

FLORIDA LUPINE NEWS

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Breed specific legislation, not the answer

By Mary Elizabeth Palmer

Currently, Florida Statute 767 (FS 767) "Damage by Dogs" protects the public against vicious dogs that endanger people and property. It also permits counties and cities to place additional restrictions on dogs that have been deemed dangerous, provided that no such regulation is specific to breed (FS 767.14).

Against the advice of the American Dog Owner's Association (ADOA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and similar animal organizations, Florida attempted to pass laws that would allow for breed specific legislation (BSL) in the Spring Session of the 2000 Legislature. If such laws were passed, it would then permit counties and cities to enact legislation specific to breed, regardless of the temperament or behavior of an individual animal.

To be useful, legislation must be effective, enforceable, economical, and fair. Such BSL fails all of these criteria. Not only is it motivated by fear and lack of relevant knowledge, it is also discriminatory, impractical, and litigious.

In 1980, Hollywood, Florida, enacted a breed specific ordinance (before the protection of FS 767.14 was in place) that required owners of pit bull dogs to register their dogs and provide proof of liability insurance.¹

Just two years later, in 1982, the Everglades Pit Bull Dog Club challenged this law on the grounds it was vague, arbitrary, unfair, and in violation of due process. The Broward County Court found for the challengers and struck down the ordinance as an unconstitutional infringement of pit bull dog owners' fourteenth amendment rights.²

This year, two bills (SB 700 and HB 355) addressing BSL were presented in the House and the Senate of the Florida Legislature. Although shelved during the Spring Session, these bills may yet again be presented in the House and/or the Senate during the Fall Session.

When solicited for their comments on HB 355, the HSUS wrote, "Although it supports the bill's intent to enhance public safety, the

Society does not feel allowing local governments to enact ordinances that could place restrictions regarding ownership of certain dog breeds is the answer."⁴

By singling out one breed of dog for more stringent control, BSL raises two constitutional problems. First, because many breeds of dog can cause harm to people, an ordinance that classifies only one breed as vicious appears to be under-inclusive and, therefore, violates the dog owner's equal protection rights. Second, because it is impossible to identify a breed with the certainty required to impose criminal sanctions on its owner, it appears that the ordinances are unconstitutionally vague and, therefore, a violation of procedural due process.³

A five-year study published in the *Cincinnati Law Review*³, focusing on both Rottweilers and Pit Bulls, concluded, in part, that "statistics do not support the assertion that any one breed was dangerous—when legislation is focused on the type of dog, it fails because it is...unenforceable, confusing, and costly.... [F]ocusing legislation on dogs that are 'vicious' distracts attention from the real problem...irresponsible owners."

People determine whether dogs will be useful inhabitants of a community or nuisances. It is the people who breed and foster viciousness in dogs whom legislators must control. The diligent enforcement of our existing laws (FS 767) will ensure that the public is safe from individual dogs that have been deemed dangerous.

Objecting to the use of BSL to police irresponsible owners, the HSUS claims that "the problem the bill is addressing may not be a 'breed of dog' problem but rather a pet ownership and enforcement issue. The Society also states breed specific ordinances will unfairly penalize responsible dog owners, and it is these responsible dog owners, whose dogs do not pose a threat, who will make an effort to comply with any new ordinances."⁴

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- BIG thanks to FLA Members who attended and/or donated to FLA Rendezvous 2000.
- Seminole County Animal Control for the FLA referral and for asking our assistance on a rescue.
- North Florida Animal Hospital for their continued professional care of rescue wolfdogs.
- Renee Adomaitis at Gadsden County Humane Society for her continued support and referrals.
- Cynthia Watkins of *SeaCrest Wolf Preserve* for her continued support and referrals and for distributing materials and endorsing FLA at *SeaCrest's "Earth Day"*.
- Tom and Lilly Tomaselli of *Wolves of Williston* for their continued support and referrals and for the beautiful artwork Lilly created and donated to the FLA Auction.
- Our members (Tam, Thom, Bev, Kim, Barbara, Beth, and Tom) for their rescue efforts: evaluating wolfdogs in rescue, relaying/assisting in placement, providing donations for health treatments, and/or fostering wolfdogs.
- Canine Underground Railroad (CUR) for their assistance in relaying a wolfdog being rescued.

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Deadlines for Submission:

Spring NL: March 15 Fall NL: Sept. 15
Summer NL: June 15 Winter NL: Dec. 15

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In addition to the bills presented to the Florida Legislature earlier this year, an amendment accompanied HB 355. Current state law prescribes that before local Animal Controls make a decision to declare a dog "dangerous," the owner is entitled to a hearing with the Animal Control Director.

The amendment traveling with HB 355 removed this hearing entitlement and required the Animal Control Director to make a decision without a hearing. Furthermore, owners would be required to go through the judicial system if they disagreed with the decision—a process that would be much more costly to the local municipality than the one presently instated. Such a process would also be very costly for dog owners, as they would need to

hire attorneys, while also paying to house the animal under county jurisdiction until the court case was settled.

