



Precious Pets

THE ULTIMATE MONTHLY PAPER FOR PETS AND THEIR COMPANIONS



www.preciouspets.ca

VOLUME 3 ✨ ISSUE 1 ✨ AUGUST 21, 2015



Marta Barnes Illustration



TINA AND BRAM, SIMBA AND FRIENDS, JOYFULLY CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS Staff biographies page 10, Barnes' story page 4.



MARCUS GORENSTEIN HOMAGE



MYRTLE BEACH SAFARI



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TWO YEARS AND COUNTING!

Barking Bram

with **Bram Eisenthal**



So, we celebrate two years in the pet paper business this issue, huh? Wow, it has flown by. And Tina and I have learned a lot more about the ins-and-outs of precious pets than we ever knew before. Frankly, we had no idea what we were getting into when we started. But so many of you have transmitted information, advice and pure passion that we have learned to be truly excited about working on each and every issue. We thank you for that and also for accompanying us on this spectacular and fun journey.

We also thank all of our loyal advertisers – led by Rothenberg Capital Management, Little Bear, Dr. W. of Animal 911 and Pet Friends of Vaudreuil - for sponsoring this paper. Without these businesses we would not be able to do this. As another business in Montreal recently discovered, it is not easy putting out a paper... of any kind. They had intended to publish a competing publication this past Fall, using our pricing as their published comparison, but their plans quickly changed, I assume, when they realized that a pet paper did not automatically pave the road ahead with gold. If you do this because you want to get rich quick (or get rich at all, for that matter), “abandon all hope,” is my fervent advice. This is about pas-

sion first and foremost. If you do not have THAT at least, plus talent and the ability to work to very tight deadlines, under a lot of pressure, don't waste your time, either. Thanks, too, by the way, to our fantastic printer, Payette Simms, who does the most amazing quality work and is eminently affordable. Discovering them is truly one of the highlights of our time in the small community paper field. Kudos!

Now a proud member of the QCNA

Well, while we haven't yet engaged the wonderful, titillating British voice of Orla Johannes to trill seductively “it's good to be a memba,” I am still very pleased to report that Precious Pets is now a member of QCNA, the Quebec Community Newspapers Association, as we were voted in by their board on May 29, 2015. We look forward to a mutually satisfying relationship and we thank their Executive Director Richard Tardif for his confidence and support.

We'd love to hear from more of you

As we embark on our third year, a year we anticipate will be the best yet, I'd like to ask you, loyal readers, to stay in touch with us. Assuming you are reading because you adore animals, please let us know what you'd like to see in our pa-

per, patronize our advertisers and feel free to attend our monthly Little Bear Pet Grief Group if you are in need of support and have lost a pet in the past year. You can reach Tina for advertising queries or me for anything else at the contact e-mails or numbers on the masthead on p.2.

And saving the best for (almost) last

We have a small but tight-knit and talented staff here at Precious Pets and I wanted to acknowledge their hard work. Please take a look at the bios on p. 10. Thanks, gang (Tina, James, Janet and Marta), for your fur-and-fun-loving commitment.

And here is the real last word

I have done this over the years and I cannot let an election go by without at least a mention. First-off, while I am not nuts about an almost-three-month campaign, what's the big deal? In the States, they start two years before the big day. And I'd rather see what more time on the hot seat does to these men and women before we stroll into the voting booth. For the record, I really LIKE the Conservatives in power and I like their chances, despite the early polls. I am hardly a fan of the Liberal Party of Canada and it is only the quality of my local candidate that gives them even a smidgeon of a chance of getting my vote.. The NDP appears in good shape with committed firebrand Tom Mulcare in charge, but I still don't trust them to lead the nation. I see what socialism has done in Quebec and I am not impressed. Having said that, I see a serious dilemma to contend with in my riding, Mount Royal. I was a HUGE Pierre Elliott Trudeau fan and was proud to have the Liberal PM in this riding. While I think his son, Justin, is not at all ready to lead yet, he may be ready sometime in the future.

And my dilemma is that we have two terrific candidates here, one for the PC party, Robert Libman, and one for the Libs, Anthony Housefather. I know them both personally and I like them both. Libman did a stellar and historic job teaching the separatists that you can push us anglos and ethnics only so far, as he founded the Equality Party... and Housefather has done a terrific job as Mayor of Cote Saint-Luc. In fact, he may well be the hardest-working mayor across the municipal spectrum (without a sledgehammer in hand, yet... Anthony has never resorted to such scripted dramatics to do a great job). So, does provincial sawy and outright chutzpah trump boyish (at least in appearance) enthusiasm? What can I say? On this one, I suggest you vote with your heart and soul. I am not even sure how I am voting yet. But did I tell you how I feel about the Liberals? Jean Chretien, Paul Martin and the buffoons elected by party members as leaders since... .. you ruined it for me. In recent years, Stephen Harper has been the only one with any balls. Having him remain Prime Minister is not a horrible option, as I see it. By the way, we are not letting you get our votes quite so easily, eager candidates. This time, we'd like to know how you stand on the issue of animal welfare. That's right. We, the publishers of Precious Pets, and our readers, are committed to the welfare of animals and you will not get our votes till we are assured you feel the same way. So, Robert and Anthony, we are starting with you. Your responses will be in our September issue... lots of time on this one, y'hear? Candidates from other parties can feel free to toss their views into the ring, as well. In Mount Royal, I am anxiously awaiting quotes from the Green Party and NDP as well, before I make MY decision!

August Dedication

This issue is dedicated to Laval's multilingual Danny Caci, who virtually threatened to beat some idiot who had left his dog inside his car on a very hot day. Danny, this one's for you (his video is on Facebook)!



