

FLORIDA LUPINE NEWS

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*Published Quarterly
for Members and Free
to Veterinarians,
Shelters, Donors,
Sponsors, Rescues,
and Animal Welfare &
Control Agencies.*

Directors:

Al Mitchell, President
Beth Palmer, Vice President
Mayo Wetterburg
Jody Haynes
Kim Miles

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AVMA 2000 Convention: A Voice for Wolfdogs By Wolfdog Education Network (WEN)

The Wolfdog Education Network (WEN) was created for the express purpose of organizing a small group of people to operate an exhibitor's booth at the next American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) convention, which is to be held in Salt Lake City, UT, on 22-26 July 2000.

The purpose of this booth is to facilitate an exchange of information with veterinary professionals regarding many aspects of wolf-dog care: vaccinations, handling, genetics, behavior problems and current training techniques. The controversy over, and myths regarding, the ownership of wolfdogs as companion canines in today's society will also be addressed.

Not only does WEN hope to disseminate information, but it also seeks to open the lines of communication with the AVMA constituent veterinarians by soliciting individual veterinarian's experiences, concerns, and recommendations involving wolfdogs. In addition, WEN also seeks to be an intermediary between wolf-dog owners and their organizations and these doctors who so graciously provide medical services for our canines.

In short, WEN hopes to establish two-way communication on issues such as vaccination protocol, positive training and handling methods, rescue considerations, behavioral challenges, health screening procedures, and the 'mythology' surrounding wolfdogs as companion canines.

The media that will be used to educate at WEN's booth at the 2000 AVMA Convention will be as follows:

- ?? Videos and photos;
- ?? Internet resources and links;
- ?? Literature packets of topically divided subject matter;
- ?? Personal anecdotal experience;
- ?? Personal referrals to their DVM peers.

Over the next six months there will be many opportunities for wolfdog owners to as-

sist in the organization of materials, letter writing, and research. Those who have special knowledge of behavior modification, breeding practices, genetics, etc., as it pertains to wolfdogs will be particularly beneficial to WEN.

However, right now, WEN needs donations to pay for renting the booth, providing literature packets, and presenting videos and photos of wolfdogs (all content ranges) interacting with their human families in much the same fashion as other dogs.

WEN estimates that it will cost approximately \$4,500 to \$5,500 to rent the booth, print the information packets, equip the booth for visitors, and cover a portion of the travel expenses. At least \$2,400 must be raised by 10 April 2000—the cost of submitting WEN's application to the AVMA (1 March 2000 was erroneously printed on the mail-outs we sent to our members).

The video and photos they receive will be used to show that not all wolfdogs are "unmanageable" or need to be "caged". Because WEN needs high quality photos to make the transfer to the final presentation layout, they request that only original photos and original videos be sent. All videos must be on high quality tapes in VHS format.

Owners' names will not be displayed on the videos unless they specify and give written permission to do so. There will be NO kennel advertisement on video leads. Also, if people are pictured on the videos that are submitted, WEN will require that they sign a release, stating that they authorize the use of their images for wolfdog education and that they will not be compensated.

A short release form has been provided as an insert to the Newsletter and at <<http://www.crosswinds.net/~wdavma/>>. Please fill out the form and send it in with your photos and/or videos to the Wolfdog Education Network, P.O. Box 237, Farmington, UT 84025.

(Continued on page 2)



Florida Lupine Association, Inc.

A Non-Profit Organization
Dedicated to the Betterment of
Wolfdogs and Wolves in Captivity.

FLA Acknowledgements

Special thanks to those who provided donations or contributed their services to FLA this quarter:

- ?? Nicole Wilde, author of Living With Wolfdogs, for granting permission to print her article on responsible containment for canines and for allowing FLA to sell her book at the Rendezvous and keep the proceeds;
- ?? North Florida Animal Hospital for their continued professional care of rescue wolfdogs;
- ?? Thom Whaley (member) for fostering rescues and helping to locate suitable homes;
- ?? Jim Hopkin, Bert Childs, and Vicki Achin (members) for offering to make presentations at the FLA Rendezvous and for donating raffle items;
- ?? Beth Palmer, Secretary and Vice President, for her tremendous dedication in getting everything organized and staying "on top o' things";
- ?? Tom Belcuore, Director, Alachua County Health Department and member of the FL Rabies Compendium Committee for—fingers crossed—making a presentation at the FLA Rendezvous; and
- ?? Barbara and Bob Speer-Skeoch for providing FLA with raffle items for the Rendezvous.

Letters, Advertisements and Pictures for the Newsletter are to be sent to

Kim Miles, Editor
9525 Jamaica Drive
Miami, FL 33189-1709
Phone: (305) 278-7022
FAX: (305) 253-7041
E-Mail: editor@floridalupine.org
(Anonymous letters will NOT be printed.)



Contributions, Dues, and Questions about Florida Lupine are to be directed to

Florida Lupine Association, Inc.
5810-400 N. Monroe Street PMB-122
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone Numbers.: (850) 539-0460 or
Toll Free 1-877-860-2100 extension #192500
FAX: (305) 574-0679
E-Mail: info@floridalupine.org

All original art, photos, drawings, articles and other material within this Newsletter are Copyright © and are the property of FLA, Inc., except where otherwise indicated and credited.

Letters, ads, and articles do not necessarily reflect the views of FLA. We welcome all comments, ads, and articles but require that they are signed and include a phone number and address. FLA and the editor reserve the right to edit any material submitted for publication in the *Florida Lupine News* Newsletter.

(Continued from page 1)

WEN will return any photos or videos that are submitted, provided that a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included with them. Be sure to send a large enough envelope with the correct postage amount.

The AVMA reserves the right to refuse WEN or any other organization a booth at their convention—although we can't imagine why they would do so as this would be a wonderful opportunity to allow veterinarians and AVMA officials to express their concerns and recommendations directly to wolfdog owners and organizations.

Nonetheless, if for some reason the AVMA decides to refuse WEN's application, then all funds (which will be carefully recorded) will then be returned to the donors.