Such an amendment would interrupt the effective communication between the Animal Control Director and the owner by requiring the courts to intervene, removing the fundamental right of the voting taxpayers to work directly with their local county staffs. In effect, the amendment appeared to be nothing more than a relief act for attorneys!

¹ See HOLLYWOOD, FLA., CODE 6-25 (1980) Section 6-25.

² See Holder v. City of Hollywood, No. 81-13968-CR, excerpt of proceedings at 8 (17th Circuit Broward Co., Fla., Nov. 9, 1982).

³ "The New Breed of Municipal Dog Control Laws: Are They Constitutional?" *Cincinnati Law Review*, Vol. 53, 1984, pp 1075.

⁴ See HSUS statement regarding HB 355, Analysis HB 355, pp 5.

From the Desk of the Secretary

By Beth Palmer

Between 03-15-2000 and 06-15-2000 twenty (20) general wolfdog info packets have been mailed out (either by member referrals or by those surfing onto the FLA website); three (3) wolfdog breeding info packets have been mailed; two (2) Florida Lupine info packets have been mailed to professional associations requesting information on FLA; and five (5) wolfdog and FLA info packets have been mailed to veterinarians requesting information.

Last month, a letter was sent to the Directors of all the COUNTY Animal Controls (AC) requesting that they respond to Florida Lupine within a twenty-day period if they wished to continue receiving our Newsletter, *Florida Lupine News*. Of the (57) County AC's contacted, (18) responded, claiming that they would like to continue receiving the Newsletter.

We are now building the City AC database and can use the money we are saving from a cutback in mailouts to uninterested County AC's to focus on the City AC's.

We are still looking for someone to sponsor another "free wolfdog info" advertisement, so if you are in a problem area, please contact me at wflzrd@nettally.com or at 850-539-0460 and we can discuss ad pricing and location.

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 Treasurer

By Mayo Wetterberg

I hope all who attended the FLA Rendezvous 2000 had a great time. The event was an outstanding one from a social, educational, and financial standpoint. Not only did we meet lots of people, we raised \$587 from the raffle and auction. Thanks to all who donated items to auction and to those who bought them.

The money raised from the Rendezvous will be applied to obtaining a federal tax-exempt status from the IRS (501c3). Even though we are a registered non-profit organization in the state of Florida, we need the federal tax-exempt status to enhance our ability to receive donations and grants. Without a tax-exempt status, people and organizations who may want to donate cannot deduct the donation from their taxes, which hinders our ability to successfully solicit for donations and apply for grants.

I am currently in the research mode, trying to read the volume of information on how to apply for the tax-exempt status. FLA has already accomplished several of the steps needed for receiving our tax-exempt status—determining an organization purpose, drafting bylaws, establishing a record-keeping and an accounting system—but we still have a few significant steps ahead of us: develop a strategic plan and resource development plan (budget) for the next few years, obtain liability insurance, and file the IRS form.

Although I have copies of the IRS forms and have begun filling them out, my major focus is in drafting a strategic plan and budget forecast for review and approval by the Board of Directors. Once that is reviewed, edited, and approved by our Board of Directors, we can submit the required paperwork to the IRS. I hope to complete a draft by the end of July and hopefully will be able to report in the next Newsletter that the paperwork has been sent to the IRS for approval.

From the "Virtual" Desk of the Webmaster

By Jody Haynes

During this last quarter, we have added color PDF versions of all of the previous issues of the *Florida Lupine News*, for interested parties to download. We figure that if folks can see how professional and informative our newsletter is, they may be more likely to join and/or to contribute to the organization. (Kudos to Kim for creating such wonderful newsletters!)

We have been developing some new additions to the website, but most are still incomplete and, therefore, have not been put up online. We have, however, added several pages of photos from the first annual FLA Rendezvous 2000, which took place the weekend

of April 8-9, at a campground in central Florida.

We have divided the Rendezvous photos into categories, with each category having one or two pages of photos. Now, when you click on the "Rendezvous" button on the side navigation bar of the website, you will be taken to a page listing the following categories: The FLA Board of Directors, The Presentations, The Auction, The Members and Their Animals, and The Fun. By clicking on a category title, you will be taken to the corresponding photos.

Please visit us on the web today at <http://www.floridalupine.org>. And please feel free to send an e-mail to me at webmaster@floridalupine.org if you have any comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions.

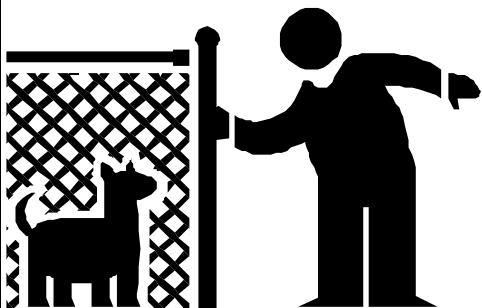
Hope for your Canine Houdini

By Nicole Wilde, author of *Living With WOLFDogs*

Part I

You give Ranger a see-you-later scratch, toss him a cookie, and head for the market. An hour later you return only to find Ranger gone—again. Is Ranger some sort of mutt magician? Or is this a case of alien-canine abduction you'll be seeing on this week's XFiles? Hardly. Ranger is one of thousands of dogs that manage to get out of their yards each year. The sad part is that many of them don't make it back.