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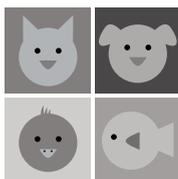
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Precious Pets



The ultimate monthly paper for pets and their companions

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HOMAGE TO LATE MONTREAL ARTIST MARCUS GORENSTEIN

BY BRAM EISENTHAL, PHOTOS COURTESY CHARLES GORENSTEIN 🐾 PRECIOUS PETS

When I was young, my parents were friends with a woman named Sylvia Gorenstein, who was European and who, as a single parent, raised two sons. One, Marcus, was born in 1955, two years before me, and was always, I recall, an artist. I remember that his mom was disappointed with his career choice... "What is he going to do with that?" she would ask my mom. Everything in his life, I have learned. I decided to look him up recently and found, to my

great sadness, that Marcus took his own life (according to Charles) in 2011. But he left behind a wealth of tremendous art, now in the safekeeping of his older brother, Charles, as well as talent that will hopefully resound through the ages... in some spiritual manner, at least.

Marcus, we at Precious Pets toast your memory and, with the approval of your brother, we share some of your more animalistic art with our readers. You can see more of Mark's work at: www.mgorenstein.com.

Portrait of Marcus Gorenstein - Photo Courtesy Charles Gorenstein



Rolling Thunder by Marcus Gorenstein
Courtesy Charles Gorenstein



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BARNES'S ARTISTIC SOUL GREW WITHIN THANKS TO HER MOM'S ABILITIES

STORY BY BRAM EISENTHAL  PRECIOUS PETS EXCLUSIVE



Photo courtesy- Marta Barnes

Marta Barnes and I have never met, but we have been linked together through the perennial portal of time since she was born. I had the extreme pleasure of working with her mother, artist Belinda Schneider, at Allied Jewish Community Services (since renamed Federation CJA) in the late 1980s and, as the author of the words for her stunning images, Belinda and I were an amazing creative team. When Marta was born to Belinda and her husband, Clarence Barnes. I remember her bringing the swaddled infant to work to show her off. Now, she is back, albeit a wee bit older and illustrating for Precious Pets. She has also been teaching English as a second language in Korea recently.

Over to you, Marta: To whom or to what do you owe your creative nature? "My mother, hands down," Marta replied. "She is probably the most creative soul I know and, as such, she infused my childhood with art and freedom – the two of which together couldn't help but raise me to be an adult who is compelled to express herself through visual arts.

"I don't remember watching a lot of TV or playing any video games as a child... instead our house was always filled to the brim with art supplies. Some

of these were my mother's own professional paints, pens, and brushes, but she never discouraged me from using anything I liked."

I then asked her what art she cobbled together as a little girl and whether it was any good. "Honestly, I never thought any of my art was very good back then. I was struck with frustration from an early age whenever I compared my work to those of my artist idols. A lot of the time I still don't think my art is any good, although people seem to like it and since I can't help but continue to draw, I've stopped being quite as self-critical.

"In my early teenage years, I experimented a lot with photography, digital art and body painting, but by late adolescence I began to take drawing more seriously. I had an obsession with space around then, so most of my subject matter revolved around space ships and aliens, but I also began to veer towards drawing animals, which is where I've ended up now."

"Good timing," I told her.

Marta is mostly self-taught, aside from the odd art class now and then. "I look for ways to educate myself," she stated.

Her influences include the Surrealists, my personal favourite groups. "If I'm not drawing animals, I find my works tend to lean towards the absurd, the abstract or the visually playful," she told me. "I enjoy the human form and the ways in which it can be manipulated. Mind games and visual jokes or puns really appeal to me."

Her favourite artist and biggest influence is Ralph Steadman. "He is the reason I work with ink drawings," she said. "Though the content of my pieces are obviously extremely different from his, I really respect his dedication to art as a voice through which to make a statement. The caliber of his work is also deceptively detailed: While it looks rushed and splattered onto the page, his work is finely nuanced even in its fluidity."

Another artist she adores is James Gurney (creator of *Dinotopia*), whose work she has been in love with since childhood and whom she calls "a pinnacle art god."

Finally, I wanted to know why drawing animals was so close to both her heart and her art.

"Drawing animals is always fun because they've got unexpected shapes, textures and personalities. I don't know



Photo courtesy- Marta Barnes

if I consider any particular kind easy to draw, but I'm always drawn (no pun intended) to the insect, reptile and aquatic kingdoms. Each offers an aesthetic intrigue that appeals to me.

"I need something to be visually interesting to hold my gaze, something that will continue to surprise me as I look closer and closer. I like to draw scales especially because of their intricacy. For me, art is about finding how things fit together, so I suppose you could say the act of me drawing is really just a prolonged act of observation.

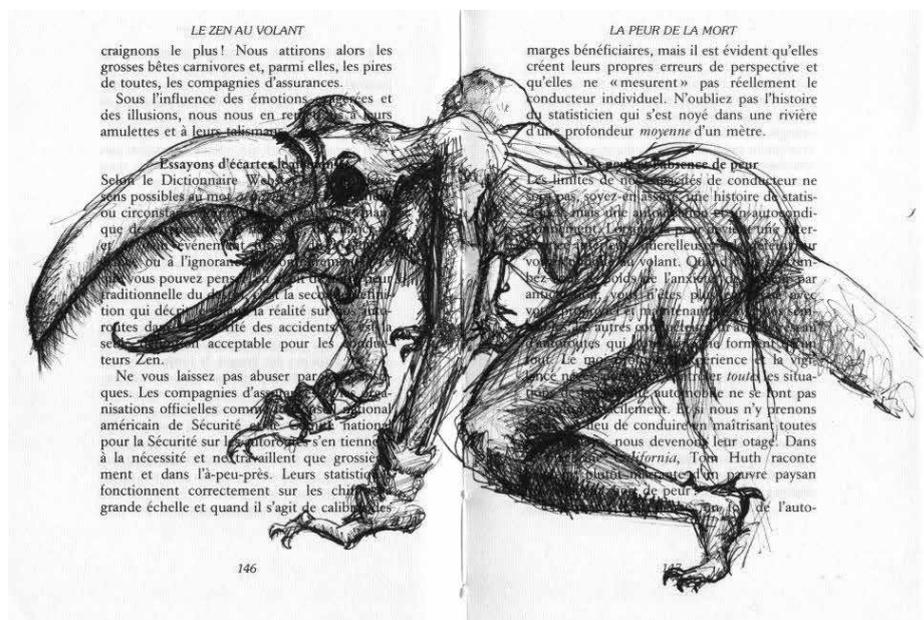
Her ultimate goal? "I would love to be able to support myself through my art as well as my writing. I think that would be, for me, the moment I feel I've 'made it,' whether or not that also

includes any fame. I've been thinking about making a colouring book of my black and white drawings and opening an Etsy shop online to offer prints. My main goal, I suppose, is just to get my stuff out there."

