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Annie's Antics

by Annie Parker

Wow – the summer is flying by! So – the “experts say” that dogs take in their world primarily using their sense of smell (then hearing,

then sight). I must agree that I have a very good sniffer, and can pretty much uncover the most disgusting thing that may be buried or placed in our yard somewhere. Certain dogs, like Golden Retrievers (of course) can even smell for diseases and can hunt for lost people.

Being the atypical Golden that I am, however, I would say that my best sense is my hearing. I can hear things that are imperceptible to my folks. For instance, if I am way in the back yard and someone is walking on our street out front, I can hear them. And if they are walking with a dog or two, I can hear them three blocks away! I, of course, have to make their presence known, so go charging from the back yard, through the dog door, to the front windows, and bark my head off.

Naturally, my parents don't like it when I bark. Why, I have no idea. Maybe it's because I have such a loud bark. The other day, when they were sitting on our neighbor's deck (across the street), they could hear me barking. I

keep telling them I am just doing my doggie-duty! Speaking of senses, I believe I have some of the extra-sensory kind. I ALWAYS know when our neighbor, Gates, is coming over. Even though no one can see her coming down her long driveway, I get all excited and start whining at the door and windows. She is very perceptive, and we have a connection. The other day, my mom's phone and I were in the kitchen. Mom was in another room and couldn't hear the phone ringing. I “knew” it was Gates, so decided to let Mom know by howling a wolf-like, drawn-out yowl that brought her flying into the kitchen. Yes, it was Gates, and Mom missed the call – how rude! Good thing she has me around to let her know this stuff.

Even the C-A-T (Cute Action Toy, in case you've forgotten) likes Gates and wanted to help when she hurt her foot. While Gates had her foot up on a chair, Marty jumped up, wrapped his little paws around her ankle and started licking her foot. That was his kitty-way of helping her heal. Hey, don't knock animal care!

I hope you and your furry friends are enjoying our wonderful Small Town with Big Atmosphere with all of your senses!

Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm

by Robert Casserly

Do you own rural property whose value is going to hell in a hand basket because star thistle and poison oak are ignoring your no trespassing signs? Has the fire department warned you about clearing out the dense vegetation in your yard before a little grass fire becomes a big brush fire and then a full-blown forest fire? Do you waste time and effort mowing hillsides, ditches, or fence lines that could be easily kept nice and tidy by a pair of nimble herbivores?

If you answered yes to any of the above, before you go out and buy a gas-powered weed whacker that disturbs the peace and pollutes the air, consider adopting a grass-powered goat that works quietly and on the cheap. It's believed that goats were one of the earliest species of wild animals to become domesticated, which makes sense, given how useful and friendly they are.

At any given time, visitors to Sanctuary One are likely to meet over a dozen goats representing several breeds. All of our goats were transferred to us by animal-welfare and law-enforcement agencies from up and down the West Coast. The more goats we adopt to homes where they will be treated with kindness in payment for working on landscaping projects 365 days a year, the more goats we can intake from overcrowded sanctuaries and law-enforcement agencies that desperately need us to take a few nannies and wethers off of their hands.

Our care farm's current cast of goats includes Freddy and Friday, two super-smart pygmy-goat brothers who put the “capra” in “capricious. Then there's Orville and Wilbur, two large, sturdy Nubian goats who like to hang around with horses. Winkin' and Blinkin' are gentle and petite Boer nannies with natural disease resistance and an affinity for hot, dry environments with lots of southern exposure.

You may notice that the goats listed above are pairs. We've observed that goats like to use the buddy system.

Thus we encourage adopters to keep bonded pairs together so that they don't become distressed at losing their chosen companion or family member. Goats are highly social and intelligent animals and as such deserve our consideration for their emotional well-being, not just their physical health.

Parents and retirees who want a couple of farm animals that are safe for kids and grandkids to become friends with should definitely consider goats. School groups of all ages visit our care farm to learn about the humane treatment of animals, and the goats are always a big hit. Goats tend to like well-behaved children, and vice versa.

