



Bella



Penny

farragutpress

HOMIE

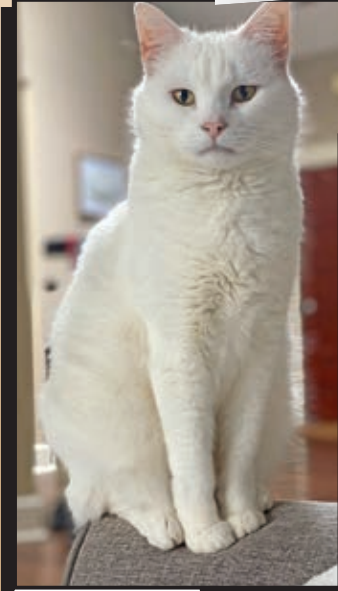
is where your

* Photos submitted by local pet owners

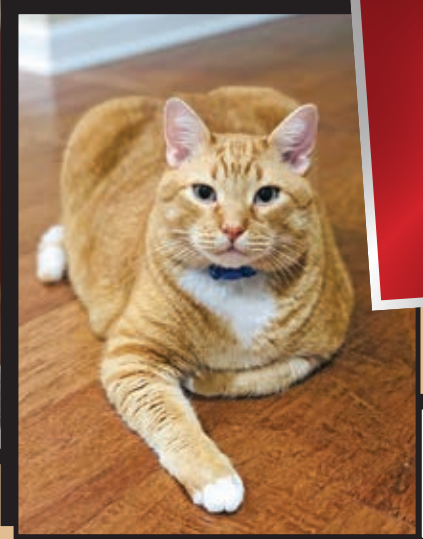
PET

 is 

APRIL 23, 2025



Queenie



King

SAVE THE DATE

Presented by 



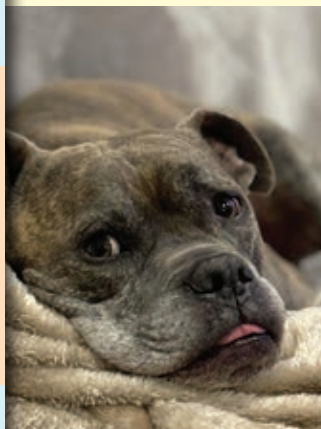
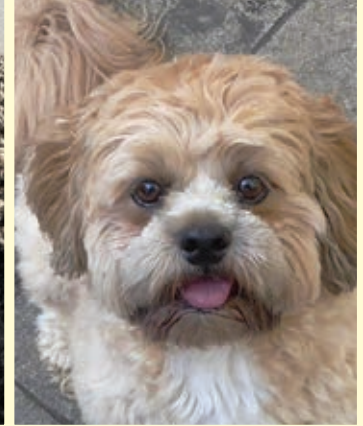
August 15th thru 17th
Village Green Shopping Center



VENDOR INFO -
865-307-2486
SHOPFARRAGUT
@GMAIL.COM

For more information go to www.shopfarragut.com/events

We Offer Luxury Accommodations for Cats & Dogs

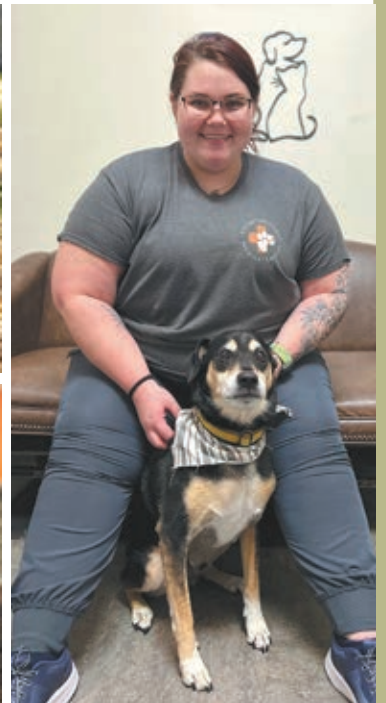


Dream Katcher Lodge
11253 Kingston Pike
Knoxville/Farragut, Tennessee 37934

865.777.9777
info@DreamKatcherLodge.com

LOW STRESS APPROACH-

Better for your pet- Better for you



11301 Kingston Pike

865-966-8900

VillageVetClinic.com

Located in the Animal Care Complex
across from Kroger Marketplace

Living with Cushing's

By Cindy Wilfert

The space under the bed was so low that Pippin had to duck, even with his short dachshund legs. But he was determined to hide. I would crouch beside the bed and peer underneath, trying to coax him out. But he trembled with fear.

