

Papers Capers

Paper Cities Kennel Club August 2009

<http://www.papercitieskc.org/>

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Papers Capers is a monthly newsletter of Paper Cities Kennel Club, Inc., Wausau, WI. Opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of Paper Cities Kennel Club, Inc. The editor reserves the right to discretionary editing.

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Paper Cities Kennel Club

Meeting Notices

The Paper Cities Kennel Club will meet Wednesday, Aug. 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Willow Springs Gardens off of Hwy. K in Wausau. The picnic will follow the meeting.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Annie's Restaurant in Wausau.

In case of questionable weather or road conditions, contact any officer or board member after 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting to verify whether the meeting will be held.

Announcements

ANNUAL PICNIC AUGUST 19TH 2009

WILL BE HELD WITH THE REGULAR MEETING AT WILLOW SPRINGS GARDEN.

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 6:30PM, WITH PICNIC TO BEGIN AT 7:30pm.

Willow springs will do the meat, buns & condiments for us. The meat will be chicken and burgers at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Members will bring a dish to pass.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS AUGUST 10, 2009

Make checks to PCKC, and mail to:

Vickie VonSeggern

13169 Co Rd FF

Merrill, WI 54452

Sign up for dish to pass - contact Vickie, thorndale@dwave.net or 715-536-8959. Deadline is also 8/10/09

IMPORTANT NOTICE - NO DOGS ALLOWED

If you bring a dog, you cannot have it inside the building. No exceptions.

Brags

Manitou's My Cup of Tea "Teela" finished her Rally Advanced title at the Oshkosh Kennel Club trial on July 14. Teela is owned by Phyllis Christensen.

Beverly Meier and Hershy and Koko passed their TDI Testing on Aug. 8

Congratulations to Phyllis and Teela & Bev, Hershy and Koko!!!!

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	WHO(contact)
August 05	PCKC Board Meeting	Annies Restaurant	Wausau, WI
Aug. 8-9	KC of Freeborn Cnty MN, Inc.	Albert Lea, MN	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug. 7-8	Cudahy Kennel Club	Racine, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug. 9-10	Greater Racine Kennel Club	Racine, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug.14	Wisconsin Rapids Kennel Club	Marshfield, WI	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug 15-16	Marshfield Area Kennel Club	Marshfield, WI	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug.13	Muncie Kennel Club, Inc.	Muncie, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug.14	Anderson Kennel Club	Muncie, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug.15	Muncie Kennel Club, Inc.	Muncie, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug.16	Anderson Kennel Club	Muncie, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug 15-16	Burlington KC, Inc.	W. Burlington, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
August 19	PCKC Meeting	Willow Springs G.	Wausau, WI
Aug.22-23	Elgin Kennel Club	St. Charles, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug.22-23	St. Croix Valley KC, Inc.	Lake Elmo, MN	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug. 28-30	Marquette Kennel Club	Marquette, MI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug. 29-30	Danville IL KC	Georgetown, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Aug. 29-30	Livonia Kennel Club	Belleville, MI	MB-F Inc.
Aug. 28	Tri City Kennel Club	Amana, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug. 29-30	Cedar Rapids K. Assoc., Inc.	Amana, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
Aug.28-30	Timber Ridge Agility Club	Amhurst Junction, WI	
Sept. 2	PCKC Board Meeting	Annies Restaurant	Wausau, WI
Sept. 5-6	Pontiac Kennel Club, Inc.	Davisburg, MI	MB-F Inc.
Sept. 5-6	Des Moines KC, Inc.	Des Moines, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
Sept. 5-6	Kenosha Kennel Club, Inc.	Wilmot, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Sept. 16	PCKC Meeting	Willow Springs G.	Wausau, WI

Interesting Web Sites

Info Dog Site: <http://www.infodog.com/default.htm>

American Kennel Club: <http://www.akc.org/index.cfm>

Merck Veterinary Manual: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp>

Natural Holistic Health Care: <http://www.naturalholistic.com/nhpc/index.html>

EARS - Emergency Animal Rescue Service: <http://www.uan.org/ears/>

The Dog Press News: <http://www.thedogplace.com/TheDogPress/dogpress.asp>

Therapy Dogs of Central Wisconsin: <http://www.wi-tdi-dogs.org/>

Amber Alert site for missing dogs: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K9AmberAlert/>

