



FIDO SPEAKS!



FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS
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FIDO COMES OF AGE

What do wood and spices and puppy-dog tails have in common? They're the stuff of which five-year-olds are made! Why wood? Well, wood is the traditional anniversary gift for five years; and on September 2nd, FIDO becomes five years old. Appropriately, we have just planted a tree.

The tree is the Willow Oak northwest of the Doggie Beach. It was planted in memory of the dogs who have left us. Future dogs and their owners will be shaded by it, resting close to each other on and by the park bench to be donated by FIDO in 2004. Perhaps they will reminisce about the days when the dogs that romped the Long Meadow were on the shady side of John Law. The dogs got a hand; and so did Jane, Mary, Charlotte, Maureen, Paul, Jana, Diane, Nadine, Kris, Barbara, and John, when the gals and guys in the meadow started coming to Coffee Bark on first Saturdays—who became members of the fledgling organization to be known as Fido In Prospect Park.

We thank the local merchants who helped, and we thank Tupper Thomas and the Prospect Park

Alliance for their part in a mutual effort that is envied across the country. The Park has helped FIDO, and FIDO tries to help the Park. Since its beginnings, FIDO has donated funds for park improvements that fall within the parameters of FIDO's mission.

Memorial Tree	Fiscal 02-03 YTD
Plastic Trash Bags	Fiscal 01-02
Trash Cans	Fiscal 01-02
Doggie Beach	
Underwater Fence	Fiscal 00-01
Grass Seed	Fiscal 99-00
Doggie	
Water Fountains	Fiscal 99-00
Trash Cans	Fiscal 98-99

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PET INSURANCE

COMING BY LAND, COMING BY MAIL IT'S COMING BY INTERNET

FIDO has made arrangements with Pet Care Insurance to provide insurance at a substantial discount to members of FIDO. Brochures and flyers will be available at the Coffee Bark on the first Saturday of each month, and brochures and flyers are being mailed to each member. You will also be able to enroll by Internet when final arrangements have been made.

Pet Care Insurance offered the widest variety of services, ranging from slightly under \$9.00 per month to a high of \$20.00 plus per month, depending upon the insurance coverage selected. Insurance is even available for senior canines at a slightly added cost. Now, pet insurance is another advantage of being a member of FIDO.

Our thanks to Dave Singer for following through on this project.

By The Hydrant

Dale Kaplan

Guru Ulysses:

Feeling low on self-confidence? Self-esteem not up to par? Wasting your money on self-help books? Don't Despair! Just come down the 9th street path into the Park and ask for Guru Ulysses. Meek in physique but huge in stature, this 14lb. Pug serves as an inspiration to all – size never an issue. He thinks big; acts accordingly: wrestling, fetching, chasing with the biggest & best whether male or female. When it comes to asserting his masculinity, Ulysses keeps up with the pack, enthusiastically tugging on another dog's tail with magnum force. Loving, as he is feisty, this littler guy proves to be a delightful companion to his humans, Kira and Adam. Thanks, Ulysses for showing us that being short in stature should not make you short on self-esteem.

Rich Fantasy Life:

Last issue, we described Jupiter, the rat terrier, as thinking he was a parrot. We're happy to report that this ornithological fixation has passed. Jupiter has now taken on a more exciting persona - he thinks he's a cop! When a crowd recently gathered to witness a police investigation near the Pools, Jupi went missing and his human, Tony, was frantic. After a prolonged search, Jupi was discovered to have commandeered a police vehicle at the foot of the 9th Street path, much to the delight of the attesting officers. Does this mean he'll be issued a pistol and a daily box of donuts? Will Jupi write us tickets for the unauthorized use of milk crates? The tale never ends as far as this little guy is concerned.

Oi Vey! What A Story:

Earl, Lester's big brother, was found dining on a pig's head up behind the Picnic House – a delicacy apparently left over from a Santario ritual. Extracting the head from Earl's jaws proved to be the least of the problem. Earl acted as if possessed, becoming more protective of his owner and showing considerable aggression toward other dogs. After consulting with the NY Board of Rabbis, Earl's human immediately switched him to a Glatt Kosher Diet – gefilte fish & pastrami from Katz's deli. Good luck. Earl and don't forget the horseradish!