Responsible pet ownership entails keeping your dog safely contained. Pro-



tecting your dog from the dangers of the outside world can literally be a matter of life and death. Stray dogs may be injured or killed by passing vehicles, attacked by other strays, pick up diseases, or even be permanently "adopted" by passersby, never to be seen again.

Proper containment also protects the outside world from your dog. Even the friendliest of dogs may bite when forced into a defensive situation (i.e. cornered), or when disoriented or panicked. If your male is unneutered (we'll get to that in a minute), while roaming he may impregnate stray female dogs, creating more unwanted puppies. On a less severe but just as valid note, your dog may become a nuisance by urinating or defecating on neighbors' lawns or getting into their garbage cans.

Dangerous Liaisons

Let's talk about why your dog wants out in the first place. First on the hot list is unneutered males. A male dog can smell a female in heat up to five miles away. Female dogs usually cycle

(come into estrus) twice a year, and not always at consistent times. So very often a female may be in heat within Romeo's radius. This will inevitably result in Romeo ... well, roaming to do what Romeos do best.

Get your male dog neutered! We just know that with pet overpopulation being what it is, you're not even considering breeding. So why keep him intact? In addition to negating that 'urge to merge,' neutering decreases and often eliminates the chance of your dog contracting certain diseases that an intact male might be prone to later in life. These include diseases of the prostate, testicles (including testicular cancer) and other tissues influenced by male hormones.

Testicular cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed tumor in older male dogs. Until you've watched an elderly man turn his long-time companion in to the shelter to be put down because of testicular cancer, tears streaming down his face because he could have prevented it, you don't realize what your own future guilt might look like.

Another benefit of neutering your male dog is that neutered males tend to be less dominant and less likely to fight. If your dog injures another dog, harms someone's child, or kills someone's cat while he is roaming, you are responsible. From an ethical point of view, you don't want to be the cause of someone else's grief. From a legal standpoint, you don't want to be on the receiving end of a lawsuit.

Intact females (i.e., unsplayed females) that are in heat may take off for parts unknown to find their own canine Casanovas, so spay your female! This will also prevent future diseases of the

ovaries and uterus, and if performed before the first or second heat, drastically reduces the chance of mammary gland cancer, which is very common in older intact females.

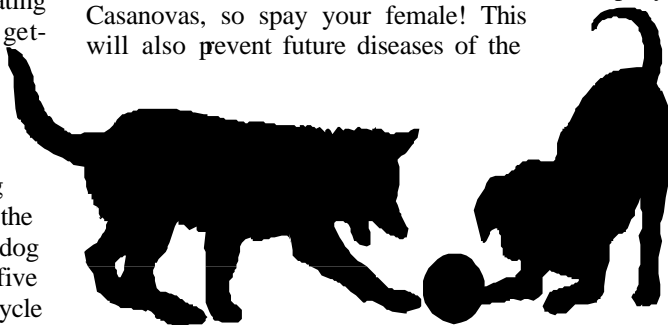
SCF (Spayed Cocker Female) Seeks Companionship

Let's say your dog is altered. What else might cause them to roam? Loneliness, for one thing. Dogs are descended from wolves and retain a strong pack instinct. They have a serious need for social interaction. If your dog is an only dog" and you are gone most of the day, chances are your dog is simply lonely. Many dogs experience separation anxiety when their owners are gone, while others suffer from a simple lack of companionship and stimulation.

In addition to roaming, boredom and anxiety can result in destructive behaviors such as digging, chewing and, in some very extreme cases, self-mutilation. Loneliness can also cause barking or howling, which will not make you especially popular with your neighbors. A bored dog perceives the world beyond the backyard fence to be infinitely more exciting—so many new sights, sounds, and smells (well, we won't go into those). So off Buffy the Cocker goes to explore and maybe to find someone to play with. Who could blame her?

Instead of taking chances with your dog's safety, consider these solutions for the "home alone" dog:

- Adopt another dog to keep her company. An altered canine of the opposite sex is preferable. In addition to being more likely to stay put, the dogs will likely tire each other out in play and you will come home to two mellow dogs rather than one hyperactive dog who demands your undivided attention.



