



winter 2005

SPEAKS!

FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS
and their owners!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Winterize Your Pooch	pg. 1
Rescue - Is It For You?	pg. 3
Remembering Nadine McGann	pg. 5
From The Alpha Desk	pg. 6

Winterize Your Pooch!

By Jennifer Brauer

With the cold weather upon us, it's time to prepare your pooch for the chill of winter and the perils of icy sidewalks.

Paws First...

If your dog does a three-legged dance on the way to the park, you've undoubtedly hit some salt or sidewalk chemical melts that have become an unavoidable part of the urban frozen tundra. Most dogs will benefit from the direct paw protection available at local pet supply shops. Paw wax liberally applied to the pads before heading out works pretty well for most outings. However booties will protect paws from ice melt as well as paw injury caused by crusted ice, or ice balls that collect in the hair between paw pads and toes. In the case of booties, it's advisable to ask your fellow dog owners which type stay put on a particular breed. For instance either velcro or cinch straps may make the difference.

Trimming the paw hairs between pad and toes helps prevent ice balls and abrasive crud from plaguing your dog's feet by preventing ice formation. Signs that your dog has uncomfortable painful feet include: whining, lifting of paws, or frequently stopping on walks. If this happens try to prevent further pain and injury by carrying your hound to a location where you can gently wash out the feet as opposed to brushing which may injure frozen paw tissue. If arriving home, gently wash with warm water.

To Wear Or Not To Wear?

Cold weather dangers include chills and discomfort, hypothermia, and frostbite. In general the shorter the hair/fur the greater the protection your dog will need from the cold. If you have an arctic-type dog like an Elkhound or Husky, these breeds have the benefit of an oily undercoating which more than does the job. The disadvantage is that these breeds only come alive when the temperature hits 10 degrees!

Dobermans, Dachshunds, Boston Terriers, Jack Russells, Vizlas, Weimaraners, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Pit Bulls, Grey Hounds, Whippets, Great Danes, and just about all toy breeds are especially susceptible to the cold. In addition, thin dogs; dogs with poor circulation, cardiovascular conditions, endocrine disorders; elderly dogs and puppies may not do well in low temperature conditions. Dogs with diabetes may have impaired ability to cope with cold weather and may also have an impaired ability to feel pain, and thus not complain. Again when in doubt ask a fellow dog owner who has had winter experience with a similar breed/mix. For the overindulged hound, know that body fat offers some protection from the cold.

Many canines will benefit from coats, sweaters and rain-wear. Winter wear is commercially available from local shops while custom coats and pullovers can be found on-line. Garments that cover the chest and abdomen as well as the back, provide better protection for vital organs such as the heart and lungs, than do garments that primarily cover the back and sides. This is especially true if you have a dog who might tend to lie down on the cold ground or snow. Hypothermia in dogs is associated with the dog being wet, so garments that are water resistant have a substantial added benefit. If you are offered hand me downs, remember there must be a styling accommodation for male canines – when you got to go, you got to go!

Winter wear should be functional, but it doesn't hurt to have

Continued from Page 2

Winterize Your Pooch

Continued from Page 1

some fun when dressing your hound. Many dogs can wear human clothing - adult, child - usually slipped on backwards. A humans V-neck fleece pullover with the sleeves cut about mid-arm and pulled over the dogs head with the forelegs slipped through, makes a fashionable bit of warm sportswear. Needless to say if your dog is going to wear human clothing you now have the option to dress alike, if dressing like your dog is what you've always wanted to do. In wet weather the dog who wears rain gear tends to bring much less water into the home. This helps keep your favorite couch dry and free of mud. If your home tends to be on the cool side, your dog might consider wearing a smoking jacket, or at least a tee shirt! Be sure it's non-binding at the forelegs and neck. Oh, it's often helpful to give your dog a "get dressed" command so that they'll learn to cooperate while being dressed before walks. Dogs that need to wear clothing are often the most tolerant of garments.

On The Trail

Frequently check your dog during walk and play by slipping your hand into their garment to be sure they're still warm beneath the sweater or coat. The temperature difference you feel on your dogs clothed areas verses unclothed areas will often be marked. Feel the chest, abdomen, sides, and front of the neck. Feel the feet and especially the ears. Much like their human counterparts, the ear tips are susceptible to frostbite. If you do suspect frostbite, never rub the area. Consult your vet! Dogs uncomfortable with the cold may be in a hurry to get back inside, therefore may not fully relieve themselves and may have frequent accidents. If your doggie becomes chilled, get them inside immediately; handle gently and re-warm in dry bedding and blankets. Better yet snuggle up with your pal using your own body heat for comfort.

