



Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Member BCA Division III

www.sdbulldogs.org

February 2008

Officers

President:

Derek Rasmussen
(619) 258-1774
derekasmussen@cox.net

Vice President:

Janice Hochstetler
(760) 751-1488
MJH6@aol.com

Secretary:

Sarah Grant
(858) 922-5008
sarahannegrant@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Corina Cauldren
(619) 933-4755
ccauldren@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Naomi Bell Hawker
(619) 562-1412
naomibell@hotmail.com

Andy Sydoriak
(619) 749-8384
asydoriak@cox.net

Marie Weir
(858) 484-1698
msmarie22@dslextreme.com

Jamie Kimball
(619) 255-9094
jkkimball@cox.net

Lydia DeMars
(919) 332-0422
blu_seahoese@yahoo.com

Tracey LeVeque
Rescue & Adoption Coordinator
(619) 501-0219
mtmleveque@aol.com

Naomi Bell Hawker **Editor**
(619) 562-1412
naomibell@hotmail.com

Deb Shoemaker **Publisher**
(858) 672-0247
dkjws@yahoo.com

President's Message

Dear Fellow Bulldoggers,

I want to personally wish you and your bullies the very best in the upcoming year. We ended the year with a fun and enjoyable holiday celebration at Elaine Feinstein's home and appreciate Elaine and Sheldon's hospitality. We enjoyed an excellent potluck dinner and spirited gift exchange. Some of our officers and board members have moved on to other opportunities and we wish them the best of luck and have appreciated their contributions to the growth and betterment of the Club.

Our annual elections brought some new talents and skills. Sarah Grant a former Board Member at Large was elected as the Club Secretary. We also have four new Board Members at Large, Andy Sydoriak, Marie Weir, Jamie Kimball, and Lydia Demars. I welcome them to the Board and look forward to working with them in the coming year. I appreciate the re-election of Janice Hochstetler as Vice-President, Corina Cauldren as Treasurer and Naomi Bell-Hawker as our senior Board Member at Large.

We want to provide you with resources and information that will increase your enjoyment of the wonderful bullies that live in your homes. We also want to provide you with opportunities to be involved in our activities and various committees. This is your club and we want you to enjoy your membership in it.

Our next Club event is the "Meet the Breed" activity at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on February 23rd and 24th in conjunction with the Silver Bay Kennel Club dog show. If any would like to be involved please contact Marie Weir, a member of our Board who is heading up that event. She can be contacted at msmarie22@dslextreme.com.

Following the "Meet the Breed" activity, our next major Club activity will be our annual Spring Party on Saturday, March 29th at San Dieguito Park. Anyone that would be willing to help with this activity is very much invited to contact Sarah Grant or myself and we will be happy to provide you with a meaningful assignment. Once again, it's your club and

Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
UpComing Events	2
New Members	2
Nov & Jan Minutes	3, 4
Holiday Business	5
Rescue	6
Ask Fang	7
Pet Insurance	8

Upcoming Events

February 23 & 24 2008 Meet the Breed at Del Mar Fairgrounds in conjunction with Silver Bay Kennel Club dog show

March 29, 2008 Annual Spring Party at San Dieguito Park

May 17 & 18, 2008 Division III Specialty Show

August 23, 2008 Annual Summer Picnic

October 25, 2008 Annual Halloween Party

New Members

“A great big bullie hug to our new members”

Marc Berman and Jack of Oceanside

Mentor: Sarah

we really would like to invite your involvement. In most cases the assignments only amount to a few hours of work.

If you haven't paid your 2008 dues, please send in your checks as soon as possible. Contributions to Bulldog Rescue are also welcomed and we will pass them on to the San Diego Bulldog Rescue organization. Please be sure to designate them as Rescue donations. Your donations to rescue are tax deductible and if you need further information, you can contact Tracey Leveque (Bulldog Rescue Coordinator), mtmleveque@aol.com.

I am excited about the New Year and look forward to working with more of you in the future. If you have items or stories that you think would be worthwhile to publish in the newsletter please let us know, or if you have questions or concerns that we might be able to address, likewise let us know.