He had become afraid of the washing machine. It was a new behavior, though the machine and the sounds hadn't changed. He also developed separation anxiety, especially if he was left alone in the evenings. We'd come home to find him crying and panting heavily as if he'd been upset for hours.

The panting became an issue. He'd seem particularly anxious at the dinner table. His hunger was insatiable and he always begged for more. He might also have been drinking more water and wanting to go out for more frequent potty breaks, but he was 13 years old. We chalked it up to age-related changes and the heat of summer.

Pippin's semi-annual vet appointment revealed a different story. His bloodwork showed a high ALP (alkaline phosphatase). This is a possible indicator of hyperadrenocorticism, also known as Cushing's disease. When the bloodwork was suspicious, Pippin's vet ordered further testing. The results confirmed the diagnosis.

With Cushing's disease, the body produces too much of a hormone called cortisol. Cortisol is produced by the adrenal glands and is essential for regulating processes including metabolism, stress response and immune function. I've seen it referred to as the "stress hormone." Too much cortisol means too much stress!

In the majority of cases, including Pippin's, Cushing's is caused by a small tumor on the pituitary gland. This causes overproduction of ACTH (adrenocorticotropic hormone), which in turn stimulates the adrenal glands to produce more cortisol than the body needs.

Symptoms can differ for dogs with Cushing's. Behavioral signs include increased thirst and urination, increased appetite, excessive panting and lethargy. Physical signs may include hair loss, thinning skin with possible infections, and an enlarged abdomen that results in a "pot-bellied" appearance.

Pippin only displayed some of these, but he was also diagnosed with hypertension (high blood pressure), which can occur alongside Cushing's. We started medication for both issues. This began a process of careful, consistent monitoring with our veterinarian. We went for frequent blood pressure checks and ACTH tests. In Pippin's case, the medication for Cushing's worked well and quickly stabilized his bloodwork.

See **CUSHING'S** on Page 5



Pippin



Photos by Cindy Wilfert

Pippin relaxes on his cooling mat. This helps to regulate his body temperature since he tends to feel too hot with Cushing's disease.

Cushing's From page 4

The blood pressure was a different story. We started on low doses of medication and saw no improvement. We slowly increased to the maximum dose for his size. We had one good reading, but it increased again at the next appointment. We switched medicines, added different ones to see if the combination would work. Nothing helped.

I grew discouraged. It was stressful for him and us to make so many trips to the vet and see no positive gains. This went on for 13 months.

I researched as much as I could to learn about managing Cushing's, and I read online about other people's experiences with their pets. I'm so grateful for the staff at Village Veterinary Medical Center, who are always so helpful and patient and have taken such good care of Pippin. The doctors have been willing to answer our questions and concerns and discuss best treatment options.

In the case of his blood pressure, we brought up the option of splitting the dose of his Cushing's medication (so he'd get half in the morning and half in the evening). It was a technique I'd learned about by reading others' stories; they suggested symptoms could be better stabilized if the dose was spread evenly throughout the day.

This, along with getting one of his blood pressure medications compounded as a liquid to get a precise dose, finally brought a breakthrough. We could tell when

Pippin's blood pressure began to come down—it was clear that he felt better. He had more energy and panted less. He just seemed more "Pippin-ish," his personality shining through again like he was a younger pup. Sure enough, at the next appointment, his blood pressure finally registered in an acceptable range.

We settled into a new normal with Cushing's. While the disease is managed by medication, some symptoms are just part of life now. Pippin runs hot, obviously uncomfortable when it gets too warm. His fur is coarser in texture and comes out in clumps when the weather turns warm. And he is always hungry.

