

## Petreader Newsletter

June 2008

It's been a long time since newsletters and I hope this one finds you well. Stuie, the "kids" and I are doing just fine. We remain in love with Portland.



I thought you might get a kick out of seeing this photo. I was doing readings at the Gas Company a few months ago for the Cat Adoption Team when this lovely animal walked right in and planted a big, wet one on me. The photo ended up in the company newsletter.

Here in Portland, Stu and I are volunteering for several human and animal organizations. We do whatever will help. For the Feral Cat Coalition recently, I gave readings on Saturday and Sunday at the Pet and Companion fair. All the money went to the organization, of course. They do wonderful things and make such a difference in the lives of not only the cats they capture and neuter but the neighborhoods as well. They are worthy of our support. Their website is [www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com).

Another organization Stuie and I volunteer for is the PAW Team, a dedicated group of veterinarians and volunteers who help Portland's homeless and their animals. In these people's lives, a dog can become not only best friend, but also protector, confessor, therapist, portable heater, and family. A kitty may be the only family you have. Because life on the streets is uncertain at best, caring for your best pal can be difficult. It takes money to buy shots, flea protection, collars and leashes, food, and all the other things your pal needs. When you have no money, what do you do?

In Portland, you turn to the PAW team. Six times a year, volunteers set up a clinic where volunteer doctors and medical assistants take care of homeless pets' needs. If there is a problem that the clinic cannot address, the pet owner is referred to a pet hospital. One way or another, the work is done, the pets are helped.

Another group of Paw Team volunteers gives food, collars and leashes, raincoats (so handy when you're on the street in Portland's rain), blankets, toys, sweaters and other clothes, and anything else that might be needed. This is an organization with very little money and lots and lots of heart. Their website is [www.pawteam.org](http://www.pawteam.org).



This is Bubbles Shaheen who lives in Malibu with her big brother Sugar and her Mom and Dad, Linda and David. Here, Bubbles enjoys her beauty sleep.

## The Insurance Question

According to Home Companion magazine, nearly two-thirds of Americans have animal companions but so far, pet insurance has caught on with just 5 percent of these folks.

Emergency clinics and those who specialize in fields like ophthalmology, orthopedics, and oncology report a slightly higher number of clients with pet insurance. They attribute that to people who've been through a serious – and expensive problem with pets in the past or people who have the means to buy a little extra protection.

Pet insurance has only been around for about 25 years, so the policies and cost vary widely, from less than \$10 a month to more than \$75. Because policy conditions and coverage vary widely, asking your vet about it is one good way to decide.

In addition, more information is available from the Humane Society's insurance partner, [gopetplan.com](http://gopetplan.com), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' plans at [aspcinsurance.com](http://aspcinsurance.com), and [petinsurancereview.com](http://petinsurancereview.com) has consumer reviews and comparison charts worth exploring.

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I would like to encourage you to read “The Shelter Dog”, written and illustrated by Christine Davis. Miss Davis has written three other books about dogs and cats, but this one is unique. Anyone who has ever loved an older dog should read it.

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This is the beautiful Diosa, whose forever companion is Amy. Diosa and Amy live in the San Diego area and were involved in the terrible fires that ravaged the area last year. Separated from Diosa in the confusion, Amy spent some terrified hours while the authorities searched for the horses (Diosa was with her companions). Then, Amy chanced to look at the television screen where the events of the fire's aftermath were being played and there was Diosa, boldly hogging the camera to tell her Mom she was OK. Amy is now writing a book about their experiences. We wish her the best of luck, knowing that it will be a best-seller!

Today I choose faith not fear. Today I choose faith not fear.

On a personal note, to my wonderful clients in the Portland area, we are looking for a job for Stu. As you may know, he is a retired professor who is down-to-earth, learns things

quickly, and is honest, reliable and a definitely a self-starter. He is computer literate. He's looking for a desk job of some kind that he could enjoy and do well in. He would be especially glad if the job had health benefits. He is not a salesman and he cannot do heavy lifting.

His biggest problem is that he is overqualified for everything (he has three doctorates). He's not trying to change the world. (He's already done that anyway). He just wants to be of help to someone and earn a salary. The fact that he's 60 years old doesn't help. He's sent hundreds of resumes online with no bites. We have just learned that these days a computer scans one's resume for the "right words" and throws away the rest. Talking to a real, live person is impossible, yet anyone who talks with Stu will see what an asset he would be to any business.

So, if anyone in the Portland area knows of any kind of job like that, we'd appreciate your getting in touch with us. There's a free reading in it for you.

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Here is some information that my newer clients might find useful and that hopefully that I've drummed into the heads of my regulars.

We cannot expect animals to communicate in the same way as we do. Trying to see things from the animal's perspective is helpful here. All animals communicate in the same ways: they send each other pictures and they send each other feelings. Only animals who are around humans a lot pick up the words that are used around them. They're like kids that way. Kids also learn by picking up words they hear around them.

The more you talk to your companion, the more words he'll have. When you want to communicate something to him, send him a picture of what you're trying to say and he will associate the picture with the words and get it faster.

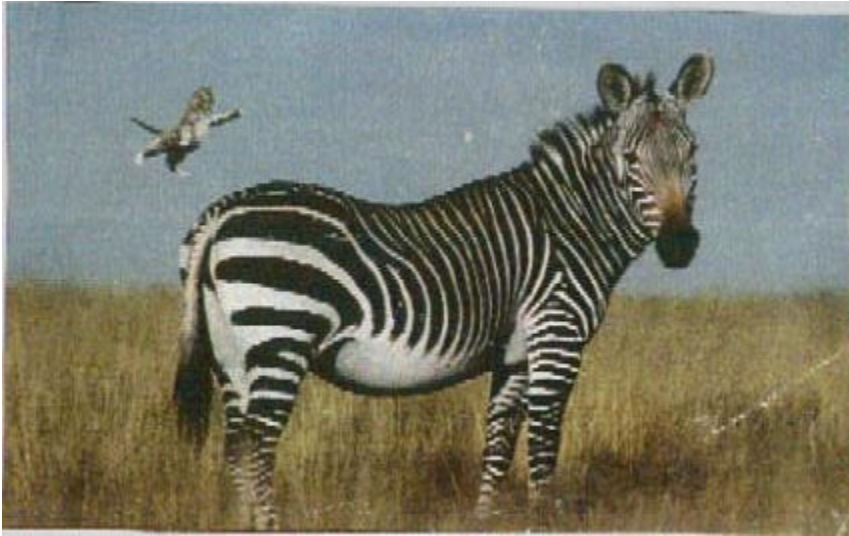
Dogs need to be reminded daily of what you are trying to teach them. You need to do this for a week or two. Although they forget these things easily, it doesn't mean they are not smart. It's just how a dog's thinking process works.

A cat only needs to be told something once, but a lot of times she will pretend she just can't remember.

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Please continue to spay and neuter. Report animal abuse of any kind to the authorities. The animals, who have no way to do it themselves, thank you. The immensity of the compassion, kindness, courage and devotion I see every day visiting with all of you and your pets is a great comfort and inspiration to me.

Here is a photo that admonishes us to THINK BIG.



If you have any questions, want to book an appointment, or send a photo for the next newsletter, please email me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Tails to You!  
Patricia

