



# Hillcrest Tail Waggin' Times

## August 2008



**Happy Birthday to these growin' pups!**

Gizmo, Mackenzie, Jordan, Boomie, Bella, Becket,  
and Rowdy!!

*Join us for their celebration on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am!*



### Announcing our upcoming events!

*WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS, BERGER AND JORDAN!!*



For members that like to play during the day, join us for our **Morning Doggy Play Group** on Thursdays at 11:00am!!

**-8/9 Nate Leary Pet Photography**

11am-2pm

**-8/9 Club Pet Adopt-a-Pet** 10am-2pm

**-8/21 Dog Member Social Hour**

6:30-7:30pm

**-8/23 Animal Appeal Adopt-a-Pet**

12-2pm

**-8/30 Doggie Birthday Party** 11am-

12pm

\* **Thursday mornings Doggy Play Group** 11

### Foods your pup should stay away from...

**Grapes and Raisins:** These can cause kidney failure

**Onions:** Can destroy red blood cells and cause anemia.

**Chocolate:** Can cause seizures, coma, and even death.

**Coffee, Coffee grounds, tea, and tea bags:**

Caffeine can cause many of the same symptoms of Chocolate.

**Macadamia Nuts and Walnuts:** Can cause weakness, muscle tremor and paralysis.

**Peanut Butter:** Use Salt/Sugar free *ORGANIC* Peanut Butter (sugar encourages cancer growth).

**Animal Fat and Fried Foods:** Excessive fat can cause pancreatitis.

*See more next month....*



### Words of Wisdom –

“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.”

-Roger Caras

### Fun Facts about man's best friend...

-Rin Tin Tin was the first American dog movie star and signed his own contracts for 22 movies with a paw print.

-George Washington had 36 foxhounds, and one was named Sweetlips.

-The Lundehun breed has 6 toes and can close its ears

-Chihuahuas are born with “molera”, or “soft spot” like a human baby, which usually close as they mature.

### Training Tips by Roberta

Did you know that it's proven that 20 minutes of exercise each day will improve a dog's behavior?



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### Choose from the heart; purebred or mutt, it makes no difference!

article by Michelle Hogue Ducklin

The eclectic mixes of canines that have shared my childhood home were either "hand-picked" or "adopted." Dog parenting is a priority for me, so it ranks right up there with family, good health and emotional well-being, just to mention a few. My story over, which is the best choice, mirrors those of you who've faced the same decision, purebred or mutt? Either way, it's a lifetime commitment that only fellow animal lovers can wholeheartedly understand. There was never a time when animals weren't an integral part of my life, so my experience, mostly with dogs, predates putting a man on the moon – mind you, I don't remember this historic event! No matter what you decide, purebred or mutt, it still involves choosing from the heart.

Every single dog in my life, up until three years ago, belonged to my parents. You name it, dogs became a part of our lives for various reasons, too numerous to mention. In all, my parents provided a loving home for five purebred and five mutts during a 49-year span; Tientsin, a shih tsu (my mother's last dog), is still with me at nearly 15. When I reminisce about my childhood, vivid memories of the endless unconditional love each one lavished upon me remains with me today. It didn't matter how our pets came to be, purebred or mutt, it still involves choosing from the heart.

Fast forward to present day, and I am now the proud parent of Bella Rose, a golden retriever, who cost me \$600 and Nous, a golden retriever mix, who I adopted. When choosing Bella, I searched the Internet, found a breeder and drove 2 1/2 hours to get her. My choice was between her and her half sister. You guessed it, I chose from the heart and knew from that alone I'd made the best choice – she's the apple of my eye. When I got Nous, it was happenstance. I was at my beloved Hillcrest-Flynn dog park and spotted Nous on June 14, asked about his origins and instantly fell in love. He pulled at my heartstrings and has been playing them ever since. There was no way that I could live without this dog – he made that much of an impact on me. So you see, purebred or mutt, it makes no difference, it still involves choosing from the heart.

*If you can't decide between a Shepherd, a Setter or a Poodle, get them all . . . adopt a mutt! -- ASPCA*



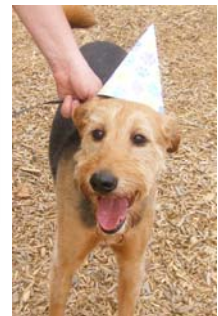
Bella,  
Nous, and  
mom  
Michelle



### A few of last month's birthday pups!!



"Murphy"



"Pai"



"Lilly"



"Aspen"



"Josie"



### *Cleo's Story*

When Jason first told me about his little dog, purported to be “the cutest dog in the world”, the best guess as to her breeding was a mix of Labrador and Jack Russell terrier. I made a joke then that her favorite pastime must be retrieving light bulbs from the ceiling, but this has proven to be entirely inaccurate. Cleo, really, isn't much of a jumper, but she has done her share of bouncing. She was probably born around June of 2005, but we really don't know much for certain. The family that took her home originally (Bounce number 1) likely got her from a pet store in southern Pennsylvania, which is home to an estimated 4 billion dollar a year puppy mill industry. But after a few months, it seems the family simply gave up on her. Bounce number 2 happened on New Year's Day of 2006, when she slipped out of their yard, and they seemed not to care. But whether the people who purchased her cared or not, thankfully, Jason's neighbors did.