Alternatively, donors may request that their donations be sent to a rescue organization of their choice. To assist us in the accurate record keeping of all donations, please fill out the form (located at <http://www.crosswinds.net/~wdavma/>) when submitting donations.

The following individuals will be operating the Wolfdog Education Network booth at the AVMA 2000 Conference: Dr. Stephanie Porter, Dr. Al Stinson, Mace Loftus, Ann Dresselhaus, and Mike & Teresa Jordison. None of these people are being paid; they are donating their time and vacations to make this endeavor a success.

For more information contact the Wolfdog Education Network via e-mail at wdavma@crosswinds.net or by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 237, Farmington, UT 84025.

ADVERTISEMENT INFORMATION

Pricing Information:

1/8 Page: \$15.00 1/4 Page: \$30.00
1/2 Page: \$60.00 Full Page: \$120.00

Photos: \$25.00 Processing Fee for each photo.

(Members are entitled to a 10% dis-

From the Desk of the Secretary

By Beth Palmer

Between 01-01-2000 and 03-15-2000 eighteen (18) wolf-dog info packets have been mailed to people responding to the free info ad in the Bay County Thrifty Nickel. This ad has terminated, but we would certainly like to run another one in a different county. If you would like to sponsor this kind of free info ad please contact me at wflzrd@nettally.com or (850) 539-0460. We think these ads have been helpful in areas where they have appeared.

Between 01-01-2000 and 03-15-2000 four (4) Veterinarians have requested free wd info packets—one in Mississippi.

Between 01-01-2000 and 03-15-2000 only one (1) special request packet was asked for: a sales contract with spay/neuter agreement clause.

Pasco, Collier and Escambia counties sent in their AC Questionnaires last quarter. Pasco and Collier counties are desirous of learning more and Pasco County has requested FLA educational pamphlets to distribute in their county Animal Control facility.

FLA offers the following special info packets: (1) safe containment for wolfdogs, (2) being a responsible breeder, (3) finding an ethical breeder, (4) breed-specific legislation information, and (5) sample puppy sales contracts with spay/neuter clauses. These packets are free. If you know of anyone who would like a wolfdog info packet (individual or animal agency) please call FLA (toll free) with the name and mailing address: 1-877-860-2100 extension #192500.

From the Desk of the President

By Al Mitchell

In early February, Beth Palmer and I met with Dr. Lisa Conti, Veterinarian with Bureau of Epidemiology, Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health and with Dr. Tom Belcuore, Director, Alachua County Health Department and a member of the Florida Rabies Compendium Committee.

We discussed the Florida Lupine Association, Inc., activities and goals regarding education of potential wolfdog owners, governmental officials, and shelter operators. We reiterated that we are not pushing wolfdog ownership, but rather trying to ensure that those who choose to share their world with these animals make that decision knowing what to expect.

Both were quite impressed with the work we had done so far and expressed praise for our printed material. Dr. Conti offered to forward our publications to all concerned in the Florida Public Health system. This will help lend credibility to our educational efforts.

We are currently working with the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs to defeat bills in the Florida Legislature—both in the Florida House of Representatives and in the Senate. As written, these bills will allow counties to enact breed-specific legislation and will remove the right of an owner to a "hearing" before an animal is declared a "Dangerous Dog." In addition, the House Bill offers an owner only an appeal to the courts in such cases.

As you can see, we have been very busy looking out for our furry friends and the people they live with.

From the "Virtual" Desk of the Webmaster

By Jody Haynes

Those of you that read the debut "Virtual Desk" column in the Winter 1999 issue of the *Florida Lupine News* should remember the announcement for the Florida Lupine Association, Inc., website (www.floridalupine.org). If you haven't been to the site in awhile—or perhaps not at all—you are now in for a real treat!

The FLA Editor (Kim Miles) teamed up with the Webmaster (yours truly) to develop several informative new pages as well as an attractive new look. Once you enter the site, you will notice that you can easily navigate to any other part of the site using the buttons along the left side of each page. Below is a brief outline of the primary changes/additions that have been made...

The FLA Information page has been revised and new pages have been added for the FLA Constitution, Director and Officer information, Membership information, and an information page for this year's membership meeting, Rendezvous 2000. Also added was a page where prospective new FLA members interested in learning more about FLA and experiencing the professional quality of the *Florida Lupine News* can download previous versions and print them from their computers in PDF format (all pertinent information regarding the download process is explained on the website).

Perhaps the most important additions to the site, however, are the three articles about responsible wolfdog ownership and breeding—two 'target' areas that FLA has focused on since its inception. The first of these articles lists and discusses important considerations that should be addressed by all prospective new owners prior to acquiring a wolfdog.

The second article is targeted at prospective new owners that are looking for a pup. The first component of this article discusses information and services that should be provided by a responsible and ethical wolfdog breeder, whereas the second component provides general information about wolfdog registries and pedigrees.

Finally, the third article is meant for prospective or current wolfdog breeders. It details what FLA and Cottonwood Kennels (a responsible wolfdog breeder in Texas) believe are the specific requirements for being a responsible and ethical breeder.

Please visit us on the web today—at <http://www.floridalupine.org> (in case you forgot the address ☺). As always, your comments, criticisms, and suggestions are welcome; please feel free to send an e-mail to the webmaster at webmaster@floridalupine.org.

Monday, March 13, 2000
FLORIDA THREAT —

The Florida Legislature is facing a battle after Representative Stafford submitted a bill (**HB 355**) that would remove the breed-specific pre-emption clause from state law. There is no question that the Dog Fancy would then be seeing an overwhelming number of breed-specific laws introduced in local legislatures.

The whole intent of this proposal is to remove the breed specific pre-emption. It is imperative that all dog owners be made aware of this proposal and it is equally imperative that the dog owners and dog clubs of Florida must unite to defeat this legislation.

The American Dog Owner's Association (ADOA) will be notifying all of its members of this threat and urging them to contact the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Diane Albers, President. Her email address is dja0218@aol.com and at 1-800-597-7057.

The Florida Association was responsible for the passage of the law in the first place and will be leading the fight to defeat this poor piece of legislation.

From the Desk of the Treasurer By Mayo Wetterberg

Welcome to all of you, new and old members of the Florida Lupine Association, Inc. This year has been a busy and remarkable year.

