

Papers Capers

Paper Cities Kennel Club January 2010

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

President: John Crotteau 845-4111 (jcrotteau@charter.net)

Vice President: Marv Strassburger 842-1098 (Karavin@verizon.net)

Recording Secretary: Sue Wiesneske 359-6917 (baronsworld@charter.net)

Corresponding Secretary: Sue Webber 355-0706 (swebber@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Barb Powers 842-7400 (barb.powers@associatedbank.com)

Board Members:

Phyllis Christensen (2011) 842-5361 (pkchrist@verizon.net)

Merion Markstrum (2010) 359-2436 (merionm@dwave.net)

Bev Meier (2010) 257-9096 (hondatrike06@gmail.com)

Dolores Slizewski (2010) 536-7518 (dixdlor@wildblue.net)

Bobbie Stoltz (2011) 446-3818 (CrookedOakDobes@aol.com)

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.

Editor

Merion Markstrum
(715) 359-2436
merionm@dwave.net
Schofield, WI
(Call for address)

Advertising Rates

Members:
Full Page - \$10.00
Half Page - \$5.00
Commercial & Non-Members:
Full Page - \$20.00
Half Page - \$10.00

Subscriptions

Papers Capers subscriptions are available to non-members at the rate of \$7.50 per year. Please send subscriptions to the editor.

Paper Cities Kennel Club

Meeting Notices

The Paper Cities Kennel Club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 20th at 7:30 pm at Willow Springs Gardens off of Hwy. K in Wausau.
The Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 3rd 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 AWARDS DINNER
JANUARY 30TH, 2010 @ TONY ROMAS
Cocktails @ 6:30pm, Order @ 7pm

We will be ordering off the menu . You can see their menu at their website online.

<http://www.tonyromas.com/files/home.asp>

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP 1/23/10

contact Vickie , thorndale@dwave.net or 715-536-8959

We will have our own room , and you do not have to pay in advance .

DOG CLASS DATES & PRICING

Here are the dates for the dog classes in 2010

There are 8 sessions including the handling clinic .

Cost for members for classes only is 35.00 , non members 60.00

per single class is 8.00 for members, 10.00 non-members.

This is for 7 working classes , both confo & obed and is a per person fee. That same person can work as many dogs as they choose, and/or work both confo & obed.

Dates for class :

2/13 & 2/27 - ship 2/20 Mall Demo date.

3/13 , 3/20 & 3/27 - skip 3/6 Milwaukee shows

4/3 & 4/10 .

Show season begins after this so no classes . We can do free summer sessions at Thorndale if folks are interested again.

Any???? Contact Vickie , thorndale@dwave.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE !!

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	WHO(contact)
Jan. 6	<i>PCKC Board Meeting</i>	<i>Annies Restaurant</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Jan. 9-10	Land O' Lakes KC, Inc.	St. Paul, MN	Onofrio Dog Shows
Jan. 20	<i>PCKC Meeting</i>	<i>Willow Springs</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Jan. 22	Winnegamie Dog Club, Inc	Oshkosh, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Jan. 23	Oshkosh Kennel Club, Inc	Oshkosh, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Jan. 23-24	Central Iowa Kennel Club, Inc	Des Moines, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
Jan. 30	<i>Awards Dinner</i>	<i>Tony Romas</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Jan. 30	Park Shore Kennel Club, Inc.	Grayslake, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Jan. 31	Chain O'lakes Kennel Club	Grayslake, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Feb. 3	<i>PCKC Board Meeting</i>	<i>Annies Restaurant</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Feb. 6-7	Timber Rdg.Obed. Cof C.WI	Amhurst Junction, WI	rally & obedience
Feb. 11 & 13	Central IN Kennel Club, Inc.	Indianapolis, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Feb. 12 & 14	Hoosier Kennel Club	Indianapolis, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Feb. 17	<i>PCKC Meeting</i>	<i>Willow Springs</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Feb. 19-21	Marshfield Area Kennel Club	Amhurst Junction, WI	Agility
Feb. 20	<i>PCKC Mall Demo</i>	<i>Wausau Mall</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
Feb. 20-21	Cyclone Country Kennel Club of Ames	Des Moines IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
Feb. 25	Park Shore Kennel Club, Inc.	Chicago, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
Feb.26	Blackhawk KC, Inc.	Chicago, IL	Onofrio Dog Shows
Feb. 27-28	International KC of Chicago	Chicago, IL	Onofrio Dog Shows
March 6-7	Wis. Kennel Club, Inc.	Milwaukee, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
March 14	<i>PCKC Match</i>	<i>Armory</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>