Till then, her stint at Precious Pets a mere stopover on the road to overall career success (we're sure of that), we thank Marta for her contributions and especially the one she has made toward our second anniversary issue.

Thanks, Belinda and Clarence, for your most artistic endeavour to date!

Should you wish to contact Marta Barnes for any special projects, you can reach her at: martabarnes421@hotmail.com OR via Precious Pets.



FILM REVIEW:

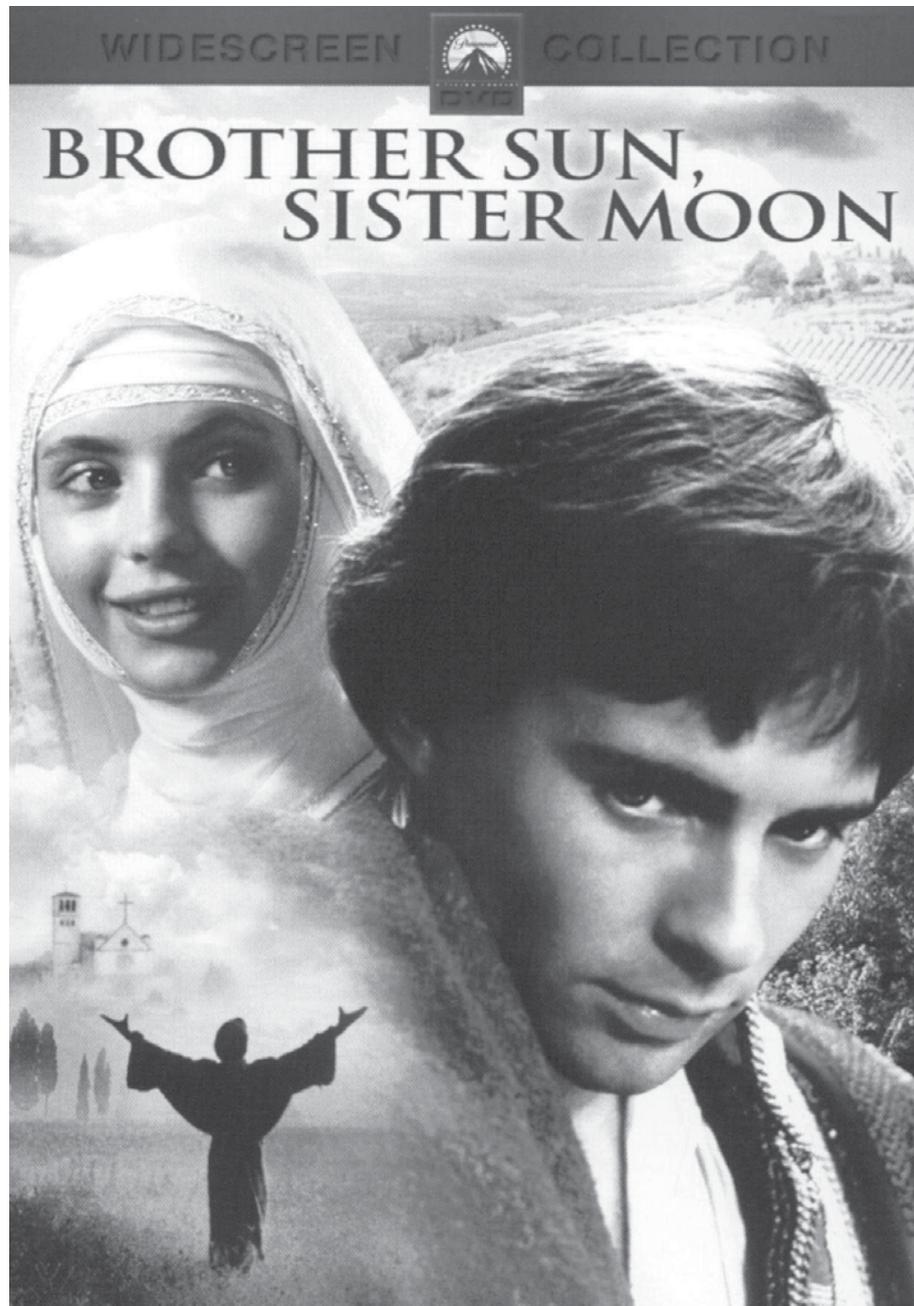
LEARN ABOUT THE "PATRON SAINT OF ANIMALS" IN 1972'S *BROTHER SUN SISTER MOON*

WITH BRAM EISENTHAL 🐾 PRECIOUS PETS EXCLUSIVE

When legendary Montreal priest Father John Walsh contributed a column to this paper early on, about historic figure St. Francis of Assisi, it taught me quite a lot. We Jews are not known for our savvy regarding the lives of saints and while I had heard of this particular priest before, it took the homebound screening of a special film for me to understand more about the spirits that moved him. Eventually, he became the patron saint of animals, but in renowned Italian director Franco Zeffirelli's (*Romeo and Juliet*) 1972 classic *Brother Sun Sister Moon*, we are given his take on the upbringing of young Giovanni di Bernardone, who lived a long time ago in the Italian town of Assisi. And we witness the birth of his adoration of animals and his love for God and nature... and the post-Second Crusade vows of chastity and poverty that led to his becoming a man of the cloth.