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- Is there a student or neighbor you could ask to come by to play with Buffy for a short period each day? If not, consider hiring a pet-sitter. Pet-sitters will spend time with your dog at your home or take them for a walk if desired. Get recommendations from friends, veterinarians, or trainers.
- What about your friends who have dogs? Is there a canine friend who lives nearby or on your route to work who would enjoy having Buffy for a playmate during the day? You could easily drop her off and pick her up on your way back, if not daily, then a few times a week.
- A newer option now exists in many areas—doggie daycare! At these centers, dogs run and play together off leash in a safe, supervised environment. Owners pick their dogs up at the end of the day to find them mellow and well worn out from romping and playing. Check to see if one exists in your area.

If none of these is a possibility, and there is no option other than to leave your dog home alone, consider working with an animal behaviorist on lessening separation anxiety. The solutions they offer might be easier than you think.

Okay, so now we know why they do it. But how do they do it? One reason frequently given by those reclaiming their dogs from the shelter is “the gardener left the gate open.” You can have the Fort Knox of backyards, but if you can’t get service people to properly close your gate, it’s worthless. One solution is to keep your dog inside on the day service is scheduled. Another is to contain your dog in a dog run or pen within the yard on those days.

What kind of run and how to build one? Funny you should ask; in Part II of this article, we’ll discuss just that. For now, let’s get your gate problem fixed.

First, explain to service people the importance of your dog not getting

out. Make sure they understand. If they don’t, find someone who does. If you can’t or don’t want to keep your dog indoors while you’re gone, put a lock on the gate. Yes, it’s that simple. This way, surprise visits can’t happen. Tell service personnel that you will need to be contacted when they show up (if you work nearby), or you can refer them to a trusted neighbor who will unlock the gate for them when they come in and lock it as they leave. Another option is for the neighbor to unlock the gate and then keep your dog at their house until the work is completed.



Children are another common cause of gates being left open. You might wonder which is harder, training your dog to stay put or training your kids to close the gate. Bottom line, neither kids nor dogs are always going to do what you would like, and it’s your responsibility to supervise and double-check.

So now we know some of the reasons dogs want out of their safe, secure yards. We’ve discussed some solutions to remove that desire; but in reality, there are some natural-born canine Houdinis that are just going to want out no matter what. In Part II, we will discuss solutions which include dig-proofing and jump-proofing your fencing, and how to build a dog run that even a grizzly bear would be hard-pressed to escape!

Part II

In Part I of this article we examined some of the reasons your dog might want to roam in the first place. Some common ones were separation anxiety, boredom, or, to borrow a song title, “Looking for Love in all the

Wrong Places.” We discussed some initial solutions such as neutering, and various options for daytime canine companionship. Now let’s get down to the nitty-gritty of containment.

There are three ways your dog can get out of your yard (besides someone leaving the gate open, which was discussed in Part I). Digging under, jumping over, and chewing through your fencing.

If your dog is chewing his way through 9-gauge chain link, you need to reassess whether you have a dog or a grizzly bear. There are two common thicknesses of chain link: eleven gauge, which is the most common; and nine gauge, which is thicker and stronger, but also more expensive. Most dogs will not be able to chew through 9-gauge chain link.

If you have wooden fencing and your dog is chewing through, check the slats and replace those that are weak or worn. You may have to switch to chain link, or alternately, erect an escape-proof pen. How does one go about this? Glad you asked.

There are many good reasons to go to the trouble of building an escape-proof dog run. The most obvious one is that you can leave your four-footed Houdini home alone and know that he’ll be there, safe and sound, when you return. No more frantic searches through the neighborhood, no shrill complaints from the neighbors...has a nice ring to it, don’t you think? It will also stop him from getting into anything he shouldn’t be, or digging up your yard. And, last but not least, there will be no chance of children teasing him through your fence and possibly getting bitten, or worse, someone poisoning or stealing him.

With a small financial investment (usually a few hundred dollars) and some elbow grease, you can build an escape-proof dog run. Don’t be intimidated by the construction aspects of this, or feel that you can’t do it. You can.

It’s easier than it sounds on paper, though it does take some time and effort. Just remember, you only have to build it once, and it’s worth it. Let’s get

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started. A dog run refers to a four-sided chain-linked enclosure. In this case, the run will be six-sided, as we will add a top and bottom.

First, the chain link. If you can afford to use 9-gauge fencing, use it. If not, 11 gauge will be fine. Chain-link panels come in different lengths and widths. You'll want to buy panels that are at least six feet high, and six or twelve feet long. If you plan to make the run twelve feet wide, twelve-foot panels are a good choice. You may purchase these at building supply outlets, or look for used panels or a second-hand dog run in the Recycler or Penny Saver in your area. Great deals can be found this way.

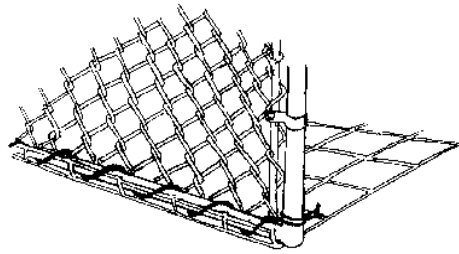
Once you have the panels, decide where the run will be built. Choose a flat area, set back at least two feet from your perimeter yard fencing. Using clamps and nuts, set up the four sides of the run first. Length depends on how much room you have available, but a good size would be 12 x 18, and 12 x 24 or longer is even better. If you can't go this large, don't worry. A good minimum size would be six feet wide by twelve feet long. Any smaller is too small to expect your dog to spend long periods of time in it.