We keep the house a few degrees cooler for him (while we bundle up!) and bought him a cooling mat to help moderate his temperature. He likes to munch on crushed ice and we refresh his cold water several times a day. We also spread out his food so he gets smaller meals more often, helping to satiate his hunger.

My best advice to other pet parents facing Cushing's—or any disease—is to be your dog's advocate. Find a veterinarian with experience with the disease and a willingness to explain details, listen to your concerns and work with you for your dog's best interests.

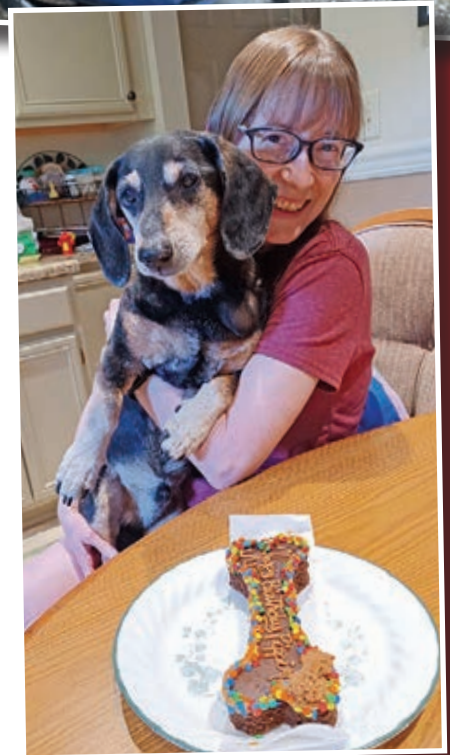
At the end of the day, the most important thing is to keep loving them. It has been stressful at times as caretaking duties increase and sleep is interrupted and medications and appointments must be kept up with. But I wouldn't trade a moment of the blessing of caring for him.



Photos by Cindy Wilfert

Above: Pippin rides in his stroller. He can't walk as much as he used to, but it is still important for him to have exercise. So he rides to different parts of the neighborhood, gets out and walks what he is able, then can be strolled back home. He loves it!

Right: Cindy Wilfert with Pippin as they celebrated his 14th birthday in July of 2024.





HIS SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY
In GOD we trust, all others we monitor
WWW.HISSECURITY.COM • (865) 474-9495



Everyone loves to spoil their pets, but when it comes to their safety, what are you doing to protect them when you are out of the house?



Lucy & Tres
recommend you visit KIG
for the best rates in town!