I was just 15 when this film played in theatres and had no desire to see it back then. But now I am glad I spent the 122 minutes and soaked it in. Zeffirelli was known for his uncanny ability to choreograph lovely scenes and he does this for us here. The film also features impressive performances by two young British acting unknowns who would not exactly become household names: Graham Faulkner, as Giovanni/Francis (who was called Francesco in his village because he loved speaking French) and Judi Bowker, as Clare Offreduccio, a local girl and friend who cares for lepers in a colony nearby. Also starring are none other than the late Alec Guinness (pre-knighthood) and Adolfo Celi (who played Bond nemesis Blofeld in *Thunderball*).

This film indeed wallows in its religious roots, so it may appeal more to Catholics than to viewers from other religious backgrounds, but this only begs for me to ask the question again: Why are animals not protected as beings with



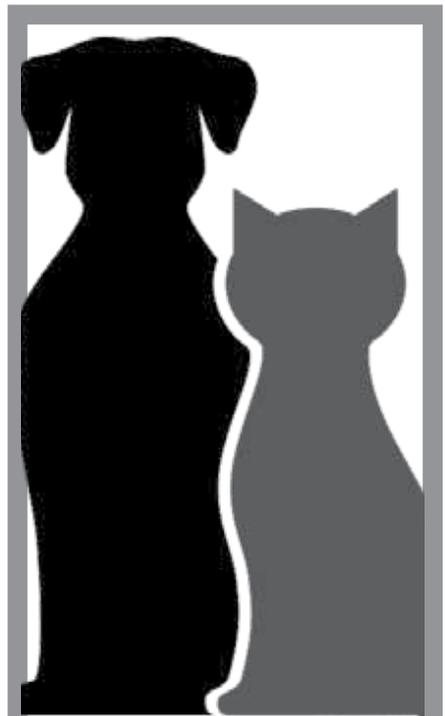
souls, irrevocably linked to God, if protectors such as Saint-Francis were indeed entities who were part of our history?

Yet I was caught up in the things that make all good films viewable, regardless of the film's ties to religion: Good cinematography, fine acting and winning music, in this case provided by none other than one of my all-time fave musicians, Donovan Leitch, the very talented 20th century Scottish muse who gave us such hits as *Jennifer Juniper*, *Season of the Witch*, *Sunshine Superman* and, of course, *Mellow Yellow*. Donovan actually

celebrates his 50th year in the music biz this year.

The overall score by Riz Ortolani is also a highlight worth listening to. Some viewers have commented that this is one of the best films ever. I would not go quite so far, but in my opinion it is pretty uplifting and important to experience if you like animals as much as movies.

ED. NOTE: Tell us what you think of the movie after watching it and you may win a DVD copy of this remarkable film.



**Precious
Pets**

September's Precious Pets not only marks the start of our third year, but will also feature interviews with the candidates of Mount Royal riding here in Montreal regarding animal welfare.

But wherever you reside in Canada, ask your local candidates some hard questions regarding animals. If not now, when?

All in the next issue of Precious Pets!

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PET INTRODUCTIONS SHOULD BE HANDLED TACTFULLY

Doggie Do

with **John Truss**



One of the most common questions I get is how to have two dogs meet for the first time, or "how do I introduce a new dog into my existing household?" The beginning stages of each are the same. If you are bringing a new dog into your home to stay, there are a few more steps involved.

We always want to keep the initial meeting as positive as possible, when introducing two unfamiliar dogs. The less tension we add, the better. If you feel you are too nervous because of previous experiences with your dog, sometimes it is best to let someone more confident handle the introduction. The first meeting should be on neutral territory. This means not in either dog's home... including on the street or outside the front door. Ideally it would be in a nearby park, or simply down the street on a different block. That would greatly reduce the chances of any territorial issues.

The two dogs should not meet head-to-head, but rather you should walk them in the same direction, single file. Play a bit of leapfrog by having each dog take the lead for a minute. If you feel comfortable enough and the dogs are in a calmer state of mind, allow them a bit closer to one another

for a sniff. The dog being sniffed should be encouraged to continue looking forward, albeit with a lot of praise.

If you can see a reduction in tension between the two dogs, and you are feeling good about the interaction at this point, it is a good time to start walking them side-by-side. The rule here is that the dogs should not be staring at each other but should rather be keeping their eyes in the direction they are headed. An occasional glance is ok but more than two or three seconds is staring. This makes most dogs very nervous and is a precursor to confrontation. At first, keep your body between them as a barrier, but again, if they are comfortable, you can walk them in the middle between two people.

Depending on how well the dogs are getting along, we can now bring them into the yard to play. Make sure there are no toys or food lying around that could trigger any possession issues. Enter the yard at relatively the same time and keep the dogs on leash. If they are ignoring each other by this point, or giving play signals, you can drop the leashes but keep them attached. We can let the dogs drag their leashes around for



a while... as long as they are strictly supervised.

Walking dogs together can be a wonderful experience for both handler and dog but the initial introduction is the most important part. If you have any doubts at all,

or you think you are seeing signs of aggression, seek the help of a professional.

Let's give our dogs the best chance at getting along by making that first introduction perfect!

