



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

A Caregiver's Paw-sistant!

Phillip and Ava are as inseparable as super and glue! It is incredible that they are family because they were born on different continents: Ava in Eastern Europe and Phillip in South Korea.

When Phillip's daughter was given Ava, she was not home enough to give the dog the care she deserved. So like many pets, the parent inherits it. It all worked out for the best because Ava and Phillip belong to the mutual appreciation club. Ava loves and is dedicated to Phillip, and so is Phillip to Ava.

"Ava is a Pit Bull/Whippet combination," said Phillip, "making her uniquely beautiful, highly-intelligent, and an amazing runner."

Phillip and Ava are exceptional athletes. You may see their team of two jogging three miles a day or tossing and chasing balls in the park. Both love swimming. Phillip was raised by the ocean and is a good swimmer, which evolved into his becoming a frogman for the South Ko-

rean military, a stunt diver who could dive from 10 meters into a swimming pool, and a skydiver! Ava loves the water too, but she prefers chasing balls or riding in one of the cars that Phillip redesigned for her comfort rather than jumping from a purr-fectly good airplane.

"Ava has a rock fetish. When I throw a tennis ball or rock off one off one of the boat ramps," said Phillip, "she always chooses the rock and dives off and swims down to retrieve it. We begin our days at 5 a.m. with meditation; then at day break we head to both parks in town for our jogging and ball-chasing exercise. When you have a highly active dog, it is important to honor it, and this way we are exercise partners who keep each other healthy."

Phillip has altered his two vehicles to fit Ava's needs. He took the back seat out of his Cadillac and van and put in Diva seats for Ava. Being a retired contractor, it was easy. He placed a huge piece of plywood down, then a large foam cushion for her to sleep on. Her "car beds" are the paw-fect height so she can see out the windows and large enough to snooze on. Phillip also included a separate area for Ava's water and food. His little Princess also paw-furs riding in their Cadillac over the van.

"I am grateful to be a U.S. citizen and I don't like being bored," admits Phillip. "I am 73 and wanted a line of work that was less stressful than construction, jumping out of planes, teaching karate, etc. I wanted to give back to others, so I become a certified caregiver. Only two out of 10 in our class passed, and I scored 92 percent!"

Ava did not attend school with me, but she helps give to the most vulnerable among us. I love that I can take her to work. Some clients have dogs that are as happy to have her company as the clients are. Ava is gentle with the nursing patients. She was born for this work. I have always talked a lot to her, just like you would a best friend, and she lets me know what she



photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Phillip, 73 years old, and Ava, six years old, are superb athletes who make a great work team caring for others.

is thinking with her expressions of understanding. Having her help with home care adds to the healing and therapeutic work for my clients.

Ava is a very special friend who keeps my confidence and listens patiently. She makes me happy, her companionship is a joy and like having a child she keeps me busy taking care of her. Her "presents" never allows depression to set in because I have to get up for her, feed her, walk her and care for her. Her happy spirit is my reward and motivation.

I am grateful every day to be an American, have my freedom, be healthy and helping others... with my dog at my side."

TIPS

"Having a dog is a responsibility," said Phillip, "and it is cheaper to invest in their health. You must exercise them for their energy level. I check Ava's nose to monitor how she is feeling. I detect her body temperature from the area of her nose. If her nose is cold then her circulation is down, a warm nose is good, but not hot. A moist nose is healthy, and a dry one shows a dehydrated system.

I check her poop too. It is a tell-tail sign of her digestive system and level of health. If you or your dog is not digesting the result is a loss of energy and

health. What we, and they, put in our bodies is important. All food creates our blood systems, good or bad. Invest in yourself and your pet wisely."

"Animal studies have repeatedly shown that food-grade carrageenan causes gastrointestinal inflammation and cancer at lower doses than the average daily intake. Given the high rates of colon cancer in both dogs and cats, I highly recommend removing carrageenan from your pet's diet." Michael Dym, DVM

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/cancer-causing-carrageenan/>

"I read the above and stopped eating yogurt that has carrageenan," admits Angelscribe.

Disclaimer: This article, based on personal experience, is for informational purposes only and is not intended to prescribe, treat, diagnose or cure. Always consult your Veterinarian.

How amazing is your pet? Tell us! angelscribe@msn.com

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"I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

— Martha Washington

Greenhill offers advice on keeping pets safe July 4

Unfortunately, as Fourth of July festivities increase, so does stress in dogs and cats, according to Greenhill Humane Society, which pointed out that the loud noises can be very scary and confusing for animals. While some pets don't seem to mind, others may hide or run.

"It's usually one of the busiest weekends of the year for us," says Lauren Merge, Communications and Events Manager for Greenhill. Greenhill runs First Avenue Shelter, which takes in stray dogs and cats for most of Lane County.

"We see many lost pets coming in because they dug out, jumped over a fence or bolted out an open door while the fireworks go off."

In an effort to keep pets safe at home, Greenhill is offering these tips for pet owners:

Fireworks are not your dog's or cat's best friend. Do not bring your pet to fireworks displays. When fireworks are being used, keep pets safe inside. Scared pets may dig under fences or break through gates when spooked by the sound of fireworks.