Family Sanctuary at Peaceful Pines: <http://www.pppmemorials.com/FamilySanctuary.aspx>

Site about responsible breeders: http://www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/resources.cfm

Lakeshore Pembroke Welsh Corgi Rescue: <http://www.lakeshorecorgirescue.com/castaways.html>

Dog Federation of Wisconsin: <http://www.dfow.org/newsletter.htm>

Dr. Patricia McConnell has a blog for training dogs: <http://www.theotherendoftheleash.com/>

Canine Vision: <http://www.uwsp.edu/PSYCH/dog/LA/DrP4.htm>

The Dog Place: http://www.thedogplace.org/Articles/Breeder/0901-Preferred-Type_Gammill.htm

The 33rd Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Proceedings Online:

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=WSAVA2008&O=Generic>

Speaking for Spot- how to be effective medical advocates for your dog: <http://www.speakingforspot.com/>

Planting a Safe garden: [How to Plant a Dog-Safe Garden](#)

Plants that are toxic to pets: [Spring and Summer Plant Toxicity - What You Should Know](#)

A laser treatment that DR. Mills is now offering: <http://www.companiontherapylaser.com/>

Researchers Discover Evolutionary Event Underlying the Origin of Dachshunds, Other Dogs With Short Legs

Surprising Findings May Yield Insights Into Human Developmental Disorders



Basset Hound (left) and Dachshund

Bethesda, Md., Thurs., July 16, 2009 — A single evolutionary event appears to explain the short, curved legs that characterize all of today's dachshunds, corgis, basset hounds and at least 16 other breeds of dogs, a team led by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the National Institutes of Health, reported today. In addition to what it reveals about short-legged dogs, the unexpected discovery provides new clues about how physical differences may arise within species and suggests new approaches to understanding a form of human dwarfism.

In a study published in the advance online edition of the journal *Science*, the researchers led by NHGRI's Elaine Ostrander, Ph.D., examined DNA samples from 835 dogs, including 95 with short legs. Their survey of more than 40,000 markers of DNA variation uncovered a genetic signature exclusive to short-legged breeds. Through follow-up DNA sequencing and computational analyses, the researchers determined the dogs' disproportionately short limbs can be traced to one mutational event in the canine genome - a DNA insertion - that occurred early in the evolution of domestic dogs.

"Every species, including canine and human, carries an amazing record of evolution scripted in its genome that can teach us about the mechanisms at work in biology, as well as about human health and disease," said NHGRI Scientific Director Eric Green, M.D., Ph.D. "This work provides surprising evidence of a new way in which genome evolution may serve to generate diversity within a species."

Specifically, the researchers found that in contrast to other dog breeds have an extra copy of the gene that codes for a growth-promoting protein called fibroblast growth factor 4 (FGF4). Although functional, the extra gene lacks certain parts of the DNA code, called introns, found in normal genes. These characteristics led researchers to conclude that the extra gene is a so-called retrogene that was inserted into the dog genome some time after the ancestor of modern dog breeds diverged from wolves.

To understand retrogenes, one first needs to understand how the cell normally makes proteins. To produce a protein, a gene's DNA code is transcribed into a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA). The mRNA then leaves the cell's nucleus and enters the outer region of the cell, called the cytoplasm. There the mRNA is read by tiny molecular machines, called ribosomes, which use the information to assemble proteins.

Retrogenes are formed when the mRNA encounters something - often a type of virus called a retrovirus - that turns it back into DNA through a process referred to as reverse transcription. This new piece of DNA, which contains the same protein-coding information as the gene that produced the mRNA, may then be inserted back into the genome, usually at a much different place than the original gene. Depending on where it is inserted, this piece of DNA may or may not be capable of producing proteins. If it is functional, it is called a retrogene.