GREG SCEALF, AGENCY OWNER



220 South Peters Road | Knoxville TN 37923 | P 865.694.9788
www.knoxvilleinsurancegroup.com

Bentley



Brady



Brandy



Dunkin



Gabbie



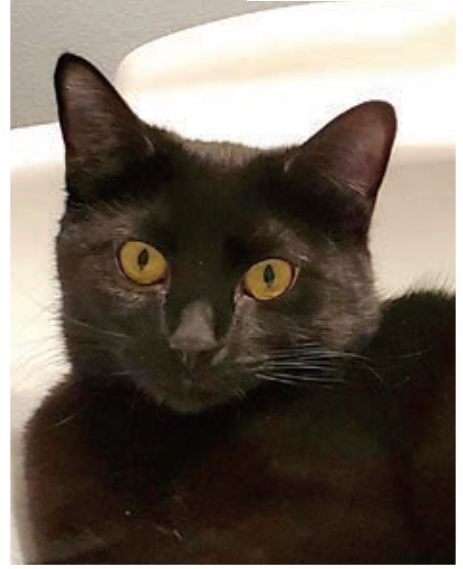
Jaz



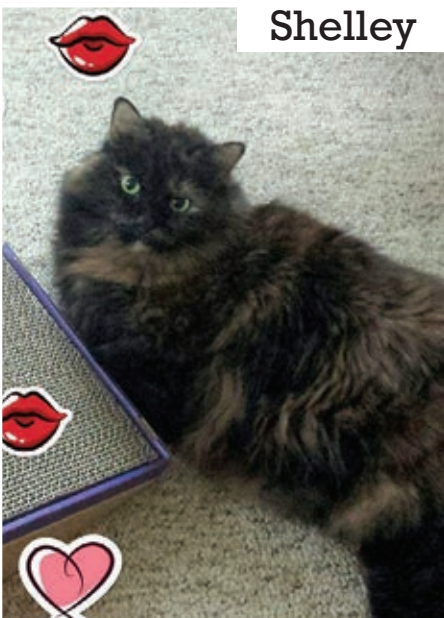
Missy Dee



Raven



Shelley



Tilly



Willow



Thank you to all the local pet parents who contributed photos of their pets!

Voted Knoxville's
**BEST OF
THE BEST**
8 years in a row!!

10% off
**1st Grooming
VISIT**



865-247-7712

9309B Kingston Pike | Knoxville, TN 37922

Present this ad at time of service. Limit one per customer. New clients only.



Adopt a friend

Are you looking for a new companion? Consider adopting a furry best friend!

There are many benefits of pet ownership. Studies have suggested that caring for a pet can improve our health. Lower blood pressure and better cardiovascular fitness are among the possible physical benefits. Reduced loneliness and better moods reflect improved mental health.

As anyone who has ever loved a companion animal knows, there is something very special about that bond. They become part of the family. The sense of connection with a beloved pet might also promote our connections with our fellow humans, and an animal family member may be a great way to encourage responsibility with kids.

It is important to realize that adopting a pet is a commitment. Make sure you are prepared to care for an animal for its lifetime. This means providing financially for physical needs as well as spending time caring for them.

You may need to consider your lifestyle and how a pet would best fit. Perhaps you already know that you are a dog person, or cats are

the only choice for you. But other animals are options as well. It may be worth taking time to research the care each requires and choosing based on your resources and preferences.

Once you've weighed the costs and benefits and decided to move forward, consider the source of your new pet. Adopting from a local shelter or rescue organization is a great option. According to the ASPCA, about 6.3 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters each year, and approximately 920,000 are euthanized nationwide. By choosing to adopt, you are saving the life of a homeless animal. Even when you adopt from a no-kill organization, this makes space for another animal to be saved.

Other benefits of adoption include saving money (as adoption fees are typically less than buying from a breeder or pet shop) and knowing more about the animal's personality and history before bringing them home.

A good place to start your search for an adoptable pet is Petfinder (www.petfinder.com). Petfinder hosts listings of adoptable pets for many local shelters and rescues. They include categories for many different animals. A cur-

See ADOPT on Page 9

Local shelters & rescue organizations

CATS

- **Feral Feline Friends**

(865) 919-2287

info@feralfelinefriends.org

www.feralfelinefriends.org



- **Happy Paws Kitten Rescue**

(865) 765-3400 | HPKRrescue@gmail.com

www.happypawskittenrescue.org

DOGS

- **Recycled Best Friends**

Recycledbestfriends@gmail.com

recycledbestfriends.org



- **Small Breed Rescue of East TN**

(865) 966-6597 | rescue@sbret.com

www.sbret.com

GUINEA PIGS

- **Knoxville Guinea Pig Rescue**

knoxguineapig@yahoo.com

www.knoxvilleguineapigrescue.org



HORSES

- **Horse Haven of Tennessee**

(865) 609-4030

horsehavenoftn@gmail.com

www.horsehaventn.org



RABBITS

- **Operation Bun Bun Rescue**

(330) 690-5350

obbr.km@gmail.com

operationbunbunrescue.org



Local shelters & rescue organizations

MULTIPLE ANIMALS

• Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley

(865) 573-9675 ext. 103

adoption@humanesocietytennessee.org

humanesocietytennessee.org/

• Young - Williams Animal Center

(865) 215-6670 | adoptions@young-williams.org

www.young-williams.org

** This is a small sample of the organizations in the Knoxville/East Tennessee area. Find more under the "Shelters & Rescues" tab on petfinder.com*



Adopt

From page 8

rent search for dogs within 25 miles of the 37934 zip code brings up over 400 results! You can then filter the search by breed and characteristics such as size, gender and age. You can even select "good with..." and choose dogs who are known to be good with children, cats or other dogs. It is an excellent resource to get started. If you see a pet you are interested in, you can

find the specific rescue organization's contact information.

