



# Paw Prints

May/June 2008

## Hi, My Name Is JoJo



I am a 1 year old female Aussie Shepherd mix currently residing at the Dalton Humane Society. I am very sweet tempered and love my play time at the shelter. My favorite time is the belly rubs I get from the volunteers.

All of my shots are up to date. I've been spayed and tested negative for Heartworms. So you see, ALL I need is someone that wants to love me and be loved by me to give me a good home.

If you can provide me with a new home, please fill out an application on the "Adoption Center" link of the Humane Society at:

[www.hsnwga.org](http://www.hsnwga.org)

## Arthritis in Pets

Although there are many types of arthritis in pets as well as people, the most common is osteoarthritis — the wearing down of cartilage and loss of synovial fluid that lubricates the joint. This degenerative process creates bone rubbings on bone, causing pain and loss of mobility. It is most commonly caused by aging, but some diseases and infections also can cause arthritis and degenerative joint disease. Though arthritis can affect both dogs and cats, it is much more common in dogs.

### SIGNS OF ARTHRITIS

- Joint pain or swelling
- Loss of movement, stiffness, difficulty getting up, or in cats, jumping
- Reluctance to go up and down stairs
- Limping
- Pain or resistance to touching from people
- Personality changes and depression
- Vocalization in dogs; cats seldom cry when in pain

### DIAGNOSIS

Your veterinarian will perform a physical exam, manipulation of the joints and probably some X-rays and blood work. These tools help the doctor diagnosis the exact condition and severity. He will then discuss various treatments options that are best for your pet.

### TREATMENT OPTIONS

Most medications are for pain control, not actual treatment of arthritis. The most common drugs used are Rimadyl, Adequan, and Palaprin. They are licensed for use in dogs, but not cats. All can have side effects and their use must be monitored by your veterinarian. Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent further joint damage, or at least slow the process.

Weight control is also important. Overweight pets put more stress and strain on affected joints, particularly the back and hips in dogs, and shoulders and front legs in cats. Moderate, low-impact exercising like walking not only burns calories, but will help keep joints mobile.

Glucosamine supplements can help stimulate cells to produce synovial fluid and help prevent cartilage deterioration.

Surgery is sometimes an option for dogs for severely degenerated hip joints. Heat therapy, especially loved by cats, can help ease pain.

*(Pet Services Journal Jan./Feb 2008)*

## Upcoming Event(s)

### Memorial Day & July 4th Holidays

Make your reservations early!

## FOUR PAWS PET RESORT

1737 Sane Road  
Dalton, GA 30721

Phone: 706-428-9937  
Fax: 706-428-0770

Email: [fourpawspetresort@windstream.net](mailto:fourpawspetresort@windstream.net)

*"A Place Where Pets Play While Their Owner's Away"*

*We're On The Web — Check Us Out  
at:*

*[4pawsresort.net](http://4pawsresort.net)*

PLEASE CALL  
AND ASK ABOUT OUR  
**NEW ADD-ON**  
SPA PACKAGES  
FOR YOUR PET!

## Your Puppy's First Groom Experience

He/She has arrived ..... Your bouncy, wiggly, ball of fur. You want to do everything right; feed the proper food, teach manners and basic obedience, and make sure their medical needs are filled. However, one thing to not overlook is preparing your new family member early on for a good experience with their grooming appointments.

Early grooming is essential. Teach your puppy the basics. Gently touch him/her all over every day. Don't forget the feet and toes. When your puppy is comfortable

with being handled, you are ready to advance to brushing and combing.

When he or she **reaches about six weeks, contact your groomer to set up a visit** between the two. Your groomer may suggest a couple of short visits to familiarize the puppy with all the sights and sounds of the spa **before** their actual appointment.

**REMEMBER:** This will be a brand new adventure for your little furry friend, but like any-

thing — preparation is the key. And the most important accomplishment of your puppy's first grooming session is ... they like it because the experience will remain with them forever!

- \* Set aside time every day to brush and comb your puppy
- \* Take him/her for short rides in your car to get them used to traveling
- \* Be sure to exercise your puppy right before the groom appointment to allow him to relieve himself and to wind down just a bit

### "ASK BAILEY"



Hi, I'm Bailey. I want to help answer questions you may have about your pet and his/her needs. Please go to our website at: [http:// www.4pawsresort.net](http://www.4pawsresort.net) to submit your question. In addition to replying back to you by e-mail (if you give your address), each month one of the questions received during the month will be featured in our newsletter.

**QUESTION: Do I need to be tested for Heartworms even if my owner treats me each month?**

**ANSWER:** Most area veterinarians recommend yearly heartworm test for all dogs, regardless of whether the pet lives inside or outside. The American Heartworm Society indicate that heartworm preventive medications are effective in 99% of cases, whether a pet lives inside or outside. However, undetected heartworms pose serious health risks' even though the 1% risk is very low for properly medicated pets. If a pet has undetected heartworms, the administration of preventive medication could compound medical complications.