Wearing contrasting colors against the snow will help ensure that your dog is seen by drivers who must deal with reduced visibility from weather conditions or windshields encumbered by condensation, mud or ice. In addition, a driver may see the person walking the dog but not see the dog; or not see all the dogs if more than one animal is being walked.

Big No, No! Never let your pooch out onto a frozen pond because there may be unfrozen areas. Falling through ice can be fatal to both dog and the owner who attempts a rescue.

Electrified Sidewalk Plates/Manhole Covers...

This is as scary as it sounds! While a statistical rarity, it was only last winter that Jodie Lane was electrocuted on 11th Street in Manhattan while attempting to yank her panicked dogs from an electrically charged metal sidewalk inspection plate. During an attempt to take her pulse, a police officer was also injured, and taken unconscious to the hospital. This past October, Mayor Bloomberg signed City Council legislation that mandates utility companies promptly maintain and investigate all electrical leaks that might expose the public

to danger. In addition they are now required to publicly report what they've found and corrected. How fast will we get the information? A website dedicated to Jodie Lane has a direct link to Brooklyn's electrical dangers: <http://jodielaneproject.org/sections/stray-voltage-list/brooklyn/>

As of this newsletter printing, the last entry for Brooklyn was August 17th so it behooves us to report anything suspicious. "Sadly, stray electricity is invisible," Jodie Lane's website goes on to warn: "...in some cases the danger is obvious: streetlamps with missing access panels, or bare wires in the street. If you have a dog, you may see them suddenly bolt for no reason. They may appear frozen in a spot, shaking violently. They may have a streetlamp or spot on the sidewalk that they're afraid of - these are all good indicators. If you have any suspicion at all, and live in New York, it's best to call the city's outstanding 311 service"

Should You Eat Yellow Snow? Green Snow? Blue Snow?

Yellow snow is bad enough but green or blue snow represents icy puddles of antifreeze. Antifreeze poisoning is a true medical emergency that kills far more pets than electrocution. Antifreeze is sweet tasting, and occasionally gets spilled or leaked in the street and it may be swallowed by dogs sneaking a puddle to relieve thirst or just licking their paws after walking through it. If you suspect antifreeze poisoning contact a veterinarian immediately!

Have a safe and happy winter!

WINTER CALENDAR

Coffee Barks...

January 1st is a major holiday...

Therefore the January Coffee Bark will be held the following Saturday, January 8th

February - March

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 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.

Rescue: Is It For You?

Fido Rescue Committee

Finding A Lost Dog's Owner...

If you find a dog with tags that don't include a home phone/ address, call the veterinarian identified on the rabies vaccination tag. The veterinarian should be able to identify the owner by the rabies tag number. If the dog has no tags, look for a tattoo, usually on the inside of the right back leg – you may need to part the fur on some dogs, and even shave a patch to read a tattoo. Racing Greyhounds and some imported dogs may have tattoos on their ears, so be sure to check there, too. Tattoos normally identify either the pet (and in the case of racing Greyhounds, age), or the registry. For a listing of tattoo registries and tattoo configurations check out:

http://www.hsus2.org/sheltering/magazine/currentissue/may_jun99/tattoo_registries.html

In addition, your veterinarian may have the various registries' numbers, or try calling either the Brooklyn or Manhattan Center for Animal Care & Control for information. Also, there is a good possibility that the dog may be microchipped. Most vets, like Animal Kind Veterinary Hospital, here in Park Slope (718-832-3899), have the facility to scan the dog between its shoulder blades to see if it can be identified.

People who find a stray dog should make a "found report" at the CACC shelter for which you will be given a case #. Found and lost reports are only kept in the CACC's computer for three months then a new report has to be filed. 48 hrs after making a 'found report' on a stray with no ID you can legally keep the dog or find it a home.