As I think back on the original goals of FLA, establishing a solid baseline for growth was a primary requirement. We have done that very well.

Our membership growth has been at a rate that we could accommodate; and, financially, we have had enough to cover our startup expenses, to create animal control questionnaires, and to begin publishing our quarterly newsletter.

From a financial standpoint, the next step in our growth is to apply for federal tax-exempt status. We are currently registered with the state as a non-profit organization; however, this does not allow contributors to claim their donations on their income taxes. Only the federal 501c3 will allow people to receive tax credits for their contributions; it will also make it much easier for us to solicit donations.

Like all federal programs, obtaining our 501c3 will involve money, paperwork and time, but the benefits make the effort worthwhile. We need this tax-exempt status to expand our abilities and efforts to support wolfdog education and favorable legislation, to promote responsible wolfdog ownership, and to more successfully solicit donations and/or financial support.

Bill in FL Senate paves way for breed-specific legislation: S 700

S 700

(Similar to H 0355)

GENERAL BILL by Forman; (CO-SPONSORS) Kurth

Dangerous Dogs; deletes certain restrictions regarding regulation of dangerous dogs; expands applicability of provisions authorizing local restrictions.

Amends 767.14.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2000.

11/30/99 SENATE Prefiled

12/20/99 SENATE Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Services

03/07/00 SENATE Introduced, referred to Agriculture and Consumer Services-SJ 00046

Florida Senate - 2000

SB 700

By Senator Forman 32-369-00

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to dangerous dogs; amending s. 767.14, F.S.; deleting certain restrictions relating to the regulation of dangerous dogs; expanding applicability of provisions authorizing

ing local restrictions; providing an effective date.
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 767.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

767.14 Additional local restrictions authorized--Nothing in this act shall limit any local government from placing further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or developing procedures and criteria for the implementation of this act, provided that ~~no such regulation is specific to breed and that~~ the provisions of this act are not lessened by such additional regulations or requirements. *This section shall not apply to any local ordinance adopted prior to October 1, 1990.*

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

SENATE SUMMARY

Deletes a provision that prohibits local governments from enacting breed-specific regulations regarding dangerous dogs. Expands the applicability of provisions authorizing local restrictions to include local ordinances adopted before October 1, 1990.

Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Bill in FL House Paves Way for Breed-Specific Legislation: H 355

BILL: H 355 (Similar S 0700)

GENERAL BILL by Stafford

Dangerous Dogs; revises provisions re authority of local governments to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of such dogs or to develop procedures & criteria for implementation of state law governing dangerous dogs to remove restriction that no local regulation be specific to breed; revises applicability.

Amends 767.14.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law.

11/02/99 HOUSE Prefiled

12/08/99 HOUSE Referred to Community Affairs (PRC); Agriculture (RLC)

01/07/00 HOUSE On Committee agenda-Community Affairs (PRC), 01/19/00, 1:00 pm, Morris Hall

01/19/00 HOUSE Comm. Action: Favorable with 1 amendment(s) by Community Affairs (PRC); YEAS 9 NAYS 0

01/21/00 HOUSE Now in Agriculture (RLC)

03/07/00 HOUSE Introduced, referred to Community Affairs (PRC); Agriculture (RLC) -HJ 00028; On Committee agenda- Community Affairs (PRC), 01/19/00, 1:00 pm, Morris Hall; Comm. Action: Favorable with 1 amendment(s) by Community Affairs (PRC); YEAS 9 NAYS 0 -HJ 00145;

Now in Agriculture (RLC) -HJ 00145

Florida House of Representatives - 2000 HB 355 By Representative Stafford

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to dangerous dogs; amending s.

767.14, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the authority of local governments to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or to develop procedures and criteria for the implementation of state law governing dangerous dogs to remove a restriction that no local regulation be specific to breed; revising applicability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 767.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

767.14 Additional local restrictions authorized.-- Nothing in this act shall limit any local government from placing further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or developing procedures and criteria for the implementation of this act, provided that ~~no such regulation is specific to breed and that~~ the provisions of this act are not lessened by such additional regulations or requirements. ~~This section shall not apply to any local ordinance adopted prior to October 1, 1990.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Florida House of Representatives - 2000
HB 355
289-227-00

HOUSE SUMMARY

Revises provisions relating to the authority of local governments to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or to develop procedures and criteria for the implementation of state law governing dangerous dogs to remove a restriction that no local regulation be specific to breed.

**Words stricken are deletions;
words underlined are additions.**

Amendment to House Bill H 355: Appeals to be handled in evidentiary hearings

This amendment not only endorses the enforcement of breed-specific legislation (BSL), but also mandates that an owners appeal of an Animal Control's dangerous dog designation (which can apply to breeds if these bills pass) can only be carried out in a court of law. Currently, an appeal can be made directly to the Animal Control authorities. Passage of these bills will require appeals of dangerous dog labels to be held in a court of law. Rather than apathetically waiting for this to directly affect you, please help us, the American Dog Owners' Association, the Florida League of Animals, and the numerous breed clubs in Florida fight these bills.

HOUSE AMENDMENT Bill No. HB 355

Amendment No. 1 (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION (Senate/House)

ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW (File original & 9 copies
01/19/00)

The Committee on Community Affairs offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof:

Section 1.

Section 767.06, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

767.06 Additional local restrictions authorized.--Nothing in this chapter shall limit any local government from adopting regulations specific to breed, provided that the provisions of this chapter are not lessened by such additional regulations or requirements.

Section 2.

Subsections 1(c), (d) and subsection 2 of section 767.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

767.12 Classification of dogs as dangerous; certification of registration; notice and hearing requirements; confinement of animal; exemption; appeals; unlawful acts.--

(c) After the investigation, the animal control authority shall review the records and any other materials collected during the course of the investigation and make an initial determination as to whether there is sufficient cause to classify the dog as dangerous and shall afford the owner an opportunity for a hearing prior to making a final determination. The animal control authority shall provide

written notification of the sufficient cause finding, to the owner, by registered mail, certified hand delivery, or service in conformance with the provisions of chapter 48 relating to service of process. The owner may file a written request for an evidentiary hearing in county court to challenge the finding of sufficient cause within 10 business 7 calendar days from the date of receipt of the notification of the sufficient cause finding and, if requested, the hearing shall be held as soon thereafter as is practical, but as possible, but not more than 21 calendar days and no sooner than 5 business days after receipt of the request from the owner. If the owner fails to file a written request for a hearing within 10 business days, at the expiration of this 10-day time period, the animal shall be deemed to be classified as a dangerous dog. Each applicable local governing authority shall establish hearing procedures that conform to this paragraph.