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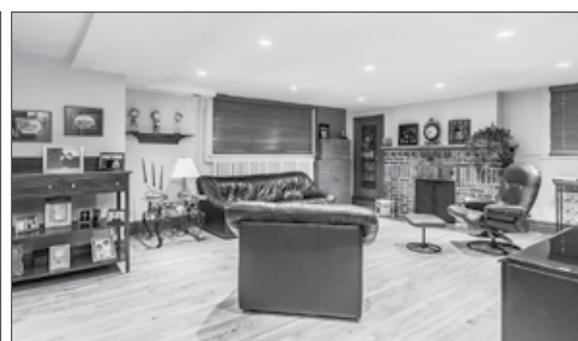
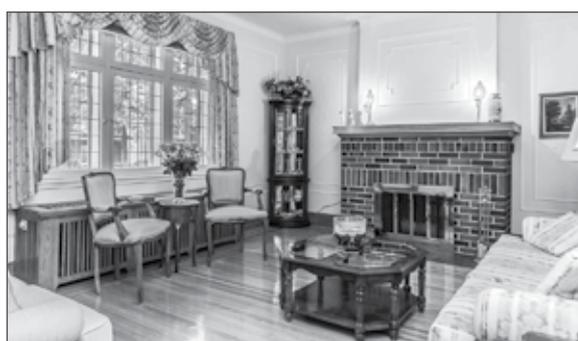
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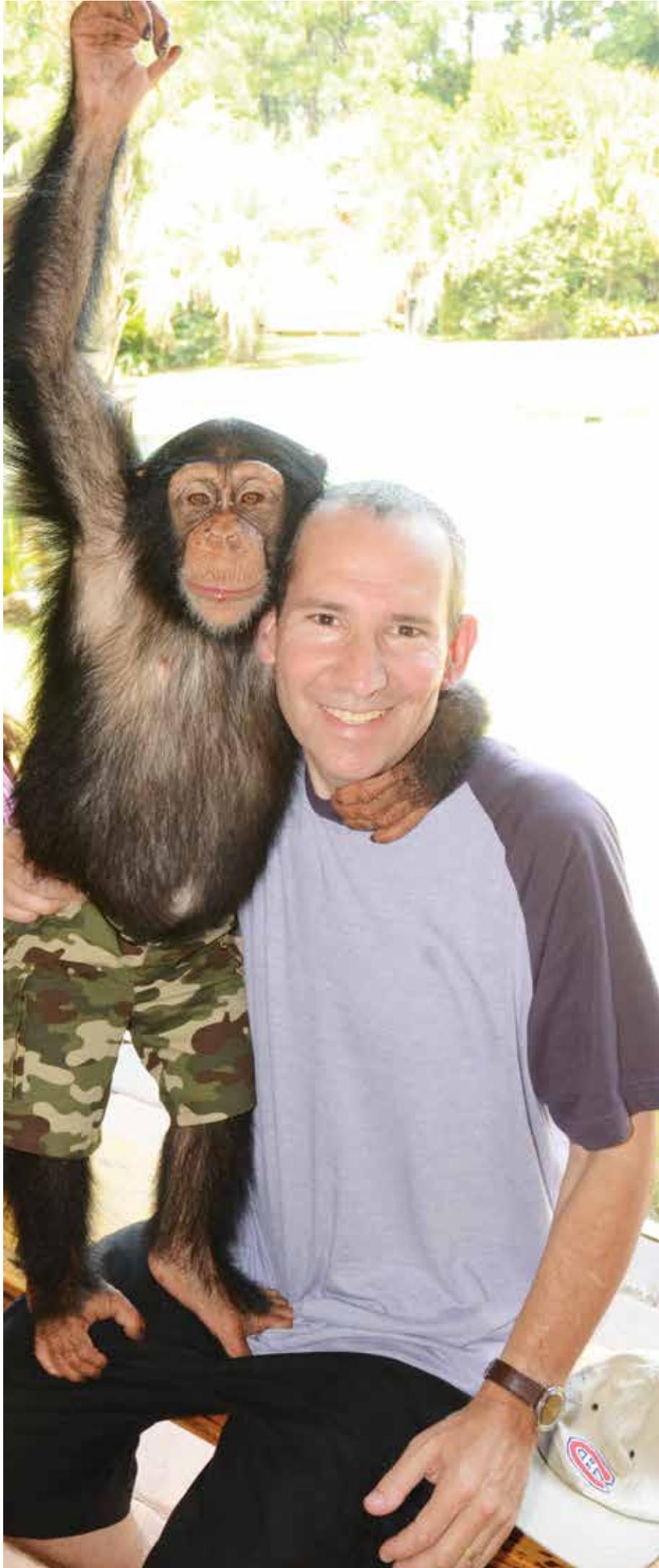
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MYRTLE BEACH SAFARI EXPERIENCE BRINGS YOU CLOSE TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

STORY BY MIKE COHEN  PRECIOUS PETS EXCLUSIVE



MYRTLE BEACH - When I began planning a family vacation to Myrtle Beach (www.visitMyrtleBeach.com), dubbed "the Jewel of South Carolina," I had visions of sandy beaches, exciting entertainment, family attractions and Southern hospitality. This, after all, is the reason why the area welcomes more than 16 million visitors per year. Getting up close and personal with tigers, wolves, chimpanzees and other endangered species was not something I realized was an option here.... until, that is, I heard about a unique safari experience.

As an animal lover, the moment I learned more about T.I.G.E.R.S. (The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species) I knew I wanted this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of our itinerary. We reserved our spots immediately and this was indeed a major highlight of our trip.

The man behind this operation is Dr. Bhagavan Antl, who started out training animals for movies and TV. They offer a guided safari-like experience through a 50-acre preserve, where many of the animals crawl right onto your lap. A percentage of the revenue from the T.I.G.E.R.S. experience goes to the Rare Species Fund, which provides funding for on-the-ground international conservation programs. Where is this located, exactly? Unfortunately, I cannot put that information in print. Those who sign up are given a rendezvous point, outlining where to show up. You will just have to experience it, to learn more about this part of the journey. In order to maximize the peace for the animals and the privacy for guests, this preserve cannot be found on-line, on sites like MapQuest. Any address you may find is the one to Preservation Station in Barefoot Landing - just over 24 km. (15 miles) south of the actual location.