The other thing is that the CACC website (www.nycacc.org) has lost/found listings most with photos. While this may not be a complete listing of the animals in their care, it may help an owner trying to find their dog in addition to physically searching the shelters. Another note: dogs found as strays by the police in Brooklyn do not necessarily go to the Brooklyn CACC. Lots of times police will make the trip to the Manhattan CACC. So owners should search both shelters and even the Staten Island CACC if. The Staten Island CACC is tiny in comparison to Brooklyn or Manhattan CACCs so perhaps their listing of animals on the lost/found site is more complete. If the dog appears to have been lost recently, (healthy but panicked) try walking around the neighborhood and asking if anyone recognizes it. It may have slipped its collar only a few minutes ago and the owner is actively looking for their pet, or perhaps doesn't realize it's gone. Post flyers in your neighborhood, at pet supply shops in and around Prospect Park, and at your veterinarian's office. Many veterinary offices will take a description of the dog over the phone. Cast your net wide as you can, because a lost dog may travel some distance. If possible, post a notice on "Dog Chat" (<http://www.fidobrooklyn.com/features/dogchat.html>)

If the dog is a purebred, call FIDO (voice mail) 1-888-604-3422 or look to the web for a rescue organization devoted to that breed - they may well be able to foster the dog or find it a home. A great place to start is AKC's rescue page, which lists all AKC-recognized breed rescue organization: www.akc.org/breeds/rescue.cfm

Abandoned Dogs...

Unfortunately, many or most dogs found in Brooklyn are abandoned, not lost. Sad to say no-kill shelters have long waiting lists. While small dogs may be able to go to a shelter like Bide-a-Wee, larger dogs are harder for them to fit in. In any case, you'll have to hold the animal for ten days in order to establish ownership before you surrender it.

Maybe you'll be lucky enough to find a permanent or foster home right away, but if not, the truth is that you can expect to invest substantial time and money in your rescue. If you're unable to do that, you'll have to take the dog to the Center for Animal Care & Control - the odds are pretty high that the animal will be euthanized. If the dog is a pit bull (or look-alike), those odds rise. Don't blame the CACC - blame the huge number of people who dump their pets or don't spay/neuter.

If you can't keep the dog at home but want to place it in a care facility, try boarding. Kennels cost about \$20/day (less in the suburbs.) Look for a place that has runs, smells clean, and offers ample visiting hours. There is one other option. If you have a friend in the suburbs who is willing to become the dog's "owner," that person may be able to take the dog to a local shelter. Conditions there may be better and the shelter may

Continued on Page 5

The Bowser Browser...

Dog People Do It Better

200 ways our dogs teach us to love, laugh, & loosen up!

By Theresa Mancuso

Adams Media 2004 (available Dec '04)

Dog People Do It Better is a collection of short, wonderful anecdotes that the author solicited from around the world - contacts ranging from Alaska to Australia. Dog People celebrates the best canine traits: courage, devotion, teamwork, humility, loyalty, respect, and unconditional love. Through these stories and life lessons, Ms Mancuso shows us how to incorporate these values into our daily lives.

You'll read about Perry, a star showdog whose love for his less-accomplished brother was so strong he could only perform well when they were together; Hexe, a master locksmith who could find a way out of a room and into any party; and Lobo, who bravely fought in the Vietnam War.

Theresa Mancuso, author of "Who Moved My Bone?" is a writer/photographer as well as a graphic designer. She belongs to a German Shepherd named Abby. You'll undoubtedly meet them both in the Long Meadow.

The Shake-a-Leg Potato & Egg Get Out in the Morning Coffee Bark Breakfast!

Jennifer Brauer's scrambled eggs (feeds 25 - 45 humans, shared with an untold number of dogs). A proven recipe sometimes served at Fido's Coffee Bark table.

Ingredients:

90 eggs,

About one half gallon of whole milk

10 pounds small red potatoes, well washed, scrubbed, and quartered, (bite size, human or little dog bite size)

2.5 pounds of shredded cheese, Cheddar, Monterey Jack, Mexican

1 pound of white mushrooms, well washed and sliced or chopped

1 pound of organic baby spinach, well washed one half pound of butter

About two teaspoons on salt,

About 12 little paper packets of black pepper

Three large serving trays: Two stacked for structural support and insulation of heat, and one to serve as a lid 19 x 3.5 x 11.5 inches at least and at least one trusty dog to help taste test and clean up any accidentally dropped or splashed ingredients. Note - how many servings remain depends on the size of the taster dog.