(d) Once the owner has received the Findings of Sufficient Cause, the owner Once a dog is classified as a dangerous dog, the animal control authority shall provide written notification to the owner by registered mail, certified hand delivery or service, and the owner may file a written request for a hearing in the county court to appeal the classification within 10 business days after receipt of a written determination of dangerous dog classification and must confine the dog in a securely fenced or enclosed area pending a resolution of the matter appeal. Except for requiring a proper enclosure as defined in this chapter, impounding the animal, and prohibiting the relocation or transfer of ownership of the animal, the animal control authority may not impose any of the dangerous dog requirements as provided in s.

767.12(2) or (4) until the county court case is resolved. Each applicable local governing authority must establish appeal procedures that conform to this paragraph.

(2) Unless an appeal of the county court determination has been filed, within 14 days after a dog has been classified as dangerous by the animal control authority or a dangerous dog classification is upheld by the county court on appeal, the owner of the dog must obtain a certificate of registration for the dog from the animal control authority serving the area in which he or she resides. This, and the certificate shall be renewed annually. Animal control authorities are authorized to issue such certificates of registration, and renewals thereof, only to persons who are at least 18 years of age and who present to the animal control authority sufficient evidence of:

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

- (a) A current certificate of rabies vaccination for the dog.
- (b) A proper enclosure to confine a dangerous dog and the posting of the premises with a clearly visible warning sign at all entry points that informs both children and adults of the presence of a dangerous dog on the property.
- (c) Permanent identification of the dog, such as a tattoo on the inside thigh or electronic implantation. The appropriate governmental unit may impose an annual fee for the issuance of certificates of registration required by this section. Should the owner appeal the county court's classification, the court may impose any requirements it deems appropriate during the pendency of the appeal.

Section 3.

Section 767.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

767.14 Additional local restrictions authorized.--Nothing in this act shall limit any local government from placing further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or developing procedures and criteria for the implemen-

tation of this act, provided that no such regulation is specific to breed and that the provisions of this act are not lessened by such additional regulations or requirements. This section shall not apply to any local ordinance adopted prior to October 1, 1990.

Section 4.

This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

TITLE AMENDMENT

And the title is amended as follows: On page 1, lines 2-11, remove from the title of the bill: all of said lines and insert in lieu thereof:

An act relating to dangerous dogs; creating s. 767.06, F.S.; allowing local governments to adopt breed specific regulations; amending ss. 767.12 (1)(c)(d) and (2) by clarifying and streamlining classification and hearing process; amending s. 767.14, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the authority of local governments to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or to develop procedures and criteria for the implementation of state law governing dangerous dogs to remove a restriction that no local regulation be specific to breed; revising applicability; providing an effective date.

Florida House of Representatives: Analysis of Bill H 355

The following are excerpts from the House of Representatives Committee on Community Affairs Analysis. This document analyzes the Bill H 355 and its Amendment, taking into consideration its endorsements and its impacts on society, etc. The full analysis is seven pages long; therefore, we have pulled the most relevant parts out of it. The full analysis may be obtained from <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/session/2000/House/bills/analysis/pdf/HB0355A.CA.pdf> (no spaces).

I. SUMMARY:

This bill removes the current restriction that no regulation be specific to breed when a local government places further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or when that local government develops procedures and criteria for the implementation of state law governing dangerous dogs.

This bill removes the language that any local dangerous dog ordinance or adopted criteria which is breed specific, that is in effect prior to October 1, 1990 is not affected by the breed specific restriction found in

section 767.14, F.S. In light of the above changes, this language is no longer needed as its purpose in 1990 was to allow those local ordinances which were breed specific to remain valid.

This bill does not impact state revenues or expenditures and might have an insignificant impact on local government expenditures.

A strike-everything amendment, which is traveling with the bill, was adopted on January 19, 2000 by the House Committee on Community Affairs. Please see section VI.

II. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill allows local governments to place further restrictions on specific breeds of dangerous dogs. Since 1990, local governments have been restricted in their authority to place further restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs or to develop procedures and criteria for the implemen-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

tation of state law governing dangerous dogs. The restrictions can not be breed specific. This bill removes this restriction.

III. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Amends section 767.14, F.S.; removes the prohibition that local restrictions, requirements, and criteria relating to dangerous dogs can not be breed specific; revises the applicability of section 767.14, F.S. to certain local ordinances.

Section 2: Provides effective date of upon becoming a law.

IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Owners of specific breeds of dangerous dogs may be significantly impacted by this bill as they may be required to abide by further restrictions and requirements.

V. OTHER COMMENTS:

The Florida League of Cities support this bill.

The Florida Association of Counties was contacted regarding this bill. Although the Association has no position on the authority to adopt breed-specific ordinances, it does believe that the process regarding dangerous dogs is in need of legislative review and revision.

The Humane Society of the United States, Southeast Regional Office, (Society) does not support this bill in its current form. Although it supports the bill's intent to enhance public safety, the Humane Society does not feel that allowing local governments to enact ordinances that could place restrictions regarding ownership of certain dog breeds is the answer. The Society comments that the problems that this bill is trying to address may not be a "breed of dog" problem, but rather a pet ownership and enforcement issue. The Society also states that breed specific ordinances will unfairly penalize responsible dog owners; and it is these responsible dog owners, whose dogs do not pose a threat, that will make an effort to comply with any new ordinances.