Tours run three-to-five days a week, from mid-March to early October, and cost approximately \$300 per person. This is a fully-interactive activity. You will get to meet, pet and hold a large variety of the animals. After filling out the necessary forms and getting a pep talk from long-time animal ambassador/trainer Rob Johnson, our group was introduced to a "liger"- a hybrid weighing almost 408.25 kg. (900 lbs.) that mixes a male lion and

a female tiger. We first watched it march around through a glass window and then got to look at it from just 12 feet away, before they snapped our photo with the big cat in the background. Our group was then told to first sit as tightly as possible in a horseshoe configuration of benches and then put our hands out. Soon after that, a binturong walked across our laps, allowing everyone to pet her. A binto-what, you ask? This is a medium-sized carnivore, also known as an Asian Bearcat. Their fur is thick, coarse and black in colour and they have long, bushy tails.

The animals on each tour vary, depending upon the day and the time of year, but you will always get to spend time with the tiger babies, hang out with the monkeys or apes and meet exotic animals you've probably never even heard of before.

All of the animal "performers" can be seen up-close-and-uncaged, in close contact with their trainers. The trusted relationships they have with their handlers can actually be felt by the audience. This makes them perfect for live shows or personal appearances. Because Dr. Antle and his trainers have hand-raised these animals, they are cooperative and safe, which minimizes valuable production time and money. People often think it is dangerous to get so close to wild animals like these, but the handlers at T.I.G.E.R.S. have been with these creatures since they were babies and have developed a special friendship based on love and respect. In fact, Dr. Antle and his partner Kheira have actually delivered many of the cubs in the enclosure with the mothers because of their special relationships. T.I.G.E.R.S. has a proven method of training these animals. Rules include: Never treating them as pets; Giving them lots of tender loving care and; According them thousands of hours of one-on-one handling. Handlers, Johnson included, even live with the animals 24-hours-a-day. As he also told me, many of the staff are literally married to their jobs. Antle's son and daughter grew up here and are part of the team.

The tour itself lasted about three hours. Early on, we sat in a covered enclosure and they brought us baby tigers, lions, lynx and wolves



to touch and hold. They were all so gentle. During a refreshment break in a treetop location, we observed some members of the cat family let loose and allowed to bound upwards of 45 miles-per-hour, attempting to catch a snack on a rope. Johnson also introduced us to a very intelligent eagle, which followed all of his commands.

During the Myrtle Beach Safari tour, guests will have a very special opportunity to watch the trainers swim with the tigers. This is not

something that they can allow the public to do, however, so bathing suits are not required on the tour.

For more information, log on to <http://www.myrtlebeachsafari.com> and

<http://www.tigerfriends.com/RSF.html>.

Mike Cohen is a Montreal writer, the Côte Saint-Luc city councillor responsible for Animal Protection and a member of the Precious Pets Editorial Board.

ETC. ON MYRTLE BEACH

Pertaining to dogs on the beach:

Most public beaches in the Myrtle Beach area are pet-friendly during early morning hours or during late evenings year-round. From May 1 through Labour Day, dogs are allowed on the beach only before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Dogs and bicycles are allowed on the boardwalk only between 5 - 10 a.m., from May 1 through Labour Day. From the day after Labour Day until April 30 each year, dogs are allowed on the beach at any time of day. At all times when dogs are allowed on the beach, they must be on a leash that is at least seven feet (2.14 meters) in length or shorter and dog owners must pick up and properly dispose of their pet's poop.

Irving the Talking Dog: Check out ventriloquist Todd Oliver and his talking dog Irving (a Boston Terrier) at Myrtle Beach's fabulous Alabama Theatre (www.alabama-theatre.com) and its ONE The Show through the end of October. At intermission, and also after the show, the very calm Irving

poses for photos with members of the audience. Purchase your tickets by calling 1-800-342-2262 or online.

Where to Stay: The Island Vista (www.islandvista.com), was built in 2006 as a luxury resort with a wonderful fine-dining restaurant called The Cypress Room. With 149 oceanfront condos, from one to four bedrooms, this is THE place to stay.

Dining out: Thoroughbreds at Chophouse (<http://thoroughbredsrestaurant.com>), located at 9706 N. Kings Hwy, serves the finest beef and ultra-fresh seafood. All of the entrees fall under categories which match the theme of the restaurant: The Starting Gate, Clubhouse Turn, The Belmont Steaks, Seabiscuit, the Preakness and the Home Stretch, which offers a terrific dessert selection including The Triple Crown of chocolate and the Kentucky Derby pie. For the appreciation of true aficionados, paintings of horses adorn the walls.



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PRECIOUS PETS STAFF BIOS

CARICATURES BY MARTA BARNES 🐾 PRECIOUS PETS EXCLUSIVE

Our paper would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of a small group of people. Here are the staffers who proudly bring you “the ultimate monthly paper for pets and their companions.”

Tina DiSalvia Sales Manager

Bram met Tina while interviewing her for a *Local Herald* story on her weight loss business, *Thin Evolution*. He was so impressed with her manner of dealing with clients that he proposed almost immediately that she become his partner and handle the paper’s commercial ad sales. The two so enjoy crafting the paper that they are thoroughly committed to seeing it through to complete success. Tina is no stranger to success, having seen her renowned “Cookie Diet” become much more than simply a local weight-loss craze.



Bram Eienthal Publisher and Editor

After decades as a journalist, staff writer and film publicist, in September 2010 Bram started his paper *The Local Seeker West End Montreal Edition* (later renamed *The Local Herald*... a paper which published for almost three years in total) and replaced it with *Precious Pets* in August 2013. “It made sense to do something that people could enjoy with such passion,” he says today. “I have never regretted this and I love what we do more and more every issue.”



Marta Barnes Art Director

You might find the Chambly, Quebec born-and-raised Marta with her nose in a book – ink stains on her fingers – whilst in a café abroad (or at least dreaming that she is). A prior ESL teacher in South Korea, she has now temporarily moved back to Montreal for a short while before her intended relocation to the UK. Once there, she intends to pursue a career in illustration, writing and holistic massage (and, of course, her fine work on **Precious Pets**), all the while keeping up with her travel blog, downfromthedoorm.com

**Janet Boiangiu**
Director of Social Media

Based in Ontario, Janet knew Bram at the age of 11 and has since blossomed into an industrious and talented animal activist and photographer who also works in the corporate business field. Janet is affiliated with an Ontario-based rescue organization and also hosts her own brood of rescues along with her husband.