Even indoors, pets can still be stressed by the sound of fireworks displays. Keep your pet in a quiet room and play calming music or background noise to

help drown out the commotion.

For pets who are extremely stressed by fireworks, make an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss medications and other alternatives to help your pet. Make your appointment early – many clinics have reduced or closed hours for holiday weekends.

Make sure your pet is wearing current and accurate identification, even if they are kept inside. A tag with a working phone number can get your pet home much faster. Be sure to microchip your pet as well in case their collar comes off. If your pet is microchipped, ensure your information is up to date.

Please note: Both of Greenhill Humane Society's shelter locations (88530 Green Hill Road and 3970 W 1st Avenue) will be closed to the public on Monday, July 4 (staff and volunteers will be onsite to care for the animals). Both shelters will reopen to the public on Tuesday, July 5.

Those who have lost or found a pet are asked to immediately contact First Avenue Shelter at 541-844-1777 and their local animal control office. Cottage Grove - Humane Society of Cottage Grove: (541-942-3130)

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Pet owners beware — flea season is heating up

Summer has officially arrived, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture is offering advice to pet owners who can take several steps themselves in providing relief from fleas. An array of pesticide products on the market is among the tools that can be used to effectively control fleas, but they come with the usual caution of needing to be handled properly.

If occasional high temperatures this spring are any indication, summer might be blazing hot, which often exacerbates the skin irritation of pets that comes with flea bites. If that happens, pet owners will need to be ready for action. The first order of business is to verify the issue.

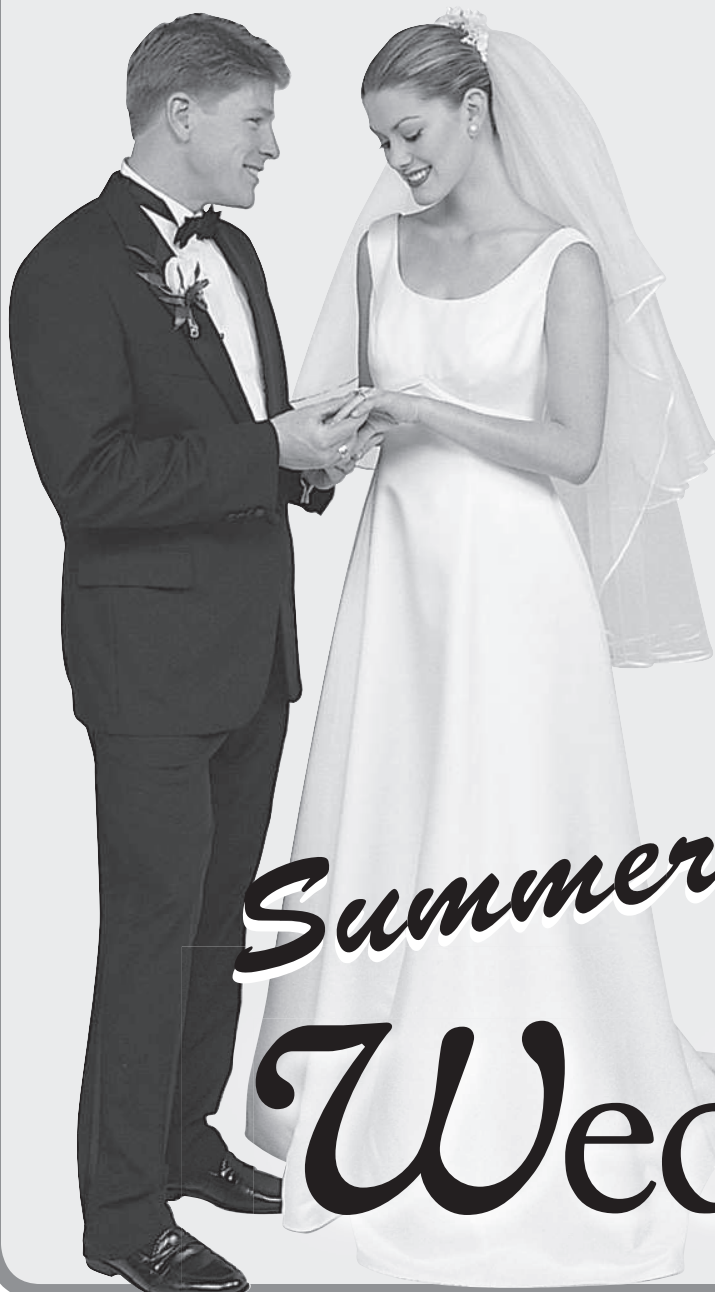
"Make sure your pet has

a flea problem," says Rose Kachadoorian, entomologist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Pesticides Program. "They may be scratching themselves, but it could be a food allergy or pollen. Work with your veterinarian to establish whether the problem is caused by fleas."

If the answer is yes, pet owners can improve the conditions that lead to flea infestations. Prevention tactics are usually best started in the spring. However, there is still plenty that pet owners can do now. A thorough cleaning and vacuuming of the house— especially where pets sleep— is a good start.

Please see **FLEAS**, Page 8A

Whether you are still looking for this summer or making plans for next year below are some local businesses that would like to help you with your special day.



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