In addition, it appears as though the bill does not provide any restrictions on what breed of dogs local

governments can further restrict. However, the Society does *support* any attempt to streamline the existing statute regarding the dangerous dog classification and appeal process. It believes that by streamlining the appeal process, the law will be easier to enforce and will minimize animal authorities' reluctance to classify a dog as dangerous. A copy of the complete letter is available at the committee office upon request.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On January 19, 2000, the House Committee on Community Affairs approved a strike everything amendment, offered by Representative Stafford, that:

1) Creates section 767.06, Florida Statutes. This newly created section adds a new section to the bill and authorizes local governments to pass regulations that are breed specific as long as the regulations do not lessen the requirements of chapter 767. This authorization is not limited to regulations regarding dangerous dogs.

2) Revises section 767.12, Florida Statutes. These revisions clarify and streamlines the dangerous dog classification process and the appeal process of both the classification and the decision to destroy a dog. Currently, upon receipt of an initial determination of sufficient cause to classify a dog as dangerous, the owner has 7 days to request a hearing before the animal control authority before a final determination is made. If a final dangerous dog determination is made, the owner has 10 business days from written receipt of the classification to appeal the classification and request a hearing in county court. This process is also followed once an owner receives written notice that the dog is to be destroyed. This amendment revises and clarifies this process by providing that once the owner is notified of a finding of sufficient cause, the owner has 10 business days to request an evidentiary hearing in county court to challenge the finding of sufficient cause. If no hearing is requested, then the animal is deemed to be classified as dangerous. The dog owner is no longer afforded a hearing before the animal control authority. This amended process is also to be used when an animal control authority determines to destroy a dog under section 767.13, Florida Statutes. This amendment also provides that the dog must be confined and follow other limited restrictions until the county case is resolved. Finally, the amendment allows the court to deem further restrictions if there is an appeal of the county court's decision.

Rescue Number Four: Just a Number...

By Mayo Wetterberg

He never had a real name. The note on the rabies certificate just read "Number Four: red-brown pup, darker markings." That note would distinguish him from his siblings and announce that he was the fourth pup in the rescue lot to receive vaccinations.

Number Four was part of a week-end rescue that included a female malamute/husky, three six-month-old pups and a three-month-old pup. There had not been time to come up with names for the pups as they had been with us for only three days and most of that time had been spent in designing space to house them away from our other dogs.

Monday we took them to the vet for a checkup and for their shots. They were deemed healthy but undernourished, so they received their first series of puppy vaccination shots.

Rescue Number Four came home from the vet hungry and full of typical puppy energy. All four pups ate as if in a race to fill out their skinny, little frames. They romped and played and adjusted to their new home. They all seemed glad to be with Katie, the older female. We wondered if Katie was the mother of the older pups, but she seemed too young to have had a litter.

Number Four was a little friendlier than the rest—not quite so timid; therefore, he received more attention from all of us. All four of the pups craved and needed human interaction; and each day they appeared to be responding more and more to us. Locating good homes for these little guys seemed promising. The smallest

pup had already been spoken for and was placed with our daughter.

The third day following the vet visit, things took a downward turn. The remaining three pups looked listless and uninterested in eating that morning. By evening, they were sick.

One of the pups had thrown up blood, and one had a bloody stool. We took the sickest one to an emergency vet clinic that night and had him tested. The results came back "negative" for Parvo. We left him overnight so they could watch him and run more tests.

The next morning we knew nothing more, so off to our regular vet went the lot of them. The shock came when the vet announced that a retest for Parvo came back "positive"! The vaccinations had not had a chance to become effective yet, and the pups had apparently never had shots before.

The initial decision was easy (the hard part was to come). No animal under our charge would pass on without a fight. The vet said there was a fair chance of saving them, so we explained that we were prepared to do what was necessary.

We thought we were going to leave the pups at the vet's office; however, the vet did not have enough isolation rooms for them, nor did his staff work 24 hours, which is what these pups needed to overcome Parvo. Realization dawned: we were going to have to do this ourselves!

So we were loaded up with IVs, pre-filled injections and lots of advice on how to administer them to the pups. We received the schedule for the shots and

lots of reassurance that we could do this. The three sick pups were then placed back in the van and we all headed home—nervous, but blissfully unaware of what was in store.

Upon our arrival back home, we took the deathly ill pups into the garage and began our nursing regime. The garage took on the appearance of a hospital ward, with IVs hanging everywhere and our patients lined up along the walls. We spent the next four days taking shifts: monitoring IV solutions, and administering injection upon injection of antibiotics, nausea preventive medicine, and anti-diarrhea medicine.

The pups were near dead, hurting with pain, discharging from both ends, and almost too weak to stand or move. It tore our hearts out watching them. We knew we were doing everything possible to save them, but we felt helpless, nonetheless. What we were doing didn't seem to be enough.

Number Four was no sicker than the rest when we had gotten home that first night, but he seemed to slip further and further away as time progressed. He just didn't seem to have the strength to fight and began to stare into space more and more. Soon, he failed to even moan or wince during the injections.

Finally, in the middle of the second night home, he quietly slipped away as my wife lay beside him. His pain was gone; he would have to endure no more. As we gazed upon his lifeless little body, we sadly realized he had never been given a name.

The lesson? Maybe it's that all this could have been prevented. Parvo is a deadly enemy of puppies and needs to be taken seriously. With a little knowledge, a little initial care, and a series of puppy vaccination shots, little Rescue Number Four could have grown into a healthy, happy companion for someone.

Epilogue:

The other two six-month-old pups finally made it through the Parvo outbreak and have been placed in loving homes. Katie, likewise, has an excellent home and is doing well. The younger, three-month-old pup who had escaped Parvo is fat and healthy and is named Yakoots.

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Parvovirus: The #1 Killer in America

By Dr. Race Foster, D.V.M.

Infectious Canine Parvovirus Enteritis is generally referred to as Parvovirus or, for short, Parvo. Regardless of what you call it, Parvovirus is the single most destructive disease known to canine medicine, especially where puppies are concerned.

Despite years of research, the proper management of Parvo is yet to be solved. Veterinarians, research hospitals, universities, breeders and kennel owners are all very involved in studies to unravel this disease and find the best way to prevent it.

Nearly all experts agree that canine Parvo is responsible for more puppy deaths than all other known infectious diseases combined.