James McCafferty
Creative Design

James is a Montreal-based freelance graphic designer and photographer currently studying psychology at McGill University. After studying creative arts at John Abbott, James worked for *The Gazette Vaudreuil-Soulanges*, where he gained valuable skills in graphic design for print publications. Since then, he has worked on a number of them. Now, he divides his time between design and his studies. As a hobby, James indulges in the art of fire dancing.



Editorial Board

THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF PRECIOUS PETS IS COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED TO THE PET FIELD IN SOME MANNER, WHO ARE READY TO ADVISE THE PARTNERS AND/OR STAFF WHEN ASKED FOR THEIR OPINIONS. THEY ARE:

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And to all our contributors:

The staff would not have a paper to publish without the commitment of our stable of devoted contributors. With utmost sincerity, for their work this past year, we would like to thank:

Dr. Wojciech Wybranowski 🐾 Barbara Etcovitch 🐾 John Truss 🐾 Meira Frankl 🐾 Chantal Gargano 🐾
Marta Barnes 🐾 Donna Deskin 🐾 Samantha Havill 🐾 (photographer) Van Biello
Juliana Pavelka and Keith Johnston 🐾 James McCafferty 🐾 Rita Fert
Bunny Berke 🐾 Michael J. Cohen 🐾 Shlomo Schwartzberg 🐾 Stuart Nulman

... for all their hard work and commitment this past year!

Finally, to our amazing advertisers:

Precious Pets would not be possible without the financial support of our advertisers and we cannot thank you enough for believing in us. A heartfelt thanks goes to:

Jack Rothenberg and the staff of Rothenberg Capital Management 🐾 Chuck Altman and the staff of Little Bear of Westmount 🐾 Dr. Wybranowski and the staff of Animal 911 🐾 Averil Robinson and the staff of Pet Friends of Vaudreuil 🐾 Bunny Berke Real Estate Broker 🐾 Bark Avenue 🐾 Monarch Reptiles (of Chateauguay) 🐾 Concierge 4 Pattes 🐾 Montreal Dog 🐾 Manor Minder 🐾 Ace Dog Training Montreal West Island Cat 🐾 Perfect Pet Training 🐾 Gelmoment Hand & Nail (Nadia Vani) 🐾 Hopital Veterinaire Hudson 🐾 PetPros 🐾 Precious Paws Hudson

We also recognize and thank the City of Cote Saint-Luc, Councillor Michael J. Cohen (of CSL District 2) and Recreation Department director Harold Cammy, Dr. W and Animal 911 for allowing us to meet in their facilities for our monthly Little Bear Pet Grief Group. Giving people a caring and non-judgmental place to grieve is certainly karma-worthy.



INTRODUCING: OTTAWA'S FREEDOM DOG RESCUE



The personnel of Precious Pets may be located mainly in Montreal at present, but our mandate is to introduce you to animals and organizations from all over Canada and elsewhere. Ontario provides a vibrant and caring backdrop for animal causes and our Director of Social Media, Janet Boiangiu, is an Ontario resident (and former Montrealer) and someone who is also deeply involved with animal causes. She herself rescues and hosts many animals. This year, Janet became aware of and later became involved with a special new rescue organization located in our nation's capital, Ottawa. So, without further ado, via a Q & A format, let us bid welcome to Freedom Dog Rescue and wish them luck in their endeavours.

Q: Tell us about your group's creation, the who, what, where, when and why.

A: Freedom Dog Rescue is a small, non-profit, all-breed, all-size foster-based dog rescue, which was founded in Ottawa, Ontario in February 2015. Our fosters and volunteers are at the heart and soul of Freedom Dog Rescue and are the reason we are able to successfully rescue and adopt out so many

deserving dogs. We truly are like a family of friends and in some cases we actually ARE family and it's just so amazing that we can share our passion together and have so much fun doing so. Being a foster-based rescue means that any dog in our care is placed in a loving foster home and not in a kennel environment. We strongly believe that they have gone through enough struggles and hardships in their lives and all of our foster families are devoted to showing and teaching the dogs in our care how to be part of a family and feel loved. We are so appreciative of our foster families who work very hard to give these dogs a second chance at a happy life

Q: Are there not enough rescue organizations in your area?

A: As long as there are neglected, abused and forgotten animals, there will be a need for rescues.

There can never be enough rescue organizations in any area, just as there can never be enough compassion or empathy for the pain and heartache of others.

Q: What components should exist in order for a rescue entity to be successful?

A: Community support is paramount to the success of any not-for-profit organization. Through the education movement of "Adopt don't Shop" adoptions, volunteer involvement and attendance and fund raising activities have increased. Local businesses such as Clipper Spaw and Pet Valu have teamed up with rescues, allowing for greater exposure and community outreach. Our success as an organization will rely on never losing sight of our core principal: "It's about the dogs." Respect and cooperation among members and open lines of communication, teamed with clear and concise directives and best practices that allow for growth and improvement, will create a strong, focused, successful rescue.

Q: Do you feel there is competition between rescue groups? If so, can you learn to work together to complement one another?

A: Freedom Dog Rescue will not compete with other rescue groups. Rescue groups share one common goal and that is the successful re-homing of unwanted and abused animals. Through the spirit of cooperation, we have frequently reached out to other organizations in the area to assist with the sharing of resources such as food and donations. We have performed searches on other rescue agency's available dogs and have referred

potential adopters. Other examples of this cooperative spirit are the sharing of intake specialists in order to perform assessments and the referral of animals in high-kill shelters for possible placements. There will always be a difference in both opinion and in the level of desire to succeed. Cooperative competition without disrespect and harm to others can be healthy in its push to better oneself.