****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>

Article on Bloat: <http://www.briard.com/about/liebesbloat.html>

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>

JANUARY 30TH, 2010 @ TONY ROMAS

Cocktails @ 6:30pm, Order @ 7pm

We will be ordering off the menu. You can see their menu at their website online.

<http://www.tonyromas.com/files/home.asp>

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP 1/23/10

contact Vickie, thorndale@dwave.net or 715-536-8959

We will have our own room, and you do not have to pay in advance.

INDUSTRY ALERT from IDEXX Reference Laboratories: H1N1 influenza virus infection confirmed in household pets

A dog from the Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center in Bedford Hills, New York, has tested positive for the H1N1 virus on the IDEXX H1N1 Influenza Virus RealPCR™ Test.

A 13-year-old dog had a several-day history of not feeling or eating well, a dry cough and a fever on presentation to its veterinarian. The dog was treated for pneumonia and improved with hospitalization and supportive care. The dog tested positive on the IDEXX H1N1 Influenza Virus RealPCR Test. [A more detailed case description is available.](#)

Background

In the United States, the H1N1 influenza virus has been confirmed recently as the cause of respiratory disease in several ferrets and cats resulting in more than one death in each of these species. These infections were believed to have been contracted from infected owners. There was an unconfirmed report of dogs infected in China in late November. The case described here is what is believed to be the first reported case of a dog infected with the H1N1 influenza virus in the United States. The dog's owner had also recently tested positive for H1N1 influenza virus. The Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has confirmed independently that the influenza strain is the new pandemic strain circulating in the human population and not a swine-specific H1N1 strain.

Teva Animal Health, Inc. expands a voluntary nationwide recall of Ketamine Hydrochloride Injection, USP CIII 100mg/mL in 10mL vials

Contact: Denise Bradley Tel: 215-591-8974

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- December 21, 2009 - Teva Animal Health, Inc. is expanding a nationwide voluntary recall of Ketamine Hydrochloride Injection, USP CIII 100mg/mL in 10mL vials for all lot numbers within their expiration dates to the Veterinary Level. This product had previously been recalled to the distributor level and is being expanded as a result of an increased trend in serious adverse events associated with this product.

Veterinarians who have this product in their possession are instructed to cease using the product immediately and return it to their distributor. Ketamine Hydrochloride is a rapid acting, non-narcotic, non-barbiturate agent for anesthetic use in cats and for restraint in subhuman primates. This recall is being conducted as a result of an increased trend in serious adverse events associated with this product, including lack of effect, prolonged effect, and death and involves all lot numbers within expiration.

Teva Animal Health, Inc is voluntarily recalling the aforementioned product. The FDA has been apprised of this action. Consumers with questions may contact 800-759-3664 from 8:00am – 5:00pm CST Monday-Friday.

If Dogs Could Talk: A Dog's Top Ten New Year's Resolution List

New Year's Eve traditionally is a time to reflect on our past, and more importantly, look forward to the changes we want to make in the coming year. In addition to your own New Year's resolutions, your dog might have a few of his own.

The American Kennel Club® (AKC), the dog's champion, reflects on some resolutions your dog might be thinking about for 2010.