Derek Rasmussen

TIDBITS

from the editor

An Apple A Day

Every home with pets should have Apple Cider Vinegar in the cupboard. It is a remedy with multiple uses for pets: alleviating allergies, establishing correct PH balance of the blood, and aiding digestion. It can be applied externally on itches, hotspots and allergies. Use diluted with water if applying to broken skin. For internal benefits simply add 5 - 15mls to food. Fleas, flies, ticks and bacteria, external parasites, ring worm, fungus, mange, etc., are unlikely to inhabit a dog whose system is acidic inside and out. ACV helps with arthritic conditions, controls fleas, and gives a beautiful shine to your pet's coat! ACV contains important minerals, trace elements and vitamins, acetic acid, lactic acid, enzymes, amino acids as well as roughage in the form of potash and apple pectin. It has been compared to an all-round natural multi-vitamin & mineral tonic.

Apple pectin capsules are good to have as well, as home and on the road. One capsule sprinkled in some yogurt can settle an upset stomach. It is amphoteric, which means that it works in two directions: It will help to thicken bowels that are loose or loosen up bowels that are constipated.



November Minutes

Meeting held November 17, 2007 at Tom & Elsa's house in Santee

Board Members Present: Derek Rasmussen, Sarah Grant, Naomi Bell, Thomas White, Elsa White, Kasey Kimball, Janice Hochstedler, and Corina Cauldren

Board Members Absent: Geri Dimeglio

Club Members Present: Dan Wilson, Andre Barlow, Diane & Larry Miller, Jim & Ellen Laramie and Jaime Kimball

Board Member Reports:

Derek - We have three new members: Elaine Tiangco (Derek will mentor), Perry & Natalie McNeil (Thomas will mentor)

Naomi - Bulldog Rescue Committee Report - there are ten bulldogs in rescue

Committee Reports:

- Specialty Show - we are now qualified to hold Obedience & Rally at the May show
- There will be a show committee meeting on January 12th @ 5 pm
- Education & Training Coordinator -

weekly training is going along fine

Other Discussion Items:

1. Use of mailing list for personal business: please limit to club business only, must e-mail to Derek and he will monitor what is considered club business.

2. Nominations for BCGSD Officers and Board:

President:	Derek Rasmussen
Vice President:	Janice Hochstedler
Secretary:	Sarah Grant
Treasurer:	Corina Cauldren

By AKC guidelines: each club member must be present to vote. No proxy.

3. Discussed Amendments to Constitution and By-laws and/or Standing Rules: A committee was formed to change and update - those on the committee are: Kasey (chairman), Naomi, Sarah, Thomas & Janice.

4. Voting of Club Officers & Board Members will be held at the annual Holiday Party - time to be determined.

5. Meet the Breed at Silver Bay Kennel Club - only AKC registered dogs may attend.

Upcoming Events:

December Holiday Party:

Friday, Dec. 28, 2007 at Elaine's house

Future Board Meetings – All members are welcome to the board meetings. Board meetings are to be held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6pm - 8pm. The next meeting has been set for January 12th at Janice's house.

 **your** **GREETING CARD COMPETITION**
you create. we print. everyone votes.

Birthday cards...by the people, about the pets.

Here's the deal: You send us your cute, silly, strange, funny pet photos paired with some of your very own birthday-themed writing. Be clever, be funny, be creative... be you. We'll pick the best and print them. Then you all vote for your favorite to select the Grand Prize Winner. To participate go to www.hallmarkcontests.com/contest/

January 12th 2008 Board Meeting Agenda Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Introduction of Guests and New Members
New Board Members -: Lydia DeMars, Marie Weir, Andy Sydoriak, Jamie Kimball

Roll Call

Present: Derek, Lydia, Marie, Sarah, Janice, Corina, Jamie, Andy, Naomi present.

Reading of Minutes

Naomi read minutes from last meeting.
Highlighted items were tabled items:
Website, complimentary membership for rescue members, club emergency contact. All are listed on unfinished business.

New Membership application: Mark Berman, who attended the December meeting. Passed unanimously. Sarah Grant will mentor him due to geographic proximity.

Discussed that applicants attend one function or be sponsored prior to acceptance into the Club. Personal contact with the applicant should be a prerequisite to acceptance into the Club.

General Business

Officers Reports:

Membership Report- 11 current paid members.

Mentor Report, None

AKC Reports, None.

Treasurer's Report-11 members of 74 paid as of today. Will send out reminder tomorrow. \$1554 opening balance January 2007, and \$4575 opening balance this year. 2008 Specialty income \$1775 operating income. This year's balance higher due to decreased expenses and fund raising for Specialty Show. Focus on maintaining and building membership discussed. Some membership rescission feedback is related to "not fun anymore".