Now we move on to the dig-proof bottom. If you own your home or can build something permanent, concrete may be poured. If you're lucky enough to already have a concreted patio area, you might consider building the dog run over it. If either of these is an option, you can skip this section. But if you rent your home or want a run that can be dismantled, read on.

An effective way to dig-proof the bottom is with wire. Rolls of semi-flexible wire can be purchased at any building supply store (soon your local Home Depot really will feel like home). The rolls usually measure four feet across, have rectangular openings in the wire, and sometimes go under the name "Economy Wire". Lay the wire out lengthwise in the pen.

If your pen is twelve feet wide, lay three lengths of it side

by side. Attach these to the chain link panels by looping wire (the thin wire



Garden fencing wired to upright chain-link panel using the "sewing" technique

that comes in a spool) around the bottom rail of the chain link and through the Economy Wire over and over, as though you were sewing it. Then attach the lengths of Economy Wire to each other by either "sewing" them with the thin wire again, or using hog rings (small metal rings that clamp things to each other).

Now, I can just see you sitting there thinking, "no way I'm going to be able to do this, forget it." No, no, no! Hang in there, this stuff sounds a lot more complicated than it is, I promise. Once you get going, it's easy. One word of caution—well, two actually—WEAR GLOVES! Bare hands blister quickly when working with wire. Yours truly found this out the hard way. Don't you do it.

After your wire is lying flat and has been attached, you can cover it with dirt, or if you really want to go wild, paver stones (those square, cement-like stones found at your local building supply stores). Another option is to pour pea gravel (small, rounded stones that *do not* hurt a dog's feet) for flooring - just be sure to put bricks or



Paver stones help keep this pen clean and attractive

large rocks around the outsides of the pen first so that the pea gravel doesn't spill out the sides.

Now that we've got the bottom dig-proofed, let's move on to the top—this part is simple. How strong the top has to be really depends on your dog. You can lay chicken wire across the top and wire it down for dogs that are not physically strong enough to push out of it.

For bigger, stronger dogs, the best option is to place chain-link panels across the top of the pen and wire them down securely. If your run is six feet wide, the six-foot panels will cover it. If the width is twelve feet, your twelve-foot panels will fit neatly across the top.

After the panels are laid out and wired down, an old garage door can be laid over a portion of them to provide shelter from rain, and a shaded area. A cautionary note: garage doors are extremely heavy, and you will need help to get them hoisted up. They can be easily secured by drilling holes along the sides and wiring them down to the top chain link panels.

So, do you feel like that guy from Home Improvement yet? Finish by putting a dog house inside, and tada! You've got a dog run that should keep Duke safe, and your neighbors happy. Just be sure that the latch to the gate is secure so all your hard work isn't wasted when Duke figures out how to open it. You may want to put a chain around the opening and latch it closed with a metal clip or a padlock.

It may be that you do not want to, or cannot afford to, construct a dog run. Maybe you can just improve on the fencing you have. If you have the ubiquitous six-foot chain link, you can attach "lean-ins" at the top.

Lean-ins are metal (or sometimes wooden) arms slanted inward at a 45-degree angle, with wire stretched between them. They are commonly used in zoos, and give the animal inside the illusion that the fence is impossible to get over. They work. You can even buy lean-ins already made from a building materials supplier. Attach them at intervals to the top of the fencing, then stretch chicken wire or other non-barbed wire tautly between the arms, and secure with hog rings or wire.

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Dig This

Even without constructing a dog run, it is still possible to prevent dig-outs. To accomplish this you will need a roll of chain link. Cut the chain link so that it is only two feet wide, and the length of one side of your yard (or buy a roll this width, if you can find one).

For example, if your yard is fifty feet deep, you would use a roll of chain link that is 2 feet wide by fifty feet long. You can also cut it into smaller lengths for easier handling. Dig a trench that is two feet deep and two feet wide along the inside of your fence line, and lay the wire out along it. A great benefit of the much-maligned El Nino is that the ground is much softer after it rains, making digging so much easier—now aren't you sorry you made those nasty weather remarks? Okay, back to our trench.

You are effectively burying the chain link two feet down all around the inside of your fencing. Now wire it to the

existing fence (don't forget your gloves) using the "sewing technique", and replace the dirt. You now have a skirting of chain link that no normal canine should be able to dig out of. There, wasn't that simple?

If you don't want to go to the trouble of burying chain-link, you can try piling heavy rocks and bricks around the inside perimeter first. This is enough to deter some dogs and not others, but it's worth a try.

Simply Shocking!