Top 10 Resolutions by Dogs include:

10. Owner on floor, dog in bed.
9. Stop begging and actually get a seat at the dinner table.
8. Give up the dream of ever catching my tail.
7. Bark like a big dog but still get cuddled on lap like a little dog.
6. Get back at cat for litter box incident.
5. Find every bone I ever buried.
4. No more haircuts! (come fall, I can go as a Komondor for Halloween).
3. Become alpha dog in my house. Well, at least stop letting the cat push me around.
2. Invent goggles that allow me to see the electric fence.
1. Finally pass that darn AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

Additional information on responsible dog ownership can be found on the American Kennel Club Web site at www.akc.org.

American Kennel Club Cautions Owners as Pet Thefts Continue to Rise; State Lawmakers Consider Making 'Dog-Napping' a Serious Crime

– AKC Appearance on ABC's Good Morning America Highlights Prevalence of Trend and Reminds Owners to Keep Pets Safe –

The American Kennel Club® continues to remind pet owners to heed warnings about an alarming rise in "dog-nappings." State houses across America have taken notice and are proposing laws to toughen penalties for those who steal pets.

Since last year, when AKC® first noted concerns about the prevalence of pet theft, more dogs are disappearing. Through November 30, 2009, the AKC has tracked more than 115 missing pets via incidents reported by news media and customer reports. In 2008, the AKC tracked a total of 71 thefts.

The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which tracks stolen property nationwide, currently lists 200 stolen dogs, according to Steve Fischer, FBI Spokesperson. According to Fischer, "Dogs listed in our database must have permanent owner-applied serial numbers, such as those from embedded microchips. Unfortunately not all dogs have permanent ID, so we know this is only a fraction of the number of missing dogs."

"Each week I am reading about reports of pet theft from all around the country," said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Some owners, desperate to find their beloved pets have contacted us, wanting to know what they can do to help get their 'family' members back. It's not just about the financial value of the dog for any of these people. It's an emotional attachment that can't be replaced by getting another dog."

Julie Austin of Idaho told Local News 8 that she was shocked when her 11-week-old puppy was stolen right out of the arms of her 5-year-old daughter while she was sitting in a public park. The Austins filed a stolen pet report with the local police. Fortunately, after they alerted the media and the police received a tip about their pet's whereabouts their puppy was recovered living at someone else's home. The alleged thief was recently charged with a misdemeanor possession of stolen property.

As a majority of owners view their dogs as valued family members, the value of pets in people's lives are being recognized by legislators across America. Recently in New York, following the disappearance of a Siberian Husky in his Brooklyn district, New York Assemblyman Joseph Lentol vowed to introduce dog-napping legislation, which would make the theft of a companion animal a felony offense with up to four years in jail depending on the circumstances.

Earlier this year, a bill was introduced in Texas, which would have made it a state felony to steal a pet, including the family dog, with a possible two years in prison if convicted. California and Delaware have tried to regulate roadside pet sales as a way to combat the trafficking of stolen pets to unsuspecting consumers.

Regardless of the reason thieves are taking pets, whether to sell to unsuspecting local buyers or over the Internet or keeping them for personal use, these criminals need to know that pet owners are becoming more proactive by keeping pets close to them and also microchipping their pets ahead of time so that when these dogs turn up at shelters or veterinarian offices they can be scanned to find their rightful owners.

In response to this continuing trend, AKC offers the following advice to prevent your "best friend" from being the target of a crime. See more about pet theft on the [Good Morning America](#) Web site.

PREVENTION

In the Neighborhood

Don't let your dog off-leash – Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves.

Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard – Dogs left outdoors for long periods of time are targets, especially if your fenced-in yard is visible from the street.

Be Cautious with information – If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

On the Road

Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked – Besides the obvious health risks this poses to the dog, it's also an invitation for thieves, even if you are gone for only a moment. Leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only encourage break-ins and possibly allow the dog to escape, even if the thieves don't decide to steal it too.

Don't tie your dog outside a store – This popular practice among city-dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.

