in my arms to her very last breath. We all sat on the floor, with a blanket, as she slowly slipped away. I later buried her in a special private place and had a stone marker engraved with her dates.

At the end, I realized for the first time how much of my own outward identity had been merged with Betty's. As if she was everything I thought I wanted to be: Fearless, aggressive, but not vicious, a keen hunter and natural athlete. If she should couldn't outrun another dog, she could always out maneuver them with her shorter legs. Like an adolescent, she was pure energy — with a totally giving spirit. She was, in fact, the me, that I wanted to present to the world. And it was no accident that most people in the park knew only Betty's name and not mine. In all, she was a really sweet dog.

## And Now Frieda

Happily the story does not end there. Within five days of her loss, I adopted a puppy from a rescue society in West Hartford, Ct. So now there is Frieda, a beautiful mini-Dachshund puppy, with classic black and tan markings. She is to be a companion for Gus, the older dox who came along so reluctantly each day with Betty to the Park. Frieda has been a joy for all of us, and now, at the heady age of 57, I am, at last, finally, no longer a boy with his dog, but more like a daddy.

Frieda will make her debut at the Park in a few weeks, once she has completed all her shots.

"HAVE YOU FED YOUR PET TODAY?"

**ACME PET FOOD INC.**

QUALITY PET FOODS & ACCESSORIES

Free Local Delivery

628 VANDERBILT AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11238  
(718) 789-8062

M-F 10-7  
SAT. 10-6  
SUN. 12-5

# From the Alpha Desk

Has it been 25 years already?  
Bob Ipcar

New York City's first Pooper Scooper Law was enacted on August 1st, 1978, along with this warning from then Mayor Ed Koch: "Most New Yorkers are decent people. They will do the right thing and clean up after their pets. As for the rest? Hang 'em!" According to Cynthia Blair in a recent Newsday Article: "... roughly 1,100,000 dogs were leaving 250,000 pounds of feces and 100,000 gallons of urine on streets and in parks every day. Pet owners who neglected to clean up after their dogs faced fines as high as \$100. Only seeing-eye dogs were exempt from the new law. By August 3, 1978, 22 New Yorkers had received \$25 summonses. While the ASPCA and the Health Department feared animal owners would abandon their pets in droves, their dire predictions did not come true..."

## Did it work?

Like the "Bottle Bill" we've seen good results though there are always the exceptions. Dog owners still frequent isolated vacant lots or pocket parks, claiming them as their own personal territory - feel that the space would go otherwise unused; therefore why clean up? And there are the occasional people who just let their dog out of the areaway to do their "doo" anywhere along the sidewalk. Hard to think there's a valid excuse - owner infirmity perhaps? But why then let the dog out at sunrise while their neighbors are still asleep? No excuses! Well maybe one exception. A local senior retirement center not far from where I live has an employee who transfers to his wheelchair each morning in the parking lot when he shows up for work. He is always accompanied by a little black dog who promptly jams himself under the back of the wheelchair and proceeds help push his owner into the building. Yeah, the dog's poop remains on the tarmac but I've never had the heart to call the owner on it. Would that we should all be so lucky to have such a dog!

Here in Prospect Park, thanks to FIDO, the last thing one thinks about when taking a stroll through the Long Meadow is stepping on dog poop. Consider that several hundred dogs and owners are out every week-day with even more on any given Saturday or Sunday, that's a major accomplishment. When I pointed this out to a visiting friend from California as we surveyed the crowd gathered around Fido's monthly Coffee Bark, he stated that no one back home would have compled so

completely with picking up after their dogs, let alone get up at 7:30am .

Why does it work? Peer pressure! As Fido members we turn it on, not only setting an example by "doing" but by hectoring anyone whose dog is seen pooping to bag it. This is an important part of FIDO's mission, in that as members, we're committed to ensuring that Prospect Park is a safe and healthy place for dogs; that responsible supervision of dogs will ensure enhanced opportunities for off-leash activity. You've all done a great job so far. Let's keep on it....