Board Member/ Committee Reports:

Newsletter & Website Coordinator: - Naomi
- Newsletter seems to be doing well. Need new

Webmaster. Website service provider making changes in operating platform causing some delays in updating website. Recruitment for new Webmaster in process.

Membership Committee Chairperson-Cheryl McKean- 11 active members currently, one new member accepted.

Social & Events Committee Chairperson / Meeting Social Committee Chairperson – Sarah Grant appointed

Fund Raising Committee Chairperson / Ways and Means – Lydia DeMars appointed
Show Committee Chairperson 2009 – Jamie Kimball appointed

Education & Training Committee Chairperson - Marie Weir

SDBR Liaison from BCGSD - Andy Sydoriak.
Mentorship coordinator - Janice.

Unfinished Business

Club Emergency Contact System – Naomi - No action decided to be taken
"Meet the Breed" Feb 23-24, 2008 – Silver Bay Kennel Club show event. Booth there on both days. Marie Weir will coordinate manning the booth.

New Website Design – Comments – Board Members-Tabled.

Complementary Membership for Rescue Owners (Full or Honorary) – Derek
Full membership for individuals adopting if dues paid, otherwise Honorary membership with all privileges less voting rights for calendar year voted upon and passed.

Create Policy on Website links to businesses and Website Traffic Management - Derek
Thank you acknowledgement on the page, no links or advertising. Committee Chairpersons' functions will be listed on website. Info@sdbulldogs.org will be sent to President. Any contact with the public will cc President.

New Business

Activities for Year 2008

- (1) Spring Event
 - (a) Date: March 29th, 2008 – approved- San Dieguito Park and Jamie will BBQ. 3-5 pm. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Derek’s potato salad, Soda or Water for \$5. Bulldog Club Shirts for sale.
- (2) Specialty Shows
 - (a) Dates: May 17th and 18th, 2008- approved
- (3) Summer Picnic
 - (a) Date: August 23rd, 2008- approved
- (4) Halloween Party
 - (a) Date: October 25th, 2008- approved

- (5) Annual Business Meeting/Holiday Party
 - (a) Date: December 19th, 2008 / Janice will coordinate event and confirm date.

Board Meetings Dates -Every second Saturday of every other month
 Next meeting:
 March 8th.
 May 10th
 July 12th
 September 13th
 November 8th

If unable to attend, notify President and any discussion items please provide advance report.
 Adjournment



Annual BCGSD Business Meeting Holiday Dinner Party

Election Result

President: Derek Rasmussen
Vice- President: Janice Hochstetler
Secretary: Sarah Grant
Treasurer: Corina Cauldren

Board Members:

Naomi Bell Hawker
 Andy Sydoriak
 Marie Weir
 Jamie Kimball
 Lydia DeMars



Andy Sydoriak
 Ann Singleton
 Service Award



Coordinator

619-501-0219

Tracey LeVeque

mtmleveque@aol.com

Happy New Year from San Diego Bulldog Rescue!

2007 was a very busy year for us, and we thank you for your support. We accepted a total of 31 bulldogs into our program, and already have 2 new bullies

Dogs currently in rescue:

Abner: Going on home trial 1/10/08

Daisy: Just adopted! Congratulations, Daisy!

Puma: Still in rehab for severe Demodectic Mange

Barney: Sweet, big 4 year old boy being treated for ear and skin infections

Mabel: Will start her home trial after spay

Roxi: 5 year old well behaved girl, had entropic surgery & needs great home

Ellie: Shelter girl, very underweight and almost blind from neglect, in medical rehab.

Penelope: Shelter girl, being treated for eye injury and ear infections

Gidget: Had entropic surgery, needs a home without female dogs or cats



Here is a great picture of Amber's Josie withmust be our Santa Brent (Tammara's husband).

Thanks to everyone who participated!

**A column to address common training problems for pet owners.
You are welcome to send in your questions or problems to
Betty Fisher by phone (559-689-3551, bfisher@sti.net or
P.O. Box 93, Raymond, CA 93653**



Fang would like to hear from you about problems you may be having with your Bulldog.
You can reach him at the above addresses.