You can also see the sidebar list to discover a sampling of some of our local shelters and rescue organizations. Visit their web sites to learn more.

Can't adopt right now? Consider fostering, volunteering or donating. You can make a big difference for an animal in need. You might even enable them to find the companion who needs them.

~ Cindy Wilfert

Spring^{into} Style
@ Adorable Pets
Full Service Dog Salon
 Call us at
(865) 691-9236
 Facebook at
APGrooming
 10420 Kingston PK,
 Ste D3,
 Knoxville, TN

FROM DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH TO PRECIOUS GEMS... WE LOVE OUR PETS!



TL: Oliver, TR: Melle', Center: Kingsley, BL: Pearl, BR: Asher

RJ *Rick Terry*
 Jewelry Designs

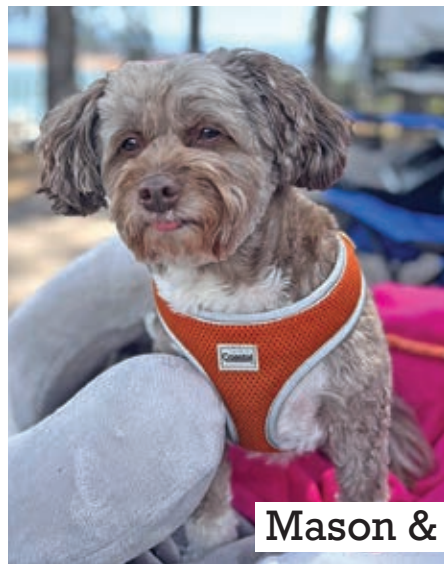
11320 Kingston Pike • Farragut, TN
 (865) 777-3793 • www.rickterryjewelry.com



Recon &
Ranger



Sarge &
River



Mason & Penelope

Animal Acupuncture & Pain Management

Integrating Western and Eastern Modalities for Your Pet's Well-Being

Dr. Mili Bass

Diplomate (Emeritus), ABVP (Canine/Feline)
Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist
Special Interest in Laser Therapy

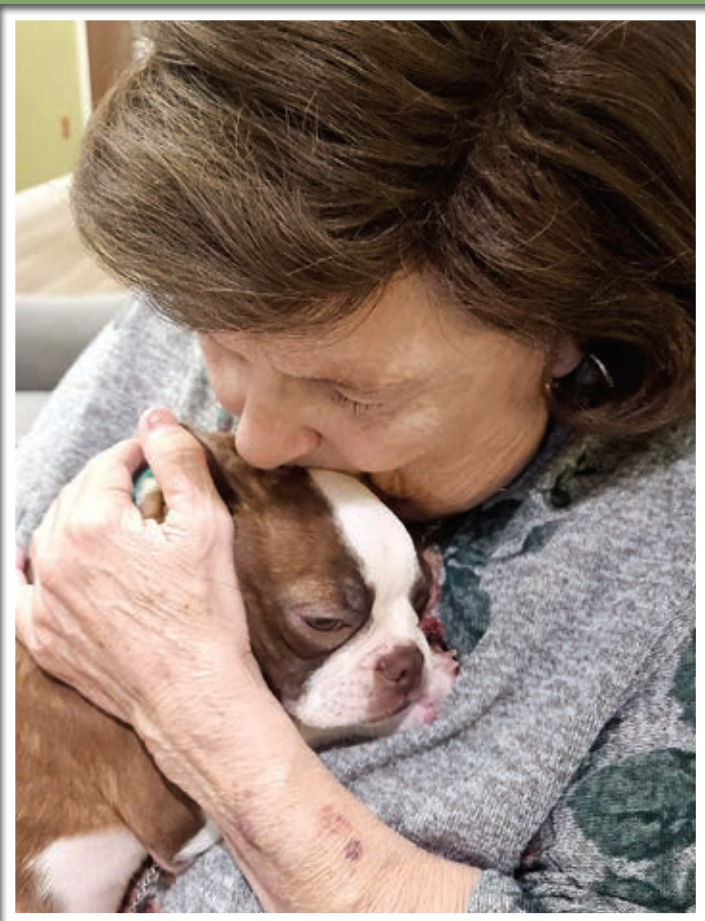
Veterinary Referral Center of East TN
11249 Kingston Pike
Knoxville/Farragut, TN 37934
Mobile: 865-599-9985 Fax: 865-671-6640