That Publicity Hound Again:

My favorite gal Yuffie, Brooklyn's Incorrigeable Canine will be featured in this summer's issue of New York Tails Magazine, a free publication available through Pet Supply stores, or on the Web at www.newyorktails.com. Yuffie's is known for her humorous advice column which is based on the premise that dogs e-mail each other when we're out of the house, (www.exitfive.com/yuffie) Premise, Smemish! My Harvey loves to go on-line!

New Births:

As went to press, Mary, Matteo and their pooch, Ella, were expecting a baby and needed help choosing a name that goes with Pisciotta (Pronounced Pish-oh-ta.) One suggestion, Yoda, was unanimously vetoed. Turns out Mary gave birth to a boy who will be known as Teo!

After Wittgenstein*

Sake, Sake, Sacajawea
How the Mommy loves to see ya!

All the people will laugh with glee for ya.
All the doggies will pee on a tree for ya.

Sake, Sake, Sacajawea

Nary a squirrel will ever feel free from ya.
Every burglar in town will flee from ya.

Sake, Sake, Sacajawea
How the Mommy loves to see ya!

**Wittgenstein passed away 3/27/02.
Sacajawea joined us 4/2/02.
We welcomed Sake while we mourned Wit.*

Maureen & Charlotte

Dog Tales

LILITH

By Jane Landis

When Paul Belliveau first noticed a small growth while cleaning his dog's ears, he thought nothing of it. After all Lilith, the four-year-old pit bull mix, had had a similar growth on her chest removed the year before and it had turned out to merely be a viral papilloma, a benign skin tumor that in some cases will simply fall off on its own. However, due to the location of this coffee bean-sized obstruction, Paul and his wife Jeanne decided to take Lilith to see their veterinarian, Dr. Helen Spiegel. They figured a blockage in the ear canal could possibly cause problems in the future.

The growth was easily removed and sent for biopsy, as is routine in these cases. But Paul and Jeanne were unprepared for what the biopsy would reveal: the growth had been canine malignant melanoma, a virulent form of skin cancer. Further surgery and testing would be required to determine if the cancer had spread to other parts of Lilith's body.

A great deal of media attention has been given to the increasing numbers of skin cancer being diagnosed in human beings. Excessive sun exposure is usually the catalyst for a whole spectrum of cutaneous cancers, most of which are highly treatable if caught early on. The canine world is just as susceptible to these maladies and it is important that dog owners know to be on the lookout for unusual growths on their pets.

Jeanne Belliveau—who is studying to be a veterinary technician—knew that canine malignant melanoma was the worst diagnosis they could get, but in her characteristically proactive fashion she delved into all the research she could find on the subject. She promptly found some very informative veterinary web sites and became very familiar with the medical terms in order to get a handle on the disease.

"Malignant melanoma is the term applied to the cancer when the skin meets the mucous membranes." she explained. "It's very fast

growing in this location; it travels to lymph nodes and from there it can spread throughout the body."

The Belliveaus knew there was a lot that could be done for their pet; radiation, chemo, "anything they can do for a human they can do for a dog." The first order of business was to consult with a canine oncologist. Dr. Spiegel referred them to Dr. Timothy Rocha of the Manhattan Veterinary Group.

Being able to discuss the situation from a position of knowledge was very important to the Belliveaus, and Dr. Rocha was very encouraging of Jeanne's research into this disease and all the available treatment options. After they opted for surgery, Dr. Rocha performed a second procedure and ran further tests to see if the cancer had indeed metastasized; i.e. traveled to other parts of Lilith's body. Although he did prepare them for the worst-case scenario he advised them to be hopeful and optimistic. "Dr. Rocha did say: 'who knows, maybe you'll have that one-in-a-thousand dog that survives'," Jeanne recalled. Initial results were inconclusive, which further added to the stress of the situation. They knew the odds were against poor Lilith but they didn't lose hope. Fortunately their positive attitude was not in vain: the tests revealed that the cancer had been caught in time—no follow up treatment would be necessary.