Dear Fang,
How do I get my dog to stop playing so rough with us? How do I get him to stop chewing things while we are gone? How can I show my dog that I am the pack leader?
Confused

Dear Confused,
My Mom asked some of the club members for ideas that I should write about. Confused sent in several good questions that are all related actually. Of course you know that I never did any of these things but I have watched my Mom deal with them.

To be the pack leader you have to be consistent when you want your dog to do something. You can ask him to do something in order to earn something good. For example if he wants to go out the door ask him to sit and he must sit before you open the door. You can teach him to sit with a treat held in front of his nose and gently raised back over his head. As his nose follows the treat he will sit. You then use the same hand signal w/o a treat and praise and give the treat with the other hand the second he sits. After he understands this you can start asking for a sit at the door, putting him on leash if you have to.

You can have him sit and stay before getting his dinner. If he wants petting ask for a sit or down before you pet, etc.

Everything you ask your dog he MUST do and as the leader you must make him do it. Put him into the sit at the door for example. You must not let him bounce back into a stand. If he does the door closes and you start over.

When you play, try retrieve games or hide and seek games. Put the dog on a stay and hide in another room (this may take 2 people, one to hold the dog, while you hide) then you call him. Caninestein that was written by my Mom has a lot of games. It is available from www.dogwise.com

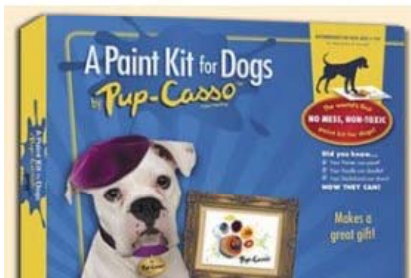
Bulldogs should not play tug of war and other rough and tumble games. They are too good at it and they hurt! When your dog gets rough stop moving and stand perfectly still. That takes away a lot of the fun. Try giving him a toy or chew bone and if he won't stop put him outside or in another room for 15 minutes and try again.

Dogs that chew and cause havoc when you are away should not have free access to the house. They should be confined in a small room or exercise pen. You can give them Kong type toys that you can fill with tasty treats. Buster Cubes have to be tumbled about to release the treats. These types of toys use the dogs' sense of smell too and scent work is tiring. A well-exercised dog gets into much less trouble too. Exercise your dog before leaving him alone. When my Mom had a litter of 4 puppies Prize was the best one at working the Buster cube so the other puppies would get her to tumble it about so they could all get the treats
☺

Fang

Betty Fisher

Betty Fisher has owned and trained Bulldogs to more than twenty obedience, carting and agility titles. She is the author of "So Your Dog's Not Lassie" an award winning book on training independent dogs and "Caninestein", both recommended by the Bulldog Club of America. Betty writes a regular performance column for the Bulldogger, magazine of the Bulldog Club of America.



Think your dog might be an artist? Got some artistic flair yourself and want to get your dog involved? Check out the Pup-Casso Paint Kit for dogs. It's a no mess, non-toxic paint kit. Its fun, creative, stimulating and a hit at pet parties. It works for all dog breeds, all ages, colors and sizes. It's also a fun and unique pet gift!

It's a pet gift that will make a one of a kind masterpiece for you or the pet lover in your life. You can also turn your pet's artwork into personalized gifts for you and your dog to wear and share. This unique gift is just good clean fun. Find it at www.amazon.com

Pet Insurance How necessary is it?



Do you need pet insurance for your pooch? A better question to ask might be, do you need insurance for a member of your family? Just like humans, dogs have accidents, get diseases and viruses that require medical prescriptions and sometimes even surgery. Medical care for pets can be expensive, just like human medical care. When choosing a pet insurance plan, you should never have to choose between the cost and care for your pet.

So, how do you go about choosing the right insurance plan for your pet? Just like human insurance,

there are many pet insurance companies available with reasonable plans. First, you will want to have a rough idea of what exactly you want covered for your pet. Some popular choices include prescriptions, vet visits, after-hour vet visits, X-rays, CAT scans, MRI's, basic clinic procedures, and even surgery. When looking for insurance, the common statement generally goes: You get what you pay for. There are, of course, exceptions to any basic rule of thumb. How exactly does pet insurance usually work? Most pet insurance companies have a similar paying procedure. For example, if you take your pet to the vet for an emergency, you are required to pay the vet fees from your pocket when you go. Most pet insurance companies ask you to bring along a file claim sheet with you to the veterinary clinic. Either you or the veterinarian may fill out the necessary fields on the sheet that pertain to your visit. Then, obtain the veterinarian's signature to verify the authenticity of the visit (primarily so the company can avoid fraud). After the visit, you will mail or fax the claim form (as well as any relevant receipts attached) to your insurance company and you will be reimbursed fully or up to a specific percentage according to your insurance plan.