mcbdvm@gmail.com

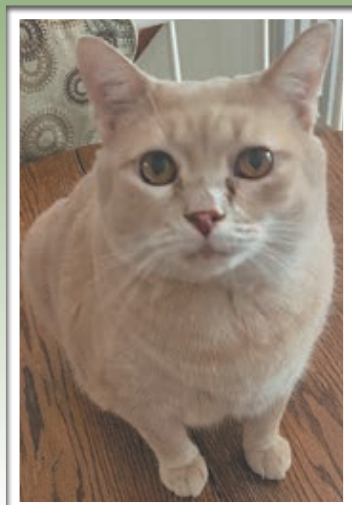


“Until one has loved an
animal, a part of one’s soul
remains unawakened.”

~ Anatole France



We consider your
Fur Baby
a part
of our
Pinnacle
family!



PINNACLE
ASSISTED LIVING

ALL-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

10520 Waterville Lane | Knoxville, TN 37932
(865) 444-1451

*Call Tiana Schultz, Community Relations Director, at
865-444-1451 ext. 6 to schedule your personal community visit today!*



Thank you for voting us
**BEST ASSISTED
LIVING FACILITY!**



All the care you need at ONE great price point! No levels or point systems necessary.



Some outdoor plants are **TOXIC** to household pets

Pets bring many positive changes to households. Pets can make homes more lively, and the companionship of animals can reduce feelings of loneliness while offering additional health benefits to pet owners.

Individuals who are preparing to adopt or purchase pets need to be mindful that they may need to make changes at home to ensure residences are safe places for pets to reside. Much in the way new parents must assess the environs for potential hazards to babies, pet owners should conduct similar inspections. These safety checks should occur both inside and in the yard if pets will be spending time outdoors. Poisonous plants are a potentially hidden hazard prospective pet owners must address before bringing a new pet home.

People generally do not give much thought to the plants they include in their homes and yards beyond the care instructions and how they can add to the aesthetic appeal. Homeowners may know if a plant likes the sun or shade, but they may not realize its potential for toxicity. That's because adults in particular are not prone to ingesting the plants in their yard that are inedible, unlike curious pets that may sniff and nibble plants when exploring their environments.

For those with dogs and cats that will spend time outdoors, it's best to be aware of these potentially toxic plants, courtesy of the ASPCA, Dr. Buzby's and Garden Design.

- **Autumn crocus:** There are various types of crocus plants, but the one most toxic to dogs is autumn crocus. The entire plant is toxic, but the highest concentration of toxic agent is found in the bulbs.

- **Sago palm:** People in warm climates may enjoy the look of palm trees on their properties. Despite its tropical and relaxing appearance, the Sago palm is extremely poisonous if ingested by pets, with the seeds being the most toxic part.

- **Lily:** Lilies are highly toxic to cats in particular. Even grooming pollen off of their fur or drinking water out of a vase where lilies are kept may cause kidney failure.

- **Tulips and hyacinth:** These early bloomers are beautiful flowers, but each contains a similar alkaloid toxin that is mild to moderately toxic to pets. Again, the highest concentration is found in the bulbs, which dogs or cats may dig up while exploring.

- **Aloe vera:** This soothing succulent may be part of an arid climate landscape. Aloe contains saponin, a toxin with foaming properties that can harm pets if ingested and cause severe dehydration.