Had Paul not first noticed the tumor when he did and then taken immediate action, Lilith might have died. As Jeanne says: "It's important to keep an eye on things; if something changes like behavior or appetite, check it out." The Belliveau's experience certainly adds credence to the old adage that "you're better off safe than sorry" when it comes to your pet's health.

Great on-line sources on Canine melanoma

<http://www.wonderpuppy.net/melanoma.htm>

<http://www.cfnaonline.com/caninetimes/resource-center/cancer/c-mela.shtml>

<http://www.caninesincrisis.org/>

Vet's Corner

Lyme Disease

S. Ryan, DVM

Lyme disease, also called Lyme arthritis, is a disease transmitted by ticks. The disease is found in humans, dogs and to a lesser extent in horses, cattle and cats. During 1977 in Lyme, Conn. numerous cases of what was first thought to be juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in children led to a further investigation of the agent that later became known as Lyme disease. The disease was subsequently identified in the domestic canine.

Lyme disease has the highest incidence of infection in dogs from the Northeastern U.S., especially from Virginia to Massachusetts as well as the upper Midwest, particularly Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. The disease has been documented in the Western U.S. and in Eastern Ontario, Canada. Lyme disease can be found worldwide and has been seen in Europe since the early 1900's where it is known under a different name.

A spirochete (bacteria) called *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato is responsible for causing Lyme disease. *Borrelia* is transmitted by ticks of the genus *Ixodes*. The deer tick or black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is the main vector for *Borrelia* in the northeast, midwest and eastern Ontario, while the western black-legged tick (*Ixodes Pacificus*) is seen in the west. The castor bean tick (*Ixodes ricinus*) is found in Europe.

The *Ixodes* ticks have a life cycle of 2 years and one female tick can produce 2000 eggs in the spring. The larvae that emerge from these eggs are not infected with *Borrelia* and they need to feed on the first host which is the white footed mouse. After feeding the larvae become dormant until the following spring at which time they will molt into nymphs. These infected nymphs will transmit the Spirochete as they feed on other mice or other hosts such as humans and dogs. After feeding the nymphs go into their dormant stage until the fall and they will mature into infected adults. These adults will at this time attach to deer or other mammalian hosts such as dogs and continue the cycle as they take a blood meal.

The female tick after mating will drop off the host to lay more eggs and then will die. The male on the other hand can remain on the host throughout the winter. It is during feeding by the tick on the dog's blood that the spirochete will travel from the mid-gut to the salivary glands and thus be transmitted to the dog. This important migration from mid-gut to salivary gland takes from 24 to 48 hours. Any short term tick exposure less than 24 hours will not result in an infection of Lyme disease. It is interesting to note that once the *Ixodes* tick finishes its blood meal it will not reattach itself to another host. The size of the *Ixodes* tick in the nymphal stage is as small as a poppy seed. As an adult the size is a bit wider than the head of a ordinary sewing needle.

Dogs that are infected with Lyme disease show a variety of clinical signs. The most common are acute lameness in one or more limbs, fever, anorexia and lethargy seen 2 to 3 months after the initial tick bite. Rarely will dogs present neurological, cardiac signs (heart block secondary to myocarditis) and primary renal disease (Lyme nephritis.) Some infected dogs will show no clinical signs of the disease and be classified as asymptomatic.

The antibiotic of choice is Tetracycline (doxycycline). A dog will usually respond within 24 to 48 hours to the drug and the treatment must be continued for a period of 30 days. It is important to note that the antibiotic therapy will relieve the classic and more common symptoms of the disease process, but they will not eliminate the bacteria from the dog. The infection can persist for years and recurrent disease is possible. Lyme nephritis is not responsive to antibiotics or other therapies.

A history of tick exposure, especially in endemic areas, common clinical signs, a quick response to the antibiotics and a positive serological test (ELISA and or Western Blot) will lead to a diagnosis of the disease. The serological test ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) will document the exposure to *Borrelia burgdorferi* IgG antibodies. These antibodies are detectable 4 to 6 weeks after the exposure.

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Vet's Corner

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A second confirmation due to false negatives or cross-reaction antibodies from other causes by the ELISA test can be followed out by using the Western blot test. This specific test can further differentiate naturally infected dogs by a tick bite from dogs that have been vaccinated for the disease. A specific ELISA test called Snap3D-Idexx can also discriminate between vaccinated and tick-exposed canines.