One important thing to be aware of, however, is that many pet insurance companies will not cover pre-existing conditions your pet may have. That is, they will not cover previous injuries with long-term effects, genetic defects, or diseases that manifest themselves prior to the purchase of the insurance. If your pet does have a pre-existing condition that you feel adamant about receiving reimbursement for, you will need to spend the extra time researching various pet insurance policies to find one that offers coverage for your pet's pre-existing condition. If you have any questions, calling the company and speaking with a representative is usually helpful. You will want to make the most informed decision as is possible. Remember, this is a member of your family we're talking about.

So, is pet insurance for your pet a necessity? If you consider your pet a member of the family, then yes. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Because many dogs possess an inherently curious nature, this creates many opportunities for your pooch to get in harm's way and become injured or get sick. You will want to have the best care possible for your pet. When looking at the rates of pet insurers, remember that the cost is always well worth the care of your beloved pet.



Host Your Own Yappy Hour!

It's all the rage, dog parties and yappie hours. So why not host your own? If you've got a yard and the room, your place might be the perfect place to release the hounds. You can set up a bar, snacks, music and a place for dogs to play.

Going to the Dogs? Why Not?

Most of us dog lovers spend all day in the office and although we really want to mix and mingle with the human kind, we just hate leaving our pooches at home. So why not give all your friends the opportunity to bring their best four-legged friend to the party? Plus you get to meet the "better half" of all your human buddies.

Having dogs along for the party is also a great way to get people who don't know one another to interact. If you are worried about whether people from the office will get along with the friends you grew up with or if your shy best friend will have trouble mingling, put them on the other end of a leash and there won't be any problem.

Dogs are an easy conversation starter and a smiling extension of even the most serious wall flower. The dogs are sure to be the life of party!

Rules for Conduct

Be sure to put on the invitation that all guests should have the appropriate shots to attend. Make a joke of it and say that it includes people too. No measles/mumps/rubella shot. No entry. You don't have to ask for papers for the dogs at the door, but everyone will feel more comfortable if they see that dogs are required to have had their vaccinations. After all, you wouldn't be able to drop your dog at doggie day care with having all the appropriate vaccinations.

It is important that dogs play well together and don't have problems with other dogs if they are going to interact. You might want to have a place reserved for dogs that don't manage the party situation well just in case. This way your guest with the unruly pooch doesn't have to feel embarrassed and leave the party.

Mutt-tenders and Pet-Sitters

Consider hiring some help as well. Maybe that great teenager who cares for your dogs when you're on vacation would be interested in manning the pooches for a small fee. Or if you would like, hire a dog walker or a local dog trainer, to supervise dog interactions. If you have a cordoned off play area and a dog attendant, human party guests can leave their dog in the play area for a while and focus on a little human interaction.

Dog Themed People Treats

There are plenty of adult people beverages themed specifically for dog lovers that you can investigate. How much fun would that be, doing the research for your Yappy Hour? Check out wineries like Mutt Lynch Winery with such wines as, "Merlot Over and Play Dead." (www.muttlynchwinery.com) Bad Dog Wine has adorable dog labels and you can find these if you are in Canada. The Humane Society also has a wine club with great dog labels. (www.hsus.org) If you are looking for something more personalized, there are many wineries that do personalized wine bottles. Why not get some bottles with labels that feature a photo of your favorite pooch?

Don't forget cookies shaped like bones, a dog-shaped cake and of course hot dogs! Use your imagination and create dog themed food or hire a caterer to do it for you. And be sure to set out some dog treats! (Mark them as such too so that they don't accidentally become snacks for people).

Raise Awareness and Open Pocketbooks

If you are thinking of having a Yappy Hour, why not take it one step further and do it for charity? Pick a favorite animal charity or local animal shelter and put out a donation box. Be sure to put on the invitation that Yappy Hour will be raising funds for a dog charity, so skip the hostess gift and bring a couple of bucks for dogs in need. Have a raffle of fun dog products. Maybe have an informal doggie fashion show. Use your imagination and get Yappy!