Somehow, little Cleo made it across a busy two lane highway in the snow, and onto Fig Tree Way, where she was found shivering in the snow in someone's back yard. Not being animal people, though, the couple had no idea what to do with her, and after some thinking, took her to another neighbor who has dogs— five dogs— of her own: Bounce number 3, the second one that day. This woman, unfortunately, couldn't keep her either; five dogs is quite a lot of work for anyone, and adding a sixth so suddenly could have meant total chaos. So, this second stranger bundled into her winter clothes and escorted Cleo through Bounce number 4 to a third neighbor, also a dog owner, who lives next door to Jason's family. But Cleo was quickly forced to bounce yet again; the two Australian Shepherds that live there were far less than friendly toward a new female in their territory. No, the little orange orphan had to go once again, and once again a kind human being pulled on winter clothes on New Year's Day to try to give the shivering stray a chance. The cute little mixed breed bounced through the snow a fifth time that day, though the trip, thankfully, was very short. Jason was at home by himself that day. His mother and step-father were visiting family; Bruce and Sierra, his mother's lab and Sheppard mixes were probably enjoying the quiet sprawled across the couch or someone's bed, when the doorbell rang. Jason says he doesn't remember many of the specifics, but he remembers being surprised to see this neighbor asking him to keep this shivering little dog until his mother got back and could call the SPCA. He brought the dog in, and then went for carpet cleaner once Bruce and Sierra introduced themselves, but every few minutes the little orange dog climbed into his lap, shaking. It's a habit we are still trying to curb, but it started them on the path to forever.

A week passed with an ad running in the classified section of the newspaper trying to find her owners while Cleo slept in Jason's room. As the week passed, the less it seemed likely anyone would come forward to claim the little stray, and the happier Jason got at the idea of keeping her for good. Then the phone call came: “We saw your ad We'd like to come over.”

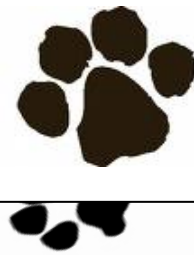
Jason wasn't home when Cleo's owners stopped by. Apparently the mother and daughter came and brought another neighborhood girl with them: not to retrieve the dog, as Jason had begun to fear, but to say goodbye. “She was too much work” they said. They were thinking about taking her to the pound anyway. The adults arranged to vet records to be sent to Jason's family. This family seemed to be relieved to be rid of a burden than to be sad at the loss of a family member, or even ashamed to have overestimated their abilities. That night, Jason came home to find his little Cleo waiting for him for the first time. It was a good day. When Jason's mother told me Cleo's story, I was baffled. Yes, she has her issues; most dogs hailing from puppy mills and other similarly troubled situations do, but I will never understand how the unwavering love of an animal can be so easily abandoned on someone's front porch. In any case, and luckily for Cleo, her fifth bounce was her last. The farthest she usually travels now is a couple of miles through Buhl Park on the weekends, with her Daddy at the other end of the leash. She has been Jason's biggest cheerleader and greatest comfort for two and a half years, and for two of those, she has brought me so much joy I can't quite find the words to describe it. Of course there are days that I think we should buy stock in carpet cleaner and paper towels, but it's a small thing to sacrifice in exchange for the liquid brown eyes peering at me under my computer desk while I eat my yogurt and the warm little rump wedged against my hip in bed at night. To be able to give up something so precious so easily, I think, means one must not have known it and loved it in the first place. In that, Cleo is one of the lucky ones, because not only did she bounce quickly from one kind-intentioned set of hands to another and into a permanent home in the space of one day, but she had the fortune to meet a very lucky new owner. “Every boy should have two things:” that famous old sage Anonymous once said, “a dog, and a mother willing to let him have one.”





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Start thinking of a fun Halloween costume for your pup!!

Hillcrest's  
Howl-O-Ween Party  
Is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>!



*Best Wishes to Mark, Victor, and Marika!! We will miss you and can't wait until you return!!*

## Recipe of the month – Peanut Butter Carrot Cake

**Ingredients-** 1 cup flour, 1 tsp baking soda, ¼ cup organic peanut butter, ¼ cup vegetable oil, 1 cup shredded carrots, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1/3 cup honey, and 1 egg.

**Directions:** Mix flour and baking soda. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into greased 8" round cake pan and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Let cool. Puree cottage cheese in blender for icing. Decorate with more peanut butter and carrots. *Enjoy!!*

## Check out Marika in Action!!



In-ground pool



## Vacation at Wagsworth Manor Pet Resort!!



Flat-screens in every room

Thanks Dad!!  
Check out this place at  
[www.wagsworthmanor.com](http://www.wagsworthmanor.com)