Lyme disease can be prevented by the use of strict tick control and by vaccination against the disease. Ticks can be prevented on dogs by controlling ticks in the dog's environment as well as applying tick repellants on the dog. Daily grooming will provide an opportunity to check for any ticks that have attached to the dogs body.

There are 2 different Lyme vaccines available for dogs. One is a whole-cell killed bacterin with a mode of action that will generate antibodies that mitigate the disease symptoms. The other is a more recent recombinant DNA vaccine that works by blocking the migration of the spirochete in the tick from the mid-gut to the salivary gland as the tick feeds off the blood from the dog. By doing so the vaccine will prevent the transmission of the bacteria into the dog's body. A dog that is already infected with Lyme disease and a persistent infection will not be cured by a vaccine.

In conclusion it is the dog caregiver who must decide on the protocol for their pet. One must keep in mind geographic location, the chance of being exposed to ticks either at the park, the beach or at the mountains. The life style of the pet, the frequency of using tick repellants in the correct fashion and not going past the deadline of re-application are factors to consider when diagnosing and treating dogs for Lyme disease.

Dr. Suzy Ryan, DVM practices veterinary medicine in Brooklyn. She frequents Prospect Park with her dog Kia.

The Bowser Browser...

ONCE BITTEN

by Laurien Benson

Available on amazon.com

The title Once Bitten caught my eye and aroused my curiosity as I browsed the hospital gift shop bookshelf. The picture on the cover included dogs and skulls and bones so I figured this book would be an interesting read, and I was not disappointed. It was a mystery about people involved in dog shows, with lots of details about everything you might want to know about what goes on in and around the ring and then some. The main character is Melanie Travis, a poodle owner handler.

The author of this delightful tail (oops tale) is Laurien Benson, and this is a Melanie Travis Mystery. Yes, there are numerous other books featuring Melanie Travis, all mysteries, all about dogs. Caution: There is another book with the same title with a different author. Enjoy! *Diane Johnson*

Another good read....

THE DOGS WHO GREW ME

by Ann Pregosin

A Tribute to the Six Dogs Who Taught Me What Really Matters in Life
(Capital Books, 2002).

In her memoir of a life surrounded by glorious dogs, Ann Pregosin recounts what she learned from a lively little cocker spaniel to a majestic Bernese mountain dog. Winner of the 2002 Meriel Human-Animal Bond Award "[This] exceptional entry highlights the unique relationship between a dog and its owner, and best brings to life the concept of the human-animal bond."

Ann Pregosin is a frequent contributor to animal and general interest magazines including Dogs, Ladies Circle, Ladies Home Journal, and Working Woman." She is a longtime resident of Park Slope and many Park Slope locations--Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park, Seventh Avenue--are featured in this book.

From The Alpha Desk

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the FIDO Newsletter. We plan to publish quarterly with the change of the seasons, so look for the next issue around the Autumnal Equinox (or, about 5 weeks before we go back to Winter Hours!)

FIDO turns five years old this fall. The time has flown like a terrier after a tennis ball. The group was started by a few individuals determined to preserve off-leash in Prospect Park when the City threatened to cancel it after decades of informally allowing it. These hardy few rallied the dog people to meet with Park Administrator Tupper Thomas to hash out what became the Off-Leash Guidelines. Since then, FIDO has become recognized around the country for championing the cause off-leash activity as a recognized, politically legitimate form of recreation. In particular, as a founding member of the New York Council of Dog Owner Groups, FIDO has helped put the off-leash concept on the New York political radar. NYCDOG has now grown to represent 21 city groups with a membership of over 15,000 and is pushing steadily to rewrite the city laws to make off-leash a legal activity. And the politicians are waking up to the fact that, as the saying goes, "At One End of Every Leash Is a Voter!"

Closer to home, FIDO continues to work to improve off-leash opportunities, such as Dog Beach and afternoon hours in the Nethermead. We will continue to present our lecture series. And, of course, there are the social events, like Coffee Bark and Pupnic. This year FIDO also dedicated a special Memorial Tree in the Long Meadow to commemorate our four-footed friends who have passed on. We hope to add a bench next spring, so that as the tree grows we will have a comfy place to enjoy the shade.