In the case of short-legged dogs, the inserted retrogene results in the overproduction of the FGF4 protein, which researchers hypothesize may turn on key growth receptors at the wrong times during fetal development. Veterinary researchers already know that in certain dog breeds the development of long bones is curtailed due to calcification of growth plates, resulting in short legs with a curved appearance. The trait, called disproportional dwarfism, or chondrodysplasia, is an American Kennel Club standard for more than a dozen domestic dog breeds, including the dachshund, corgi, Pekingese and basset hound. This trait is distinct from the uniformly miniature size of toy breeds, such as the toy poodle.

"Our findings suggest that retrogenes may play a larger role in evolution than has been previously thought, especially as a source of diversity within species," said the study's first author, Heidi G. Parker, Ph.D. of NHGRI. "We were surprised to find that just one retrogene inserted at one point during the evolution of a species could yield such a dramatic physical trait that has been conserved over time."

In the past, retrogenes have been recognized as an important source of changes that have fueled the divergence of species. However, the dog findings are the first example of a retrogene that has spurred significant and long-lasting variation within a single species.

The findings also may have implications for understanding human biology and disease. Researchers note that some people are affected by a similar appearing growth disorder, called hypochondroplasia, which belongs to a group of conditions commonly referred to as dwarfism. While about two-thirds of cases of human hypochondroplasia have been linked to a different gene, the cause of the other one-third remains a mystery.

"This study points to a new gene that should be investigated for its possible role in human hypochondroplasia," said Dr. Ostrander, the study's senior author and a senior investigator in NHGRI's Division of Intramural Research. "Our findings may prove valuable to scientists studying other aspects of human growth and development. The work also underscores the value of canine studies for uncovering new biological mechanisms that are likely relevant to human disease."

In addition to Ostrander and her colleagues at NHGRI, the team included researchers from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.; the University of California, Los Angeles; Oregon Health and Science University, Portland; the Waltham Center for Pet Nutrition in Leicestershire, England; and Affymetrix Corporation, Santa Clara, Calif.

This latest work utilized and built upon data generated by the NHGRI-supported sequencing and analysis of the dog genome. Researchers can access the dog sequence data through the following public databases: Dog Genome Resources (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/guide/dog) at NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI); EMBL Bank (www.ebi.ac.uk/index.html) at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's Nucleotide Sequence Database; UCSC Genome Browser (www.genome.ucsc.edu) at the University of California at Santa Cruz; and at the Broad Institute Dog Genome Sequencing Project Web site (www.broad.mit.edu/mammals/dog). Other data may be viewed at dbSNP (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP) at NCBI and at the Broad Institute Dog Genome Sequencing Project Web site (www.broad.mit.edu/mammals/dog).

For an image of a dachshund, go to www.genome.gov/pressDisplay.cfm?photoID=20173; for an image of a basset hound, go to www.genome.gov/pressDisplay.cfm?photoID=20172.

NHGRI is one of the 27 institutes and centers at the NIH, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The NHGRI Division of Intramural

Research develops and implements technology to understand, diagnose and treat genomic and genetic diseases. Additional information about NHGRI can be found at its Web site, www.genome.gov.

The National Institutes of Health - "The Nation's Medical Research Agency" - includes 27 institutes and centers, and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more, visit www.nih.gov.

Contact

Raymond MacDougall
301-402-0911

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Courtesy: National Human Genome Research Institute.



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 3, 2009 **Contact:** AKC Communications **Phone:** 212-696-8343 **Email:** communications@akc.org

AKC AWARDS \$141,000 IN VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

-- Scholarships Awarded With Support from Royal Canin, American Veterinary Medical Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and AKC Canine Health Foundation --

New York, NY – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) announced today it has awarded scholarships to 25 students from 19 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

Sponsors are broken down as follows:

Royal Canin - Chairman's Award, President's Award, and the Dr. Asa Mays Award - \$10,000 each

AKC Companion Animal Recovery – Twenty (20) \$5,000 scholarships

American Veterinary Medical Foundation – AVMF Award - \$6,000

AKC Canine Health Foundation - Robert L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship - \$5,000

“We are thrilled to be able to present these scholarships for the upcoming school year, and thank our partners for their generous support,” said Debra Bonnefond, Director of Veterinary Outreach. “We wish these students the best of luck as they continue on the path to becoming some of the best veterinarians in the nation.”