Prepare the potatoes by boiling, then pan frying with butter until mildly brown; this may be done a day in advance. Beat the eggs with the milk thoroughly in a large bowl, mix about 12 at a time, and pour into buttered frying pan, add in cheese, mushrooms, potatoes, and spinach, and salt and pepper. Cook two or more scrambled omelets at once. When done, place in serving tray in preheated oven at about 300 degrees to keep hot.

Organic ingredients are always preferable for taste and safety, butter is used for flavor and to raise the fat level which helps the dish retain heat.

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Nadine McGann

In Memory: April 1962 - October 2004



Misa Martin

Nadine was a slender, short-haired figure familiar to many Prospect Park dog people. Often she could be seen tossing a ball for Ozzie or calling "Keeellyyyyy" to summon the miscreant who was invariably investigating some overflowing trash can. Nadine was active in FIDO from the beginning and had a special commitment to educating people about their dogs. She was instrumental in setting up our first microchipping clinic some years ago, and she was in the process of organizing one for this coming Spring. She was also the reason that FIDO was able to provide an interesting and useful series of public lectures to the dog community for several years. Nadine not only identified and invited experts, including Dr. Peter Borchelt, to speak for free, but also located space in which to hold the lectures and even wrote the copy for the flyers and postcards. The rest of us on the Internal Ed Committee basically coasted along.

In addition to FIDO and Park-related activities, Nadine trained her dogs in obedience and agility and competed successfully for years, earning titles, ribbons and trophies in both events. She regularly taught courses at the Staten Island Companion Dog Training Club, was an active member of the Training Committee, and rewrote their basic introductory course notes. Reaching out to novice dog owners was very important to her, and as an assistant in many of her classes I saw her go the extra mile to help owners who were clueless as to why their 7-month old un-neutered and untrained dog was a handful.

Many people did not know that, despite her seeming energy, Nadine had battled an insidious form of non-responsive depression for some 15 years. It sabotaged her earlier career in editing and cultural criticism in Chicago, Rochester, NY, and in San Francisco. It was basically her dogs and the phone call from her sister every morning that kept her going. A profile in the NY Times (Science section) in the late 1990s outlined her medical problems and the various treatments she had pursued, treatments that continually failed as the years went by. In the end the disease took her as inexorably as cancer. Those of us who worked and played and enjoyed our dogs with her are broken-hearted.

Trudy Kawami

Rescue...

Continued from Page 3

be a no-kill, or at least have a longer waiting period than the CACC. The Good News is that dogs do find homes. Help is out there! To make the dog more adoptable (and also because it's the right thing to do,) you should take the animal to a veterinarian for an exam, shots, and a spay/neuter if necessary. Many veterinarians will discount their fees for strays, especially if you have other pets under their care. By all means ask!

Adoption...

To be adoptable, a dog must be housebroken. It helps if the dog is trained to sit, down, stay and walk reasonably on a lead. A book many people have found helpful, is Carol Lea Benjamin's, *Second Hand Dog*. If you can spend the money, it certainly can't hurt to attend obedience classes.

If the dog has more serious behavioral problems, in particular aggression, you will either have to put in the work necessary to make the dog manageable; find a home where the dog's problems are known and can be handled; or have the dog euthanized. It may sound shocking that we say the latter, but you really can't foist the dog off onto an unsuspecting person and hope everything will be okay. It probably won't be okay and someone including the dog, may get badly hurt. A dog with problems may wind up going from home to home, encountering progressively worse situations - a far cruel ending than a quick painless death. But most behavior problems are treatable... If you have a found dog with behavior problems, please consult a trainer or behaviorist. Call FIDO (1-888-604-3422) if you need a referral or if the cost of a consultation is beyond you means; we can put you in touch with a trainer who will provide one free consultation. If you feel that you must absolutely deal with the problem yourself, we strongly recommend the works of Ian Dunbar and Jean Donaldson, available by mail/phone or over the web from dogwise.com....

You should also be aware that some behavior problems may be linked to a health problem. Thyroid dysfunction, for example, can be attributed to aggression and is easily helped with daily, inexpensive medication. So be sure to consult a veterinarian to rule out this and other contributing health issues.

REAL ANAGRAMS

by Maureen Sanders

a dog
looked in a mirror
and saw a god
but didn't know it

a god
looked in a mirror
and saw a dog
and was glad

From the Alpha Desk

The year is winding down, now. The Park population has thinned to the hardy, determined few. A smattering of joggers, a sprinkling of bikers. And a whole big pack of dog people and their sidekicks.