- **Begonia:** A popular outdoor and houseplant, begonia has decorative flowers and attractive leaves. However, the plant can be toxic to cats and dogs if ingested, particularly the underground tubers.

- **Azalea:** This flowering shrub produces flowers in many colors, so it's often present in household landscapes. It's important to note that azaleas can be toxic to dogs and cats.

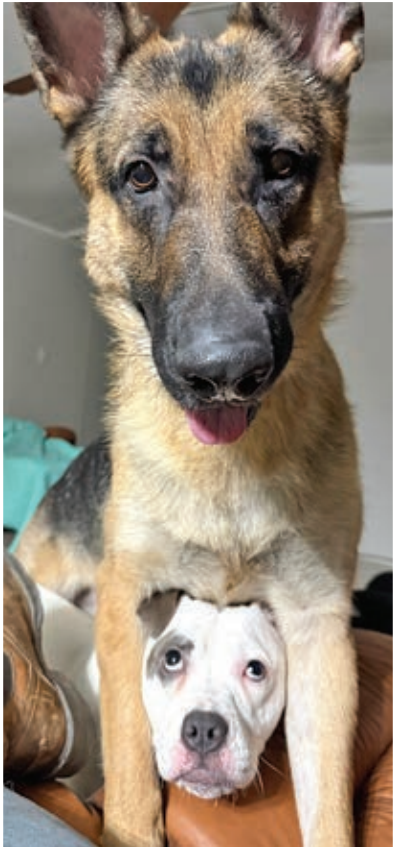
- **Yew:** American, Canadian and Japanese yew may be found around properties. These shrubs produce small red berries with green centers (almost looking like the reverse of a Spanish olive with pimento). Yew is toxic to cats and dogs.

- **Dahlia:** Dahlias produce flowers in different colors, so they are common in flower beds. However, these plants also are mildly toxic to pets.

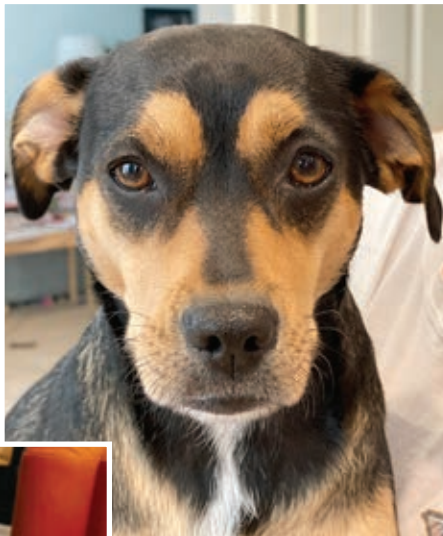
Many toxic plants can irritate the gastrointestinal system in pets, potentially resulting in vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy. Those who suspect a pet has ingested a poisonous plant should contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 or their local veterinarian to learn about how to respond to possible exposure.



Tucker
(with Dottie Hale)



Sarge & River



Penny



**Dunkin
& Brady**



GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOU

Pay your way! To best serve you we have several bill payment options available:

In Person: Cash, check or money order payments. Locate service centers and payment only locations at LCUB.com

By Mail: Mail check or money order payments to LCUB, P.O. Box 449, Lenoir City, TN 37771

By Phone: Call (800) 731-7564 and follow the prompts

Recurring Electronic Payments:

Establish automatic, recurring payments from your checking or savings account

Online: A one-time electronic funds transfer or credit card payment can be made online



Please visit us at LCUB.com for details and start paying your way today!

Children + Pets



Establishing kids' roles in caring for the family pet

Children and pets living together can make for a boisterous but happy household. Having pets is an ideal opportunity to introduce children to some measure of responsibility, and it may encourage youngsters to become advocates for animal welfare.

Pets require all sorts of care and companionship. Introducing children to age-appropriate pet-related tasks can set the groundwork for a lifetime of loving and caring for companion animals. Children shouldn't be given all of the responsibilities of caring for pets, but there are some notable roles they can play.

