

## **Learning a new language**



**Have you ever thought about learning a new language? Maybe you are considering taking a trip overseas and think you should learn a bit of the language before you go. When we decide to have an animal become a companion in our lives, we don't think about learning the language that they speak. We just pluck them up, take them home and expect them to learn how to communicate with us.**

**To build a good relationship, two-way communication is the path to success. You need to understand the species that you will be communicating with. Dogs, for example, spend all their time studying us and respond quickly to our movements and our body language. Think about how your dog reacts when you put on your shoes. Dogs are very sight and smell oriented. Using tasty treats, appropriate body language, and positive reinforcement will get you farther in training your dog by building trust and confidence. Learning to interpret your dog's posture and expressions will give you insight to his responses or reactions. That information will become the building blocks for modifying a behavior.**

**As humans we are not very good at observation, so this is a skill you will need to refine as you begin to "read" your animal companion. Whether you have dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, or horses, there are wonderful resources available to help you with this learning curve. Is your animal prey or predator? Is your animal social (genetically from a herd or pack)? Are there differences within your animal's species (e.g. breed of dog, subspecies of bird)? To alter some words spoken four decades ago (this month), consider this: understanding your companion's species is a small step for man, but a giant leap for animal kind.**



## **Beat the Summer Heat**

**As the hot summer days are upon us, be conscientious about how much time you allow your pets to be outside. It doesn't take long for our animals to get heatstroke, especially if they are very active, have a heavy coat, have a short snout, are not used to being outside, are elderly, or ill. You may think that if they have shade and water that they are fine outdoors. Even though temperatures haven't gone above 100°, the heat index has tipped that scale. If you can't tolerate being outside, then it's a good gage that your animal can't tolerate it either. Heatstroke is serious and can be fatal quickly. If you suspect heat stroke seek emergency care immediately.**

**Canine summer fun: freeze some treats in ice cubes and float them in water or freeze some treats in a small bowl of water and place it in a larger bowl for your dog to have outside. 🐾**



### **Feature Companion for this issue: Bunnies**

**If you only think of bunnies at Easter – think again. Often people get rabbits for their children at Easter and when the novelty wears off – they end up abandoned. There is a wonderful local group, (Missouri House Rabbit Society), who rescues rabbits and places them in permanent homes. N2paws provided a demo to introduce these bunnies to some TTouch. Rabbits make wonderful pets, and with the right environment and some bunny knowledge, they can hop their way into your heart. If you want to learn more about the Missouri House Rabbit Society go to [www.mohrs.org](http://www.mohrs.org). N2paws will offer a discounted TTouch session for HRS bunny – contact 816-522-7005 or [pat@n2paws.com](mailto:pat@n2paws.com).**



## **Just for Fun**

### **Training Tip of the Month:**

**Begin to learn about the body language of your companion animal. Spend some time observing your dog, cat, bird, etc. Watch how they interact with you and other family members (2 or 4-legged). While hair standing up or growling/hissing may be obvious, other aspects of body language may be subtle. Pay attention to posture, facial expression (mouth open or closed; ears forward or back, eyes soft or hard stare), tail carriage (up or down, easy flowing or fast wag), and gestures (lip licking, yawning, looking away). Body language is important information about how an animal is responding to a situation or the environment. It tells you if they are stressed, relaxed, confident, fearful or ambiguous (back and forth). This gives you the basis on how to communicate effectively back to them. Once you know their language, you can respond accordingly and even use some of their signals back to them.**

### **Quote of the Month:**

**"It's funny how dogs and cats know the inside of folks better than other folks do, isn't it?" – Eleanor H. Porter**

### **Astrological Signs for July/August:**

**Cancer: Let me charm you with my big brown eyes. I'm hungry isn't there a snack? No, let's play. On second thought, I think I'll go over here and chew on my bone.**

**Leo: I am Lion, hear me roar. I may be a little cat to you but I have a big heart. Don't betray me for I may slink off in the dark of night.**

## Feature Adoptable Companion for this issue: Cuddles



Cuddles is 10-plus years old, and just loves to be around people and cuddle in your lap. She suffers from chronic ear infections and will need ear drops 3-4 times a week for the rest of her life. If you have room in your home and in your heart to take in an older pet, Cuddles would be forever grateful. You may check out Cuddles or any of her canine or feline friends at Miami County Rescue (Louisburg) – Pets Are Worth Saving, (visit [www.petsareworthsaving.com](http://www.petsareworthsaving.com)), whose mission is to find forever homes for these wonderful companions. **N2paws** will offer discounted services to help Cuddles transition her to a new home.

### Announcements:

N2paws is offering Pet Junkie products – fun items for you and your pet. All proceeds from N2paws sales will go to local pet charities. The proceeds will rotate monthly to a different pet organization. Check out [www.petjunkiestore.com/n2paws](http://www.petjunkiestore.com/n2paws). If you would like to have your organization sponsored by N2paws, contact [pat@n2paws.com](mailto:pat@n2paws.com) or 816-522-7005.



### Upcoming Events for N2paws & other fun stuff

**Jul 25-26 – Midwest Kidfest, Overland Park, KS**

**Aug 15 – Tails on the Trails, Lenexa, KS**

**Aug 20 – Pedicure for Pups, Overland Park, KS**


**Aug 23 – TTouch for Dogs workshop, Belton, MO**


**Aug 24-Sep 21: Doga (yoga for dogs), Mondays 6:30-7:30**

**Sep 26 – Strut with your Mutt, Brookside, MO**



Contact N2paws for more information about:

 **High quality (grain free) treats available at low cost (get 1 bag free if you sign up for a class)**

 **To learn more about resources for understanding your companion animal's language, contact [pat@n2paws.com](mailto:pat@n2paws.com).**



If you would like to learn more about TTouch, you may contact N2paws by email: [pat@n2paws.com](mailto:pat@n2paws.com) or 816-522-7005, for a private session, group workshop or a public speaking engagement for your club or organization. Also, visit our website [www.n2paws.com](http://www.n2paws.com), for interesting links and current workshop schedule.

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