Another option to keep your dog away from your fence altogether is hot-wire. Hot-wire comes in different forms and can be set up in different configurations. Some people go the whole hog and install two or three horizontal rows of hot wire directly on their fencing. For the purposes of this article, we will discuss the easiest method.

There are complete systems you can buy, the most common of which goes under the brand name Fido Shock. Now, I can just see you sitting there frowning and thinking, "a whole 'system', hmm, it sounds expensive." I thought so too, but guess what? It is surprisingly affordable. Included are plastic stakes, which you plant a yard or two from each other, all along your fence line (about two feet in). The wire (which is provided) then gets strung through these stakes, and the actual unit attaches easily with screws to the side

of your house. Plug it in and you're ready to go.

The wire should be at chest-level to your dog, so he won't be likely to go under or over it. When your dog touches the wire, a mild electrical shock is delivered. Don't worry, it's nothing that will fling him across the yard or injure him in any way; but it will likely deter him from going near it again.

The nice thing about this system (besides the low cost), is that it is extremely easy to install and covers a large area. I personally share my life with a canine Houdini, and in addition to erecting the aforementioned dog run for when I'm away from home, I have also installed the Fido Shock system and found it very effective.

So you see, there really are a variety of options for containing your canine Houdini. They may take some money, time and effort to set up, but the safety of your dog and your own peace of mind is surely worth it.



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\$1.32—onto the order.)

Dursban banned

Dursban, a popular insecticide, is sold in the garden centers of most stores throughout the United States. On 8 June 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared Dursban unsafe, citing studies indicating that the organophosphate pesticide chlorpyrifos found in Dursban cause permanent neurological damage in children and in pets. The product will be phased out of the market for home-use (lawn and home pest control) and for commercial application in controlling termites. Phasing out agricultural use will take longer to implement.

FLORIDA LUPINE ASSOCIATION, INC.
5810-400 N. Monroe Street PMB-122, Tallahassee, FL 32303
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____ Renewal _____ Donation Only _____ DATE: _____

Individual* (FL Residents) _____ \$25	Individ. Affiliate (out of state) _____ \$15
Family* (FL Residents) _____ \$35	Family Affiliate (out of state) _____ \$20
Junior Membership _____ \$10	Business Membership _____ \$50

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

*These are the only voting categories.

Hair today, gone tomorrow

By Dr. Race Foster & Dr. Marty Smith

Pet hair grows in cycles. First is the growth stage, followed by a resting stage, and finally a shedding stage. Most dogs "blow out" their coats twice a year—in the Spring and in the Fall—influenced more by the amount of daylight than by temperatures.

Since indoor dogs are exposed to artificial light year round, the normal shedding cycle is more continuous, giving the impression of excessive shedding. Other factors affecting shedding include your dog's overall health—particularly the health of its skin, your dog's breed and hair type (long hair, short hair, breeds with undercoats), and grooming practices.

WAYS TO CONTROL SHEDDING

The best thing you can do to prevent loose hair from ending up all over your home is brush your pet regularly. During this time of year you should brush your dog every day for 10 - 15 minutes. If you do this, you will notice a significant decrease in the amount of hair in your home. Brushing is also a great bonding time for you and your pet. Weekly bathing will also help remove loose hair.

There are many different types of brushes and combs to choose from, and choosing the right brush for your pet will make a big difference in the effectiveness of removing loose hair.

Before you buy a brush or comb, read the article titled "Brushes and Combs: How to Choose the Right One for Your Pet" in our PetEducation.com web site. Then visit our Combs and Brushes section in our online store for the type of brush that's best for your pet.

(You may also want to consider the Dog Vac Attachment which has received much praise from our customers. With rubber bristles that massage your pet's skin and loosen hair, it attaches to your vacuum cleaner hose and conveniently vacuums loose hair directly from your dog into your vacuum cleaner.)

10% OFF ALL DRS. FOSTER & SMITH-BRAND PRODUCTS!

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product is on sale through July 31. Visit us online at http://www.drsofostersmith.com/General/10%_off.cfm?src_code=3658006!

SHEDDING: HOW TO CLEAN UP LOOSE HAIR

No one likes pet hair on their clothes—particularly your guests. And, unfortunately, pet hair is difficult to remove from almost all fabrics, including carpeting.

Frequent vacuuming will take care of most hair that is shed, especially if you change your vacuum bag regularly. For the "woven-in" hair that remains, your best bet is a tool with a sticky surface.

There are a number of options to choose from, each with their own special features. You will probably find that a combination of these different tools will work best for different situations/fabrics. Here are the leading choices and the differences between each:

- **Pet Hair Pic-up**—Rolling pin design with disposable, individual sticky sheets. Offers the strongest adhesive properties since sheets are used only once.
- **Pet Hair Gatherer**—The best choice for difficult-to-remove hair that is woven-in to fabrics.
- **Washable Tapeless Rollers**—Convenient, reusable adhesive rollers. Rinse clean in water after use. "Stickiness" returns in seconds for next use.
- **Sticky Wicket**—Same properties as the Washable Tapeless Roller but with a long handle for use on floors.