RECOVERY

Protect your dog with microchip identification – Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a [microchip](#). Thieves will not know the dog has a microchip until a veterinarian or shelter worker scans it so keep contact information current with your microchip recovery service provider. For more information, enroll your pet in a 24-hour recovery service and sign-up at [www.akccar.org](#).

If you suspect your dog has been stolen – Immediately call the police / animal control officer in the area your pet was last seen and file a police report. If your dog has a microchip, ask to have that unique serial number, along with the dog's description, posted in the "stolen article" category on the National Crime Information Center.

Canvass the neighborhood – Talk to people in the immediate vicinity where your pet went missing for possible sightings of the actual theft.

Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing – Keep several current photos (profile and headshot) of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.

Contact the media – Call the local TV station, radio station and newspaper and ask to have a web post put out about your missing pet.

DON'T BUY STOLEN PETS

Don't buy dogs from the internet, flea markets, or roadside vans – There is simply no way to verify where an animal purchased from any of these outlets came from. Web sites and online classifieds are easily [falsified](#), and with roadside or flea market purchases not only do you not know the pet's origins but you will never be able to find or identify the seller in case of a problem.

Even newspaper ads may be suspect – Adult dogs offered for sale at reduced prices, for a "relocation" fee, or accompanied by requests for last minute shipping fees are red flags. Dog owners who truly love their animals and are unable to keep them will opt to find a loving home without compensation for re-homing the animal.

Seek out reputable breeders or rescue groups – Visit the home of the breeder, meet the puppy's mother, and see the litter of puppies.

Developing a good relationship with the breeder will bring you peace of mind when purchasing. Contacting breed rescue [groups](#) can also be a safe alternative if you are looking for an adult dog.

Demand proper papers on your purebred puppy – Ask for the AKC Litter Registration Number and contact AKC customer service at 919-233-9767 to verify registration authenticity of your purebred puppy.

Helpful Tips

Put Fido on a Diet: Nutrition and Feeding Tips for Dog Owners

A good diet with the right amounts of essential nutrients – including proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals – and water – will keep your dog looking and feeling his best. The American Kennel Club® (AKC) recommends your canine have all these in correct proportions to stay healthy.

With so many dog foods on the market, it's tough to know what's right for your pooch. You can ask a breeder or veterinarian for advice, but it's up to you to see how the food affects your dog. If his energy level is right for his breed and age, if his appetite is good, if his skin and coat are healthy and shiny, if his stools are firm, and if he seems to be in overall good health, then the food is doing its job. The AKC offers the following nutritional tips to keep your dog happy and healthy.

Types of Foods. Dry kibble can be removed and used later if the dog does not finish a serving. Kibble can be moistened, either with water, canned food, or other supplements. Although unnecessary, such supplementation may make the food more palatable to your dog. Some owners think dry dog food is boring and the dog will not like eating it. Keep in mind that for a dog, dry food provides a healthy, balanced diet.

Feeding Time. Puppies need more calories and essential nutrients than adult dogs. Choose a food formulated specifically for puppies. Dogs under six months should get three or four meals a day. They are growing rapidly, but their stomachs have limited capacity. After six months they can handle two to three meals a day. Adult dogs should be fed according to their size and energy needs. Most adults should get two meals a day.

Don't Share Your Plate. Dogs can be great beggars, but don't let yours charm you into the habit of sharing your food. Canine nutritional needs are different from humans. Allowing your dog to "guilt" you into overfeeding him, or serving him a steady diet of table scraps in a misguided show of affection, can have harmful or even fatal results. If you insist on sharing your food with your dog then consider small portions of carrot, broccoli, or apple chunks. These are all healthy low-calorie treats most dogs love.