The AKC Scholarship Program for Veterinary Medicine has existed for 18 years, and the awards are given annually. Each AVMA accredited U.S. veterinary school is asked to nominate four scholarship candidates. From these students, the recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, activities with purebred dogs or related research, and need.

“Royal Canin is dedicated to the health and well-being of dogs, so we are proud to join the American Kennel Club's Veterinary Outreach program in honoring the people who will be charged with the care of our pets in the near future,” said Dr. Denise Elliott, Director of Scientific Affairs for Royal Canin. “We throw our whole-hearted support behind students who are dedicating their lives to veterinary medicine and wish them the best of luck.”

“As the largest national veterinarian-directed animal charity, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation is designed to benefit veterinary medicine and promote animal health and welfare. We are pleased to offer the AVMF Award for the first time this year, to a student dedicated to advancing canine medicine,” said Mike Cathey, Executive Director of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. “We believe that an important part of our mission is to foster the next generation of veterinary professionals, and help them make valuable contributions to animal health and medicine.”

“Named after our longtime director and founder, we are proud to award the third annual Robert L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship to an exceptional veterinary student,” said Erika Werne, Director of Education, Communications & Club Relations. “This scholarship is unique in that it supports students pursuing dual degrees in veterinary medicine and research, something we are proud to encourage because of the direct effect it has on our own organization.”

“AKC Companion Animal Recovery works closely with veterinarians across the country to identify pets with microchips to ensure that lost pets will be reunited with their owners,” said Tom Sharp, Vice President and CEO of AKC CAR. “We are happy to give back to the community by awarding scholarships to the next generation of vets that will play an integral part in responsible pet ownership.”

The 2009 Veterinary Scholarship Recipients are:

Dr. Asa Mays Award (\$10,000.00) - Sponsored by Royal Canin:

Cynthia Willson 2011 - North Carolina State University

Chairman's Award (\$10,000.00) - Sponsored by Royal Canin:

Kimberly Hitt 2012 - Mississippi State University

President's Award (\$10,000.00) - Sponsored by Royal Canin:

Joseph Esch 2012 – The Ohio State University

AVMF AWARD (\$6,000.00) – Sponsored by AKC and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation:

Amanda Taylor 2010 - Texas A & M University

Robert L. Kelly Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000.00) - Sponsored by AKC Canine Health Foundation:

Jill Schappa 2011 - University of Minnesota

AKC/CAR Award (\$5,000.00) – Sponsored by AKC Companion Animal Recovery

Sarah Vitosh 2012 - Iowa State University
Christopher Potanas 2010 - Kansas State University
Jenna Giangarra 2012 - Kansas State University
Chad Malinak 2012 - Louisiana State University
Heather Grodi 2012 - Michigan State University
Karen Potter 2010 - Michigan State University
Adam King 2011 - North Carolina State
Alicia Davis McLaughlin 2011 - Oklahoma State University
Kari Gorman 2010 - Oregon State University
Kevin Simmons 2010 - Tuskegee University

Theresa Keating 2011 - University of California, Davis
Jenny Glei 2010 - University of Florida
Carole Amos 2010 - University of Georgia
Amelia DiMiceli 2010 - University of Minnesota
Dana Mosher 2012 - University of Pennsylvania
Julia Shih 2010 - University of Pennsylvania
Doris Ranivand 2013 - VA/MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Amanda Oedekoven 2010 - Washington State University
Christina Ramirez 2010 - Washington State University
Michael Gerber 2010 - Western University

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The American Kennel Club (AKC), proudly celebrates its 125th Anniversary in 2009. Since 1884 the not-for-profit organization has maintained the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world, and today its rules govern more than 20,000 canine competitions each year. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 17, 2009 **Contact:** AKC Communications **Phone:** 212-696-8343 **Email:** communications@akc.org

AKC FORMS CANINE HEALTH & WELFARE ADVISORY PANEL

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club® is pleased to announce the formation of the AKC Canine Health & Welfare Advisory Panel, extending and enhancing AKC's longstanding focus on the health and welfare of dogs. The panel's goal will be to provide factual and impartial information by creating a forum for proactive discourse based on scientific and ethical concerns. The AKC hopes to strengthen opportunities for the public to admire, love and own purebred dogs and to foster greater public education about health concerns relevant to all dogs.