How To Speak Dog

Dogs aren't simply the easily pleased, ball-chasing animals that popular myth portrays. As with any species, they have feelings, needs and emotions that must be handled appropriately. The only difference between humans and dogs is the ways that they communicate this information. Just as in getting to know a new person, you're not going to know everything about your dog as soon as you meet him. It takes time and commitment to learn about his habits and general demeanor that, if you adopt him as a puppy, will ultimately depend on your interaction and time spent together.

The key to communication with your dog is to remember that he tries to understand you, just as much as you try to understand him. If you spend time and have patience with your dog and firmly establish your position as the boss (or, in his mind, alpha dog), he is likely to be much more responsive to your communication. If you lose your temper and act aggressively towards him, more often than not he is only going to feel confusion.

Barking: A dog's bark has tones with individual meanings that, as you get to know your dog, can be distinguished and acted on appropriately. For instance, the bark that signals the approach of a stranger will differ from the bark that requests playtime.

Howling: Howling is as instinctive as barking for most dogs. Unfortunately, for those of us with a sense of choral tone, it can get old very quickly and should be discouraged. Request nicely that he "shut the hell up" then praise him when he does. It usually takes a trigger such as a siren or another dog's howling to send your dog into song. The secret is to notice these triggers yourself and check him when they occur. If he starts, stop him, then praise. If he ignores them all together, praise him all the more. If you're not at home to stop him and he's

prone to the odd singsong, you're just going to have to live with the fact that your neighbors are going to hate you.

Growling: We cannot stress enough how important it is to get to know your dog before assuming the reasons behind his actions and behavior. In accordance with those mythical stereotypes, growling is a sign of aggression. This is not always the case, but should always get your attention. Most dogs have an entire repertoire of throaty vocalizations that cover their many moods: happiness, sadness, pain or protest. The idea is to understand the message your dog is trying to convey and respond accordingly. For example, if the two of you are involved in a tug-of-war game over a desired toy and your dog growls in mock ferocity, as long as it IS just a game, it's not likely that he's suddenly going to gnash through your right arm. On the other hand if your dog growls at the presence of another dog, give him a quick tap on the snout and a sharp word that confirms your authority. Of course, if he growls before lunging forward and devouring the approaching dog you may want to consider your processing of the signs he's giving you. Sometimes submissive pets growl when approached. This requires some confidence training from you to show them what does and does not deserve this behavior.

Sleep: Many people enjoy speculating about what their dog may be dreaming. As with humans, dreams are subjective experiences and, unfortunately, no one has found a reliable way of having our pets tell us about them. When we dream we are naturally unresponsive to our surroundings. Our brains alternate between active (or REM) sleep where we experience a high amount of brain activity, which prompts dreaming, and quiet sleep where our brain activity is slower and more uniform. According to studies based on recording brain waves, dogs spend about 24% of their sleeping time in active sleep. As with humans, dogs twitch and vocalize

while involved in active sleep. Dogs generally sleep up to thirteen hours per day. However, they wake up more frequently than we do. How much and when a dog sleeps depends on the level of activity in their environment. An "only dog" kept as a house pet is likely to sleep much more than a working dog on a farm. Unlike humans, dogs are very good at adjusting their sleep pattern so that they can be active when there's activity around them.

Mounting: Whether you find the act of a dog mounting, amusing or disgusting, it's not always a sign that your dog is feeling amorous. Generally, this behavior is displayed by male dogs and to a lesser degree, some female dogs, and can be seen through their eyes as an act of dominance. A firm push on the chest until he's back on the floor and a standard command such as "Play nice!" or "No hump!" should do the trick and confirm your position of authority. If you don't make a conscious effort to stop this behavior, numerous other behavioral problems may arise.



In Loving Memory

*Weep not for me though I am gone
Into that gentle night.
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight.
I am at peace, my soul's at rest,
There is no need for tears.
For with your love I was so blessed
for all those many years.
There is no pain, I suffer not,
The fear now all is gone.
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on.
Remember not my fight for breath,
Remember not the strife.
Please do not dwell upon my death,
But celebrate my life.*



Charlotte
will be missed
Barbara Oalely

Tripoli and Bella
will be missed
John & Cheryl
McKean



FlexPetz

There are many dogless dog-lovers out there because their life situation is not ideal for being a pet parent. They travel often, their [apartment](#) does not allow pets, they're too busy to give adequate attention, or maybe they can't afford the expense of pet care. A company called FLEXPETZ has developed a solution for these potential dog friends, but how does it affect the dogs involved? Is pet rental ethical? That's for you to decide.