Q: How does your organization differ from others?

A: Freedom Dog Rescue shares the most important aspect of animal rescue: Compassion for animals in need and the passion to continue to work towards making a difference in our communities and in the lives of the abandoned, abused and neglected dogs in these communities. The organizational structure of our rescue is more one-dimensional than larger groups and is being run cooperatively. As a relatively new rescue, we are constantly evolving, streamlining our processes and communication strategies and we will continue to do so in the future.

Q: Are you optimistic that you can change things for the better?

A: Freedom Dog Rescue has and will continue to make a difference because in the end "saving the life of one animal may not change the world, but the world will surely change for that one animal." A small movement can cause an av-



RESCUE

Continues Page 14

 Manon Flynn, DVM
Nikolas Bell, DVM
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They Call Me Dr. W Itchy pets

(BY DR. WYBRANOWSKI, B.SC. DVM CCRT)

There is nothing worse than watching your pet scratch or chew at himself until he bleeds. There can be many reasons like fleas, skin mites, bacterial and yeast infections, metabolic disease and allergies. In our climate, and especially at this time of the year, however, allergies are the most common cause of itch.

Pets and people can develop allergies at any age. In pets, allergies are usually lifelong. Allergies are usually not remedied quickly, unless very mild in nature, and will require some treatment throughout the pet's life. Allergies are caused by an **overactive** immune system that mistakenly started to recognize a normal foreign protein like Ragweed Pollen, for instance, as something dangerous. The immune system then starts to produce large quantities of antibodies to defend the host from this allergen. The antibodies circulate in the host's blood and, when they encounter the foreign protein, they neutralize it by first attaching to it. Specialized cells called macrophages can then ingest everything to clean it up. This process occurs in our bodies all the time. In an allergic individual however, this occurs at a much greater degree, as he has many more antibodies. This formation of antigen-antibody complexes is associated with the production of many irritating chemicals, of which *histamine* is one of the end products. In pets the *histamine* is released in the skin, so they scratch. In children the *histamine* is released in the lungs so they get broncho-constriction (asthma), cough and they then cannot breathe. The process in both is identical: The only difference is the target organ that is affected.

Allergies can be further divided into **food allergies** and **environmental allergies**. They differ only by the route in which the allergen gets into the host's body. We shall first discuss food allergies and, next month, we will look at environmental allergies.

Food allergies:

In the case of food allergies, the pet is allergic to a specific protein, much like peanut allergies in people. Testing for a food allergy is simple. The pet must be fed a diet consisting of a single, novel (new) or hydrolyzed protein for up to three months. During this time the pet can-

not have anything else to eat: No treats, no rawhide bones to chew on, nothing must enter its mouth except for the new diet foods and water. If, during these three months, the signs of scratching and chewing subside, the pet needs to be chal-

lenged with his old food by simply re-introducing it. Usually the itch will come back within a few days. If it does, the new diet is re-introduced and if the itch disappears, we have proven beyond any doubt that we can make the allergy subside and

reappear at will. The solution is to feed the pet the new diet all his life in order for him to be disease-free.

Next month: Environmental allergies



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RESCUE

Continued from Page 12



lanche. Every dog saved is a life that would not have otherwise experienced the love and kindness that should be afforded to all living creatures. Through local fundraising events and social media, the rescue community is striving to educate, in order to increase the awareness of the tortuous conditions of puppy mills, the commitment required in pet ownership and the necessity of proper veterinarian care... including the spay and neutering of all companion animals.

Q: Also, in Quebec there is much criticism of the government and how they do nothing or indeed very little (to date, at least) to better the lot of animals. What

is your view of the work of the Ontario government?

A: Although Ontario does have the strongest animal welfare legislation in Canada, there will always be areas for improvement. We would like to see the SPCA granted increased authority to allow for immediate action/investigation on reports of animal abuse or neglect. The SPCA at this time cannot act unless an animal is in immediate distress. Essentially, that means a dog has to be in danger of dying for an SPCA officer to be able to take action. This needs to change. The Province of Ontario enacted a breed ban in 2005. In 2010, based on a survey of municipalities across the Province, there has shown no significant decrease in the number of dog bites that can be accounted for, according to Breed Specific Legislation. Targeting behaviour – not breed – is the only proven way to reduce dog bites. We will continue

to protest against Breed Specific Legislation, continue to educate regarding responsible dog ownership and lobby for increased authority for SPCA officers.

Freedom Dog Rescue then provided us with some other major specifics pertaining to their goals:

Our mission and core principals:

Our mission is to provide freedom and a loving family to dogs in need – one dog at a time.

Our dogs: We care deeply for all animals. We believe help knows no boundaries and geography should never limit our ability to save a dog destined for euthanasia. We will help whenever we can and we will keep the best interests of the dogs as our number one priority.

Our volunteers: Together with our volunteers and fosters, we are a family. We treat each other with respect, encourage feedback and

embrace each other's strengths. This is not our job, it is our passion.

Our events: We appreciate our event hosts and the exposure and help they provide us. We adhere to a code of conduct to ensure each store, expo and event we attend is treated with the utmost respect. Our attendees will act with integrity and in a professional manner.

Our community: We believe that it is important to help other rescues in our community. Whenever possible, we will share inventory. We will assist when a puppy mill has been uncovered, dogs have been seized and placements are needed.

Our accountability: We vow to be financially responsible, transparent and treat donated and raised money with deference it is due. Detailed and accurate records will be kept and spending will be prudent.

ED. NOTE: Well, you sound amazing to us! The best of luck!

Puzzles

Solution

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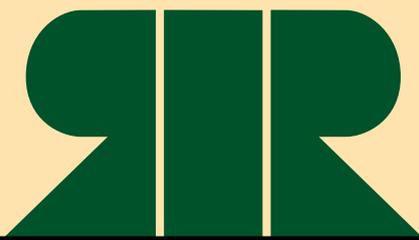




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