FUN FACT

Believe it or not, there are a number of people around the world known as "Dog Spinners" who use the hair shed by dogs for knitting clothes and needlepoint pictures.

There's even a book titled "Knitting With Dog Hair" that describes how to do it and even includes patterns to knit from.

We're not sure if the book is still in print, but if you really want to find out

more about knitting with dog hair, try contacting the textile department at a nearby college, or the Handweavers Guild of America. (Dog spinning gives a whole new meaning to the term "dog sweater," doesn't it?)

DOG CARE TODAY SPECIALS

Available through June 30 or while supplies last.

- **F&S Vitacoat Plus**—Help reduce shedding by building healthy hair and skin. Also adds soft luster to coats. Save \$3 on 16 oz. size. Reg. \$9.99 -- On Sale: \$6.99
- **Dog Vac Attachment**—Vacuum hair away! The most convenient way to remove loose hair from dogs. SAVE \$4.00. Reg. \$14.99 -- On Sale: \$10.99
- **F&S Vita-minTabs Granules**—Powdered fatty acid supplement sprinkled on food to extend hair life. SAVE \$4.00. Reg. \$10.99 -- On Sale: \$6.99
- **F&S Furniture Throws**—Attractive throws keep furniture free from pet hair. Your choice of colors/designs. SAVE up to \$16 depending on the throw you select.

KEEPING HAIR OFF FURNITURE & CAR SEATS

Most guests don't appreciate the fur coat they get after riding in a car or sitting on a couch of someone who has a pet. Out of courtesy for your guests and to keep your car and furniture looking and smelling their best, you should cover the seats and backrest with a fabric throw.

Car seat covers and furniture throws are easily removed for shaking and/or washing and are made in sizes to fit virtually every type of car seat or furniture piece. They are among our most popular selling items and we highly recommend them. Provided below is a short description of each; visit our web site for more information.

- **F&S Car Seat Covers**—Easy-on, easy-off covers in your choice of fabrics and colors for

(Continued on page 9)

The Wolfdog Rescue Roster



Storm

Storm is a three-year-old, low/mid content wolf/shepherd mix. He is approximately 125-130 pounds, so he is a very hefty dog. He is a little on the shy, skittish side, caring more for women than for men, but once he warms up, he will make a good companion. He is well-mannered, but isn't completely house trained. His owner had to move out of the country for his missionary work and could not take

him. He is current on all vaccinations, including rabies, and is also on heartworm preventative. Due to his size, he should have 6' fencing.

UPDATE: Storm has been placed.

Owl is a 2 1/2 year old, upper-mid-content, F2 male Malamute/Wolf cross in need of rescue in central FL. He is presently at the vet being boarded because he is fighting his brother for dominance. He is male aggressive, so he cannot go to a home with another male canine. He is friendly to people and is ok with children, but since he was not raised with them, he will not be placed in a home with kids. He needs 6' fencing with electric wire and dig-proof ground fencing. He is UTD on rabies (and will receive his annual vaccinations in July). We are awaiting pictures. Owl will go to an experienced wd owner only.

CONTACT INFO: Kim Miles at 305-278-7022 or rescue@floridalupine.org.

Kianna

was born on 16 Feb. 2000. She's

Kiana

a female mid-content Malamute (maybe Husky) wolf cross. She has received all of her shots and will need rabies vax at 6 months. She is partially housebroken, independent, and loves people and other dogs. She is food and water aggressive.

UPDATE: Kiana has been placed and is awaiting transport to her new home.

A low-mid content yearling wolfdog was found roaming in Lillian, AL. He has no collar and no name. He is a beauty and is intact at present. He has black highlights on a cream/silver undercoat and has light yellow/gold eyes. He is very much a puppy and is vocal. If you know anything about him or are interested in him, please contact Thom Whaley at WolfDog@peoplepc.com or at 850-492-8716/4304

(Continued from page 8)

bench, bucket, and rear seats. Bungee cord attachment ensures a secure fit and full-seat protection.

- **F&S Furniture Throws**—Thick, comfortable arctic fleece available in six stylish designs and sizes for sofas, love seats, and chairs. Machine washable with heavy blanket edging to retain shape and quality appearance.

HEALTHY HAIR = LESS SHEDDING

You've heard us talk before of the importance of sufficient "fatty acids" in your dog's diet for the good health of your pet's skin and hair. Unfortunately, fatty acids are one of the first nutrients to be lost during the high-heat processing of dog food. The result is that many—if not most—dogs lack adequate fatty acids for optimal skin and hair health.

Fatty acid supplements like our Vita-coat and Vitacoat Plus supply life-extending nutrients to hair follicles to help condense shedding into seasonal bursts

instead of the continual shedding most pet owners have to endure. They will also help make your pet's coat shiny and soft. If you are not feeding your dog a premium dog food that contains Omega 3 fatty acids, you should consider adding a fatty acid supplement to its diet.