All of this is possible because of our wonderful members, who support our efforts and keep off-leash in Prospect Park a workable deal. So thanks, everyone! Keep up the good work! See you at the next Coffee Bark!

Mary McInerney, President

Write Something For Us!

Book reviews, poems, and cartoons – I know there's a world of talent out there beyond the ability to scoop up dog poop. For those of you who wish to contend for the Pulitzer Prize, we even have a 400 – 500 word space that we call Dog Tales – a space for observations or essays pertaining to the unique world that we share with our dogs.

E-mail your material directly to bob@exitfive.com and I'll drop them into the newsletter queue for our upcoming issues. And since I also maintain Fido's website, there's a good chance we can post your works there as well.

Bob Ipcar
Newsletter Editor

What We Always Suspected...

The ad ran:

"SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping, and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy."

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the local Humane Society about an 8-week-old Labrador Retriever.

FIDO Comes Of Age

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But that's just the showy stuff. What you're less likely to see are the efforts of members who pick up trash--and not just poop; fill in holes in the ground--whether dug by dogs or other recalcitrant mammals; volunteer for You Gotta' Have Park--who show up even when Mother Nature is in a bad mood. In these years of huge budget cuts, numerous FIDO members help by doing the little things that make the park beautiful and safe.

Wherever Parkies (a special breed) gather, the dogs gossip about their people, and how effectively those people deal with dog concerns. FIDO tries to keep everyone informed about seasonal off-leash hours and locales. FIDO strives to settle conflicts: dog-dog conflicts, dog-person conflicts, and person-person conflicts regarding dogs. Most important around canine hangouts, FIDO supports those who try to find loving homes for rescued dogs and we'll continue to educate homo sapiens about the needs of canis familiaris. Look for the Fall lectures on Dog Chiropractic, Dog First Aid, Fear and Aggression in Dogs, and Training Dogs for Simple Tasks and Tricks.

Our Education Committee also tries to help dog owners understand their beloved companions' best bets for happy co-existence with the other users of the park. It is part of FIDO's mission to help ensure that the park's other fauna and flora be respected. Plants, birds, and horses don't have the same needs as dogs, and mutual courtesy is essential for the well being of all. In some ways, dogs are like children. Both must be trained in appropriate park behavior and a reasonable protocol established for meeting with horseback riders, ball players, bird watchers, bike riders, runners, as well as each other. When dealing with the park's biodiversity, remember the Humane Society's slogan: It's their world too!

FIDO members of both species know how to play as well as work. There are Pupnics and parties and Bark! The Herald Angels Sing! This Summer's

Pupnic on June 27th will be the fourth time the Nethermead has hosted an evening of games and prizes and dog biscuits and a pot-luck meal -- all free of charge thanks to the generous donations of various local merchants, and the wonderful cuisine dogish brought by FIDO members themselves. And if you enjoyed the June 2000 party at Dizzy's, you're going to love the Bark Mitzvah we'll be having this September 19th to mark FIDO's coming of age. Save the date. You don't even have to bring a gift.

I've thanked FIDO's contributors from the park and the community. But I especially want to thank you, fellow members. Together we've made gr-r-r-eat things happen in Prospect Park. The dogs can socialize with each other, and so can we. And we can socialize with many dogs not our own, and so can the dogs with many people not their own. See you at the next Coffee Bark. *Maureen Sanders*

Upcoming Fido Events

July Coffee Bark

2nd Saturday, July 12th because of the holiday
Pupnic 2003

Friday, June 27 - The Nethermead
5pm - Sundown

Come join Fido for our annual picnic with Food, Fun & Games for all

Bark Mitzvah

Fri, September 19

Time 5pm - Sundown

Celebrate Fido's 5th Year in Prospect Park with a members' party at the Tennis House, just off the 9th Street path. Enclosed area. Dogs invited!

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

e-mail fido@fidobrooklyn.com

phone: 1-888-604-3422

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 _____

SEND THIS FORM TO:

FIDO, 230 7th AVENUE, #157, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11215

(Our phone number *(voice mail)* (888) 604-3422)



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