

# THE PAW PRINT

The Pet Pals of Texas Newsletter

March/April 2008  
Volume 5



## Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

As most of you know, my family had to let Dylan, our beloved Keeshond, make his final journey to the Rainbow Bridge. We mourn his loss, yet we feel blessed that he was put in our care. Throughout his life, Dylan had multiple, chronically severe, health challenges. Diagnosed with Cushings Disease at age two, we made quarterly trips to the Texas A&M Veterinary school for many years to visit Dr. Christine Rees, who monitored his blood levels while managing his condition with chemotherapy. Everyone there thought that Dylan was wonderful, and he considered them his family. Again, we were blessed with the resources to keep him healthy, happy, and on the go.....just like a family with a special needs child. I feel comfort in knowing that he got the best care available until it was his time to leave us.

There are many people, though, that are not as fortunate as my family and do not have the ability to seek out the best veterinary care...if any at all. Granted, Pet Pals helps those who qualify get basic wellness care for their companion animals. But, what about those who have pets with epilepsy, diabetes, bad teeth? All of these conditions, which can be managed with proper care, are not reason enough to have to let a cherished pet suffer and die because of lack of money. There are, however, hundreds of people in our metropolitan area that face this heartbreaking reality daily. They face having to have their fur babies euthanized because they cannot afford to get help. It is a tragic shame.



*Vicki and Dylan*

My mother always says to me, "Vic, you can't save the world." She may be right. But, my father, on the other hand, once told me, "Choose your causes well and give beyond 100% of yourself to them." So, after giving it much thought, I've decided to go before our Board of Directors and ask them if Pet Pals can make a dedicated effort this year to get the resources to establish an acute care emergency veterinary care program.

I realize that this is a huge undertaking. But, as a descendant of Texas pioneer women, I have learned that those big challenges are the only ones worth pursuing. In Dylan's memory, I dedicate myself to this cause.

May peace be with you,

Vicki Journey-Taylor  
President

## Helped Needed!!

### *Kritter Kupboard Update*

Loyce, our Kritter Kupboard manager, has expressed an urgent need for volunteers to help with the monthly food and supplies deliveries. Several volunteers who made deliveries have elected to quit; therefore many of our clients are not receiving their food. Vicki, Linda and Loyce have picked up the slack, but with the other PetPals obligations they have, it will be difficult for them to continue. It only takes a couple of hours the first Saturday of the month to make life nice and nourishing for our little furry clients. If you can help out with this important part of our mission, contact Loyce at lajurney@netzero.net, or call her cell at 422-0030.

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Thanks for your much needed HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Comments, questions, feedback, suggestions? Contact us!

**Pet Pals of Texas**

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**MISSION  
STATEMENT**

Pet Pals of Texas is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization, whose mission is to help improve the quality of life for the elderly, terminally ill, and people with disabilities by providing the pets they love with support services that will allow them to stay together in a loving, healthy home.

**VALUE  
COMMITMENTS**

PET PALS of TEXAS is committed to:

- Building stronger COMMUNITIES in the areas which we serve by helping one another.
- Fostering the spirit of COMPASSION for both pets and their families who need our support.
- Celebrating the LOVE which exists between pet parent families and their companion animals.

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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[http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/  
group/pet\\_pals\\_of\\_texas/](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/pet_pals_of_texas/)

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<http://www.petpalsoftexas.org>

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## Pet Tip of the Month – Dental Health

*Portions taken from Banfield's February newsletter*

Daily maintenance is the key to protecting your pet's teeth between regular veterinary visits. A healthy dental routine includes:

- Daily dental chews
- Dental brushing as advised by your veterinarian
- Regular Veterinary oral exams
- Dental cleanings and vaccinations as advised by your veterinarian

The best time to brush your pet's teeth is when you are both relaxed. If your pet growls, bites, scratches or shows any other signs of aggression during brushing, stop immediately and consult your veterinarian. Introduce this process slowly, starting with steps 1-3 and moving on as your pet accepts each step.

**Step 1:**

Choose a time when both you and your pet will be relaxed.

**Step 2:**

Select a comfortable setting with the pet in your lap, on the floor or on a table.

**Step 3:**

To get your pet used to brushing, start with your finger. Rub his gums to get him used to having something in his mouth. Let him taste the toothpaste to let him get used to the taste.

**Step 4:**

Apply pet safe toothpaste to the brush. Remember never to use human toothpaste, because it can make your pet sick.

**Step 5:**

Using slow, circular strokes along the teeth and gumline, gently clean each quadrant -- top and bottom, left and right -- about 30 seconds each, reapplying the toothpaste in between each quadrant. Focus on massaging the gum line with an emphasis on the downward stroke. Don't worry about the inside of the teeth.