Other nutritional supplements that help reduce shedding include Vitamin Tabs Fatty Acid Granules, Mrs. Allen's Shed Stop and IN Nutritional Supplement. We have also seen very good results when combining one of these fatty acid supplements with our Biotin supplement.

A big side benefit to using one of these products is that they help build healthy skin, which is so important for your pet to help reduce itching and the effects of allergies.

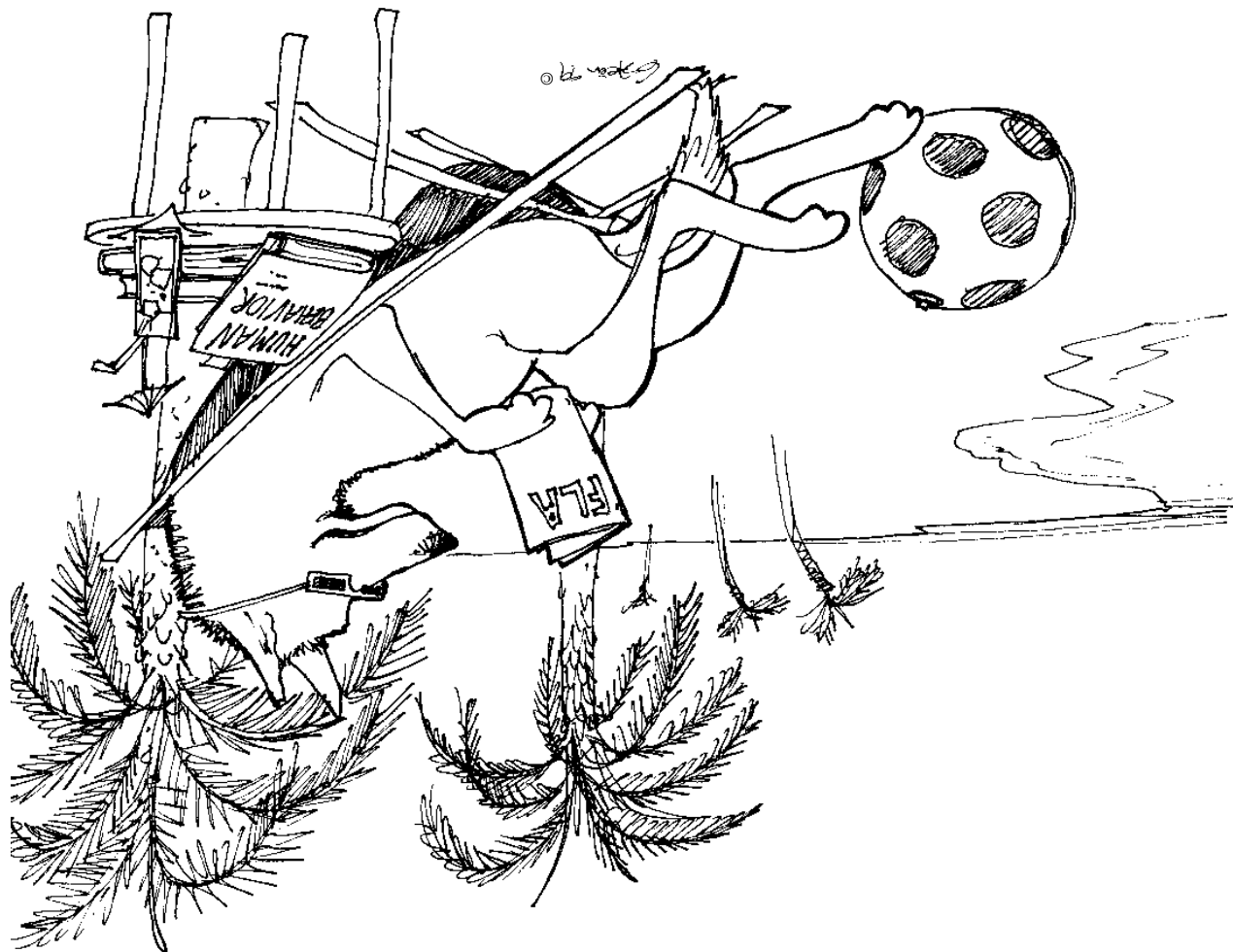
A FINAL WORD

Taking care of your pet's hair coat is part of your responsibility as a dog owner. Your dog depends on you for this care and it should not be put off or ignored. Poorly groomed dogs are suscepti-

ble to a long list of health problems, so the attention you pay to your pet's hair now may be in place of significant dollars you'll have to pay your veterinarian in the future if problems do develop. Besides, you'll benefit too, with a pet that looks its best and a house that isn't full of dog hair.

Please note: If your pet's coat stays dull and brittle despite your efforts to maintain a healthy coat, or if hair does not grow back and its skin is exposed, this may indicate a health problem. Consult your veterinarian to determine the cause of this problem.

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