Members of the Panel are:

Sandra Barker, PhD, NCC, LPC, Director of the Center for Human-Animal Interaction, Virginia Commonwealth University

Jerold Bell, DVM, Clinical Associate Professor of Genetics, Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Edmund Dziuk, COO, Orthopedic Foundation For Animals, Columbia, MO

John Hamil, DVM, Canyon Animal Hospital, Laguna Beach, CA

Joan Hendricks, VMD, PhD, The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Linda Lord, DVM, MS, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Ohio State University

Colleen O'Keefe, DVM, MS, Division Manager, Food Safety & Animal Protection, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Patricia Olson, DVM, PhD, President & CEO, Morris Animal Foundation

Elaine Ostrander, PhD, Chief & Senior Investigator, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health (*Pending*)

Frances Smith, DVM, PhD, Chair and President, Board of Directors, Orthopedic Foundation For Animals, Columbia, MO; Smith Veterinary Hospital, Inc., Burnsville, MN

Also joining the panel will be AKC Board Members Patricia H. Haines, DVM, and Alan Kalter. AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung will participate as an *ex officio* member.

“This impressive group offers a wide range of credentials and knowledge that will be a tremendous resource regarding information on canine health issues that affect all dogs,” said Ron Menaker, AKC Chairman. “Americans are more passionate about pets than ever before. The combined expertise and collective dedication to animal welfare that this panel represents will engage the public on the topic of responsible dog breeding and provide balanced information from impartial sources.”

For more information about canine health visit www.akcdoghealth.com.

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 7, 2009 **Contact:** AKC Communications **Phone:** 212-696-8343 **Email:** communications@akc.org **Twitter:** [@akcdoglovers](https://twitter.com/akcdoglovers)

DOGS AND CATS COME TOGETHER IN CYBERSPACE AT MEETTHEBREEDS.COM

Meet 200 Cat and Dog Breeds, Play Interactive Games,

Declare Your Allegiance to Cats or Dogs, Download Virtual Bumper Stickers and Buy Tickets for the Event @ www.meetthebreeds.com

New York, NY – Attention all dog and cat lovers, the American Kennel Club® (AKC) and the Cat Fanciers' Association® (CFA) – invite you to log on to www.meetthebreeds.com to learn more about dogs and cats.

The site is a comprehensive one-stop-shop for all things dog and cat, and is inspired by the upcoming Meet the Breeds™ event, the world's largest showcase of cats and dogs. Sponsored by PetPartners, Inc. a leading pet healthcare provider, Meet the Breeds will be held October 17 & 18, 2009 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City.

In addition to event information, a special advance ticket offer (\$10 for adults and \$6 for children) and a list of vendors who will be selling unique dog and cat products, the site features the following entertaining features designed to educate pet lovers across the country:

- **Meet the Dog and Cat Breeds** – Get to know the 160 dog breeds and 41 cat breeds.
- **Play the Meet the Breeds Game from ZooToo** – Test your breed knowledge and compete for the top score. Each round asks you to choose the correct dog breed from three choices. The faster your response, the more points you earn.
- **Declare your Pet Preference!** – Are you a doggy devotee or a feline follower? Weigh in on this centuries-old debate by taking our definitive one-question survey and tell us why dogs or cats are your preferred pet.
- **Download Virtual Stickers for your Social Media Pages** – Share your love for Labs or Curlys and 159 other dog breeds and 39 other cat breeds with all your online friends. Choose your favorite breed and download a virtual sticker to your Facebook or MySpace page, Web site or blog.
- **Visit the Official Meet the Breeds Blog from AOL's Paw Nation** – Follow the latest news, learn about who will be attending and get in on all the behind-the-scenes action at the Meet the Breeds event.
- **Meet the Breeders** – Get to know some of the cat and dog breeders who will be available to answer your questions at Meet the Breeds and learn how to identify a responsible breeder.