Teach gentle interactions

Toddlers and even kindergarteners may be unaware of how rough they are being. Therefore, they will need a lot of supervision and reinforcement to learn how to be gentle when petting or engaging with companion animals. Young children also may think that pets are toys and that there are no consequences when animals are handled roughly. Parents and other caregivers may need to spend a lot of time emphasizing gentle play with pets.

Start off with some play sessions

Playing together is a great way for kids and pets to bond and get some exercise. Purina behaviorist Dr. Annie Valuska suggests games like high-five, rolling over, finding treats in hidden places, and practicing tricks or commands. Children also may be able to do short training sessions with

pets, like helping them get acclimated to a new pet carrier, wearing a leash, or even moving the vacuum cleaner nearby so the animal overcomes its fear of it.

Family vet visits

Children can learn a lot about pet health and care at the vet's office. Bring youngsters along to help out and see what is involved in routine veterinary visits. Kids can soothe and distract the pet during the administration of vaccines and watch how a vet assesses an animal's overall health. Watching a pet go through a physical examination also may help a child become more brave in relation to his or her own medical check-ups.

Participate in feeding and bathing

Children can be responsible for putting pre-measured scoops of food in the bowl for feeding and help refill the water. Kids also may be able to offer treats to pets who are able to take them gently out of hand.

When it comes time to groom a pet, children can assist with scrub downs in the tub or at a grooming station in a nearby retail store. More hands available can help wrangle a wet and slippery animal, after all. Kids may find it soothing to brush pets, but they must do so gently.

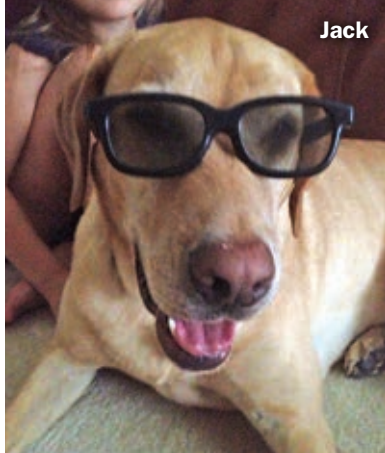
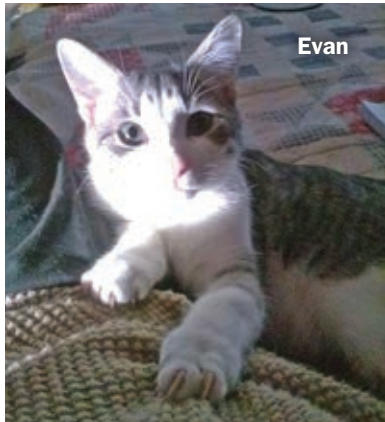
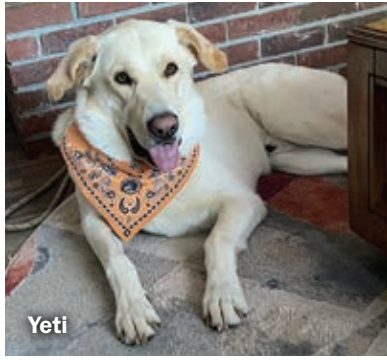
Teach about quiet time

Pets need opportunities to rest, and children should understand that quiet time means the pet should be left alone. Kids can help set up a cozy napping spot where a dog or cat can retreat when they need some rest.

Children can be taught responsible pet care when their parents feel they're ready. With trial and error, family members can see where kids' strengths lie in caring for pets and gauge the animals's tolerance for interaction with youngsters. Pet owners must remember to ensure young children and animals are never together without adult supervision.

the fur family of farragutpress

Your Pet-Loving, Award Winning Community Newspaper | 865.675.6397 | 11863 Kingston Pike Farragut, TN 37934 | www.farragutpress.com



Life doesn't stop
after retirement,
why should
your lifestyle?

*Your next chapter
is just beginning
at The Villages
of Farragut.*



The home you need for the lifestyle you deserve.

YOUR LIFE. YOUR WAY.


THE
VILLAGES

OF FARRAGUT

230 Village Commons Blvd. • Farragut, TN 37934

(865) 671-2500 office

www.TheVillagesFarragut.com