HISTORY AND CLASSIFICATION

The first major outbreak of Parvo in the United States was during the late 1970's. Since then literally thousands of dogs and puppies have perished from this disease. Despite popular belief, canine Parvovirus (also called CPV) is not a singular disease. We refer to it as a "complex disease" because more than one strain of Parvo exists. In addition to Type One, Type Two, and canine adeno-associated virus, manufacturers of Parvo vaccines have labeled certain Parvo variants as new strains. And we are quite sure many more strains will surface in the future. From a purely scientific standpoint, it is not clear if all of these strains exist or if they are variants of the same strain.

Regardless of strain type, all Parvo viruses have certain similarities to be classified in this viral type. They are all small, contain a single strand of DNA in their genetic code, and invade cells that are constantly undergoing replication and growth, including cells of the intestine, lymph nodes, bone marrow, and all growing cells in the unborn fetus. Cells lining the intestinal wall are the hardest hit. Cells of other organs such as the brain and heart tissues can be affected, though Parvoviruses generally strike the rapidly multiplying cells.

HOW PARVO IS SPREAD

Once the patient's body is infested, the virus replicates, particularly in the cells of the small intestine. Large amounts of the virus are shed in the patient's feces for up to six months after the patient has apparently recovered and appears normal. One of the real dangers of this disease is that it can live under certain climatic conditions for up to a year. Any susceptible animal which walks over virus-contaminated soil or surfaces can become infected. Wild animals like foxes, coyotes, wolves and raccoons can contaminate soil with Parvovirus and cause infections to the domestic dog. Humans can also transmit the disease simply by walking over an infected area.

ALL DOGS ARE AT RISK

Parvo is most common in puppies largely because of their rapidly growing cells. It is important to remember, however, that absolutely no pet is completely isolated from exposure, even "inside dogs".

Not all dogs exposed to the virus will die. Some unvaccinated dogs have a natural immunity to many strains of Parvo, and, depending upon a number of factors including age, exposure level, and breed, may not even get sick. Many, however, do get sick, and large numbers of pets die every year from this disease. Breeds most susceptible to Parvo are thought to be Akitas, Shar Peis, Doberman Pinschers and Rottweilers.

SYMPTOMS

The exact symptoms vary depending on many factors, but diarrhea is almost universal with infected dogs, with or without vomiting. Once exposed, most patients become ill within 3-9 days. The average infected individual will generally vomit for 24-48 hours, followed by diarrhea which may last an additional 5-7 days. Dehydration due to fluid loss is frequently a secondary symptom.

In a small percentage of infected puppies, the cells of the intestines are spared and there is no vomiting or diar-

rehea. The virus can invade the cells of the heart muscle and/or brain and cause acute death with no warning. Most patients, especially puppies, will initially have an elevated body temperature, often up to 104 degrees F. In the later stages, the temperature may be normal or even subnormal. Temperatures in severely affected puppies are commonly 90 degrees F or lower.

To be safe, Parvovirus should be considered whenever a puppy is severely ill, especially if diarrhea is present.

TREATMENT

The only way to confirm a diagnosis of Parvo is through diagnostic testing, either by a blood test, fecal test, biopsy of various organs, or an autopsy. It is not true that a veterinarian can diagnose Parvovirus by the odor of the diarrhea. All viral induced diarrhea has the same smell.

There is no specific treatment for Parvovirus, nor any other virus-caused infection. Because of this, treatment of the patient usually proceeds without an accurate or positive diagnosis, and often there is not sufficient time for sophisticated laboratory testing. The treatment for any viral-induced diarrhea is the same regardless of the exact type of virus causing the problem.

Treatment is aimed at supporting the body in the hopes it can naturally rid itself of the virus and become temporarily immune. Preventing dehydration is critical and may require the force feeding of water. Generally, fluids need to be administered either under the skin at the back of the neck or intravenously.

Antibiotics are usually administered to help prevent bacteria from the entering the bloodstream through the viral damaged intestinal wall. Anti-inflammatories such as cortisones are frequently used to reduce fever, prevent shock, and relieve intestinal pain. B complex vitamins may also be beneficial.

In our experience, patients with Parvo often recover as fast as they become ill. Many appear near death for

(Continued from page 10)

several days only to be seen bounding around in a matter of 24 hours.

PREVENTION

The most important facet of Parvovirus prevention is vaccination with a vaccine that protects against all known strains of Parvo. Puppies and adults should receive a Parvovirus vaccine regularly. Though vaccinations do not guarantee immunity, they are the best defense available.

In addition to vaccination, it is important to practice strict sanitation. Parvovirus is fecally spread and a clean environment minimizes that likelihood. Remove pet waste from your lawn at least weekly and before a rain. Routine cleaning of runs, cages, feeding bowls, etc., should be done with a proven disinfectant that specifically lists on the label that it is effective against Parvovirus.

**Drs. Foster & Smith
Vaccine Schedule for Dogs**

Age: 5 weeks

Vaccination: Administer the parvovirus vaccine, preferably the *Prevent/Vac Parvovirus*.

Age: 6, 8, 10, 12 weeks

Vaccination: Administer combination vaccine without leptospirosis, preferably the *Prevent/Vac Canine 5*.

Age: 14, 16, 18 weeks

Vaccination: Administer combination vaccine with the leptospirosis, preferably the *Prevent/Vac Canine 7 Adult (Annual Booster)*.

NOTE: Leptospirosis is a relatively rare disease that affects few dogs. Today, most people give vaccines without Leptospirosis to puppies (those 12 weeks or younger). In the latter portion of the

puppy's vaccination schedule, vaccines with Leptospirosis are used to protect against this disease.