**SmallTownBrooklyn.Com**  
 Dedicated to the neighborhoods between the  
 Brooklyn Bridge & Prospect Park.  
 Scrolling Streets, Community Information & More...  
 Established January, 2000  
 E-Mail: [lisa&bob@SmallTownBrooklyn.Com](mailto:lisa&bob@SmallTownBrooklyn.Com)

## Become a Newsletter Sponsor...

Ads should consist of "Business Card" formats, meaning content and size should resemble a business card (see below). The charge will be \$25.00 per quarterly issue. While it's impractical to scan business cards we can go with your information. Unfortunately our printer doesn't guarantee gray tones (as in pictures).

Mail your information and a check made out to "Fido Brooklyn" to Bob Ipcar, FIDO Newsletter Ads, 342 16th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Deadline for Fall Newsletter Issue will be September 4th.

**Sponsor The Fido Newsletter**  
 Reach Fido's Membership & Beyond

**Dog-walking - boarding, roofing (no pun intended)  
 business services - whatever**

Your Address: Brooklyn, NY 11- - -  
 Phone: 718 - - - - -  
 E-mail: - - - - - @ - - - - -



## Perky Trailblazer

by Sara Jorgensen

I could do with simplicity, oh God.  
Being with You under the blue sky,  
My daughters' voices,  
A strong-hearted prayer,  
sleeping soundly with Charlie my Fox Terrier.

I shiver and I race,  
and fight for my rights  
in my new-fangled world  
but you have set my loving companion before me  
to jolt me with coaxing eyes that say,  
"let's hit the trail,"  
his hooting tail spins me toward the door!

A Perky trailblazer, at attention  
A pioneer with me in these backwoods of mine  
Helping me uncover my way,  
through the dead wood

He sits with me like You do  
and waits.  
No tear is wasted.

Soon, Charlie sneezes with his entire body,  
the little holistic creature that he is  
and he leads me out to Prospect  
To be with You and friends  
under the blue, blue sky.

Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend.  
-Corey Ford, American writer

Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare  
of the country as Wall Street and the railroads.  
-Harry S. Truman

## Fido Membership Renewal Policy

As of 2004, Fido Membership renewals will be due each April First. This reflects a change in policy but one which benefit our members in that we won't have to "hound" you one year after you've joined. If you become a new member, say after April, then you have the option of renewing the next April, or waiting until the second following April.

Membership entitles you to receive Fido Event & Newsletter mailings. If you can't remember ever getting a renewal notice, then it's probably time to renew - Please! So stay on our mailing list. Use the handy form on the back cover to renew...

## Fido Speaks - Staff...

Editor – Bob Ipcar  
Art Direction & Design – Deb Caponera  
Art Illustration – Paul Belliveau  
Alpha Desk – Mary McInerney  
Our Poet Laureate – Maureen Sanders

Alex Rowan-Hazlerigg

### Tailor To The Dogs

Custom-Made Dog Coats

88 Windsor Place - Brooklyn, NY 11215

718-965-3569

alex@tailortothedogs.com

www.tailortothedogs.com

### Pocket Voice Communications Ltd

Voice And Data Connectivity

Stuart Siet, B.S.E.E.  
President

1780 63rd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11204  
www.pvcom.com

718-232-3636  
Fax: 718-232-4593  
E-Mail: stus@pvcom.com

### Prospect Park Dogs

Dog Walking - Pet Taxi - even Cat Sitting  
A reasonable & caring approach to animal care

**Lori**

917-509-0049  
lorieleanor@hotmail.com

**Tony**

718-633-0623  
achiapp@netzero.net

# Keep Prospect Park Off-Leash Friendly

Here is my Membership contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Renewal (annual renewal due each April 1st\*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail This Form to: Fido In Prospect Park, 230 7th Ave, #157, Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**Contact Us: Voice Mail 888 604 3422 - E-mail: [fidobrooklyn@att.net](mailto:fidobrooklyn@att.net)**

\*Renewals due yearly on April 1st. If you first became a member of Fido after 4/2003, you're good until 4/2005!



230 7th Avenue  
#157  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Address Label