**Step 6:**

Praise your pet with lots of love during this process! Don't worry if your pet only tolerates it for a short time.

**For Cats:**

Remember that cats can be more sensitive to new things--so take each step slowly. When using a toothbrush, use the smallest size available. If the cat refuses to accept the toothbrush or finger brush, try using a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger.

## Fundraising Update

By Shannon Adolph

### Roller Derby Sponsors Pet Pals of Texas

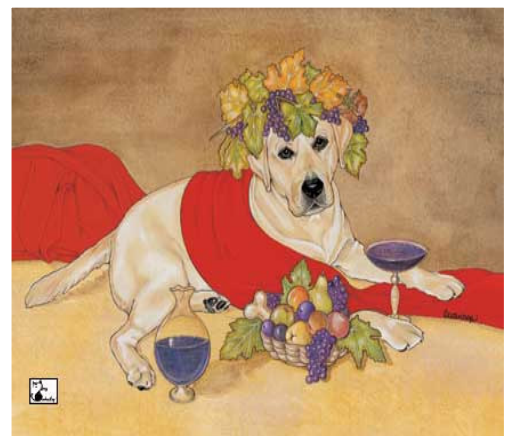


Pet Pals was honored to be sponsored by the Alamo City Rollergirls Roller Derby bout between the Dragon Divas and the Prim Reapers on Sunday, March 9. I was able to be in attendance, talking to the attendees about our organization, and handing out flyers and copies of newspaper articles featuring Pet Pals. This was my first time attending a roller derby bout, and I was surprised by the huge turnout and avid fans! This sport has quite a following and the bout was a lot of fun. The announcer made mention of Pet Pals several times during the game, and several people expressed interest in becoming volunteers! Not only was this great exposure for Pet Pals, but we also received some

donations and benefited from a portion of the proceeds from the ticket sales. If you'd like to go out for a fun evening and show your support for the Alamo City Rollergirls, check their website for dates and times of their upcoming bouts at <http://www.alamocityrollergirls.com>.

### Yappy Hour Wine Tasting Benefits Pet Pals of Texas

On Friday, March 14, Pet Pals held a wine tasting fundraiser at WineStyles, located at 16535 Huebner Rd at Bitters. For \$20 per person, we had lots of scrumptious food, snacks, and desserts, plus plenty of great wine to choose from. Live music was provided by the Tim & Bob Show. Pets were allowed in for free and received yummy treats and festive bandanas. We were very impressed with the large turnout (approximately 45 people plus pets) and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Most people were asking when we were planning the next event! There aren't many places (if any) in San Antonio that will allow you to bring your pets inside, all while enjoying food, wine, and live music! Due to the success of this event, Pet Pals plans to partner up with WineStyles in the future on a regular basis to host similar pet friendly events.



## Roxie's "Rainbow Bridge" Memorial Fund Benefiting PET PALS of TEXAS

In January 2000, Roxie the keeshond service dog, passed away to the Rainbow Bridge, leaving behind her disabled pet parent, Vicki Jurney-Taylor, the founder of our organization. To honor the memory of Roxie's devotion to Vicki, as well as Vicki's love for Roxie, PET PALS of TEXAS established the "Roxie's *Rainbow Bridge* Memorial Fund". All memorial contributions to this fund go directly to our Veterinary Service Program, which assists with the routine wellness expenses of keeping the cherished pets of the disabled, elderly and terminally ill Pet Parents whom we serve healthy.

The loss of a beloved pet is heartbreaking, indeed. Yet, you can pay tribute to the unconditional love and support given to you by that special "fur baby", which will forever live in your heart, or the heart of someone who is dear to you, by giving to the "Roxie's *Rainbow Bridge* Memorial Fund". Each contribution is tax deductible and may be made payable to:

PET PALS of TEXAS  
9834 Meadow Branch  
Converse, Texas 78109

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## Time for Laughs

*To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door - nose height.*

Dear Dogs and Cats,

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate of food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years -- canine or feline attendance is not required.

Love,  
Mom & Dad



## Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, March 29**---Animal Dedication Ceremony; First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, located at 7150 IH 10 West (near Crossroads Mall). Ceremony begins at 4:00 on the patio. The public is invited to bring their pets.
- **Sunday, March 30**---Bow Wow Meow Luau Planning Meeting at Central Market; 2:00 pm.
- **Saturday, April 5**—Pet Food Delivery Day @ 9:00 am
- Mark your calendars! This year's Luau will take place on **Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Eisenhower Park!