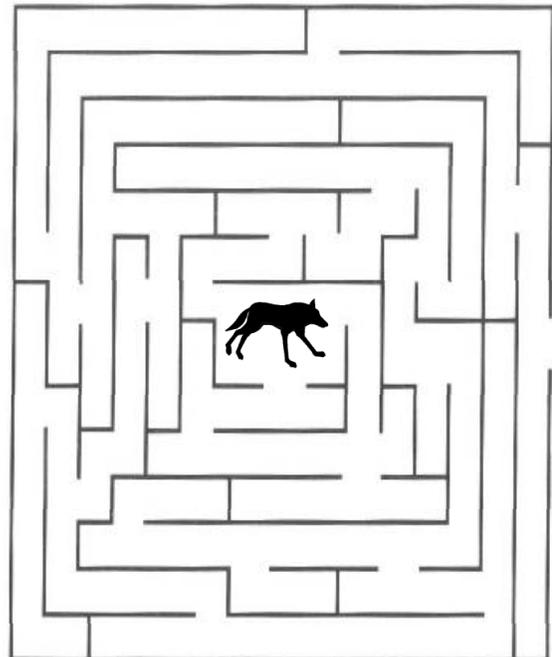
- ?? Where coronavirus is a concern – vaccinate 6, 9, 12, 15, & 18 weeks of age, then yearly.
- ?? Where Lyme disease is a concern – vaccinate 12 and 15 weeks, then yearly.
- ?? For those who show, field trial or board their dogs, we recommend revaccinating every 6 months with a 7-way combination shot, coronavirus and canine cough (bordatella).
- ?? Rabies vaccination according to local law by your veterinarian.

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**Totally Trivial Animal Facts
By Unknown**

- ☞☞ A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- ☞☞ A snail can sleep for three years.
- ☞☞ All polar bears are left-handed.
- ☞☞ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ☞☞ Butterflies taste with their feet.
- ☞☞ Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, dogs only have about 10.
- ☞☞ Cat urine glows under a black light.
- ☞☞ Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear any pants. (Okay so this one is "technically" not an animal)
- ☞☞ Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- ☞☞ In the last 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- ☞☞ On average, people fear spiders more than they do death. (You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider.)
- ☞☞ The average human eats eight spiders in their lifetime at night.
- ☞☞ Some lions mate over 50 times a day.
- ☞☞ Starfish have no brain.
- ☞☞ The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.
- ☞☞ The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds on its skin and whiskers.
- ☞☞ NON-animal fact: The names of all the continents end with the same letters that they start with.

**Save the Wolf in
The Crooked Maze**



Little Girl Cries Wolf

By Unknown

With all her big brothers and sisters off to school, our ranch became a lonely place for our three-year-old daughter, Becky. She longed for playmates. Cattle and horses were too big to cuddle and farm machinery was dangerous for a child so small.

We promised to buy her a puppy; but in the meantime, "pretend" puppies popped up nearly every day. I had just finished washing the lunch dishes when the screen door slammed and Becky rushed in, cheeks flushed with excitement.

"Mama!" she cried. "Come see my new doggy! I gave him water two times already. He's so thirsty!"

I sighed. Another of Becky's imaginary dogs. "Please come, Mama." She tugged at my jeans, her brown eyes pleading, "He's crying--- and he can't walk!"

"Can't walk?" Now that was a twist. All her previous make-believe dogs could do marvelous things. One balanced a ball on the end of its nose. Another dug a hole that went all the way through the earth and fell out on a star on the other side. Still another danced on a tightrope. Why suddenly a dog that couldn't walk?

"All right, honey," I said. By the time I tried to follow her, Becky had already disappeared into the mesquite. "Where are you?" I called.

"Over here by the oak stump. Hurry, Mama!"

I parted the thorny branches and raised my hand against the glare of the Arizona sun. A numbing chill gripped me. There she was, sitting on her heels, toes dug firmly in the sand, and cradled in her lap was the unmistakable head of a wolf! Beyond its head rose massive black shoulders. The rest of the body lay completely hidden inside the hollow stump of a fallen oak.

Becky, my mouth felt dry. "Don't move." I stepped closer. Pale yellow eyes narrowed. Black lips tightened, exposing double sets of two-inch fangs. Suddenly the wolf trembled. Its teeth clacked, and a piteous whine rose from its throat.

"It's all right, boy," Becky crooned.

"Don't be afraid. That's my mama, and she loves you, too."

Then the unbelievable happened. As her tiny hands stroked the great shaggy head, I heard the gentle thump, thump, thumping of the wolf's tail from deep inside the stump. What was wrong with the animal? I wondered. Why couldn't he get up?

I couldn't tell. Nor did I dare to step any closer. I glanced at the empty water bowl. My memory flashed back to the five skunks that last week had torn the burlap from a leaking pipe in a frenzied effort to reach water during the final agonies of rabies.

Of course! Rabies! Warning signs had been posted all over the county, and hadn't Becky said, "He's so thirsty?" I had to get Becky away.

"Honey," my throat tightened. "Put his head down and come to Mama. We'll go find help."

Reluctantly, Becky got up and kissed the wolf on the nose before she walked slowly into my outstretched arms. Sad yellow eyes followed her. Then the wolf's head sank to the ground.

With Becky safe in my arms, I ran to the barns where Brian, one of our cowhands, was saddling up to check heifers in the north pasture. "Brian! Come quickly. Becky found a wolf in the oak stump near the wash! I think it has rabies!"

"I'll be there in a jiffy," he said as I hurried back to the house, anxious to put Becky down for her nap. I didn't want her to see Brian come out of the bunkhouse. I knew he'd have a gun.

"But I want to give my doggy his water," she cried. I kissed her and gave her some stuffed animals to play with. "Honey, let Mom and Brian take care of him for now," I said. Moments later, I reached the oak stump. Brian stood looking down at the beast.

"It's a Mexican lobo, all right," he said, "and a big one!"

The wolf whined. Then we both caught the smell of gangrene.

"Whew! It's not rabies," Brian said. "But he's sure hurt real bad. Don't you think it's best I put him out of his misery?" The word "yes" was on my

lips, when Becky emerged from the bushes. "Is Brian going to make him well, Mama?"

She hauled the animal's head onto her lap once more and buried her face in the coarse, dark fur. This time I wasn't the only one who heard the thumping of the lobo's tail. That afternoon my husband, Bill, and our veterinarian came to see the wolf.

Observing the trust the animal had in our child, Doc said to me, "Suppose you let Becky and me tend to this fella together." Minutes later, as child and vet reassured the stricken beast, the hypodermic found its mark. The yellow eyes closed.