What Not to Feed. Never give your dog chocolate. It contains theobromine, a chemical that is toxic to canines. Also be careful not to feed your dogs cooked bones, which can splinter or bones that have sharp edges. Large, hard bones such as knuckle and marrow bones are good choices, but parboil them to destroy harmful parasites, and take them away from your dog if he starts to actually eat the bone rather than just chew on it. Additional tips on how to keep your dog healthy can be found on the AKC Website at www.akc.org.

© The American Kennel Club, Inc.

New Pet Policy at Motel 6 and Studio 6!

You may have already heard about the 10% discount that all AKC registrants can take advantage of when staying at Motel 6 and Studio 6 locations nationwide. But have you heard about their new pet policy?

Motel 6 is pleased to announce the following changes:

The one pet per room policy has been lifted

There is no longer a weight limit on pets

And Motel 6 does not assess a Pet Fee

(*Studio 6 has a pet fee of \$10.00/day up to \$50.00/stay)

To take advantage of the 10% discount, AKC registrants can log on to motel6.com and enter access code CP542764 for Motel 6 or visit staystudio6.com and enter the access code CP542765 for Studio 6 reservations.

Motel 6 and Studio 6 hotels have been pet friendly since 1962 and offer the lowest price of any national chain without sacrificing comfort at more than 1,000 locations in the U.S. and Canada. Standard amenities include free local phone calls, no long distance access charges, free morning coffee, data ports, Wi-Fi Internet access and a channel line-up including HBO, ESPN/ESPN2, and CNN. All Motel 6 and Studio 6 properties welcome pets, and most locations offer swimming pools and guest laundry facilities.

AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Winners

The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, held last weekend in Long Beach, California, featured nearly 5,000 dogs vying for the title of "top dog" and more than \$225,000 in prize money. Top honors were awarded in several categories, including:

Best in Show – CH Roundtown Mercedes Of Maryscot (Scottish Terrier), owned by Amelia Musser

Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show – CH Rush Hill's River Road Payoff (Golden Retriever), owned by Mark & Tonya Struble & Kelsey Dunn; bred by Suzanne Rapier, Michael Rapier, & Tonya Struble

Eukanuba World Challenge Winner – Multi BIS & Multi Ch Axel del Monte Alago (Bracco Italiano), owned by Salvatore Tripoli & Bitte Ahrens

Best Junior Handler – Demery Paladichuk, showing an English Springer Spaniel.

Agility & Obedience Winners

Five dogs and their owners - one dog/handler team in each height category - were crowned at the **AKC Agility Invitational**, which brought together nearly 450 dogs from across the country and beyond. The winners are:

8" – **MACH5 Hawk Hill's Tobi Bear MXF** (Pembroke Welsh Corgi) & Darlene Paul

12" – **MACH3 Dobcar's Cavaletti XF** (Cardigan Welsh Corgi) & Michelle Permann

16" – **NAC MACH2 Luka De La Brise XF** (Pyrenean Shepherd) & Ashley Deacon

20" – **MACH3 Bluefire What Was I Thinkin' XF** (Border Collie) & Lisa Carol Ross

24" – **MACH4 Thornwoods Flare MXF** (Doberman Pinscher) & Yvonne Mancino

Nearly 100 of the nation's top Obedience Trial Champion pointed dogs in the country competed for the coveted title of **AKC National Obedience Invitational Champion**. For the second year in a row, the title was won by **NOC OTCH Count Tyler Show Me the Money UDX4**, a Labrador Retriever owned by Petra Ford.

Keeping dogs at home

Owner ignorance populates shelters with abandoned dogs and cats

Norma Bennett Woolf

Introduction

Several years ago, the Humane Society of the US initiated a “voluntary breeding moratorium” to urge dog breeders to stop producing puppies until all dogs in shelters were adopted to new homes.

“Until there are none, adopt one,” the slogan said.

Thoughtful and caring dog breeders were put on the defensive, pet stores were vilified, and all commercial kennels were lumped together as “puppy mills” no matter how they provided for their animals.