"The Meet the Breeds Web site is such a great way for people to learn more about the cats and dogs that share our lives," said CFA President Pam DelaBar. "We are proud to work with the AKC to bring cat- and dog-related information together in one place -- both online and at this great event."

"If you're crazy for cats or passionate about pooches you cannot miss Meet the Breeds both online or in person," said AKC spokesperson Gina DiNardo. "Both meetthebreeds.com and the event itself present an entertaining way for friends and families to enjoy quality time together while learning how to become responsible pet owners."

From the Afghan Hound to the Turkish Angora, the Meet the Breeds event will showcase 160 AKC registered dog breeds and 41 CFA registered cat breeds in booths individually decorated to depict each breed's country of origin, historical purpose/function, and attributes as a family pet. The family-friendly event is an opportunity for potential pet owners to interact with responsible breeders and play with dogs and cats while educating themselves about responsible pet ownership and choosing the right pet for their lifestyle.

The event will also feature dozens of vendors selling the most unique products for pets and their owners and will also include continuous demonstrations throughout the weekend. Attendees can watch dogs show off their Rally, Flyball, Frisbee and Earthdog skills and see dogs *and cats (yes, cats!)* race against the clock in the fast-paced sport of Agility.

Event hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday, October 17, and Sunday, October 18. Tickets allow admittance for one day and can be purchased at www.meetthebreeds.com.

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About Meet the Breeds -- With 160 dog breeds and 41 cat breeds, plus demonstrations, shopping and children's activities, no pet lover will want to miss Meet the Breeds. Each breed will be presented in its own designated space, decorated to reflect its heritage, characteristics and unique attributes as a pet, while allowing attendees to literally "Meet the Breeds" by petting dogs, cats, puppies and kittens and learning about them directly from the experts. The event is proudly presented by [PetPartners, Inc.](http://PetPartners, Inc) a leading pet healthcare provider, and will feature over 115,000 square feet of dog and cat festivities. Sponsors include Invisible Fence® Brand, ADT Security Services, JAKKS Pets™, Iams, WebVet, YourDogsHeart.com, Paramount Chemical Specialties Inc., GoPetFriendly.com, and Hartz. Get your tickets now at www.meetthebreeds.com.

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The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) was founded in 1906 as a non-profit association of member clubs and is the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats. CFA's mission is to preserve and promote the pedigreed breeds of cats and to enhance the well-being of ALL cats. CFA promotes education, responsible cat ownership and proper care to the owners of millions of cats worldwide. CFA and its affiliate clubs work nationally with local shelters, at a grassroots level, to help humanely reduce homeless and feral cat populations, and to encourage voluntary neuter/spay of pet cats. To learn more about the Cat Fanciers' Association, the pedigreed breeds of cats, or to find the nearest CFA cat show, visit their web site at www.cfa.org

If I Didn't Have a Dog or a Cat

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.
My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be Free of hair.
When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without
Wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there.

I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted,
Without taking into consideration how much space
Several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

I would have money and no guilt to go on a real vacation.

I would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians,
As I put their yet unborn grand kids through college.

The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out,
Sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave him/her/it ALONE.

My house would not be cordoned off into zones with Baby gates or barriers.
I would not talk 'baby talk'. 'Eat your din din'.
'Yummy yummy for the tummy'..

My house would not look like a day care center, toys everywhere.

My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, Treats and an extra leash.

I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L,
F-R-I-S-B-E- E, W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, B-I-K-E, G-O, R-I-D-E

I would not have as many leaves (or pine needles) INSIDE my house as outside.

I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE Dog/cat ties them down too much.

I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season instead Of dreading 'mud' season.

I would not have to answer the question 'Why do you have So many animals?'
from people who will never have the joyIn their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by
Someone as close to an angel as they will ever get.

How EMPTY my life would be!!!