Caring for goats is cheap and simple compared to raising big farm animals like horses or cows, but still, it's a fair amount of work and expense. They need a veterinarian to examine them at least once a year; they need vaccinations, deworming, a salt lick, and regular hoof trimming; a warm and dry place to sleep at night, something that's coyote-and-cougar-proof; access to fresh, clean water; pollution-free vegetation to browse and, in the winter, some good-quality hay; and most important of all, they need a care taker who will give them lots of TLC. Goats thrive on human attention—the more you give them, the happier and tamer they'll be. All of our goats have been rescued from situations of abuse or neglect, so kindness is especially critical to their health and well being.

Sanctuary - Cont'd. on Pg. 31

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Paws for Thought

by Dr. Tami Rogers

On the Road Again...

Summer is officially here and that means more time on the road. If you are like my family, our dogs go with us everywhere and they look forward to the road trips just as much as we do. However, sometimes travel can be stressful to pets and some proper planning on your part can ease the tension felt by them and other family members. Obviously, there are some pets that are better left at home which is where a good boarding facility or a capable pet sitter can be a true asset. For those of you who are planning on traveling with your pets this summer here are a few tips:

First and foremost, it is important to make sure your pet will be welcome upon arrival to your travel destination. A quick phone call ahead can save you a lot of trouble and a quick search on-line will provide you with pet friendly destinations, campground regulations, etc. I recommend that you extend the same courtesy to family and friends when planning a visit by making prior arrangements for your pet. A simple phone call shows you are a conscientious pet owner and respectful of other peoples spaces. Secondly, while this is always true, it is especially important that your pet is wearing a collar with current identification tags when away from home. ID tags should include the home number and address as well as a cellular phone number that is guaranteed to be with you while away. In regard to other identification information, if your pet has a microchip you should carry that information (their ID number and contact information for the appropriate company) as well as copies of current health and rabies certificates. Third, in what seems like a very obvious statement, make sure you have plenty of their food and appropriate medications to last the duration of your trip. You also may want to take some toys that they are used to playing with and of course, a leash is always essential. Lastly, if you are traveling to a region where your pet will be exposed to fleas, ticks, or mosquitoes, you should be



armed with the appropriate preventatives (call your veterinarian to ask if you are unsure). There are also some general considerations to keep in mind if travel occurs via car. Many of us take our dogs with us on a daily basis for routine errands or to work and obviously more time in a vehicle is expected with long road trips. Though most people say they are aware of this, I still see animals left in cars unattended all through the summer months. Even with the windows "cracked" the temperature inside your vehicle can easily pass 120 degrees in a matter of minutes. Animals have a difficult time dissipating heat and quickly become overheated. The stress of being overheated will increase the anxiety in a pet which will quickly exacerbate the problem. When running local errands or if you are on a long road trip, plan accordingly and make sure that your pet will never be left in the vehicle unattended.

Some other important considerations with car travel include ensuring your pet is safely secured in the moving vehicle. During an accident an unsecured pet is at risk of being thrown from the vehicle and certainly animals can fall out of moving vehicles if not appropriately secured. Seat belt systems are available at most pet stores or you can secure your pet in a kennel (avoid cardboard boxes as they will not withstand pressure). Also, when on long trips it is important to stop frequently so your pet can go for a short walk to stretch and urinate. If car travel has a tendency to cause motion sickness for your pet, call your veterinarian as there are many approved medications that may alleviate the problem.

There are certainly other considerations to make when traveling and if you have questions or concerns give you veterinarian a call before heading out on the road. Regardless of where your summer travel takes you I hope it is full of fun and adventure! Happy trails everyone...

Dr. Rogers can be reached at the Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital at 541-899-1081.

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Sanctuary - Cont'd. from Pg. 30

A couple of things NOT to do when adopting goats are to breed or milk them. If you want some fresh goat milk, save yourself the time and trouble and buy it from Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy on Sterling Creek Road in Jacksonville. And a word of caution to any wannabe goat breeders - billy goats smell terrible, act randy all the time, and are more aggressive around other animals and people. On the other hand, wethers (neutered male goats) have no smell and mind their manners. No reputable animal-welfare group will adopt out a dog, cat, horse, goat, or any other kind of animal to a home where they'll be bred, and Sanctuary One is no exception.

For more information on how to adopt a pair of the Sanctuary's weed and brush removal experts, visit us on the Web at www.SanctuaryOne.org or call 541.899.8627.



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