It is easy to relax in the feeling that the Park is "ours" for the winter, that it's just us and a whole lot of mud. To a certain extent this is true, but in certain crucial aspects it just ain't so. We're not just talking here about courtesy to other Park users (that is always in season!) or the like. We're talking safety.

Unfortunately, weather is not a deterrent to a select number of nasty types who also consider the Park a great asset. Granted, these nasties decrease as the temperature drops, but they are never entirely absent. Being in the company of a dog or two is not necessarily sufficient protection. There have been unpleasant incidents recently that have required police intervention.

There are things you can do to increase your own safety: walk with a group, keep the headphones turned down, and know the location of the emergency call boxes in the Park. The emergency call boxes are bright yellow and mounted on light poles and connect directly to the precinct.

The Park has recently published a beautifully detailed map of the Park showing where these call boxes are located. And of course, it also shows many of the features that draw us to the Park even without our dogs! (Quick- where's the Rose Garden? The statue of Mozart?)

We have printed a black-and-white version to be included with this Newsletter; copies of the large, full-color map are available at the Villa (5th Street and Prospect Park West).

On other fronts, this past fall has been a season of loss for FIDO as an organization. Nadine McGann, one of the orig-

inal members of the group, passed away in October. She had been ill for some time, and finally succumbed. She and her dogs were a fixture in the Park even before there was a FIDO, and she worked hard to make FIDO a success. Nadine organized our quarterly seminars, and launched a campaign that resulted in greatly improved trash pickup in the Park this past summer. She helped keep our meetings on track and could be relied on for an incisive, witty comment. She touched many lives, and her presence will be sorely missed.

Mary McInerney

Join Fido Now...

Tony Chiappelloni

What Is Fido? Fido is not only about fun things like Pupnic, Coffee Bark and Bark the Herald Angels Sing. FIDO's creed is the commitment to ensure that Prospect Park is a safe and healthy place for dogs; that responsible supervision of dogs will ensure enhanced opportunities for off-leash activity

Fido works closely with Tupper Thomas, Prospect Park's Administrator, to provide a wonderful canine world for our dogs; an off-leash world that is the envy of dog owners everywhere. Fido receives numbers off letters and e-mails from different parts of the USA - queries as to how dog owners can set up their own working relationships with municipal governing bodies. Fido has been in all the media, even featured in an article in a Japanese dog magazine!

The dogs of Prospect Park have a better life than most dogs sitting in a back yard or those only walked around the block. The park lets a dog live a life as close to canine nature as possible. They are free to play and socialize and be a part of pack behavior. It is good for a dog to be a dog. And it's healthy mentally as well as physically for the dog.

Fido also reaches out to other park user groups so that we can get together on common issues like more frequent garbage pick-ups especially during summer. In the past Fido has provided garbage cans in the park and works with the park administration to keep the park clean by using peer pressure so that people pick up after their dogs.

Fido is about dogs. Please join, we need you.

Fido Speaks - Staff...

Editor – Bob Ipcar

Art Direction & Design – Deb Caponera

Art Illustration – Paul Belliveau

Alpha Desk – Mary McInerney

Our Poet Laureate – Maureen Sanders

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By The Hydrant

With Lorreta

I say Spinone... You say Spumone...

There are two new Italian pups named Alfred and Denali now residing in the Long Meadow - two Spinone Italiano. Actually the plural of Spinone is Spinoni. However if you try to say it while your lips are frozen it comes out Spumone - the frozen treat!

Special To The Hydrant...

At the Blessing of the Animals at this past October's Coffee Bark it was reported that when the Priest blessed Jupiter the Rat Terrier, smoke came out of the little guy's ears. Mmmm... Exorcism anyone?

Therapy Dog From Hell?

Charlie, a little toy Fox Terrier who's very cute applied for therapy dog screening but to his owner's embarrassment, her dog bit the trainer! Now for a helping of medical waste!

Pugnacious Happenings...

Is somebody planting Pug seeds in the Long Meadow? Seems like a awful lot of pugs scampering around lately. A flock? A pack? A pod of Pugs?

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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 Spring Newsletter Issue will be March 1st

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*Renewals due yearly on April 1st. If you first became a member of Fido after 4/2004, you're good until 4/2006



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