A new study that examined the reasons dogs — about two million each year — are surrendered to animal shelters has shed new light on the problem. The main reasons dogs are surrendered is that owners fail to obedience train or have unrealistic expectations of their pet; the dogs at highest risk of surrender are those acquired at low or no cost, especially those that do not visit a veterinarian regularly.

Gary Patronek VMD, PhD, one of the principle investigators on the study, presented the results at the NAIA Purebred Rescue Symposium last March. The work was published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association on August 1, and is corroborated in another study reported in the August 15 issue of the Journal.

Patronek and his Purdue University colleagues concluded that dog owners who pay more than \$100 for a dog, take him to a veterinarian more than once a year, and participate in obedience classes are more likely to provide a long-term home for the animal.

Veterinary care and obedience classes may reinforce the bonding of pet and owner, the researchers wrote “. . . by allowing the owner to experience and appreciate the positive aspects of pet ownership such as companionship, affection, entertainment, and security without overreacting to or being distracted by disruptive or unwanted behavior.”

Their conclusions challenge the assertions of activists that breeders directly and indirectly produce an “overpopulation” of pets and provide testimony for early intervention through education, a solution that breeders, breed clubs, kennel clubs, and the American Kennel Club have promoted for years.

The numbers

The research was done at the Humane Society of St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Indiana. The team compiled separate information for dogs and cats; they interviewed 380 people who surrendered their dogs for adoption and 905 owners who kept their animals. The control group was chosen from a random sample of dog-owning St. Joseph County residents.

Fifty-four percent of the dogs surrendered were six months to three years old and 15 percent were less than six months old. (The study included only acquired dogs, not surrendered litters.)

Fifty-one percent of dogs surrendered had been purchased for less than \$100 from a breeder or private owner. Nearly nine percent from these private sources cost more than \$100; 2.5 percent came from pet stores; and 3.9 percent from litters produced in the home.

Nearly 20 percent of the surrendered dogs came from a shelter, and about the same number were acquired as strays.

Nearly 41 percent of the surrendered dogs were obtained free from the previous owner.

Behavior problems occurring daily that contributed to surrender were:

barking, 41 percent

chewing, 24 percent

hyperactivity, 45 percent

housetraining accidents, 21 percent

aggression to other pets, less than eight percent

aggression to people, less than nine percent.

Conclusions

Purebred pets are at lower risk of surrender to shelters than mixed breeds, and dogs purchased for more than \$100 have the lowest risk factors of all.

Dogs less than two years old are at highest risk for abandonment, especially if they are mixed breed, unneutered, live in a family with children, or require more care or attention than the owners expected when they obtained the animal.

Dogs acquired between the ages of one and two years are at higher risk for abandonment than puppies, perhaps because they came to their new owners with established behavior problems.

Dogs that are adopted from a shelter are at relatively high risk of return, leading to the idea that behavior-counseling programs at shelters should be evaluated to determine their effectiveness.

Dogs that spend most of their time separated from the family, either in crates or in the yard, are at greater risk. This discovery should warn obedience instructors, shelter staffs, and veterinarians who recommend the use of a crate that they must provide clear information on its proper use.

Dogs that visit the veterinarian more than once a year and those that attend obedience classes — the best places to get educational information on behavior — are more likely to remain in their original homes.

Curiously, the discovery that increased veterinary visits can influence a dog's longevity in the home comes at a time when the trend is toward fewer visits, not more. Early rabies and parvovirus vaccination and sterilization can wrap up a puppy's regular visits by the age of four months — before owners get tired of chewing, barking, and other normal but exasperating behaviors.

“Such practices will compress preventive veterinary care for puppies into a shorter period and fewer visits, as has been reported in the United Kingdom, thus decreasing opportunities for client counseling by veterinarians during the period of greatest risk for relinquishment,” the researchers concluded. “Although these results should not discourage prepubertal sterilization of dogs, they highlight the importance of maintaining and perhaps increasing the frequency of contact with clients during the dog's juvenile and early adult years.”