"He's asleep now," said the vet. "Give me a hand here, Bill." They hauled the massive body out of the stump. The animal must have been over five feet long and well over one hundred pounds.

The hip and leg had been mutilated by bullets. Doc did what he had to in order to clean the wound and then gave the patient a dose of penicillin. The next day he returned and inserted a metal rod to replace the missing bone.

"Well, it looks like you've got yourselves a Mexican lobo," Doc said. "He looks to be about three years old, and even as pups, they don't tame real easy. I'm amazed at the way this big fella took to your little gal. But often there's something that goes on between children and animals that we grownups just don't understand.

Becky named the wolf Ralph and carried food and water to the stump every day. Ralph's recovery was not easy. For three months he dragged his injured hind-quarters by clawing the earth with his front paws. From the way he lowered his eyelids when we massaged the atrophied limbs, we knew he endured excruciating pain, but not once did he ever try to bite the hands of those who cared for him.

Four months to the day, Ralph finally stood unaided. His huge frame shook as long unused muscles were activated. Bill and I patted and praised him. But it was Becky to whom he turned for a gentle word, a kiss or a smile. He responded to these gestures of love by swinging his busy tail like a pendulum.

As his strength grew, Ralph followed Becky all over the ranch. Together they roamed the desert pastures, the golden-

(Continued on page 13)

The Wolfdog Rescue Roster

By Kim Miles & Beth Palmer

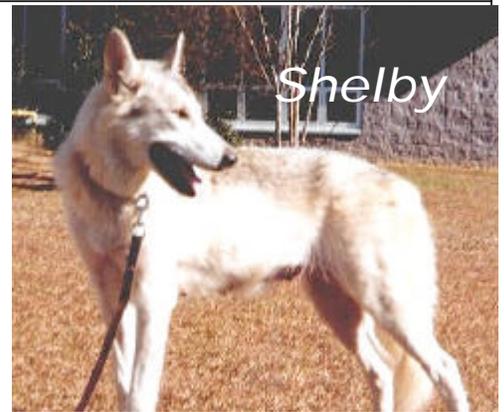


Nick was obtained from the shelter, so the information we have on him is limited. He weighs 80 pounds and is approximately one year old. Nick is a mid-content wolfdog (approximately 40-50% wolf with the remainder being

a mix of Husky and Malamute). He is submissive, playful, and extremely social. He is neutered and is current on all shots, including bordatella, and is on heartworm prevention. Nick would be an excellent companion for a first-time wolfdog owner. He is not well house-trained, is cat friendly, and will do well in any environment as long as he has companionship, either from a human or another canine.

Shelby is a mid-content Malamute/wolf (approximately 50-60% wolf). She is one to two years old and comes from an abusive, neglectful home. She was chained as a form of containment and a stray German Shepherd mated with her, producing a litter of pups that have since been placed.

Shelby weighs approximately



75-80 pounds, is current on all shots, and is heartworm free. She is a little shy but warms up after becoming acclimated. She is very playful and loves puppies and young males. She has been passed around all of her short life and is in desperate need of a loving, permanent home. She would thrive in a calm and stable environment.

CONTACT FOR BOTH ANIMALS:
Beth Palmer at (850) 539-0460 or at wflzrd@nettally.com.

(Continued from page 12)

haired child often stooping low, sharing with the great lame wolf whispered secrets of nature's wonders. When evening came, he returned like a silent shadow to his hollow stump that had surely become his special place.

As time went on, although he lived primarily in the brush, the habits of this timid creature endeared him more and more to all of us. His reaction to people other than our family was yet another story.

Strangers terrified him, yet his affection for and protectiveness of Becky brought him out of the desert and fields at the sight of every unknown pickup or car. Occasionally he'd approach, lips taut, exposing a nervous smile full of chattering teeth. More often he'd simply pace and finally skulk off to his tree stump, perhaps to worry alone.

Becky's first day of school was sad for Ralph. After the bus left, he refused to return to the yard. Instead, he lay by the side of the road and waited. When Becky returned, he limped and tottered in wild, joyous circles around her.

This welcoming ritual persisted throughout her school years. Although Ralph seemed happy on the ranch,

he disappeared into the surrounding deserts and mountains for several weeks during the spring mating season, leaving us to worry about his safety. This was calving season, and fellow ranchers watched for coyotes, cougars, wild dogs and, of course, the lone wolf.

But Ralph was lucky. During Ralph's twelve years on our ranch, his habits remained unchanged. Always keeping his distance, he tolerated other pets and endured the activities of our busy family, but his love for Becky never wavered.

Then the spring came when our neighbour told us he'd shot and killed a she wolf and grazed her mate, who had been running with her. Sure enough, Ralph returned home with another bullet wound.

Becky, nearly fifteen years old now, sat with Ralph's head resting on her lap. He, too, must have been about fifteen and was grey with age.

As Bill removed the bullet, my memory raced back through the years. Once again I saw a chubby three-year-old girl stroking the head of a huge black wolf and heard a small voice murmuring, "It's all right, boy. Don't be afraid. That's my mama, and she loves you, too."

Although the wound wasn't serious,

this time Ralph didn't get well. Precious pounds fell away. The once luxurious fur turned dull and dry, and his trips to the yard in search of Becky's companionship ceased. All day long he rested.

But when night fell, old and stiff as he was, he disappeared into the desert and surrounding hills. By dawn his food was gone. The morning came when we found him dead. The yellow eyes were closed. Stretched out in front of the oak stump, he appeared but a shadow of the proud beast he once had been. A lump in my throat choked me as I watched Becky stroke his shaggy neck, tears streaming down her face.

"I'll miss him so," she cried. Then as I covered him with a blanket, we were startled by a strange rustling sound from inside the stump. Becky looked inside.

Two tiny yellow eyes peered back and puppy fangs glinted in the semi-darkness. Ralph's pup! Had a dying instinct told him his motherless offspring would be safe here, as he had been, with those who loved him?

Hot tears spilled on baby fur as Becky gathered the trembling bundle in her arms. "It's all right, little ... Ralphie," she murmured. "Don't be afraid. That's my mom, and she loves you, too!"



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