What is FLEXPETZ?

FLEXPETZ is a company providing flexible pet ownership by renting dogs to their members. FLEXPETZ members are dog lovers who have decided they are unable to provide a dog with a permanent home due to lifestyle restrictions. FLEXPETZ allows them the opportunity to spend time with a canine friend, from a couple hours to several days.

The first FLEXPETZ locations opened in Los Angeles and San Diego, California.

Future locations include New York City, San Francisco, London, Boston, and Washington, D.C., among other possible locations.

Learn more about FLEXPETZ at www.FLEXPETZ.com.

Becoming a Member and Fees

Anyone interested in becoming a FLEXPETZ member is screened by FLEXPETZ staff and trainers. Sincere interest in spending time with and respecting the dogs must be demonstrated. Paperwork is signed stating there is no history of animal abuse and a promissory note (provided by PETA) is also signed stating the dogs will be treated well.

Several membership fees are collected. There is a one time fee of \$150 at the time of registration to cover a training session. There is an annual account maintenance fee of \$99.95 and a monthly membership fee of \$49.95 which helps provide care to the dogs. There are also daily charges for time spent with a rented dog. Weekend days are \$39.95 and weekdays are \$24.95. Members agree to spend time with a dog at least two days a month.

FLEXPETZ members receive a free dog [bed](#), food/water bowls, and leash.

Dogs can be dropped off and/or picked up to/from renter for a fee of \$17.50 per trip.

The Dogs

There are dog of various breeds and sizes available for rental. They are aged two to three years and have been rescued or rehomed. The dogs are given regular training sessions, and they receive physical exams by a veterinarian every three months. These dogs are well-behaved and a joy to have as canine friends.

FLEXPETZ strives to have a constant rotation of dogs, and they do allow for their dogs to be adopted. When not with a renter, these dogs live in a home environment with a primary caregiver.

When spending time with a FLEXPETZ renter, the dogs wear a GPS tracking collar that can be activated in case the dog escapes from the renter. FLEXPETZ members are given a holistic dog food to feed during the rental period.

Is it Ethical?

Is dog rental an ethical concept? It is a growing trend in the pet world, and many dog-lovers are thrilled with the idea. BUT is it fair to the dogs? The answer is for you to decide. Read the positives and negatives listed below.

Positives

There are several benefits to the dog rental program. Dog lovers who are unable to provide a permanent home for a dog can spend time with a canine friend when it is convenient. People who can't have a dog because their apartment won't allow it can rent a dog and spend the day with him at the park. People who are too busy to give a dog adequate attention can rent a dog for the weekend or whenever they have free time. Those who feel they would be unable to provide adequate veterinary care and training can leave that up to FLEXPETZ and simply enjoy fun time with the dogs.

The dogs in the program are rescued, giving them a second chance at life. A FLEXPETZ dog may go from a lifestyle of feeling unwanted by his family to being loved by many families. They may leave their first home of boredom and neglect and enter a world of constant playtime and fun. Being in the FLEXPETZ program may lead to a permanent home if a family who particularly enjoys a FLEXPETZ dog chooses to adopt him.

Negatives

Is FLEXPETZ always a fun experience for the dogs? Do the dogs enjoy going from home to home, or would they prefer a predictable, constant schedule? Does everyone who rents a FLEXPETZ dog truly treat him with respect?

The negatives of this program are all the questions. What will an unsteady home environment do to the dog's emotional well-being? Most dogs prefer consistency with a steady pack leader(s), reliable rules and guidelines, and the stability of a permanent home and loving family. What happens behind closed doors when the renter takes the dog home? We can only hope that someone who goes through all the steps and pays the money to be a FLEXPETZ member truly has good intentions.

An Alternative

There is a charitable alternative to FLEXPETZ for those who can't provide a dog with a permanent home but love spending time with canine friends. Donating your time to a local shelter is a less expensive way to get your doggie fix. It is an action that is very much appreciated by these dogs in need. You can volunteer to clean cages, walk dogs, give the dogs TLC, or provide a temporary foster home.



Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego
Member BCA Division III
P.O. Box 270176
San Diego, CA 92198



Next Board Meeting
Saturday
March 8th
at 6:00pm
TBA